



International Journal of Sciences: Basic and Applied Research (IJSBAR)

ISSN 2307-4531
(Print & Online)

<http://gssrr.org/index.php?journal=JournalOfBasicAndApplied>



Investigative Reporting in Corruption Disclosure by the Journalist on Indonesia Newspapers

Moehammad Iqbal Sultan*

Department of Communication Science, Hasanuddin University, Indonesia

Email: m.iqbal@yahoo.com

Abstract

The application of investigative reporting by journalist of Indonesian Newspapers is not fully affected by sociopolitical condition or fear of the political system applied by past regimes, but mostly affected by the vision of the media and fully depends on work ethos of the journalist as a system built-in the media institution. Technical writing ability or knowledge and understanding of the printed media in Indonesian journalist in investigative reporting must be acknowledged as very minimal. As a consequence, the effort to uncover the corruption cases through investigative reporting have not been done much by the journalists. The level of independency of the journalist is still weak especially due to the pressure to media owners and policy of editing. In practice the work of the team is not a must in doing investigative reporting.

Keywords: Corruption, Newspapers, Investigative Reporting

1. Introduction

After the reformation in 1998, Indonesian press undergone significant changes, especially in expressing freedom [1]. This phenomenon is marked by the emergence of new media, both print and electronic with various packaging and segments.

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: m.iqbal@yahoo.com.

Press the courage to criticize the authorities also be a new feature of Indonesian press. In a political system that is open at this time, the Indonesian press tends to demonstrate the performance and attitude diplomatically. On the one hand, freedom is obtained along with the fall of the New Order regime make Indonesian newspapers freely develop its news contents. However, on the other hand the freedom of the press are also often exploited by some media industry to benefit as much as possible to ignore its function as an instrument of public education and become effective control functions.

The press was born to be a pillar of democracy which acts supervise, criticize, correct and give advice on all matters relating to the public interest [2]. In carrying out its duties the press serves as the fulfillment of public information in order to increase participation in the life of the state. One form of press participation in conveying information to the public fulfillment in order to assist the government to achieve good governance is voiced aloud cases of financial abuse against losses resulting state of the country. Corruption in this country seems to have become an acute disease that is difficult to eradicate, many years under a corrupt government, making the spread of corruption is widespread, entrenched and systematic. Widespread corruption easy to find in almost all public offices, corruption became part of the system of state administration. Pessimism that corruption cannot be eradicated in this country is increasingly getting justification. Corruption is not reduced even more raged, raged for institutions to combat corruption. That is the bitter conclusion that can be drawn from the results of the Global Corruption Barometer survey, conducted in 2006 in 62 countries, including Indonesia. The survey involves 62 thousand respondents in each country.

The survey shows the Parliament, the judiciary (courts and prosecutor), police, and political parties are the most corrupt institution in Indonesia. Even worse, the corruption index Parliament, the judiciary and the police in 2006 has increased compared to last year, even in a 1-5 scale, judicial corruption index jumped the most, from 3.8 to 4.2. The results of the Global Corruption Barometer survey conducted in 62 countries it should increasingly lead to a government under the leadership of SBY to more persistent conduct anti-corruption movement. There should be a toughness and consistency, especially touched the line of law enforcement and public service sectors [3]. Now the media has experienced a shift in the news, the media tends to follow the market demand rather than doing investigative reporting, in the case reveals. In addition, the cost is also an obstacle for the media. The high cost of investigative reporting is often not comparable with the income earned media. Investigative reporting is considered as a complement to the media to contribute. So just needed when it is needed only [3].

Activities investigative journalism actually not new in Indonesia. The practice of investigative journalism ever done daily Indonesia Raya led veteran journalist Mochtar Lubis about 70s. When the Indonesia Raya can uncover corruption in Pertamina which dragged the name of Ibnu Sutowo, who was then director of the state's oil company, Investigative journalism could also make the people of Indonesia literacy when Bondan Winarno reveal the sinking of passenger Tampomas II in Masalembo, Java Sea early 1980s. Bondan then publish it into a book titled "Hell in the Java Sea". Bondan Winarno also conducted investigations in the case of gold exploration in Busang, East Kalimantan, which is conducted by exploration companies from Canada, Bre-X. Results of investigations compiled into a book called "Bre-X: Gold bundle in Foot of the Rainbow" [4]. Investigative reports in Indonesia has not become a tradition that institutionalized in the body of the press [5]. in the 1990s.

Investigation report has not had widespread impact and stand out. Indonesian press workers are still working on the investigation as an approach, which is temporary, sometimes, and "still can be counted on the fingers." Without giving Armanda sample data and propose some reasons that hinder the investigation reporting activities, the Indonesian press was considered that the investigation report is (1) a report that uses "high cost", (2) the coverage of spending a very long time, (3) the end result is 'not sure' give also an obstacle to the passion of Indonesian journalists, (4) plus another "great risk "that could arise as a result of his coverage. And demanding "strong capital, tenacity, and patience" to be owned Indonesian investigative reporter has not got a place among the press at the time.

2. Methods

2.1 Research type

This study aimed to find out and dig depth data regarding the application of investigative reporting in the disclosure of corruption cases by reporters at the newspaper in Indonesia. Based on these objectives, the approach used in this study is a qualitative research paradigm. The type of research used in the design of this study is qualitative descriptive [6, 7, 8].

2.2 Research site

The research was conducted in Makassar and Jakarta

2.3 Research Informant

The informants total of 11 people consisting of key informants and expert informants. Key informants were journalists from publishing some selected as the research object, including chief editor, managing editor, editors, and journalists assigned to cover the news desk or desk corruption investigation.

2.4 Instrument Research

In a study with a qualitative approach, the researcher became the main instrument in obtaining the data in the field using two different techniques, namely: (1) limited observation, and (2) in-depth interviews are scheduled to informants.

3. Results and Discussion

Regulation on No. 40/1999 of the press says, "Freedom of the press is a manifestation of popular sovereignty based on the principles of democracy, justice and the rule of law". Freedom of the press is the level that can be achieved to implement effective public oversight function is on the behavior of public officials. Just as the legislature should oversee the executive every day, the media also carefully supervise the legislative and executive (as well as other parties who took office in contact with the public sphere). For a democratically elected government and conciliatory can be easily become corrupt government when power is not supervised by

a free press. History has proven that only at the beginning of any government authority always act nicely against the press, so that it can be said that the democratic government, the government provides for freedom of the press to function freely. But the same time, if the control function is used to warn the government that there is fraud and criticize it through the news, then what happens is the government take attitude opposite to the press by doing restraint with the old style that *Bredel*.

Freedom of the press are not necessarily followed by freedom for newspapers to freely preach or load cases of corruption by doing investigative reporting is considered effective to uncover and dismantle the crimes that are considered outstanding, and if it is described as a disease that is considered to have a very chronic. From the results of this study found that the majority of newspapers are now no longer afraid of the bans but more afraid of the capitalist groups who owned capital can affect the survival of newspapers. However, there are newspapers that have idealistic attitude to keep preaching the crime of corruption by promoting objectivity and not affected in the power of the capitalist groups or other pressure groups, if necessary bankrupt, origin stick to the principle that the achievement of the vision recognition as the media is concerned.

In addition, there is also a newspaper does not choose to do investigative reporting or preach to uncover corruption cases. Newspapers such only accept delivery and obtain data from official institutions, this is to avoid data errors made by journalists who can lead the objections of the parties associated with the reports. Such newspapers prefer safe and fast way to deliver news of corruption, weakness is the level of accuracy of the data that is inadequate, unilateral and source more censors before being submitted to the reporters. In the end, the news is written by means of the analysis is very shallow and do not satisfy the curiosity of the reader. These conditions, compounded by the attitude of newspaper reporters who were satisfied with doing this with a hunting corruption cases, for various reasons, including being chased going to press because they think this kind of news high actuality and much awaited by readers. Phenomena like these that many newspaper reporters descend in Indonesia. Another problem is that many print media journalists lowered equipped youth without formal education and non-formal, just having experience as a capital to cover cases of corruption. Though the news about the problem of corruption is not something easily lifted into the news because it involves a lot of things, the reporter could not easily write the act of corruption without doing deep and thorough checking of the various sources of accurate data.

One cause of the lack of coverage of investigations conducted by a newspaper reporter for the news concerning the corruptions, is the inability or less skilled journalists to write news by using investigative techniques. This inability is due to the lack of journalists who've joint training or courses on writing investigative reporting. Lack of competence of journalists in investigative reporting writing is very relate to education level, breadth of knowledge in the field of general and journalism, certain areas of its legal, social, political and economic, systematic reasoning, sensitivity strong instincts, tenacity, never give up, the ability to perform a search in seeking information directly to uncover the facts and accurate data, extensive network, and also the ability to disguise. Of course, this ability is an ideal that not all journalists can have it, nor does it mean that all journalists are investigative reporters. But at least, if journalists want to professionals in their field, he has to have a minimum standard requirements such as the author wrote above. Professionalism can be achieved if, the achievement of standardization to be a journalist agreed and implemented, in order screening process to become

a journalist. Efforts to achieve competence should continue to be done by the media or professional organizations where journalists shelter. The trick is to provide awareness, knowledge, and skills. If such an enterprise is not done then do not expect our reporters will be professional workers, like other professions [9].

Journalists can serve the citizens best when they act independently of the parties that they cover. Both independent of political institutions, business, social, religious, media and so on. This attitude is important, because if the ruling government wants to maintain its power, the scary thing for the incumbent regime is if the press put ahead the independence stance. For newspapers in Indonesia could be said independence stance is far from expectations. The main reason concerns the lack of independence of journalists in carrying out their journalistic work is its inability to refuse editorial policy and media owners, it is certainly very unfortunate. Properly editorial policy and the media that the owner must support the independence of journalists in order to attain the attitude of media bias in the community to speak the truth.

Solid working team of journalists for their coverage investigative reporting something that is needed, because the coverage is not the usual investigative reporting. If you want a serious work, and get the maximum results it is essential to prepare a few reporters to the media coverage of this kind. There are several cases involving corruption uncovered by journalists with individual work and considered successful, but it is not a guarantee that every journalist is able to carry out the same thing. For every journalist has a different ethos and performance for the same journalistic work. Indonesian newspapers are still very difficult to have an investigation team because some of the problems is the lack of journalists who have investigative reporting skills, that journalists are not only given to the coverage of the course load so that it can concentrate on the job. In addition, teams such coverage is more bear a greater financial risk which leads to wastage of the owner of the newspaper.

Financial risk is not the only reason for the media owners to not do investigative reporting, there are many other reasons that underlie the media other than editorial policy that also holds a strong contribution. Long time, a solid team, supporting data and documents are complete, the search for a reliable informant, avoid prosecutions and external pressures such as the threat of mass mobilization and power of capital owners. The shift of an excessive fear, that of *Bredel* the capitalist powers and prosecutions, should be faced with an intelligent and not eliminate identity as a funnel defenders of truth. Intelligence is not only attached to the owner of the newspaper, but also to journalists. Ability to perform logic and intuition, should serve as a force to execute the profession of journalism which is based on Law No. 40 of 1999 on the press and the Code of Ethics of Journalism in 2006. Apparently, legal sanctions aggravating the media not only lead to loss of material, but also morality much more hit. The basis is what makes the media to be very careful in reporting cases of corruption and human rights violations. They always fear it to court, which in the end for the media and journalists prefer a safe and peaceful street in contains news relating to corruption by way of hunting information through official sources only. Another way is, by choosing the cases it is less risky legal and mass intimidation related to the continuation of the news media is concerned [10].

4. Conclusion

4.1 Application of investigative reporting (Investigative Reporting) by a newspaper reporter in Indonesia is not entirely influenced by the social and political conditions or trauma political system implemented by the authorities in the past. It turns out that investigative reporting is more influenced by the vision of the newspaper agency, and highly dependent reporters work ethic built as a system in a media agency. For media (newspaper publishing) whose orientation on business interests alone, of course, prefer the road safe and not too demanding journalists to do investigative reporting, particularly for cases of corruption. For this media, news that are easily and quickly obtained of course be an advantage rather than news coverage of the investigation results. While the media who choose to be populist, which its corporate vision-oriented public interest and values of journalism are high, it is more often assign reporters to conduct investigative reporting, especially of events into the public spotlight, such as cases of corruption which allegedly cost the State, considered a priority for investigation.

4.2 Ability to write technical or knowledge and understanding of print journalists in Indonesia, particularly in the field of investigative reporting should be recognized is still very minimal. Consequently, the investigation of corruption cases for example through investigative reporting results today, not much is done by journalists. Why not journalists assigned to cover in relevant institutions such as government agencies, the police, the prosecutor or the court, the average is young and inexperienced journalists and does not meet the technical requirements demanded by an investigative journalist. Low competence as Indonesian journalist recruitment system is due in some news media not meet the standards, so it affects the work of journalists who leads the professionalism .

4.3 In the application of Investigative Reporting by a newspaper reporter in Indonesia, virtually the level of independence of journalists were still weak. Factors such cause is the structural relationship between journalists and the media where she worked, welfare issues, cultural friendship, emotional relationship that has long existed, was a major factor in question lack of independence of journalists to do investigative reporting. Especially for journalists who still have not much experience certainly do not want to take risks, especially regarding the possibility of "criminalization of the press", either directly to the reporter in question, as well as to the media where the journalists work, by certain parties who are not happy with the publication of the results investigative reporting.

4.4 The notion that investigative reporting by journalists requires teamwork, in practice it is not always true. Even in the era of reform, as now, in general, journalists can do investigative reporting tend to work individually. During the journalist in question had the will, knowledge and experience and competence, and professionalism are high, they could have done the personal investigation. Nevertheless, whether or not a special team formed by the editors to cover investigative reporting seriously and regularly, also influenced by the size of the scope of the problem or the impact they pose to the public if it were not investigated.

4.5 Factors editorial policy and policy management, enterprise media owners in the era of freedom of the press that has been enjoyed by people today was still considered less give freedom and ample opportunity for journalists to do investigative reporting. This condition is caused by the editorial policy of the media in question. The reason, the implementation of investigative reporting and the process requires a long time, need substantial funds, and must be supported by sufficient availability of experienced journalists and have a good knowledge and understanding in the field of investigative journalism. Such policies also argue for the sake of the survival of the company or the extension of the press is concerned. It is related that, not

infrequently the person or group who becomes the object of investigation is sometimes not happy with the publication or news coverage of the results of the investigation. As a result, journalists or media are often the target of violence or anarchy as well as criminal and civil liability through the courts as a response or reporting the results of the investigation is considered harmful.

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