
UNIT 3 QUALITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A REPORTER

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3.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this unit, you should be able to:

- state the qualities needed to be a good reporter;
- describe the responsibilities of a reporter;
- discuss the contribution of a responsible reporter to the news organization;
- analyse the role of a reporter when reporting routine as well as unexpected news events.

3.1 INTRODUCTION

News reporting is a distinct category of reporting. It is the area of study in Block-1. We discussed news values and sources of news in Unit-1, and in Unit 2 we studied the different types of news reporting. To be more specific, these are objective, interpretative and investigative news reporting. Now, we must acquaint ourselves with the qualities and responsibilities of a reporter. This is the topic of our study in Unit 3.

A journalist must possess and uphold certain noble qualities in order to be professional. Integrity of character, commitment to the truth and a reasoning power of mind are essential to any reporter. These qualities also contribute to the credibility of the reporting organization. Besides, a journalist has to be truly responsible. This responsibility extends to different groups of people at the same time. A journalist is responsible to the audience as much as to the news organization. Again, a journalist is

always responsible to the source(s) who reveal information. Should the need arise, a reporter has to submit to a source who may request anonymity. A reporter must also have a healthy respect for news values. These and other such matters form the topics for discussion in Unit 3.

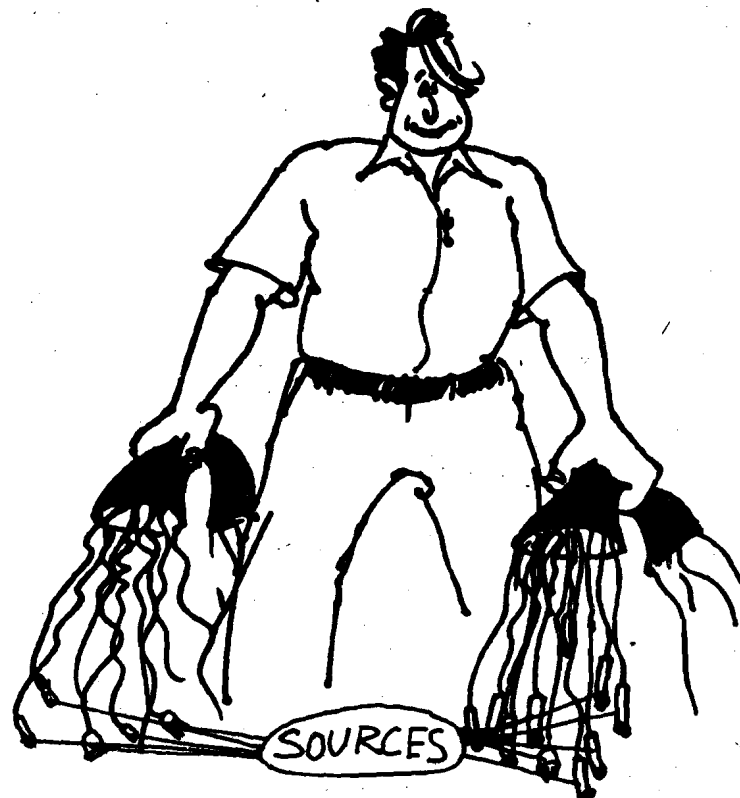
A journalist must inculcate other positive features besides clear perception. For instance, one must have specific skills to elicit information in a question-answer session. We shall learn some interesting tips on interviewing skills in Unit 4.

3.2 GENERAL QUALITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A REPORTER

It is said that a reporter is both eyes and ears of a news organization. It is not possible to strictly prescribe qualifications which a good reporter must possess. However, novice reporters must train themselves informally for the job so that they would be able to discharge their responsibilities with confidence, courage and competence. In order to qualify the role of a reporter you must prepare yourself in many ways.

It helps to be well-read, and you can do full justice to your reporting beat. You must equip yourself adequately with all aspects of your beat. If you are covering the civic body proceedings, you must be fully knowledgeable about several laws and rules under which the proceedings are regulated. In addition, you must know its various functions, areas of operations and jurisdiction. You should cultivate wide contacts with all kinds of sources in your beat, some times even outside your area of activity. As a reporter, you should be able to find out information; you should have a bent of mind for research. You should be a perfect talker, you should possess inexhaustible patience and the ability to get along with any kind of people in difficult situations. To be a successful reporter and to accomplish your job competently, you must be able to perceive, calculate, predict and plan your action appropriately in anticipation of a news event.

The sole aim of good news reporting should be writing with a certain amount of responsibility to oneself, to an organization, to society and to humanity at large. You must use your pen consciously, carefully and should bear full credit (or discredit) for what you say: "Just as an unclaimed torrent of water submerges the whole countryside and devastates crops, even so, an uncontrolled pen serves but to destroy."



Besides, as you must write everyday, you should write to build your own image, as well as the image of your institution. You have a responsibility towards your city, state, region, country, even the world at large. Echoing this, the noted editor M. V. Kamath once said: "A newspaper's sense of purpose and integrity, rather than its circulation, would determine its influence." And it is the reporter who is a builder of a newspaper's sense of purpose and integrity.

Let it be said here that a reporter is neither a social worker nor a preacher nor a reformer. Reporters are duty bound to keep a finger on a sore point in society. For it is only then, that the attention of all those concerned is drawn to the disease that ails the society. Unless cub reporters are imbued with a total sense of responsibility towards the profession and the news organization, they will not be able to rise to the expectations reposed in them by the news organisation and the society.

It is essential for a news reporter to be alertminded and curious. In addition, one should be in excellent health and should have inexhaustible stamina to chase difficult assignments. Most of all, a reporter should be a sociable person.

Check Your Progress-1

- Note:** i) Write short answers of one or two sentences for each of the following questions.
ii) Compare your answers with the ones given at the end of this unit.

1) As an aspiring journalist, what qualities of character would you strive to develop in yourself?

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2) List any three general qualities of a professional reporter, quite apart from the technical qualifications.

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3) In general, a reporter is expected to be responsible to different groups of people. Identify the groups.

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4) Assume that you are already a reporter in a city news-room. Just as your shift ends, you are asked to report a news flash in detail. Would you take up the assignment yourself or pass it on to a colleague on the next shift?

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3.3 ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF A REPORTER

It is true that one must possess the right attitude toward the vocation. This would include intelligence, initiative, industry, general competence, objectivity and accuracy.

There are several other features of one's personality and character which can contribute befittingly to one's profession as a journalist. In this section, we shall elaborate the salient qualities.

3.3.1 A Nose for News

The reporter is the most important functionary of a newspaper, as far as news operations are concerned. So one must know what constitutes news in order to be able to gather news.

A reporter's job of discovering the news has been simplified in one way and rendered difficult in another sense, in this age of information. While there are the usual press notes on which news reports can be based, there are other sources of information on a variety of news event. The range of sources stretches from official spokespersons and press conferences to unidentified members of the public and the regular sources which one meets on the beat.

But quite often, most of the material before a news reporter may just be publicity matter or advertisements in disguise. Therefore, as a reporter, you must check the material and squeeze the news that would interest your reader. When you are overwhelmed by an ocean of facts, you can always rely on the readers' interest for guidance. Here is where your ability to select the right information and present it to the reader comes to your help. Besides, most of the time you will cover routine matters such as press conferences and press notes that are hardly exciting. At least you may have to begin at quite a low level like covering local matter. Later you may be given the opportunity to cover major national issues.

For the most part you may find yourself reporting the speeches, declarations and announcements by V.I.P.s, persons in authority, politicians and political parties. Occasionally, you may get an exciting newsbreak. But your routine reporting should not prevent you from looking for something unusual that may lurk under the ordinary occurrence. You have to be a keen observer so as to discover unusual and exciting material even in routine stuff. A sharp sense of observation may also help you to gather amusing sidelights of interest to your readers. Your alertness will help you to discover contradictions and problems while you are on your daily beat. This can be the basis for an exciting news story even where apparently there was none.

3.3.2 Outgoing Nature

Professional journalists are never armchair writers. Introverts normally make poor reporters. Reporters have to move about meeting people, making their acquaintance and winning their confidence. This would help them to establish contacts, which in turn helps in writing well-investigated reports. This is the era of investigative reporting and readers are keenly interested to know what is going on behind the scenes. To get that kind of stories, you have no alternative but to be outgoing. You have to develop an affable temperament and an easy-going nature.

3.3.3 Ability to Establish Contacts and Develop sources

An outgoing nature is the basic quality to establish contact and develop sources. During the course of your duty, you may meet several people who may help you in gathering information. You must have the ability to win the confidence and respect of those who may be potential sources of news. During the course of your regular duties, people may voluntarily offer you information. Alternately, this might not be the case when you are working on an investigative story. People may hesitate to talk on sensitive matters. They may like to reveal yet are afraid to in case it were to affect them adversely. Such people may be government officials whom you may meet while investigating matters ranging from inefficiency to corruption. They could be informers of the underworld, if you are doing an in depth crime investigation. What may be at stake for them could be their jobs or their lives. It may be quite difficult to win their trust. In such situations, you must be able to assure your sources that they will remain protected and their identities kept secret if they so desire.

While you are establishing contact, there may be some among them who may want to plant information on you to serve their vested interests. Such information may consist of half-truths and even lies. So, you must have other independent contacts through whom you can verify the information.

Remember, even the most ordinary source at times can become very valuable, providing important leads and a wealth of information. A couple of years ago a newspaper carried a story about a footpath hawker who once was a wrestler of international repute, thus throwing light on the neglect of the sportsmen in the country. You must make it a point, therefore, to pay attention to your sources howsoever 'ordinary' they may seem by appearance.

Remember, the classic case of the Watergate scandal. The scandal that shook the United States and the Nixon presidency was not exposed by any ace newsmen, but by ordinary local reporters acting on a tip from an ordinary source.

What matters is the alertness and ability to pursue your sources to get the right lead. Take the case of the securities scam. The entire expose began with a source contacting Ms. Sucheta Dalal of the Times of India, Bombay, with an unconfirmed report about some activities in the State Bank of India. Ms Dalal, Assistant Business Editor of the paper, followed the lead provided by the source and got the story confirmed from reliable contacts bringing to light the stock scam concerning stock broker Harshad Mehta and others involving a staggering Rs. 6,000 crores.

3.3.4 Ability to be an Unprejudiced Observer

The reporter must be an unprejudiced observer of events, one who presents the facts to the reader in a balanced, objective manner. Now, objectivity is a much debated topic. It has been said that reporters mix comment with fact and so their reports are quite subjective. While reporters may have their own views on the subject of coverage, they should not allow personal opinions at any place in the copy. One must be able to throw light on unclear aspects if any, of the news event. At the same time, the news reporter must endeavour to write a report which is only a statement of facts. An observation or viewpoint, might occasionally creep in and one must be alert to such strips in straight news items.

How do you maintain balance and objectivity in your coverage? The first and foremost thing to do is to source your copy properly to assure the reader that what you are passing on as news, is not your opinion or some publicity matter in disguise. The sources must be quoted except when they want to remain anonymous. Even when you are not able to quote the sources, you must ensure that the story is balanced, by giving adequate coverage to all the sides of the subject. You should always ensure that the information you are presenting is true. You can do this by counter checking.

Remember, what may appear fair to one group will amount to bias for another. So, Always ensure that you give both sides of the picture.

But, remaining an unprejudiced observer does not mean adopting what is known in American journalistic parlance as "man from the Mars" stance, i.e., seeing each event afresh, unconnected to any previous expectations or future possibilities and passing them on untouched by interpretation.

In an increasingly complex world, this would not amount to objectivity or fairness. In many cases, it would simply mean an irresponsible attitude, a refusal to make the reader understand the event in its proper context and realise its significance.

In many cases, you not only report the events but interpret them for the reader. But, remember, interpretation does not mean backdoor editorialising. It is not an excuse for colouring the story with your personal opinions.

3.3.5 Clarity of Expression

As a reporter, you may cover several complex and specialised subjects, such as science and technology, law and economics. Your command over the language must be such that you can explain even the most complicated issues in single terms to any general reader. In addition to specialised subjects such as science and technology, even government press notes are written in complicated language, burying the news point. You must be able to simplify it and bring out the news point.

Activity 1

Read the following news items carefully and examine it in terms of the reporter being an unprejudiced observer, listing its merits and demerits in that respect.

New Delhi, Aug 6: Incensed by a complaint of insanitation and unhygienic conditions in a trans Yamuna locality, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) authorities have slapped a challan against the complainant.

Dr. Bodh Raj Batra, a homeopath doctor, had complained about the insanitary conditions in his locality, Jhilmil colony in East Delhi to the columns of a local daily on July 13.

After the publication of Dr. Batra's grievance, a team of sweepers led by a sanitary inspector went to the residence of the complainant and handed him a challan under Sec. 357 and 397 of the MCD act, accusing him of causing nuisance and accumulating garbage.

The matter will come up for hearing in the court of a Metropolitan Magistrate in Patiala House next week.

3.3.6 Team Spirit

Except for routine coverages which can be handled by one person, many investigative stories have to be handled by a team. The Bofors investigative stories in the **Indian Express** and other papers were based on reports from Geneva and Stockholm, besides New Delhi. The securities scam investigations by the **Times of India** involved, besides Sucheta Dalal, one more correspondent, R. Srinivasan, who posed as an investor and went to the State Bank officers in Bombay to get confirmation about the goings on in the bank.

If you see investigative stories in the **Statesman**, you will find that they are always attributed to "The Statesman Insight Team." You must be able to work as a member of such a team. Here, you must pool your talents, sources and contacts into the team and work under a leader. In the course of time, you may rise to head such a team. Working under a team discipline will certainly be of help to you later.

3.3.7 Ability to cope with Pressure from Outside and Within the News Organisation

With investigative journalism seeking to bring out scandals and exposures, there is bound to be pressure on journalists to keep someone's wrong doings hidden from public view. This 'someone' is usually a person with considerable clout. The 'pressure' on journalists is exerted in the hope of preventing exposure. The concerned journalist may also be bribed with attractive favours in return for silence on the matter.

As a newsperson you may provide helpful or harmful exposure to persons holding important positions in your beat. Since many of them need publicity to perform their functions, they seek you out to provide them with the required exposure. They are on the lookout for a minimum of harmful and the maximum of helpful publicity. If they consider it necessary, they may use their power and influence to pressurise you for this.

The pressure could be used to make you change the news or "kill" a story. This constitutes censorship. Pressure could also be applied with the hope of inducing journalists to volunteer the change or omission which is then equal to self-censorship.

While groups like the government and the advertisers could indirectly pressurise you through your news organisation, direct pressure could also come from the government and political parties. In case you are doing stories on something which could lead to harmful exposure for someone, they could take recourse to a range of legal and illegal options, including legal action, threats and violence to pressurise you.

There are three ways of coping with pressure: fighting it, giving in, and anticipating the pressure and taking preventive measures. The first one is the most noble of the three options and history is full of shining examples of this category. During the British rule in India, many papers decided to close down, rather than submit to censorship and government pressure. The father of the Nation, Mahatama Gandhi, exemplified this spirit when he wrote during the Quit India Movement: "It is better not to issue newspaper than to issue them under a feeling of suppression." Even during the 1975-77 internal emergency, journals like **Mainstream** closed down rather than submit to government censorship. But the heroic option is not always feasible.

Remember, running a newspaper is a business, apart from being a service. Thousands depend on it for a living. You are in it as a professional, seeking to earn your daily bread. So few expect you to be a hero or a missionary. If you give in to pressure which you cannot fight on your own and if your news organisation does not back you, the consequences could be disastrous for you as a professional journalist. The reporters who generally brave powerful pressures are those who have the full support of their organisations or their professional colleagues backing them unitedly. But, still, you must have the strength of character to fight pressures that come in the form of inducements like lavish gifts, favours, etc. to influence your reporting.

Preventive measures to fight pressure could be legal steps, like seeking a court stay on any law or ordinance that could affect the freedom of the press. In case you feel threatened by some physical violence, you can always seek security from law and order authorities. The journalists of the "Punjab Kesari" group of newspapers, who have taken a courageous antiterrorist stand in Punjab, work under extremely tight security. The group has lost two of its owners to terrorist bullets, but has not given in to pressures.

Activity 2

In the following news item look for faults regarding clarity and failure to properly background the story:

New Delhi, Aug 6: A high level delegation of Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and State Irrigation Ministers have complained to the Prime Minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, that the Morse report has overstepped its term of reference and commented on several issues beyond its jurisdiction on rehabilitation of tribals of the Sardar Sarovar Project.

The delegation headed by the Union Water Resources Minister, Mr. Vidya Charan Shukla, appraised Mr. Rao of the transgression of its limit by the Morse committee deputed by the World Bank.

Stating this, the Rajasthan Chief Minister, Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, told newsmen here today that the Prime Minister assured the delegation to look into the matter within a week's time.

The delegation comprised of, besides Mr. Shukla, the Union Minister of State for Forest and Environment, Mr. Kamalnath, the Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat Chief Ministers, Mr. Shekhawat, Mr. Sunder Lal Patwa and Mr. Chiman Bhai Patel, and the Irrigation Ministers of Rajasthan and Maharashtra... pa

Check Your Progress 2

- Note:** i) Answer the following questions in about three sentences each.
ii) Compare your answers with the ones given at the end of this unit.

1) What is meant by the phrase 'a nose for news'?

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2) State any three qualities which you consider essential for a journalist.

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3) As a news reporter, you would be required to go to the place where the event is occurring. Suppose that in the instant you are assigned work, you have to attend some pressing personal work. Which item of work would you decide to tackle first?

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3.4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF A REPORTER

The reporting profession is unlike any other profession. At times, some slight carelessness in doing one's duty, can cause incalculable harmful repercussions, both for the news organisation and society. A slight laziness in checking or cross checking certain facts could endanger the credibility of the news organization, proving to be a major block in the way of advancement of the reporters career.

3.4.1 Responsibility Towards the News Organisation

A reporter has been likened to a soldier on the field. Even as the quality of the soldiers on field determines to a large extent the quality of an army, so also your abilities and the way you discharge your duties as a reporter go a long way in determining the quality and reputation of your news organisation.



As a reporter, you have to follow the character, style and policy of your newspaper or magazine or news agency. There are conservative papers which may prefer to stick to routine coverage, not bothering about investigation of scandals. In such papers, you have to stick to their policy even if it cramps your style. But in a news organization with a more dynamic approach to news, you must develop the skills of an investigator. Whatever you do as a reporter will affect the newspaper and its reputation. So, you must take pains to ensure accuracy and objectivity in your stories.

3.4.2 Responsibility Towards the Sources

Remember, your sources are sacred. Your credibility in their eyes could be a major factor in your performance as a newsperson. There are sources with whom you will have to take great pains to establish your credibility to make them open up towards you. You will have to assure them that no harm will come to them, and if they so desire, you must keep their identity a secret. There have been instances in the United States of America and some other countries where reporters have defied court orders and gone to jail rather than reveal the sources. In 1960, an American magazine reporter alerted his editors that the ruler of a Middle East country was receiving large amounts of money from several governments for his personal use. But the reporter held back the story till 1977 as he felt that its publication would compromise his source. The matter became news only when the American Intelligence Agency (CIA) files, made available to the press in 1977, contained the same information.

You may well ask whether the responsibility of protecting the sources is absolute. A situation could arise when the information given by a contact who wanted to remain unidentified could lead to a major inquiry of a court case. You may be ordered by the court to reveal who your contact is, for giving witness before the court. What would you do in such a case? Should you commit contempt of court or violate your commitment to the confidentiality of your source? If you reveal the source who wanted to remain anonymous, you could lose your credibility among your contacts who may hesitate to volunteer information in future. Such extreme cases have to be dealt with, on their individual merits. It is sufficient to say that under normal conditions, you have a commitment to protect your sources.



3.4.3 Responsibility Towards the Reader and Society

“Good faith with the reader is the foundation of all good journalism worthy of the name”, says the code of ethics of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. As a news reporter, you have a duty to provide accurate, unbiased and objective information to the reader. Every effort must be made to ensure that the news is accurate, free from prejudices and that all sides of the news event are presented fairly.

To maintain your credibility with the reader you have a duty not to accept things or favours or pursue any activity that might compromise your integrity.

However, in these days, publicity seekers including those in private business, organise press conferences and conduct tours with attractive gifts and other incentives. While private firms depend mainly on advertising for publicity, they sometimes want their activities to be carried as news items since news carries greater credibility than advertisements. News reports are written by newspersons who are supposed to be independent and objective. While in these days of corporate and business journalism,

it will be impossible to turn a blind eye to the activities of business houses, you must ensure that you are not exploited by them for selfish ends.

Check Your Progress 3

- Note:** i) Answer the following questions in two sentences each.
ii) Compare your answers with the ones given at the end of this unit.

1) Describe the kind of work you would be performing as a responsible reporter.

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2) Suppose you receive a telephonic message from an unidentified caller about a fire mishap in a multi-story building complex. Whom would you approach to confirm this message?

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3) If you were in possession of vital information about, say, the security of the country, would you be willing to get this information published?

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3.5 DEALING WITH CORPORATE NEWS

Business and corporate journalism is a field where you have to exercise a tremendous sense of responsibility. With the proliferation of big companies including multi nationals and their role in the liberalisation of the Indian economy, their activities form a major subject of public interest. But, it is a subject that must be handled with utmost care. On the one hand, you risk becoming a publicity agent for corporate houses and on the other, you may be risking people's investments and reputations. Remember, anything you write for a news organization could have its impact in terms of money and reputation.

Opinions about the newspaper industry have ranged from it being a mere business to an instrument of social change. Even if it is to be considered a mere business, it is deeply involved in matters of public interest. Every thing you write could have its repercussions in the society. Even under normal circumstances, you have to exercise great care about what you write.

Check Your Progress 4

- Note:** i) Answer the following questions in two sentences each.
ii) Compare your answers with the ones given at the end of this unit.

1) Why must Corporate News be reported with the maximum sense of responsibility?

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- 2) A source in a business house requests anonymity before giving you the inside information on irregularities in that office. Eventually, a case is made for the courts based on your news story. Would you then be sued on the identity of your informer to protect yourself?
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3.6 REPORTING COMMUNAL CONFLICTS

You have to be particularly careful when reporting in a communally sensitive country like India. This is because there are a host of religious and social diversities and several linguistic groups. It would be unbecoming to be partisan to a particular faith, linguistic or social group. As a reporter you will have to wield your pen with due respect for everyone.

What may be considered correct by one group may be held wrong by another. Take the example of the Ramjanambhoomi Babri Masjid dispute at Ayodhya. Two concerned communities have a conflicting stand about the disputed structure. If you have been following the controversy in the papers, you would have found that the disputed structure is referred to neither as Ramjanambhoomi nor as Babri Masjid. It is referred either as the "Disputed site" or as the "controversial structure", or simply as the "Ramjanambhoomi-Babri Masjid site".

Apart from the Ayodhya dispute, the communal tension in the country has been aggravated by the Punjab and Kashmir problems. News organisations are extremely careful about reporting events of a communal nature.

Take the killings in Punjab, for instance. When members of a particular community are singled out for massacre, the papers do not mention the name of the community.

A similar procedure is followed when reporting communal riots. The step is taken to prevent any further tension from developing between the communities if they are to be identified in the news reports. For this reason, places of worship affected in riots are not referred to, by name.

Check Your Progress 5

- Note: i) Answer the following question in three sentences.
ii) Compare your answer with the one given at the end of this unit.

- 1) How would you, as a responsible reporter, seek to restore peace in times of communal tension ?

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3.7 LET US SUM UP

You are now in a position to state the qualities that you have to develop to perform well as a reporter and the responsibilities that you will have to shoulder on joining the profession. The profession of a reporter, as you must be aware by now, carries a tremendous social responsibility. Even if you do not have a great talent for writing, you must have adequate command of language to express yourself clearly. You must also take great care about the accuracy of your stories.

Generally, to be a successful news reporter, one must possess the following basic traits:

- never — failing news sense
- vital interest in current affairs
- curiosity of a child-like inquisitive mind
- appreciation of social and geographical characteristics of the people in the area which the newspaper serves
- non-partisan attitude
- adequate sense of fairness, balance, objectivity
- adequate knowledge of libel laws and other regulations
- faculty to envision developments, calculate, perceive, forecast
- attribution of sources
- protection of sources
- avoidance of freaks and tricks
- ethical consideration and respect for “off the record statements”.
- never compromising for consideration, money, gifts, and the like.

3.8 FURTHER READING

Rao, Chalapati M., *The Romance of the Newspaper*, National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi.

Rao, Chalapati M., *The Press*, National Book Trust, New Delhi.

3.9 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS: MODEL ANSWERS

Check Your Progress 1

- 1) Resourcefulness, determination, self-discipline and a general competence to perform assigned tasks. These are just some of the positive features in the personality of a would-be journalist.
- 2) An eagerness to learn, a capacity for concentration and sustained efforts are qualities expected in any professional reporter.
- 3) A report has to be responsible to the news organization, the audience (here the newspaper readers), other members of the society, the region, the nation

and the world community at large. Most of all, the reporter is responsible to the sources who give the information in the first instance.

- 4) A reporter must be full of enthusiasm for the work. This dedication should be such that any time is convenient to carry out the task. After all, news does not break at an hour suitable for us.

Check Your Progress 2

- 1) A reporter who has a nose for news is one who aptly senses material for news. The reporter then ensures that the news story is timely, containing emotional or entertainment appeal for the audience/readers.
- 2) A journalist ought to have a well-trained news sense, good command over the language and a deep understanding of the laws governing the press.
- 3) Your decision, in fact, reflects your attitude to your professional duties. Ideally, you would exhibit a highly developed sense of initiative and accept irregular hours of work. One would have to be flexible, sometimes even at the cost of one's personal work.

Check Your Progress 3

- 1) A reporter has to be a stickler for facts. Therefore, one must either collect the facts from the place of event (whether accident, press conference, celebration, any other incident) by personal observation, or collect information through interviews and investigation. Then, the reporter must write the report in clear words and submit it to the editorial department of the news organization.
- 2) In one's routine through cross-checking of unconfirmed reports, a reporter would contact a person in authority. A "fire" would have to be confirmed from the police station fire brigade of that area.
- 3) One would first have to consider whether or not the information would help the general public in any way. Then, the state secret would be best kept out of the public view lest it reach the wrong persons. The information should not be published if it is to the disadvantage of the country's stability and security.

Check Your Progress 4

- 1) A responsible reporter has to be aware of publicity gimmicks parading as news-worthy events. Besides, the reporter has to note that where public financial investment is involved, one must doubly ensure accuracy in the news.
- 2) A reporter must stand by one's word of honour. One may have to suffer the indignity of the courts structures. For all that, you would be safeguarding your own reputation while protecting your informer.

Check Your Progress 5

- 1) As a responsible reporter conscious of the urgent necessity of restoring peace, you ought to be discreet in using phrases in your reports, for instance, you would write "places of worship" and not refer to the place by its name. You would also counter the threat of religious extremism in your writing by quoting some logical comments of some same persons in society.