UNIT - 7 : TYPES OF REPORTING

UNIT STRUCTURE

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7.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit you will be able to:

- Explain the different types of reporting.
- Define Beat reporting
- Name the important beats

7.2 INTRODUCTION

In the previous unit, you have been introduced to the concept of reporting and the qualities, duties and responsibilities of a reporter. In this unit we shall go a little deeper into another dimension of reporting, i.e., its types.

Whether it is a newspaper or news agency, no media house can do away with reporters. And it is one activity where, even in this highly mechanized age of news production, human beings cannot be replaced by machines. Therefore, it is very important for aspiring journalists like you to understand

this field very well. Reporting is basically of three types – **objective, interpretative and investigative**. Apart from that there is another concept called **beat reporting**. You will be familiarized with all of these concepts in this unit.

This unit will be your first step towards practical journalism and will help you understand the reporting field in detail. So, let us first start with the different types of reporting.

7.3 TYPES OF REPORTING

7.3.1 Objective Reporting

Objective reporting refers to the plain presentation of facts as they have happened. Objective reporting does not involve contextualizing, backgrounding, analyzing or providing opinions. Here the reporter only reports what he has seen or observed without any kind of subjective inputs.

The following points can well summarize the concept of objective reporting:

- Balance and even handedness in presenting different sides of an issue
- Accuracy and realism in reporting
- Presenting all main and relevant points
- Separating facts from opinions, but treating opinion as more relevant
- Minimizing the influence of the writer's own opinions, attitudes or involvement.
- Avoiding slant, malicious or devious language.

Here is an example of a typical objective report: This report was published in *The Assam Tribune*, April 8, 2008.

AAU scientists probing mushroom deaths

By a City Reporter

GUWAHATI, April 7 : The team of scientists from the Assam Agricultural University probing into the poisonous mushroom case in Golaghat and other districts found that the mushroom consumed by the affected people was of a very poisonous variety named Amanita Phalloides Vaill.

The State Minister for Agriculture, Pramila Rani Brahma instructed the Vice Chancellor of the Assam Agriculture University SS Baghel a few days back to conduct an enquiry into the Golaghat incident, where seven people died eating poisonous mushroom obtained from the Jungles of Bahupathar.

While questioning the people of the village and examining the quality of mushroom consumed by them, the team of experts comprising scientists and officials of the State Agriculture Department and the Health Department found that this poisonous variety, flourished after the season's first showers, was the cause of the deaths.

7.3.2 Interpretative Reporting

Interpretative reporting combines facts with interpretation. Many a time the reporter has to interpret certain events for better understanding of the readers. It means providing background information relating to a particular incident or happening. Apart from the facts gathered from the field, the reporter, sometimes, needs to make the news more illuminating by providing background information so that the readers can perceive it better and understand the meaning of it. As such, the reporter delves into reasons and meanings of a certain development and gives information along with an interpretation of its significance.

The entire event may not unfold in a day. It is a continuous process and often one event leads to another. In order to understand the occurrence of an event we need to understand the previous, or the course of events that led to the latest one. And it is the reporter, who interprets the event by telling the readers about the past history or the course of action that led to the happening of the event. This adds

more insights into events and the reporter has to keep a track of all the events of the past, present and also at times should be able to forecast the future. Thus, interpretative reporting brings out the hidden significance of an event and separates truth from falsehood.

Let us go through an example to clarify this point. This report was published in the news portal ibnlive.com on June 27, 2008.

Cong-SP look for mutual benefits, set for alliance
Sumit Pande/ CNN-IBN

New Delhi: In what is rapidly developing as one of the biggest political crisis for the Congress-led UPA Government, there has been no breakthrough in the negotiations over the Indo-US Nuclear deal.

The Left parties have rejected last ditch attempts by the UPA to allow the deal to go through and a break up seems inevitable.

Preparing for it's separation plan with the Left, the Congress-led UPA Government is now on the lookout for new allies. And there are enough indications that the Congress' former adversary, Mulayam Singh Yadav is slowly drifting towards the UPA.

He is a product of the famous JP Movement against the imposition of Emergency. Thirty years after the Emergency, Samajwadi Party President Mulayam Singh Yadav was seen sharing a platform with others who had struggled against Emergency. He shared his experiences with the crowd, but conspicuously missing in his speech were the names of then prime minister, Indira Gandhi and the Congress party.

Unlike the other United National Progressive Alliance (UNPA) partners - like the Telegu Desam Party and the Asom Gana Parishad - the Samajwadi Party has not committed itself to the nuclear deal. Mulayam Singh is keeping his cards close to his chest and thereby keeping the Government on tenterhooks.

"The final draft is not yet ready. Let the Congress complete the draft. The UNPA will meet on July 3 to take a final decision on whether the we will be supporting the nuclear deal or not. Whatever decision will be taken, it will be taken keeping UNPA in mind not just Samajwadi Party," Mulayam Singh said.

Cornered by Mayawati in Uttar Pradesh, Mulayam Singh needs allies to take on the BSP in UP in the next general elections and for him, Congress, with Ajit Singh's RLD, could form a formidable combination againt Mayawati.

In return, the Congress could get support from the 39 SP Lok Sabha MPs to save the Government and the nuclear deal. The Samajwadi Party's 39 MPs could bail the Government out in Parliament in case the Left withdraws support.

UPA leader, Ram Vilas Paswan says that they would like to keep the Samajwadi as an option because in his words: "We don't want to lose wickets, but at the same time we want to score runs."

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party General Secretary, Amar Singh, is returning from his trip to the US on Sunday. Next week, after the UNPA meet, Mulayam Singh is likely to announce his decision on the issue, perhaps, just before the Prime Minister's departure for the proposed G8 summit.

7.3.3 Investigative Reporting

When a news reporter has to dig deeply beyond what is stated in the hard news in order to find out the exact facts of an event, or, in short, investigates beyond what meets the naked eye, then it is called investigative reporting. Investigative reporting means investigating on any happening. Investigative journalism is in-depth and involves long-term research and reporting. It reveals information not known to the public and which others want to keep secret. Mostly investigation is done in case of major happening or when larger public concern is

involved or in matters that involve public figures or celebrities. In any kind of reporting, the reporter does some sort of investigation to dig out information which otherwise is not available. Without preliminary investigation the reporter cannot make a sound copy or report. However, in case of some stories, especially relating to certain scams or misappropriation of public money, the reporter has to investigate properly to get the relevant information in order to come out with a good copy. Also, in such cases, information is difficult to come by and the reporter has to invest both time and energy to dig out facts.

Renowned American journalist Robert Parry says, "Investigative reporting is to journalism what theoretical research is to science, having the potential to present new realities and shatter old paradigms – how people see and understand the world around them – which, in turn, can transform politics."

True enough, the significance of investigative journalism in today's world is great. The unearthing of a dramatic set of new facts can overcome long-maintained lies, can expose deceptive leaders and shake a corrupt government to its foundation. Done right, investigative journalism is a huge threat to powerful elites trying to manipulate a population. Modern journalism, despite its many anomalies, is considered the most effective monitor and upholder of democratic values. And investigative reporting is certainly the most powerful instrument to fulfill this obligation. Investigative reporting believes in the watchdog role of the media and focuses on the accountability of institutions and individuals wielding power.

The seeds of investigative journalism in India were sown by Arun Shourie, after he was appointed as the executive editor of *The Indian Express* in 1979. He was well known to have introduced a new style of aggressive, independent investigative journalism in our country. In a series of remarkable exposes, Shourie and the Indian Express uncovered corruption in the highest echelons of the government and exposed several major scandals.

This kind of reporting is now-a-days seen more frequently in the audio-

visual medium than in the print medium, particularly in the form of **sting operations** carried out by under cover reporters.



Sting Operation: Originally a legal term meaning a deceptive operation designed to catch a person committing a crime. A typical sting will have a law-enforcement officer or cooperative member of the public to play a role as criminal partner or potential victim and go along with a suspect's actions to gather evidence of the suspect's wrongdoing. Now a days it is a device commonly used by journalists to gather evidence to support investigative stories.

One, however, has to exercise great caution while engaging in investigative journalism. One of the most important requirements of this type of journalism is that the effort has to be determined, patient, careful and fair. It is also important for investigative reporters to maintain a high level of ethical conduct. Or else investigative journalism can do more harm than good. They should seek the truth and report it as fully as possible. Investigation should be done with the intent to catalyse reforms and never with malicious intent. If it is done only to create sensation or get hold of a scoop or simply to defame anyone, then it can greatly endanger journalistic credibility.

As well-known free lance journalist and media educationist Arun Sadhu puts it, "For investigative reporting to flourish, what is required is: an independent and pluralistic media which is fearless, committed to democracy, universal human values; journalists with commitment who can identify problems and have the grit, perseverance, patience and skills to do research, and owners and editors professionally non-partisan and without vested interests."

It also involves a great deal of risk as one may have to face dangerous situations, and go to dangerous places in order to get to the heart of the story – terrorist camps, brothels, war scenes, jungles and at times even engage in illegal activities and suffer the consequences.



Richard Reid: Al-Qaeda member convicted on charges of terrorism and currently serving a life sentence in the United States for attempting to destroy a commercial aircraft in-flight by detonating plastic explosives contained in his shoes.

All of you must be aware about American journalist Daniel Pearl who was kidnapped and later murderer by terrorists when he was in Pakistan investigating the case of **Richard Reid**, the shoe bomber, and alleged links between Al Qaeda and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in January 2002. He was on his way to interview a radical Islamic leader Mubarak Ali Shah Gilani when he was kidnapped.

The reporter may have to take recourse to deception, hidden camera and **entrapment** also to uncover facts. Here, mention may be made

of the portal tehelka dot com which ushered in a new era of investigative journalism in India by the use of sting operations for the first time in 2000. It broke new grounds when by meticulous probing, the portal uncovered the corruption in cricket and India's defence establishment. The use of secret cameras to record illegal deals and the exposure brought down the reputation of even those who played as captain for the country. Though it brought down the celebrities from their pedestals and, in the process, dismayed millions of cricket lovers, it showed the extent of rot in the sport.



Entrapment: the illegal act of tricking someone into committing a crime so that they can be arrested for it

When Tehelka exposed the level of corruption in the defence establishment, talking to politicians, army officers and some fixers of arms deals, it shocked the public. The visuals of party leaders, and senior army officers eager to take bribes from a fictitious company, whose antecedents were not even verified created a storm in Parliament. An inquiry commission was set up to probe the charges levelled by the portal, which was asked to submit all the evidence it had to the retired judge heading the commission.

Another such instance is the 'Operation Duryodhan', a sting operation lasting nine months carried out by the news channel AAJ-TAK and investigative portal Cobrapost in 2005. It captured on camera eleven members of Parliament of India accepting money to table questions on the floor of the Parliament. This was the first such sting operation in the history of Republic of India, and all the members were expelled from the parliament. Ten of them belonged to 14th Lok Sabha while one was from Rajya Sabha.

Another important sting operation which deserves mention is Aaj Tak's expose of bribe-taking by several personnel of Tihar Jail in 2005. The Aaj Tak expose revealed how in violation of the Jail Manual, unauthorised persons could easily gain admission into the high-security prison; information could be obtained about the inmates and money and other goods could be passed on to them. It just showed "how easy it was for inmates to obtain various favours and what makes the

stay in Tihar Jail one of the most comfortable prison experiences anywhere in the world".

Consequent to the expose, two Deputy Superintendents, four Assistant Superintendents, three Head Warders and four Warders of Tihar Jail were suspended and the entire jail went through a massive security overhaul.



CHECK YOUR PRGRESS – A

1. What are the three different types of reporting?

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2. Define the following:
   a. Objective Reporting
   b. Interpretative Reporting
   c. Investigative Reporting

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ACTIVITY – A

1. Read today's newspaper and identify the objective reports on the front page. Note down the topic of each of them.
2. Similarly identify all the interpretative reports published in the newspaper and note down the topics. Now try to rewrite each of them as objective news reports stating only bare facts.
3. Go over the newspaper for an entire week and find out the investigative reports. How many did you find?

7.4 BEAT REPORTING

One very common word you might hear in the news room is 'beat'. As a reporter many people will ask you which 'beat' you cover. Reporters always have to work in beats. Beats are the specialized areas of operation for the reporters assigned by the organization in which the reporter works. Since it is not humanly and physically possible for a single reporter to cover multiple areas, each reporter may be assigned a single or couple of beats. And the reporter is expected to cover all the developments or happenings taking place under the jurisdiction of his beat. The reporter can not afford to miss any significant or insignificant event falling under his assigned beat/beats. If the reporter working in a particular organization by chance fails to spot a significant event falling under his/her purview, which the other reporters working for other news organizations have managed to cover, it amounts to the loss of credibility, not only for the reporter, but also for the newspaper or news channel as a whole.

The classification into beats is compulsory for every news organization. In every newspaper there is a variety of news items that are published in a day. One may find news related to economics, health and hygiene, education, environment, art-culture-literature, trade and commerce, women and child, sports, science and technology, crime, social issues etc.

Moreover, newspapers also have specialized columns and supplements on special issues and subjects. For all these the services of the reporters are essential to fill up both the regular and special columns. Reporters are placed at the city or place from where the publication is carried out or correspondents are located at various places in order to report events taking place at centers other than the one where the newspaper is published.
Moreover, in many other large organizations further classifications are made, depending upon the requirements like local, regional, national and international news. The reporters are supposed to operate in selected areas assigned by the senior person, usually by the chief of bureau or any senior person like the editor or news editor. A single reporter may be given to handle more than one beat and on many occasions an important beat may be shared by many. This varies from organization to organization. Therefore the task of the reporter is enormous and very crucial for the organization.



LET US KNOW

Here are some important tips for a beat reporter:

1. Learn how things work in your own beat.
2. Cultivate sources. Never betray their confidence.
3. Keep abreast of all recent developments in your beat.
4. Be persistent. Push your sources for more information.
5. Anticipate developments.



CHECK YOUR PRGRESS – B

1. What is a beat?

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2. What is the reason behind assigning different beats to different reporters?

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ACTIVITY – B

1. Visit a local newspaper office and meet a senior journalist. Find out from him what kind of beat division is followed by his newspaper. Also find out the criteria based on which the beats are assigned to the individual reporters.

7.5 SOME IMPORTANT BEATS

Crime/ Police :

Crime is a usual phenomenon that takes place in every society. And the newspapers or the news channels are supposed to report about any kind of crime taking place in the society.

When working under this beat the reporter should keep good contacts with police stations, police officers and also with the crime branches of the different investigating agencies, both Government and non-governmental organizations, operating in the society. The crime reporter should also have good contacts in the state and district level courts where the legal course of action takes place against the different types of crimes.

Legal/ Court :

The court beat is a major beat for any newspaper as it is the source of a great number of stories. The court beat is allied to the crime/police beat since criminal cases are tried in the courts. But court reporting is not about crime alone. Many civil or non-criminal cases are also tried in the courts. A reporter who is assigned the court beat has to cover all cases whether civil or criminal and has to look after both the lower court and the higher court.

A court reporter needs to have a good understanding of the judicial system and should know the hierarchy of the courts. Developing a good network of sources in the court and among the police is very essential for a court reporter. He has to be fully aware of all important ongoing cases and keep a file of arrests. He has to understand what goes on in the **grapevine** but should have the ability to differentiate between official records and grapevine rumours.

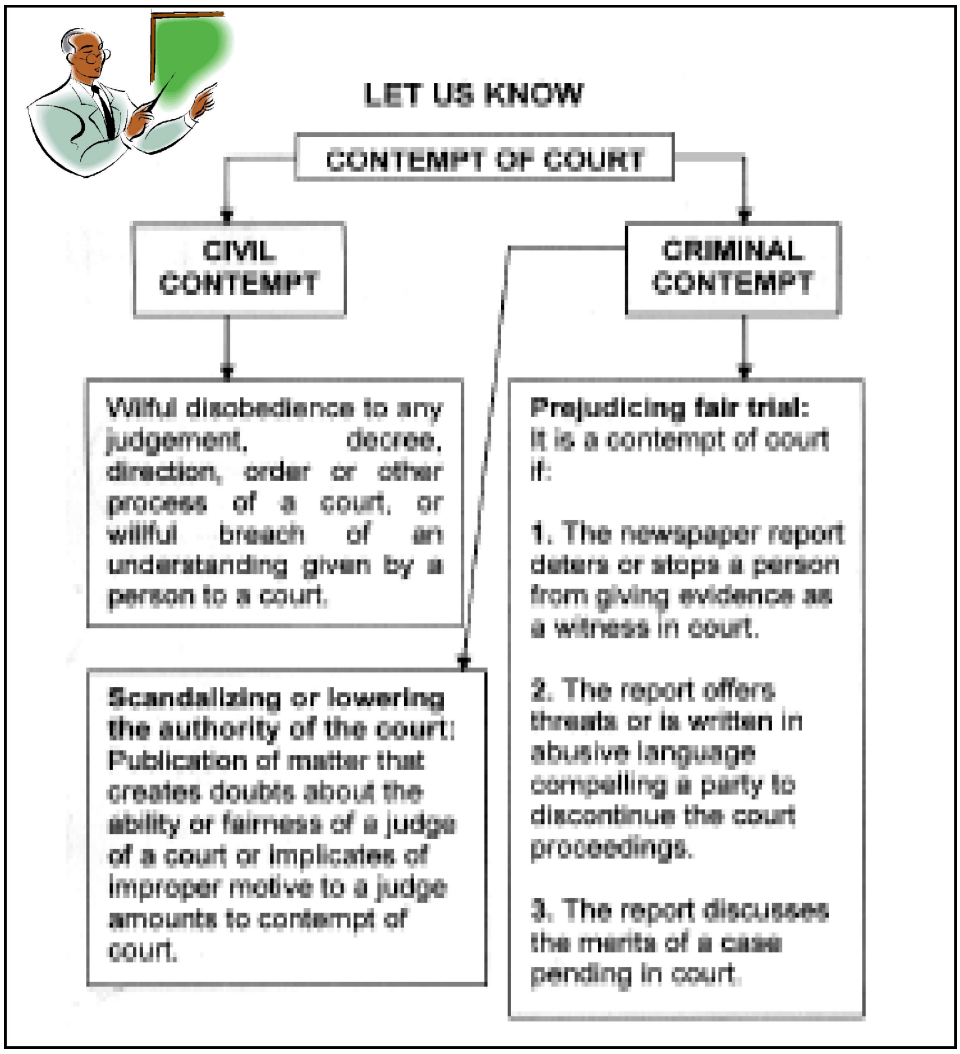
Another important thing a court reporter needs to keep in mind is that he has to remain within the rules and regulations of the legal system and learn to respect the sanctity of the court. He has to be careful not to commit **contempt of court** and thus avoid punishment.



Grapevine: The informal transmission of information, gossip, or rumor from person to person.



Contempt of Court: Disobedience to or disrespect for court of law.



Culture/ Entertainment :

Culture is a part of every society and without a distinct and individual culture a society can not exist. And media, being a part of a society, has to give due importance to the cultural aspect of the society that it belongs to. Media has to highlight the courses of culture, its process, its developments and many other issues related to it so that people remain abreast and understand their own culture. And now with the emergence of what we call the 'global village', the importance of cultural reporting has increased manifold. People want to know not just about their own culture, but also about foreign cultures. People are also hugely influenced by foreign cultures and often sprinkle their own lives with elements from other cultures. The entire world has changed today as a result of intermingling of cultures and the mass media can be attributed with a major part of the credit for this.

Today the media devotes considerable space to covering this area. Hence, it has become a very important beat for every media entity. Now a days the newspapers also publish separate pages and also supplements devoting to many areas of culture like songs, drama, cinema, folk songs, dance, folklore, language, behaviour, food habits, life styles, fashion, ethnic materials, norms, ethics, values and so on and so forth.

Normally, anybody who has interest, good contacts in the field of culture and has good understanding of his or her own cultural way of life, is assigned with this beat.

Political:

This is also another important beat for every newspaper and electronic news bulletin. Especially considering the Indian media scenario, all the Indian media are obsessed with political news. Most of their newspaper pages and bulletin time is occupied by political news. Political activities and political discourses do hold coveted positions in every society and hence even the media across the world do give emphasis on covering political matters with serious intent. So much so that there has been a tendency to undermine all other important matters confronting the society.

However, political beat in this situation, becomes one of the most important beats for every media house. Therefore, usually a senior reporter is assigned this task of covering this beat. The person who handles this beat, must be a senior man, having long years of experience of working in the field of media and who understands the political situations and happenings well. He should have better grasp and reflexes over political matters and course of action. He also should have good contacts in the political field, in State Legislative Assemblies, Parliament etc.

Business:

Now-a-days, business plays a crucial role in every society. There has been a surge in activities everywhere around the world related to business, trade, commerce, finance, etc. Especially in today's globalized world, business and financial matters have occupied centre stage. With the emergence of free market economy, 'business' has become everybody's business rather

than being confined to a few financial experts. There has been so much in the offering in regards to all these areas that it becomes overtly necessary for people to broaden their knowledge and strengthen their understanding about the issues and processes that surround these areas in a way not done before. Therefore, media has also started taking these issues seriously and with a lot of emphasis. In this connection the business beat is considered to be an extremely responsible and serious one.

The person who is willing to take the responsibility of this important beat upon his shoulder should keep this in mind that he must have clear understanding about the matters related to business and finance, the dynamics of the stock market etc. He should update information about the business activities taking place not only in his own society but also else where. He should have proper knowledge about the dynamics of business and also have a network of reliable sources in Government and non government organizations, corporate bodies, political circles and every where.

Sports:

Sports is also one of the most coveted beats in every media organization. Every media organization gives due weightage to covering the areas of games and sports. All the newspapers devote one or two pages of a total newspaper to sports related news. Therefore, anybody covering this beat holds mammoth responsibility. The person who has some understanding about the rules and tactics of different games and sports is normally assigned with this beat. The person handling this beat must be aware of the sporting scenario of the country and of other countries as well and also should be able to understand the issues and problems engulfing the sports scenario the world over. It is expected that he also knows about the players and has good contacts with the players as well as the people and different organizations related with sports.

Education:

Education is another important beat due to the sheer number of people that are involved in this field — students, teachers, guardians, researchers and, of course, policy makers. News about the different schools, colleges,

universities, and other institutions of technical and higher learning and the educational scenario in general make very good, important and relevant news content. A good education reporter will cover important activities in different educational institutions and will try to bring out stories about the unusual developments, if any, in the field to education. Government policies on education are very important issues that need to be covered. New trends and problems pertaining to the field are also important topics for news.

A person who covers the education beat needs to have a good understanding of the education scenario, and must have good contacts in different educational institutions and in the education department.

Science and Technology:

Science and technology is increasingly shaping and revolutionizing our lives everyday. We cannot possibly think of our lives without the contributions of scientific and technological developments. Therefore, understanding science is a cultural necessity and is a part of general cultural knowledge as art and drama. The public needs to know what scientists are doing and how their reasearch is influencing the society. Science reporting intends to inculcate a scientific temperament among the readers and to encourage them to have a rational and analytical mindset in explaining various phenomena in their everyday life.

Science and technology news includes noteworthy scientific discoveries about nature and all major advancements that take place in the field of technology. Discovery about stars, atoms or about human body or mind, discovery of major drugs, breakthrough in fusion research, space shots, etc make good science reports. What a science reporter usually looks for are the milestones in the progress of science and technology.

Specialization in the field of science is often an advantage for a science reporter, but a science reporter need not necessarily be a specialist. What is essential is a background in science and a scientific temperament. Since science is not something static and new things are developed everyday, so a science reporter should have the willingness and zeal to make himself a student of science everyday and update himself about the new developments. A science reporter should also be aware of the major areas

of ongoing scientific research. But perhaps the most important quality of a science reporter is the ability to write the highly technical scientific news for the common readers in an understandable way. He should be able to digest an abstract theory and express it in a readable and understandable form.

Development:

A very important beat in the present context of media coverage is development reporting. By development report we mean a report in which development or underdevelopment in a particular field is highlighted. Development is measured in terms of improvement in the living conditions of the people, of the society, of the nation. As such, development includes issues like removal of poverty, lessening of disparity between religions and classes, building up of technological infrastructure, modernization of society through shedding feudalism, tribalism and superstition, and gradual achievement of economic self-reliance. A development reporter will be required to cover all such developments and also the lack of it. Rural reporting is a very important aspect of development reporting. Development reporters should also pay due importance to issues relating to social evils, deprivations and try to represent the unrepresented sections of the society.

A development reporter needs to maintain regular contacts with different organizations and institutions, government departments, development agencies, NGOs, voluntary organizations etc. It is absolutely necessary for a development reporter to acquire basic understanding of terms used in agriculture, environment, science, economics and other related subjects. A development reporter cannot afford to be guided by personal prejudices, likes and dislikes. Also he should never rewrite official handouts, but use them as his raw material and develop a well researched story on his own.

The most important aspect of development reporting is human development reporting. It must concern itself with people since it is the people who are building the nation. It must show them how to improve their condition in the society.

Disaster/ Accidents/ Fires:

Stories about accidents, fires and disasters are very common and form a major part of news content. Major accidents, fires and disasters almost always make front page headlines.

Beginners in the field are most often assigned this beat. These are hard core hard news stories and are relatively easy to cover in the sense that they do not require any specialized knowledge on the part of the reporter. It is enough for the reporter to have the basic reporting skills. A keen power of observation and the ability to interview people to find out details is necessary. Eye witness accounts are very important for these kinds of stories.



CHECK YOUR PRGRESS – C

1. Name ten important reporting beats.

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2. Write down the basic qualities of a beat reporter?

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ACTIVITY – C

1. Consider your own skills and qualities and think which beat you would be suitable for. Also write why you think you are suitable for that particular beat.
2. Collect and study the structure of five news stories each from the following beats:
   a. Sports
   b. Business
   c. Science and Technology
   d. Crime/ Police
   e. Court/ Legal
   f. Development
   g. Education
   h. Politics

7.6 LET US SUM UP

In this unit we have learnt about the different types of reporting and the different reporting beats. Here is a quick recap:

- There are three types of reporting – objective, investigative and interpretative reporting.
- When a reporter reports an event in an objective way, i.e., representing only the truth as he has seen it without adding any personal colour to it, it is called Objective reporting.
- When the reporter has to interpret the news for better understanding of the readers by providing more facts, especially background information, it is called interpretative reporting.
- When a news reporter has to dig deeply beyond what is stated in the hard news in order to find out the exact facts of an event, or, in short, investigate beyond what meets the naked eye, then it is called investigative reporting.
- Reporters have to work in specialized areas of interest, called beats. When a reporter is assigned with a certain beat or beats, he/she is expected not to miss any event, whether big or small falling under the purview of that particular beat.



7.7 FURTHER READINGS

- **Essentials of practical journalism** — *Vir Bala Agarwal, Concept Publishing Company, New Delhi*
- **Fundamentals of Journalism –** *K.B. Dutta, Akansha Publishing House, New Delhi*

7.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS - A

1) The three different types of reporting are – objective reporting, interpretative reporting and investigative reporting.

2) a. Objective Reporting: When a reporter reports an event in an objective way, i.e., representing only the truth as he has seen it without adding any personal colour to it, it is called Objective reporting.

   b. Interpretative Reporting: When the reporter has to interpret the news for better understanding of the readers by providing more facts, especially background information, it is called interpretative reporting.

   c. Investigative Reporting: When a news reporter has to dig deeply beyond what is stated in the hard news in order to find out the exact facts of an event, or in short investigate beyond what meets the naked eye, then it is called investigative reporting.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS - B

1) Beats are the specialized areas of operation for the reporters assigned by the organization in which the reporter works. For example, Sports beat, science beat, crime beat etc.

2) There are numerous areas that a newspaper has to cover in a day. And it is not humanly and physically possible for a single reporter to cover multiple areas. So different reporters may be assigned with a single or couple of beats. And the reporter is expected to cover all the developments or happenings taking place under the jurisdiction of his beat or beats. The reporter can not afford to miss any significant or insignificant event falling under his assigned beat/beats.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS - C

1) Ten important beats – Sports, Crime, Legal, Business, Education, Development, Health, Science and Technology, Entertainment, Politics.

2) The basic qualities of a beat reporter are:

i. Thorough Knowledge about his own beat.

ii. Ability to cultivate and maintain sources in important areas.

iii. Willingness to continuously update oneself about recent happenings in his beat.

iv. Ability to write simply and understandably for the common man who may not be an expert in that area.



7.9 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What are the different types of reporting? Explain giving examples.
2. Discuss the significance of objective reporting?
3. 'No news can be completely objective'. Comment.
4. 'Investigative journalism is the most challenging form of journalism'. Do you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.
5. When does the need for interpretative journalism arise? Explain giving examples.
6. What do you mean by beat reporting? What is its significance?

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