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**Submission date:** 29-Apr-2021 04:53PM (UTC-0700)

**Submission ID:** 1573863255

**File name:** Police\_and\_Media.editedawa.docx (20.27K)

**Word count:** 1378

**Character count:** 7777

Police and Media

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### **Police and Media**

The accountability of the police department is the major concern discussed in this article. The report involves writing a summary of the article about the accountability of the police officers **2** and the role of media in generating information concerning the accountability of the police officers. The article "The Police Accountability and Media" was written by two scholars, Skolnik and McCoy. Both the scholars have legal knowledge; for example, Skolnik teaches law at the University of California, he is a law professor. While McCoy serves in the justice department of California as the attorney general of the Research Fellowship program. The authors have included some theories to support their argument concerning the accountability of the police department **2** and the role of the media in ensuring accountability among various government institutions.

The authors are well equipped with legal knowledge; hence they provide accurate information concerning the research in this article. The use of adequate legal knowledge of the two authors helps provide rational thinking that provides accurate information concerning the use of media and the police department's accountability. Lastly, legal knowledge helps to provide a legal view of the fundamental research about the topic under concern.

### **Summary and critique of the article**

The article is based on American police accountability and the media. Further, the article provides that all the policies regarding the police department in the USA should uphold the principles of accountability. In other words, accountability should be the main pillar guiding the police department's operation in the USA. The article further explains the body that is legally responsible for checking the accountability of the police department (Skolnick& McCoy,1984).

According to the article, the American court is responsible for measuring the accountability of the police departments. Further, the court deals with any forms of misconduct that may occur in the police department. Furthermore, the article explains that their development of platforms where citizens can fill up complaints concerning the conduct of the police officers.

The article provides detailed information on the relationship between the police department and the media in enhancing accountability in the police department. The authors further explain that there is an important relationship between the media and the police department. The author says that the main objective of the American media is to promote accountability in various institutions. The promotion of accountability among various institutions is explained by the theory that explains that the freedom of speech has a broader view of moral and civic responsibilities of the media.

The authors also explain that the media plays an essential role in ensuring the police department's accountability by improving the public knowledge of the police department. The article states that the media provides the public with important information regarding the police department, which aids in enhancing police accountability. The authors further provide that the media reports on various issues in the police department especially checking on the excesses of the police department. The authors state that the media reveals the excesses of the police department to the public. This means the instances where the police department exercises power beyond its scope of practice. In other words, the media plays an essential role in enlightening the citizens about the legal issues and the issues affecting the police departments by providing a detailed report on the police department's activities.

The authors researched the accountability of the police officers. Various data collection methods were used to collect information regarding media and the accountability of the police

department. One of the most effective tools of data collection used was the use of interviews. The authors conducted several interviews with the police departments regarding the complexity of criminal justice and the application of the media as an institution of ensuring accountability in the police department.

From the interview with one of the police officers, the authors disclose a very close relationship between the police department and the media. The two-institution work hand in hand in ensuring the accountability of the police officer and the correctness of the information recorded to the public. The article states that the media may request information concerning certain crimes to the police department before reporting on the crime to avoid interfering with the evidence and ensuring the correctness of the information reported to the public.

The interview with the police chief revealed a close relationship between the police department and the media. The article reveals that the media need the police department to help the reporter's get the immediate news of events as they occur. The effectiveness of the media houses depends on the timeliness, and the accuracy of news reported. The police department helps the media houses cover this information as the events happen. On the other hand, the police department requires the media to report or educate the citizens on various legal issues, hence facilitating the law's implementation and maintenance of law and order in the state.

#### **Benefits and drawbacks**

The article benefited the public by providing insight into to relationship between the police officers and the media in ensuring accountability. This article provides relevant information to the general public on the role of the media in enhancing the police department's accountability.

Provisions of information regarding the use of media platform help the public to know their rights and responsibilities in promoting the accountability of the police officers.

The authors provide the media with legal knowledge concerning their responsibility to ensure the police department's accountability. The article provides knowledge to the media institutions such as reporters on the importance of ensuring transparency and accountability in the police department.

Finally, the report has provided the police officers with the importance of maintaining accountability and transparency in their operations. The authors have provided theoretical knowledge on promoting transparency and accountability by the media houses concerning the police officers. The article has provided the importance of operating according to the defined jurisdiction.

There is some limitation of the research conducted by the authors. one of the major drawbacks of this research article is that the methodology used to gather information is subjective. The method used by the researchers to gather data concerning the accountability of the police department to the media is subject to personal bias. Therefore, there are higher chances that the information collected is not accurate.

The second drawback of this research is that it is based on a theoretical approach rather than the objective approach. The researchers applied the theoretical approach to investigate <sup>3</sup>the relationship between the police and the media concerning the police department's accountability.

Further, the application of theoretical reasoning may fail to ally in the real-life situation.

Lastly, the research is conducted on the accountability of police officers in the United States of America. This research lacks an aspect of generalizability in the application. The research

focuses on how the media ensures the accountability of the media in the united states of America; this limits the application of the findings of this research to only the USA. Lastly, the research cannot be applied in other countries.

### **Conclusion**

The article shows that there is a close relationship between the media and the police department. The media plays an essential role in generating information concerning the accountability of police officers. Furthermore, the article states that the media may request information concerning certain crimes from the police department before reporting on the crime to avoid interfering with the evidence and ensuring the correctness of the information reported to the public. The authors state that the media reveals the excesses of the police department to the public. This means the instances where the police department exercises power beyond its scope of practice. In other words, the media plays an essential role in enlightening the citizens about the legal issues and the issues affecting the police departments by providing a detailed report on the police department's activities. The article provides several benefits such as Provisions of information regarding the use of media platform help the public to know their rights and responsibilities in promoting the accountability of the police officers. The major drawback of the research includes a lack of aspect of generalizability in the application.

**References**

Skolnick, J. H., & McCoy, C. (1984). Police accountability and the media. *Law & Social Inquiry*, 9(3), 521-557.

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