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An Examination of the Involvement of Female Journalists in Reporting the Northern Ethiopia War: The Case in Amhara Media Corporation, AMC

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An Examination of the Involvement of Female Journalists in Reporting the Northern Ethiopia War: The Case in Amhara Media Corporation, AMC.

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June, 2023

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An Examination of the Involvement of Female Journalists in Reporting the Northern Ethiopia War: The Case in Amhara Media Corporation, AMC

A Thesis Submitted to Department of Journalism and Communication in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Masters of Art in Media and Communication

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June, 2023

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Declaration

I, Helen Sefihun hereby declare that this Master thesis titled —“An Examination of the Involvement of Female Journalists in Reporting the Northern Ethiopia War: the Case in Amhara Media Corporation” is an original work. I conducted the current work on my own with the help and advice of the research advisor, Dr. Adem Chanie. Any other academic or research sources consulted for this work have all received the appropriate credit. Moreover, this study has not been submitted for the award of any degree or any other higher education program in this or any other institution.

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Approval of Thesis for Defense

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Helen Sefihun entitled: ‘‘An Examination of the Involvement of Female Journalists in Reporting the Northern Ethiopia War: The Case in Amhara Media Corporation’’ under my guidance for partial fulfillment of the award of Degree of Masters of Art in Media and Communication. This thesis fulfills the requirements for defense.

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As member of the board of examiners, we examine this thesis entitled: An Examination of Female Journalists Involvement in Reporting the Northern Ethiopia War: The Case in Amhara Media Corporation by Helen Sefihun. We hereby certify that the thesis is accepted for fulfilling the requirements of the award of the degree of Masters of Art in Media and Communication

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Dedication

This study is dedicated to my mother and my father, who bestowed inspiration and encouragement to my whole life.

Acknowledgement

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the help I received from many people without whose, support, dedication, and kindness this work would have never been possible. First of all, I would like to thank my Almighty **God** for his great support to accomplish this research work and for his infinite support in my entire life success.

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to examine the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war: the case in Amhara Media Corporation, AMC. The researcher employed mixed research methods. The study used an exploratory research design. The populations of the study for the quantitative method were 203 journalists. To do so the researcher analyzed 190 journalists from the total journalists of 203 sample based. Also, 11 key informants were taken as a sample for the qualitative part from male and female reporters, editors, managing editor, and media managers. The data were collected using survey questionnaires, in-depth interviews, and focused group discussions. The collected data were organized and analyzed in the form of descriptive statistics and the qualitative data was analyzed thematically. The study used feminist media discourse, liberal feminist theory, and critical media theory as the theoretical framework. The study findings revealed that female journalists had low involvement in war reporting. The results of the study indicated that there was a lack of participation in front-line reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war in AMC. The study found that three female journalists were involved in front-line reporting. Based on the findings, female journalists played the role of public forum facilitator and agenda setter in the studio to discuss with communities during the Northern Ethiopia war. The participants believed that only male journalists should participate in front-line war reporting. Wrong perceptions towards female journalists have resulted in low engagement of female reporters in reporting the front and war news production. Traditional gender stereotypes, such as the assumption that women should stay at home or care for children in wartime and be considered weak and only the agent of peace-talker were a major factor that hindered female journalist involvement in front-line war reporting. Generally, these results could lead us to conclude that female journalist had low involvement in war reporting. That is, the old traditional perception that says women can't perform as male was still affecting them not to involve in war news reporting particularly at the front-line. Based on the findings, opportunities should be given to female journalists because female journalists have the skill and strength to do as male journalists. Media organization should minimize gender-based assignments to give equal opportunities for journalists were recommended.

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AMC: Amhara Media Corporation

FGD: Focus Group Discuss

SPSS: Statistical Package for the Social Science

TV: Television

WWI: World War First

WWII: World War Second

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Women's participation in economic, political, and leadership roles was discriminated against around the world in existing systems. Accordingly, many scholars and feminist researchers researched the participation of women in worldwide. And also they investigated women's in media participation. Women were far in journalism schools and are somewhat more likely to enter the field, yet few advance to senior positions. They are underrepresented in the media (Franks, 2013). There are considerably more women than in previous decades, and a revolution in journalism practice that has been brought by developments in media and communication technology and the increasing nature of mainstream media have contributed to women's involvement in the journalism field (Allan, 2005).

According to Allan (2005) study show that women's involvement in media is increasing through media technology. Even though women journalists increase in media participation, the work division is still a problem, and horizontal segregation where there are gendered divisions of reporting-related tasks remains a problem. Hard news is mostly assigned to male reporters, while soft news is assigned to female reporters (North, 2015). According to Global Media Monitoring Program (2015) studies show that women's inclusion in the media agenda as news subjects, newsmakers, and news producers is still significantly lower than that of men. According to the definition of journalism, politics, war, the economy, and crime are typical topics typically seen as hard news.

War reporting is frequently used as newsworthy by the media. But the involvement of journalists in this newsworthy reporting could be based on gender-based divisions. The war provided opportunities for women not only to practice journalism in large numbers but also to cover "hard" news, including the war itself (Chambers, Steiner, and Fleming, 2004). However, war reporting is a male-dominant field. Researchers have conducted studies to assess gender differences in war reporting. As cited in Harp et al., (2011), Ferris, (2004), men's perspectives have long dominated war coverage.

Women journalists and war reporting have not mixed well, with a predominantly male presence. Although the number of women reporting on war increased over the twentieth century with the First and Second World Wars, especially the Vietnam War, finding information about the female war correspondent in Vietnam can be difficult because traditionally both war and journalism have been seen as men's activities, and for that reason, the voices or pictures of women have been historically marginalized (Haller, 2006).

Women journalists encountered sexism in reporting news, being evaluated on gender rather than on professional competence. Gill (2007) explained that, despite numerical increases, women faced discrimination and marginalization in the media and difficulties balancing journalism careers, she noted:

A simple numerical increase in the numbers of women producers or directors or journalists, cannot be taken as straightforward evidence of greater equality, achieving this seems to involve major sacrifices in other parts of their lives (2007:212).

According to the above issues, women faced discrimination and difficulties in balancing their roles. In regard to war reporting, women were excluded from reporting either front-line or back-line war news. There were regulations imposed on women in war reporting by their governments and military authorities during WWII; the attitudes of media industries towards female writers and the difficulties faced by women trying to access operational zones and military facilities are the factors that decreased women journalists' involvement (Simpson, 2020,p.10-12).

Women journalists are highly bound by traditional gender roles. Researchers agreed that the success or failure of female war reporters was largely dependent on their social status and professional position prior to the conflict. Traditional gender roles are still a problem for the women's movement (Seul, 2019,p.16).

In such a case, as cited in Thompson et al., (2007), Rehn and Sir Leaf 2002b, p. 438, "the power of the media in warfare is formidable". It can be an interpreter or facilitator and also mobilize people about gender roles. Despite its influence and power, media coverage of conflict rarely goes beyond stereotypical depictions of women as passive victims and refugees to incorporate the experiences and viewpoints of women. On the other hand, in Ethiopia, traditionally, the status of women is lower and dominated by male culture. Women may have experienced

discrimination in culture and war participation (Minale, 2001). According to Minale (2001), although women were excluded from war participation and the experiences of women in war were ignored, there were women who directly involved in the war zone. In Ethiopia media, the typical journalist is male, and women are underrepresented. Compared to earlier times, there are now just a small number of publicly and privately owned media organizations in Ethiopia. According to Alemseged (1999), since the beginning of journalism in the country, women have played an underappreciated and under-participated but crucial role. After several years, the number of women journalists increased, but a study by Emawaysh (2019, p.75) found that the involvement of female journalists in reporting hard news stories was low. Though the stereotypical perception plays a lot for the low women's engagement in covering hard news stories, men journalists are busy covering hard news stories, reporting from the field, breaking news, anchoring, and even holding managerial positions.

Although women and war reporting go in parallel, women are extremely excluded from war reporting. However, that doesn't mean that they have no role (Allison, 2010). In today's world, women's participation in front-line war coverage or appearing on screen to report war-breaking news has become more common than in the past. Now, media institutions send female journalists to report the war in a variety of war zones from different perspectives. However, the above research conducted so far indicates that the traditional perception of women's experiences is still attached. Researchers conclude that the participation of female journalists in war reporting mainly depends on the socio-cultural context and media attitudes. Although the participation of female journalists in reporting war is limited, they have their own roles from different perspectives. Therefore, this particular study examines the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in the case of Amhara Media Corporation in Ethiopia.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The role of the media in war coverage is unforgettable. However, mainstream media coverage of war often distorts or ignores women's journalists perspectives and experiences in armed conflict (Thompson et al., 2007a). It makes sense that war provides a unique chance for examining such an issue, still largely male-dominated journalistic industry are most prominent (Buonanno, 2012). Studies have been conducted around the world related to the issue. In addition, most of the studies have been conducted on world wars by world countries. Among

these, Ness (2012), the study was entitled "Women War Correspondents and the Battles They Overcame to Succeed." This study shows that women journalists were limited in number and asked by editors to focus more on "human" stories in wartime. Even though women wanted the opportunity to examine the war as men did, it was not permitted in a war zone. According to this study's findings, although the numbers were limited, there were prominent female reporters and photographers who could break the male dominance of war reporting on the front lines. Seul (2019) study also conducted on women war reporters during WWII. The object of this study was to assess the involvement of women reporters during WWII. According to this, women journalists were discriminated against in war zones, and they largely ignored female war reporters during 1914–1918 to cover all aspects of the war, from the fighting on the fronts, the suffering of the (wounded) soldiers, and the destruction of cities, villages, and landscapes to the war's impact on civilians.

A recent study also studied by Simpson (2020), the "Woman's Angle and Beyond: Allied Women War Reporters during the Second World War." The study showed that women journalists in war reporting were absent. War reporting was dominated by men because they assumed that men had more courage and were stronger than women. The study's findings revealed that women reporters were imposed on by negative media attitudes and military groups and despite restrictions and regulations, a small number of women chased their stories right up to the front lines.

The above research findings revealed that the involvement of female reporters during the war was limited and absent from women's perspectives. War reporting was mainly male-dominated. Therefore, researchers concluded that women's involvement in war reporting and participation is largely based on socio-cultural context. In Ethiopia, according to Abebech(2007),there is a limitation in the research on Ethiopian women and the media. However, researchers also conducted research on the following traditions: the portrayal of women in media content; women's representation in media institutions; and women as sources of information in media. As cited in Rahel (2010), Yetenayet(1997) study shows that women populated only the lower ranks of media hierarchies and were not accepted as professionals by their male counterparts. And she also found that they have not achieved equal treatment in such hard news reporting as politics and business.

A study by Azeb (2018) was conducted on female journalists reporting in Ethiopian print media cases on privately owned presses. The objective of this study was to investigate how female journalists report issues in the media in the case of Ethiopian privately owned newspapers. Addis Admas, Reporter, Fortune, and Capital have been selected. She selected them purposefully because they are among the largest private newspapers in Ethiopia. She employed qualitative research approaches that enable collective analysis of the data. According to this study, finding revealed that the number of female journalists increased. But not only increased number, women journalists in the researched Ethiopian newspapers also are interested in reporting hard news issues. Female journalists can cover stories from government offices and attend a variety of events. In order to fill the above research gap, similar study was done in broadcast media. A study by Emawaysh (2019), entitled the involvement of female journalists in hard news stories in EBC. This study objective was to assess the involvement of female journalists in reporting hard news stories case on EBC. According to this study, finding shows female journalists involvement in hard news stories are unsatisfactory according from male dominated culture. Priority was not given for female journalists to cover hard news stories because hard news reporting was male dominated task.

As far as my knowledge is concerned, there is no recent study conducted on the involvement of female journalists in war reporting in different media institutions, Ethiopia. This research is motivated by the basic assumption that there are common myths and misconceptions about gender, and women's movements and the critical analysis of the media and gender, particularly in Ethiopia. Therefore, this research specifically fill the above research area and sought to examine the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in the case of AMC just to find out if they were involved or not, and assess the roles and factors that affect the involvement in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in AMC.

1.3. General Objective

The main objective of this study was to examine the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war: The case in Amhara Media Corporation, AMC.

1.3.1. Specific Objectives

In order to achieve the objective of the study, the following specific objectives have been formulated:

- To find out the extent of female journalists' involvement in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war.
- To point out the roles of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war.
- To identify the perception of journalists towards female journalists involvement in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war.
- To identify the factors that hinders the involvement of female journalists' in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war.

1.4. Research Questions

1. To what extent is the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in AMC?
2. What are the roles of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in AMC?
3. How do journalists perceive the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in AMC?
4. What are the factors that hinder the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in AMC?

1.5. Significance of the Study

It is suggested that this study's findings will make the following contributions. An investigation of the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war is not researched area in Ethiopia in general and Amhara Media Corporation in particular. As a result, examining the involvement in war reporting practice in the context of this study is paramount importance.

The results of this study are beneficial to society because it has been shown that as women's roles in various sectors get stronger, so does society as a whole. Additionally, the results would encourage participants to examine issues from a gender-equity perspective and help close any gaps between men and women's reporting of serious news.

As a result, media organizations that used the recommendation provided by this study's findings had an advantage in terms of developing the skills of female journalists. Most findings in the area of examining the participation of female journalists in war reporting are accompanied in the framework of the developed countries which is not appropriate for developing countries. For this reason, the researcher perceived that this study can be conducted for the first time in Ethiopia,

Amhara Media Corporation which initiates others for future studies. Likewise, the researcher would be beneficial on getting knowledge and experience to do better.

1.6. Delimitation/Scope of the study

Geographically, the area of the study was delimited to Amhara Media Corporation, AMC head quarter in Bahir dar city. Hence, female journalists who are working in branch media organizations and other media would not be the subject of this research. The key reasons for the research areas:

- It transmits information by diverse languages
- It has many journalists
- It is very convenient and appropriate places to conduct this study instead of other branches like Dessie, Gondar, and Debre Birhan because of unsafe political and safety conditions in those aforementioned branch media.
- In terms of geographical location and diverse languages; in head quarter Bahir dar city is preferable and some other reasons also kept in mind.

Thematically, the study has proposed to examine the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in AMC.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

This research is focused on the “involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war: the case of AMC”. As far as the researchers knowledge the participation of female journalists in war reporting issues has not been studied yet in Ethiopia. Due this the researcher faced shortage of secondary data as one of limitation. To cope up this challenge the researcher used some similar studies and discussed with my advisor.

The study is also conducted the involvement of female journalists in the Northern Ethiopia war reporting in AMC. Security issues were other limitations. Therefore, this limitation was solved by only selected one media, AMC head quarter in Bahir dar city. Other branch media of AMC and Ethiopian media weren't included.

1.8. Operational Definitions

Gender: refers to the state of being male or female as manifested by social or cultural contrasts and disparities, rather biological difference.

Female journalist: are women journalists who work in media organizations as reporters, interviewers, and presenters of programmers, writers, and editors.

War: is armed confrontation involving two or more states, governments, societies, or paramilitary organizations. It is characterized by extreme violence, damage, and fatality.

War report: report about a war that exhibits a bias in favors of violence and violent groups.

Front line war report: is reporting the war by directly participating in the front line.

Backline war report: not directly involved in the front, but reporting after the war about victim civilians, destroyed places and so on.

Involvement: is condition of being involved with or participating in something.

Northern Ethiopia war: is a war that takes place between federal government and Tigray Liberation Front and included Afar and Amhara region.

Perception: is a process that people select, evaluates, and organize things in a way they can understand.

Role: is a function or perform played by a person or thing in a particular situation.

CHAPTER TWO

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Introduction

As indicated in the organization of the study section, this part mainly focuses on the literature written on female journalists in general and their participation in reporting war news stories. Moreover, the theory that the researcher applied which is called feminist theory has been clearly discussed in the next sections where it has direct relevance in identifying the participation of female journalist in war news coverage.

2.2. Women and Media

It is the relationship between women and mass media. Women representation in media platforms and the relationship between mass media and women are discussed in the context of media and gender. Over the past few decades, a lot of research has been done on the relationship between women and the media, both in terms of their employment in the field and their representation in a variety of various formats and genres. In that work, the authors described the over-determination of men's voices, perspectives and images in mass media as constituting the 'symbolic annihilation' of women (Ross & Padovani, 2017).

According to them, Ross and Padovani (2017), a large number of studies have been undertaken to evaluate, over time, space, and place, the different ways in which women do appear in fact-based media. If women are under-represented in media discourse in relation to the size of the female population, then how they are represented when they do achieve media visibility takes on greater importance. The two enduring problems in content that women have criticized are invisibility (the 'symbolic annihilation' issue noted by Gaye Tuchman in the 1970s) and stereotypes (e.g. over-sexualized, sex-role generalizations). Media, which has captured the attention of not just one age but of all generations together, rules the world of today. It has an all-embracing role to act against the injustice, oppression, misdeeds, and partiality of our society and empower women's experiences (Lata & Jukariya 2018).

According to Lata and Jukariya (2018), the media is considered to be the most important tool of society in modern times, is an information provider, and also plays an important role in women's

participation and is extremely important for women's development. In order to strengthen society, women's media roles and access are crucial, yet in most countries, women still have limited access to and control over the many kinds of conventional and modern media. The increase in women's participation in and access to self-expression and decision-making through the media and new communication technology is somewhat empowering for women. It is important to promote and continue to research the potent and beneficial role that the media can play in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. Ibid

Media play as gender transformative communication seeks to challenge power disparities and alter behavior, attitudes, and beliefs about gender. It counters discriminatory gender norms through images, language, or evidence. It does more than just make people gender aware; it fosters real transformation (Affiat & Vaz, 2022). According to the scholars, media has a gender transformative role in challenging power balance; however, women are underrepresented in media. Researchers and feminist scholars have studied the participation of women in media from different perspectives. In the recent past, the debate and discussion about women's persistent under participation revolved around male dominance over the media industries and few women in decision-making positions (Gallagher, 2002).

2.3. Women Representation in the Media

Media access is crucial and would be acquired, in large part, by expanding the number of women professionals working in the sectors, as leaders for women's equality have long acknowledged. The first attempt to do a cross-national study on women's employment in media was made by Gallagher (1995), in preparation for the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. Women's advancement in media professions was tracked in tiny steps over the 1970s and 1980s. The UNESCO-published study covered 239 businesses in 43 countries, 21 of which were located in Europe. According to research, Estonia and Lithuania, where women now make up half of the media workforce in each country, have made the most progress for women worldwide. Women performed best in broadcasting in Western Europe (for example, 40% in the UK and 39% in Germany), and in Nordic Europe, women were far over 40% in all four of the countries questioned. A lot of writing on women and the media focuses on how they get jobs in the media. Numerous studies show that women do not hold higher positions in the media when it comes to leadership positions. There are numerous reasons that could fit this. For example, it might be a

result of the dearth of women in journalism generally. The media institution is not an exception to society's general description of female journalists as appearing incompetent. This may also be connected to gender disparities. These studies attempt to extrapolate how disparities in sexual (orientation) orientation have impacted female participation in the structural hierarchy of the media industry (e.g., reporter, senior reporter, editor-in-chief). "Gender schemas" have been used to discuss this (Valian, 1998).

Valian's argument is based on two points. First off, the majority of professions are dominated by men, and secondly, women are often portrayed as acting incompetently. Due to the low number of females in the field, this has occurred. Due to the low number of females in the field, this has occurred (Valian, 1998, p. 314). Additionally, Valian tries to demonstrate how gender discourse in the community, the traditional view of sex in society, and the overrepresentation of men in the workforce affect women's professional levels and performances.

It is another reason why female journalists quit their careers. Research on the participation of female journalists in the US showed that due to equity issues and male journalists' dominance, which has an impact on women in some ways; women opt to leave their jobs (Elmore, 2009). Aside from that, women's journalism has seen consistent growth since the 1950s; data on gender equality and working conditions in the media reveal significant disparities between male and female employees.

In many countries, the majority of high-profile journalists and editors remain male (Chawade, 2016). According to (GMMP, 2015), the percentage of female journalists increased globally from 25% in 1995 to 37% in 2005, but from 2005 to 2010 it remained unchanged at 37% (GMMP, 2010: 2; Global Media Monitoring Project [GMMP], 1995: 24). Similar trends are observed in Africa; according to the GMMP (2015, 12) South Africa report, women make up 49% of print journalists, 36% of TV reporters, and 60% of radio announcers, suggesting that there is practically a gender balance across all media. In terms of gender balance in the newsroom, South Africa shines out and is among the top nations in Africa based on these statistics. The percentage of female journalists in newsrooms across Africa was 39%, according to the 2010 GMMP (2010: 10) Africa report, a figure that South Africa reached in 2005.

In literature in Ethiopia showed, Mengistu (2007, p. 34) revealed that, there are just 13.5% female journalists working in Ethiopian media. However, a recent survey found that both the quantity and the status of women in the media are currently improving. Due to sociocultural and educational hurdles, women's voices and responsibilities in the media were formerly underrepresented, but today, women actively work in both privately and publicly held media outlets (Azeb, 2018).

2.4. Women Representation in News Media

The gendered newsroom has been the subject of much research, most of which argues that women and men experience their working environment very differently, that men often perceive that environment as being professionally neutral whereas women identify a macho sensibility where male-determined norms masquerade as 'good journalistic practice' (Ross 2002; Djerf-Pierre 2007; North 2009). The link between representation and recruitment of women in the media, as well as their level of participation in news production, sends important messages about their place, roles, and lives in society. Successive studies have mapped and analyzed how women participate in factual media, revealing a pattern of marginal presence and lower rank on the one hand, and stereotyping on the other (Allan, 2005:288).

Though the number of women in newsrooms has increased over time, research shows that women are still underrepresented in media (Opoku-Mensah, 2004; Chambers et al., 2004; Ross, 2004; Van Zoonen, 1998). Greenwald (2003:651) suggested that the media still have few women as writers, news sources, and top managers. Organizations are gendered, despite the fact that many news organizations make this claim and are frequently treated as such in study. Gender-based expectations are embedded in the daily practice, in routines and rituals, which then work with cultural meanings to produce gendered divisions of labour in many newsrooms.

According to Rodgers and Thorson's research from 2003, male and female journalists employed different styles, tones, and sources, but these distinctions were most obvious in smaller newsrooms with a more equal distribution of men and women journalists. This suggests that larger newsrooms with a predominance of male staff strongly encourage a conformist outlook, which produces hegemonic journalistic output in terms of 'routinizing' a male-ordered frame, a finding echoed by other studies of gendered journalism (van Zoonen 1998; Robinson 2005).

According to the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) there are some exceptions in countries like Russia and Sweden where more women than ever are working in media. They form most of the journalism workforce. However, they are not indicated equal participation. Women journalists initially had trouble breaking into the broadcast news industry, and it wasn't until the 1960s and 1970s that they started to make significant progress towards equality (Hosley & Yamada, 1987).

Today, however, women still have to work hard to obtain the same privileges males enjoy in the newsroom. According to the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) (WACC, 2010), study finding show that women's inclusion in the media agenda as news subjects, newsmakers, and news producers is still significantly lower than that of men. Similar finding also show that, women make up only 37% of professional personnel in newsrooms, indicating a decline in efforts for gender equity and balance in the newsrooms (GMMP, 2015).

As cited Armstrong (2004) in many countries women are strongly represented in newsrooms but the mass media is still very male dominated when the top positions are examined. According to Allan (2005) the ways in which women are represented in news media can project their place, role and lives in a positive or negative light to the public. Often media allies argue that one of the main reasons for women to have less representation than men in news is because they do not occupy high status positions in society as men.

2.4.1. In Ethiopian Context

There is very little research on the representation of women in newsrooms in Ethiopian literature, making it difficult to find. Although researches were limited and difficult to get, but some studies was focus on women representation in news. As cited by Rahel (2010), Agaredech research (2002) showed that women constitute only 12.5% of journalists at the Ethiopian News Agency. According to a study of nine newspapers (Haymanot, 2003), women are better represented in private media (11.8%) than in government press (15.4%), but they account for only 15.7% of the total media workforce. Men made up 64.8% of the news sources, while women made up only 6.1% of the nearly 600 news pieces published in 25 selected Saturday issues of the Addis Zemen newspaper between March and August 2002 (Seble, 2006). And Mengistu (2007) indicated women represented 13.5% of Ethiopia's total media taskforce a decline in the number of Ethiopian women journalists over five years.

A recent study also shows that, although the number of women journalist were increased, but the representation in newsroom is insignificant in broadcast. Newsroom departments also dominated by male journalists (Emawaysh, 2019).

2.5. Women Journalist in Reporting Issues

Despite decades of increases in the number of women journalists and in newsrooms, horizontal segregation the separation of reporting-related jobs by gender remains a concern (North, 2015). According to Graff (2016), studies demonstrate the significance of gender balance in both the representation of journalists and the assignment of beats. Yet, the study found a big disparity between how women journalists are portrayed and how women are represented in print media. It also emphasized the problems of reporting gender inequality. It is not unexpected that the assignment of beats is similar in South African newsrooms, which share male culture, beliefs, and conventions with Western newsrooms: male journalists tend to cover hard news like war and politics, while female journalists tend to cover soft news like human interest stories.

Strong and Hannis (2007) counted the bylines of roughly 15, 000 pieces that were published in newspapers in New Zealand and Australia over the course of fifteen days to assess the presence of female journalists. The finding show that even though there are half as many female journalists as male journalists in the media in these two countries, male journalists still produce more than half of the stories. Researchers suggested that newsrooms reflect gender stereotypes. Cited in Tuyizere (2007:106), Shakeshaft (1987) noted that male tasks are valued more than female ones. She claimed that this division of labour was the result of male cultural dominance, which maintains that "a male-centered culture invests worth in male values and regards female values and experiences as less significant."

According to Chambers, Steiner, and Fleming (2004), there was a clear gender labour divide in American and British newsrooms during the 19th and 20th centuries, with women working in inferior and constrained roles. In addition, relegating women to "soft news" areas was also common. According to the Global Media Monitoring Project's (2010) preliminary results, women are still more likely to report soft news categories. Women reported 32% of political and government stories and 43% of economic stories.

In Ethiopia, the findings of the Haymanot (2003) study confirmed that women journalists mostly cover "soft" news areas like entertainment, women and family, and social issues. According to her study, 33.3% of women reported social issues, 19.1% of women reported economic issues, and 4.7% of women reported entertainment issues. No women covered politics. According to Azeb (2018), female journalist representation in the newsroom was limited because journalism is male-dominated and influenced by male culture. In the private news media, men present hard news. A similar study also revealed that the involvement of female journalists in hard news stories in government media was also male-dominated (Emawaysh, 2019). According to Emawaysh (2019), the involvement of female journalists in hard news stories is unsatisfactory because the majority of the participants have the wrong perception towards female journalists, resulting in low involvement of female reporters in hard news stories. Most of the participants consider that opportunities weren't given to women to do hard work and prioritize stories, as there is a perception that women aren't capable of covering such stories.

Summing up, most studies have found that, although there have been certain changes over time, women are still highly misrepresented, excluded, and undermined in the media, and underrepresented in newsroom and report related issues.

2.6. Media and War

The media includes conventional mass communication systems and content producers as well as various technologies for mediated human speech. The media is one of the communication mediums that have united the entire planet. In a globalized world, media plays a catalytic role in changing society. Due to the influence of media, the world has recently experienced tremendous changes in all domains (Paul & Rai, 2020).

These changes have also influenced and significantly transformed information about the war. War is a process, not solely an event. Under these circumstances, war has more or less impact. The war requires information transmitters to relay what is happening around the world. According to Hamelink (2011), conflicts are an important part of people's lives, and the media plays an active role in any conflict. People use the media as sources of information to know what is going on around the globe. The mass media are vital to all sections of the population through their functions.

The media have always had a special relationship with war or conflict, according to IDSA's 2000 monthly journal reports regarding media at war, largely because each of these events is believed to have substantial news value and of the utmost public relevance and interest due to its security implications. The media have gained an increasingly central position due to developments in media technology such as satellite TV channels broadcasting 24/7 news so rapidly that it is possible to report live from a combat zone. War has always been highly newsworthy. Depictions of the course of war, of victories and defeats, are very dramatic and affect the fates of many people—in some cases, almost the entire world. War news has a big audience and frequently has a profound emotional and intellectual impact on viewers (Gitlin & Hallin, 1994).

2.6.1. The Role of Media in War Coverage

Today's mass media are acting as change agents. People use the media for obtaining all kinds of information. On one hand our media broadcast repeated information about the different national and international issues while on the other hand they also scrutinize the day's news. Media has its own role in covering the war news. Mass media coverage is becoming important; Agenda Setting is one of the most important issues for war coverage to convey prominent messages to the public and telling to people what think about (Lokeswari & Aiswariya, 2020).

The media plays a critical role in influencing how the general public perceives and understands national identity, history, conflict, and peace initiatives in cultures that have experienced armed conflict. Journalists play an active role in conflict mediation by defining, framing, deliberating, and promoting the conflict as well as disseminating information about it. As a result, journalists play a critical role in information mediation during conflicts and post-conflict periods (Sahin, 2022). The idea of the media and journalists can be easily used by civilian and military authorities during a war to gather information or photos that they would wish to keep hidden. War correspondents with a mission to verify their information at the source first appeared in the situation and soon caught the public's eye.

2.7. Women Journalists and War Reporting

When a journalist is called upon to gather information about a major event such as an armed conflict, he or she is essentially making history; it becomes the moment history is made. Although a journalist is not always a historian, it is their duty to record and present to the public

in words and images what is happening at the time (Uri & Albanese, 2008). Women journalists and war reporting is not mixed well. Women's journalists excluded from war news coverage for decades. When we examine female journalists' involvement in war reporting, it also indicated male cultural dominance. In male culture, they only assumed that men were brave and strong in war reporting. Male colleagues cover the majority of war reports. Women's war experiences are widely misrepresented in the mainstream media. News is represented without female journalists' voices and images (Del Zotto, 2002).

Beasley (2013) claims that World War II gave women's in journalism fascinating new prospects. Women learned they were highly competent of filling reporting and editing positions from which they had previously been prohibited, and some can include as war correspondents, when men were abroad serving in the military. Reporting is one of the few remaining bastions of male supremacy in journalism, according to some, despite the rise in the number of female war correspondents (Barker-Plummer & Boaz, 2005). According to scholars, women were nearly invisible in war news. The result of invisibility of women in war news is the dominance of male writers and actors in represented and they argued that the dominance of men in war news production (as writers, sources, and subjects of the news), and the concomitant absence of women, resulted in news discourse on war that was excessively "masculinity" in its form.

According to Ross and Moorti (2005), in the contemporary era, not only are there more women war correspondents, but the culture of masculine dominance of war reporting has also subsided. Feminization theory suggests that a "journalism of attachment," which favors more human stories of civilian victims in wartime, is creating a productive arena for women reporters.

2.7.1. The Role of Female Journalists in War Reporting

This new journalistic paradigm has made a new set of opportunities available for women reporters around the world. In a country that vehemently opposed the US war effort in Iraq, the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) sent a female correspondent, Renee Horne, to the front rather than rely solely on wire services. Although female journalists were apart from war reporting, but doesn't mean that they have no role in war coverage. The priority roles of journalist are providing information for society. According to this, they had a role to provide information about the war as firsthand provider. Involve at frontline war coverage is a role for

female journalist because journalist weren't involve at frontline to gather war information through different reasons (Ross & Moorti, 2006).

They were prominent female reporters that could break male dominance of war reporting through different field participation. They were multi practitioner to capture image and provide human news stories (Ness, 2012). In the history of the world wars, women learned they were quite competent of performing reporting and editing duties from which they had previously been excluded. Women also played major roles and were given exciting new prospects in journalism as men were away serving in the military. And also an unprecedented number became war correspondents, from covering the front lines , capture war photo and broadcasting, proving that women could succeed in all aspects of journalism(Beasley, 2013).

2.8. Factors that Hinder the Participation of Female Journalist in War Reporting

The role of female journalists in war reporting has been acknowledged. However, a variety of obstacles work against its potential on a practical level. This section discusses different challenges that limit the participation of female journalists in war reporting. Although they were prominent female journalist in war reporting, the challenges are still attached. Women were nearly invisible in war news. War reporting is the dominance of male writers and actors in international news affect the way in which the war was represented. We argue here that the dominance of men in war news production (as writers, sources, and subjects of the news), and the concomitant absence of women, war that was excessively “masculinity” (Ross & Moorti, 2006).

There are so many challenges women journalists face to participate in war reporting. During recent years, the world has become a more dangerous place for journalists and media workers. Some problems are the same for men and women, while others are unique to women journalists (Whitehorn, 2014). The following lists are some challenges when women journalists face to participate in war reporting:-

❖ Traditional Gender Roles

Traditional gender roles perception is crucial to women involvement in war reporting. There are traditional barriers on women involvement in warfare. However, from a military standpoint, they believed that applying a gender perspective or putting women in combat units at the same

time would reduce military effectiveness and fighting power. women's were go beyond conventional images of women as victims of war, however, in which women make a contribution to the rebuilding of countries emerging from armed conflicts (Nagel et al., 2021).

Women's role was to be a homemaker and to stay indoors, which, as David (1991) and Wadley (1991) say, was in line with the strict 'norm'. Women spent the majority of their time caring for their family and keeping them in mind at all times. Men's activities have frequently been linked to war. Men were the ones who planned and waged war, enjoyed success and suffered loss, made tactical decisions, and controlled the entire process of war. Women were far from having any meaningful military tasks or obligations. Whether there is conflict or peace, women are typically marginalized. In general, women are not given enough chances to draw attention to the horrors they endure in situations of conflict and violence (Chawade, 2009).

The foundation of feminism is the idea that women are marginalized or oppressed in comparison to males, and that this oppression is in some manner wrong or illegitimate. Gender stereotypes are prescriptive or proscriptive views about specific features, physical characteristics, role behaviour, and occupations that distinguish how men and women are (descriptive beliefs) or should be (prescriptive or proscriptive beliefs) (Johar et al. 2003, Leaper 2015).

❖ **Media Environment**

A factor that contributes to changing the stereotypical notions about women in the various media outlets is allowing women to work in the field of media and journalism, particularly in the preparation, editing, or in presenting programs. Although it is noted that there is a quantum evolution in the number of women working in media, they are walking at baby steps towards the reduction of discrimination against woman, Media also discriminate women journalist in war reporting (Yemen, 2019). The patriarchal heritage of conventional warfare and mainstream war reporting, as well as the male corporate dominance of the media, are major contributors to this "blackout" on reporting women's experiences and opinions on war (Thompson et al., 2007)

The war years may have had an impact on the women's movement, imposed workplace equality; media organizations impose female journalists on missions to report. It assumed men's journalists reached a turning point during conflict reporting (Haller, 2006).

❖ **Security**

Security issue is the one major challenge in war reporting in general, women in particular. Militias, official forces, and political sources may assault female reporters. Female conflict reporters, according to Whitehorn (2014), face the same dangers as their male counterparts as well as additional dangers specific to women.

2.9. Empirical Literature Review

Researches were done in throughout world in a variety of dimensions and according to gender perspectives. It includes women representation in media in generally and the participation of women journalists in war news coverage, opportunities and challenges in war reporting in particular. According to this, female war correspondents in Vietnam (Haller, 2006), (Ness, 2012), Women War Correspondents and the Battles they overcame to Succeed. Women and journalism in WWII, progress and discrimination (Beasley, 2013), (Seul, 2019), study also women war reporter during WWI and (Simpson, 2020), “Woman’s Angle” and Beyond: Allied Women War Reporters during the Second World War.

The stereotypes that frequently occur include putting women in subordinate roles or places, exploiting them as sex objects, portraying them as housewives, emphasizing their silence, etc. Journalism in general and war reporting in particular is by male dominated. Matthes et., al. (2016), by using content analysis, identified that culture of a nation has a noteworthy influence on the role participation of genders and concluded that gender stereotypes still exist in the countries ranking higher in the Hofstede’s maleness index.

When there is conflict or peace, women are typically marginalized (Enloe, 2000), (Höglund, 2001), (Rehna and Sirleaf, 2002). Generally speaking, women are not provided sufficient opportunities to emphasize the atrocities they experience in the context of war and violence. In particular, media and academic conflict studies rarely highlight women’s voices, making the issue a fruitful field of research. In addition to being unfamiliar to women, the roles were also perceived as unsuitable for them (Trawick 1990; Coomaraswamy 1999; Segaram 2001; Rajasingham-Senanayake 2001; De Alwis 2002). Women's responsibilities changed as a result, transforming both in the private home and in the public realm (Segaram 2001). It is similar in media participation; women journalists are often underrepresented in war reporting.

According to Haller (2006), the study objective was to show that female war reporters are a turning point for women in American journalism. It is challenging to find material regarding the female war journalist in Vietnam because, historically, journalism and war have been seen as being men's domains. Women were discriminated against in war reporting through cultural assumptions. Socio-cultural assumptions are crucial for women's equal participation in exit systems.

In 1964, Congress, under the administration of President John F. Kennedy, passed the Civil Rights Act establishing laws that prohibited discrimination in various facets of society. The laws extended into the workplace, where they helped to secure equal opportunities for minorities and women. Several female journalists supported the 1964 Civil Rights Act and filed lawsuits that forced news organizations to deploy female reporters to Vietnam. The lack of restrictions for the press had already attracted a noticeable quantity of women in war reporting.

Gender can make a difference to report war on the frontline. Female reporters were excluded from the war reporting. War understandably offers a special opportunity for exploring such a question; the rules of reporting war are still mostly male-dominated work. War, are able to express their own viewpoint and develop their own gender-based agenda (Buonanno, 2012).

Simpson (2020) conducted research for the "Woman's Angle" and Beyond: Allied Women War Reporters during the Second World War. He used secondary source of data, bibliographic history and academic work. This study showed that women journalist in war reporting was absent. War reporting was dominated by male because they assumed that male are the courage and stronger than women's. This study finding revealed that Women reporter was imposed by negative media attitude, military group, despite restrictions and regulations, a small number of women chased their stories right up to the front lines. Rehn and Sirleaf (2002, p.438) although the media has a role to provide war information, the influence and role of media coverage of conflict rarely goes beyond stereotypical depictions of women as passive victims and they couldn't incorporate the experiences and viewpoints of women.

Before aforementioned studies indicated women journalists' participation in war reporting was less in number at the reason of gender stereotypes and cultural contexts. And they suggested for future studies, academic studies are scares and few studies mainly focus on American journalists.

As a result, we know much less about women from other nations. Therefore, studying other nation is important based on country socio-cultural background.

2.9.1. Ethiopian Literature

Socio-Cultural contexts are different in whole world. On the other, in Ethiopia, research efforts on media and gender in Ethiopia have tended to concentrate on media portrayal of women. Much research was done portrayal of women in media content; women representation in media institutions; and women as sources of information. Some studies was conducted the involvement female journalists in issue related news stories on print and broadcast media either private and government media institution.

Alemseged (1999) closely relates the representation of women in the media to the wider cultural and social context. She says Ethiopian women have grown in environments, which “endorse attitudes that women should be seen and not heard”. (Alemseged, 1999:81) concerning women’s under-representation in media content she forwards reasons which she calls “groundless and prejudicial” but are usually given to explain the under-representation of women in the media content.

Nardos (2005), study that women representation in newspaper media. She studied on Addis Zemen and Reporter newspaper with comparative analyses between the selected government and private newspapers. The study objective was to investigate if differences exist in women’s representations between the government and private newspapers. To carry out this study, quantitative content analysis techniques are used. According to this study, finding revealed that in the selected government newspaper, the majority of women are portrayed given the role of politicians while human interest category dominates in the case of the private newspaper.

Here it is worth mentioning the fact that such differences in the depiction of women’s role in the specified government and private press are caused by the different perspectives they have in addressing women issues. Even though Addis Zemen is a government-owned publication, all topics, particularly those pertaining to women, appear to be approached from a viewpoint that supports the actions and policies of the government. Research on the representation of women in Ethiopian national news media decision-making, women in the media elaborates that in most

cases women do not get media coverage and when they do they are presented in their traditional roles i.e. as wives, mothers, daughters, sisters etc (Abebech, 2007).

The study's findings indicate that women are still underrepresented in senior decision-making positions in Ethiopia's national news media, and women journalists are aware of this reality as well as other factors that influence women's participation in decision-making. The gendered division of labour and the masculine culture of newsrooms, male managers' attitudes towards women leaders, and women's aspirations for decision-making positions and professional success are some of the major factors that contributed to women's participation in decision-making in this regard.

Another research was done on the portrayal of women in advertisement. According to Kenaw, (2006), he did the study to evaluate how women are portrayed in Ethiopian television advertising and noted the differences between the various images of women and men. A Similar study has recently been conducted. According to Hananiya (2022), the main objective of her study was to assess how women are portrayed in Ethiopian broadcast media advertisements, in the case of EBS and Kana Television channels. The research focuses on two popular commercial television shows with a large audience. The study adopted a descriptive research design. This study's finding shows that the central figure in an advertisement indicates more men than women are appearing as central figures in television advertising, and more men are portrayed as entertainers than women. The number of male advertisers has recently increased.

Agaredech (2013) study entitled, "Representation of Gender and Gender Relations in Newspaper Narratives: The Case of Ethiopia." The newspapers selected for this purpose are Addis Zemen, a state-owned newspaper, and Addis Admass, a privately owned newspaper. Some issues in gender and gender relations are not explicitly addressed. Other studies have looked into the role of women journalists in reporting on issues in the media.

A study by Azeb (2018), "Female Journalists' Reporting in the Ethiopian Print Media: A Case on the Privately-Owned Press," among the biggest private newspapers in Ethiopia, Addis Admas, Reporter, Fortune, and Capital were selected as the instances. With a case study research design, this study employed qualitative research techniques. This study finds that women journalists are less interested in covering serious news than is suggested by earlier studies on women in the media. It has been observed that female journalists tend to concentrate significantly more on

literature, social issues, and arts and entertainment. Yet, this study discovered that female journalists in the studied Ethiopian newspapers are also drawn to covering serious news items. They may also attend a variety of events and cover stories from government institutions thanks to their robust social networks.

A study by Emawaysh (2019) on the involvement of female journalists in hard news stories in broadcast media on EBC. This study also used qualitative research methods with a case study design. According to this study, female journalists are associated with what are called "soft news" stories. Though the stereotypical perception has a lot to do with the low level of women's engagement in covering hard news stories, interest and personal capacity cannot be undermined. The majority of the participants argue that male journalists dominate the Amharic News Department, finding themselves busy covering hard news stories, reporting from the field, breaking news, anchoring, and even in managerial positions. Generally, female journalists were underrepresented in the media, and they were mostly assigned soft news stories rather than hard news (politics, economics, and business stories, as well as crises and wars). The participation of women in media, the representation of women in news, the participation of women in reporting related issues, and also particularly, involvement of female journalists in war reporting was researched by global countries from various perspectives by using feminist media theory as theoretical framework. In Ethiopia, also researches were done a portrayal of women in media content; women representation in the media institutions; and women as sources of information in media and participation of women journalist in report related issues, and the involvement of female journalists in hard news stories were done through print and broadcast Ethiopian media. Although researches were done, the participation in war reporting is not investigated.

2.10. Theoretical Framework

To fight such unbalance; different thoughts are established at different times. Psychoanalytic feminism, Marxist feminism, socialist feminism, radical, and liberal feminism are some of the ideologies that have been proposed to explain such discrimination. Feminism is difficult to define because it encompasses a wide range of viewpoints and concepts. However, there are certain widespread presumptions in feminism. Feminists hold that women's experiences, worries, and ideas are just as meaningful as men's and ought to be given the same serious consideration and respect. The goal of feminist theorists is to comprehend the causes and nature of women's

social devaluation (Anderson 1993; Hennessy 1993; Steeves 1987). Feminist studies emphasises how gender roles are constructed in society and how they maintain specific power structures. It also examines gender, sexuality, and the experiences of women as a key category of societal organization. Hence, the study used theoretical frame work as follows:

2.10.1. The Feminist Media Discourse

Feminist media theory relies on feminist theory. The feminist media theory incorporates philosophies, conceptions, and logics that articulate feminist principles and notions into media processes like employment, production, and distribution, as well as representational trends in news and entertainment across platforms and reception. Gender-related concerns are the subject of feminist media theory. In addition, feminist media theory recognizes gender as a structural element of identity and experiences rather than supposing static or permanent gender disparities (Steiner, 2014). According to Steiner (2014), the gender system is socially constructed – naturalized but not “natural” – media issues are central to feminism; much of the controversy within feminism turns specifically on media. Feminist media theory assessed the representation of women in news. Therefore, although the media informs people about war news and uses different experiences during wartime, feminists strongly oppose it. Media have been thought to act as socialization agents. Media are perceived as the main instruments in conveying, respectively, stereotypical, patriarchal and hegemonic values about female and femininity (Govender et al, 2014).

War reporting and gender in war coverage are determined from a feminist perspective. Men's viewpoints have historically dominated war reporting, encouraging and legitimizing wartime injustice and violence (Ferris, 2004). It has major repercussions when women's perspectives on conflict are silenced. A technique used in war reporting to highlight the reality of women's silence. Women have always been excluded from discussions about war due to the fact that men predominate in the public arena (Byerly, 2005). This is dangerous because, although women may not dominate the front lines in war, they are still very much affected and a part of it in different capacities. The media industry not only tends to ignore women's involvement in matters of war but also treats females inside the industry differently. According to some, reporting is still one of the last remaining areas of journalism where men predominate, notwithstanding the rise in

female war journalists (Barker-Plummer & Boaz, 2005; Del Zotto, 2002; "Women and War Reporting," n.d.).

According to critics ("Women and War Reporting," n.d.), male reporters are to blame for the fact that most nations' war coverage is still quite masculine and in keeping with media tropes linking masculinity to conflict and violence (Lahav, 2010; Lemish, 2005). As the above researcher Steiner (2014) showed feminist media theory remains largely implicit rather than becoming explicit.

2.10.2. Liberal Feminist Theory

The definition of liberal feminism used by Judith Lorber, gender differences are not based on biology (J. Lorber, 1997). The scholar goes on to say that since men and women are not different, women should have the same rights and opportunities as males in terms of education and employment. Betty Friedan (2010) stated about women's capacity in existing systems. Liberal feminists contend that women should be afforded the same possibilities in the political, economic, and social arenas as men since they possess the same mental capacity as men. Women should have the right to choose their life shouldn't be chosen by others because of their sex. Essentially women must be like men (Betty Friedan, 2010).

Contrary to the idea of liberal feminist theory, women in the world are portrayed as degrading in various media outlets. Many feminist writers have expressed their dissatisfaction with the media's representation of women. Several scholars have used liberal feminist theory in their media and gender studies and review. Bhola, (2021) stated that based on a liberal feminist group, the review asserted that media projects and perpetuates sex-role stereotypes. The scholar additionally elaborates that how women are portrayed. Women are shown as daughters, wives, mothers, or in other conventional roles.

In the newsroom and opportunities in the workplace, we can analyze the positions of women in newsrooms because feminists claim that while there are few women in the top leadership roles in the media, they frequently make up the rank and file of journalists and broadcasters (Shivas, 2000).

Liberal feminists believe that women have the same mental capacity as their male counterparts and should be given the same opportunities in political, economic and social spheres. Women should have the right to choose their life shouldn't chose by other because of their sex. Essentially women must be like men (Friedan, 2010). Feminist scholars considered journalism as male-dominated and hierarchical (Chamers et al., 2004). In U.S.A journalism in the late 19th and early 20th century", media characterized by a severe gender division of work in newsrooms, structured by male domination in terms of numbers, positions, and managerial controls. Therefore, the assumption of liberal theory is limited to this gender-based work. Furthermore, this theory helps to create change by working within existing social structures and changing people's attitudes.

2.10.3. Critical Media Theory

Critical Media Theory is school of academic thought contests conventional approaches to examining and interpreting organizational phenomena (Scherer, 2009). Although it has a long history and is not a single body of thinking, critical theory is frequently linked to Frankfurt University's Institute of Social Research. The so-called "Frankfurt School," which was composed of intellectuals like Max Horkheimer, Theodor Adorno, Herbert Marcuse, and, somewhat later, Jürgen Habermas, first appeared in the 1930s. Destabilizing dominant modes of cognition by exposing underlying assumptions and making power relations explicit is a central idea of critical theory (Harney, 2014). Critical media theory examined a number of important texts that outline different media-related thought processes. They are important because they try to outline the boundaries of how current media operate and because they suggest a wider range of possibilities for what media may become. The media is regarded as society's most significant tool, and it can effectively disseminate information to the public while also educating people about the position and value of women. In this article, a number of researches have been evaluated in an effort to promote fair and balanced representation of women in the media and to increase the engagement of women in decision-making through the media (Iata & Jukariya, 2018).

Although it has a role, they are highly criticized organizations by feminists for empowering women and minimize gender based divisions still now. Historically, women faced restrictions in participating in professions dominated by men. To initial, in 1860s in America, women

journalists rarely produced media stories using their real names (Fraser, Green and Johnston, 2003). Societal attitudes in the United States and Britain discouraged women from entering in journalism (Chambers, Steiner and Fleming, 2004).

Feminist scholars considered journalism as male dominated and hierarchical (Chamers et al., 2004) in U.S. journalism in the late 19th and early 20th century" media characterized by a severe gender division of work in newsrooms, structured by male domination in terms of numbers, position, and managerial control. Experts hypothesized that by expanding the number of female journalists in the media, journalism might stop being a male domain that barred women from entering the field. According to the critical media theory, the large number of female journalists in the media has an impact on the quality of news items and changes the culture of the traditionally male-dominated newsrooms (Van Zoonen, 1998). This implies that news stories written by men represent the attitudes and interests of men while excluding the viewpoints and interests of women. Many female journalists and feminist researchers believed that if there were more female journalists, the news would alter and become more relevant to women, as Van Zoonen (1998: 34) noted.

Critical media theory thoughts believe those women's voices, roles, and contributions are the most important issues in the analysis of war zones and conflict areas. According to Buonanno (2012), the male-dominated group ignores women journalists covering combat. When it comes to covering journalistic conflicts, the contentious subject of gender difference seems to elicit practically universal responses and is surprisingly consistent in designating a certain "woman's point of view." Despite an increase in female war reporters, others contend that reporting is still one of the few media fields where men still hold the upper hand (Barker-Plummer & Boaz, 2005). Therefore, critical media theory makes it important to assess and investigate the involvement of female journalists in newsroom in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war from the perspective of women's voices and experience.

CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The purpose of this study is to examine the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war. To answer this question, I employed a triangulation of both qualitative and quantitative data gathering tools to collect relevant information. This chapter includes the description of study areas, research approach and design, sampling technique and size, the data collection instruments, the procedures used in gathering the data and treatment utilized in analyzing the data collected.

3.2. Description of Study Area

The researcher targeted organization was Amhara Media Corporation in headquarter Bahir Dar city. The study selected regional media (AMC) to examine the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war. The research, therefore, selected these stations for several reasons that focused on media history, geographical location, media role and security issues. First, it is the second-most experienced media organization next to Tigray Media. Tigray (Dimetsi Weyane) was established in 1980, but it has programs in some languages such as: Tigrinya, Amharic, Oromo, and one international language called English. However, Amhara Media Corporation, established in 1993, provides information in diverse languages through different mediums. And they have more branches in the Amhara region and the capital city, Addis Ababa.

And also, the geographical nearest place is very convenient and appropriate to conduct this study instead of other media because of unsafe political and safety conditions. Among the regional media, Amhara Media Corporation was selected through a convenient sampling technique based on the researcher's proximity to and familiarity with the institution. For the main study, AMC was selected for the sake of manageability and accessibility of the data. During the Northern war, AMC had a role in reporting the war, and journalists were involved to report directly from war

areas. Therefore, this participation was important to examine female journalists' involvement in war reporting in particular.

Amhara Media Organization was established in 1993. AMM is the only regional media established by a regional state. In 2020, the media company renamed the name Amhara Media Corporation ((የአማራ ሜዲያ ኮርፖሬሽን).The Amhara Media Corporation (AMC) is the media organization of Ethiopia, Amhara Regional State of Government and People. According to the organization's establishment proclamation no. 88/1995, it is accountable to the regional council. It runs one free on-air television station, four free on-air radio stations, two to air radio stations, and four daily newspapers. Now the organization is participating in online media. Although its headquarters for broadcasting are in Bahir Dar, it has 10 branches there as well as one in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Abeba.

It is serving the community both prints, broadcast, and through social media. Such as, Facebook, Telegram, Twitter, You tube, Tiktok and inside website to www.amharaweb.com. It provides information through 10 diverse languages. (Amharic, Afan-Oromo, Awi, Himtana, Tigrigna, Afar, Gomez, Gee'z, English, and Arabic and also use in sign language). It has a plan transmit information's by Somali and other languages in the future. It has been serving the people in various ways with the production of multifaceted programs and news in diverse languages. At the beginning, it only has one departments' namely Amharic Department. The Amharic news department set in the front line of the organization and the native language of a society because first it established for voice to Amhara society. The Amharic department is the symbol and flag carrier of the organization. The departments produce zena ma'sehete, te'eyente zena dealing with soft and hard news stories and also provide news through different national and international language. In recent Ethiopia war, AMC media organization has a role to disseminate information about the war. Therefore, AMC media organization is the first one to examine the involvement of female journalists' in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war.

3.3. Research Approach

The research approach is a method for methodically resolving the research issue. It can be thought of as the study of scientific research methodology (Kothari, 2004). In order to arrive at a

specific predetermined outcome, it is assumed that the researcher must follow a logical sequence (Jonker and Pennink, 2010). Research methodologies come in two flavors: qualitative and quantitative. A researcher's ability to gather data from many individuals using a quantitative technique increases the likelihood that the results can be applied to a larger population. The qualitative approach, on the other hand, honours the voices of its participants and offers a better knowledge of the problem under investigation (Carter et al., 2014).

The purpose of this study is to examine the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in the case of Amhara Media Corporation, AMC. On the basis of this, the researcher used a mixed research approach (qualitative and quantitative research approach). In order to address the problems of the study from different perspectives, using mixed approaches is better. This study used survey study therefore, quantitative research is important to conduct large population and generalize finding. Qualitative approach is also important in order to understand and investigate respondent's ideas; opinion's and lived experiences under the study. Additionally, qualitative and quantitative data can be cross-validated. Triangulation is a qualitative research technique that involves using several techniques or data sources to obtain a thorough grasp of a research problem or to test validity by converging data from various sources (Carter et al., 2014).

3.4. Research Design

Research design is a basis of approaches and methods chosen by a researcher to control various components of research in a rationally reasonable style so that the research problem is professionally controlled. It delivers understandings about 'how' to behavior research using a particular practice (Bhat, 2019). Saunders, Lewis and Thornhill (2009) also define a research design as the arrangement of conditions for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure. The study aimed to examine the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in the case of Amhara Media Corporation. Therefore, for this study, exploratory research design is employed. Exploratory research is a type of study that aims to address a problem or provide an answer to a topic.

The purpose of exploratory research is to investigate a specific phenomenon (Singh, 2021). According to Singh (2021), exploratory research design is conducted for a research problem when the researcher has no past data or only a few studies for reference and is a methodology approach looks at research problems that haven't been thoroughly examined before. Exploratory research is often used when the issue of studying is new. As far as, the involvement of female journalists in reporting the war particularly the Northern Ethiopia war is not studied and new phenomenon in Ethiopian context and media. Hence, the researcher used exploratory research designs because, it enables the researcher critically examine the nature of study problem and helps the researcher to develop a better understanding of the problem.

The researcher used cross-sectional since data was collected at one point in time from sample selected to represent a larger population by a single questionnaire. As stated by Saunders Lewis and Thornhill (2009), cross-sectional research design involves carrying out of a study just once and the information is therefore used to represent a specific time. Since the research is limited in time, as the research is being undertaken for an academic course limited to months, cross-sectional survey design is proper to utilize in this study. The data collection instrument used in the study is a questionnaire through survey method with highly structured interview using open-ended questionnaires.

3.5. Population of Study

3.5.1 Target Population

According to Hair et al. (2010), target population, is a predetermined group of individuals or item that can be questioned or observed in order to provide the necessary data structures and information.

The purpose of this study is to examine the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in the case of AMC. The researcher was intended to find out their involvement in reporting war from four perspectives i.e. find out the extent of their involvement in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war, assessing their role in war reporting, identify the perception of journalists towards female involvement in war reporting and also the factors that hinder their involvement in war reporting. Hence, the researcher designed to know the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war. The target population

of the study is Amhara Media Corporation journalists from the total employees in the organization. As per the information from human resource department of Amhara Media Corporation, 2023, the media organization has 411 journalists. Therefore, the total population of the study was the 411 journalists working in Amhara Media Corporation.

3.6. Sampling Techniques

Sample technique is defined as the process by which the entities of the sample have been selected (Cooper and Schindler, 2008). The sampling technique is a definite plan for obtaining a sample from a given population (Kothari, 2004). It is used to describe the sample design or the method the researcher would use to choose the items. Probability sampling techniques and non-probability sampling techniques are the two categories of sampling techniques. In probability sampling, all members of the research population have a chance of being chosen. When a researcher wants to explain, forecast, or generalise to the entire research population, they use these types of samples (Dawson, 2002). To ensure that the conclusion drawn from the sample can be applied to the population of interest, it is crucial to select a sample that is accurately representative of the population. Hence, this study used simple random sampling technique to give equal chances of being selected and selected participants do not affect the sample. Therefore, researcher gave equal chances for all journalists to include survey study.

Non-probability sampling, as described by Ayhan (2020), makes use of a convenient selection of population units along with subjective judgment. Non-probability sampling techniques result in cost savings for personal interview surveys; the samples they produce frequently resemble probability sample data (Fowler, 2002). In non-probability, purposive sampling is employed for the qualitative approach in order to gather data from the respondents. Participants in a purposive sampling are chosen by the researcher in an arbitrary manner. The selection is based on the judgments of the researcher. Therefore, the researcher collected the required data within only news department and the respondents were male and female reporters, editors, and managing editor and media managers in AMC. Thus, researchers selected respondents purposively through sex, year of experience, and position because these respondents are the exact actors to answer the research question and may have experience to report the Northern Ethiopia war.

3.7. Sample Size

Sample size is a proportion of a population (Polit, 2001). Sample size refers to the number of units or people that are chosen from which the researcher gathers information or data (Neilson, 2011). In conducting a research study, it is practically impossible to test every individual in the entire population due to time-e-time-consuming, financial limitations, and the complexity of the analysis. Therefore, select the number of respondent is critical issues. To draw an appropriate sample size for the samples, Yamane's (1967) formula of social science was used because the athlete size determination formula was the fair way to select an appropriate sample size without bias. To determine the required sample size at 95% confidence level, allowable error = 5%, and, the total number of employees who work in target departments.

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where: **n** is the sample size

N= is the total population and

e= error term.

Substitute numbers in t

$$\text{Formula: } n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2} = 411/1+411(0.05)(0.05) = 203$$

Therefore, form the current 411 journalists of the media, the sample size to the conducted the study is determined as 203. Therefore, the data was designed to be collected from 203 employees of the media journalists for questionnaires.

In addition, research was conducted to purposive fully selected 11 key informants for in-depth interview and two homogenous groups for group discussion. Such as: 6 female reporters, 2 male reporter, 1 editor, 1 managing editor and 1 media manager.

3.8. Type of Data and Source

3.8.1 Sources

In order to achieve the general & specific objectives of the study, both primary and secondary sources of data were utilized. As Malhotra (2005) stated, even if obtaining them can be expensive and time consuming, the researcher originates primary data for the specific purpose of addressing the problem at hand, the primary data were collected through structured questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussion.

- Primary data provides an appropriate means of assessing sample information and suitable data to conclude by generalizing the result from a sample of responses to the entire population(Sönmez, 2013). Primary sources of data were journalists of the AMC found in different departments through questionnaire, in-depth interview and focus group discussions.
- The secondary sources of data used from internet, articles, magazines, research papers and different reference books about women and media and the representation of women in reporting issues focus on war reporting, role, and challenges. And also researcher took human resource documents as a secondary source of data to know the total number of journalists who work in AMC. The secondary data gives the researcher a better grasp of the issue and a basis for comparison with the data they have already collected. As a general rule, Malhotra (2005) asserts that reviewing the secondary data is a requirement before gathering the primary data. And researcher used human resource document as secondary source of data to know the number of journalists who working in the media.

3.9. Data Collection Instruments

Data collection is the systematic and calculated gathering of information based on research variables (Cooper and Schindler, 2008). For collecting the primary data from the journalists of Amhara Media Corporation, the researcher utilized the survey data collection method. Cooper and Schindler (2008) defined a survey as an instrument process used to collect information through the use of structured closed-ended questionnaires for quantitative methods and open-ended questionnaires for qualitative methods.

Thus, in this study, researchers used survey questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussions as data collection instruments, whether quantitative or qualitative, and vice versa. According to Adami and Kiger (2005) the integration of many methodologies, empirical viewpoints, views, and witnesses in a single study is best understood as an approach that adds rigour, breadth, and depth to any investigation.

3.9.1. Survey/Questionnaire

A survey aims to analyse a sample of a group and draw conclusions about that population. The group of things in the world that the researcher is interested in—which could be individuals, families, university students, or people with similar nationalities, ethnicities, or cultural backgrounds—is referred to as a population in this context (Groves et al., 2009, cited in Young, 2015). Questionnaires are used in survey research to gather data, address issues that have been presented or seen, determine needs, and establish objectives. As indicated above, most surveys use questionnaires as a tool for data collection. Bulmer (2004), as cited in Bird (2009), describes the questionnaire as a well-established tool for acquiring information on participants' attitudes, knowledge, and beliefs and reasons for action with respect to the topic under investigation. Therefore, for the purpose of this research, a questionnaire was distributed to journalists in order to collect data with regard to the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern War. Thus, questionnaires are the basic tool for collecting data in survey research.

3.9.2. In-Depth Interview

An in-depth interview is one of the methods employed in this study. In-depth interviewing starts with commonsense judgments, explanations, and understandings of some lived cultural experience, according to research experts like Johnson (2002, p. 106), try to delve further into more introspective understandings about the nature of that experience or perception, expose what is typically hidden from ordinary view or reflection, or investigate the contextual limitations of that experience or perception. An in-depth interview is an open-ended, discovery-focused strategy for obtaining extensive knowledge about a subject from a stakeholder. A qualitative research technique known as in-depth interviews aims to thoroughly examine a respondent's experiences, feelings, and perspectives (Cropley, 2022). The questions for the interview were semi-structured so as to let the interviewees express their views and perceptions about the

involvement of female journalists reporting in Northern Ethiopia war. Bryman (2004, p. 543), Hitchcock, and Hughes (1995) in Griffie (2005) say a semi-structured interview means questions are predetermined, but the interviewer is free to ask for clarification.

Semi-structured questions were employed as the question type for the in-depth interviews. According to Miller and Brewer (2003), semi-structured interviews entail the interviewer predetermining the general subjects to be addressed and the key questions to be posed. The relationship is structured in a significant way by flexibility. While the sequence of some of the most important questions may remain consistent, the interviewer may also search for additional details. (p. 167).

In order to make the interviews and the data consistent and complete, the questions were designed to be open-ended so that they allowed a large amount of discussion and dialogue between the interviewer and the interviewees. In addition, they noted that depth interviews are powerful qualitative research tools when the focus of inquiry is narrow. The interview questions aimed to find out the respondents' perceptions. So to understand female journalists' opinions towards the involvement in war reporting based on their life experience and perceptions, applying a semi-structured format of an in-depth interview are appropriate and essential. Therefore, interviews take place only in the news department with male and female reporters, editors, the managing editor, and media managers, arranged purposefully by sex, position, and year of experience. All of the respondents personally consented to being quoted anonymously; as a result, the names of the respondents have been changed, and each respondent is identified in the thesis by an anonymous name (Interview1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11).

3.9.3. Focus Group Discussion

As Morgan (1997) cited in Wimmer and Dominick (2006) explains, this study used focus group discussion (FGD) as a multi-method - one of qualitative techniques to collect data. According to Wimmer and Dominick, FGD is a research instrument that helps to understand peoples' attitudes and behavior. Miller and Brewer (2003) suggested that FGD is advantageous in sharing views, experiences and stories among participants. It gives information that is "insightful and rich" and "more intense and valuable than if all the participants were interviewed separately" (2003:120-121).

This research used FGD to gather qualitative data on journalists' perceptions towards female journalist involvement in war reporting, their role in bringing new perspectives, and the challenges they faced in war reporting. In this study, FGD participants are grouped into two groups according to homogeneity. Homogeneity, as used in this research, refers to the "social characteristics" of participants entailing similarity in terms of gender, positions, and years of experience. Thus, in this study, two homogenous groups were formed in order to assume to minimize bias and to give freedom to express their opinion freely without interrupted. And also the focus group participant coded by using FGD1, and FGD2, the first group is a homogeneous male group. Participants were reporters who work in the news departments for different mediums. The experience range of participants was above five years. The second homogeneous group also consisted of female reporters from different mediums with at least five years of experience.

3.10. Method of Data Analyses and Interpretation

Quantitative data collected through questionnaires to strengthen the qualitative data was analyzed descriptively after the completed questionnaires were collected and checked for possible inconsistencies and to get percentages using statistical package software for social sciences (SPSS) Version 26.0. Moreover, while analyzing the qualitative data that was collected through the interviews and focus group discussions, the researcher first transcribed the recordings into written form. The qualitative analysis process for this research was also verbally analyzed the written transcriptions concluded by the description of thematic relationships and patterns of relevance to the research. Thus, thematic analysis was employed for this study because the technique allows the researcher to determine precisely the relationships between concepts and compare them with the replicated data. By using this technique of analysis and data collection tools, the researcher tried to detect the involvement of female journalists in war reporting.

3.11. Pilot Test

Dornyei (2007) states the importance of piloting the research instruments and procedures before embarking on the main study. He compares the pilot process with theatre performance by saying “Just like theatre performances, a research study also needs a dress rehearsal to insure the high

quality of the outcomes” (2007:67). A pilot study is also seen as a ‘trial run’ in a research process since it helps the researcher to try out the feasibility of the research procedure in the actual study. It serves as a means to evaluate the effectiveness of research instruments and to uncover potential problems. According to Cooper and Schindler (2011), the purpose of a pilot test is to identify equipment and design flaws as well as to give proxies for data that will be used to choose a probability sample. The methods used to pre-test the questionnaire were the same methods utilized to conduct the actual research or data collecting. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), just 1% to 10% of the target population should participate in the pre-test.

The pilot study in this study was carried out with two main goals in mind. Primarily, it was intended to evaluate the feasibility of the procedures of the main study. In this regard, the researcher attempted to tryout practicality of the study procedures. Second, the pilot study was used to check the effectiveness and adequacy of the data gathering instruments. During the pilot study, the questionnaire were developed and prepared for the journalists translated into Amharic by the researcher. In this study the questionnaire were tested on 10% of the entire sample size, which translated into 20 respondents. The questionnaire guide pilot tested on Amhara Media Corporation journalists that were part of the target population. Media managers filled in the questionnaire. Moreover, based on the pilot study, the researcher made some modifications and avoiding jargons and technical terms that were believed to be confusing in the main study.

3.12 Research Validity and Reliability

3.12.1 Validity

Through the use of appropriate statistical techniques and tools, statistical validity is also utilized to assess the validity of the research Neuman(2007) Validity is the extent to which an instrument measures what it is supposed to measure. Data must be accurate and factual in addition to being trustworthy. A measurement is also dependable if it is valid(Bashir et al., 2008). Internal validity is something the researcher should be concerned with. Internal validity tackles the factors that contributed to the study's findings and aids in reducing additional, frequently unexpected, factors. Content validity, criteria validity, and construct validity are three methods for evaluating internal validity (Eby, 1993; Panch, 1998).

Content validity referred to as the relevance and responsiveness of items, such as specific questions in a questionnaire. If the study's goal is to determine respondents' knowledge in a particular topic or to assess personal qualities like attitudes, it is especially crucial to measure this (Eby, 1993). Before beginning data collecting, advisors and university specialists reviewed the content of the items for these structures. They said that the contents of the questionnaire were appropriate and simple to grasp, indicating that the instrument satisfies content validity. They also provided helpful recommendations for development, which were taken into consideration.

Content validity is concerned the relevance and responsiveness of items, such as individual questions in a questionnaire to the intended setting. When measuring personal characteristics like attitudes or determining respondents' expertise in a given topic, it is especially crucial to quantify this (Eby, 1993). The content of the items of these constructs were evaluated early by advisor and experts of the university before going to data collection. They responded that the contents included in the questionnaire were good and easy to understand implying that the instrument fulfills content validity besides they forwarded constructive suggestions for improvement and it is included.

3.12.2 Reliability

On the other hand reliability is a measurement of how consistently research tools produce results (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). The degree to which a measure is biased-free (error-free) and so provides consistent measurement over time and across different instrument items is indicated by its reliability (Sekaran, 2006). Since the items making up conceptual model will be measured with a likert scale, the Cronbach's coefficient alpha is the reliability test of choice. The reliability of the data examined to check the consistency for all questions of this study through Cronbach's Alpha coefficient and also used to identify the validity of items. For ensuring the consistency of the research findings and the accuracy with which a method measures what it is intended to measure; the study tested the reliability and validity of the measurement scales. Before beginning the full-scale data coding, appropriate training was given to two data coders and used pilot test helped the researcher to reveal inconsistency and inadequacies in the category construction and used inter-coder reliability to code the questionnaires.

This research used the most popular test of inter-item consistency reliability that is the Cronbach's coefficient alpha, to identify the validity of items used in survey. Calculating Cronbach's alpha (α) has become a common practice when a multiple-item measurement of a concept or construct is employed because it is easier to use in comparison to other estimate (Wilson, 2003). The reliability coefficient known as Cronbach's alpha measures how well a group of items are positively associated with one another. According to Sekaran and Bougie (2010), the instrument is more reliable and its internal consistency dependability is higher the closer Cronbach's alpha is to 1. The reliability of the data and conclusions gleaned from the questionnaire was evaluated by the researcher using Cronbach's alpha. According to Sekaran and Bougie (2010), reliability values below 0.60 are regarded as poor, between 0.70 and 0.80 are deemed acceptable, and over 0.80 are regarded as excellent. This is the scale that the researcher relied upon to determine the reliability of the involvement of female journalists in four listed dimensions. The Cronbach's result is listed in below table 3.1 indicate all Cronbach's alpha value is greater than 0.7, which means all items are reliable and data has internal consistency and able to accepted for further analysis.

Table 3.1: Reliability Result

No	Variable	Cronbach's Alpha Value	Item Cronbach's alpha
1	Extent	.748	4
2	Role	.757	6
3	Perception	.734	5
4	Factors	.750	6

3.13. Ethical Consideration

The researcher tried to analyze the data gained with possible minimum bias and disclosed the actual findings as much neutrally as possible. In doing this research, the rights of the individuals involved in this study got due attention and respect. First the official letter would receive from Bahir Dar University to collect data. The researcher would be asking respectfully to receive the required information based on their willingness. The researcher should respect the privacy of all questionnaire respondents and data gained through in-depth interview.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSIONS

Introduction

The main objective of this study was to examine the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war: the case in AMC. To achieve these purposes, research questions were developed. To what extent is the involvement of AMC female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war? What are the roles of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war? How journalists do perceive the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war? What are the factors that hinder the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in AMC? In order to answer these research questions, the mixed research methods were used. Therefore, in order to address the objective of the study, the data collected through qualitative and quantitative methods is presented and discussed. Findings from in-depth interviews and focus group discussion are presented together in the result part and questionnaire result presented alone to strengthen the qualitative data findings. Also, the findings of both qualitative and quantitative result analyzed together in the discussion part thematically.

4.1. Data Presentation

4.1.1. Response Rate

The targeted respondents in the study were journalists who work at Amhara Media Corporation in headquarters Bahir Dar city. In order to examine the perceptions and practices of female journalists' in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war, a total of 203 questionnaires were filled out of the expected 411 journalists a response rate of 95% as depicted. A response rate of 50% is suitable for analysis, a rate of 60% is preferable, and a rate of 70% or above is great, (Mugenda, 2003). This response rate was good and representative. Out of the total number of questionnaires, which is 203, 190 were correctly filled and returned. 13 questionnaires were unreturned. Accordingly, only 190(93.6%) questionnaires were considered for the study. This high response rate was attributed to the method of data collection, showed that people were eager.

4.1.2 Demographic Profile of Respondents

Demography is broad and can signify many things, in the context of this study; it refers to the respondents' various socio-demographic traits. The demographic variable of this study are sex, age, position, and experience.

Table 4.1: Respondents Category for Demographic Variable

		Frequency	Percent
Sex	Female	70	36.8
	Male	120	63.2
	Total	190	100.0
Age	25-29	16	8.4
	30-34	103	54.2%
	35-39	58	30.5%
	Above 40	13	6.8%
	Total	190	100.0
Position	Anchor	28	14.7
	Reporter	123	64.7
	Editor	33	17.4
	Managing Editor	6	3.2
	Total	190	100.0
Experience	2-5	33	17.4
	6-10	100	52.6
	11-15	45	23.7
	Above 15	12	6.3
	Total	190	100.0

Source: Survey Data, 2023

4.1.3 Sex and Age of Respondents

Table 4.1 depicts that a total of 190 journalists were taken into account in this investigation, Out of 190 journalists, 120(63.1%) were male journalists while 70 (36.8 %) were female journalists. The majority of the respondents, as Table 4.1 summarizes, were males making up 63.1% of the

total respondents. Only 36.8% respondents were females. Additionally, out of 190 journalists, 8.4% % of the respondents were found in the age groups between 25 and 29 years. 54.5 % of the respondents were in the age group between 30 and 34 years. 30.5% were between 35-39 years. 13(6.8%) respondents were under the age groups above 40 years of age. It could be understood from this that more than half respondents were young journalists.

4.1.4 Position of Respondents

As the table illustrates that the respondents included journalists with different positions ranging from anchor to department head. Table 4.1 reveals those 28 respondents represented 14.7 percent of the total number of respondents were anchor. Respondents with other responsibilities, which included reporter, 123 respondents represented 64.7 percent were reporter whereas editors were 33(17.4%). Moreover, there were 6(3.2%) were managing editors.

4.1.5 Experience of Respondents

As shown the above table found that 33 respondents have work experience between 2-5 years which is 17.4 %. 100 respondents in the media institution have work experience between 6-10 years. It was found that majority of the respondents have work experience between 6–10years which is account 52.6% of the total respondents. 45 respondents have work experience between 11-15 years which is 23.7%. From those respondents, 12 were experienced above 15 years which is 6.3%.

4.1.6 Bio-data of key Informants

The researcher also employed interviews and focus group discussion in order to collect the necessary qualitative data in AMC news department. The qualitative data was gained from in-depth interview with Semi structured questions.

During an interview, the major themes of interview question were to investigate how female journalists participate to report the Northern Ethiopia war in case of AMC. The interview mainly aims to gain the experience of professionals and their opinion based on what they observe at women participation in war reporting.

Table 4.2: Key Informants

AMC Media	Sex	Age	Position	Work experience
Interview1	Female	30	Reporter in TV news	5 years
Interview2	Female	46	Reporter in online news	Above 15 years
Interview3	Female	32	Reporter in Amharic newspaper	5 years
Interview4	Female	35	Reporter in Amhara radio	6 years
Interview5	Female	31	Reporter in TV Amharic news	5 years
Interview6	Female	34	Reporter in TV Amharic news	6 years
Interview7	Male	36	Reporter in Radio	6 years
Interview8	Male	39	Reporter in TV Amharic news	8 years
Interview9	Male	43	Editor	9 years
Interview10	Male	37	Managing editor in TV newsroom	7 years
Interview 11	Male	55	Media manager	11 years
FGD1	Male group	30-35	Reporter	Above 5 years
FGD2	Female group	30-35	Reporter	Above 5 years

As indicated in the above table 4.2, most of the key informants were female, but two male journalists were selected through position and work experience. The majority of key informants had more than five years of work experience. Therefore, it is important to get enough knowledge and responses because they are the exact actors to respond to the researcher's questions. The focus group discussion was grouped by homogenous group. FGD1 indicated the male group, and FGD2 also indicated the female group, in order to minimize bias and give people the freedom to express their opinions freely without interruption.

4.1.7. The Extent of Female Journalists Involvement in Reporting the Northern Ethiopia War

In this section, the study attempts are to investigate the extent of female journalists' involvement in war reporting. At this point, female journalists only participated in these questions because it is important to know the extent of female journalist involvement in reporting the war. There are two types of their involvement, namely, front-line and back-line involvement in war reporting. The front reporting means being directly involved in the war areas, while the backline reporting means not being directly involved in the war areas but participating in reading war news in the studio, reporting on civilian victims, and destroyed places. This in turn helps the researcher find out the extent of involvement that is being practiced by female journalists during the Northern Ethiopia war reporting. Accordingly, four items that are indicators for each of the involvement rates are considered for the analysis as follows:

Table 4.3: Respondents Responses Involved in Front-line Reporting during the Northern Ethiopia War

Extent	Scale	Frequency	Percent
I involved at the front war reporting	Never	67	95.7
	Sometimes	1	1.4
	Frequently	2	2.9
	Total	70	100.0

In the above table, 67(95.7%) of majority female journalists never participated at the war front reporting. It indicates that the extent of female journalists in reporting which means female journalists were not involved in front war reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war while only 2 (2.9%) and 1 (1.4%) of respondents were involved sometimes and frequently in front-war reporting, respectively. This result may also be explained by the fact that only two female journalists were frequently involved in reporting on the war front. And also, only one female journalist had been involved sometime in front-line war reporting.

From open-ended question, respondents were also asked who was assigned for front war reporting and how female journalists were participated in front war reporting was major

question and they provided various explanations. The Northern Ethiopia war was the recent news value for Ethiopian media, and so many journalists were participated in war reporting. According to media managers, there are 124 female and 287 male journalists working in AMC. There were only three female journalists involved at the front war reporting in AMC. The involvement of female journalists in war reporting is not as visible as that of male journalists. The number of male journalists were high than female. Male journalists were given priority to report at the front. Front war reporting was dominated by male journalist. Why priority is given for male journalists is the second question.

One key informant revealed that:

Front-line War reporting is predominantly dominated by male reporters. Female journalists participating in frontline reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war were very few. I agree to this extent; we can say that female journalists couldn't do that much front-line war reporting. Few female journalists were participating on the frontlines because the reporting was dominated by male reporters. I was editing more war news, but a female byline in frontline war reporting was absent (Interview 9).

The managing editor states that the number of journalists was participated in the front; however, the involvement of female journalists in front reporting was only three in AMC. There is no female journalist assigned to front-line war reporting without only the three female journalists.

The number of female journalists' participating in front-line war reporting was lower. I assigned male journalists to report on the Northern Ethiopia war at the front. I believe males are stronger than females at reporting war. Some work forced me to think about gender while assigning journalists to stories. For instance, I consider a female journalist for a soft news assignment because I think women produce the greatest work, but a male journalist for a hard news piece. I think of a male journalist like the recent war reporting, I immediately assign a male journalist." (Interview 10)

The open-ended responses highlight the reasons for low involvement in front-line reporting. Male journalists are given priority to report on the Northern Ethiopia war. The voices and experiences of female journalists in war reporting are absent at the front. Further, in this open-ended response, most respondents also stated that female journalists were absent from front-line

reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war. Even though the number was inadequate, only three female journalists were involved, and they expressed their experiences.

We can say that women are invisible in war news coverage. However, I remembered that only three female journalists, including me, had been involved in frontline reporting in different war areas. I participated in the "Sekota" war zone for the first time. Only the first female journalists participated in the Sekota Front. Most of the reporters were male. Therefore, front-war reporting was male-dominated, but some female journalists participated in front-war reporting during the Northern Ethiopia War (interview 1).

With regard to the reason for low involvement in front-line reporting, respondents pointed out that front-line reporting was conquered by male journalists. Female journalists were less prominent because priority was not given to them over male journalists. She uttered her experience:

I participated in the front war reporting during August 2012 E.C. in the "Chena" front, Debarek. The involvement of female journalists in front-line reporting was limited and ignored by the newsroom head. I remembered that there were more women who wanted to participate in front-line reporting, but opportunities weren't given to them. For the first time, my question was rejected and not acceptable by the news head because I'm women, but for the second time, I decided to enforce the news head and go to the front. For this reason, the involvement of female journalists was not as great as that of male journalists (interview 2).

However, the focus group participant agreed that the above ideas about female journalists were absent because negative perceptions were attached to female journalists capacities. From male journalists' points of view, they assumed that female journalists couldn't participate in war reporting as men do. Accordingly, they stated that lack of opportunities and not believing in women's capacity has been pointed out as bigger problems.

The above data clearly indicates the involvement of female journalists in front-line reporting. From the qualitative data, one can also find out that the involvement of female journalists in front-line reporting was unsatisfactory. From this, one can conclude that the participation of

female journalists was and that priority was not given to female journalists because of negative perception towards female journalists' capacity.

Table 4.4: Respondents Responses Participated in Back-line Reporting

Extents	Scale	Frequency	Percent
I participated in reading war news in the studio.	Never	39	55.7
	Sometimes	3	4.3
	Moderate	3	4.3
	Frequently	25	35.7
	Total	70	100.0
I went to the places where the war took place and reported about the places that were destroyed because of the war	Never	47	67.1
	Sometimes	15	21.4
	Moderate	7	10.0
	Frequently	1	1.4
	Total	70	100.0
I reported about wounded soldiers and the victim civilians by going to the home or hospital	Never	44	52.9
	Sometimes	10	24.3
	Moderate	6	8.6
	Frequently	10	14.2
	Total	70	100.0

The table above shows that the majority of respondents 39(55.7%) were never involved in the studio to read war news during the Northern Ethiopia war. 3 (4.3%) of journalists were sometimes involved in reading war news, and 3 (4.3%) were moderately involved. For the response that, the majority of female journalists were not participated in the studio to read war news. Out of 70 female journalists, 31 were reporters in the news department. From the 31 reporters, 25 (35.7%) were frequently involved in reporting war news in the studio. The survey data is also corroborated by the qualitative data. 25 (35.7%) female journalists were frequently involved in reporting war news in the studio.

As shown in the above table, out of a total of 70 female journalists, 47 (67.1%) of respondents were never involved in reporting directly from war-affected areas about destroyed places. 15 (21.4%) respondents reported sometimes going to war areas and reporting about the destroyed

places. The majority of female journalists hadn't been involved in reporting about the destroyed places. Only 7 (10.0%) respondents were involved moderately, while only 1 (1.4%) female respondent was frequently involved in going directly to war areas and reporting the destroyed places during the Northern Ethiopia war.

According to the result shown in the above table, a high percentage of respondents (52.9%) never participate in reporting about victim civilians and injured soldiers in the home or hospitals; 24.3% of the respondents indicated sometimes; and 8.6% of the respondents moderately indicated that they participated in reporting about injured civilians directly going to the home or hospital where victims live. Also, 10 (14.2%) participants frequently reported it.

Journalists were busy to read war news during the war. Majority of female journalists were also busy to reading war news in the studio. Opportunities were given for female journalists as men journalists rather involved in front war news report.

According to the above data, some female journalists were participated to report about destroyed places. Therefore, open-ended responses supported and revealed that female journalists sometimes participated in reporting about the destroyed places when the war took place.

During the Northern Ethiopia war, I travelled to different places to report on the destroyed places where war took place. War has many negative consequences. So many industries, houses, roads, and hospitals were destroyed by the war. These issues should be reported and transmitted to people; therefore I participated to report (interview4).

During the Northern Ethiopia war, the majority movements of our role have been restricted in the studio work rather than going to war areas to report about destroyed places because of war (interview5)

According to respondents, the involvement of female journalists is sometimes participated in travelling to different places report on destroyed places. However, there were few female journalists could participate to report about destroyed places in different areas.

Gender is a factor for the woman reporter in a war zone. Accordingly, a key informant revealed that some female journalists had participated in reporting about victim civilians and injured

soldiers directly going to home or hospitals rather than directly going to report on the war front. War reporting is not only reporting at the front line because war has many consequences that open the door to reporting on another line. Although the extent of female journalists' involvement in front-line war reporting is unsatisfactory or inadequate, they can participate in back-line war reporting, such as reporting from home or hospitals about civilians, women, and children, and about destroyed places.

Although when we compare back-line war reporting to front-line war reporting is better in some, but the extent of in this involvement is not that much. Backline war reporting is reporting after the active war about the victims—women and children, injured or dead soldiers, and societies. Women journalists frequently reported on these. The extent of involvement in this war's reporting is better than front-line reporting. However, as the qualitative data, the majority of respondents reported that female journalists sometimes participated in reporting about victims and injured societies.

4.1.8. The Role of Female Journalists during the Northern Ethiopia War Reporting.

In this section, an attempt is made to investigate the role of female journalists in war reporting. At this point, male and female journalists participated in these questions. It assessed the role of female journalists when played during the Northern Ethiopia war reporting time, such as source of war information from front, agenda setter, propagator, motivator, and so on. This study, supported by Sharon Schmickle (2003), found that journalists played an important role in delivering more compelling reports in dangerous places. In times of war, journalists have to be on the spot in order to report on events in different media: written reports, photographs, filmed sequences, or even drawings. Journalists have a role in describing events and providing any strategic military information for society. This, in turn, helps to find out the role female journalists played during the war. Accordingly, 6 items that are indicators for each of their roles are considered for the analysis as follows:

Table 4.5: Respondents Responses about the Role of Female Journalists during the Northern Ethiopia War Reporting

Measure	Scale	Frequency	Percent
Female journalists were on the front lines of the war and served as the eyes and ears of the society.	Strongly disagree	49	25.8
	Disagree	108	56.8
	Neutral	3	1.6
	Agree	20	10.5
	Strongly agree	10	5.3
	Total	190	100.0
Female journalists participated as agenda setter to discuss with societies and politicians.	Strongly disagree	6	3.2
	Disagree	31	16.3
	Neutral	10	5.3
	Agree	102	53.7
	Strongly agree	41	21.6
	Total	190	100.0
Female journalists played the role of propagator and persuaders to struggle the war in their report	Strongly disagree	12	6.3
	Disagree	57	30.0
	Neutral	9	4.7
	Agree	74	38.9
	Strongly agree	38	20.0
	Total	190	100.0
Female journalists participated in making documentaries about the war	Strongly disagree	17	8.9
	Disagree	31	16.3
	Neutral	10	5.3
	Agree	72	37.9
	Strongly agree	60	31.6
	Total	190	100.0
Female journalists participated by writing script directly or indirectly by condemning war	Strongly disagree	24	12.6
	Disagree	20	10.5
	Neutral	17	8.9
	Agree	98	51.6
	Strongly agree	31	16.4
	Total	190	100.0
Female journalists participated as platform leader in various community movement	Strongly disagree	16	8.4
	Disagree	90	47.4
	Neutral	8	4.2
	Agree	45	23.7
	Strongly agree	31	16.3
	Total	190	100.0

Instead of the general role of the media, journalists played as being the eyes and ears of societies participated in the war front and to find from different news sources. Therefore, during the Northern Ethiopia war, female journalists played an important role. With regard to the above table, the results show that 20 (10.5%) and 10 (5.3%), agree and strongly agree with this issue. On the other hand, 49 (25.8%) strongly disagreed, and 108 (56.8%) disagreed that female journalists played the major role of being the eyes and ears of societies during the Northern Ethiopia war in the front. The majority of respondents disagreed (82.6%) of the total respondents). While 3(1.6%) were neutral. The result shows that the majority of respondents disagree with the role of female journalists transmit information at the front-line.

According to the above table, which indicates that female journalists' role in providing agendas is important, the findings show that 6 (3.2%) and 31 (16.3%) strongly disagreed and disagreed relatively. 102 (53.7%) strongly agreed with the issue of the role of female journalists in providing different agendas, and 41 (21.6%) agreed to also set agendas and discuss them with the people during the Northern Ethiopia war. The majority of respondents agree that the cumulative account is 75.3%. While only 10 (5.3%) were neutral.

According to 74 (38.9%) and 38 (20%) respondents, female journalists reported persuading communities to join the war; for this reason, the media mostly persuaded societies to join the war, and they followed propaganda approaches during the Northern Ethiopia war. However, 57 (30%) and 12 (6.3%) did not agree that it was not reported to persuade communities, whereas 9 (4.7%) respondents rated it neutral. Thus, the finding shows that female journalists played a role in propagating and persuading communities to struggle the war during the Northern Ethiopia war reporting.

As can be seen from the above table, the term roles of female journalists are understood in different ways. They played to create awareness in society about the consequences and the awfulness of the war. The majority of respondents 37.9% and 31.6% reported that female journalists played to made different documentaries films to recognize the negative results of war and the injured and victim civilians. The rest of the respondents 17 (8.9%) and 31 (16.3%) disagree and strongly disagree, respectively. It revealed that female journalists do not play to made different documentaries. However, 10 (5.3%) were neutral. It is possible to say that the

female journalists played an important role for made different activities to show the victim civilians and the awfulness of war in their work.

According to the table above, it assessed the role of female journalists during the Northern Ethiopia War. In the war reporting approach, it is expected to report on agreement oriented issues. Based on this, 51.6% and 16.4% of the majority of respondents agree and strongly agree with the role female journalists played to write script by de-escalating the war. While 12.6% and 10.5% of respondents disagree and strongly disagree with the role female journalists play in writing script by condemning the war. 17 (8.9%) of respondents were neutral.

The result from the above table depicts the role of reporting in the concept of two-party orientation. 90 (47.4%) and 16 (8.4%) disagree and strongly disagree, respectively, from the total number of respondents. There is no system to include the both journalists and to provide more balanced coverage by avoiding a one-dimensional style of platform leader. On the other hand, when we think about the role of female journalists, it doesn't mean missing the total. The rest of the 45 (23.7%) and 31 (13.3%) respondents agreed that the role of female journalists as platform leader in various reporting. From these, only 8 (4.2%) were neutral.

Most of respondents agreed that as the eyes and ears of societies in the front war reporting is less. Participants given their ideas towards the involvement of female journalists being the eyes and the ears in the front as follows:

One must first define a reporter before defining a war reporter. I believe that a reporter should act as people who are not physically present's eyes and ears. A reporter should instead pay attention, listen, and record events. Consequently, a war reporter should serve as the observers and informants of the civilian population (interview 3).

Among the respondents to the focus group discussion, respondents said that the role of journalists during the Northern Ethiopia war reporting was to report as the eyes and ears of non-conflicted places. One of the respondents disagreed that female journalists were a source of information for society about the Northern Ethiopia war in the front. Although involved in front is a role for female journalists, majority of female journalists weren't involved.

Although women journalists have a role in war reporting, they are often excluded from war report, they serve as triggers and informants for the community in the front war are low. Therefore, most of journalists weren't involved in the Northern Ethiopia war reporting to provide information for society in the front. There are common myths in Ethiopia culture; we followed male-centric culture. The movements of women are restricted in war participation because the common myths affect women participation. Socially constructed gender roles still hindered women's from different movements. For instance, societies mostly believe women are weak and men are strong in war participation, therefore, it indicates men often take the lion's share in war participation (interview 5).

Other reporters stated that the role of female journalists during the Northern Ethiopia war as follows:

The primary roles of female journalists were to search for information and transmit it to society about the war. As we know, the Northern war was a shocking occurrence, and it attracted a lot of attention at the time. Therefore, journalists had the role of searching for information and distributing it immediately, so individually, female journalists weren't able to participate at the front played as the eyes and the ears for the community (interview 6).

The in-depth interview supported by the focus group discussion most of the members disagreed that the role of female journalists is to provide information for society by searching for different types of information. Providing information for society is the primary role or function of the media in general, journalists in particular. It is essential for people to know what happened around the world. Therefore, journalists had fewer roles in disseminating war information at the front-line. According to the data revealed, we can conclude that female journalists had fewer roles in providing war information to wider societies.

The goal and significance of journalism, according to the American Press Institute website, is to provide society with the information it needs to live its life. They need information to make decisions about different things". Journalists have a primary role in providing information for society to participate in, search for and gather from different news sources, and so on. The primary role of collecting information about conflicts as they occurred and sharing their reports with the public instead of front-line reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war is less.

As clearly stated by key informants, majority of female journalists weren't participated in front-line reporting as the eyes and ears of society. According to the data, the participation of female journalists in front-line war reporting was inadequate. But only three female journalists could participate at the front as the eye and ear of war information; therefore, they stated that it was a role. From the qualitative data, to play a role in providing war information during the Northern Ethiopia war at the frontline wasn't that much.

This figure was also supported by the interviewees and focus group participants. The roles of journalists aren't limited to simply reading war news. They had another role during the Northern Ethiopia war reporting. Therefore, journalists turn their agenda to the public agenda to discuss with societies about the war. Although the role of female journalists was limited in the studio, that doesn't mean that they had no role during the war reporting. They set an agenda in the studio to discuss the war with people. Therefore, other issues were ignored and they discussed with different politicians and communities.

Next, to provide information, either participating in the front or gathering it from other news sources, female journalists had a big role as agenda setters and public forum facilitators to discuss with societies. Agenda setting is an important role to tell what people think about. Therefore, during the Northern Ethiopia war, so many agendas were to talk about the war. And we provided different agendas and discussed them with societies (Interview6).

From focus group participants, even though the role of female journalists was limited in the front, usually in the studio, that doesn't mean that they had no a big role during the war reporting. They played as agenda setters and forum facilitators in the studio to discuss the war with people, which is another role because women were extremely ignored in political and war discussion in previous. The skill of women as men is equal no one is best for another. If women can get equal opportunities, they can work equally as men. Everything is not only difficult for women. Therefore, the voice of women is important to discuss with others about the war. The voice of men is not only important to discuss with the issues.

During the war other issues were ignored and discussed only with different politicians and communities. The role of the media in war coverage is agenda-setting in general. As stated by

Shajema (2020), in his research studies on the role of media in conflict cases in South Sudan from 2012 to 2019. In the media, agenda setting is the process of selecting what topics to talk about. For instance, if the media broadcasts a lot of scary stories about terrorism, it may cause the general population to worry a lot about terrorism while ignoring some other issues that are more important. Therefore, female journalists played a big role as agenda-setter to discuss with communities about the war. Women's can do anything as men do.

On the other hand, respondents revealed that female journalists had a role in propagating and persuading communities to support and struggle the war. It follows propaganda approaches. We can say that it was role for female journalists because propaganda role was given priority for men than women. The voices of women are silenced in war discourse.

One of interviewees from radio news room, she said:

I remembered that during the Northern Ethiopia war, we followed propagandistic tactics to shape communities to struggle against the war. It isn't the journalistic principles in total but during the war, propagating is the one mechanism to fight the war. We used all methods of communication, both verbal and non-verbal (through videos, documentaries, and films), in our attempt to direct people's behaviour (interview4).

The managing editor in the TV newsroom agreed that media institutions in general report to propagate communities to support the war.

We took into account how much work has been done on the media's capacity to promote democracy and create enduring peace, and we also acknowledge the media's potential contribution to conflict management, post-war reconstruction, and conflict prevention. Mass media and propaganda are separable. The role of mass media is transmitting information for society and play entertaining and educating societies with rules and norms that suitable them in social context. Today, propaganda is attached with negative connotative meanings in political contexts. Throughout the world history stages, propaganda always had been evident in momentum social movements and used especially during wartimes. Wartime propaganda is often demanded for shaping public opinions to gain more allies on an international level, as well as motivating for citizens to make a contribution and struggle to the war on a national level (interview10)

The work of journalists wasn't only as persuaders; they were also encouragers and mobilizers of society to create awareness to support the injured civilians. Female journalists had potential to influence international organizations through their reporting. Donors that are interested in conflict prevention and sustaining stability should support conflicted areas and victims. In war-torn regions, journalists frequently produce intangible benefits including higher levels of trust, more optimism for the nation's future, and the capacity to contribute to a peaceful community.

Helena (2021) refers to the role propaganda plays in war and violence. More specifically, propaganda has different functions that it can serve in war, as well as the discourses and techniques developed and used by media outlets as they disseminate war propaganda. As mentioned above, female journalists played a propagator or persuader role in war coverage. Even though the role of female journalists seems like low, they had big role in war news coverage.

Generally from the above data, although female journalists largely ignored at the front war reportage, and also the experience and the voice of female journalists extremely marginalized in war news coverage, however, they had a big role previously taken only by male journalists, therefore, the voice and the experience of female journalists should visible in different perspectives rather assign based on gender role. Assumed as they have no role in war coverage and they think only male journalists are dominate in war and only courageous and strong in war participation is wrong. These assumptions will decrease the role of female journalists in overall media war coverage from front-line involvement unto studio work.

In addition to survey data, the focus group discussion showed various activities when female journalists played during the Northern war reporting. Most of the discussants contended that our role was to show the negative result of war in society, regional and national economy. It also emphasises to show the overall negative part of war in the country (FGD2).

We have been transmitting the information by using different mechanisms like made documentaries, reports and so on. Therefore, our role was transmitting to express unimportant point of war in overall movements, therefore, female journalists had important role in war news coverage (interview3).

One key informant agreed the above issues. ‘’our report is influence the mind of societies and also even governments. Our reporting was not only limited to transmitting the occurrence of war. Women journalists have a capacity to report and made different documentaries to increase an awareness of society. According to the above data, female journalists were participated to write different report about the war and made documentaries. It indicates that women have skill and capacity if they get opportunities.

The media has a role in either minimizing or exaggerating the conflict through reporting in general. That is, journalists in any conflict will seek to either minimize or exaggerate the conflict, depending on their relative position of power. The result of open-ended questions and interviews with informants pointed out that the media in general and female journalists in particular have a role to condemning war. Script writing in war news coverage is absent from women journalists. Motivating and encouraging communities to support and struggle the war was a major role. Reporting is also important role played by female journalists. Major media roles continue to be virtually devoid of women. However, horizontal segregation, or the gendered divide of reporting-related jobs, is a problem.

The genres of stories they publish and the repercussions of gender inequality. The gendered nature of the distinction is the main focus of feminist critiques of the categories of hard and soft news. For the long period of time, women’s were discriminated group in political discourse because it dominated by only men. War reporting is just like political discourse. It was assumed only the work of men. Women were marginalized and silenced in political participation and war participation based on gender. Female journalists byline is minimum than male journalists. The kinds of stories and articles assigned to reporters frequently heavily consider gender. War reporting is mainly dominated the byline of male journalist.

From this, although the number of male byline is high about national and international war reporting, the northern war give opportunities for female journalists to participate to write script about the war. One can say that female journalists play a major role by condemning the war through their script. I wrote different scripts about the war news. Writing script about war is assumed as a role for female journalists because women’s were discriminated group in war reporting byline (interview5).

According to respondents, the assumption that the greater amount of death and destruction, the more attention the media would pay. Journalists have a role to write and report about this. Therefore, women journalists should participate as men. Male and female journalists must work together in order to solve the socially constructed gender role in country. In order to meet worldwide development goals and build strong, sustainable democracies, women must be encouraged, empowered and supported in becoming strong and active to minimize previously dominated by only men.

Gender diversity is prioritized by establishing aspirational goals for the percentage of women in leadership positions. Women were discriminated and silenced group in leading positions, and in developing mentoring and training programs. Being given a leading position, learning new skills, and given equal opportunities is only a small portion of what it takes to become a leader. It entails a significant identity change. When organizations assign journalists to leading the platform, they should give opportunity for women to actively participate in leading positions by without assigning based on gender stereotypes. Women journalists were participated in different social movement during the Northern Ethiopia war campaign. There were so many social movements during the war campaign. Female journalists had a role to lead this platform.

I participated to lead a stage when communities support the soldiers by music, poem and different activities. Gain opportunities are challenge for female journalists but in some case female journalists were priority to lead a stage and give moral for audience (interview6).

According to qualitative data revealed, female journalists had a role to lead a stage and platforms. The quantitative and qualitative data indicate that finding and fostering the right competences and talents in a social vacuum is insufficient. A woman's desire to lead must be supported by the environment, which should also improve the possibility that others would notice and applaud her achievements. According from the above data, we can conclude that female journalists had role in war news coverage as follows:

- ❖ They participated in reading war news
- ❖ They worked as agenda-setter
- ❖ They also played as persuader and propagator

- ❖ They participated by script writing
- ❖ They participated to making different documentaries to express the awfulness of war
- ❖ They participated as stage leader in different social movement

Generally from the above data, although female journalists largely ignored at the front war reportage, and also the experience and the voice of female journalists extremely marginalized in war news coverage, however, they had a big role previously taken only by male journalists, therefore, the voice and the experience of female journalists should visible in different perspectives rather assign based on gender role. Assumed as they have no role in war coverage and they think only male journalists are dominate in war and only courageous and strong in war participation. These assumptions will decrease the role of female journalists in overall media war coverage from front-line involvement unto studio work. Media play the role efficiently in transmitting information to society in empowering women by educating the society about their stand and worth. Its systems for checks and balances with regard to gender need to be reinforced because it is a key factor in how gender roles are socialized. In order to promote respect and dignity for women and avoid unfavorable portrayals of them, the media should facilitate acceptable and dignified representation of women.

However, women can be expected to play this role when they become conscious of their strength and are not deliberately marginalized by male domination. In this context, media has an important role to play – to create awakening in women to achieve their potential as the prime movers of change in society.

4.1.9. Perception of Journalists towards Female Journalist Involvements in War Reporting

In addition to investigating the extents and roles of female journalists in the Northern Ethiopia war reporting, the researcher also tried to identify the perceptions towards the participation of female journalists in war reporting. Therefore, as presented in the table below, the following results are gained through the frequency and percentage calculations of the responses given to the items: In order to identify journalists' perceptions towards female journalist participation in war reporting, five Likert-scale questions were grouped under one category in the questionnaire. Strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5) are the points on the scale. Thus, a mean value close to five would show that most of the respondents strongly agree with what is specifically said

Table 4.6: Respondents Responses towards the Involvement of Female Journalists in War Reporting

Measurement	Scale	Frequency	Percent
Do you believe that only male journalists should participate in front-line war news reporting rather than female journalists	Strongly disagree	6	3.2
	Disagree	29	15.3
	Neutral	6	3.2
	Agree	111	58.4
	Strongly agree	38	20.0
	Total	190	100.0
Do you believe that female journalists have adequate journalistic skills to report war information	Strongly disagree	9	4.7
	Disagree	34	17.9
	Neutral	8	4.2
	Agree	113	59.5
	Strongly agree	26	13.7
	Total	190	100.0
Do you believe that female journalists have enough physical strength to report war news in front-line	Strongly disagree	4	2.1
	Disagree	122	64.2
	Neutral	2	1.1
	Agree	51	26.8
	Strongly agree	11	5.8
	Total	190	100.0
Do you believe that female journalists are better than male journalists at getting war information from different sources	Strongly disagree	11	5.8
	Disagree	40	21.1
	Neutral	38	20.0
	Agree	63	33.2
	Strongly agree	38	20.0
	Total	190	100.0
Do you believe that female journalists should not participate in the front war reporting or go to place where there is war	Strongly disagree	9	4.7
	Disagree	65	34.2
	Neutral	2	1.1
	Agree	79	41.6
	Strongly agree	35	18.4
	Total	190	100.0

As shown in the above, the majority of respondents, 111 (58.4) and 38 (20%), agree and strongly agree that male journalists should be involved in front-line war reporting. While 6 (3.2%) and 29

(15.3%) of respondents disagree and strongly disagree that only male journalists should be involved in front-line war reporting. According to the above, the majority of respondents believed that only male journalists should be involved. Only 6 (3.2%) of the total respondents were neutral.

As depicted in the above table, cumulative percent (73.2%) of respondents revealed that female journalist had enough skill to report the Northern Ethiopia war in very well. Therefore, 139 respondents did believe the performance of female journalist in war reporting. On the other hand, the above table also depicted that 17.9% and 4.7% respondents claimed that they do not believe the skill of female journalists to analyses war information as male. It shows they believe that female journalists have no skill. Only 8(4.2%) were neutral.

With regard to the physical strength of female journalists involvement in the struggle places, more than half of respondents 122(64.2%) and 4(2.1%) strongly disagree and disagree the strength of female journalist to involve in front war reporting. They do not believe women have enough physical strength to engage in challenging work. While 51(26.8%) and 11(5.8%) strongly agree and agree the ability of female journalist involvement in front war reporting. Only 2(1.1%) respondents were neutral from the total respondents.

As can be depicted in the above table, the majority of the respondents 33.2% agreed and 38(20%) strongly agreed that female journalists are better at searching different sources than male journalists. However, the rest of the respondents maintained the opposite. Female journalists aren't better able to participate and search for different information from different sources during the war, at 5.8% and 21.1%, respectively. 38(20%) of respondents were neutral.

One of the areas in which female journalists influence is perception. Respondents were asked whether they participate or do not participate in war reporting. The result shows that according to the respondents (65% &9%), they believe that female journalists should participate in war reporting or going to war areas. On the other hand, 79% &35% respondents agreed and strongly agreed on the restrictive ideas on female journalist participation in war reporting. That means they do not believe female journalists should participate it. According to the table, the finding revealed that female journalists shouldn't participate in war reporting. While only 2 (1.1%) respondents were neutral.

As cited, Seul (2019) agreed that male journalists are dominant in war reporting, particularly on the frontlines. Therefore, the study found that male journalists were largely involved in front-line reporting during the WWI. It is the same true in Ethiopia during the Northern war news coverage.

War journalism is a male-dominated field. Journalism in general and war reporting in particular are predominantly dominated by male. "When the war began, "I was working with a lot of men; we were women that can join on the front." I stated that only men belonged in conflict zones, but would women were involved; therefore it indicates that war reporting is not the work of men only (interview2)

Female journalists can participate at the front war reporting as men journalists. I want to raise a question why female journalists can't participate and why only male should participate. I totally disagreed only men are priority in front war reporting because female journalists have journalistic capacity and physical strength but some issues maybe not allowing to participate otherwise they can participate it. War reporting aren't not only the work of male (interview7)

Based on feminist perspectives, we can understand the nature of gender inequality and we can examine women's social roles. War creates gender roles and **hegemonic masculinity**. For a long time, feminist scholars have argued that conflict is profoundly gendered. Feminist theory is not support a single branch of male thought rather than included both side.

We know a lot of challenge to involve in war areas, but when we come to war reporting in media it's not that much difficult for journalist's rather than civilian societies. It may have guard and other supporter groups, therefore it is important include both voices and experiences of journalists in different perspectives rather than only assigning one gender (interview9)

According to the above cumulative quantitative data 78.4% of majority respondents believe only male journalists should participated. From qualitative data, key informants believed that female journalists should participate. War reporting will not reported from only male journalists'

perspective. The experience of female journalists in war news coverage should be included and should participate at the front war reporting because they can do as men journalists.

During the recent years, numerous investigative female journalists have worked globally, in many parts of the world, an investigative journalist's work uncovering corruption or battling misinformation, is fraught with risk. There are so many investigative female journalists in the world including Ethiopia, like Jineth Bedoya, the Colombian investigative journalist, won the accolade in 2020. She worked on rape and trafficking women. It indicates that there are so many prominent female journalists with enough skill and capacity (FGD2)

Interview data gathered from the responses of interviewees also revealed that female journalists had enough skill to analyse war news. A focus group discussion agreed female journalists had enough skill to report and give analyses about the war. The skill of female journalists to report hard issues has become increased. However, one informant argued the above ideas and stated that, female journalists may not have enough skill to report war because most of female journalists were assigned to in “soft news” rather than hard issues, therefore, it has an effect on the skill of journalists how to report it. According to the two data, it concluded that female journalists had enough skill to report the Northern Ethiopia war but in some cases may not have adequate writing skill how to write and report war information because most of the time the national and international political, economic, and war/crises issues were given to male journalists than female journalists.

Attitudes and views of media managers were collected through individual, in-depth interviews. According to media managers, female journalists shouldn't participate in war reportage. He also states:

I have many positive perceptions of female journalists' capacity. However, I think, war itself may be a reason for the women's journalist movement. I believe women can't perform the hard things by nature. The physical strength of females is less than that of males. Therefore, during the war, we often assigned male journalists based on their physical strength (interview 11).

Although the media manager expressed that the physical strength of female journalists is less, however, others argue this ideas.

A journalist's strength is measured by the amount of information that he/she can capture, with all information valuable for society. 'However, the physical fitness of female journalist to do as a male is equal. Female journalist involvement in reporting war especially at the front line has become increase to show women's capacity and perspectives. Not only females are lazy, so many male journalists are lazy in physical strength. For instance, if she born in village places and she learned far places the physical strength of her is enough because she worked different tasks. These reasons can enhance female journalist strength. Therefore, we can't simply judge the physical strength without the practical work'' (interview4).

According to focus group discussion, discussant opposes the above and they revealed that as follows:

Female journalists were absent in war reporting especially front line because the physical strength of female journalists is less than male. Female journalists can't participate in war reporting and war areas where war takes place. War reporting needs a high capacity, so women are low in physical fit when compares to male. Therefore, when we select to report war, it is important to choose the best one in different dimensions for front war reporting because it needs the physical strength beyond to the skills (FGD1).

The perception of one as a journalist and as a woman on the field by contacts and sources is currently a difficulty. Finding war information from different sources is challenging for reporters on the war front. Female war reporters face stigma and difficulties on the field, but they also have advantages. It is supported by the key informants, and most of the focus group participants confirmed this data in that female journalists are better off finding different sources.

One key informant also revealed that "that is not unique to something that women could empathize with, yet given what some of these women have gone through to even reach the border itself, it may have made it possible for women covering this story to establish some of those relationships and at least approach women without as much fear. She has been reporting

from the Sekota war front in 2013 E.C. Female reporters face discrimination and obstacles on the job, but they also have some advantages. She said:

In general, most people are really open to talking to a women, dealing with a woman, having a woman on the front line, or interacting with soldiers." When you're a woman, people may occasionally even slightly underestimate you, which, in my opinion, can be advantageous since it causes them to let down their guard. I believe that in some situations, people view you less favorably. In such situations, I believe people perceive you as less of a threat. I gotten war information from soldiers, top-military group and other's "(interview1).

I reported about the victim children and raped women during the wartime. Children and women victims were intimacy for female reporters than male reporters. They were open to tell stories for female journalists (interview2).

The above data also supported by the focus group discussant, and they pointed out, female journalist weren't only advantageous group in the front but also more advantageous to find hidden stories in the home and hospitals.

The above data revealed that female journalists shouldn't participate to report war news. This finding is strongly opposed by key interviewees and focus group discussant. They pointed out that when a war breaks out we rely on the news to keep us updated on what's happening on the ground. The job of bringing information is difficult and dangerous. Journalists put their lives in danger in a conflict zone where information is difficult to verify, the unfolding scene is fraught with sorrow and trauma, and any instant could become lethal.

It's not a job for a woman, old thinking would remark. Nonetheless, fearless female journalists are now reporting from the frontlines alongside their male counterparts. They broaden our information environment by expressing tales from a feminine lens and with a female voice (FGD2).

The role of women journalists in bringing new perspectives, broadening news scope, source selection and changing the negative portrayal of women in the media is widely accepted. Respondents assumed women have a different outlook in selecting newsworthy items and

presentation style. Additionally, participants of the study assumed women journalists have interest in dealing with victim women's and children's issues that broaden definition of news. Therefore, female journalists should participate in war reporting.

He is reporter and has more than eight years' experience, he stated:

I believe participation of women in the war reporting would affect the newsrooms culture in a positive way. We believe the male dominated reporting culture would be altered if more women join the war reporting. Gender by itself will make a difference in changing the war reporting culture. So I want to say female journalists should participate and war information should provide from female journalists perspectives (interview8).

Similarly, a key informant explained their experiences and male journalists believed that they should participate because journalism as a profession invites to report the hard issues. Results showed women journalists' news coverage in front line is low in general but the performance they have was evaluated well.

Female participants in the focus group discussion asserted that:

Women are doing well in the work they were assigned. According to this, we have a capacity to do every kind of story. Female journalists can participate in war report. Today, there are many women involved in investigating hard issues. Such as: corruption, crime, and other investigating journalism tasks. Therefore, we believe they can do it (FGD2).

According to the informants though they usually involves in soft issues, they still were performing good. Female journalists weren't that much participated in reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war time, but they should participate in hard news stories like war reporting because they can do it as male journalists.

The data concluded that war reporting is not reported from male perspectives and experiences. Therefore, it should tell from female lens and voices. Other reporters pointed out the capacity of female journalist to do as a man is positive. Female journalist involvement in reporting war especially at the front line has become increase to show women's capacity and perspectives in western countries, but when we come to our country, in Ethiopia's media industry, female

journalists are not seen reporting on various protests and crisis. It shows the negative perception about the capacity of women is high. According to the findings some male journalists in the department has negative perception towards women journalists' participation in war news reporting in the front-line.

4.1.10. Factors that Hinder the Involvement of Female Journalist in War Reporting.

Female journalists face challenges in the course of participation to war news coverage. This factors range from individual, organizational, and external factors. This section separately analyzes the rating of each challenge by respondents. The following five items was provided as follows:

Table 4.7: Respondents Responses about the Factors that Hinder the Participation

Measure	Scale	Frequency	Percent
Female journalists have less interest to be involve in front war reporting	Strongly disagree	8	4.2
	Disagree	47	24.7
	Neutral	10	5.3
	Agree	88	46.3
	Strongly agree	37	19.5
	Total	190	100.0
Female journalists have less war reporting skills to be involved in front war reporting.	Strongly disagree	12	6.3
	Disagree	115	60.5
	Neutral	4	2.1
	Agree	56	29.5
	Strongly agree	3	1.6
	Total	190	100.0
The media organization not give equal chance for female journalists to participate in front war reporting	Strongly disagree	5	2.6
	Disagree	63	33.2
	Neutral	10	5.3
	Agree	59	31.1
	Strongly agree	53	27.8
	Total	190	100.0
The additional home responsibilities prevent women journalists from participating in front-line war reporting	Strongly disagree	6	3.2
	Disagree	43	22.6
	Neutral	12	6.3
	Agree	116	61.1
	Strongly agree	13	6.8
	Total	190	100.0

Traditional gender stereotypes affect the participation of female journalists in front-line reporting (Women stay at home and take care of children during war and are considered weak and women as agent of peace).	Strongly disagree	4	2.1
	Disagree	22	11.6
	Neutral	9	4.7
	Agree	117	61.6
	Strongly agree	38	20.0
	Total	190	100.0
Female journalists are prevented from participating in frontline reporting for fear of becoming victims of wartime violence	Disagree	87	45.8
	Neutral	14	7.4
	Agree	89	46.8
	Total	190	100.0

One of the areas in which influenced the involvement in war reporting is individual interest. Respondents were asked female journalists were reluctant to involve in front reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war. The result shows that according to the majority of the respondents (65.8%), female journalists were reluctant to involve in front war reporting. This individual interest impeding female journalists from involving (46.3% agreed & 19.5% strongly agreed). 8(4.2%) and 47 (24.7%) respondents strongly disagreed and disagreed on the lack of interest to participate. while 10 (5.3%) respondents were neutral.

As depicted in the above table, 60.5% and 6.3% of respondents disagree and strongly disagree that the lack of female journalist skill to participate in war reporting respectively. Skill is very important for journalists to participate in reporting issues. Therefore, according to 127(66.8%) of respondents argued or not accepted the low journalistic performance of female journalists to participate in war reporting. It indicated female journalists had enough skill to participate in war reporting. However, 56(29.5%) and 3(1.6%) of respondents agreed the lack of female journalists skill to involve in war reporting. While 4(2.1%) rated neutral. Thus, the finding shows that lack of female journalist skill is not a factor to minimize the participation level.

According to 59(31.1%) and 53(27.8%) of respondents agree and strongly agree media organization does not support or consider the role of female journalists participation in war reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war. According to the result, few of respondents agreed

that media does not permit for female journalists to participate during the Northern Ethiopia war reporting. On the other hand, 5(2.6%) and 63(33.2%) of respondents argued the above agreement. They believe media organization is not the challenge for female journalists to participate in war reporting. While 10(5.3%) of respondents were neutral. According to the finding they thought lack of support from media organization couldn't be a challenge.

The result from table 4.7 depicted that 67.4% of respondents believed the double responsibility is challenge. From these, 116(61.1%) of them agree additional home responsibility is major factor to decrease female journalists participation in war reporting. Similarly, 13(6.8%) of respondents also strongly agree about this factors. On the other hand, 43(22.6%) and 6(3.2%) of respondents disagreed home responsibility is not challenge. 12(6.3%) of respondents were neutral.

Traditional gender stereotype is still becoming challenge, which creates a barrier for female journalist participation in war reporting particularly front war reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war. According to the above table, 117(61.6%) and 38(20%) of respondents agree and strongly agreed that gender stereotypes is still in unchanged and challenged for female journalists participate in very well. Only 26(13.7%) of respondents did not agree that traditional gender stereotype is not factor to hinder the participation of female. 9(4.7%) of journalists were neutral.

As depicted in the above table, 89(46.8%) of respondents agree female journalists fear sexual harassment when trying to involve in front war reporting because sexual harassments is the major challenge for female journalists. Whereas 87(45.8%) of respondents argue female journalists do not fear sexual harassments to involve in war reporting. only 14(7.4%) of respondents were neutral. The data shows that most of respondents agreed that fear of sexual harassment can decrease the involvement level.

In order to understand the participation of female journalists in front war reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war, it is important to investigate their challenges and factors they face to participate in war reporting, so the distribution questionnaire for journalists revealed that female journalists were reluctant to participate in war reporting. As to the qualitative and quantitative data, the majority of respondents reported that the participation of female journalists in war reporting was hindered by the individual commitment/interest. She said

‘‘If you have committed for all, nothing is hard to do the best.’’ I believe female journalists can do as well as men, but if you are reluctant, other reasons can’t determine you. Therefore, individual interest is the major factor in being unable to participate in different tasks (interview6).

According to informants, the interest of female journalists to participate in front war reporting is another factor other than the perception of journalists towards female journalist involvement in war reporting. Other front war reporter shares her experience:

For the first time, we had a meeting as a profession to discuss how to report it and who would participate. Journalists were hesitant in general, not just female journalists. I remembered the news head asking them if they wanted to go; you could raise your hand, but at that time no one could raise their hand to participate. Some male journalists volunteered to directly participate in front-line war reporting. However, only one female journalist was directly involved in the campaign to fight the war. We can say that she was brave at that time. I want to say, individual interest is therefore crucial for participation (interview3).

Focus group participants also confirmed that male journalists were assigned to war reporting. If a war issue needed to be addressed urgently, the women did not assign. Some focus group participants disagreed that women are pushed and have fewer skills, while men are preferred for war issues. They said women themselves resist, feeling uncomfortable with opportunity. Speaker four dealt with hard issues even when given the information in FGD 1, saying some editors ask women to cover current affairs and major political issues, however reluctant and uninterested women may be. Speaker two from the same focus group confirmed that in her media house, where women outnumbered men, all journalists have a chance to work on stories based on their interests. Yet, she noted, women are often more interested in topics that do not demand effort or energy.

The study participants reasoned out why only three women journalists participated in the front. They pointed out that they were reluctant to participate in front-line war reporting. From the above data, one can conclude that individual interest is one factor that hinders the participation of female journalists in front-line reporting.

According to open-ended responses, female journalists as a profession have a skill to report or analyses war information in their report. Female participants in the focus group discussion asserted that:

Women are doing well in the work they were assigned. According to this, we have a capacity to do every kind of story. Female journalists can participate in war report. Today, there are many women involved in investigating hard issues. Such as: corruption, crime, and other investigating journalism tasks. Therefore, we believe they can do it (FGD2).

However, they pointed out that the reason why not much involved in front war reporting. Participant pointed out that there is no outshined female journalist with war news stories compared with males. Because there is no enabling atmosphere in which to assign female journalists to those stories and their performance is unimpressive. Journalists were assigned often randomly to involve in war reporting rather performances. In terms of reaching news sources, men continue to outnumber women journalists. As stated earlier male journalists get priority in every circumstance and they have a space to access war reporting because they assumed female journalists have less skill to report at the front war. On the other hand, a focus group participant revealed: “female journalists may have less skill how to report because most of the time female journalists were assigned in soft news stories than hard issues, therefore, editors may not give opportunities to participate at the front because if you mayn’t report about hard issues before, it may affect the involvement level.

Respondents who disagreed that "women are incapable of covering war issues" said women proved their ability by producing quality reports on hard and current affairs. Moreover, they affirmed that choosing topics does not imply capacity rather than interest. One respondent reply as: conflict is everyone's life right now. Women as being part of the society, I don't think war can be hard for them to understand and to deal with. Women can attend war discussions and report on it. They can also read and discuss war issues. Another respondent associated the assumption with traditional thinking that war is hard for women. She also indicated that stereotyped attitudes about abilities of women among editors are not yet shattered. According to her, editors and managers do not have confidence to send women to cover big events and/ or to interview major politician actors in war issues.

Focus group participants called gender-based labor divisions a problem in their respective media houses. Though the majority of participants acknowledged job assignment based on journalists' interests and skills, women covering hard issues like war are rare. Speaker three in FGD 1 complained that editors do not assign women to cover war issues with big responsibilities.

As she said: there is discrepancy among women and men journalists in assigning jobs. Women are pushed to entertainment and women issues, which are considered as easy and less important, whereas men are recruited for national issues, which are taken as high status news. I assured that we are still under men dominance. I believed we can work in every issue. I should have to be evaluated if I couldn't be effective after I am assigned. It would be a discriminatory act to think that I am incapable because I run a woman. Speaker one from the same focus group noted a custom accepted and implemented by editors to assign women to jobs they consider uncontroversial. Whenever we discussed about a holiday programs, all the issues are distributed among male and female journalists. However, when it comes to including women guests, all fingers are pointing towards me or other female journalist. On the contrary, an editor does not hesitate to send a male reporter to cover war and discuss with politicians. Focus group participants also confirmed that male journalists assigned to war reporting. If a war issue needed to be addressed urgently, the women's does not assign. Some focus group participants disagreed that women are pushed and the skills are less, while men are preferred for war issues. They said women themselves resist, feeling uncomfortable in opportunity.

From this one can infer that respondents revealed journalists have skill but not recognized the skill of female journalists in war reporting.

The media are crucial to the empowerment of women by promoting gender equality. The role of media in women empowerments and make visible are unforgettable. Women's rights should be equal to men's. Media is a reflection of society; therefore, it should have responsibility to make visible the experience of women in media industries and in society. Although it has role in women participation, media organizations largely ignore the voices and experiences of women in war reporting participation.

A major informant, on the other hand, blamed:

I believe women are competent enough as men. However, media organization has a problem about women performance to do hard issues. I can name women who defeated the hardship and proved they can do anything men can do. They had involved at the front and did amazing documentaries news about the Northern war starting and its consequences, they provided detailed information about the victim civilians (women and children). And our feedback is good for women journalists work and involved. And this is why I say they had the capacity in the Northern war reporting however, media organization has been some negative attitudes towards women journalists' capacity during the Northern war reporting participation (interview8).

Similarly, other reporters pointed out the capacity of female journalist to do as a man is positive.

Female journalist involvement in reporting war especially at the front line has become increase to show women's capacity and perspectives in western countries, but when we come to our country, in Ethiopia's media industry, female journalists are not seen reporting on various protests and crisis. It shows the negative perception about the capacity of women is high (interview6).

One of front war reporter shares her experience:

I remembered there were more women wants to participate in the front war reporting, but opportunities weren't given them. For the first time, my question was rejected and not acceptable by news head because I'm female but for the second time I decided to enforce the news head and go to the front. For this reason the involvements of female journalists were not that much as male journalists. Therefore, the participation was based on gender. (interview2).

According to respondents, they set solution to fight the negative attitude of media by working quality and up to standard reporting. However, it would not always possible to win their outlooks. However, they can change media negative attitudes by themselves. Focus group discussion is also reflected similar points of view. Speaker five in FGD 1 noted that there is a tendency belittling women's potential and women need to show their abilities. Speaker one in the same focus group discussion said women need to push the boundary in order to be accepted as professionals. The road to journalism, as she said, might not be smooth. However, she said,

continuous struggle would bring victory. Speaker two in FGD 2 mentioned women journalists need to broaden their knowledge by reading and adopting attractive reporting styles. For her, journalism is information. If women journalists have valuable information, she said, no one cares about their gender. What do media managers think about media does not support to send female journalists to war reporting?

All media managers believe giving equal opportunity for women and men brings change in the media. Our media give equal chances for women and men journalists. There is no gender based discrimination in our media. He noted that once women are given the opportunities, they should have to exploit that. He suggested that the success of women depends on their individual determinations.

I believe giving opportunity would open the door for women journalists. A woman should have to exploit the given opportunity. In this world to be a woman and successful at the same time, one needs consciously using these chances. Media organization does not prohibit totally. However, I want to answer why we practice it: “the reason for practicing is to protect female journalists from challenge and risks. As a result, the number of female journalist involvement in front reporting is limited by this” (interview11).

According to the above data, media organization not considered female journalists performance in war reporting. Media organizations send male journalists than female. Opportunities were given for male journalists. Although media has role in war coverage, the experience and voice of female journalists in war coverage were largely ignored.

Female journalists as mothers and workers, it did not only impact on their performance, but also women lost opportunities like going in war reporting because they had to see their family close. There were many female journalists who struggle to work as a mother. Journalism in general, war reporting in particular needs one’s full attention, it may stay at one or two months. But as a mother it is very difficult to do all these because they have another responsibility at home.

She expresses her opinions:

As a female journalist I see journalism into two ways before marriage and after marriage. It is hard to be a journalists and mom at the same time and also involve in war areas to report because the responsibility is big. Before marriage the life is simple and you focus only your works but if you have a child, you should live for others. I participated in the front war reporting but at that time I have no a child. If I have a child, I may not volunteer to participate in front war reporting, therefore, being as mothers can decrease the involvement of female journalists in hard news issues (interview3).

However, other respondent argued being mother is not major factor for female journalists. It could not hinder me to involve in war reporting. Therefore, they can well perform being as mother.

She expresses her experience in detail:

I have three children; the last one is under 15 years old. He wants family care. However, I was able to participate in front-line war reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war. Being a mother is not the major factor that hinders participation, but it may be challenging the work may require staying with for a long period of time (interview 1).

From the above finding, female journalists face struggle to reconcile the conflicting demands of work and family, a clearly universal and existential reality (Creedon, 1989&1993; Eide, (2000); Van Zoonen, 1994; Ross & Byerly, 2004). It is difficult for women journalists to work contradicted profession. Although majority respondents agreed that being as mother is challenge or big factor could hinder the involvement of female journalists in hard news stories. Being mother is another responsibility and difficult to participate in hard works particularly in war reporting. It is not simple for all journalists to participate in war reporting, but some other factors are unique for female journalists.

In many parts of the world, where women handle domestic activities, working parents especially mothers carry a heavy burden. The situation worsens for journalists when the work requires late, long or irregular work hours and unpredictable work schedules. This becomes a barrier to women's integration into newsroom culture (Ross, 2004). As Ross mentioned, a number of women journalists find it difficult to reconcile family responsibilities and work schedules due to safety concerns and social disapproval. But some women journalists also criticize female

colleagues for demanding special care. Professional growth, they say, requires fulfilling all requirements of the job demands. Robinson (2004) blamed journalism's unsuitable working conditions for the under-representation of women in journalism. 42% of working mothers mentioned how child-care arrangements and family obligations periodically interfered with work schedules.

In Africa, domestic circumstances can become major obstacles for women who hope to develop careers in journalism. Opoku-Mensah (2004) explained that many women leave journalism when the burden of caring for children and handling domestic activities becomes difficult to juggle with their professional duties. Moreover, she says, cultural and social expectations that dictate women's behavior often conflict with professional growth as journalists. Balancing work and home responsibilities has often presented serious conflicts for Ethiopian women journalists.

Yetenayet (1997) study on the life of early women journalists confirmed that long and late working hours in journalism affected women's family and social lives. Unable to withstand the pressure, some abandoned journalism. Approximately 60% of subjects In Mengistu's research (2007) are single, suggesting one indication that many women work in journalism until they marry. From the qualitative and quantitative data, it is possible to infer that women as double workers are a factor that could hinder the participation of female journalists in front war reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war. War reporting takes a long period of time to gather and transmit information for society therefore; it is challenge to female journalist stay out home for a long period of time.

Traditional gender role affect female journalists participation in media industry. Some key informants revealed that there is no traditional gender stereotype perception in our media. They believed that all journalists are equal. While this clearly indicates what Barska, 2005; Diekman and Goodfriend, 2006 point out that the traditional social roles of women and men have remained unchanged for many years.

The lady of the house, caring for the family, and placing a priority on the wellbeing of the kids is the traditional societal duty of women. As a result, the conception of traditional roles by itself limits the opportunity for practicing the war reporting.

In our country, Ethiopia, traditional gender role have remained unchanged for many years and still now. We have male centric culture. Women were discriminated group particularly in war participation because male take share lion.

Similar to this other female journalists also outstanding the news department and she stated her experiences as follows:

Actually involve in war reporting is challenges for all but some other challenges unique for us in nature but the problem is not that. The major problem of us was the social constructed of gender role or negative perception towards our abilities. The society as a whole has an uneven perspective on gender equality. So when women go out for war news reporting the society will not accept them or give respect to them as it gives to men reporters. I don't think content and gender relate they can do hard news items with a better content as do most men. Sections of reporting like war and political stories were viewed as jobs for men. And if female journalist covers the stories she wouldn't praised as her male counterpart. Our institution reflects society; how our society functions. There is clear and visible institutionalized unfairness where men are seen as heroes but not women (interview 1).

Most of the informants have the same idea regarding female journalists' participation to war news coverage. According to them it was clear that soft news stories are more accessible to females to cover than hard news such as war reporting. As stated earlier female journalists were associated with entertainment news then whether media assign them or not they more likely interested to cover hard stories. The findings show that though there were some female journalists who are interested to cover war news stories it was usually hard for them to cover because of their gender. This indicated that news was not solely influenced by gender. The respondents emphasized that the perception of society continues to have a major role. From the above finding out that traditional gender roles or negative perceptions were the major factor that affected the involvement of journalists in war reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war.

As seen from the findings above, one of the continuing challenges for women in war reporting participation is social construction of gender. Female reporters were largely ignored in war reporting. According to the study findings, they frequently defied societal conventions of the time, when women were expected to become housewives and raise children, and opened up

previously male-dominated occupations to women, such as, journalism, photography, and war reporting, therefore, this study concluded that the success or failure of female war reporters depended largely on their social background.

From the finding of this study, the traditional gender stereotype is challenge. Majority of female and male journalists acknowledged this problem as a major factor that were hinder the participation of female in war reporting.

Beside to this, most of respondents tend to agree fear of sexual harassment may hinder the participation of female journalists in war reporting. Women face sexual harassment both at the work place and in the course of their journalistic work from news sources. Male and female journalists acknowledged that female journalists face sexual harassment.

If you become women, some challenges are unique. Rape is the major weapons in war and also women are victims.

During the Northern Ethiopia war, so many civilians' women's were injured and raped. Therefore, if you are women, these challenges also hindered you. It may not face sexual harassment but fear of this is a factor (interview5).

In addition, a media manager revealed that ‘ war is hazard for female journalists because rape is the major weapon for war. If you become women, sexual harassment is a major challenge. On the contrary, higher number of respondents tends to ignore the above factors that hindered female journalists in front war reporting.

Harassment is a worldwide issue that affects journalists of both genders. A study by Irene Khan (2021) Submission for the Consultation on Gender Justice by UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, we have seen a strong increase in journalists requesting emergency help through our Rapid Response fund. Request of female journalists increased 170% in comparison to 2019. However, while reporting sensitive themes, women journalists face an additional weight of gender-based abuse in addition to potential threats. According to recent studies, 73% of women journalists say they have experienced online violence in the course of their work. In this study, not concluded that female journalists faced sexual harassment, however, fear of sexual harassment is a consideration, but it is not a large one because reporters work under the protection of the army on the areas of their activities.

4.2. Discussions

This part attempts to discuss the results of the quantitative and qualitative data of the research together and thematically. According to this study, feminist theory is used to critically analyze and discuss all issues.

4.2.1. The Involvement of Female Journalists in Front War Reporting

Involvement is a condition of interest, motivation, or excitement; effort is a result of involvement. It signifies that you are taking part in something (Rothschild, 1984). During the war, journalists are major actors who are actively involved in war reporting. Thus, regarding this study, in order to achieve the objective of female journalists' involvement in war reporting, it is important to look at the degree of involvement. Therefore, active participation is mandatory for journalists to search for war information. However, in this study, the involvement of female journalists in war reporting is a gendered issue. According to this study, the involvement of female journalists in war reporting is insignificant, namely on the frontlines. In Table 4.3, out of 70 female journalists, the study found that 95.7% of female journalists weren't involved in front-line war reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war. The involvement of female journalists in front-war reporting is insignificant, but only 3 (4.3%) of female journalists were involved in front-war reporting. This finding is supported by qualitative data; there were only three female journalists involved on the frontlines from the online, print, and TV news departments at AMC. Based on the qualitative data, the majority of male journalists are involved in front-line reporting. In this study, during the Northern Ethiopia War, male journalists were dominant in front-line war reporting, but only three female journalists were involved in front-line war reporting in two war years.

Much of the front-war reporting wasn't reported from female journalists' perspectives. According to Liberal feminist theory, gender equality is important for ending gender segregation at work and improving working conditions. From this perspective, women journalists have equal capacity and skill as men; therefore, opportunities should be given to women journalists (Friedan, 2010). Including the voices and experiences of women journalists in war reporting is important from a feminist perspective. Even though women journalists have the capacity, they don't have the same opportunities to participate in war reporting as male journalists. The finding

indicated that war reporting was dominated by male journalists, and the number of male journalists was dominated in front-line war reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war in AMC. Therefore, the study's findings are contrary to liberal feminist theory. Although the media have a responsibility, they do not give equal opportunities for female journalists to participate. However, they were the most prominent female reporters who could break the male dominance of war reporting. This finding is supported by Ness (2012), who finds that although male journalists were largely dominated in front-line war reporting in WWI in 1914–1918 during the war between Vietnam-Spain, the most prominent women journalists could break the male dominance of war reporting in different fields of work, such as cameraman and reporter on the front. The findings of this study revealed that women could participate in front-line reporting but not gain the same opportunities as male journalists, which is a challenge for women journalists.

A similar study conducted by Beasley (2013) claims that World War II gave women in journalism fascinating new prospects. The number of female reporters also increases as they participate as war correspondents at the front based on their interests. Although female journalists were involved in war news coverage, getting opportunities to be involved at the front of war reporting is rare. Media organizations largely ignored the experience of female journalists in war coverage. The voices of women journalists are highly marginalized and silenced in war news coverage.

According to the survey data, out of 31 news reporters, 25 (35.7%) agreed that female journalists participated in reading war news in the studio. The focus group participants reported that female journalists frequently participated in reading war news in the studio. The participation of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war was highly restricted in the studio because war news comes from other sources. 1.4% sometimes and 10% frequently participated in reporting the destroyed places by going to war areas. Sometimes female journalists participated in reporting about the destroyed places by travelling to different places. 14.2% and 8.6% of respondents agreed that female journalists participated sometimes and frequently to report on civilian victims and injured soldiers. The finding revealed that the involvement of female journalists in war reporting was mainly restricted to studio work. The voice of women journalists in front-line war reporting is largely ignored. For several years, war reporting has been dominated by male perspectives. This finding supported by Seul (2019), entry for women to the

fighting zones was often severely restricted in Europe and the Middle East throughout 1914 to 1918 in the First World War. Due to their professional and personal interests, some women journalists were able to cover the front lines. However, this study's findings revealed that even though entry for women reporter to the fighting zones was often severely restricted, women were determined to cover all aspects of the war, from the fighting on the fronts, wounded soldiers, and the destruction of cities, villages, and landscapes, to the war's impact on civilians. From the above data, the participation of women journalists was mainly limited to studio work and some other fields of work after the active war areas than front war reporting.

4.2.2. The Role of Female Journalists in Reporting the Northern Ethiopia war

A role is fully identified by the object that performs it and by a set of interactions. The roles are generated by the performances of those occupying complementary social positions. Journalists have a role in society by increasing the volume of information. Being the eyes and ears of society is also an important role for journalists. Journalists provide firsthand sources of information. Journalists had the role of providing a first-hand source of information about armed conflicts, military operations and plans, and the impact of the war on civilian home fronts. These journalists play an important role in conflict zones or on distant battlefields (Fondren, 2022). However, according to the study, female journalists had a smaller role as the eyes and ears of society in front-line reporting. War creates gender issues. Women have mainly been discriminated against in war participation. The participation of women in war isn't considered a role and is largely ignored based on gendered issues. Women journalists are also victims of the socially constructed meaning of gender. According to Betty (2010), women have roles, and their roles should be made visible because they were largely marginalized before. Liberal feminists agreed on the role of female journalists, and they also emphasize the similarities between men and women rather than the average difference between them, attributing most of the personality and character differences between the sexes to the social construction of gender. Although women's largely ignored in front war reporting, that doesn't mean that they had no role in war news coverage. According to the data, female journalists played the role of agenda-setters. The study's findings revealed that 75.3% of respondents agreed that female journalists played as agenda-setters to discuss with societies in the studio during the Northern Ethiopia War rather participated at the front. The role of female journalists in war news coverage is wide in AMC.

The study's finding supported by the basic concepts of liberal approaches. Liberal feminists believe that women have the same mental capacity as their male counterparts and they can do as male journalists.

Lokeswari and Aiswariya (2020) pointed out that in the present age, mass media coverage of the war is becoming important; mass media has the ability to convey prominent messages to the public as part of its news agenda policy. Although female journalists were largely ignored in front-line war reporting and war news coverage, they played a big role in war news coverage during the Northern Ethiopia war. During the war, so many agendas were raised by media organization and communication offices that female journalists had the role of communicating with communication officers and discussing with societies. They played a big role as public forum facilitators. The finding revealed that journalists play various roles during wartime and cover critical situations.

Journalists can set an agenda about the war to discuss with society. Although war coverage is mainly dominated by men, that doesn't mean that they had no role in the overall activities of the media during wartime. Therefore, during the Northern Ethiopia war, most of female journalists played to set an agenda in the studio to discuss the war with society. On the other hand, according to the study findings, 58.9% of respondents agreed that they played as persuader and propagator. According to key informants, the general role of the media in general and journalists in particular was to propagate, persuade, and encourage societies. Assignments were taken by female journalists to persuade societies through their reporting. They had role to mobilize and motivate communities to support the war in their reporting. They were following the protests and supports that were held in different places and providing information to the community. Therefore, female journalists had involved to report such as report in different supporting activities, government information and so on. These activities were also considered as the role of female journalists because female journalists were largely ignored in war coverage as propagator. This finding supported by Honey (1983) during the World War II era, women were encouraged to pursue a typical careers in the media. They wanted to work in professions that challenged preconceived views about the role of women in public life because work in male-dominated fields has a stronger impact on discriminatory work. In other words, when the media's recognized of female entry into male field, it does not replace the traditional notion of women as

homemakers. They exercise authority outside the domestic sphere and competently managing concepts that are normally allocated to males. Media as a whole learned a lot about how the opposing themes of woman as homemaker and woman as skilled performer of male duties were woven together during the recruitment effort. Therefore, women journalists have been to play the work of propaganda design during the war.

On the other hand, during the Northern Ethiopia war female journalists had played in different activities, to write script and made different documentaries to express the awfulness of war and the consequences of war in whole economic, politics, cultures and in social life. Despite the fact that female reporters were criticized and stereotyped, in order to despite these hurdles, many female reporters and war correspondents overcome their stereotypes by reporting on the war. In general, female journalists give assignments and played in very well as agenda setters to discuss with different societies what to think about the war, mobilizer and shape communities to support the war, and also to persuading and propagating people to support and struggle the war in their report before dominated by only male journalists. Therefore, there were the major roles played by the female journalists during the Northern Ethiopia war news coverage.

4.2.3. Perception of Journalists towards Female Journalists Participation in War Reportage

In the media, women are typically represented as weak and submissive, whereas men are portrayed as strong and powerful. Media are typically depicted men as the aggressors and women as the victims of violence in film, television and so on (Dill & Thill, 2007). During the war, so many perceptions were formed about the involvement of female journalists in reporting the war. The majority of respondents (78.4%) believed that only male journalists should participate in front-line war reporting because the physical strength of women journalists is less than male. On the other hand, according to qualitative and focus group discussions, most respondents believed female journalists should participate in front-line war coverage. When we examine female journalists' involvement in war reporting, it also indicates male cultural dominance. In male culture, it was only assumed that men were brave and strong in war reporting. Male colleagues cover the majority of war reports. Women's war experiences are widely misrepresented in the mainstream media. This finding underlines the basic assumption of

critical media theory. According to Van Zoonen (1998) women journalists misrepresented in media industries and news contents. The study finding revealed that women journalists are still misrepresented in war news contents. It strongly emphasizes the assumptions of critical media theory. This suggests that news reported by male journalists reflects the interest and attitudes of men and excludes the interests and views of women. Therefore, they pointed out if many female journalists entered, the news would change in to new directions, more relevant to women because women are equally capable of performing any social role as their male counterparts and there is need to end misrepresented in media by empowering women. However, women's are still misrepresented in news and contents represented without female journalists' voices and experiences (Del Zotto, 2002). Feminization theory suggests that a "journalism of attachment," which favors more human stories of civilian victims in wartime, is creating a productive arena for women reporters.

War reporting and gender in war coverage are determined from a feminist perspective. Men's viewpoints have historically dominated war reporting, encouraging and legitimizing wartime injustice and violence (Ferris, 2004). This study finding supported by the researchers Barker-Plummer and Boaz, 2005; Del Zotto, 2002; "Women and War Reporting," n.d., the media industry tends to ignore women's involvement in matters of war. According to some, reporting is still one of the last remaining areas of journalism where men predominate, notwithstanding the rise in female war journalists. Even though reporting is dominated by male, 53.2% of respondents believed that female journalists are better at finding war information from different sources. Other key informants revealed that female journalists are the most advantageous group to get war information from different sources, such as top military groups, soldiers, and other sources of information.

In addition to being more dangerous when reporting wars and conflicts, female reporters identified some significant advantages of being female. The African reporters covering societies with more traditional gender roles referred to how they were often seen as both men and women. And this does not only concern whether female journalists should have access to the same assignments as their male colleagues, but also when it comes to dangerous assignments.

There are numerous reasons why female journalists covering war and violence are crucial. One reason is that they may get access to sources that men can't get to, particularly in cultures where men and women live separately. However, a study by Linda (2019) was conducted on "war-reporting-field-male-adventurism-analysing-gender-differences". According to this study, when considering this aspect, it is relevant to look at the existing disadvantages for female reporters. The findings of the study revealed that although it seems to be much easier for female journalists to reach out and cover topics related to women than male journalists. However, on the other side, it is difficult for women, who are often not taken seriously in their role as journalists, to access war information. Women journalists were discriminated and ignored in war coverage, but they have adequate skill and capacity to report war news if they get opportunities. According to the study's findings, 73.6% of respondents believe that female journalists have adequate journalistic skills and capacity to report war news. The most talented female journalists can report and analyses war information. However, according to Simpson (2020), at the outset of the Second World War, reporting was male figure. English-speaking nations in the early half of the twentieth century saw war reporting as comprising combat reporting only, and did not perceive women as being capable of adequate skill to write about this masculine subject. There are lacks of perception towards women journalists.

Aside from this, participants in both the in-depth interview and focus group discussion agreed with the quantitative data in some case because most of the time female journalists are assigned to soft news than hard news stories. Most of participants perceived that the physical strength of women journalists is less than male. Therefore, this perceptions lead to ineffective participation of women journalists. Although participants perceived female journalists have less physical strength than male journalists, the strength of journalists should measure the degree of write and report the news.

According to feminist media researchers, the rise of women in journalism in most Western nations has coincided with a "feminization" of news coverage. The gendered aspect of the dichotomy is the main focus of feminist critiques of work division categorizations. The notion that hard news is at the top of the news hierarchy and is regarded as important job that males normally do is put forth by Poindexter and Harp (2008, 85) and Rakow and Kranich (1991, 11). Soft news, on the other hand, is often covered by women and is less significant. In the

newsroom, many men (and possibly some women) have the preconceived notion that women are more adept at covering soft news or are more interested in doing so (van Zoonen 1998). Typically, gender has a big impact on the kinds of stories allocated to reporters. 60% of respondents believed that female journalists shouldn't participate in front-line war reporting. According to the above data, the majority of participants believed that female journalists shouldn't participate in front-line war coverage. However, according to the key participants, they believed that female journalists should participate and that war news should report from female experiences and perspectives. Therefore, they show that women too are tough war storytellers. They ensure that war reportage does not only include men. Despite the additional challenges of being a female journalist or working overseas, female voices remain critical. There is something special about female reporters who can connect with people in ways that their male counterparts cannot. It broadens the story and adds richness and scope to it that would be missing if similar stories were delivered by men.

4.2.4. Factors that Hinder the Involvement of Female Journalist in Front-line war Reporting

There are different factors that could hinder the participation of female journalists in front-line war reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war. The objective of the study was to find out the factors that hindered the participation of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war. The participation of female journalists in front-line war reporting was inadequate. Therefore, the study findings revealed that so many factors hinder the involvement of women in war reporting, particularly frontline war coverage. Individual interest can affect the participation of women journalists in war news coverage particularly front-line reportage. 65.8% of respondents accepted lack of interest is a factor that hindered the participation of women journalists in front-war reporting. But some informants disagreed about the lack of interest because journalists have responsibility to search, gather and disseminate information for society; therefore, it is not a major factor to hinder the participation.

For women in the field, there are additional factors to grapple with; 67.9% of respondents agreed that being a mother was a big factor that could hinder the participation of female journalists in front-line reportage. Beside this, most journalists believed that being mothers was an additional factor that hindered the participation of female journalists in war news coverage, particularly at

the front lines. On the other hand, some journalists argued that the above issue of being a mother wasn't a big factor hindering them because there were women journalists having children. As seen from the study findings, one of the continuing challenges for women in journalism, like their counterparts in other fields, is the struggle to reconcile the conflicting demands of work and family (Creedon, 1989–1993; Eide, 2000; Van Zoonen, 1994; Ross & Byerly, 2004). In order to find others, the study findings revealed that 52.1% of respondents believe that the participation of female journalists in front-line reporting depends on the media organization. Female journalists face organizational challenges to get the same opportunities to participate as male journalists.

The participation of female journalists depended on the attitude of the media organization, particularly in the news departments. According to Haller (2006), the low involvement of female war reporters during Vietnam mainly depended on the attitude of media organization. During the Northern Ethiopia war, the attitude of media was a factor that could hinder participation in front-line war reporting. This finding lies in feminist media discourse. Feminism is concerned with imbalance between how female are portrayed in the media and the real world. Feminists from different philosophical and theoretical scenes have tried to deal with female's problems and solutions with the media by trying to explain how the media is responsible and used to impart females ideas, beliefs, attitudes and their status in the Society. Media are perceived as the main instruments in conveying, respectively, stereotypical, patriarchal and hegemonic values about female and femininity (Govender et al, 2014). Although media has a role, attitude of media towards female journalists' participation in war reporting was a factor. According to the factors, fear of sexual harassment and gender-based violence were also other factors that hindered the involvement of journalists in war news coverage. 46.8% of journalists agreed that fear is one of the factors can hinder the participation of female journalists in front-line war coverage. Women are a target of violence during the war. Challenges are equal between men and women, but some other challenges are unique for women journalists. Rape is the major weapon of war, therefore women journalists are the victim of sexual and gender-based violence during the war. Therefore, fear of sexual harassments and gender-based violence are the factors that hinder to be involved in war reporting.

Women's faced so many challenges and factors to be involved in field of work. According to the study, 81.6% of respondents agreed that traditional gender stereotypes were the major factor in sending female journalists into war reporting. According to the qualitative study, traditional gender roles and stereotypes, such as the assumption that women should stay home and care for children in wartime and be considered weak, and as agent of only peace are still a factor, which creates a barrier for female journalist participation in war reporting, particularly front-line reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war. According to FGD2, socially constructed gender roles are factors that limit the participation of female journalists in work areas to the same extent as their male counterparts. The study's findings revealed that traditional gender stereotypes were the major factors that hindered the involvement of female journalists during the Northern Ethiopia war reporting.

The traditional perception is still a challenge in the world. Most feminist perspectives agree that gender matters in understanding conflict. The study by Faasse (2017) found that there are widespread beliefs about how gender relations and traits are amplified during times of war. Therefore, during a confrontation, men are typically perceived as the warriors and the perpetrators, whereas women are typically perceived as the passive victims (Moser & Clark, 2001; Diop, 2005). But in addition to the responsibilities that have already been mentioned, women also commonly play another part in armed conflict that is not given as much attention. However, it is crucial to understand that in a conflict situation, women are neither the only victims nor the only peacemakers. Traditional gender roles were the major factor that hindered women journalists' participation to war reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war in AMC.

To come up the solution, according to liberal feminist, rational mental development is the highest human ideal, and the organization should strive to ensure equal chances for all in pursuing this and related goals. The voice of women journalists should represented equally as men. Giving equal opportunity is the priority one to minimize gender-based discrimination in institution.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Major Findings

This study was conducted under the title “The involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war the case in Amhara Media Corporation”. As the topic indicates the purpose of the study is to examine female journalists’ participation in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war. In order to investigate, researcher’s used Feminist Media Discourses, Liberal theory and Critical Media Theory as theoretical frame work. The study used both quantitative and qualitative research methods were employed. In terms of drawing sample, probability and non-probability sampling was employed. Here one of the types of probability sampling known as simple random sampling and also non-probability sampling known as purposive sampling was applied. The data collected from questionnaire, in-depth interview and focus group discussion. Questionnaires was developed and distributed to both male and female journalists in AMC.

The data have been collected from 190 respondents for questionnaires and which has been discussed by descriptive analyses using stastical software (SPSS, version 26). In addition, reporter, editors, managing editor and media managers have also been interviewed and the data has been also analyzed in the aforementioned. And there were two homogenous group formed for the purpose of focus group discussion consisting of four members. Both in-depth interview and focus group discussions were guided by lists of questions or interview guides. Each interview lasted for 20 to 40 minutes and the focus group discussion took more than one hour. Amharic was served as a medium of conversation for both in-depth interview and focus group discussions. All the interview questions were relied on the research questions and remained tape recorded. Hence, the study in the analysis part has identified both quantitative and qualitative parts, the following findings with regard to the extent of involvement, role of female journalist in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war, perception of journalists towards female journalist involvement in war reporting, and factors that hinder female journalist involvement in war reporting in Amhara media Corporation are presented.

1. From 70 female journalists of the total sample respondents, 95.7% of majority female journalists weren’t involved at front war reporting. From the total respondents, only 4.3%

of female journalists had involved at the front war reporting. It indicated that only three female journalists had involved at the frontline during the Northern Ethiopia war reporting. Most of key informants agreed that there were only three female journalists involved in front war reporting during the Northern Ethiopia war in AMC. According to manager data revealed that from 124 total numbers of female journalists only three female journalists were involved at the front war reporting. Therefore, 2.4% of female journalists participated in total number in AMC. Front war reporting is mainly dominated by male journalists and the war information in front was thought from male journalists' perspectives.

2. In order to assess the role of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war, 75.3% of journalists agreed that the role of female journalists was played as agenda-setter and public forum facilitator in the studio to discuss with societies. Although their role was primarily limited to studio work, they were able to do the same work that the media used to do in war coverage. They did propaganda work that was previously performed and played by only men. Most of key informants also believed that although the role of female journalists was mainly limited in the studio to discuss with the societies and politicians, they had play much of assignment such as, reading war news in the studio, motivating and persuading communities to support the war, writing script about the war, and they making documentaries to show the awfulness of war were the major roles of female journalists during the Northern Ethiopia war coverage in the media.
3. From 190 total number of sample, 78.4% of respondents believed that only male journalists should participate in the front war reporting. There are lacks of perception towards the participation of female journalists in front war reporting. Majority of participants assumed that only male journalists should participate in the front war reporting because the physical strength of male journalists are better than female, however, according from the qualitative results female journalists should participate at the front war reporting as men. Considered only women as weak in wartime are negative and the result of low engagement in front war reporting.
4. With regard to the factors that hinder female journalists involvement in war reporting, 81.6% majority of participants agreed that traditional gender roles are the major factor that hindered the involvement of female journalists in front war reporting. From the

qualitative data, most of participants agreed that traditional gender roles were a major factor such as women should stay at home or care children in wartime and be considered as weak than male and recognizes women as agents of peace and strives for more gender equality in peacekeeping, peace-making, peace -building and post-conflict reconstruction rather talk about the war.

5.2. Conclusion

In the middle of the nineteenth century, women started covering hostilities, including the American Civil War and European revolutions. This increased again more recently, many news organizations send female journalists in war reporting. Nonetheless, war reporting is usually perceived as a man's realm. It remains a highly sexist domain. This study attempted to look at the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in Amhara Media Corporation. So, the researcher reached to the following conclusions for over all involvement of female journalists in war reporting.

The participation of female journalists is still affecting by traditional perception. According to feminist perspectives, women are mainly confined to a domestic role of bearing children as wives and being housekeepers and also women reporters continue to face traditional gender stereotypes by only recognized as the agent of peace talker; however, because of their ability to pass through military checkpoints and played as facilitator in wartime. Although women have dominated journalism classes, men have dominated the profession practice of journalism such as reporting from at the frontline. During the Northern Ethiopia war, journalists were involved to report about the war in different perspectives. Due to the involvement of female journalists in front reporting, only three female journalists were involved to report war at the front. According to the qualitative analysis, male journalists were involved at front-line war reporting. War reporting is mainly dominated by male journalists. Women take on specific duties based on their biology. Most of societies believe, men's contributions are seen as more valuable than those of women. The role of front-line war reporting is in perpetuating male dominance. The roles of female journalists were characterized by socio-cultural assumption. Although the experience of female journalists in war reporting is absent in front, as indicated in the analysis part, female

journalists work in the studio as agenda setter and public forum facilitator, script writer, even propagator previously performed and played by only men.

From the total role of journalists in war reporting field, the majority role of female journalists was in the studio. It indicated that their role was mainly limited in the studio. Male journalists were given priority in war coverage. The perception of respondents is less towards female journalist participation in war reporting. In the study areas the collected data showed that majority of respondents' believed that only male journalists should participate in front war reporting. However, according to focus group and in-depth interview data, female journalists should participate as male journalists. Unless female journalists can participate, it is difficult to ensure gender equality. It also open the door war reporting will dominated by only male and experience of female journalists will not recognized. The socio-cultural perception for women participation in war is not recognized in Ethiopia because Ethiopia is male centric culture. Therefore, female journalists face more negative perception based on gender role.

The data obtained from focus group discussion and in-depth interviews showed that all the participants agreed that the involvement of women journalists in reporting war news stories was low as the result of negative perceptions. Most of the informants expressed that traditional gender stereotypes hindered at the front war reporting. The societal perception towards women in war reporting generally doubted women's capacity and strength. Then they didn't allow female journalists to participate in war reporting. They rather prefer to assign men to war reporting stories regarding only physical capacity. Thus, this tells that the perception that the organization has to female journalists' capacity is wrong. So, media organizations should consider female journalists role in war coverage and should give equal opportunities for female journalists as well as male journalists are important parameters to initiate journalists and minimize gender role gap. Therefore, to cope up this gap look in to the feminist media discourse and liberal theory and practicing the principles should be mandatory.

Also, additional home responsibility or being mother is another factor, in spite of the fact that hindered the involvement of female journalists in front war reporting. Double responsibility is challenge for women journalists. According to the finding data, being mother is challenge for female journalists to participate in front war reporting. Besides, fear of sexual harassments in working war reporting was also the factors which have been identified in this research that

female journalists face. Therefore, from the data collected and analyzed, it is possible to conclude that there are only three female journalists could involve to war reporting at frontline since Nov, 2020-2022. Although only three female journalists involved at the front, war themselves creates an opportunities to women journalists that previously perform by only male journalists in the media. The factors that respondents informed are found to be greater rather open to give equal opportunities to play in war news coverage during the Northern Ethiopia war. Thus, female journalists had low involvement in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in AMC, but it doesn't mean that they had no role in war news coverage. In fact the involvement and the factors that hindered female journalists in war reporting may be different, but this study investigated the extents, roles and the factors in AMC.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the study's findings, the following recommendations are made:

1. The finding indicates that the number of female journalists participating in war news coverage in general and front-line war reporting in particular is limited and largely ignored. It is argued that lack of participation or not being given opportunities is a challenge that hinders the role of female journalists in war coverage. Therefore, the study recommends that media organizations give equal opportunities for women journalists to participate rather than assigning only male journalists without interests.
2. The research results reveal that the role of female journalists in war news coverage was often in the studio and assigned most of the time to soft news stories. The study suggested that media should assign female journalists to participate in hard news stories.
3. The study's findings show that most journalists have a negative perception towards female journalists' involvement in war news reporting. Therefore, the study recommended that journalists change the negative perception towards female journalist involvement in war reporting. Media should include the experience of female journalists in war reporting because war reporting isn't mainly dominated by male journalists and war information is not only reported from male journalists perspectives, so media should providing theoretical and practical training is important, it may be from gender professionals and researchers etc.

4. The research result reveals that traditional gender stereotypes or negative perceptions negatively affect the participation of women journalists. So it's suggested that the media could use the capacity of women rather than having judges depend on gender. Female journalists have skill and power; therefore, the media should properly use this performance in order to tackle socially constructed gender roles and should express the role of women and make visible.

5.4. Suggestions for Future Research

- Studying the involvement of female journalists in the Northern Ethiopia war coverage in either government or private media organizations is also another fertile area for future research to find out the extent of involvement during the Northern Ethiopia war reporting.
- Studying other role of female journalists during the Northern Ethiopia war reporting is importance such as, camerawomen
- There are a lot of factors that hinder the involvement of female journalists in war reporting. This is not an exhaustive study; therefore, future studies will include other factors such as lack of training, facilities...
- Studying phenomenological research is also an important research area to know the current lived experience of journalists and to show the overall possibilities and challenges of journalists in war news coverage.

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Appendix A

Bahir Dar University

Faculty of Humanities

Department of Journalism and Communication

Questionnaire to be filled out by research paper for completion of the second degree (MA)

Questionnaire for Amhara Media Corporation Journalists

Dear respondents:

This questionnaire aims to gather information for a second-degree research project titled "To examine the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war in Amhara Media Corporation".

The study was approved by the department of journalism and communication, faculty of humanities, Bahirdar University.

Therefore, I respectfully ask you to participate in the study to provide the necessary information. The information collected and used in this questionnaire will be kept strictly confidential, and you will be completely anonymized during the data processing.

Instruction

A. You are not expected to mention your names.

B. You are kindly requested to give genuine responses because the information you provide is only used for the research.

C. Please, make ‘✓’ tick“ whenever the questions provide you with alternatives.

Introduction

This questionnaire is divided into five. The first section is the general background of respondents. The second one deals with the extent of their involvement in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war. The third is the role of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war. The fourth is the perception of journalists towards the involvement of female journalists in war

reporting and the fifth one is the factors that hinder the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war.

I. Background information

(Please tick “√” one of your choices)

1. Sex: A. Female ☐ B. Male ☐

2. Age:

A. 20-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	B. 25 – 30	<input type="checkbox"/>
C.30-35	<input type="checkbox"/>	D.40 – 45	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Above 45	<input type="checkbox"/>		

3. Educational level:

A. Diploma	<input type="checkbox"/>	C. MA/MSc	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. BA/BSc	<input type="checkbox"/>		

4. Position:

A. Anchor	<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Reporter	<input type="checkbox"/>	E. Managing Editor	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Producer	<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Editor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Media manager	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Journalistic work experience:

A. 2- 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	B. 6 - 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. 11 - 15 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Above 15 years	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part II. The Extent of their Involvement in the Northern Ethiopia War Reporting

Please indicate the extent to which of the following involvement issues are implemented in the Northern Ethiopia war reporting. Please record your answer by ticking in the spaces provided, by the scale indicator (1=Never, 2=Sometimes, 3=Moderate, 4= frequently)

Note: Part two is filled out only by female journalists while others are filled out by both journalists

Questions	Responses			
Their involvement in war reporting	1	2	3	4
1. I involved at the front war reporting				
2. I participated in reading war news in the studio				
3. I reported directly going to the places where the war took place about the places that were destroyed due to the war				
4. I reported about the victim civilians and injured soldiers in the home or hospital				

Part III: Show the level of agreement with the following roles of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war. Give your responses by putting “√” mark under the number (scale) that best describes the agreement for each statement in the below table.

Note. 1. ‘Strongly disagree’, ‘2’ = ‘Dis agree’, ‘3’ = ‘Neutral’, ‘4’ = ‘Agree’, and ‘5’ = ‘Strongly agree’.

Roles of Female Journalists in Reporting the Northern Ethiopia War

Measurement	Responses				
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Female journalists were at the frontline of the war and served as eyes and ears to provide information to the society.					
2. Female journalists participated as agenda-setter to discuss with societies.					
3. Female journalists played the role of propagator and persuaders to struggle the war in their report					
4. Female journalists participated in making documentaries about the war					
5. Female journalists participated by write script directly or indirectly by condemning war					
6. Female journalists participated as platform leader in various community movements					

Part IV: Show the level of agreement with the following your perception towards female journalists' involvement in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war. Give yours response by putting ‘√’ mark under the number (scale) that best describes the agreement for each statements in the below table.

Note: 1. ‘Strongly disagree’, ‘2’ = ‘Dis agree’, ‘3’ = ‘Neutral’, ‘4’ = ‘Agree’, and ‘5’ = ‘Strongly agree’.

Perceptions of journalist towards the involvement of female journalist in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war

Questions	Responses				
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Do you believe that only male journalists should participate in front-line war news reporting rather than female journalists					
2. Do you believe that female journalists have journalistic skills to report war information					
3. Do you believe that female journalists have enough physical strength to report war news in front-line					
4. Do you believe that female journalists are better than male journalists at getting war information from different sources					
5. Do you believe that female journalists should not participate in the front war reporting or go to place where there is war					

Part VI: Show to what degree you agree with the following statements based on the factors that hinder the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war. Indicate your level of agreement by putting ‘√’ mark under the response number (scale) that best describes your view for each statement in the table below.

Note: ‘1’ = ‘Strongly disagree’, ‘2’ = ‘Disagree’, ‘3’ = ‘undecided/neutral’, ‘4’ = ‘Agree’, and ‘5’ = ‘Strongly agree’.

The factors that hinder the involvement of female journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war

Measurements	Responses				
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Female journalists have less interest to be involve in front war reporting					
2. Female journalists have less war reporting skills to be involve in front war reporting.					
3. The media organization not give chance female journalists to participate in front war reporting					
4. The additional domestic responsibilities prevent women journalists from participating in front-line war reporting					
5. Traditional gender stereotypes affect the participation of female journalists in front-line reporting (Women stay at home and take care of children during war, weak and as agent of peace-talker).					
6. Female journalists are prevented from participating in frontline reporting for fear of becoming victims of wartime violence					

ባህር ዳር ዩኒቨርሲቲ

ሂውማኒቲ ፋካልቲ

የጋዜጠኝነትና ስነ ተግባራት ትምህርት ክፍል

ለሁለተኛ ድግሪ (MA) ማሟያነት በሚካሄዱ ጥናታዊ ጽሁፍ የሚሞላ መጠይቅ

የፅሁፍ ጥያቄዎች ለአማራ ሚዲያ ኮርፖሬሽን ጋዜጠኞች

የተከበራችሁ መላሾች

ይህ መጠይቅ “በአማራ ሚዲያ ኮርፖሬሽን የሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነትን በመዘገብ የሴት ጋዜጠኞችን ተሳትፎ ለመመርመር” በሚል ርዕስ ለሁለተኛ ድግሪ ጥናትና ምርምር ሥራን ለመስራት የሚያስችል መረጃ ለመሰብሰብ ያለመ ነው። ጥናቱ በባህርዳር ዩኒቨርሲቲ በሂውማኒቲ ፋካልቲ የጋዜጠኝነትና ስነ - ተግባራት ትምህርት ክፍል ፍቃድ የተሰጠው ነው። ስለሆነም አስፈላጊውን መረጃ ለመስጠት በተዘጋጀው ጥናት ላይ እንድትሳተፉ በአክብሮት እጠይቃለሁ። በዚህ መጠይቅ ውስጥ የተሰበሰበው እና ጥቅም ላይ የሚውለው መረጃ በጥብቅ በሚስጥር ይጠበቃል፤ እና በመረጃ ሂደት ውስጥ ሙሉ በሙሉ ማንነትዎ የማይታወቅ ይሆናል።

መመሪያዎች:

ሀ. በዚህ መጠይቅ ላይ ስምዎትን ማስፈር አይጠበቅብዎትም።

ለ. የምታቀርቡት መረጃ ለምርምር ዓላማ ብቻ ስለሚውል እውነተኛ ምላሾችን እንድትሰጡ በአክብሮት እንጠይቃለን።

ሐ. እባክዎን ለጥያቄዎቹ አማራጮችን በሚሰጡዎት ጊዜ ሁሉ “✓” ምልክት ያድርጉ።

መግቢያ

ይህ መጠይቅ በአምስት ክፍሎች የተከፈለ ነው። የመጀመሪያው ክፍል የመላሾች አጠቃላይ ዳራ ነው። ሁለተኛው የሴቶች ጋዜጠኞች የሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነትን በመዘገብ ረገድ ያላቸውን የተሳትፎ መጠን የሚመለከት ነው። ሦስተኛው ክፍል ሴቶች ጋዜጠኞች የሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነትን በመዘገብ ረገድ የነበራቸውን ሚና ይመለከታል። አራተኛው ክፍል ጋዜጠኞች በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ዘገባ ላይ የሴቶች ጋዜጠኞችን ተሳትፎ በተመለከተ ያላቸውን ግንዛቤ ይመለከታል። አምስተኛው ሴቶች ጋዜጠኞች በጦርነቱ ወቅት በዘገባ ላይ ለመሳተፍ ሊያጋጥሟቸው የሚችሉ ችግሮችን ይመለከታል።

ክፍል አንድ፡ የመላሾች አጠቃላይ ዳራ

1. የታ

ሀ. ወንድ ☐

ለ. ሴት ☐

2. ዕድሜ

ሀ. 20- 25 ☐

ለ. 26 — 30 ☐

ሐ. 31-35 ☐

መ. 36 — 40 ☐

ሰ. 40- 45 በላይ ☐

ፈ. 45 በላይ ☐

5. የስራ ክፍል

ሀ. ዜና አንባቢ ☐

ሐ. አርታኪ ☐

ሰ. ሚዲያ ሃላፊ ☐

ለ. ሪፖርተር ☐

መ. ፕሮዲውሰር ☐

6. የስራ ልምድ

ሀ. 2- 5 ዓመት ☐

ሐ. 11-15 ዓመት ☐

ለ. 6- 10 ዓመት ☐

መ. 15 ዓመት በላይ ☐

ክፍል ሁለት. በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ዘገባ ላይ የሴት ጋዜጠኞች የተሳተፈ መጠን

በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ዘገባ ላይ የነበራችሁን የተሳተፈ መጠን ምን ያህል እንደሆነ እባክትን ይግለጹ። መልሳችሁን በተሰጡት ክፍት ቦታዎች ላይ “√” ምልክት በማድረግ፣ በሚዛን አመልካች አስመዝግቡ።

(1=በፍፁም፣ 2=ትንሽ፣ 3=መካከለኛ፣ 4=በተደጋጋሚ

ማሳሰቢያ፡ ክፍል ሁለት የሚሞላው በሴት ጋዜጠኞች ብቻ ሲሆን ሌሎች ክፍሎች ግን በሁለቱም ጾታዎች የሚሞላ ይሆናሉ።

ጥያቄዎች	ምላሾች				
በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ዘገባ የነበራችሁ የተሳተፈ መጠን	1	2	3	4	5
1. በግንባር ጦርነት ዘገባ ላይ ተሳትፎያለሁ					
2. በሥራዎ ውስጥ የጦርነት ዜና ለማንበብ ተሳትፎያለሁ።					

3. ጦርነቱ ወደተካሄደባቸው ቦታዎች በቀጥታ ሄጄ በጦርነቱ ምክንያት ስለወደሙ ቦታዎች ዘግቤያለሁ።					
4. ስለተጎዷው ሲቪሎች እና በቤት ውስጥ ወይም በሆስፒታል ውስጥ በመሃድ ስለተጎዱ ወታደሮች ሪፖርት አድርጌያለሁ					

ክፍል ሶስት፡ በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ዘገባ ወቅት ሴት ጋዜጠኞች ከፈጸሙት ሚናዎች መካከል የእናንተን የስምምነት ደረጃዎችን ያሳዩ።

ከታች ባለው ሠንጠረዥ ውስጥ ለእያንዳንዱ መግለጫ ስምምነቱን በተሻለ ሁኔታ የሚገልጸውን ቁጥር(ሚዛን) ስር “√” ምልክት በማድረግ ምላሽ ይስጡ።

1. ‘በጣም አልስማማም’፣ ‘2’ = ‘አልስማማም’፣ ‘3’ = ‘ገለልተኛ’፣ ‘4’ = ‘እስማማለሁ’ እና ‘5’ = ‘በጣም እስማማለሁ’

ሴት ጋዜጠኞች በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ዘገባ ላይ የነበራቸው ሚና

ጥያቄዎች ምላሾች					
	1	2	3	4	5
1. ሴት ጋዜጠኞች በጦርነቱ ግንባር በመገኘት ለህብረተሰቡ መረጃ በማቅረብ አይን እና ጆሮ ሆነው አገልግለዋል።					
2. ሴት ጋዜጠኞች ከማህበረሰቡ ጋር ለመወያየት አጀንዳ አዘጋጅ ሆነው ተሳትፈዋል					
3. ሴት ጋዜጠኞች ማህበረሰቡ ጦርነቱን እንዲታገል የማሳመን እና የፕሮፓጋንዳ ሚና ተጫውተዋል።					
4. ሴት ጋዜጠኞች ስለጦርነቱ ዘጋቢ ፊልሞችን በመስራት ተሳትፈዋል					
5. ሴት ጋዜጠኞች ጦርነትን በማውገዝ በቀጥታም ሆነ በተዘዋዋሪ ስክሪፕት በመጻፍ ተሳትፈዋል።					
6. ሴት ጋዜጠኞች በተለያዩ የማህበረሰብ እንቅስቃሴዎች መድረክ መሪ ሆነው ተሳትፈዋል					

ክፍል አራት፡ በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ወቅት ስለ ሴት ጋዜጠኞች ተሳትፎ ያለዎትን ግንዛቤ በተመለከተ የስምምነት ደረጃዎችን ያሳዩ። ከታች ባለው ሠንጠረዥ ውስጥ ለእያንዳንዱ መግለጫ በተሻለ ሁኔታ የሚገልጸውን ቁጥር (ሚዛን) ስር “√” ምልክት በማድረግ ምላሽ ይስጡ።

1. ‘በጣም አልስማማም’፣ ‘2’ = ‘አልስማማም’፣ ‘3’ = ‘ገለልተኛ’፣ ‘4’ = ‘እስማማለሁ’ እና ‘5’ = ‘በጣም እስማማለሁ’።

በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ዘገባ ላይ ስለ ሴት ጋዜጠኞች ተሳትፎ ያለዎት ግንዛቤ

ጥያቄዎች	ምላሾች				
	1	2	3	4	5
1. ከሴት ጋዜጠኞች ይልቅ በግንባር ቀደም የጦርነት ዜና ዘገባ ላይ መሳተፍ ያለባቸው ወንድ ጋዜጠኞች ብቻ ናቸው ብለው ያምናሉ					
2. ሴት ጋዜጠኞች የጦርነት መረጃን ለመዘገብ በቂ የጋዜጠኝነት ችሎታ አላቸው ብለው ያምናሉ					
3. ከተለያዩ ምንጮች የጦርነት መረጃዎችን በማግኘት ሴት ጋዜጠኞች ከወንድ ጋዜጠኞች የተሻሉ ናቸው ብለው ያምናሉ					
4. ሴት ጋዜጠኞች የጦርነት ዜናን በግንባር ቀደምነት ለመዘገብ በቂ የሰውነት ጥንካሬ አላቸው ብለው ያምናሉ					
5. ሴት ጋዜጠኞች በግንባር ጦርነት ዘገባ ላይ መሳተፍ ወይም ጦርነት ወዳለበት ቦታ መሄድ የለባቸውም ብለው ያምናሉ					

ክፍል አምስት: ሴት ጋዜጠኞች በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ዘገባ ለመሳተፍ ከማያስቹሏቸው ምክንያቶች ላይ በመመስረት ከሚከተሉት መግለጫዎች ጋር ያለውን የስምምነት ደረጃ ያሳይ። ከዚህ በታች ባለው ሠንጠረዥ ውስጥ ለእያንዳንዱ መግለጫ የእርስዎን እይታ በተሻለ ሁኔታ የሚገልፀውን በምላሽ ቁጥር (ሚዛን) ስር '✓' ምልክት በማድረግ የስምምነት ደረጃዎን ያመልክቱ።

‘1’ = ‘በጣም አልስማማም’፤ ‘2’ = ‘አልስማማም’፤ ‘3’ = ‘ያልተወሰነ/ገለልተኛ’፤ ‘4’ = ‘እስማማለሁ’፤ እና ‘5’ = ‘በጣም እስማማለሁ’።

በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ወቅት ሴት ጋዜጠኞች በዘገባ ለመሳተፍ ሊያጋጥሙዎቸው የሚችሉት ችግሮች

ጥያቄዎች	ምላሾች				
	1	2	3	4	5
1. ሴት ጋዜጠኞች በግንባር ቀደምት ጦርነት ዘገባዎች ውስጥ የመሳተፍ ፍላጎታቸው አነስተኛ ነው።					
2. ሴት ጋዜጠኞች በጦርነት ግንባር ዘገባዎች ላይ ለመሳተፍ አነስተኛ የሆነ የጦርነት ዘገባ ችሎታ አላቸው።					

3. የሚዲያ ድርጅቱ ሴት ጋዜጠኞች በጦርነት ግንባር ዘገባ ላይ እንዲሳተፉ እድል አይሰጥም					
4. ተጨማሪው የቤት ውስጥ ኃላፊዎች ሴት ጋዜጠኞች በጦርነት ግንባር ዘገባ ላይ እንዳይሳተፉ ያግዳቸዋል።					
5. ባህላዊ የሥርዓተ-ዖታ አመለካከቶች ሴት ጋዜጠኞችን በግንባር ጦርነት ዘገባዎች ተሳትፎ ላይ ተጽእኖ ያሳድራሉ (ሴቶች በቤት ውስጥ መቆየት እና በጦርነት ጊዜ ልጆችን መንከባከብ እንዲሁም እንደ ደካማ ተደርገው መቆጠር የሰላም ተወካይ ብቻ ተደርገው መቆጠር)።					
6. ሴት ጋዜጠኞች በጦርነት ጊዜ የጥቃት ሰለባ እንዳይሆኑ በመፍራት በጦር ግንባር ሪፖርት ላይ እንዳይሳተፉ ይደረጋል					

Appendix B

Bahir Dar University

Faculty of Humanities

Department of Journalism and Communications

Questions of In-Depth Interviews for a Male and Female Reporter

Thank you very much for your commitment and respect for the appointment. The objective of this interview is all about academic research for the purpose of fulfilling the MA entitled “The involvement of female journalists reporting the Northern Ethiopia war: The Case on Amhara Media Corporation.

It has no administrative values or will not use for decisions that might affect your personal life. Thus, be free and open for your responses to answer the following questions

Part 1: In-depth Interview questions on the involvement of female journalists in Tigray war reporting

Interview Guideline for Female and Male Reporters

1. What was the participation of female journalists during the Northern Ethiopia war reporting?
2. Who often reports the Northern Ethiopia war? Why?
3. How genders make a difference in Northern Ethiopia war reporting?
4. What was the participation of women journalists in the frontline reporting of the war in northern Ethiopia? Answer: If you did not participate, why?
5. What was the role of female journalists in war news production?
7. What was the attitude of the media institution to assign women journalists during the reporting of the war in northern Ethiopia? How is?

8. What kind of institutional challenges do you think female journalists faced during the Northern Ethiopia war reporting?

9. What additional factors do you think female journalists face to participate in front war reporting?

Thank you for your response and cooperation!!

Interview guide line for managing editor and media managers

1. How do you describe the practitioners and number of female and male journalists in your media organization?

2. How do you see the participation of female journalists in news reporting?

3. How are female journalists assigned to hard news reports?

4. How were journalists assigned to cover the war during the Northern Ethiopia War?

5. Is there a requirement to assign journalists for crisis/war reporting?

6. Were there female journalists reporting in the war front? If No, Why?

7. What kind of participation did women journalists have in war news coverage?

8. Do you think there were challenges that prevented women journalists from covering the war in Northern Ethiopia? What were the main challenges, if any?

9. What are the major challenges that hinder female journalists' involvement to report the Tigray war?

Thank you very much for your cooperation!!!

Focus Group Discussion

1. What are the practices of Amhara Media Corporation in promoting female journalists and assigning them to specific report assignments?

2. What kind of assignments female journalists are predominately participating in?

3. How do you perceive war reporting?
4. How do you see the participation of women journalists in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war?
5. What was the participation of women journalists in frontline reports of the North Ethiopian war?
6. Do you think that women journalists should participate in front-line reporting? If your response is they don't have to participate, why?
7. Do you think women journalists had a role in reporting the Northern Ethiopia war? If so, what roles did they play?
8. Do you think there were any challenges faced by female journalists to go to the frontline reporting and participate in general? If so, what did they have?

Thank you very much for coming

ሂውማኒቲ ፋካልቲ

የጋዜጠኝነትና ስነ- ተግባራት ትምህርት ክፍል

ለሁለተኛ ድግሪ (MA) ማሟያነት የሚካሄድ ጥናታዊ ጽሁፍ ለሚዲያ ሃላፊዎች የተዘጋጀ ቃለ መጠይቅ መግቢያ

በመጀመሪያ ቀጠሮየን አክብረው ስለተገኙልኝ በጣም አመሰግናለሁ። የዚህ ቃለ መጠይቅ ዋና ዓላማ ለሁለተኛ ድግሪ ማሟያነት የሚውል ትምህርታዊ ጥናት ለማካሄድ ነው። ከዚህ ውጭ ለአስተዳደራዊ ጉዳዮችም ሆነ ለሌላ ውሳኔ በመዋል በእርስዎ ግላዊ ሁኔታ ላይ የሚያሳድረው ምንም አይነት ተጽእኖ የለም። በመሆኑም ለሚጠየቁት ጥያቄ ነፃና ግልፅ በመሆን ትክክለኛ መልስ እንዲሰጡኝ በአክብሮት እጠይቃለሁ። በጥያቄዎቹ ላይ ግልፅ ካልሆኑ አቋርጠው ማብራሪያ መጠየቅ ይችላሉ። የቃል መጠየቅ ተሳትፎዎት በእርስዎ ፍቃደኝነት ላይ የተመሰረተ በመሆኑ በማንኛውም ሰዓት ፍላጎት ከሌለዎት ቃለመጠይቁን የማቋረጥ መብትዎ የተጠበቀ ነው።

እባክዎን እራስዎትን ያስተዋወቁልኝ። ስም ----- የታ -----
የት/ት ደረጃ ----- የስራ ልምድ -----

ክፍል አንድ

1. በእርስዎ የሚዲያ ተቋም ውስጥ አጠቃላይ ስንት ጋዜጠኞች አሉ? ስንት የወንድ እና ስንት የሴት ጋዜጠኞች ይገኛሉ?
2. በእርስዎ የሚዲያ ተቋም ውስጥ የሴት ጋዜጠኞች በዜና እንዲሁም በዋናነት በጦርነት ዘገባዎች ላይ ተሳትፏቸውን እንዴት ያዩታል?
3. በእናንተ የሚዲያ ተቋም ውስጥ የሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነትን እንዲዘግቡ ጋዜጠኞች እንዴት ነበር የተመደቡት?
4. በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ዘገባ ጋዜጠኞችን ለመመደብ መስፈርቶች ነበሯቸው? ካሏቸው ምን ምን ናቸው? ምንስ መስፈርት ተጠቅማችኋል?
5. በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ወቅት በጦርነቱ ግንባር ሲዘግቡ የነበሩት ወንድ ወይስ ሴት ጋዜጠኞች ነበሩ? ለምን?

6. በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ወቅት ሴቶች ጋዜጠኞች በግንባር ዘገባ ላይ ምን አይነት ተሳትፎ ነበራቸው?
7. በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ዘገባ ወቅት ሴቶች ጋዜጠኞች ምን አይነት ዘገባዎችን እንዲዘግቡ ታደርጉ ነበር?
8. በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ዘገባ ወቅት የሴቶች ጋዜጠኞች ሚና ምን ነበር?
9. ሴቶች ጋዜጠኞች የሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነትን እንዳይዘግቡ የሚያደርጉ ተግዳሮቶች ነበረባቸው ብለው ያስባሉ? ካሉ ዋና ዋና ተግዳሮቶች ምን ምን ነበሩ?

ስላደረጉልኝ ትብብር ከልብ አመሰግናለሁ !!!

የ ቡድን ውይይት ቃለመጠይቆች

1. የአማራ ሚዲያ ኮርፖሬሽን ድርጅት ሴቶች ጋዜጠኞችን በማበረታታት እና በተለዩ የሪፖርት ስራዎች ላይ በመመደብ ረገድ ያለው አሰራር ምን ይመስላል?
2. ሴቶች ጋዜጠኞች በብዛት የሚዘግቡት ምን አይነት የዘገባ ስራዎችን ነው?
3. በእናንተ እይታ የጦርነት ዘገባን እንዴት ተረዱታላችሁ?
4. ሴቶች ጋዜጠኞች የሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነትን ለመዘገብ የነበራቸውን ተሳትፎ እንዴት አያችሁት?
5. ሴቶች ጋዜጠኞች የሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነትን በግንባር ዘገባዎች ላይ የነበራቸው ተሳትፎ ምን ይመስል ነበር?
6. ሴቶች ጋዜጠኞች በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት በግንባር ዘገባዎች ላይ መሳተፍ አለባቸው ብላችሁ ታስባላችሁ? መልሳችሁ መሳተፍ የለባቸውም ከሆነ ለምን?
7. በሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነት ዘገባ ላይ ሴቶች ጋዜጠኞች ሚና ነበራቸው ብላችሁ ታስባላችሁ? ካላቸው ምን ምን ሚናዎች ነበራቸው?
8. ሴቶች ጋዜጠኞች የሰሜን ኢትዮጵያ ጦርነትን በግንባር ሄደው ለመዘገብ ሆነ አጠቃላይ ተሳትፎ ለማድረግ ያጋጠሟቸው ተግዳሮቶች ነበር ብላችሁ ታስባላችሁ? ካሉ ምን ምን ነበረባቸው?

ስለመጣችሁ በጣም አመሰግናለሁ