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MEDIA TRIAL: A DOUBLE-EDGED WEAPON TO BE USED WITHIN LEGAL PARAMETERS

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ABSTRACT

An independent and reliable media is crucial for the existence of democracy because it enlightens the citizens by giving correct information to them. The general public acquire information about the scams and techniques used by fraudsters only due to the active role played by the media. The 'media trial' involves declaring the accused as 'guilty' before his actual conviction by the Court. In the mad race of increasing TRPs, journalists become self-centred and do not think about the consequences of their actions on the accused or his family. The portrayal of accused as 'guilty' by the media seriously jeopardises his right to fair trial. The media presents a one-sided opinion which can affect the subconscious mind of the Judges to give verdict in favour of victim. The Judges may be reluctant to reverse the prevailing public opinion created by extensive media coverage. It also disturbs the psychological well-being of the accused and his family members and traumatize them for the rest of their lives. Even the acquittal of the accused is not useful in restoring his reputation in the society. It is possible that the identities and personal details of the victims may become public, which could put them at the risk of being subjected to social stigma and harassment. The disclosure of the identity of the witnesses by the media puts them under undue pressure and they try to distance themselves from the case. The media should give serious consideration to the true facts before naming anyone as guilty. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the Court to determine who is guilty for the crime. If the media makes a mistake, then the correction shall be published by them without any delay.

I. INTRODUCTION

India has seen a noticeable rise in the frequency of media trials in recent years. There has never been a legal system that has granted the media the authority to try a case.¹ The rapid growth of the internet has significantly expanded the reach and influence of the mass media. The

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¹ Nikitha Suresh and Lucy Sara George, Trial by Media: An Overview, 4 INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES 267,269-272 (2021).

continuous growth of viewers has endowed media organisations with an unparalleled capacity to influence public opinion. The information displayed by the media is assumed to be accurate without examining its veracity. All participants of the media are engaged in a mad race to increase the number of viewers.² While doing so, the media often damages the reputation of mere accused by labelling them as criminals. The act of sensationalising news by media is not a new thing, but stepping into the shoes of Judiciary by them is a cause for grave concern.³ Media exerts pressure on the Courts to pass verdict in favour of the victims without verifying their allegations. The media ignores the fundamental principle that guides criminal trials in our country which is ‘presumption of innocence until proven guilty.’⁴ The media is engaged in determining the guilt of individuals. This can potentially cause confusion among the general public. The probability of incrimination of innocent individuals by media cannot be ruled out. The media's tendency to display only one-sided representations without making an effort to discover the truth can have serious consequences on the life of accused and their families.

II. MEDIA TRIAL: CONCEPT AND MEANING

The term "media trial" refers to the act of taking a case into its hands by media and determining who is ultimately guilty, even before the Court has made its decision.⁵ It involves presentation of a preconceived notion about an accused by Journalists, which can damage his reputation and ultimately impact the outcome of the trial. It occurs particularly in cases involving celebrities or other prominent public figures. Besides that, it takes place when someone is murdered or raped. It refers to the influence of newspaper and television news on an individual's reputation by creating a public impression of guilt prior to the Court's verdict.⁶ The media portrays the suspect as a ‘criminal’ even before any investigation has been started by concerned authorities. As a result, the society starts to condemn the individual and stop interaction with him and his

² Shazia Shaikh, *Law and Media Trial in India*, 7 *JOURNAL OF NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI* 76,78-93 (2020).

³ Neelam Kumari and Dr. Ramesh Chauhan, *Media Trial: An overview in the context of Indian Media, Society and Judiciary*, 3 *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH PUBLICATION AND REVIEWS* 64,67-69 (2022).

⁴ Sheroy Broacha., *Prevention of Arbitrary Media Trial and Need for a Legal Bound*, *IPLEADERS LAW BLOG* (September 18, 2022), <https://blog.ipleaders.in/prevention-of-arbitrary-media-trial-and-need-for-a-legal-bound/> (last visited February 26, 2024).

⁵ Aparna Barpanda, *Media Trial, Fair Trial, and Procedural Justice*, 4 *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES* 273,274-275 (2021).

⁶ Dr. Foram Patel, *Trial by Media: An Indian Perspective for Judicial Process*, 6 *JOURNAL OF POSITIVE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY* 4774,4776-4781(2022).

family. This kind of social behaviour causes mental agony to the accused and his family. It also exerts pressure on the Judges to render a verdict consistent with the narrative presented in the media. The media extensively broadcasts interviews with victim's family, witnesses, and legal experts. This impacts the opinion of the public as the media quickly disseminates information to a wide audience. The actions of media on sub judice matters have the tendency to interfere with the decision-making process of the Court.

III. CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS TO FREEDOM OF PRESS IN REFERENCE TO MASS MEDIA

In contrast to the American Constitution, the Article 19(1)(a) of Indian Constitution does not make explicit reference to the liberty of the press.⁷ However, it has been consistently established that freedom of press falls under the umbrella of freedom of speech and expression. As a result of the fact that the editor of a press is only exercising the right to expression, there is no need to make any special mention of freedom of press. In "*Indian Express Newspapers v. Union of India*,"⁸ it was observed that freedom of expression enables an individual to achieve self-fulfilment, to uncover the truth, and enhances the capacity of an individual to take part in decision making. It provides a mechanism to the people to bring about a change in society. Because of this, the right to know is of the utmost significance. The existence of freedom of speech is the backbone of the democracy and it is high time to value citizen participation in governance of a country. Therefore, when it comes to imposing taxes on newspaper industry-related matters, the government should exercise greater caution than when it comes to imposing taxes on other matters.

In "*Bennet Coleman Company v. Union of India*,"⁹ the Newsprint Control Order which restricted newspaper publication to a maximum of ten pages was declared as violative of the freedom of press. The defence put up by the government that it would assist in the growth of smaller newspapers and would prevent large newspapers from gaining monopolistic dominance, was not accepted. The Supreme Court clarified that Newsprint Policy abridged Article 19(1)(a) because freedom to express lies both in circulation and content. Thus, the

⁷ KAILASH RAI, *THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF INDIA* 220 (CENTRAL LAW PUBLICATIONS 2017).

⁸ *Indian Express Newspapers v. Union of India*, (1985) 1 SCC 641.

⁹ *Bennet Coleman Company v. Union of India*, AIR 1973 SC 106.

publishers of newspapers have complete autonomy over their page counts, circulation figures, and new edition releases.

In "*R. Rajagopal v. State of Tamil Nadu (Auto Shanker Case)*"¹⁰ the Apex Court held that public officials who think that they may be defamed could not stop the press from publishing the information by exercising 'prior restraint' on them. They could only take action after the information was published, if they could show that it was based on false facts. If it was based on public records including Court records, then they could not take any action against the press.

In "*Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting v. Cricket Association of Bengal*,"¹¹ the Supreme Court held that the monopoly over broadcasting by the government is inconsistent with free speech interest of citizens. The viewers have a right to have variety of views based on their respective interests. It was observed that broadcasting of a sports event where the main purpose is to educate, inform and entertain people is covered by Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution. It was noted that a citizen has a right to telecast and broadcast any significant event for the benefit of the public through electronic media. The Court issued a directive to the government to establish an autonomous regulatory body that would liberate Doordarshan and Akashwani from the shackles of government control and ensure that freedom of speech can be meaningfully and effectively experienced by one and all.

IV. MEDIA TRIAL AND FREEDOM OF PRESS

Having a free press which is neither controlled by the government nor subject to censorship is an essential component of modern democracy.¹² Freedom of the media affords individuals the chance to acquire knowledge pertaining to critical public matters.¹³ An independent and reliable press is crucial for the functioning of the government. A democracy system is characterised by citizen participation in the formation of the government. The citizens must be well-informed and must be capable of understanding and comparing the election manifestos as

¹⁰ *R. Rajagopal v. State of Tamil Nadu*, AIR 1995 SC 264.

¹¹ *Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting v. Cricket Association of Bengal*, AIR 1995 SC 1236.

¹² Anubhav Garg, *The Fourth Pillar of Indian Democracy: Freedom of the Press*, IPLEADERS LAW BLOG (June 5, 2020), <https://blog.ipleaders.in/the-fourth-pillar-of-indian-democracy-freedom-of-the-press/> (last visited February 26, 2024).

¹³ Shashwat Kaushik, *Media Trial: An Analysis*, IPLEADERS LAW BLOG (August 17, 2021), <https://blog.ipleaders.in/media-trial-analysis/> (last visited February 26, 2024).

well as the work done by different political parties since they are called upon to elect the government.¹⁴ The press keeps this discussion alive by providing information and so acting as a driving factor in public debate. It serves as a channel for communication between the people and their elected representatives. It also empowers the citizens as they can come forward and highlight their common problems by the help of media and the same can be communicated to the government.¹⁵ Therefore, it is mandatory for individuals to possess knowledge regarding the current affairs of their country and the world. The media has a responsibility to educate the public on matters that can have an impact on their lives. It is a significant force in shaping the public opinion and has the ability to completely change the outlook of the public.

The issue is not with the media's exposure of societal wrongdoings. The issue arises when they exceed the authority bestowed upon them and engage in actions that are not within their purview. The fierce competition among various news channels to increase their viewers has led to a deterioration in the quality of news. The fabrication of facts and unwarranted intrusion into the private lives of the individuals is a serious concern posed by the irresponsible actions of the media. The media is instrumental in quickly transforming the hero into a villain. They do not focus on presenting the facts but start making bald allegations. Sometimes, they are even responsible for provoking the violence. Media organisations routinely disregard all the prevailing laws and standards for ethical journalism while reporting investigations and criminal activities.

V. MEDIA TRIAL AND RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL

The media has a lot of power and influence in society. Its job is to make informed citizens by giving correct information to them. Although the media has the right to disclose the truth and educate the public, it has frequently exceeded this freedom. Consequently, the right to free expression of the media and the right to a fair trial of the accused come into conflict with each other. The media frequently declares the accused as 'guilty' before their actual conviction by

¹⁴ Saumya Krishnakumar, *Freedom of the Press*, 4 *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES* 295, 296- 302 (2021).

¹⁵ Khushi Sharma, *Freedom of the Press and Its Significance in Entertainment Law*, *IPLEADERS LAW BLOG* (Sep. 24, 2020), <https://blog.ipleaders.in/freedom-press-significance-entertainment-law/> (last visited Feb 26, 2024).

the Court.¹⁶ It sometimes makes an issue more controversial leading to biased public opinion and even public outrage. The media presents a one-sided opinion which can affect the subconscious mind of the Judges to give verdict in favour of victim.¹⁷ The Judges may be reluctant to reverse the prevailing public opinion created by extensive media coverage.¹⁸ Negative publicity of the accused done by media prior to trial is detrimental to the fairness of a trial.¹⁹ Media trials have exerted pressure on lawyers to avoid representing those who are perceived as 'guilty' by the public due to influence of the media.²⁰ The function of the media to ensure fairness is completely undermined when it starts interfering with the judicial process. The portrayal of the accused by media may not accurately reflect the reality. The truth can only be determined after the case has been heard by an impartial Judge after considering all evidence. Despite the appearance of justice being served, the accused is in a highly disadvantageous position. The portrayal of a suspect as 'guilty' by the media might influence public perception. 'Trial by media' interferes with norms of fair trial by compelling the accused to accept the destiny that the media has planned for him. If the identity of witnesses is made public, then their security may be compromised.²¹ The witnesses will try to disassociate themselves with the case to come out of the mess created by the media.²² The risk of changing the testimonies by the witnesses before the Court increases manifold due to media trial. Furthermore, it is necessary to maintain the anonymity of the victim to prevent any violation of their privacy. It is not acceptable for the media to take over the job of the Courts or to deviate from impartial and objective journalism. Undoubtedly, the media trial constitutes an excessive intrusion into the process of dispensing justice. Judges start considering the media criticism when reaching a verdict if it contradicts with the view presented by the media. As a result, in the majority of cases, the verdict rendered by the media is ultimately passed by the Trial Courts. It is imperative that decision makers should act rationally to reach fair and impartial verdicts.

¹⁶ Mohd. Aqib and Utkarsh Dwivedi, *Judiciary and Media Trial: A Need for Balance*, 5 *INDIAN JOURNAL OF LAW AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR* 155,160-161 (2019).

¹⁷ Megha Mishra, *Media Trial in India*, 4 *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEGAL SCIENCE AND INNOVATION* 107,111-113(2022).

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ Nehal Misra, *Social Media Trials: A Threat to the Society and Legal System*, *IPLEADERS LAW BLOG* (Feb 3, 2021), <https://blog.ipleaders.in/social-media-trials-threat-society-legal-system/> (last visited February 26, 2024).

²⁰ Shivani Nair, *Constitutionality of Media Trials*, *IPLEADERS LAW BLOG* (June 29, 2020), <https://blog.ipleaders.in/constitutionality-of-media-trials-and-landmark-cases/> (last visited February 26, 2024).

²¹ Max Croson, *Reflection of the Media Trial as a Threat to Our Judicial System*, *IPLEADERS LAW BLOG* (May 12, 2021), <https://blog.ipleaders.in/reflection-media-trial-threat-judicial-system/> (last visited February 26, 2024).

²² *Ibid.*

VI. MEDIA TRIAL AND RIGHT TO PRIVACY

The Supreme Court has recognized the right to privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.²³ Although the media plays a vital role in providing information and revealing issues of public interest, a balance must be maintained between the right of information to the public and the right of privacy of an individual. It can be hard to figure out what the public interest is and how it should be balanced against a person's privacy. Media trials often involve a detailed reporting on the personal life of a person which may violate their right to privacy.²⁴ The news channels often indulge in revealing the identity of a person in order to gain public attention. Media trials involve spreading of personal information of an individual by way of exaggerated headlines that may adversely impact the legal process. This type of reporting can lead to tarnishing of image of the accused before the society. It also leads to psychological discomfort for the accused and his family. It is possible that the identities and personal details of the victims may become public, which could put them at the risk of being subjected to social stigma and harassment. The breach of confidentiality of the witnesses by the media may subject them to intimidation by the accused or his associates. It is essential to protect their right to privacy to seek their cooperation in the investigation. There have been instances in which the individual against whom allegations were made by the media has been acquitted by the Court. But he nevertheless found himself in a difficult situation as a result of unnecessary media attention.

VII. JUDICIAL RESPONSE TO MEDIA TRIAL IN CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE

In “*Sidhartha Vashisht alias Manu Sharma v. State (NCT of Delhi)*,”²⁵ the accused Manu Sharma who was the son of a politician, murdered Jessica Lal because she declined to serve him alcoholic beverages at a party. The case was initially dismissed on the grounds of insufficient evidence by the Trial Court resulting in the acquittal of all the accused persons. However, the case was eventually reopened in response to public and media criticism, which ultimately resulted in conviction of the accused. While deciding the case, the Supreme Court

²³ *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India*, (2017) 10 SCC 1.

²⁴ Dr. S. Krishnan, *Trial by Media: Concept and Phenomenon*, 6 *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH* 889,897-900 (2018).

²⁵ *Sidhartha Vashisht alias Manu Sharma v. State (NCT of Delhi)*, (2010) 6 SCC 1.

observed that the Journalists should exercise utmost diligence to ensure the distinction between ‘trial by media’ and ‘informative media’ at all times.

In “*Santosh Kumar Singh v. State through CBI (Priyadarshini Mattoo Case)*²⁶” the accused Santosh Kumar, the son of an IPS officer, murdered and sexually assaulted Priyadarshini Mattoo for rejecting his proposal. The media helped the ailing father of victim to get justice by raising its voice against the acquittal of the accused by Trial Court. The Supreme Court and Delhi High Court reprimanded the Trial Court for not doing justice despite strong evidence against the accused.

In “*Nupur Talwar v. State of U. P (Arushi Talwar murder case)*²⁷” Arushi and her domestic worker Hemraj were found dead in her home. This case received wide coverage by media. The media was indulged in character assassination of Arushi and broadcasted news about her affair with Hemraj despite the absence of any solid proof supporting such claims. The media portrayed the parents of the victim as ‘murderers’ of their daughter. It can be argued that both parents were convicted by Trial Court as a result of pressure exerted by media on them. The Allahabad High Court held that there was no justification for convicting the parents for double murder solely on the basis of the fact that the deceased was last seen alive with them. The findings given by the Trial Court are inherently unlawful and tainted by the omission of material facts. The parents were held ‘not guilty’ for any of the charges that were framed against them. It is clear that this is not an open and shut case as claimed by media because there were other accused too who might have committed the murder.

In “*Shashi Tharoor v. Arnab Goswami*,²⁸” the media asserted that Shashi Tharoor (former Union Minister) is responsible for the murder of his wife Sunanda Pushkar who died under mysterious circumstances in a hotel. The Delhi High Court remarked that the press must not “convict anyone” or indicate that someone is guilty, or make any other allegations that are not supported by evidence. The media must proceed with due care and diligence when reporting on subjects that are currently being investigated or that are awaiting trial. Media has the right to report news to the public but they should not violate the principle of ‘innocent until proven guilty.’ Journalists can look into things, but they cannot say that someone is guilty or make assumptions about the case when it is pending before the Court. The goal of every fair trial is

²⁶ *Santosh Kumar Singh v. State through CBI*, (2010) 9 SCC 747.

²⁷ *Nupur Talwar v. State of U. P.*, 2017(3) ACR 3010.

²⁸ *Shashi Tharoor v. Arnab Goswami*, 246 (2018) DLT 279.

to give the accused the best chance possible to show his innocence. Both the accused and society as a whole stand to benefit from the outcome of a trial that is conducted in a fair manner.

In recent case of "*Nilesh Navalakha v. Union of India (Sushant Singh Rajput case)*"²⁹ " the death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput was reported by media in an extensive manner. The media broadcasted different kinds of stories on the news about Rhea Chakraborty doing "black magic," forcing Rajput to commit suicide, and getting drugs for him. The Bombay High Court held that the freedom of the media is not affected if erroneous channels are stopped by their respective authorities from breaching the Programme Code. If an innocent person is falsely accused by the media, then he suffers irreparable harm to his reputation which was built by him over years of hard work. It is possible that even the acquittal will not be of any assistance to the accused in rebuilding his reputation in the society. Excessive media coverage that portrays a person as guilty despite a pending verdict can be considered as improper influence on the process of rendering justice.

In recent case of "*Aryan Shah Rukh Khan v. Union of India*,"³⁰ Aryan Khan was taken into detention by the concerned authorities over the suspicion of illegally consuming and possessing drugs on a ship. The media attempted to investigate this matter even before the probe was initiated. He was alleged by media as 'guilty' for using the drugs as well as being involved with drug peddlers. The Court while granting bail to him noted that he was merely present at the site where drugs were being distributed and consumed by the people. He was subjected to a vicious 'media trial' and he was portrayed as a bad example for young Indians. Even though the case was pending before the Court, his mental health was totally destroyed by making him a daily news story.

The media has the capacity to inform the public regarding the truthful realities and pressing concerns of our society. This is a profession in which the dissemination of a single piece of incorrect information has the potential to entirely ruin the life of any individual or community. The Judiciary is obligated to fulfil the purpose for which they are formed, that is to guarantee justice to every person. The media must do what they are supposed to do, which is to spread correct information. This balance must always be maintained so that no innocent person has to face unnecessary hardships in his life.

²⁹ *Nilesh Navalakha v. Union of India*, 2021(2) ABR 179.

³⁰ *Aryan Shah Rukh Khan v. Union of India*, 2021 ALL MR(Cri) 4337.

VIII. MEDIA TRIAL: GOOD OR BAD?

Media has the ability to influence perspective of a person towards looking at a particular situation. The media has played a significant role in putting an end to numerous illegal practices, such as child marriages and female infanticide.³¹ In many cases, the media deserves to be respected. It has exposed numerous frauds, scandals, and instances of corruption. The general public acquire information about these scams only due to the active role played by the media. The media has created awareness among the people about the techniques used by fraudsters and enables them to protect themselves. Due to the media, people are better informed about the current happenings in their country and throughout the world. The media can talk about and react on decisions given by the Court, but they cannot initiate a trial over matters that are pending before Court.³² The 'trial by media' disturbs the psychological well-being of the accused and their families. Such actions of media traumatize the individual for the entire life. In the mad race of increasing TRPs, journalists become self-centred and do not think about the consequences of their actions on accused or their families. The portrayal of suspect as 'guilty' by the media seriously jeopardises his right to fair trial. It is observed that even the acquittal of the accused is not useful in restoring his reputation in the society. As a result of media trials, Judges are subjected to immense societal pressure which hinders their ability to provide a fair trial to the accused.³³ It is affecting the decision-making process of the Court because Judges have a pre-conceived notion about the accused due to media. It may be challenging for the Judges to maintain their fairness in such situation. Media trials have been criticised for sensationalising crime, impeding investigations, and infringing upon the constitutional rights of the accused.³⁴ When coverage of a crime in the media is based on unverified facts, it has the potential to hamper the actual investigation. It poses challenge for law enforcement officers to carry out their duties properly which may result in the failure to arrest the true perpetrators of crime. The disclosure of the identity of the witnesses by the media puts them under undue pressure and they try to distance themselves from the case. It becomes a grave concern to ensure the safety of witnesses when their identity is revealed by the media.

³¹ Parul Sardana, *Media Trial: Boon or Bane*, IPLEADERS LAW BLOG (October 1, 2020), <https://blog.ipleaders.in/media-trial-boon-or-bane/> (last visited February 26, 2024).

³² Vanya Verma, *Famous cases of media trials in India*, IPLEADERS LAW BLOG (March 10, 2021), <https://blog.ipleaders.in/famous-cases-media-trials-india/> (last visited February 26, 2024).

³³ Samyak Mordia, *Media Trials: A Bane or Boon for Democracy*, 5 INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES 190,193 (2022).

³⁴ Smita Sonawane, *A Critical Analysis of Media Trial and Its Effect on Indian Judiciary*, IPLEADERS LAW BLOG (Apr. 25, 2021), <https://blog.ipleaders.in/critical-analysis-media-trial-effect-indian-judiciary/> (last visited Feb 26, 2024).

The media does not even care about protecting the privacy of an individual. It frequently presents personal news pertaining to the individual, even if it is not relevant to the case at hand. The accused sometimes face the loss of their jobs with minimal chances of resuming them.

IX. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The media is the best way for the general population to learn about every single information. The media fulfils a critical function within a democratic society. The media exposes the problems in our system by disseminating information to the public in the hope that they will be solved. The responsibility is to enlighten the public about events that directly or indirectly affect society, without deriving conclusions. The role of the media should be to advance justice, not to defeat it. The media is quick to leap into a case, even if they do not have a thorough understanding of the facts. The ‘media trial’ puts an unreasonable amount of pressure on the Judge that is deciding the case. The media should refrain from passing judgement on any particular case. While the media is instrumental in uncovering corruption and injustice, it must be ensured that reporting is done by the media in an honest and responsible manner. Various news channels are currently engaged in a fierce battle for increasing their TRPs. Instead of addressing important issues, the media is now focused on celebrity issues that will increase their TRP. Though we cannot overlook the benefits of the media, its misuse must also be addressed. It is the responsibility of the media to function with transparency and present true facts to the public. The media should act in a responsible manner while broadcasting the news. The media should give serious consideration to the true facts before naming anyone as guilty. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the Court to determine who is guilty for the crime. The media should not indulge in violating the right to privacy of any individual. Also, people should not simply believe everything they read in the news because there is a probability that all the information presented by the media is not correct. It is especially unwise to conduct a ‘trial by media’ on mere suspicion when the matter is pending because the suspect too has constitutional rights like right to fair trial and right to privacy which needs to be protected. The media should not give an excessive amount of publicity to the ‘victim’, the ‘accused’ and the ‘witnesses’ because it hinders the investigation process. It is also important that the media should not name any witness because doing so raises the likelihood that he would become hostile. Journalists should be duly educated regarding the laws governing them as well as the limitations imposed

on the media. This will lead to early recognition of the responsibilities by them. It will also ensure adherence to the professional code of conduct by media persons. If the media makes a mistake, then the correction shall be published by them without any delay. Although the media is highly valued, there is a need to issue guidelines to exercise self-control on them while broadcasting news. It is a futile practice by media to engage in discussions on pending cases as it is impossible to show the true picture without a proper judicial trial.