

The Role of Print and Electronic Media in the Defense of Human Rights: A Jordanian Perspective

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ABSTRACT

The doctrine of human rights has gained increasing attention and respectability around the world. Electronic and print media can also play their roles by highlighting the violations of human rights, raising awareness, and influencing legislations and resolutions. This study is an attempt at throwing light on this role of media in the context of Jordan. The researcher selected a random sample of (1243) people, 18 years of age and above, of the (5.1) million people, the total population of Jordan according to the general census carried out by Population and Housing Census at the Department of Statistics (DoS) in October 2004.

Findings showed significant differences in the role of print and electronic media. The role of electronic media was found to be better than that of print media. Jordanian media can improve its performance by having greater freedom and by focusing on the uses and gratification of recipients.

The study found out that; it is very important to train journalists and increase their awareness more about the laws of human rights which leads to enhance the role of media in addressing human rights issues, and there is a need to increase dedication to human rights issues individually and collectively. In addition to, encourage more studies and field researches on the role of media in the defense of in human rights in Jordan.

Keywords: Print Media, Electronic Media, Human Rights, Jordanian Media.

1. INTRODUCTION

Human rights emphasize the inherent dignity of the human being regardless of his/her nationality, society, and political status. The human rights doctrine sensitizes the human feeling of affection and brotherhood. It leads to a sense of integrity and unity all over the world. They are global in application and can be regarded as global human rights. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), 1948, all people are entitled to freedom and equal in their rights and dignity. They are blessed with conscience and reason and are expected to

live with brotherhood. . Human rights, as described in UDHR, are two cartograms: firstly, rights whose provision is necessary for the dignified existence of humans, secondly, the rights whose provision is necessary for the adequate development of human personality (More and Patil, 2012). Human rights can bridge the gap between haves and have-nots and reduce the economic imbalance of the society.

Focus of the world on human rights increased when the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted UDHR in December, 1948. It was the first time in the human history that a declaration spelled out fundamental rights that must be possessed by all human beings. The description of these rights was further expanded with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural

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Rights. All these laws are together known as International Bill of Human Rights (OHCHR, 2015).

The concept of defense of human rights gained significant importance in recent decades due to the efforts of the international community and activists in this area. Media plays a central role in monitoring, controlling, and encouraging respect for human rights by the existing systems of governance. The right to information is not only a way to get the information, but also a means to enable the public control over the government and other institutions. It ensures that the governments remain on track or change for the better. The media should not resort to narrow allegiance to the government or the ruling party (Talbi, 2012).

Enjoyment of the right to information has a significant influence on the promotion of a human rights' culture. It also contributes to using the power of media to send targeted messages to those who can put an end to violations. It also has an impact on those who have decision-making authority. They are forced to change reality through the use of available media such as television channels, radio, press, and so forth. The media plays a key role in dealing with human rights' issues in terms of planning and follow-up of these issues to achieve the objective of social justice within the community. This point is the main motivation for the researcher to investigate to which extent print and electronic media have defended human rights in Jordan.

Background

In Jordan, the constitution of 1952 acknowledges the freedom of expression and of media. In the early 1990s, the royal commission also published a national charter that supports the role of the media and access to the information. However, there are still some areas where the rights of media and free speech are undermined in regulations, legislation, and practice. (UNESCO, 2015).

According to a report issued by Jordanian Press Association (JPA) there was a drop with seven degrees in

the press freedom in Jordan in 2013 compared to 2012. It ranked (44.15) while it was ranking (51) in 2012. The report found that the fall is attributed to blocking of approximately 300 unlicensed news websites, and the temporary closure of Al-Arab Al-Yawm Newspaper. In addition the report showed the main obstacles for journalists in 2013: limited access to information, not inviting them to official events, interference in their work, and censorship and not publishing journalists' reports. According to the report there was no case of murder or kidnapping recorded. (JPA, 2014).

According to 2011-12 country report of "Reporters without Borders (RWB)", nearly 2.5 million Jordanians had access to the internet by December 2012. The Press and Publications Law which was amended and approved in 2012 provided powers to officials to control electronic media. According to those amendments and changes in the law, the government in June 2013 blocked access to more than 300 electronic news websites because had missed the deadline of getting a license. (BBC, 2013)

Rationale of the Study

The role of media has become crucial in the context of human rights across the world. The violations of human rights reported by the print and electronic media direct the attention of the world to its abusers. The media also assists in the opinion-making of the general public for approaching the issues of human rights. It can highlight various aspects that need state legislations or interventions of the world community.

This study attempts to identify the role of print and electronic media in the defense of human rights in Jordan. This role acquired great importance for the formation of public opinion. The study will contribute to the detection of deficiencies in the media coverage of human rights issues. It will highlight the difficulties in analyzing the efficiency of media in addressing human rights issues in line with the nature of the violations that might reflect on the role.

This study will highlight the views of the various categories of Jordanian society about the reality of human rights in Jordan.

The main research question led to the following sub-questions:

- What is the impact of coverage of human rights issues in Jordanian media?
- What are the most attractive sources of information for pursuing human rights issues?
- What are the most important civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights that should be highlighted in the Jordanian media?
- What are the factors that negatively affect the performance of the media?

The researcher also developed three hypotheses to be tested in this study as follows:

H₁: There is a statistically significant difference at the level of significance ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) in the treatment of the Jordanian media to the issues of civil and political human rights attributable to the media type (print and electronic).

H₂: There is a statistically significant difference at the level of significance ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) in the treatment of the Jordanian media to the issues of economic, social and cultural human rights attributable to the media type (print and electronic).

H₃: There is a statistically significant difference at the level of significance ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) in the effectiveness of the Jordanian media to the issues of human rights attributable to the media type (print and electronic).

Past Studies and Review of the Literature

Brough and Li (2013) clarified the relationship between the symbol, social movements, and the system of media dependency. They analyzed the mechanism for the defense of human rights. The study was conducted in California in the United States and used descriptive, analytical method. The study found that the population at the grass root level contributed to the first spark of the

Saffron Revolution in Burma. The study had shown that media dependency acted as a power icon in the expansion and influence.

Onyeka, Ezekiel, and Comfort (2013) investigated the role of the media in promoting human rights in Nigeria, and the latest methods used in the promotion of human rights. The study used a modern social theory methodology. The sample consisted of a number of previous studies. The study found that the media plays an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights. It educates different people about their rights, including the right to life, freedom of expression, and freedom to form parties.

Sadiq (2013) monitored and analyzed the press brief speech and compared between these published in each of "Alahram", "Alwafd" and "Almasryalyoum" newspapers with respect to civil and political human rights issues and their relation to trends amongst the Egyptian public about the performance of local and international human rights organizations, in the period from January 7, 2010 until the end of February 2011. The study found that "Almasryalyoum newspaper" ranked first in terms of their interest in addressing civil and political human rights issues where they appeared to have 318 newsworthy material compared to 243 newsworthy materials for "Alwafd newspaper" and 145 items to the newspaper "Alahram newspaper" dealing with human rights issues or dealing with the events of public affairs of the Egyptian human rights.

Bin Shafloot (2013) aimed to answer the set of the extent of concern which the sample selected for the role of the print media in the promotion of human rights culture based on the criteria for attention to the size, type, and trends in coverage of the main questions (positive, negative and neutral), and the arts editorial that have been employed to provide clear and clear picture for human rights concepts. The community of this study is the Saudi daily printed press. The study sample was selected from the newspapers Okaz, Riyadh, Watan, Al-Yaoum. The

researcher used the methodology of content analysis, and style of the interview as a means to collect the head of the main study data. The study characterized the concerns of newspapers study into the diversity of editorial methods of topics related to human rights.

Abdelghfar (2013) included three sub-studies, the first assessed the covering of the Arab media the issues of children's rights through the sample content of television and newspaper content provided to the public analysis of a sample of the Arab media, using qualitative and quantitative analysis, while the second study was a survey of a sample of children's views in six Arab states (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Lebanon, Algeria and Iraq) towards patterns exposure to the media and evaluation to address their issues out through a field study of a sample of children in that Arab countries, and targeted the third study, professional environment within which the existing contact in the media of the child in the Arab countries through a field study on a sample of communicators evaluation in the field of media after the child from the Arab countries.

Hussainat (2013) analyzed the role of media in Jordanian society in the context of children's rights. The study investigated the application of the rights of children in Jordan. The author analyzed the role in educating parents and creating awareness about their children's rights. The study was conducted in Ajloun city in Jordan, and used descriptive analytical method. The study consisted of 18 survey research, and included 200 families in Ajloun. The study found a high level of awareness of parents about their children's rights. The media was found to contribute greatly in raising awareness about the rights of the children.

Theoretical Framework

Four Media Theories

Siebert, Peterson and Schramm (1956) identified four theories of the press. These theories gained great prominence and are referred to in most of studies in media research. The four theories included the Authoritarian

theory, the Libertarian theory, the Social Responsibility theory, and the Soviet Communist theory.

Authoritarian Theory

According to this theory, media is expected to be subordinate to the authority and vested power. It should not challenge the prevailing political and moral values. Deviations could lead to censorship, criminal charges, issues in licensing, and the promulgation of strict laws (Oosthuizen, 2002).

Libertarian Theory

According to this theory, there should be no external censorship on media. Editorial attacks and aggressive reporting are acceptable because the role of the media is to act as a watchdog on behalf of the public. There should also be no restriction on access to information. Free flow of information should be promoted across national borders (Oosthuizen, 2002).

Social Responsibility Theory

According to this theory, media has certain responsibility towards society. It needs to adopt self-regulation within the legal framework. It should avoid the publication of information that leads to social disruption, violence, or offend religious or ethnic minorities (Oosthuizen, 2002).

Communist Theory

According to this theory, media organizations and content should be free of bureaucratic and political control. The media needs to serve the interest of its recipients. Small-scale, participatory, and interactive media is better than large-scale unidirectional media (Oosthuizen, 2002).

Uses and Gratifications Theory (U&G)

Uses and Gratifications Theory was developed in 1940s in the context of research on radio communication. Since then, it has been widely used in mass communications

research. The theory identified the psychological needs of an individual as they use a particular medium. It explains causes of choosing one medium over alternative media for the gratification of various needs (Hongxiu et al., 2015). The theory is unique in the sense that it focuses more on the audience than on the content of the media. The need of a recipient may include the need to relax, to escape from daily routine or worry, to be entertained, to be informed, and to get advice about dealing with personal problems. The theory emphasizes the fact that the users of media are goal-oriented. They select the media source that maximally fulfills their needs. The needs are translated into motives that explain their use of communication media (Reddick, 2010).

Research Methodology

Research Design

Most surveys and opinion polls based on sampling methods are classified as either probability or nonprobability. The research chose probability methods using a simple random sampling of (1,243) Jordanian citizens from more than (150) locations covering all of the governorates of the Kingdom.

The researcher developed a questionnaire that was answered by Jordanian citizens. The researcher adopted

the method of quantitative analysis. Data was analyzed through descriptive statistics for the distribution of study sample, impact of human rights coverage on legislations, sources of information, most important civil and political rights, most important economic, social, and cultural rights, and the negative impact factors. The researcher also used inferential statistics and compared the perceptions of print media and electronic media groups using independent-samples t-test.

Data Collection Instrument

The data collection instrument was a questionnaire. It was filled out by Jordanian citizens 18 years of age and above, as the age of majority in Jordan is eighteen full calendar years according to the Civil Law in Jordan. The questionnaire had four sections. **Section I** collects demographic data from the participants as we can see in table (1). **Section II** covers questions that relate to how Jordanian citizens follow human rights issues in electronic and print media. **Section III** has questions that relate to the role of media in addressing issues of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. **Section IV** reviews the overall effectiveness of electronic and print media in addressing the issues of human rights.

Table 1. The Distribution of the Study Sample by Gender, Age and Educational level (Total = 1243)

Variable		Frequency	Percentage
Male	Gender	713	57.4
Female		530	42.6
25-18	Age	425	34.2
35-26		436	35.1
46-36		231	18.6
Greater than 46		151	12.1
Less than the average Diploma	Educational level	538	43.3
Diploma average		133	10.7
Bachelor		396	31.9
Higher Diploma		55	4.4
Master		90	7.2
Doctorate		31	2.5

As shown in Table (1) the proportion of male

representation was (57.4%). In contrast, the proportion of

female representation was (42.6%) of the study sample. With regard to the relative distribution of individuals by age, the highest percentage are in the age group (26-35) years, amounting to (35.1%), and the proportion of representation of individuals in the (18-25) age group, amounting to come (34.2%), while the lowest percentage representation the largest age group of (46) years, amounting to (12.1%). The highest percentage of the study sample of low levels of education members (less than average Diploma) amounting percentage (43.3%), then the proportion of representation of the first university degree came (Bachelor) and by representation (31.9%), while the lowest representation doctoral the (2.5%).

Research Participants

The population of the study consists of Jordanian citizens from all provinces; the capital Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Balqa, Tafila, Karak, Mafraq, Jerash, Ajloun, Madaba, Ma'an, and Aqaba. As shown in Table 2, the distribution of the participants was in line with the population distribution of the provinces. The highest representation was of the province of the capital (38.8 percent), then the governorate of Irbid (16.7 percent), followed by Zarqa Governorate (15.7 percent). The lowest percentage representation was of the province of Madaba (2.0 percent), preceded by the provinces of Ma'an and Tafila (2.3 percent each).

Table 2: The Distribution of the Study Sample by Governorate

Governorate	Frequency	Percentage
Amman	482	38.8
Irbid	208	16.7
Zarqa	195	15.7
Balqa	85	6.8
Mafraq	51	4.1
Karak	50	4.0
Ajloun	31	2.5
Jerash	30	2.4
Aqaba	30	2.4
Tafila	28	2.3
Ma'an	28	2.3
Madaba	25	2.0
Total	1,243	100.0

As shown in Table 3, the highest percentage of participants (44.6 percent) preferred electronic media for following up issues and topics relating to human rights. Print media followers were 23.1 percent while 32.3 percent of the study sample had no preferential differences for following the issues and topics related to human rights.

Table 3: Media Preferences in Following up Issues of Human Rights

Press Type	Frequency	Percentage
Print	287	23.1
Electronic	554	44.6
No preference	402	32.3
Total	1,243	100.0

Findings and Discussion

The data was quantitatively analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

As shown in Table 4, almost half of the participants (50.9 percent) believed that the coverage of print media has a moderate impact on human rights' legislations and resolutions passed in Jordan's parliament. About one-fifth (22.4 percent) of the participants believed that the impact of the print media is low.

Table 4: The Impact of Human Rights Coverage on Legislations and Resolutions (Print Media)

The Degree of the Positive Impact	Frequency	Percentage
Great Impact	133	10.7
High Impact	76	6.1
Moderate Impact	633	50.9
Low Impact	279	22.4
No Impact	122	9.8
Total	1,243	100

In comparison, Table 5 shows that the positive impact of electronic media on human rights' legislations and resolutions was labeled moderate by (45.9) percent of the participants. There were 17.8 participants who regarded

the impact as high, and 16 percent participants who regarded the impact as great. It means that the citizens of Jordan see the impact of electronic media greater than print media in this respect.

Table 5. The Impact of Human Rights Coverage on Legislations and Resolutions (Electronic Media)

The Degree of the Positive Impact	Frequency	Percentage
Great Impact	199	16
High Impact	221	17.8
Moderate Impact	570	45.9
Low Impact	144	11.6
No Impact	109	8.8
Total	1,243	100

Table 6 shows that the most attractive sources of information for pursuing human rights issues in Jordan are "news that relates to human rights issues". The second most important source is "media reports on human rights", and the third is "legal articles on human rights". The least attractive source was letters to the editor. The findings indicate that the media should focus on news and reports on human rights. These reports must also highlight the legal aspect of these issues.

Table 6. Sources of Information for Pursuing Human Rights Issues

Style	Mean	Standard Deviation	Level of Popularity
News on human rights	3.9	3.0	1
Reports on human rights	5.1	3.0	2
Legal articles on human rights	5.1	3.0	3
Journalistic investigation on human rights issues	5.1	2.9	4
News stories on human rights	5.1	3.0	5
Press comments on human rights	5.6	3.1	6
Editorial	6.0	3.6	7
Interviews on human rights	6.3	3.0	8
Caricature on human rights issues	9.1	3.2	9
Studies and research on human rights	9.6	2.9	10
Journalistic analysis on those issues and rights	9.7	2.7	11

Style	Mean	Standard Deviation	Level of Popularity
Responses and corrections related to those issues	9.8	2.7	12
Letters to the Editor (e-readers)	10.3	2.8	13

As shown in Table 7, the participants believed that the most important civil and political rights the Jordanian media should focus on are the rights to life, liberty, and security of individuals. The next level of importance was assigned to the right to freedom of expression and

opinion. In the level of importance, the third important category of rights was the right to a fair trial. The least importance was assigned to the right to establish political parties, trade unions, and associations and the right of journalists in the press and media freedom.

Table 7. Civil and Political Rights Most Important for the Coverage in the Jordanian Media

Civil and Political Rights	Mean	Standard Deviation	Level of Importance
The right to life, liberty and security of person	3.0	2.2	1
The right to freedom of opinion and expression	4.1	2.3	2
The right to a fair trial	4.2	2.2	3
The right to nationality, residence and asylum	4.3	2.3	4
The right to hold public office	4.3	2.3	
The right to elect and be elected	5.1	2.2	5
The right of assembly	6.1	2.3	6
The right of journalists in the press and media freedom	6.2	2.2	7
The right to establish political parties, trade unions, associations and join them	7.6	1.9	8

As shown in Table 8, the participants believed that the most important economic, social, and cultural rights the Jordanian media should focus on are the rights to an acceptable standard of living. The next in the level of

importance were the right to work and the right to education. The least important rights in this category were cultural rights and the right to development.

Table 8. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Most Important for the Coverage in the Jordanian Media

Economic, social and cultural rights	Standard Deviation	Mean	Level of Importance
The right to an adequate standard of living	1.9	3.1	1
The right to work	1.8	3.3	2
The right to education	1.8	3.3	
The right to health	1.8	3.5	3
The right to a healthy environment	1.9	4.6	4
The right to development	1.8	4.7	5
Cultural rights	1.7	5.5	6

As shown in Table 9, there is a range of factors that

negatively influence the potential ability of media in

highlighting the issues of human rights in Jordan. Participants believed that pressure exerted by government agencies has the most negative impact on the performance of Jordanian media. The next critical factors were the

pressures of stakeholders and the policies adopted by the media. The least negative factors were weakness in the legal culture among journalists and lack of the material resources available to them.

Table 9. Factors Having the Most Negative Impact on the Role of the Media in the Defense of Human Rights Issues

The Most Negative Impact Factors	Mean	Standard Deviation	Level of Criticality
Pressures exerted by government agencies	5.5	4.2	1
Pressures of stakeholders	6.0	4.0	2
Policies adopted by the media	6.2	3.9	3
Present case in front of the security agencies and the courts	6.4	3.9	4
The newspaper's ownership	6.6	3.8	5
The nature and sensitivity of the issue raised	6.6	4.2	6
Laws and regulations in force in Jordan	6.6	4.2	
Journalists' fear of suspension from work	7.4	3.8	7
Physical abuse and detention faced by journalists	7.7	4.1	8
Non-journalists' access to sources of information	8.1	3.7	9
Censorship before publishing imposed by the administration on the media. Requests to delete the article or withdraw after publication (especially in the online sources)	9.0	3.8	10
Prior censorship imposed by the management of the media to the press on human rights' content	9.0	3.9	11
Self-censorship of journalists for what they write	12.2	3.4	12
Withhold information from journalists	12.5	3.7	13
Lack of material resources available to journalists	12.5	3.2	14
Weak legal culture among a number of journalists	12.8	3.4	15

Relating to the critical factors which have a negative impact on the role of media, the three hypotheses of the study were tested.

The first hypothesis was as follows:

H₁: There is a statistically significant difference at the level of significance ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) in the treatment of Jordanian media of issues of civil and political human rights attributable to the media type (print and electronic).

To test this hypothesis, the researcher divided the research participants into two groups. Group 1 had people

who were following human rights issues in print media. Group 2 had people who were following human rights issues on electronic media. People in both groups provided scores to the role of media in addressing issues of civil and political human rights. To test the effectiveness of both mediums, the researcher compared the mean scores between the two groups using independent-samples t-test. The results showed that the group means are statistically different because the value of p was less than 0.05 (shown in Table 10).

Table 10. Test Results Hypothesis 1

Press Type	Mean	Standard of Deviation	T Calculated	Degrees of Freedom	Statistical Significance
Print	3.10	0.66	12.865	1242	*0.000
Electronic	3.36	0.70			

* Statistically significant differences at the level of significance ($0.05 \geq \alpha$)

The average score in favor of electronic media (3.36) was greater than the average score in favor of print media (3.10). Hence, the electronic media is more effective in addressing these issues than print media.

The second hypothesis was as follows:

H₂: There is a statistically significant difference at the level of significance ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) in the treatment of the Jordanian media to the issues of economic, social and cultural human rights attributable to the media type (print

and electronic).

Participants in both Group 1 (print media) and Group 2 (electronic media) provided scores to the role of media in addressing issues of economic, social and cultural human rights. To test the effectiveness of both mediums, the researcher compared the mean scores between the two groups using independent-samples t-test. The results showed that the group means are significantly different because the value of p was less than 0.05 (shown in Table 11).

Table 11. Test Results Hypothesis 2

Press Type	Mean	Standard of Deviation	T Calculated	Degrees of Freedom	Statistical Significance
Print	3.05	0.67	10.668	1242	*0.000
Electronic	3.25	0.68			

* Statistically significant differences at the level of significance ($0.05 \geq \alpha$)

The average score in favor of electronic media (3.25) was greater than the average score in favor of print media (3.05). Hence, the electronic media is more effective in addressing these issues than print media.

The third hypothesis was as follows:

H₃: There is a statistically significant difference at the level of significance ($0.05 \geq \alpha$) in the effectiveness of the Jordanian media to the issues of human rights attributable

to the media type (print and electronic).

Participants in both Group 1 (print media) and Group 2 (electronic media) provided scores about the overall effectiveness of media in Jordan in addressing the issues of human rights. The researcher compared the mean scores between the two groups using independent-samples t-test. The results showed that the group means are significantly different because the value of p was less than 0.05 (shown in Table 12).

Table 12. Test Results Hypothesis 3

Press Type	Mean	Standard of Deviation	T Calculated	Degrees of Freedom	Statistical Significance
Print	3.08	0.61	10.194	1242	*0.000
Electronic	3.25	0.63			

* Statistically significant differences at the level of significance ($0.05 \geq \alpha$)

The average score in favor of electronic media (3.25) was greater than the average score in favor of print media (3.08). Hence, the electronic media is more effective in overall performance than print media in addressing the issues of human rights.

Conclusion

It is important for the media to highlight human rights' issues. In this respect, there is a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of print and electronic media of Jordan. The media should live up to the expectations of the Jordanian people in this respect. The findings of this study showed that electronic media has been more effective in this regard. It is imperative for the print media to follow the success strategies and improve its efforts in this domain.

Most of the participants preferred electronic media more in following up on issues and topics related to Human Rights. The main reason was easy accessibility in any moment, in any place and time. Results of the study indicated that the citizens in general see the impact of electronic media greater than the print media. It is because electronic media creates a positive impact on the owners of the issues of interest. It highlights issues of the public interest such as changing resolution or law.

The study concluded that civil and political rights are the most important for citizens. It is the duty of Jordanian media to focus on their coverage from the perspective of citizens. Jordanian citizens have the right to life, liberty, security, freedom of opinion and expression, and a fair trial. Jordanian media should focus on coverage of the right of establishing political parties, trade unions,

associations, and of the right of journalists to press and media freedom.

The factors that had the most negative impact on the role of the media in the defense of human rights as perceived by citizens were: (1) the pressure exerted by government agencies, followed by (2) the pressures of stakeholders, and (3) policies adopted by media outlets. The factors that had the least negative impact on the role of the press in defense of human rights were: (1) weak legal knowledge among journalists and (2) the material resources available to journalists.

The study showed the presence of a moderate degree of approval of print and electronic press in addressing the issues of civil and political rights and civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights.

The study showed the presence of a moderate degree of approval of the effectiveness of the treatment of the print and electronic media to the issues of human rights in Jordan, according to the press type variable.

Recommendations

In accordance with results and conclusions, the study recommends the following:

- Training journalists and increasing their awareness more about the laws of human rights which leads to enhance the role of media in addressing human rights issues.
- Increasing allocated space of human rights issues in media that will be reflected directly on the coverage of human rights issues in media.
- Encouraging more studies and field researches on the role of media in the defense of in human rights in Jordan.

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دور الصحافة المطبوعة والإلكترونية في الدفاع عن قضايا حقوق الإنسان من وجهة نظر المواطن الأردني

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ملخص

هدفت الدراسة إلى الوقوف على دور الصحافة الأردنية سواء أكانت مطبوعة أم إلكترونية في الدفاع عن حقوق الإنسان، وانطلقت الدراسة من التساؤل: ما اتجاهات المواطن الأردني نحو معالجة الصحافة الأردنية لقضايا حقوق الإنسان؟ وهل توجد فروق في اتجاهات المواطن الأردني نحو كفاءة الصحافة المطبوعة والإلكترونية في معالجة قضايا حقوق الإنسان في الأردن؟ واتبعت الدراسة المنهج الوصفي الذي يعد أكثر المناهج شيوعاً في استطلاعات الرأي العام والأبحاث المسحية الأخرى: كالوقوف على آراء فئة معينة حول قضية ما. واعتمدت الاستبيان الذي تم تصميمه في ضوء أهداف الدراسة ومشكلتها، كما تم أخذ عينة عشوائية بلغ حجم مجتمعها (1243) شخص من عمر 18 سنة فما فوق، أما مجتمع الدراسة فتمثل بالمواطنين الأردنيين في جميع المحافظات الأردنية البالغ عددهم (5.1) مليون نسمة وفقاً للتعداد السكاني العام الذي قامت به دائرة الإحصاءات العامة تشرين الأول 2004.

وبينت الدراسة أن معظم أفراد العينة يتابعون الصحافة الإلكترونية في القضايا والمواضيع المتعلقة بحقوق الإنسان أكثر من الصحافة المطبوعة؛ وذلك لأسباب ترتبط بتوفرها وسهولة الوصول إليها في أي وقت وأي مكان، كما أشارت الدراسة إلى أن المواطنين بشكل عام يرون أن تأثير الصحافة الإلكترونية أكبر من الصحافة المطبوعة في مجال تحقيق أثر إيجابي لأصحاب القضايا أو الفائدة للصالح العام كتغيير قرار أو قانون كنتيجة لتغطية الصحافة المطبوعة لقضايا حقوق الإنسان. وأوصت الدراسة بضرورة زيادة الوعي لدى الصحفيين والإعلاميين بشكل أكبر بالقوانين والتشريعات المتعلقة بحقوق الإنسان، والعمل على حثهم وتحفيزهم لمتابعة قضايا حقوق الإنسان، كما أوصت بالعمل على زيادة المساحة المخصصة لقضايا حقوق الإنسان سواء أكانت قضايا فردية أم جماعية، وتشجيع إجراء المزيد من الأبحاث والدراسات حول دور الصحافة والإعلام في تعزيز حقوق الإنسان في الأردن.

الكلمات الدالة: الصحافة المطبوعة، الصحافة الإلكترونية، حقوق الإنسان، الإعلام الأردني.

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