



International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

The Role of Journalism in Social Movements: A Socio–Media Analysis

Miss. Geetanjali Naik¹, Miss. Aadya Anuska Pani², Mr. Chetan Agrawal³, Ms. Tuhina Choubey⁴

¹⁻³Student, BAJMC, 5th Semester, ⁴Assistant Professor

Department of Journalism & Mass communication, Kalinga University, kotni, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh

Tuhina.choubey@kalingauniversity.ac.in

ABSTRACT

Social movements—whether local, national, or global—depend essentially on the dissemination of information, the shaping of public opinion, and the construction of collective identities. In this framework, journalism emerges as a fundamental organizing force that documents concerns, provides visibility to marginalized perspectives, and mobilises public participation. In the 21st century, the combination of traditional media, internet news platforms, and citizen-led reporting has revolutionized how movements operate, expand, and generate political effect.

Through theoretical perspectives including agenda-setting, framing, gatekeeping, and networked activism, this study examines the complex role of media in starting, influencing, and maintaining social movements. Through an analysis of significant case studies, such as the Arab Spring, India's #MeToo movement, the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement in the US, and India's Farmers' Protest (2020–2021), the study demonstrates how journalistic practices support public discourse, foster national and international solidarity, and put pressure on political institutions to take action.

The analysis also analyzes how digital journalism and social media platforms have democratized information flows, enabling regular citizens to act as reporters and activists. Important issues such as media bias, disinformation, corporate and political influence, threats to press freedom, and state-led monitoring or repression of journalists covering protests are all critically discussed in this study.

the study indicates that media is not only a passive witness of social development but an active agency that forms narratives of dissent, constructs public memory, and assures accountability in democratic and semi-democratic regimes. The results highlight how important it is to protect media freedom and bolster independent journalism in order to support social movements and democratic processes.

Introduction

As a supplement to the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, journalism has long been considered the fourth pillar of democracy. Its major responsibility is to operate as a bridge between the State and the people, providing transparency, accountability, and the free flow of information. Journalism assumes an even more potent and transformational role when seen through the prism of social movements. It does not merely capture events as they unfold—it actively impacts the direction, intensity, and public reception of social movements

.In the present world, social movements are increasingly driven by quick information interchange and digital connectivity. Journalism, in its modern form, involves traditional news media, digital platforms, social networking sites, independent investigative outlets, alternative media, YouTube-based reportage, and citizen journalism. Movements are able to get over conventional gatekeeping methods that used to filter, slow, or suppress information thanks to this ecosystem. As a result, regular citizens may now catch injustice, broadcast it instantaneously, and mobilize support across local, national, and even global boundaries.

Within democratic countries, journalism plays numerous interrelated activities that support and invigorate social movements:

- It helps mobilize supporters and form collective awareness through ongoing coverage, debates, editorials, and investigative reporting.
- It articulates the complaints of marginalized groups and offers attention to voices that are otherwise disregarded.
- Journalism exposes systemic inequities, corruption, violence, and human rights violations, prompting authorities to respond.
- It also promotes public discourse, allowing people to interact with the movement, assess its demands critically, and take part in democratic procedures.

On the other hand, journalism itself becomes into a kind of activism and resistance in authoritarian or semi-authoritarian environments. For covering social movements, journalists in this country are subject to severe restriction, surveillance, legal threats, incarceration, internet harassment, and even physical violence. Despite these obstacles, a lot of journalists keep reporting on state oppression and highlighting activists' efforts. Their efforts frequently

serve as a lifeline for local opposition and a means of drawing attention to problems that authoritarian governments attempt to conceal on a worldwide scale.

The rise of internet journalism has radically transformed how social movements start, expand, and sustain themselves. Information has become more accessible because of hashtags, viral videos, livestreams, blogs, and independent digital platforms. Movements such as the Arab Spring, #BlackLivesMatter, #MeToo, the Anti-CAA protests, and environmental movements globally have proved that journalism—professional and citizen-based—can ignite global solidarity within hours.

This study consequently tries to explore, analyse, and interpret the diverse ways in which journalism supports, enhances, and reshapes social movements across different societies. The study emphasizes the changing nature of journalism, its transformative potential, and the difficulties it encounters in the digital age by looking at both democratic and authoritarian environments. It highlights that media is not only an observer of social mobilisation—it is often a catalyst that ignites awareness, increases public participation, and helps to socio-political transformation on national and global scales.

Objectives of the Study

- To study the role of journalism in originating, influencing, and sustaining social movements.

This purpose focuses on understanding how journalism serves not just as a recorder of events but also as an active agent in the development and growth of social movements. It studies how news narratives, investigative reports, and media exposure help movements gain attention, shape their demands, and retain momentum throughout time. It also examines journalism's ability to translate scattered individual frustrations into collective action.

- To investigate how digital journalism can magnify public complaints.

This goal assesses how digital platforms, including blogs, independent digital channels, livestreams, social media reporting, online news portals, and citizen journalism, spotlight and spread public concerns. It studies how digital journalism speeds information flow, bypasses traditional gatekeeping, and offers excluded people with direct channels of expression, enabling social mobilizing faster and more inclusive.

- To evaluate how the public's view of protests is influenced by journalistic framing.

This goal investigates how the public's comprehension and interpretation of social movements are impacted by the language, tone, images, and narrative structures used by the media. It analyzes how media representations can legitimize, delegitimize, sensationalize, or neutralize movements by taking into account ideas like framing, agenda-setting, and priming. It also explores how framing effects public sympathies, political reactions, and global awareness.

- To explore the issues faced by journalists covering social movements.

This aim analyzes and evaluates the professional, logistical, and ethical issues encountered by journalists during protest coverage. It encompasses concerns such as censorship, state monitoring, police violence, misinformation, legal intimidation, online harassment, restricted access to information, and difficulties linked to objectivity and safety. It also analyzes gender-specific issues experienced by women journalists in contentious contexts.

- To gain a comparative understanding by using case studies from India and other countries.

This purpose underscores the necessity of cross-national comparisons to understand the different link between journalism and social movements. Using cases from India and throughout the world, it tries to compare media freedom, reporting techniques, state responses, technological impacts, and protest outcomes. Case studies can demonstrate how cultural, political, and technological factors affect journalistic roles differently in democratic, semi-democratic, and authoritarian regimes.

Research Questions

How does journalism contribute to the mobilisation of social movements?

What journalistic practices influence public perception of movements?

How have digital media and citizen journalism transformed activism?

What challenges do journalists face while covering social protests?

Methodology

This is a qualitative, descriptive research study. Data has been collected from:

Secondary literature (peer-reviewed journals, reports, documentaries)

Digital news archives

Case study analysis

Theoretical frameworks of agenda-setting, framing theory, and public sphere theory (Habermas)

Literature Review (Major Themes)

Journalism as a Catalyst for Public Opinion

According to McCombs and Shaw's (1972) Agenda-Setting Theory, the media may not dictate what people should think, but it is crucial in influencing their thoughts. This implies journalism shapes the public agenda by deciding which topics gain visibility and priority.

In the context of social movements, this function becomes particularly significant. When news outlets constantly highlight a protest, injustice, or public grievance, the topic gains:

- Legitimacy (it is seen as significant and reliable)
- Urgency (it requires prompt response from the public and government)
- Collective awareness (more individuals notice the shared problem)

Journalistic coverage can therefore transform a localised struggle into a national or global movement. Conversely, when the media ignores or downplays a movement, public visibility declines, leading to diminished support. In this sense, journalism becomes a **catalyst** that influences the intensity, spread, and timing of public opinion during social mobilisation.

Journalism and the Public Sphere

The concept of the **Public Sphere**, proposed by Jürgen Habermas, emphasises the importance of open, rational, and democratic dialogue among citizens. According to Habermas, public opinion emerges through discussion, debate, and collective reasoning.

Journalism plays a fundamental role in enabling this public sphere by:

- Providing **information** necessary for informed debate
- Offering **platforms** (newsrooms, debates, op-eds, interviews) for diverse viewpoints
- Encouraging **dialogue between the State and citizens**
- Acting as a **watchdog** that holds power accountable

During social movements, journalism strengthens the public sphere by amplifying the voices of citizens, experts, activists, and marginalised communities. In democratic societies, this facilitates:

- Policy reforms
- Public pressure on authorities
- A more inclusive national conversation
- Recognition of collective identity among protestors

Without journalism, the public sphere becomes weakened, making it easier for authoritarian tendencies to take root.

Digital Journalism and Networked Movements

Sociologist Manuel Castells (2012) describes contemporary movements as “**networked social movements**” — mobilisations that rely on digital platforms, online journalism, and horizontally connected networks rather than hierarchical leadership.

Digital journalism transforms social movements in several ways:

- **Real-time communication:** Livestreams, tweets, and digital reports spread information instantly.
- **User-generated content:** Ordinary citizens become journalists by recording events on mobile phones.
- **Alternative media ecosystems:** Independent portals and YouTube channels bypass mainstream gatekeeping.
- **Decentralised mobilisation:** Movements grow organically without a central authority.
- **Global solidarity:** Hashtags and viral content connect movements across continents (#MeToo, #BLM, Arab Spring).

This form of journalism accelerates the speed, scale, and impact of mobilisation. It also reduces media monopolies, giving power back to the people. Castells argues that networked movements are more resilient because they are flexible, fast, and difficult for the state to control.

Framing of Protest

Media Framing Theory examines how journalists select certain angles, narratives, and visuals to shape the way an issue is interpreted by the public. During protests, framing determines whether the movement is seen as:

- **A legitimate expression of democratic rights**
- **A threat to public order**
- **A humanitarian crisis**
- **An act of rebellion or sedition**

Common frames include:

- **Victim frame:** Protestors shown as suffering injustice; generates public sympathy.
- **Violent agitator frame:** Focus on clashes, property damage; delegitimises protestors.
- **Rights-based frame:** Emphasises constitutional rights, civil liberties, and peaceful mobilisation.
- **Law-and-order frame:** Justifies police or state actions as necessary for control.

These frames influence:

- **Public opinion** (support vs. opposition)
- **Government response** (dialogue vs. crackdown)
- **International attention** (sanctions, solidarity, or condemnation)

Thus, framing shapes not only how society *perceives* a movement but also how the movement *unfolds* in political and social terms.

Role of Journalism in Social Movements

Journalism as an Agenda Setter

Journalism plays a central role in determining which issues enter public consciousness and political debate. Through repeated coverage, editorial focus, documentaries, and investigative reports, media organisations draw attention to social problems that were previously overlooked or underreported.

Examples demonstrate this power clearly:

- The **#MeToo movement** gained global momentum because journalists amplified stories of sexual harassment that institutions had long ignored.
- The **Black Lives Matter (BLM)** movement expanded worldwide after media organisations and citizen journalists publicised cases of racial injustice and police violence.
- In India, journalistic coverage of **farmer distress, unemployment, environmental degradation, caste-based discrimination, and gender violence** has repeatedly pushed these issues into public debate.

By determining which topics are “newsworthy,” journalism sets the **public agenda**, influencing what the nation discusses, debates, and demands. This aligns directly with the **Agenda-Setting Theory**—media attention elevates the urgency and legitimacy of social issues.

Journalism as a Mobiliser

Journalism does not simply inform—it **mobilises**. Through televised debates, opinion pieces, interviews, online portals, podcasts, and especially social media hashtags, journalism can spark collective action on a scale once unimaginable.

Examples of mobilisation through journalism include:

- Hashtags like **#MeToo**, **#StandWithFarmers**, **#JusticeForGeorgeFloyd**, and **#Nirbhaya** unified people beyond geographical limitations.
- Online news portals like *The Wire*, *Scroll*, *AltNews*, *The Guardian*, *Al Jazeera*, and *New York Times* helped broaden movements by offering continuous, in-depth coverage.
- Livestreams by ordinary citizens during protests (such as the Indian anti-CAA protests or the Hong Kong pro-democracy movement) rallied global support.

Digital journalism therefore transforms individuals into communities, spectators into participants, and dispersed voices into powerful collective movements.

Journalism as a Watchdog

One of journalism's most critical democratic functions is its role as a **watchdog**—monitoring those in power and exposing wrongdoing. Investigative journalism has repeatedly uncovered:

- **State abuses**, such as unlawful detentions, custodial torture, or surveillance activities
- **Corporate exploitation**, including environmental violations and unethical labour practices
- **Police brutality**, as documented during movements like BLM and various Indian protests
- **Human rights violations**, including attacks on minorities and marginalised communities

When journalists reveal corruption or injustice, they trigger public outrage, institutional reforms, judicial action, and sometimes international scrutiny. Even in authoritarian settings—where journalists risk arrest or violence—the watchdog function becomes a form of courage and resistance.

Journalism as a Bridge Between Power and Public

Journalism connects citizens to those who govern them. Through press conferences, interviews, news debates, policy analyses, and investigative reports, journalists hold authorities accountable by asking difficult questions and highlighting public concerns.

This bridging function includes:

- **Amplifying citizens' grievances** so they reach lawmakers and administrators
- **Demanding explanations** from public officials about decisions affecting the population
- **Acting as intermediaries** during crises, such as reporting on relief during floods, protests, or pandemics
- **Monitoring promises versus performance** by governments, political parties, and institutions

In doing so, journalism strengthens democratic accountability. Consistent media pressure often forces policymakers to respond to issues that might otherwise be ignored.

Journalism as an Archive of Movements

Journalists also serve as **archivists of history**. Through news articles, documentaries, photographs, videos, podcasts, and on-ground reportage, they create lasting records of social movements.

These archives become invaluable:

- For researchers studying political, cultural, or social change
- For future generations trying to understand the evolution of society
- For legal and human rights bodies documenting violations
- For movements themselves, which rely on recorded history to sustain momentum

Iconic photographs from the Civil Rights Movement, videos from the Arab Spring, reports from India's independence struggle, and documentation of the farmers' protests stand as permanent reminders of collective resistance.

In this role, journalism preserves the memory of struggle—ensuring that movements are not erased or forgotten.

Case Studies

CASE STUDY 1: Arab Spring (2011)

Background

The Arab Spring was a series of democratic uprisings that swept across Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen, and several other Middle Eastern and North African countries in 2011. These movements were rooted in decades of authoritarian rule, economic inequality, corruption, police brutality, and suppression of civil liberties.

Role of Journalism

The Arab Spring is widely considered the first major revolution shaped significantly by **digital and citizen journalism**.

- **Citizen journalism as a primary source of information:**
Ordinary citizens used mobile phones to record protests, human rights abuses, and state violence. These videos were uploaded directly to Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter, bypassing state-controlled media.

- **Breaking state censorship:**

Traditional press in many Arab nations was tightly controlled. However, **Al Jazeera** played a transformative role by broadcasting raw, uncensored footage globally. This coverage challenged state propaganda and amplified the democratic aspirations of the protesters.

- **Social media as a journalism tool:**

Platforms like Facebook and Twitter functioned as real-time newsrooms. Activists shared updates, coordinated protests, and built international solidarity. Hashtags such as *#Jan25* (Egypt) unified citizens and captured global attention.

Impact

- The Tunisian and Egyptian regimes collapsed under public pressure, demonstrating the transformative potential of journalism-led mobilisation.
- Authoritarian censorship was exposed and weakened; the world witnessed how digital journalism could circumvent media control.
- The Arab Spring became a landmark example of how **networked journalism** (Castells, 2012) can trigger political change across regions.

CASE STUDY 2: #MeToo Movement in India (2017–2019)

Background

Inspired by the global #MeToo movement, women in India began publicly sharing experiences of workplace sexual harassment and gendered power abuse. The movement gained momentum across media, academia, corporate sectors, and entertainment industries.

Role of Journalism

Journalism played a crucial role in validating the voices of survivors and creating a national conversation on workplace safety.

- **Investigative journalism:**

Outlets such as *The Indian Express*, *The Wire*, *Scroll*, *NDTV*, and *The Quint* published in-depth reports naming influential individuals accused of sexual misconduct.

- **Digital journalism as an amplifier:**

Online platforms provided space for long-form survivor narratives, interviews, and legal analyses. Digital media enabled women from both urban and rural areas to share stories without fear of newsroom-level gatekeeping.

- **Shifting media culture:**

Several journalists came forward about harassment within their own newsrooms, forcing media organisations to introspect and take corrective action.

Impact

- The resignation or removal of several prominent figures in entertainment, journalism, academia, and politics.
- Greater enforcement of the **POSH Act** (Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013).
- A national shift in public discourse regarding gender equality, consent, and workplace ethics.
- Empowerment of younger women journalists who began demanding safer work environments.

CASE STUDY 3: Black Lives Matter (BLM), USA (2020)

Background

The killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in May 2020 ignited a wave of protests across the United States. The movement built on earlier BLM mobilisations responding to racial inequality and police brutality.

Role of Journalism

Journalism—traditional, digital, and citizen-based—played a defining role.

- **Citizen journalism as a turning point:**

Seventeen-year-old Darnella Frazier recorded the video of George Floyd's death. Her footage became the primary evidence that sparked global outrage.

- **Mainstream media investigations:**

News organisations such as *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and CNN analysed patterns of policing, institutional racism, and historical injustices.

- **Global media solidarity:**

International news outlets amplified the movement, connecting it with histories of colonialism, racial inequality, and civil rights struggles in other countries.

Impact

- Several U.S. states and cities adopted police reforms, including bans on chokeholds and increased accountability mechanisms.
- Millions of people across more than 60 countries participated in anti-racism protests.
- The movement led to widespread corporate and institutional commitments to diversity and equality.
- Journalism proved essential in reframing racial injustice as a global human rights issue.

CASE STUDY 4: Indian Farmers' Protest (2020–2021)

Background

Farmers from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and other states protested three agricultural laws passed in 2020. They feared the laws would dismantle MSP (Minimum Support Price) protections and leave them vulnerable to corporate exploitation.

Role of Journalism

Journalistic coverage shaped both national and international understanding of the protest.

- **Independent and digital journalism at the forefront:**

Platforms such as *The Wire*, *NDTV*, *The Caravan*, *Mojo Story* (Barkha Dutt), and *Gaon Connection* provided consistent on-ground reports, often in contrast to mainstream channels that portrayed protestors negatively.

- **Global media attention:**

Outlets like BBC, Al Jazeera, and The Guardian published stories highlighting farmer concerns, police crackdowns, and humanitarian conditions at protest sites.

- **Social media journalism:**

Farmers used Twitter, Instagram, live videos, and YouTube channels to counter misinformation and share firsthand accounts. This grassroots communication strengthened solidarity and public trust.

Challenges Faced by Journalists

- FIRs, sedition charges, and legal intimidation targeting reporters covering the protests.
- Internet shutdowns at protest sites, making real-time reporting difficult.
- Online harassment, trolling, and misogynistic abuse directed at women journalists.

Impact

- The Government of India eventually repealed the three contested farm laws.
- The protest reaffirmed the importance of **alternative media, independent journalism, and citizen reporting**.
- It demonstrated the power of digital tools in resisting media narratives controlled by political or corporate interests.

Challenges Faced by Journalists in Social Movements

State Censorship and Intimidation

In many countries, especially those with authoritarian or semi-authoritarian tendencies, the state attempts to control how movements are represented. Governments may:

- **Block access** to protest sites
- **Threaten journalists** with sedition, defamation, or anti-terror laws
- **Confiscate cameras or equipment**
- **Suspend licenses or intimidate media houses**
- **Pressure editors** to tone down critical stories

This censorship restricts the public's right to information and often leads to incomplete or manipulated narratives. Journalists also face psychological intimidation—raids, surveillance, and repeated summons—which discourage investigative reporting.

Internet Shutdowns

Internet shutdowns have become a common tactic to curb mobilisation and restrict journalistic freedom. India, for example, reports the **highest number of shutdowns globally**, especially during protests and political unrest.

Shutdowns impact journalism by:

- Preventing **real-time reporting** and livestreams
- Obstructing **communication between reporters and newsrooms**
- Blocking **social media activism** that fuels mobilisation
- Disrupting **verification** of events on the ground

Without internet access, journalists cannot upload footage, verify information, or counter misinformation, resulting in an information vacuum.

Fake News and Propaganda

During social movements, misinformation spreads rapidly, often weaponised by:

- Political parties
- Ideological groups
- Social media trolls
- Anonymous accounts
- Biased media organisations

Fake news can:

- Delegitimise protestors
- Spread fear or communal tension
- Justify state violence
- Create polarisation
- Distract the public from actual grievances

Journalists face the difficult task of distinguishing authentic ground realities from fabricated narratives, while also combating organised propaganda networks.

Corporate Influence and Biased Coverage

Corporate-owned media houses often prioritise political alliances and business interests over truthful reporting. This results in:

- **Selective coverage:** focusing on violence, ignoring peaceful protest.
- **Framing bias:** portraying protestors as anti-national, violent, or misled.
- **Underreporting:** deliberately ignoring grassroots voices.
- **Sensationalism:** focusing on conflict to increase TRPs.

Corporate influence also limits editorial independence. Reporters may be discouraged from covering stories that threaten advertisers, political partners, or business affiliations.

Violence Against Reporters

Journalists frequently encounter violence while covering protests. This includes:

- **Physical assault** by police or hostile groups
- **Equipment damage**
- **Detention or arrest**

- **Batons, tear gas, or rubber bullets** during clashes
- **Mob violence** driven by political polarisation

Many journalists have been beaten, injured, or even killed while documenting state excesses and human rights abuses. Violence creates a climate of fear, discouraging deep, on-ground reporting.

Online Harassment (Especially Against Women Journalists)

Women journalists face disproportionate abuse online, including:

- **Sexist and misogynistic comments**
- **Threats of sexual violence**
- **Character assassination**
- **Defamation through fake images or rumours**
- **Coordinated troll campaigns**
- **Targeting for their opinions or identity**

This digital harassment aims to silence women's voices, push them out of public spaces, and intimidate them into self-censorship. Studies show that women journalists are **three times more likely** to face online abuse than their male counterparts.

Discussion

In the context of social movements, journalism continues to be a double-edged sword. On one hand, independent and grassroots journalism empowers mobilisations by highlighting grievances, exposing injustices, and giving voice to oppressed populations. Through investigative reporting, citizen journalism, and internet platforms, the media becomes a catalyst for transparency, accountability, and democratic involvement. Social movements across the world—from the Arab Spring to Black Lives Matter to India's #MeToo and Farmers' Protest—demonstrate how journalism can magnify resistance, alter public opinion, and affect policy decisions.

On the other hand, the corporate media may occasionally delegitimise movements by portraying them as disruptive, violent, or politically manipulated. Political-economic constraints, framing bias, and selective coverage can skew public opinion, erode unity, and draw attention away from important problems. In such instances, media becomes an instrument of power rather than a voice of the people.

The rise of digital journalism has further complicated this picture. While technology democratises information and permits unprecedented public participation, it has also aided the spread of misinformation, propaganda, and division. Because information spreads online more quickly than it can be verified, editorial accountability and reliability are more crucial than ever.

As a result, in today's media landscape, press freedom, ethics, and legitimacy are crucial factors that determine how journalism affects social movements. A free, independent, and responsible press enhances democracy by informing citizens, encouraging debate, and holding power accountable. Conversely, compromised journalism—shaped by censorship, corporate influence, or digital manipulation—can hinder democratic speech and hide the voices of those striving for justice.

In the end, journalism's power is found in the decisions it makes about what to reveal, what to conceal, and how to present the people's hardships.

Conclusion

Journalism has a vital and multidimensional role in forming social movements, acting as a mobiliser, watchdog, agenda-setter, and storyteller. As a mobiliser, it amplifies the voices of marginalized populations, disseminates crucial information, and stimulates collective action, enabling movements to gather momentum beyond local or regional bounds. Digital journalism and social media platforms have further sped this trend, allowing ordinary citizens to participate actively in capturing and sharing protest activities in real time.

As a watchdog, journalism exposes systematic inequalities, corruption, and breaches of human rights by closely examining the activities of governments, organizations, and businesses. Investigative reporting and regular media attention pressure authorities to respond to popular grievances, thereby improving democratic accountability. Simultaneously, through agenda-setting, journalism determines which topics reach public consciousness. Movements like the Arab Spring, Black Lives Matter (BLM), India's #MeToo, and the Farmers' Protest are prime examples of how persistent media attention raises concerns that were previously disregarded, validates group demands, and forces decision-makers to take action.

As a storyteller, journalism uses articles, documentaries, images, and digital archives to preserve social movement narratives. These records not only inform contemporary audiences but also serve as historical documentation for future generations, historians, and politicians, ensuring that the hardships and ambitions of communities are not forgotten.

Journalism has a significant impact on social movements because it may question established power structures, shift public opinion, impact national and international policy decisions, and inspire citizens to make significant changes. However, trustworthiness, ethical reporting, and press freedom are necessary for journalism to be effective. To combat false information, steer clear of biased framing, and fairly portray demonstrators' perspectives, independent and accountable media are crucial.

Ultimately, journalism is both a **mirror and a motor of democracy**: it reflects societal realities while actively driving social transformation. Strengthening ethical, credible, and free journalism is vital for nurturing future social movements, safeguarding democratic principles, and fostering an inclusive and just society.

References

- Aday, S., Farrell, H., Lynch, M., Sides, J., & Freelon, D. (2012). *New media and conflict after the Arab Spring*. United States Institute of Peace. [The Journalist's Resource+1](#)
- Coretti, L., & Taki, M. (2013). *The role of social media in the Arab uprisings — past and present*. Communication and Media Research Institute, University of Westminster. [ResearchGate](#)
- De Choudhury, M., Jhaver, S., Sugar, B., & Weber, I. (2016). Social media participation in an activist movement for racial equality: The case of Black Lives Matter. *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media*, 2016, 92–101. [PMC+1](#)
- Garg, G., & Rai, S. (2023). Framing analysis of media coverage of protest movements: A systematic review of literature. *International Journal of Communication Development*, 12(1-2). [ResearchGate](#)
- Rodrigues, U. M. (2014). Social media's impact on journalism: A study of media's coverage of anti-corruption protests in India. *[Journal name]*. [ResearchGate](#)
- Priniski, J., Mokherian, N., Harandizadeh, B., Morstatter, F., Lerman, K., & Lu, H. (2021). Mapping moral valence of tweets following the killing of George Floyd. *[Preprint]*. [arXiv](#)
- Valarthodi, M. I., & Ekayanta, F. B. (Year). State and Farmers' Protest in India. *Jurnal Kajian Agraria dan Kedaulatan Pangan (JKAKP)*. [Talenta](#)
- (2021) Sentiment analysis and classification of Indian farmers' protest using Twitter data. *International Journal of Information Management Data Insights*, 1(2), 100019. [ScienceDirect](#)
- Jane, H. (2022). Movements and its implications on social media protests. *Global Journal of Management and Social Science Research*, 7(2). [Global Science Research Journals](#)
- (2020). Social media and social activism: A case study of 'Jallikattu' movement. *XIMB / BHU Study*. [ResearchGate](#)