


Digital exclusion and its impact on journalism in Kashmir

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Abstract

With the introduction of personal computer systems and subsequent technologies that make flow of information fast and efficient, a new age emerged that is often termed as 'digital age' or 'digital era'. During this age, the capabilities of individuals and societies to access and use multiple forms of convergent media content got enhanced manifold. It also led to a revolution in the industry of 'news and views'. This convergent media is popularly known as the 'New Media'. While this new (digital) media is taking new shapes across the globe, it is still struggling for survival in one part of the world called Kashmir.

Due to frequent suspensions of internet service in the valley, the digital media of Kashmir faces multiple challenges that are mostly unknown to other parts of the world. During 2010, 2012 and 2016 uprisings in Kashmir and more recently in 2019–2020, when Indian government decided to scrap the autonomy and special status of the valley, this place was excluded digitally that had a huge setback not only to the growth of New Media, but on education, health and economy as well. This paper studies this digital exclusion and its impact on journalism and mass communication in Kashmir.

Keywords

Digital media, journalism in Kashmir, internet penetration, digital exclusion, internet suspensions, communication blockade

Introduction

The advanced technological development has led to the growth of digital media and has brought with it lots of opportunities for mass media, education, commerce, community involvement, politics, employment, communication, health and emergency information. The increasing ubiquity of digital devices and easy accessibility of internet has offered useful, innovative and reusable

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