**M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, DECEMBER – 2019**

**First Year JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION**

**Reporting and Editing**

**ASSIGNMENT-1**

**Question 4**

Write the use of Photographs in News Writing

**Write the Use of Photographs in News Writing**

**Introduction**

Use of photographs in newsreporting is generally known as Photojournalism. It can be defined as an arm of journalism that uses images to tell stories and report events. Photojournalism plays a prominent role in disseminating both information and misinformation nowadays. Photographs can also arouse emotion much more quickly than the written word.

**History and Development of Photo Journalism**

In order to see the true importance of photojournalism today, it is necessary to have a small amount of knowledge about the history of the profession. The act of photography can be traced back to French inventor, Joseph Nicephore Nicepee, who was the first photographer to successfully make permanent images in 1826. Thirteen years later, another Frenchman, Louis Jacques Daguerre made photography more practical by fixing light images on silver-coated copper plates. Photography was used to capture news worthy images soon after in the 1830s. English photographer, Roger Fenton, documented British troops during the Crimean War (1853-1856) in Europe, another Photographer, Mathew Brady Photographed battle scenes during the American Civil War (1861-1865).

Today it is difficult to find a story in the media that is not directly associated with at least one image. This is simply how news is presented in modern media. It is necessary, however, to examine these images critically. Technology has progressed to the point that it has become easy to alter an image to fit the [agenda](http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-hillary-clinton-cut-from-jewish-newspaper,0,1357193.story) of the media outlet which produces it. The advent of photographs mechanically printed into newspapers opened up market for press photography.

**Use of Photgraphy in Journalism**

Today, photographs are used in the newspapers for different reasons.

* Photographs in Journalism inform, educate and enlighten readers about current issues and also reflect on the past as well.
* Photographs in Newspaper enhance the credibility of the stories.
* As they depict reality, they also furnish evidence to show the authenticity of a news story or give proof of an event that occurred.
* Its aesthetic values enable a photograph to serve as a tool to attract reader’s attention and break the monotony of news content. Thus, photographs enhance and beautify the pages of a newspaper.
* A photograph in Newspaper speaks more than a thousand words. No formal education is required to understand a picture. Photographs are therefore able to break through literacy barrier to effectively communicate a message. It is a universal language.

**Conclusion**

Photojournalism is an arm of journalism that uses images to tell stories and report events. It is different from other forms of photography such as commercial, Architecture and industrial photography. This could be seen in its adherence to certain journalism norms like News, Timeliness Objectivity, fairness and accurate representation of the events.

**References**

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