



Jimma University
College of Social Sciences and Humanities
School of Graduates Studies
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**Practice and Challenges of Investigative Reporting: the Case of Jimma Fana F.M.
98.1 Radio News.**

**A Thesis Submitted In Partial Fulfillment for the Requirements of Masters Degree of Arts in
Broadcast Journalism**

By:

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Jimma, Ethiopia

Sene, 2010 E.C.

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Approval

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Afework Alemu entitled ‘Analyzing the Application and Challenges of Investigative Reporting: the Case of Jimma Fana F.M.98.1 Radio News’ and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Masters of Arts in Broadcast Journalism complies with the regulations of the university and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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Abstract

This study mainly focuses on analyzing the application and challenges of investigative reports in news of Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 radio. Qualitative research method is employed for the study. Based on it, in-depth interview with seven journalists and content analysis of twelve investigative news stories that had been broadcasted from January to March 2018 became conducted to get the required data. Watchdog journalism and social responsibility theory became used as theoretical frame work. The findings of the study show that there are investigative reports that are in early age focusing mainly on the failure of good governance, corruption, land issues and wrong doings in every direction. In addition, lack of time for in-depth investigation, refusal of government officials to provide the required documents, lack of professionalism of journalists, lack of legal protection for journalists, lack of budget and transport facility became identified as factors challenging the practice of investigative news in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

FBC: - Fana Broadcasting Corporate

JFFM:- Jimma Fana F.M

F.M:- Frequency Modulation

UNESCO: - United Nation and Educational Science and Cultural Organization

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Different scholars and media practitioners define investigative news and/or investigative reporting in different ways; it is sometimes of widely divergent meanings (UNESCO, 2012). Investigative journalism signifies the unveiling of matters that are concealed either deliberately by someone in a position of power, or accidentally, behind a mass of facts and circumstances, and the analysis and exposure of all relevant facts to the public. In this way, investigative journalism crucially contributes to freedom of expression and freedom of information which lie at the heart of UNESCO's mandate. On the other hand, it is the reporting, through one's own work product and initiative, matters of importance which some persons or organizations wish to keep secret.

Investigative reporting could be dangerous, as people in privileged positions can sometimes go to great lengths to ensure that their secrets are not exposed, by bribing, or even threatening. The search to qualify a story as 'investigative' is no easy feat. The belief that all reportage is investigative is more of an ideal or goal that journalists should seek to achieve. This ideal is strongly related to classical conceptions of a journalist as a 'watchdog', who informs the public so that the people can agitate for reform or better understand the environment in which they work and live (Forbes, 2005).

When we compare Ethiopia with Western countries in the area of watchdog or investigative reporting or journalism, there are a lot of problems. According to Nigussie (2014), the Ethiopian media has gone through a number of challenges over the last three regimes in the country. The major challenge in the media is the polarization of views while most of the private media seemed to be organs of opposition parties and the government media tends to be less critical in its news coverage.

This means in Ethiopia the interference of government in private and government media creates two direction of journalism practice. Journalists of the state owned media magnify the speeches of government officials neglecting their responsibility of providing balanced information to the public. And also the private media sector was completely detached from government. Regarding

the practice of the profession in Ethiopia, there are irresponsible journalists who do not contribute to the welfare of the society. In addition it hampers the practice of journalism in the country. As a result the role of media and the professional performance of Ethiopian journalists were criticized by the audience.

According to Solomon (2005), the interference of government in media is so high. The Ethiopian government is using the state broadcasting for its own political benefit and this adversely affects the democratization process of the country. It tries to show objectively how the government is influencing the media in its favor. It also gives an idea of the challenges faced by journalists as a result of government control of the state broadcasting. In this unethical situation as the researcher tried to refer to some scholars regarding the issue of journalism erstwhile, "journalism's first obligation is to the truth and its loyalty is to citizens" under question.

1.2. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Media plays great role in socio economic and political system of the world. Additionally, it has been of great influence or pressure in positive or negative ways. These types of news will serve to prevent or correct a wrong doing, prevent crimes, save the planet from destruction, and shape the future of the world in more ways than one. It is reporting the unknown, hidden, and so investigative journalists become the keeper or custodian of public conscience. It is a field where a mere niggling thought or suspicion becomes an expose of doings. It questions actions and decisions and brings to the limelight outrageous acts and inhuman actions. As a type of reporting, investigative journalism is in-depth, long-term research and reporting, documentary research and use of public and private records, following the paper trail, extensive interviewing, crime-solving tools and methods (undercover reporting, hidden cameras, surveillance) and revealing information others want to keep secret or information not known to the public (<http://.pcij.org/training/ijcourse.html>).

The media have a significant role in checking the ways whether they are exercised as per the people's need. This study was more important to analyze the practice of investigative journalism *and see whether it contribute to over all positive and sustainable changes in all aspects of the society's life.* This could be done based on some of the accepted characteristics of investigative journalism, a topic which will be discussed in the review part. A News is considered as giving emphasis to public transformation activities if the News messages are guided by the objectives

and guidelines of investigative journalism and focus due follow of character when disseminating information's.

Thus, the study probes to describe the standard of investigative report in Jimma Fana FM's and the gaps and challenges in practicing investigative journalism. On the other hand media like Jimma Fana FM's 98.1 assumed as practicing investigative journalism through their news report and programs. But, the available studies on practice of investigative report was did not provide the status of investigative journalism in Jimma Fana F.M. radio station. As a result, it needs to conduct a research which aims at finding how Jimma Fana FM's improved and practice investigative journalism.

However, *in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 IJ* is on practice but, does not seem to play with the existing roles, qualities, guidelines and objectives of investigative journalism.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTION

By considering the literature about the practice of investigative journalism in developing countries and in Ethiopia, the present research attempted to answer the following research questions:

1. To what extent does Jimma Fana F.M practice investigative News?
2. How do Jimma Fana F.M journalists understand and engage in investigative reporting?
3. How does the station evaluate practicing IJ?
4. How do media policy of the country and the editorial policy of FBC encourage investigative reporting?

1.4 OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

1.4.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

The general objective of this study is to investigate the practice and challenges of investigative reporting in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1.

1.4.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

The specific objectives of this study are:

1. To explore the status of investigative reporting in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1

2. To examine how Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 journalists understand investigative journalism.
3. To examine how the station evaluate practicing IJ?
4. To explore the editorial policy of FBC in relation to investigative news.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The findings of the study by encouraging investigative journalism, it could contribute to promoting good governance and democratization in Ethiopia. It could also be used as reference for those who will be interested to research on the topic in the future. It may also be used as a means to understand whether or not investigative journalism is really practiced in the Jimma Fana F.M 98.1. Moreover, the study can be an add-up to the domain of knowledge in studying Ethiopian media and journalism in relation to investigative journalism.

1.6 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study attempted to study the application and challenges of investigative reporting in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 with regard to the watchdog role of journalism. Moreover, the study has focused on investigative news that is produced and transmitted from this station and by the station's journalists.

1.7 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Studying the overall application and challenges of investigative reporting on mass media in Ethiopia regarding the watchdog role of journalism could have helped get the accurate information of the Ethiopian media, but due to shortage of time and finance, the researcher has been limited to studying investigative news reporting of Jimma Fana FM 98.1.

1.8 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The study contains five chapters. The first chapter deals with the introduction: background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study and scope and limitation of the study and organization of the study. The second chapter reviews related literature and theoretical framework of the study. The third chapter contains the methodology of the study. The fourth chapter has interpreted the data and discussed the findings. And the fifth chapter concluded and gave recommendations based on the findings.

CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this chapter, the researcher has reviewed some basic concepts and related literature in the study area. This helped the researcher to define the area of the problem more manifestly, to show the link of the study with other previous studies in the study area, and to know more about what be needed in the study.

2.1 WHAT IS NEWS?

The term news comes from the word new, written in old English either as newes or niwes. In modern day, it is considered an acronym for the four sides of the world – north, east, west and south. At the same time, it means a specific type of information which was collected and processed as a good for mercenary aims. In the 17th century, according to Anthony Smith, information in newspapers went through four phases of development – beginning with simple reports (coranto), then a summary of events from an entire week (diurnall), followed by type of information bulletins where journalists could express their opinions (mercury), and finally onto the intelligencer form in which the reader was addressed in a more formal manner. It was the popularization of inexpensive, so called penny press in America in the 1830s, the invention of the telegraph and the establishment of dispatch agencies which resulted in the news becoming widely available, disputed and influential (Marek P., 2005). The dictionary of Merriam Webster defines news in different ways.

1. a: a report of recent events
b: previously unknown information
c: something having a specified influence or effect
2. a: material reported in a newspaper or news periodical or on a newscast
b : matter that is newsworthy

Essentially, news is both an individual and an organizational product; however, when considering the ways in which news is being constructed, it is imperative to examine the process whereby an excessive amount of events and issues relating to a given day are filtered into a various media (Hodkinson, 2011).

Research about news production has come from three perspectives. From the economic perspective, Schudson (2002), links news construction to the structure of the state and the

economy. Likewise, Herman and Chomsky (1988) argue that the media create news that supports state interests rather than those of the individuals they are meant to serve. The second approach draws mainly on the sociology of how the television network structure influences news (Epstein, 1974). The third approach focuses on the broad cultural constraints in news work (Chalabi, 1996).

According to Sam. (2010) The most basic distinction of news types, defined by Tuchman (1972), is dichotomous: ‘soft’ news and ‘hard’ news. ‘Hard’ news is characterized by Tuchman and others (Limor and Mann, 1997; Patterson, 2000:Smith, 1985; Whetmore, 1987;) as having a high level of newsworthiness, i.e. news value (usually regarding politics, economics and social matters) demanding immediate publication. On the other hand, ‘soft’ news does not necessitate timely publication and has a low level of substantive informational value (if at all), i.e. gossip, human interest stories, off beat events.

In 1940, Robert E., one of research pioneers on information broadcasts, was the first to write about the term *news*. He considered it as a form of knowledge but not scientific knowledge. He stated that information broadcasts are actual, non systematic, ephemeral (short term), extraordinary and predictable but, at the same time, surprising. They are substitutes of knowledge and are characterized by possessing information value which is always relative and depends on the subjective assessment of potential audience. News is something new but it ages quickly.

2.2 INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Various scholars define investigative journalism in different ways. Among the scholars who describe investigative news, as quoted in Rosner, (2008) & Forbes, (2005), investigative journalism derives from two words; Investigative from Latin “Vestigium” means “foot print” and journalism from French “journal”, which in turn comes from the Latin “diurnal” or daily. Though there is no fundamental definition, but their point of view emanate from two points. Some of the scholars consider investigative journalism as involving in-depth reporting in the public interest while others regard it as an extension of good journalism should really be (Rosner, 2008 & Forbes, 2005).

According to Mark, (2012), investigative journalism involves exposing to the public matters that are concealed either deliberately by someone in a position of power, or accidentally, behind a

chaotic mass of facts and circumstances that obscure understanding. It requires using both secret and open sources and documents. Conventional news reporting depends largely and sometimes entirely on materials provided by others (such as police, governments, companies, etc.); it is fundamentally reactive, if not passive. Investigative reporting, in contrast, depends on material gathered or generated through the reporter's own initiative (which is why it is often called "enterprise reporting").

Scholars like Hugo (2000) explain an investigative journalist as a man or woman whose profession is to discover the truth and to identify lapses from whatever media may be available. The act of doing this generally is called investigative journalism and is distinct from apparently similar work done by police, lawyers, auditors and regulatory bodies in that it is not limited to target, not legally founded and closely connected to publicity (Hugo de burgha, 2000). The major characteristics of the investigative approach include the following:

- ✓ The goal of the investigative journalist is to discover and then uncover information which is important and hidden.
- ✓ The investigative journalist assumes defensiveness and non-cooperation
- ✓ The investigative journalist maximizes the use of existing records as well as his/her own observations and interviews.
- ✓ As the investigation proceeds, the reporter continuously checks that the story remains feasible, significant, and acceptable.
- ✓ Great attention is paid to thoroughness, soundness, depth, and originality of research.
- ✓ In writing the final story, the reporter strives for fairness, not objectivity.
- ✓ The investigative reporter has a systemic focus and attempts to illustrate deeper issues with the specific case he/she is studying.

Derek Forbes (2005) when he identify about the role of investigative journalism in building of the system of democracy in emerging democracies, reporters play a critical role in development. This means, while they may reflect government initiatives aimed at the upliftment of society, good journalism requires reporters to speak out where these initiatives go wrong and to alert the public to the reasons why. Investigative journalists who, because of their manner of worming out hidden information, are often criticized by politicians and others with power some reporters

believe they exercise their rights as citizens of a country through their investigative work – they are citizens first and journalists second.

One of the major duties of a journalist is to be a civic watchdog and achieving this often demands investigation and in-depth work. Thus, in a way, all stories are investigative stories because they require research, digging, interviewing and writing. All reporters are investigators who are trained to ask questions, uncover information and write the most complete stories possible (Aretha, 2012). According to Nieman Foundation (2013), independent, critical, high-quality investigative journalism is broadly recognized as an essential tool in the fight against abuse of power. Research has already shown the critical role of a free press in fighting corruption. The centers for investigative journalistic research that have sprouted globally over the past decade are continuing this work.

Even where the press is separated from the government, the idea of “investigating” anything gets headache. Various factors such as weak legal and security environments, libel laws, media regulations, media ownership, corruption in the media are hindering it not to be practiced in third world countries in general and in east Africa in particular (Hester and To, 1987 and Forbes, 2005) as cited by Bereket, (2012).

In Ethiopia, for instance, despite the high need for investigative reporting to tackle corruption and enhance development and democratization, journalists do not seem to be playing the “watchdog role”, which means they are not exercising investigative journalism in their programs as they are expected (Birhanu ,2009).

As Bereket (2012) identified lack of qualified journalists who were committed to this assignment, lack of logistics, lack of adequate training, organizational pressure, external interference such as political and financial, absence of incentives for investigative journalists, absence of protection for the journalist and poor public participation as sources of information are the major challenges while practicing investigative journalism; moreover, decision on the issue to be aired is made subjectively. Programs might not be transmitted if the higher officials do not approve it despite the investigative team decided to produce the program. There are no clearly set criteria to select issues for production.

In study that Bereket conducted on the practice of investigative journalism in Ethiopian broadcasting corporation on “Ayenachin” program states that the situation to the practice of

investigative journalism in the Ethiopian media, compared to the case in the past, there is now somehow conducive environment and a little attempt. The result of the study also showed that journalists attempting to practice investigative journalism although it is in early stage and investigations mainly target government institutions which fail to promote democracy and good governance. The program lacks presenting detailed information of the concerned bodies because only a single journalist investigating a given issue. (ibid).

2.3 CHALLENGES OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Investigative reporting is a journalism facing challenges at a global level, such as funding and political restrictions. The contribution of investigative journalism to accountability, development, and democracy is now widely recognized. Donors have found that adding investigative journalism can strengthen programs for independent media, anti-corruption work, and democracy and good government. “Investigative journalism can have a significant impact on improving governance at the national level,” observed economist Daniel Kaufmann, who has studied how media development and transparency can combat corruption. “In countries where the executive and judiciary have essentially failed in their accountability duties, investigative journalism helps fill such a void. And where they function but weakly so, it helps strengthen them. It’s a crucial pillar for fighting corruption (David E. Kaplan, January 14, 2013).

The Challenges of investigative reporting in Africa are many and varied, ranging from inadequate material resources for sustained research or investigation, hostile political environment, absence of legal frameworks that compel the filing of public documents and authorize public access to such documents, poor communications infrastructure, and inadequate journalistic skills to poor ethical standard.

So far, almost all media effects research has been conducted in Western countries (Schmitt-Beck, 2012) and little is known about the effects of investigative journalism in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is probably because of the limited tradition of Africans against investigative journalism practice compared with liberal countries. In-depth and investigative journalism that goes beyond reporting the daily events is an essential element of liberal democracies (Votmer, 2006: 2; Waisbord, 2000: 45) but rare in Sub-Saharan Africa (Mudhai, 2007; Steyn and De Beer, 2004: 45), and yet it exists under difficult circumstances.

According to Andrea Bohnstedt (2012) Government organizations, as main advertisers they are obstacle for the application of investigative reports. Media houses owned by government are typically more pliable to government pressure, especially in an environment characterized by weak governance. And also given the small advertiser pool in the private sector, an important share of media revenue in developing countries also comes from governments. This contributes to making media vulnerable to political pressure. Another consequence of limited revenues is that journalists are often paid very little, making bribes more attractive. Additionally, the media sector across the African continent has grown strongly, but the relatively small size of the formal economy and resultant small advertiser pool render media vulnerable to pressure not to investigate critical stories or face the loss of advertising revenues.

In Ethiopia investigative journalism programs began to be broadcasted when public and other officials engaged themselves in the business against the public interest. In this regard, Nigusse (2008,p.100) writes: “investigative journalism has attracted attention in our country also as a means of combating corruption, preventing wastage of resources, defending human and democratic rights, and eradicating nepotism.”

On the other hands, as Ameyu (2014) revealed in his study of the practice of development/ investigative journalism in FBC’s *Ummanni Maal Jedha?* Afaan Oromo investigative radio program is facing lack of the intended focus and support from the organization. The program is highly dependent on the effort of producers and faces fading of the basic concepts of development journalism as it encounters different external and internal challenges even though producers have know how of the investigative concept. As the researcher put it in a nutshell, investigative /development journalism is highly praised term in Fana Broadcasting Corporate but poorly practiced.

2.4 THE EFFECT OF INVESTIGATIVE NEWS

Investigative reporting, however, does not just report the information that has been given out by others - whether government, political parties, companies or advocacy groups. It is reporting that relies on the journalist’s own enterprise and initiative. Investigative reporting requires journalists to go beyond what they have seen and what has been said, to unearth more facts and to provide something new and previously unknown. Most of the time; investigative reporters uncover wrong doing by individuals and institutions. The good that public officials or private companies

do is often publicized; a whole army of public relations people makes sure this is so. It is the wrong that powerful groups and individuals do, that is kept secret and hidden from the public (Sheila S. Coronel, 2009).

According to David Bauer (2005), the role of investigative journalism as one of a tool for people to be able to resist: “Why is journalism like this so important”? Without it, our sense of injustice would lose its vocabulary and people would not be armed with the information they need to fight it”. In order to provide people with the required information, investigative journalism needs to undo the silencing, it needs to de-silence.

According to Feldstein (2006) investigative journalism has been contributing to realize democracy, good governance and human rights. It has considered as vital bulwark of democracy as a way of check point the wrong doing in politics and public policies. It clearly stated that people should know the direction where their rulers are through the media.

The importance of investigative reporting is something that cannot be underestimated. It has great role in a socio –economic and political activity of the world. And it also makes enhance the media more credible in the eyes of the society.

One of the research questions of this study was intended to know the role of *investigative* reports. The analysis of select news implicates the opinion of program practitioners (i.e. journalist, editor, and director) up and the application of investigative report.

2.5 ELEMENTS OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Investigative reporters need to be patient and exert their maximum efforts towards revealing the concealed facts through time taking in-depth investigation. According to Reuters Foundation (2004) and other writers coupled with the researcher’s point of view the following are taken as good qualities of investigative reporters.

- **Curiosity** – It is easier for reporters to ask the right questions if they are already personally curious to know the answers.
- **News sense** – Recognizing news usually comes with practice, but some people seem to be born with it.
- **Perseverance** – Not giving up when struggling finding out information in the face of bureaucratic inertia, subterfuge or outright opposition.

- **Objectivity** – A good reporter leaves personal views and prejudices at the newsroom door. The reporter’s duty to society is to inform, not to persuade. Give the facts, from all sides, as far as you are able, and let people make up their own minds.
- **Skepticism** – Reporters should develop a good measure of skepticism when dealing with officials, companies and other authorities. Sources want to give you information that puts them in a favorable light. However such skepticism should not become total cynicism.
- **Comfortable with people** – Most stories come from people. There is room in journalism for the quiet, introvert, but reporters who can mingle easily with all types of people have a better chance of finding things out.

It is a good idea that if investigative reporters are well prepared, to rethink and redesign their research than staying wedded to their first ideas. Eventually, a journalist having good team working and communication skill would end up with magnificent stories. The work thus brings with it heavy ethical burdens that underlie the standards–fairness, accuracy, thoroughness, and transparency– for the investigative journalism.

2.6 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

The word “ethics” when associated with journalism practice has elicited various definitions including “a set of principles and norms that, at least to some degree, guided journalistic practice” (Ward, 2006, p.100), or “a way of studying morality which allows decisions to be made when individuals face specific cases of moral dilemma” (Frost, 2011, p.10) or “the study of the grounds and principles for right and wrong human behavior” (Sanders, 2003, p.15). The three scholars agree that ethics reflects human values such as courage, self-control and generosity and focuses on the standards of right and wrong. The fact that stories might result in expensive lawsuits makes news companies nervous about supporting investigations” (Waisbord, 2001;15). In contrary, the nature of the field might trigger the journalist by self being exposed for corruption. “...corruption is also another important ethical issue in investigative journalism. Corruption includes a variety of practices, ranging from journalists who accept bribes, or quash exposes, or pay sources for information” (Waisbord, 2001;16).

According to Stiftung (2011;16). “The primary job and aim of investigative reporters is exposing official corruption and other wrong doings that dwells in the public.” Additionally the authors have suggested:

- Investigative reporters shouldn’t report for personal gain. Hence, Accepting bribes and the appearance of personal gain taints have a negative impact on the credibility of the reporter and the news organization.
- While investigative stories can flow from a reporter’s political awareness or perspective, they should not be slanted against the facts for the sake of ideology or to further a pet cause.
- Despite their personal beliefs, investigative reporters should rely only on the facts on the ground and need to report the stories the way they are.
- Investigative Journalists must be independent from the people and institutions they probe.
- An investigative reporter will inevitably work on a story that involves some one she/he knows. The reporter must do her/his best to be as tough on a friend as she/he is on a stranger.
- While investigative stories don’t have to be boring, they must avoid hyping or exaggeration.
- The investigative reporter does not steal documents during fact finding. She/he doesn’t ask someone to steal them, although they may consider using documents that have been leaked by insiders at their own initiative.
- Investigative journalists shouldn’t lift another journalist’s language or reporting without attribution.

In general those journalisms ethical points are implemented in internationally.

2.7 THE APPLICATION OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORT IN ETHIOPIA

According to (Nigussie ,2014).The history of media in Ethiopia can be most likely traced back to the time of ancient kings who started using the awajnegari, that is to say news announcer. The religious and non-religious publications as well as the different historical and religious writings on parchment may mark the beginning of early press in Ethiopia. Formally, however, modern press in Ethiopia is said to be started during the time of Emperor Menelik II.

Additionally, In the Ethiopia history of practicing investigative journalism is directly related with the political system that existed in different governments. In the feudal period, there was no possible condition that enabled professionals to participate themselves in such business. In the Derg regime, there were some activities in disclosing hidden facts which had an impact on the life of the people. For instance, a program entitled “Keminayew Keminisemaw” (From what we see and hear) which dealt with extracting irregularities and corruption related issues was transmitted by the Ethiopia radio and several cases were aired. Post 1991, different media outlets have been investigating various issues occasionally and/or permanently (Nigussie, 2008).

Nowadays in Ethiopia the practice of investigative report was not like the westerns’; it’s ineffective. For this reason it’s not well grown. In this regard (Bereket, 2012) lack of qualified journalists who were committed to this assignment, lack of logistics, lack of adequate training, organizational pressure, external interference such as political and financial, absence of incentives for investigative journalists, absence of protection for the journalist and poor public participation as being source of information are the major challenges while practicing investigative journalism.

2.8 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.8.1 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THEORY

From a theoretical perspective investigative journalism is rooted in a long tradition of Enlightenment ideals that gave rise to concepts of press freedom and Liberty. In 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, social changes had primarily been seen in Europe in relation the political system which had been practiced. The main idea of the period was social and political progress should not rest in absolute power of the authorities but on the absolutes of reason, rational debate and freedom of speech (Rosner, 2008). In this regard Sheila Coronel nd, p.1) pointed out that:

Since the late 17th Century, classical liberal theorists had argued that publicity and openness provide the best protection from the excesses of power. The idea of the press as Fourth Estate, as an institution that exists primarily as a check on those in public office, was based on the premise that powerful states had to be prevented from overstepping their bounds. The press working independently of government, even as its freedoms were guaranteed by the state, was supposed to help ensure that this was so.

In libertarian theory the main function of the mass media is to inform and entertain the public. Siebert et al (1963, p.51) explains further:

Basically the underlying purpose of the media was to help discover truth, to assist in the process of solving political and social problems by presenting all manner of evidence and opinion as the basis for decisions. It was charged with duty of keeping government from overstepping its bounds. In other words of [Thomas] Jefferson, it was to provide that check which no other institution could provide.

That is why the press has also been referred to as a Fourth Estate (or fourth power). But it does not mean free of some control or influence but minimal. The theory later modified and named as Social responsibility theory that extensions the initial ideas of libertarian theory which the press should have maximum responsibility with maximum independence. The relationship between state and media is based on mutualism; i.e. fulfilling social obligation and retain the independence of journalism and freedom of speech (Campbell, 2004).

The functions under social responsibility are the same as those which were under libertarian theory. Six tasks came to be credited to the press as traditional theory evolved:

1. Servicing the political system by providing information, discussion, and debate on public affairs;
2. Enlightening the public so as to make it capable of self-government;
3. Safeguarding the rights of the individual by serving as a watchdog against government;
4. Servicing the economic system, primarily by bringing together the buyers and sellers of goods and services through the medium of advertising;
5. Providing entertainment;
6. Maintaining its own financial self-sufficiency so to be free from the pressure of special interests (Siebert et al, 1963, p.74).

Generally, social responsibility theory states that freedom of expression is a moral right with an aspect of task. The reason behind is rooted on the individual to his thought or to his conscience. Under this theory, freedom of expression is not an absolute right. It should be considered with others private and public interest. For instance, if freedom of expression is used to provoke civil crisis by somebody the person has no right to argue on it.

2.8.2 DEVELOPMENTAL JOURNALISM THEORY

The concept of 'development journalism' has, over time, become possessed by demons of all sorts of confusion. If we want to wrest any useful principles from the concept, it is important that we exorcise the demons it has come to be associated with, not least the demon of the postcolonial state's blatant interference in the practice of journalism (Wong 2004).

According to Gunaratne (cited in Campbell 2004) development journalism is not only informing the public about positive state developments but it should also report problems of the development process. This implies that within development journalism there is also investigative journalism. Thus, investigative journalism is accompanied by this sense to realize democracy, good governance and justice for the well-being of the society. It is one function of the media in social responsibility theory. "...Safeguarding the rights of the individual by serving as a watchdog against government" say Siebert et al, (1963, p.74).

This view of a journalism that is socially and intellectually engaged is supported by Shah (1996: 146) who represents it as 'emancipator journalism', which he claims offers a 'more complete and complex' perspective on the relationship between mass media and society in the context of the third world. It is more complete because it provides a theoretical link between citizen access to mass media and social change and because it articulates a specific mechanism by which journalists can participate in social change. It is more complex because it incorporates principles of diversity and fluidity in the process of building cultural identities and communities and because it challenges journalistic practice by abandoning the idea of objectivity

Developmental news should examine critically, evaluate and interpret the relevance of development plans, projects, policies, problems, and issues. It should indicate the disparities between plans and actual accomplishments, and include comparisons with how development is progressing in other countries and regions. It also should provide contextual and background information about the development process, discuss the impact of plans, projects, policies, problems, and issues on people, and speculate about the future of development. And development news should refer to the needs of people, which may vary from country to country or from region to region, but generally include primary needs, such as food, housing, employment; secondary needs such as transportation, energy sources and electricity; and tertiary needs such as cultural diversity, recognition and dignity (in Wimmer & Wolf 2005: 3).

One contribution in particular deserves attention for its attempt to reconceptualize development journalism within the new African reality, namely Banda's (2007) synthesis between development journalism and public service broadcasting (PSB) ideology. Crucial to Banda's model is a dynamic notion of the public, thus echoing both PSB ideology and public journalism, drawing on Austin (1997).

Development journalism is a journalism that makes people understand, accept and actively participate in the implementation of appropriate development ideas that may extricate people from poverty and backwardness by bringing about rapid national change and building on positive values of development and democratic change. (Ethiopian policy document on development journalism, EPA 2008)

The journalists in the state media acknowledge that development journalism is in conflict with certain other types of professional practice, especially 'watchdog' and 'investigative' reporting. Several reporters conceptualize a 'hybrid' journalism form, however, and suggest that borrowing elements from 'universal' professional frameworks would enhance Ethiopian development journalism practice. Such a combination of critical journalism and development journalism has been found in other transitional societies as well, like Uganda (Mwesige 2004)

2.8.2.1 INVESTIGATIVE ROLE OF DEVELOPMENT JOURNALISM (DJ)

The scope of development journalism is very wide. It deals with all issues related to development. However, as poverty is the major problem of developing countries like Ethiopia, development issues get the highest concern. In development journalism everything that serves public interest and can help nation building is given due attention. The question of balance is given paramount importance. Since, it is basically an attempt of persuasive communication.

According to Murthy (2006):

- Development journalism is the promoting of development process rather than events; development news covers the entire gamut of socio-economic and cultural development;
- In its treatment, development journalism is not different from investigative reporting.
- A development journalist should critically examine, evaluate and report the relevance of a development project to national and local needs, the difference between its impacts on

people as claimed by the government officials and as it actually is. It is not synonymous with officially prepared handouts, so-called positive news.

Moreover, Murthy (2010) asserts that good development journalism is characterized by comprehensive coverage of important subjects in socioeconomic activities and “exposure of incompetence and indifference of government officials while tackling corruption in government can change polices, besides saving government money.

The 2002 policy entitled issues of building democratic system in Ethiopia states that media disseminate current information in line with the development policy and strategy of the country to the public. While disseminating media should report both positive and negative outputs without exaggeration and indicate solutions to overcome the barriers of the development process such as corruption and lack of good governance. And this could facilitate democratic process by creating national consensus among the people. However, in the ground it seems that practitioners do not interpret in a way which development journalism is defined.

In conclusion, development journalism is one which prioritizes the actual development problems of the people, i.e. pressing the socioeconomic, political and good governance issues so as to bring about improved living condition for all.

The study used this theory to explore the relationship between developmental journalism theory and practice and challenges of investigative reporting in line with developmental journalism is examined.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 THE RESEARCH DESIGN

Burns and Grove (2003:195) define a research design as “a blueprint for conducting a study with maximum control over factors that may interfere with the validity of the findings”. Parahoo (1997:142) describes a research design as “a plan that describes how, when and where data are to be collected and analysed”. Polit et al (2001:167) define a research design as “the researcher’s overall for answering the research question or testing the research hypothesis”.

The main aim of this research was to investigate the practice of investigative news in Jimma Fana FM 98.1. The study is conducted by using qualitative research approach because qualitative research methods for media studies provide researchers with the tools they need to perform their tasks by being critically engaged, theoretically informed (Khotari, 2004).

Qualitative research method of inquiry is primarily selected as the principal method for the study because it enables the researcher to critically evaluate and grasp the social phenomenon from the perspective of the subject of the study. In addition to this it encourages the researcher’s interaction with the subjects which enable him to gather rich data out of observations in line with discovering meanings attributed to events and activities (D. Porta and Keating, 2008 cited in Kibrom, 2011).

“In qualitative research the aim of inquiry is to develop a body of knowledge that is unique to the individual being studied, and that can be used to develop hypotheses about the individual” (Abiy 2009, p.39). Therefore, qualitative study does not describe knowledge in generalizations rather it attempts to provide comprehensive information about an individual being studied. This is the other ground that forced the researcher to apply qualitative approach.

The qualitative method employs different tools of data gathering among which are: participant observation, interviewing, document analysis, and ethnographic study (Jensen & Jankowski, 1991). These tools have a key role in gathering reliable data and are applied in the research.

In this study, a qualitative approach was deployed to scrutinize investigative journalism in Jimma F.M 98.1. The study conducted with the objective of identifying the contribution of investigative journalism in fighting corruption and ensuring good governance etc. which are anti-social behaviors.

3.2 AREAS OF THE STUDY

Fana Broadcasting Corporate S.Co., the Nation's first commercial National Broadcaster and multi-lingual Radio Station, used to be a clandestine anti-Dergue voice of Liberation (Voice of TPLF) before its establishment as "Radio Fana S.Co." in 1994. With the defeat of the notorious military regime by the EPRDF led popular struggle, Radio Fana has been re-organized under the ownership of the four Regional Endowments. The major shareholders of the company are: EFFORT, TIRET, TUMSA and Wondo. The station's original languages are Amharic and Afan Oromo, now it broadcasts its popular news, entertainment, educational, etc. shows in Tigrigna, Afar, Somali, Wolayita and Sidama languages also (www.fanabc.com accessed on Nov. 26/2017 G.C).

As of January 2011, Radio Fana Sh.Co. grew to Fana Broadcasting Corporate S.Co. so as to enter into the TV business. FBC operates one SW, one MW and 12 FM transmitters nationwide. FBC has incorporated commercial and public service values and advocates developmental journalism to foster nation building and fight against poverty. Currently FBC has around 360 employees in the main branch and 304 employees in the regional stations, a total of 664 employees. Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 is one branch of Fana Broadcasting Corporate that was established on February 30, 2009 G.C in Oromia Regional State, Jimma Zone, Jimma town.

Jimma Fana F.M. 98.1 covers all weredas of Jimma zone, partially Illu Ababora, East Wellega, and from SNNP Regional State, Yem Special Wereda, partial Dawuro Zone, Hadiya Zone and Kafa Zone. In general this Radio station covers vast area in south western Ethiopia, an area with a great diversity of people living here. At this part of our country, there are so many socio economic and political activities. The primary mission of this broadcast media is to provide quality media services by providing informative, educative and entertaining programs that help build democratic and prosperous Ethiopia where all citizens benefit from such developments. The station addresses an estimated people of around 5.5 to 6 million (ibid).

The local program covers a total of 48 hrs per week in Afan Oromo and Amharic languages. All the journalists in station participate in investigative reporting. But the investigative reporting task is led by the investigative reporting team members. There are three members in the team, members who plan, locate and distribute issues for production.

3.3 SAMPLE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

The researcher used non-probability sampling to select participants for the study. Among this sampling technique, purposive sampling technique was used because it is a technique widely used in qualitative research for the identification and selection of information-rich cases for the most effective data in limited resources (Patton, 2002; Walliman, 2006). According to Abiy, (2009, p.64), “Qualitative research methods are typically used when focusing on a limited number of informants, whom you select strategically so that their in-depth information will give optimal insight into an issue about which little is known. This is called purposive sampling.”

According to Michael (2005) samples in qualitative research are usually purposive. This means participants are selected because they are likely to generate useful data for the project. This involves identifying and selecting individuals or groups of individuals that are especially knowledgeable about or experienced with a phenomenon of interest (Cresswell, 2009; Plano & Clark, 2011).

The participants are selected purposively from reporters, senior reporters, producers, news editors, and program coordinators. Thus, a total of seven respondents were selected purposively to participate in the interview.

3.3.1 QUALITATIVE CONTENT ANALYSIS

Qualitative content analysis adopts an interpretive approach that seeks to explore the ways in which language and image are presented, combined and used in complementary fashion. This involves exploring the meanings that are embedded in the representations as opposed to looking at the frequency of particular themes as reflection of popular phenomena which is characteristic of quantitative content analysis (Mabweazara, 2006, p.6).

The researcher used content analysis as data collection instrument to analyze investigative news which transmitted by the station and editorial policy of the station was analyzed in

relation to investigative reporting. Hence, the researcher examined three months' (January to March) twelve investigative news which was broadcasted in 2018 by Jimma Fana F.M.

3.4 DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

In qualitative research, it is important to use data collection instruments which can help the researcher to dig out and extract the desired output based on the questions and objectives of the study. These methods aim to answer questions about the 'what', 'how' or 'why' of a phenomenon rather than 'how many' or 'how much', which are answered by quantitative methods. If the aim is to understand how a community or individuals within it perceive a particular issue, then qualitative methods are often appropriate (Michael Quinn Patton and Michael Cochran, 2002, p.3-4).

To do so, the researcher classified the source of data as primary from in depth -interview and secondary from content analyses based on the source of the information.

3.4.1 PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

3.4.1.1 IN-DEPTH INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW

The term 'in-depth interviews' is used substituting 'individual interviews'. It seems the word 'in-depth' is added to deliberately imply the benefit a researcher gets by using this approach which is a means of creating better understanding about an issue under investigation. This benefit comes due to the nature of individual interviews that allow an interviewee to make additional reflections with the prospect of building up 'an argument or a narrative in an hour than any group member does in the same amount of time' (Schroder et al., 2003, p153). In the same manner, individual interviews give the researcher the privilege of raising more and specific issues during the session.

Interview has a number of advantages. One is that it can cover variety views on a given subject. This could be done either by interviewing different informants in order to get diversified opinions or by preparing interview questions that cover over a wide area of subjects. Interview can also be useful as "heuristic devices"; leading to new perspectives and generating questions for later inquiries (Jensen & Jankowski, 1991).

Using in-depth interviews as one of the methods of data gathering has its own advantages and limitations. Collecting of data in natural setting, getting detailed and accurate information about

a topic by using few but key respondents, flexibility for interviewer during interview process and facilitates analysis, validity checks, and triangulation are advantages. time consumption during interviews, transcribe them, code them and analyze the results, maybe respondents don't always tell the truth, prone to interviewer bias and difficult to make generalizations and to replicate partly due to the small sample size of informants are limitations according to (Kumar, 1999; Berger, 2000; Hughes, 2002; Boyce & Neale, 2006; Wimmer & Dominick, 2006).

Finally, the in-depth interview with key media practitioners is an important instrument to answer some of the research questions mentioned in the study. Semi-structured type of interview was used for the study. The managers, editors of news, and journalists have an indispensable role in realizing and practicing investigative journalism (which is led by the principles of the profession). Because all of them are people who have an experience in the area and work in similar news.

To respond for the individual in-depth interview, four journalists have been interviewed. The data which the researcher got by using this mechanism helped him to understand the respondents' reflections deeply.

3.4.2 SECONDARY DATA COLLECTION

The data gained from secondary sources regards to the media institution's editorial policy, procedures, principles and composition of reporters and other pertaining information were obtained from the institution. The reviews of published and unpublished documents in relation to the investigative journalism also add to the knowledge of the existing patterns of practice pertaining to how this investigative journalism in this media house was also searched.

3.5 ANALYZING THE DATA

As the researcher stated earlier, the purpose of the research was to investigate the practice of investigative journalism in Jimma Fana FM 98.1. The interviews were recorded and then translated (from Amharic version to English) and three months' sample investigative news which was broadcasted in 2018 was analyzed. Data which were gathered using these instruments were analyzed qualitatively and interpreted carefully in line with the practice and challenges of investigative reporting. Then findings were presented in narrative form with significant quotations taken from the data to serve as evidence for the research findings.

Table 1 :Interviewees Category

No	Name of the Interviewees	sex	Job description	Codes given
1	Nestanet Jemal	F	Media Manager	MM
2	Temesgen Alebachewu	M	Editor	E
3	Atikilt Bekele	F	Senior Reporter	SR
4	Muktar Teha	M	Senior Reporter	SR1
5	Almaz Mekonin	F	Senior Reporter	SR2
6	Abdurahman mohammed	M	Reporter	R
7	Alemayehu Bekele	M	Senior Reporter	SR3

CHAPTER FOUR : DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

This chapter is about the analysis, presentation and interpretation of data gained by employing content analysis qualitatively and in-depth interviews.

Accordingly, the data were discussed and analyzed based on the theoretical framework of the study mentioned in chapter two. The study tried to reach the following issues in this chapter. Firstly, on the basis of news content analysis of Jimma Fana F.M 98.1, the study tried to uncover the extent to which Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 practiced investigative reporting. Secondly, whether the media practitioners were cognizant of the editorial policy was a point of discovery through in-depth interviews. Thirdly, using in-depth interview and the researcher also tried to uncover factors affecting the media practitioners in producing investigative news.

Findings from the qualitative content analysis and in-depth interviews were presented and discussed concomitantly in this chapter as per the objectives of the study. To this effect, to address the objectives of the study and research questions, data are presented in five sub-sections under the headings: content analysis of sample investigative news, practice of investigative journalism, the editorial policy and media law in practicing investigative journalism, the role of investigative report in Jimma and the major challenges that obstruct practice of investigative reports in Jimma F.M. radio.

4.1 The Practice of Investigative Report in Jimma Fana F.M. 98.1

In this part, the overall practice of investigative reporting in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 was presented, analyzed and discussed based on the response of the interviewees. The interview questions were all open ended and designed in three different types based on the roles and responsibilities of the respondents. Investigative reporters, program coordinator and editor of the program have an indispensable role in realizing and practicing investigative reporting in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1.

Here, seven reporters engaged, in investigative reporting and investigative team members, one program coordinator and editor were selected as informants to find out their own view from their experience on the current practice of investigative reporting in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 to address the research objectives. The outcomes indicate that all of the interviewees have indicated nestle meaning for their investigative reporting, they consider investigative news as public interest news.

According to Temesgen Alebachewu , investigative journalism is about exposing wrong doing or against public interest which is committed by government organizations or individuals, he added that investigative news is news which seeks solutions for problems. Another interviewee from the journalists Atikilt Bekele explained it as “investigative journalism means one way of journalist can play watch dog role for aggrivance of community and exposing something that is not clear or hidden. Most of the respondents of Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 agreed that almost most of the investigative reports broadcasted focused on social issues and public dissatisfactions. But different scholars define investigative report have vast meaning. According to konrad (2011), investigative journalism is a form of journalism in which reporters go in-depth to investigate a single story that may uncover corruption, review government policies or of corporate houses, or draw attention to social, economic, political or cultural trends.

In the late 1960s and 1970s, a watchdog style of journalism flourished in newsrooms around the globe. In USA the Pentagon Papers and the Watergate Scandals were particularly important and considered as the result watchdog role of the press. That is why many of the press consider that era as something of a golden age of investigative journalism and as a model for the role the press should play in public discussions in a free society (Stapenhurst & Larose, 2006).

Nestanet Jemal is the program coordinator at Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 interviewed in this study. But, working as investigative journalist and producing investigative news in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 allows her to acquire multiple experiences on the field for around 8 years.

In my opinion Investigative journalism is a part of responsibility of journalists which can solve wrong doing. And also broadcast hidden issues from the public or issues that are difficult to be seen by the community. I mean to do so a lot of efforts are needed. First it needs research depending on the significance of the topic to be broadcasted. Exposing

anything concealed from the public as well as government is not an investigative journalism unless the output has a positive impact for both. In general, this is one of behavior of devoted persons.

From these respondents it can be said that since investigative journalism is standing to investigate wrongdoings it is vital bulwark of democracy and good governance. This time, especially, the country is in vibrant social and economic activities. These activities should be healthy and mainly benefit the people. Therefore, investigative journalism can serve as guardian of these activities by fighting activities which can hinder the development such as irregularities, corruption and lack good of governance.

The meaning given by Temesgen is similar with the definition with Nestanet

It is a duty of representing and litigates for community interests. This means a type of journalism which is a voice of voiceless that search to expose the stories that involves abuses of power and unfair practice. Always it's done for a benefit of personal. Its affect benefit of large society. So the aim of investigative report is to prevent the problem.

One of the interviewee Atikilt Bekele preferred to state the practice of investigative report in the context of Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 and also in Ethiopia as:

So many people's controversies about investigative journalisms in our country. In my opinion to some extent there are investigative report in Ethiopia and Jimma Fana F.M 98.1. I hope we didn't practice it as a standard of like western and developed countries. But there are some attempts. So many mal-governance and public grievances are covered. Without those issues we didn't think about investigative, might be we practice in the future.

According to the above respondent, there is investigative journalism in station but not wide. They are in the beginning steps. Similarly, the program coordinator Netsanet shared the stated idea and clarified as:

As an institution it is not well organized at a department level and it is not well equipped and the journalists' capacity is not crafted as well. Since it is a very difficult task, it needs both personal skill and resource. It is also questionable whether we journalists really understand the concept. But nowadays there is a progress in extracting

some important issues. Sometimes we observe when problems of society which were investigated and broadcasted got solutions.

Especially, the government's initiative to evaluate its work by its own media takes the practice of investigative journalism one step ahead. However, the importance of Investigative reports mentioned by the respondents; and presenting with a type of journalism which is a voice of voiceless. And also the respondent's beliefs Investigative journalism is a part of responsibility of journalists which can solve wrong doing. To summarize, it is better something than nothing and gradually the news can be fully recognized and practiced; and it could take the role of the media beyond covering about cutting ribbon rather the way they are cut.

4.2 Review of Sample of Investigative News

In order to examine the status of investigative journalism at Jimma Fana F.M , content analysis of sample archives of news report which was broadcasted from January to march 2018 and scholars observation about investigative journalism are presented respectively. The news were broadcasted in ‘Amharic’ and ‘Afan Oromo’ language. In the station news was broadcasted from Monday to Friday 4:00-5:00 (in afan oromo) and 7:30-8:00 (in Amharic) local time.

The news broadcasted on February 15, 2018 afternoon was focusing on Jimma city administrations land problems. It was broadcasted in Amharic. In the news various issues became raised in relation to residential home giving problems and unfair requests of payments. It is relevant and timely topic, including Who, What, Where, and When. Also includes the Why and the How. Credibility is established. The news was presented in conversational type of script which means uses significant numbers of strategy to develop content, such as, sequence; statistics; descriptive language/vocabulary (to enhance mental images of people and places); sensory details. As the news report indicated this is the problem of the majority of the dwellers. It is remarked that many residents' lives became affected seriously due the problem. It had to gather evidences with recorded audio materials. It also had to collect opinions of other dwellers as strengthening the information. The news broadcasted on the mentioned data lacked elements. Hence , it may have less acceptance from the science of the investigative journalism.

Moreover, economic issues investigative news which broadcasted on January 19 on Sekoru city youth job opportunity complain. The story begins revealing the youth that complain on scarcity of job opportunity. Accordingly, the story mentioned that because of they didn't gain job their life are depend on the family. And including, the opinion of authorities. Investigative reporting story are two (government officials & society). Finally, the story concluded by stressing on the point that creating the job opportunity for youth is a way of eradicate social and economic problem of society. The report was interesting area of the socially it reported mal governance generalization of facts and supporting facts numerical were among limitation. Inset, the news which focuses on jimma city administration slaughter house sanitation problem transmitted on march 14 was not well investigated. The investigations aim to identifying the slaughter house sanitation problem which occurred because of not water supply in this station. The news offered the public , the owners of hotels and city municipal representative. Because of reporters own observation didn't added, files and documents are not searched and reporting story have no source full (multisource) with good details (not depth). And errors in accuracy cause some confusion. Story is missing some important facts or those facts are not explained correctly. Article uses only one source or relies heavily on static sources like websites. It is transmitted in Amharic language.

And also, investigative news which transmitted by the station on Afan Oromo on the issue of cut back of pure water in Jimma city was well investigated and facts are gained from different sides but it's not numerically presented. Lack of teachers in Jimma zone Gumay woreda chendo secondary school was news that researchers evaluate as a sample. Its broadcasted in February 15 , among the problems of the community. But the report lacked sources all needed were not included like that of Oromia regional state education bureau. Uses one strategy to develop content; sense of news lacking. No outside source used.

In addition, investigative news on lack of imperative goods in Jimma zone Limmu Kosa wereda. It is the issue which the society suffers on but, the news was not well researched. And not used significant numbers of strategy to develop content, such as, sequence and statistics; descriptive language/vocabulary (to enhance mental images of people); sensory details. Outside source is used and analyzed to support the report's findings. It was broadcasted in January five in Amharic

language. The news that has been transmitted on march 20/ 2018 was it's also one sample of this thesis. It's about lack of infrastructure on the three newly mingled kebele of Jimma city. Afan Oromo was the language in which the news was broadcasted through. It is because of the complain arose from residents of three newly mingled kebeles regarding an availability of road, pure water, and electricity. And in the interview of the residents life become challenging unless the stated infrastructure are accessible. Following this, administrator of the kebele and Jimma city mayor interviewed in the news coverage to replay for the complain. This problem was principally social problem in which the society blames the government against good governance. However, it lacks of sound and depth. Source of investigative reporting story are two (government officials & society) but no details.

Further , lack of diabetes insulin in Jimma city broadcasted on march one was in Amharic language. Transport tariff problem in Sigmo woreda broadcasted in January four in Amharic language , Agaro city sanitation problem which broadcasted in Amharic language on January 25 ,Dedo wereda sheki city scarcity of water supply broadcasted on march 22 in Afan Oromo and lack of laboratory room in most secondary school in Jimma zone which broadcasted in February five in Amharic language were broadcasted in three months those taken as sample frame.

Those investigative news which broadcasted in three months by jimma Fana F.M 98.1 were issues which has a public interest among those investigative news and relevant and also timely topic, including Who, What, Where, and When. Also includes the Why and the How. News which were included all sides of informants. But , all news are limited in researching and providing audiences with full and accurate information was observed. This was indicate that accuracy cause some confusion. Story is missing some important facts or those facts are not explained correctly.

One of the major characteristic of investigative journalism is to discover and then uncover information which is important and hidden. Great attention is also paid to thoroughness, soundness, depth, and originality of research. Whereas, investigative news that practiced in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 most the time the producer select interested area of society. It's directly connected with social, economic and political issues. But it has vast limitation on investigative

news of the station. First of all there are no plans. Investigative reporting needs a long-term process of planning, information gathering and corroboration using a diverse range of sources. Plan is one of the processes of an individual or organization decides in advance on some future course of action. And also, it is very important to focus attention on objective, to gain economic operation and to facilitate control. This means investigative stories should be accompanied by using variety of sources. So for low quality of investigative news production and practice an activity without plans are plays great role. Additionally , mostly files and document sources are not added , lack of team work , lack of well balancing , research and etc are some factors that researcher identify.

Moreover, in researcher's observation there are investigative team members in the station. This team has four journalists and it is one part of news team. The first mandate of this team is to search investigative issues and indicate how it could be solved. But as the researcher's respondent and members of this team stated, they do not react sufficiently. In general this team is irresponsible team and it's titular.

Investigative reporters are well prepared, to rethink and redesign their research than staying wedded to their first ideas, experienced with how to identify sources, plan story research, conduct good interview, write accurately and informatively and have the humility to ask for advice or help during difficulty, good writing and reporting skills, being motivated and ethical, driven by personal conviction to contribute skills to the society as a citizen and confidence on the course of investigation can be taken and generalized as good qualities of investigative reporters. But as researcher conduct information from Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 informants there is no research before investigating an issue. And the culture of follow up on the issue that was covered by the institution is very weak. For this reason sometimes neither those issues are solved nor its ignored didn't known by institution and institutions journalist. Almost all of the participants assume FBC is the pioneer media in beginning investigative journalism in the history of modern Ethiopian broadcast media. Following this, they contended other regional F.M branch of FBC continued.

In general, the practice of investigative journalism in Jimma Fana F.m 98.1 based on sample of investigative news and informants it was at developing or satisfactory level. This shows the

status of investigative journalism in Jimma Fana F.m 98.1 is at early stage. Therefore, it needs support, attention and an improvement.

4.3 The Role Of Investigative Report in Jimma

As it is attempted to discuss previously investigative journalism practice has vast role for a given country. According to Sheila, (2010), investigative reporting has helped accustom officials to an inquisitive press and helped build a culture of openness and disclosure that has made democratically elected governments more accountable. The media can also help build peace and social consensus, without which democracy is threatened. The media can provide warring groups mechanisms for mediation, representation and voice so they can settle their differences peacefully.

One of the research questions of this study was intended to know the role of investigative journalistic practice in Jimma Fana. According to Muktar Teha investigative journalism practice, scope is narrow and in depth. As the news merely focus on issues of lack of good governance and corruption, it has a vital role in assisting government to take measures towards bringing good governance and fighting against corruption. He noted the program has role for the application of stable socio political economy in the country and in working to bring trust between government and the public by exposing wrong doers and held them accountable. He has also pointed out that “there are a lot of problems that societies are complain on, in Jimma zone and Jimma city”.

Accordingly, the researcher asked the informants their investigative report has also role in solving variety of social problem in the community in addition to implicating the source of wrong doings for government.

Similarly, Abdurahman Mohammed, another Jimma Fana F.M reporter states that “investigative report was one way of finding justice for a people which was a suppressed class”. During investigative reporting, the investigator is looking for information that is hidden with malicious intent; the evaluator looks for realities that are hidden by surface descriptions, by the need of programs to present their best face, or by simple lack awareness.

According to, Atikilt Bekele, investigative journalism practice has enormous role for a given country. Therefore, investigative journalism can serve as guardian of these activities by fighting

activities which can hinder the development such as irregularities, corruption, rent collecting and lack good governance.

Investigative news is broadcasted which covers issues related with public concern which strives to bring social justice for the majority and attempt to hold accountable those involved in abuse. The finding reveals that *investigative news* has a potential role in magnifying/echoing the hidden problem within the society in order to bring a solution before they get into chaos.

As respondents, from Jimma Fana FM 98.1 pointed on promoting democracy and development, exposing hidden activities which are against the people(the practice of investigative reporting in order to block the barriers of the development process such as corruption, abuse of power, etc.); after all, guarantee of sustainable development of audience.

4.4 Investigative Report ,Media Law of Ethiopia And Editorial Policy of Fana Broadcasting Corporate

4.4.1 Media Law of Ethiopia

Editorial policy and media law was one of the guidelines of media institution, which cover accuracy, diversity, taste, decency, offence, fairness, privacy, consent and engaging the audience, are underpinned by the fundamentals of all journalism, which are balance, impartiality, integrity and independence. Also it's a way of one journalist practice journalism.

According to Nigussie (2008) in Ethiopia, we cannot find a law concerning investigative journalism since it is not recognized as independent field rather seen with the idea of the practice of journalism in general. Thus, looking at some articles of the FDRE constitution, proclamation 590/2008 and penal code 1957 which have relevance with the issue is preferable for this topic. Media law is a recent phenomenon in the history of Ethiopian media industry. Accordingly, the study has incorporated all press proclamations put forth since 1992. Press proclamation No. 34/1992, Broadcasting Proclamation No. 178/1999, Broadcasting Service Proclamation No. 533/2007, and Government Communication Affairs Office Establishment (GCAO) No. 158/2008 has been incorporated in the analysis.

The current Broadcasting Service Proclamation No. 533/2007, in its different articles, gives the power of press monitoring and control to the Ethiopian Broadcast Authority (EBA). As a result, in 1992, a press law was promulgated which continues to be enforced. The press law focuses

primarily on the print media leaving the allocation and utilization of radio waves to be determined by law that was promulgated in June 1999 (Ibid).

Freedom of expression has got recognition by the constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE). Hence, the constitution officially declared freedom of expression as democratic right in its article 29.

According to Abdurahman Mohammed and Atikilt Bekele, often some government representatives cant reply for public complains. This is very difficult in practicing investigative journalism. Those types of obstacles can emerge from low skill of about media law of those leadership.

Similarly, the respondent Muktar stated "sometimes, there was lack of professionalism with journalists who produce the program. The respondent stressed that there were no trainings for investigative journalists to upgrade their experience. For these reason there is a big gap in an awareness of media law".

From the perspective of respondents the researcher understand those type of skill gap diminish self-confidence of journalist and missing public right of gaining information.

4.4.2 Editorial Policy of FBC

According to Fana Broadcasting Corporate editorial policy FBC was an institution that works for peace, furtherance and democracy. And also FBC expose corruption and counter democracy, bill practice and attempt of lack of good governance and resist problem of clarity and accountability. As it is indicated on FBC's editorial policy clearly, it shall expose all forms of malpractices and rent seeking attitudes and practices that harm the interests of the public; thus working for the prevalence of good governance. In page 19 of the editorial policy of FBC stated that:

Our station exposes and resists anti-democratic activity, corruption, mal-governance and a practice which incapacitate the right of society.

One of Jimma Fana F.M. reporter Alemayehu Bekele, FBC's in the station no problem with editorial policy to practice investigative journalism. In his explanation, the editorial policy of FBC allows practicing investigative journalism by exposing all forms of malpractices and rent seeking attitudes and practices that harm the interests of the public; thus, working for the

prevalence of good governance. But sometimes every journalist didn't practice it with the direction of it.

According to the editorial policy and the respondents, the problem for unsuccessful practice of investigative journalism in FBC is not a gap in the editorial policy. According to them, the problem is lack of commitment from media institution and journalists.

4.5 Challenges of Investigative Report in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1

The growth of investigative reporting organizations and the increased representation of countries in journalism contests also demonstrate that journalists, often on their own, are doing an excellent job of pushing the envelope. Each year, between 30 and 70 journalists are killed worldwide demonstrating the danger of this work, yet their colleagues carry on (Drew Sullivan, 2014). Therefore, it's surrounded by a lot of challenges which threatens its practice. It is always sniffing such hidden facts and makes them available to the public. Having this, the researcher has asked Jimma Fana F.M. 98.1 investigative journalism practitioners Muktar, whether they are facing any challenges in running the program. And also he is one member of investigative team in radio station.

There are a lot of challenges when we practice investigative report. Our challenge is both external and internal. We participate on different programs and hosting time. So lack of time is one of great problem in station. Also the station didn't allocate additional budget for this activity so this is a big headache for me and my colleagues. Externally the delay of some institutions and concerned body's are its source of boring.

Lack of time for in-depth investigation, refusal of government officials to provide the required documents for investigation and lack of professionalism of journalists are also mentioned as common challenges by the program coordinator. According to Temesgen, "investigative report is most of the time achieved by journalist effort. Without giving direction budget and transport facility are our major challenges. And lack of legal protection for journalists, improper use of power by government officials and the perception of sentimentality are the major". According to the respondent, those challenges created the absence of committed journalists who are ready to pay sacrifice and accept it as reward for their investigation of public interest.

The other thing that is mentioned by the respondents is lack of skilled human power and inadequate training. One of the reporters Abdurahman, states it as follows:

I come from different discipline. Now I produce different investigative types of news report. But I didn't get any training about Investigative report. This means first and foremost it should be understood that what investigative journalism is and the skill it needs; issues it includes, the journalist's mission and responsibility, obligation to law of investigative journalism, both the compliant and those being investigated, should be treated objectively. Sooner those activities didn't solve its difficult.

Most of the respondents shared the idea and underlined that absence of adequate training to build up their capacity greatly affects their practice. And also lack of material like sound recorder, to sum up there is no trust framework between journalists and the public; journalists and institutions. It is not yet developed in the community and there are people who do not recognize that journalists are doing this for good. And uncomfortable work stations are great challenge of journalist.

Seniors reporter Almaz Mekonin, explained challenges of investigative journalism. For him, journalists have the right to investigate and the right to report on every issue no matter who is involved in the process, but media are full of challenges.

Fana is one of private media sector. These companies source of income for the media house was gain by contact with different organization (this means through sponsorship, advertisement, selling air time). If there are investigated, they can terminate their money or they complain and the station would have lost the income gained through those institution. Thus, the conflict of interest between the media house and this corporation will big challenge.

Therefore, from the above idea it is possible to say that there is political and financial pressure which leads to entertain the interest of the influential's rather than public interest. And Jimma Fana F.m 98.1 seems failing to resist some challenges and this is undermining the Journalists effort and public interest. Investigations will often require thorough analysis of of data, documents and interviews with both on and off-the-record sources. Often, investigative journalists will have to make use of freedom of

information acts to gain access to government-held information. Therefore, this field needs supports from government like providing grants, training, and networking opportunities for reporters and practitioners.

Another journalist of JFBC, Alemayehu, expressed there are some gap in concrete relationship of journalist and media houses. During one journalist investigate one issue and face him/her challenges (from government, sectors ...) the media managers don't stand with journalist. This types of ignorance demoralized the journalist. According to the respondent, following the approval, they inform the institution which is going to be investigated and other concerned bodies that they meet for information. This has both negative and positive impacts on the investigation. It helps to make ready the concerned bodies for both to prepare relevant information and at the same to hide sources (both human and physical) which are thought very important for the investigation.

To summarize according to the respondents, the major challenges to the practice of investigative journalism are: lack of sufficient training for practitioners, lack of journalistic professionalism, absence of incentives for investigative journalists, lack of legal protection for journalists, lack of access to information, Internal factors like, media house authorities lack a commitment of determination on some areas proposed for investigation are the challenges of investigative journalism practice in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1.

CHAPTER FIVE : CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study mainly aimed at investigating the practice of investigative reporting in Jimma Fana F.M. In doing so, the study attempted to investigate the main challenges, practice, editorial policy and media law of Ethiopia were skimmed. In line with this, the role of investigative report in Jimma was also the other points of the research.

5.1. Conclusion

The study needs description and analysis of the existing situation in the Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 in relation to practicing investigative journalism, the researcher used individual in-depth interview and content analysis of some sample programs (broadcasts). The researcher used individual in-depth interview to extract detailed and reliable data about the subject. Based on the research findings, in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 there are investigative news (report) that are in early age. The agitation of some journalist that researcher interviewed was very high. They believe investigative reporting as the tools of problem solving and it is mostly dealing with exposing of social issue and uncovers corruption, bad attitude and abuse of power. Generally, media can serve as a bridge between people and policy makers by reporting the needs of the public and expose all types of problems and bringing into government. But there is some gap in this station. Based on the research findings, the researcher has come up with the following conclusions:

- ✓ As the study showed that there are some external and internal challenges that undermine the practice of investigative reports in Jimma Fana F.M. 98.1. Lack of qualified journalists who were participated to this responsibility, lack of logistics, lack of adequate training, absence of incentives for investigative journalists, absence of legal protection for the journalist and poor public participation are the major challenges while practicing investigative journalism in the station in investigative reports.
- ✓ Most of the time the reports (covers) issues in relation to good governance. This means there are some shortage regards to investigating political issues. Lacks of presenting detailed information of the concerned bodies, lack of journalistic materials and etc are challenges in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1.
- ✓ The reports fail to indicate hidden facts, that the issue those in power and didn't seen making held accountable public figures or decision makers.

- ✓ Moreover, Refusal of government officials in provision of the required documents and information for investigation.

5.2. Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made to effectively practice journalism in Jimma Fana F.M 98.1.

- ✓ The Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 should strengthen the capacity of journalists to enhance the practice of investigative journalism and fill the gap of material in station.
- ✓ Government officials should open their door to provide information needed for investigative report.
- ✓ The media house should make investigative reporters free from other media job burdens and to hire some more investigative reporters.
- ✓ Jimma Fana F.M 98.1 should cover the issues around politics and more hidden facts from society (like corruption).
- ✓ Media organization should investigate issues that have of high benefit to the public and working for the improvement of the lives of the people.
- ✓ Jimma Fana F.M. 98.1 should follow up and strengthen the capacity of investigative team.
- ✓ Jimma Fana F.M. 98.1 station should also allocate adequate budget.
- ✓ The stations and media managers have to be committed to practice investigative journalism.

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APPENDICES

Interview questions for journalists

This Interview questions are designed for FBC Jimma F.M 98.1 journalists on the practice of investigative journalism to their overall experience on the field.

1. How do you (your organization) define investigative journalism?
2. To which issue (government or public) do you give special priority in your news making?

Why?

3. What are the major obstacles your media face when practicing investigative journalism?
4. Do you think that all sources are acceptable in your media institution? If no, why?
5. Is there any factor that hinders you in news and source selection? If yes, what are the factors?
6. What mechanisms do you use to verify information for your report?
7. Tell me about the strength and allocation of man power and material when you go for investigation?
8. In what ways your news plays media watchdog role? For example in fighting against Corruption, in maintaining good governance etc.
9. Are there any trainings or special considerations your media house provide to enrich the capacity of Investigative journalists?

Interview Questions for the Program Editor, producers and program coordinator

1. What is the aim of investigative report in Jimma F.M 98.1?
2. For what kind of issues (public or government) your media institution gives a special Priority in news making? Why?
3. For how long do you research the area before you go to cover the issue?
4. Do you give coverage for critical stories about government? Yes/no, why?
5. Do you have special budget and institutional support on behalf of the media house? If yes how much and how do you spend? And if no why?
6. When you supervise reporters, what are some of the advice you give them in gathering and reporting news?

7. What are the major challenges you face when practicing investigative journalism or covering an issue?
8. How can editorial policy of FBC encourage the investigative report?
9. What do you suggest for a better/strong future investigative journalism practice in Ethiopian broadcast media in general and in FBC in particular?

Table 2: Sample of investigative news

No	Aired Month	Title	Areas of news							Language
			Political Issue	Social Issue	Economic Issue	Lack of Good Governance	Construction	Corruption	Land issue	
1	Feb.15	Jimma city administration land problem				✓				Amharic
2	Jan.19	Jimma sekoru wereda sekoru city youth job opportunity complain			✓					Amharic
3	March 14	Jimma city administration slaughter house sanitation problem		✓						Amharic
4	Feb 19	The cut up of drinking water in jimma city				✓				Afan oromo
5	Feb 15	Lack of teachers in Jimma zone Gumay woreda chendo				✓				Afan oromo

		secondary school								
6	March 20	Lack of road infrastructure in jimma city kebele which newly mingled to soon.					✓			Afan oromo
7	Jan 5	Lack of imperative goods in Jimma zone Limu Kosa wereda		✓						Amharic
8	March 1	Lack of diabetes insulin in jimma city		✓						Amharic
9	Jan 4	Jimma zone Sigmo wereda transport tariff problem				✓				Amharic
10	Jan 25	Agaro city sanitation problem		✓						Amharic
11	March 22	Jimma zone Dedo wereda sheki city's scarcity of water supply								Afan Oromo
12	Feb 5	Lack of laboratory room in most of Jimma zone secondary school								Amharic

(Source: JFBC Archive, 2018)

Table 3: strength and limitation of news

No.	Title of News	Strength of News	Limitation of News
1	Jimma city administration land problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -it's prepared with conversational type of script. -it's depth. -it's part of audience is interested, which affects them and their daily life. -well balanced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -it's not research based. -contains some sensational words. -the sources are only primary source
2	Jimma zone sekoru wereda sekoru city youth job opportunity complain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -it's interested area of society. -it's part of exposing malgovernance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -some words in scripts were generalized (like: there are not add in woreda). -it's not supported by appropriate numerical.
3	Jimma city administration slaughter house sanitation problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it's interested area of society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -reporters own observation is added. -files and document sources are added. - it's not depth .
4	The cut up of drinking water in jimma city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the facts are given from all sides. - Depth, with details, and data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -it's not prepared with good radio words.
5	Lack of road infrastructure in jimma city kebele which newly mingled to soon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -its type of social problem that society blame the government. - Stories come from people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of soundness and depth.
6	Lack of teachers in Jimma zone Gumay woreda chendo secondary school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it's interested area of society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -there are no files and document sources -concerned bodies are not fulfilled (Oromia region education bureau). -it's not organized accurately.

7	Lack of imperative goods in Jimma zone Limu Kosa wereda	- it's interested area of society. - issue of most of our society	-it's not research based. -it's not indicating the source of problem and the way it will be solve.
8	Lack of diabetes insulin in jimma city	-now it's a big issues of social and economic	-it's not research based. -numerically it's not brief in the report peoples which used insulin. -concerned body like Ethiopian ministry of health and health care administration were included.
9	Jimma zone Sigmo wereda transport tariff problem	- it's interested area of society.	-traffic expertise and controls are not included in the report of News. -the scripts of news are not focused on specific to general news style.
10	Agaro city sanitation problem	- it's interested area of society.	-it's not research based. -its not produced with figures and language. -health bureau of Agaro city were interviewed. -there are no files and document so far.
11	Jimma zone Dedo wereda sheki city's scarcity of water supply	- it's interested area of society. -its well organized -its conversational writing script of news style	-news didn't indicate deadline of the problem will solve
12	Lack of laboratory room in most of Jimma zone secondary school	- it's interested area of society. -important of laboratory room for students are mentioned	-concerned bodies are not fulfilled (e.g. Oromia region education bureau).

		-the interviewee was explaining the issues as very well.	
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DECLARATION

This MA thesis is my original work, was not copied, has not been presented for a degree in any other university, and all the sources of the material used have been duly acknowledged.

Afework Alemu

June, 2018

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Signature _____

Name of Co-Advisor _____

Signature _____