

Competence Of Female Journalists In Covering News Of The Indonesian Presidential Election 2024 On Antaranews.com

Musfialdy*, Kodarni, & M Soim

State of Islamic University of Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau, Indonesia

*musfialdy@uin-suska.ac.id

Article Info	Abstract
Received : 2024-12-13 Accepted : 2024-12-31 Published : 2025-01-16	<i>The presidential election, which is one of the elections in Indonesia, is conducted through a direct election procedure. In the 2024 presidential election, there are many challenges and obstacles in carrying out journalistic duties. In the 2024 presidential election, journalists often put themselves in situations that occur during the coverage of news in the field. The high level of occupational danger in mass media and journalism in the coverage of the presidential election is considered an inappropriate job for women. The purpose of this study is to determine the competence of women journalists in covering news of the Indonesian presidential election of 2024 at Antaranews.com. Competency standards for journalists, based on Press Council Regulation Number: 1/ Regulation-DP/II/2010 on Journalist Competency Standards. In this study, researchers used 2 theories, namely muted group theory and social responsibility theory. The conclusion in this study is that female journalists in Antaranews are very competent in covering the Indonesian presidential election 2024. It is because female journalists have awareness, knowledge, and skills in covering the 2024 presidential election.</i>
Keywords: Competence; Women Journalism; Presidential Election; Converage	

INTRODUCTION

General elections are instruments of people's sovereignty in a democratic country. General elections are an arena of competition to fill political positions in government based on the legal selection of eligible citizens (Pamungkas, 2009). In addition, general elections are a means of political recruitment where citizens can participate in the administration of the state. In TAP MPR No. VII/MPR/1978, in Article 1 Paragraph 1, it is explained that general elections are the implementation of the principle of people's sovereignty based on Pancasila. In realizing the people's sovereignty, general elections are a means for the transition and rotation of power in democratically selecting the legislative (DPR and DPD) and the executive (President and Vice President).

The presidential election, which is part of the elections in Indonesia, is conducted through a direct general election process. According to Article 6A, paragraph 1, of the 1945 Constitution, the President and Vice President are directly elected as a pair by the people. (UUD 1945) Every five years, Indonesia holds presidential and vice presidential elections. The people of Indonesia voted for the president and vice president in February 2024 for the 2024-2029 government period.

As a competition in general elections, the 2024 Presidential Election has attracted the public's attention in Indonesia. In addition to becoming a rotation of power in Indonesia, the implementation of the 2024 Presidential Election has caused many problems, such as violations of electoral law, one-sidedness of the apparatus and state civil apparatus, and intimidation of the

community and election participants. According to the Supervisory Board of Elections in the 2024 Presidential Election, there were 1023 violations received during the 2024 Election. The details, 482 came from reports, and 541 came from findings ([Bawaslu, 2024](#)).

General elections are often considered a public feast that involves all elements in a country. The presidential election conducted in Indonesia in 2024 included the mass media and journalists in disseminating information. The mass media is responsible for disseminating information about the 2024 presidential election activities to the public. Apart from being a medium for delivering information, the mass media and journalists in the presidential election are responsible for supervising the implementation of the 2024 presidential election, which is part of social control ([McQuail, 2011](#)).

In the 2024 presidential election, there were many challenges and obstacles to the implementation of journalistic duties. In the 2024 presidential election, journalists often put themselves in problems that occur during coverage in the field. These challenges and obstacles make the journalism profession a very dangerous profession during the 2024 presidential election.

It is an effort to provide information and supervision. For this reason, journalists need to have secure working conditions so as to focus on collecting and delivering news. The high level of occupational danger in mass media and journalism in the coverage of the presidential election is assumed to be inappropriate for women. Traditionally, the journalism profession is seen as the most suitable profession for men because of their work ethic, physical strength, courage, logical mind, and daring to face any danger. This condition shows that there has been inequality and discrimination in the media and the environment against female journalists. Whereas the position of female journalists should be the same as male journalists, namely appreciation for the quality of their work, such as getting the same salary as male journalists, as well as attention to their quality of life, such as getting menstrual leave, maternity leave for 3 months, and many other things. ([Rejina, et al. 2019](#)) In reality, both men and women can pursue careers in journalism.

One of the solutions for mass media and journalists in facing the dangers in general elections is that a journalist needs to have good competence. This effort is conducted so that the duties and obligations to convey information and supervision carried out in the presidential election can be carried out successfully. Competence is defined as skills and abilities, which are straightforwardly defined as basic characteristics of individual behavior that contain descriptions of the motives, self-concepts, values, knowledge, or skills demonstrated by individuals that perform excellently ([Abel, 2008](#)). Skills and abilities can at least overcome the dangers caused by the presidential election.

In covering the 2024 presidential election, journalists must not only be competent in knowledge and skills in writing but are also required to have professionalism and great responsibility, with high social commitment in carrying out the profession. Journalism is a professional skill and choice. To be successful in journalism, an individual not only needs a theoretical background to understand the field but also hands-on experience gained through training and practice. Writing news is proof of their journalistic skills and requires constant questioning.

Being a journalist is more difficult than most people think, requiring a wide range of skills and experience. To ensure that future journalists are of good quality, the Press Council developed guidelines known as the Journalist Competency Standards (SKW). The information is contained in Press Council Regulation Number 01 on October 8, 2018. The credibility and reliability of journalists can be assessed using these competency criteria ([Dewan Pers, 2018](#)).

Journalistic competency standards are necessary to protect both public interest and individual freedom. Citizens are not prohibited from being journalists because of this norm. Since journalists are “midwives of history,” “guardians of truth and justice,” “opinion leaders,” “protectors of people's personal rights,” and “enemies of criminals against humanity” (such as corruptors and dirty politicians), it is obvious that their work serves the public interest. In the face

of various situations and challenges, journalists need to be flexible and creative to find the right solutions.

In general, all mass media industries that are covering the 2024 presidential election require journalists and editors to have high competence and enthusiasm. Antaranews.com is a news portal that serves and distributes web-based news (internet). The Antaranews.com service model provides ease and convenience in accessing all the latest news. Antaranews.com news is contained in various categories and can be accessed 24 hours a day ([Antaranews.com](https://antaranews.com)).

The purpose of this study is to determine the competence of women journalists in covering news of the 2024 presidential election at Antaranews.com. As a news agency that is part of the mass media, Antaranews.com also requires its journalists to have competence in all coverage. In addition to competence, Antaranews.com is a state-owned enterprise (SOE) company required to maintain neutrality.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The research is based on several previous studies, the first reference being research by Stellarosa and Silaban (2019) with the title *Women, Media, and the Journalist Profession* (2019) in the *Journal of Communication Sciences* by the Faculty of Communication Sciences, Padjadjaran University. This study explained why most female journalists still face bias in the workplace and in the field. The study seeks to understand how women journalists are treated differently by the media and how they advocate for their rights in the workplace. Descriptive qualitative techniques were used for this research investigation. The results showed that male journalists still have an advantage over female journalists in the media industry, and only a small percentage of journalists are women and hold high positions.

The second study in this research according to Agnes Retno Larasati, Nurul Alisya, and Swita Memorita (2019) entitled “Portrait of Newsroom Independence in Indonesia: Journalists involved in elections on *Academi.Edu*”. In this study, it was discussed that editorial independence in Indonesia, especially in reporting on election issues, is generally still relatively low and concerning. The results of this study were found from a number of institutions—research on the performance of print and electronic mass media in the closing stages, during the period, and after the 2014 legislative election and the presidential and vice-presidential elections showed a tendency for most media not to be independent. The lack of independence occurred due to advertising offers, intervention of media owners, and bribed journalists. From the results of the case study of journalists involved in the 2019 elections, to apply the principle of independence, journalists are not allowed to be an official or unofficial part of the campaign team of political parties or presidential candidates.

In this study, researchers used 2 theories, namely muted group theory and social responsibility theory.

Muted Group Theory

This research used the muted group theory, which was first proposed by Edwin Ardner and Shirley Ardner. Muted group theory is a theory in the critical tradition in the subjective paradigm. This theory was developed in 1974 by Kramarae (2005), a professor of communication and sociology from the University of Illinois, United States ([Kramarae, 2005](#)).

According to Kramarae (2005), “women, poor people, and people of color are subordinate members of a group. They are unable to freely express their opinions at any given time and place. This happens because their words have been prescribed by the dominant group. Kramarae (2005) further explained that the words of women, poor people, and people of color are often ignored by

society. For this reason, women, poor people, and people of color try to eliminate this injustice, which is controlled by the dominant group (Kramareae, 2005).

The emergence of this mute group is due to pressure and arbitrary actions against a group, namely women, poor people, and people of color. So that the oppressed group finds it difficult to convey ideas or thoughts in their minds. The silencing of these groups also often occurs due to the unpopularity of the perspectives, ideas, or thoughts expressed by them (Kramareae, 2005).

Social Responsibility Theory

Social responsibility theory is a derived theory from the four theories of the press by F. S. Siebert, T. Peterson, and W. Schramm in his book entitled "The Four Theories of the Press." The four theories are categorized as normative theories since they describe the norm, something that should be the ideal condition. Normative theories provide ideas about how the media should be managed and aim to serve the demands of society and contribute to the political system (at large) where the press theory applies. The four press theories include the Authoritarian Theory, the Liberal Theory, the Soviet Communist Theory, and the Social Responsibility Theory (Sibert *et al.*, 1984).

Social responsibility theory is a modification of libertarian theory and is the opposite of authoritarian theory regarding the relationship between human position and the state. This theory is also called the new libertarian theory. This theory developed in the 20th century, which grew in non-communist countries, arising because of a sense of social responsibility as a result of the communication revolution that swept the world. This theory of social responsibility originated in the United States, born due to the technological and industrial revolutions that changed the way of life of American citizens, thus affecting the media. This theory is a form of opposition to the absolute freedom of libertarians, stating that media protected by human rights have to fulfill social responsibilities (Sibert *et al.*, 1984).

Social responsibility press theory is a responsible press that aims to demonstrate a concept of the media's obligation to serve the public interest. This theory developed because of public awareness of the development of mass media and demanded mass media to have a new social responsibility.

The theory of social responsibility has the assumption that the freedom of the press is absolute, so it encourages a lot of moral dedication. This theory sees the existence of a press and journalistic system that uses moral and ethical foundations. This theory aims to resolve the conflict between freedom and social responsibility (Sibert *et al.*, 1984).

According to Hikmat (2017), the social responsibility press believes that press freedom must be accompanied by obligations and responsibilities towards society. In the theory of social responsibility, the press has to be oriented towards the public interest. For this reason, freedom of the press must be responsible for the public interest (Hikmat, 2017).

In general elections conducted by a country, the theory of social responsibility assumes that the frequency used by the mass media belongs to the public. For this reason, the press cannot be used as a political and business tool of a group. The press should be responsible to the interests of society in general. The news carried out must fulfill the information needs of the general public.

Journalism

Multiple definitions of journalism are competing in the process of emerging. First, journalism is defined as "the process by which credible information on an event is sought, verified, and disseminated to the public" (Shapiro *et al.*, 2013). The second definition of journalism according to Adinegoro is "the process of collecting, analyzing, and disseminating news to the widest possible audience, as quickly as possible" (Sumadria, 2011). Journalists

collect, write, edit, and disseminate information for publication in print and electronic media, according to the Poewodarminta Dictionary of Indonesian Language (2001). In conclusion, journalism is the process of translating direct experience into writing that can be shared with others.

According to M. Romli and Asep Syamsul (2003), the news processing process in journalism includes:

First, the news planning process, At this point, the editorial staff holds a projection meeting, where it maps out the details of the presentation. Editorial meetings, usually conducted by the editor-in-chief, are convened before journalists begin their search for news. This is done to help journalists focus on the most pressing issues of the day. Editorial meetings are usually held in the editorial boardroom before the spread of the Covid-19 outbreak.

Second, news hunting/news gathering: news is collected by journalists in the form of facts and data through reporting, reference searches, or data collection through literature and interviews after projection meetings and division of responsibilities.

Third The writing process (news writing) After the data is collected, script writing is carried out. In writing the script, the editorial staff needs to be aware of the issues and information. Knowledge of journalistic ethics and other rules is also important. So that the script to be published is not only an event but also explains the impact caused.

Fourth, the editing process (news editing), the script that has been written must be improved in terms of editorial (language) and content (substance). A catchy and marketable title is developed at this stage, and the work is formatted to fit the spaces as well as improvements to sentences, words, writing systematics, and substance.

Fifth, in the publishing process, journalists and editors work together to produce news that is communicated to the public through broadcast media. This is because broadcasting media has a wide coverage and can be witnessed by many people simultaneously (Asep & Romli 2003).

The emergence of news agencies, or organizations whose main purpose was to gather news and writing to be distributed into print media publishers such as magazines and newspapers, and later into broadcast media such as television and radio, marked a turning point in the evolution of journalism in the mid-nineteenth century. Several major news organizations are still in business nowadays. These include the Associated Press (US), Reuters (UK), and Agence France-PPresse (FR). Indonesia's Antara news agency is a pioneer in this field (Antaranews.com).

Historically, the evolution of journalism will always be linked to the development of media technology (Steensen & Ahva, 2015). Radio and television were both invented in the 20th century as a result of advances in communication technology. Journalism developed not only print media journalism but also developed into radio and newspaper journalism. Currently, the development of journalism has followed the development of the latest media technology, namely the internet. The development of journalism during this internet era is called online journalism or cyber journalism.

Journalist Competence

Competence, according to Spencer, L. and Spencer, S., is a basic characteristic possessed by an individual that is causally related to fulfilling the criteria required in holding a position (Spencer and Spencer, 1993). Meanwhile, according to Becker and Ulrich (1997), competency refers to an individual's knowledge, skills, abilities, or personality characteristics that directly influence job performance. Ulrich (1997) has the understanding that competence contains aspects of knowledge, skills (expertise), and abilities or personality that affect performance.

Quoting the Press Council guidelines, journalist competence is the ability of a journalist to carry out journalistic activities that reflect knowledge and responsibility in accordance with the required professionalism. Professional journalists in today's information era are facing the demands of society and the development of social issues that are growing increasingly complex.

To be able to answer these demands and developments, journalists must have and continuously improve the various competencies needed.

Competence theory recognizes the term traits, which is one of the keywords to becoming a competent person. Traits are basic strengths that a person has as an individual. Richard Boyatzis (1982) states that competence is a fundamental characteristic of a person that may form motives, traits, skills, certain roles, or certain knowledge that has been possessed. According to Webster's dictionary, traits are certain qualities in a person that distinguish themselves from others or inherent characteristics, such as personal character, curiosity (the urge to know), and others. Cristopher L. Heffner describes traits as different from states. Traits are inherent characteristics that are relatively more than permanent states, so they can be used as a tool to predict a person's actions (disposition). (Dja'far, 2000) While states are more conditional or temporary, for example, anger, disappointment, dissatisfaction, and so on.

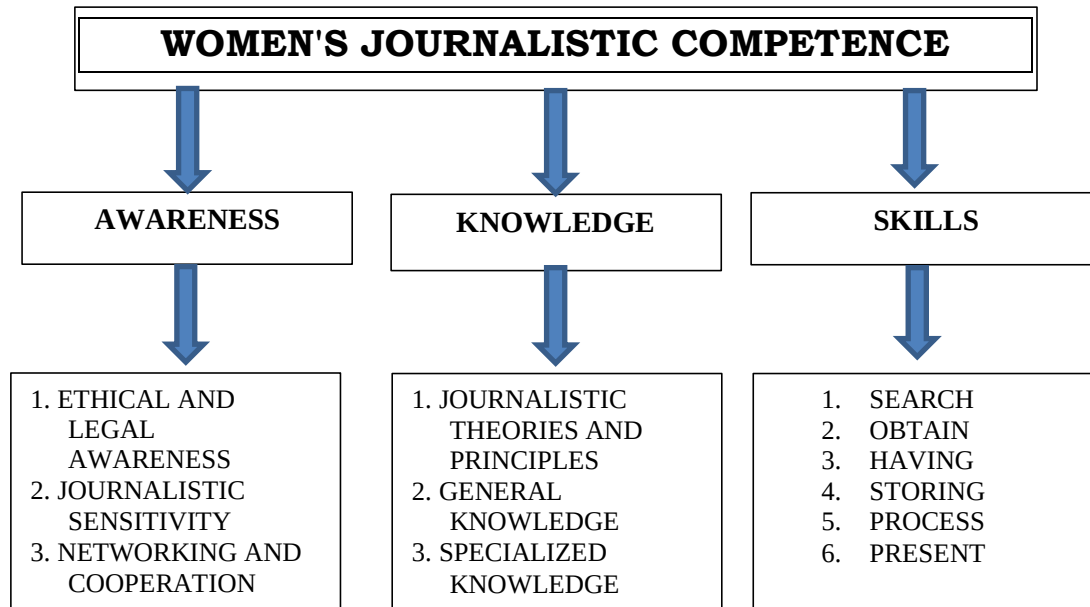
Knowledge, attitudes, and abilities that are manifested in ways of thinking and acting are commonly referred to as "competencies." These routines should be easy to maintain over time and flexible enough for adapting to the many career and skills-related changes that inevitably occur in everyone's working life. The journalism industry is very dynamic and mobile. Communicating with others is essential for journalists. It is interesting to see how journalists connect with people from different levels of society. But journalists have a responsibility to respect the privacy of others, especially their sources. Because those who provide news to journalists are people whose identities, histories, ranks, emotions, and potential outcomes are different. (Dja'far, 2000).

To what extent do personality traits, training, and experience contribute to a journalist's ability to identify developing news? This is certainly a challenging question to answer. However, potential reporters and editors should be aware of the following four qualities: experience, curiosity, imagination, and knowledge (Kusumaningrat, 2009).

Conceptual framework and Hypothesis Development

Based on the press council Number: 1/ Regulation-DP/II/2010 on Journalist Competency Standards, there are three categories of competencies that must be possessed by a journalist, namely First Awareness, including awareness of ethics and law, journalistic sensitivity, and the importance of networking and lobbying. Second Knowledge includes journalistic theories and principles, general and specialized knowledge. Third skills include the 6 activities (seeking, obtaining, owning, storing, processing, and conveying information), conducting research, analysis, and utilizing equipment and information technology. (Dewan Pers, 2018).

Figure 1: Proposed conceptual framework



METHODS

Type and Source of Data

This research uses the constructivism paradigm, which is part of the subjective/interpretive paradigm. Knowledge, according to the constructivist view, is something made by humans. Humans obtain knowledge by interacting with the world around them and the objects in it. Knowledge is most likely valid if it can be applied to relevant problems or events and produce solutions. Knowledge, under the constructivist view, should be perceived differently by each learner. Individuals are responsible for their own learning. Knowledge is not a finished product but rather a continuous process of growth and refinement (Denzin & Lincoln, 2008).

This research is a qualitative study that provides a detailed description of the data collected. Qualitative method, as defined by Bogdan and Taylor, is an information-gathering technique that relies on people's own statements and direct observation of their actions to draw conclusions. They maintain that this method takes into consideration the environment and the person as a whole. Thus, in this scenario, neither individuals nor groups can be treated as independent variables or hypotheses, but rather as components of the whole (Moleong, 1989).

This type of research is known as descriptive research, and it requires an examination of the information that has been collected and presented mostly through using text and visuals. Qualitative research aims to provide an explanation of the social process under study through the use of data obtained from research informants.

This research uses a qualitative approach by collecting in-depth data on the familiarity of female journalists in using Antaranews as a news source. In-depth interviews with female journalists at Antaranews provided data for this analysis.

This research focuses more on the subject, namely the competence of female journalists at Antaranews, while the object of research is the 2024 Presidential Election. Sources of Research Data Primary data in this study were obtained from direct interviews with female journalists at Antara news in covering the 2024 presidential election. Secondary data in this study used articles

in several journals related to women journalists and presidential elections in Indonesia.

Research informants are people who are known to have substantial expertise in the field being researched. In this study, the informants were female journalists at the Antaranews.com news agency. In addition, there are also several other informants who support this research.

Data collection techniques in this study include observation and interview. Researchers conducted in-depth interviews with key informants (female journalists at Antaranews) and other supporting informants to obtain the majority of research data.

The documentation of this study uses data triangulation for source validity to ensure the reliability of the data collected in this research. The source validity used in this research is an academic and former journalist to support the validity of sources who are competent with the theme of this research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

This research analysis refers to the Press Council Regulation Number 01/ Regulation-DP/X/2018 on Journalist Competency Standards. In this regulation, a journalist should demonstrate proficiency in at least three areas: First, awareness, involving things like knowing the rules, being aware of the law, being sensitive as a journalist, and understanding the value of networking and lobbying. Second, knowledge includes broad and specific information about journalism. Third, skills, including study, investigation, analysis, prediction, and the use of information tools and technology (seeking, obtaining, possessing, storing, processing, and transmitting information). The journalistic competencies in question are the basics that a journalist has to know, possess, and use.

Awareness

Awareness of the law and journalistic ethics are some of the most important elements in the competence of a female journalist. According to Genta Tenri Mawangi, a senior journalist at Antaranews.com,

“Journalistic ethics or code of ethics are fundamental knowledge and skills that are required to be possessed by journalists. The rules on the code of ethics are also in the Press Law. So, regardless of the coverage, knowledge of it is mandatory for every journalist. Regarding knowledge of the law, a journalist can adapt it to the requirements of their coverage.”

Legal awareness for journalists is very important in covering the 2024 presidential election because it affects the quality, ethics, and integrity of the news reported to the public. According to Narda Margaretha Sinambela,

“(Female journalists-red) must know ethics and law, because this job is required to report correct information. If not, then I have violated the code of ethics and my own conscience.”.

Genta added,

“The legal rules of the Press Law and the journalistic code of ethics as basic knowledge, and election-related laws and rules made by election organizers as advanced knowledge

that should also be learned when covering electoral issues and events.”

Women journalists understand the law and can avoid violations, such as defamation, slander, or invasion of privacy. This is important to prevent lawsuits that could harm individuals and media institutions. Legal awareness helps journalists maintain journalistic ethical standards. For example, journalists should understand the laws related to copyright, the right to information, and the use of anonymous sources, so they can report facts responsibly. Nada is also an example of ethical knowledge so as not to create and spread false, slanderous, and harmful news. In addition, it is also required not to prejudice against one of the parties where my agency supports peaceful elections.

Apart from legal awareness, journalistic sensitivity is also an element of competence. One example of journalistic sensitivity when there are irregularities occurring in the 2024 presidential election is being professional. A female journalist must take a professional attitude in the coverage of finding irregularities during the 2024 Presidential Election. Nada explained,

“(Female journalists-red) remain professional by ignoring these irregularities.”

The efforts made in this professional attitude, according to Genta,

“Election irregularities as an event are determined by supervisory institutions such as the Elections Supervisory Agency. If there are findings from the community, police, prosecutors' office, and other institutions, all of them are suspected until they are determined by the authorized institution, namely the Election Supervisory Agency. Journalists in responding to this are based on the Election Supervisory Agency's decision, which determines the status of allegations/complaints of election violations as violations or not.”

This professional attitude is also carried out in the news processing process where irregularities occur; according to Genta, female journalists must choose an angle that is in accordance with the values adopted by the agency, which is more useful and beneficial to the community. The formulation according to Genta is a journalist organizing the facts of the event in the form of a complaint/report from the complainant. The report then re-verifies with the relevant parties accused, and requests a response from the authorized institution, the Elections Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu, 2024). This is a form of journalistic sensitivity in carrying out coverage of the 2024 Presidential Election.

One of the awareness factors in competence is networking and cooperation. Genta further explained that information networks are usually formed organically between fellow journalists in the field, and lobbying is generally specific between certain journalists/media and the targets to lobby. Networks and cooperation in journalistic coverage have a very important role in improving the quality, efficiency, and impact of journalists' work. However, Genta explained the organic information network between journalists that is generally used while on duty. The information that appears is only preliminary, so it needs follow-up/verification from credible and authorized sources.

Awareness of gender studies for female journalists is needed in covering the 2024 presidential election. According to Nada, gender awareness is necessary for a female journalist. Nada explains,

“In my opinion, this (awareness of gender studies—red) is necessary because it hasn't been discussed a lot since when I was studying communication too.”

On the other hand, Genta explained that in the journalism profession, in principle, there

is no gender distinction, including in the task of covering election issues and events. However, in practice, female journalists can be a vulnerable group to sexual violence in the process of dealing with perpetrators of violence. In this case the perpetrators are those who have positions, authority, etc. Violence can also be verbal, physical, explicit, or covert.

Genta further explained:

“(awareness-red) about gender studies related to women's vulnerability is not unique to election coverage or political coverage because the same vulnerabilities are experienced by women journalists in other fields of coverage. I believe that the journalism profession does not recognize gender-based role differentiation. This profession, whether male or female, demands competence in the same basic knowledge and sensitivity.”

In covering the 2024 presidential election, a female journalist also needs gender studies awareness. With awareness of gender studies, women journalists can recognize sensitive issues, understand the impact of their reports, and act with integrity to ensure that their reports do not harm certain individuals or groups.

Genta explained:

“If you are referring to gender studies for election issues in Indonesia in general, it is certainly needed, because women's representation is still too low, both in the organizers and candidates for legislative and presidential elections. Many female candidates are also chosen only to be “tokens”—or only to fulfill the formal requirements of representation, only seen from appearance/status/popularity, not from vision and mission and track records.”

Genta further explained the position of women journalists in the 2024 presidential election, among others.

“The position of female journalists in the 2024 Presidential Election reporting process is not different from men in principle. In the process of reporting the 2024 Presidential Election, the position of journalists will be slightly different from one another due to their lobbying ability, consistency, and intensity of sticking to certain candidate pairs/political parties.”

Knowledge

Knowledge in journalistic coverage is an important element that underlies the ability of journalists to produce accurate, balanced, and valuable reports for society. Women journalists must have the knowledge to report neutrally without bias, providing a balanced view of all parties involved, including candidates, political parties, and voters.

According to Genta,

“The knowledge that a journalist must have is twofold and entirely fundamental to a journalist. First, knowledge about news, including the basics of writing news. This knowledge means a journalist is able to distinguish news from assumptions/perceptions of an event. Second, knowledge of the journalistic code of ethics, which includes honesty and the discipline of verifying the facts of an event.”

Nada specifically explained the importance of knowledge for female journalists:

“I also think (knowledge-red) is necessary, because maybe nowadays there are many points that need to be added to the 9 elements of journalism by Bill Kovach.”.

Usually female journalists who have in-depth knowledge of the topics being covered will be able to present accurate and credible information. A strong understanding of a particular subject enables journalists to avoid mistakes in the interpretation or presentation of facts.

One example of knowledge when covering the news of the 2024 presidential election is theoretical studies. But according to Genta,

“Theoretical studies are generally useful on a theoretical/philosophical level, not on a practical level. Journalistic studies are certainly important for practice, but they have no direct effect because the space is different. However, if what is meant is a study on elections whose results can be used for agenda-setting coverage and news writing, it is certainly needed”.

Skills

In addition to awareness and knowledge, skills are part of competence when covering the 2024 presidential election. Skills in covering the 2024 presidential election are essential because the 2024 presidential election is an important moment in democracy, and good coverage ensures that the public gets accurate, objective, and comprehensive information. Journalistic skills ensure that information reported about elections, such as vote count results, voting processes, and related incidents, is correct and not misleading.

One of the skills in journalism is searching for information for reporting. Strategies in reporting according to Genta,

“Strategies for obtaining accurate information in writing and broadcasting news include, first, seeking information directly from the main sources/credible sources of information, namely the relevant candidate pairs and authorized institutions, including political parties.

Second, build networks with politicians who have positions, for example, the chairman of a politician and the main committee of a politician”.

Analytical or research skills are important to assist the public in understanding the implications of election results, political trends, and the impact of voters' decisions on the future of the country. Nada added that her strategy for covering the election,

“I do my research before joining the campaign in a particular area. It also helps to explore the problems faced by the public to get their attention”.

The strategy in covering the news on Antaranew.com is to seek information from sources (interviews). The next strategy is to build networks with sources and conduct research before reporting. Skills in covering the news of the 2024 presidential election and how to obtain the data needed in these activities.

The data can be accessed through interviews, direct observation, and taking from portals related to the 2024 presidential election. Nada explained that the data is usually taken from existing portals and related to the 2024 presidential election. According to Nada,

“Data presented on government news portals, such as stunting rates, poverty, etc. Sometimes I also get additional data from LSM.”

After the data is collected, the next journalistic skill is to process the data to become news. According to Genta,

“In the journalism profession, the main information is the facts received directly and actual. Meanwhile, the previous data is supporting information that helps provide context for the news content/narrative”.

Nada added that the data processing process must also be verified. This verification process is useful to ensure that the information reported about the election, such as vote count results, voting processes, and related incidents, is correct and not misleading.

In the processing process, many people are involved both directly and indirectly. But the data processing also goes through a long process. According to Genta, in the process of writing news, there are two types of writing: those written by a team—consisting of several journalists and assembled by an editor—and those written by a single journalist and then edited by an editor. For information that is actual and the main source of news, the data is processed directly by the journalist who writes it—with only one method, namely verification of facts and statements from sources. For data, there is generally a team from R&D that processes and presents it in the form of infographics for readers. Journalists can also use data that they gather to create a narrative. All products made by reporters/journalists will be verified again at the editing table by the editor. Nanda added that the people involved include,

“Me (journalist-red), sources, data from third parties, and editors.”.

Furthermore, presentation skills are carried out by the media to convey information on the 2024 Presidential Election to the public. In the process of presenting this information, according to Genta,

“For a news agency ([Antaranews.com](https://antaranews.com)), whose main customers are the media, the news/products needed are broadcast-worthy, accurate, comprehensive (press klaar), and complete. Techniques for obtaining such a result are live interviews and eyewitness accounts of events that are verified by interviews. Accuracy of facts is the main value in news”.

News coverage of the 2024 presidential election must comply with journalistic ethical standards, such as respecting voter privacy and not spreading hoaxes or unverified information. This effort is made to maintain peace in the community during the 2024 Presidential Election.

Furthermore, the news presented in the presidential election will be documented to become data in covering the next presidential elections. According to Genta, the news that has been presented is as good as being stored to become a database about the track records of candidate pairs and electoral news for the next period.

Discussion

In this study, researchers discussed using two theories, namely Muted Group Theory and Social Responsibility Theory. Muted group theory is a theory in the critical tradition in the subjective paradigm. According to Kramarae (2005), women, poor people, and people of color are subordinate members of a group. They cannot freely express what they want in a certain time and place. This happens because their words have been prescribed by the dominant group. Kramarae (2005) further explained that the words of women, poor people, and people of color are

often ignored by society. For this reason, women, poor people, and people of color try to negate this injustice, controlled by the dominant group (Sari, 2014).

In this study, female journalists are free to say what they want at a certain time and place. This can be seen from Genta's statement that the position of female journalists in the 2024 Presidential Election reporting process is no different in principle from men. However, there is a slight difference between female journalists and male journalists in the ability to lobby, consistency, and intensity of sticking to certain candidate pairs/political parties.

Genta further explained that gender differences related to women's vulnerabilities are not unique to election or political coverage because the same vulnerabilities are experienced by female journalists in other fields of coverage. A female journalist believes that the journalism profession does not recognize role differentiation due to gender. The profession, whether male or female, demands competence in the same basic knowledge and sensitivity. Female journalists are often more sensitive to gender issues and are able to raise women's voices and experiences that may be overlooked in election coverage. They can highlight how certain policies or issues affect women in particular, giving the public a more complete and balanced picture.

However, Genta explained that gender differences as an issue of the 2024 presidential election in Indonesia, in general, are certainly needed. This is because the issue of women's representation is still too low, both in the organizers and candidates for legislative and presidential elections. Many female candidates are also chosen only to be "tokens"—or only to fulfill the formal requirements of representation, only seen from appearance/status/popularity, not from vision, mission, and track record. Coverage by women journalists can encourage more women to get involved in politics. By reporting in-depth on the achievements, challenges, and journeys of female candidates, female journalists can inspire the next generation to participate in politics.

The next discussion uses the Social Responsibility Theory. Social responsibility press theory is a press responsibility that aims to show a concept of the media's obligation to serve the interests of society. This research explains that the social responsibility of the press towards election coverage is crucial because the press has an important role in shaping public opinion, providing accurate information, and ensuring transparency in the democratic process.

According to nada, the social responsibility of the press in the 2024 presidential election is that the coverage of the 2024 presidential election must comply with journalistic ethical standards, such as respecting the privacy of voters and not spreading hoax news or unverified information. This effort is made to maintain peace in society during the 2024 presidential election.

Women journalists have a social responsibility to ensure the issues that have a direct impact on women are properly highlighted in election coverage. This includes issues such as reproductive health, equal pay, gender-based violence, and women's political participation. By giving voice to these issues, women journalists help create public awareness and encourage policymakers to respond. They help build a more inclusive and supportive work culture within the newsroom, which in turn improves the overall quality of coverage.

In covering elections, the press must maintain high ethical standards, including respecting voters' privacy, avoiding sensationalism, and not capitalizing on issues that could cause hatred or division in society. According to Genta, in the implementation carried out by the news agency ([Antaranews.com](https://www.antaranews.com)), the main customers are the media, where the news/products needed are broadcast-worthy, accurate, and complete (press klaar).

Techniques for obtaining such results are direct interviews and observation of events. These are then verified by interviews with the sources. Accuracy of facts is the main value in news. In addition to the responsibility to customers, the accuracy and facts of the news also maintain the peaceful implementation of the 2024 presidential election. Through their social responsibility, female journalists can be an example for the next generation of journalists and encourage more women to enter the world of journalism and politics.

CONSLUSIONS

The conclusion in this study is that Antaranews female journalists are very competent in covering the 2024 presidential election. This can be seen from female journalists having awareness, knowledge, and skills in covering the 2024 presidential election. First, Antaranews.com female journalists have legal and ethical awareness or a journalistic code of ethics when covering the 2024 presidential election. Legal and ethical awareness for female journalists is very important in covering the 2024 presidential election because this affects the quality, ethics, and integrity of the news delivered to the public. In addition to awareness in this competency, networking and good cooperation are also needed by female journalists. Networking and cooperation in journalistic coverage have a very important role in improving the quality, efficiency, and impact of the work of female journalists at Antaranews.com.

Furthermore, awareness of gender studies for female journalists is required in these activities. With awareness of gender studies, female journalists can recognize sensitive issues, understand the impact of their reports, and act with integrity to ensure that their reports do not harm certain individuals or groups.

Second, female journalists have good knowledge in coverage, and knowledge of the 2024 presidential election has been possessed by female journalists at antaranews.com. This knowledge can be used for agenda setting in covering and writing news about the 2024 presidential election. Female journalists must have knowledge in reporting neutrally without bias, providing a balanced view of all parties involved, including candidates, political parties, and voters. Female journalists who have in-depth knowledge of the topics they are covering would be more capable of presenting accurate and credible information. A strong understanding of a particular subject helps journalists avoid mistakes in the interpretation or presentation of facts.

Third, the skills practiced by Antaranews.com's female journalists to ensure that the information reported about the election, such as vote count results, the voting process, and related incidents, is correct and not misleading. Antaranews.com female journalists already have strategies in covering information, processing data, communicating, and documenting information in the coverage of the 2024 presidential election. In addition, skills in analysis or research have also been possessed by Antaranews.com female journalists. These skills are important to help the public understand the implications of election results, political trends, and the impact of voters' decisions on the future of the country.

In the 2024 presidential election, female journalists at antaranews.com are free to convey what news they want at a certain time and place. Female journalists do not receive discrimination either individually or in groups. In the process of reporting the 2024 presidential election, the position of female journalists is no different from men in principle. However, gender differences as an issue of the 2024 presidential election in Indonesia, in general, are certainly needed. Because (issue-red) women's representation is still too low, both in organizers and candidates for legislative and presidential elections.

The social responsibility of the press in the 2024 presidential election by female journalists at antaranews.com by reporting on the 2024 presidential election must comply with journalistic ethical standards, such as respecting voter privacy and not spreading hoax news or unverified information. In addition, female journalists have a social responsibility to ensure that issues that have a direct impact on women receive appropriate attention in election coverage. This effort is made to maintain peace in society during the 2024 Presidential Election

REFERENCES

- Abel, G. (2008). *Modell und Wirklichkeit Modelle (HRSG)* Ulrich Dirks, Eberhard Knobloch. *Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang GmbH*
- Antaranew.com (2024) Produk dan Layanan.
<https://korporat.antaranews.com/produk/antaranews>
- Asep, S., & M. Romli. (2016). *Jurnalistik Praktis: Untuk Pemula*. Remaja Rosdakarya, Bandung
- Bawaslu. (2024). Registrasi 1.023 Temuan dan Laporan, Bawaslu Temukan 479 Dugaan Pelanggaran Pemilu 2024. <https://www.bawaslu.go.id/id/berita/registrasi-1023-temuan-dan-laporan-bawaslu-temukan-479-dugaan-pelanggaran-pemilu-2024>
- Denzin N., & Y. Lincoln. (2008). *The Discipline and Practice of Qualitative Research* Sage
- Dewan Pers. (2018). Standar Kompetensi Wartawan
https://dewanpers.or.id/assets/documents/peraturan/2107131029_1901191536_Buku_2018_SKW.pdf
- Dja'far, A. (2000). *Jurnalistik Masa Kini: Pengantar ke Praktek Kewartawanan*. Jakarta. Ghalia Indonesia.
- Siebert, F. S., Theodore P., & Wilbur S. (1984). *Four Theories Of The Press: The Authoritarian, Libertarian, Social Responsibility, And Soviet Communist Concepts Of What The Press Should Be And Do*, *University of Illinois Press*, <https://doi.org/10.5406/j.ctv1nhr0v>
- Hikmat, M. M. (2017). *Jurnalistik Literary Journalism*, Prenanda Medai Bandung
- Kramarae, C. (2005). Muted Group Theory and Communication: Asking Dangerous Questions, *Women and Language* 28, no. 2
- Kusumaningrat, H., & Kusumaningrat, P. (2009). *Jurnalistik: teori dan praktik*. PT. Remaja Rosdakarya.
- McQuail, D. (2011). *Teori Komunikasi Massa* McQuail. Jakarta: *Salemba Humanika*
- Moleong, L. J. (1989). *Metodelogi Penelitian Kualitatif*, *Remaja karya Bandung*
- Pamungkas. S (2009), *Perihal Pemilu*, *Laboratorium Jurusan Ilmu Pemerintahan Dan Jurusan Ilmu Pemerintahan Universitas Gadjah Mada*
- Rejina M. B., Mas'amah., & Ferly, T. H. (2019). Perempuan dan Jurnalisme: Studi Fenomenologi Terhadap Profesionalisme Jurnalis Perempuan di Kota Kupang. *Jurnal Digital Media & Relationship*
- Shapiro, I., Brin, C., Bedard-Brule, I., & Mychajlowycz, K. (2013). *Verification as a Strategic Ritual*. *Journalism Practice*
- Spencer, L. M., & Spencer, S. M. (1993). *Competence at work: Models for superior performance*. New York: John Wiley and Sons.
- Steensen, S., & Ahva. L. (2015). Theories of journalism in a digital age: An exploration and introduction, *Digital Juranlism*
- Stellarosa, Y., & Silaban, M. W. (2019). Perempuan, Media Dan Profesi Jurnalis, *Jurnal Kajian Komunikasi*, Fakultas Ilmu komunikasi, Unpad
- Sumadria, H. (2011). *Bahasa Jurnalistik: Panduan Praktis Penulis dan Jurnalis*, PT Simbiosis Rekatama Media.
- Ulrich, D. (1997). *Human resource champions*. Cambridge, MA: *Harvard Business School Press*.

Undang Undang Dasar 1945 <https://ntb.kemenkumham.go.id/produk-hukum-2/pusat/uud-ri-tahun-1945>