[JSK] Submission Acknowledgement

Eksternal

Kotak Masuk

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kepada saya

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muhammad thariq .:

Thank you for submitting the manuscript, "Journalist's Understanding in COVID-19 coverage in Medan City: ." to Jurnal Studi Komunikasi. With the online journal management system that we are using, you will be able to track its progress through the editorial process by logging in to the journal web site:

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Reviewer A:
Recommendation: Revisions Required

Is the paper content original?

> Yes

Does the paper title represent its content?

> No

Does the abstract reflect the paper content?

> No

Do the keywords indicate the scope of the research?

> Yes

Is the research methodology or the approach of the problem solving clearly described?

> No

Do the data presentation and interpretation valid and reasonable?

> No

Do the use of tables and figures help to clarify the

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> No

Have the discussion and/or analysis been relevant with the results of the study?

> No

Are the references used relevant?

> No

Contribution to science

> Good

Originality

> Fair

Systematic

> Good

Language

> Poor

Writing accuracy

> Poor

Comment about the paper

> check my comments in the attachment

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Reviewer B:
Recommendation: Revisions Required

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> Peneliti harus secara tajam menuliskan State of the art penelitiannya

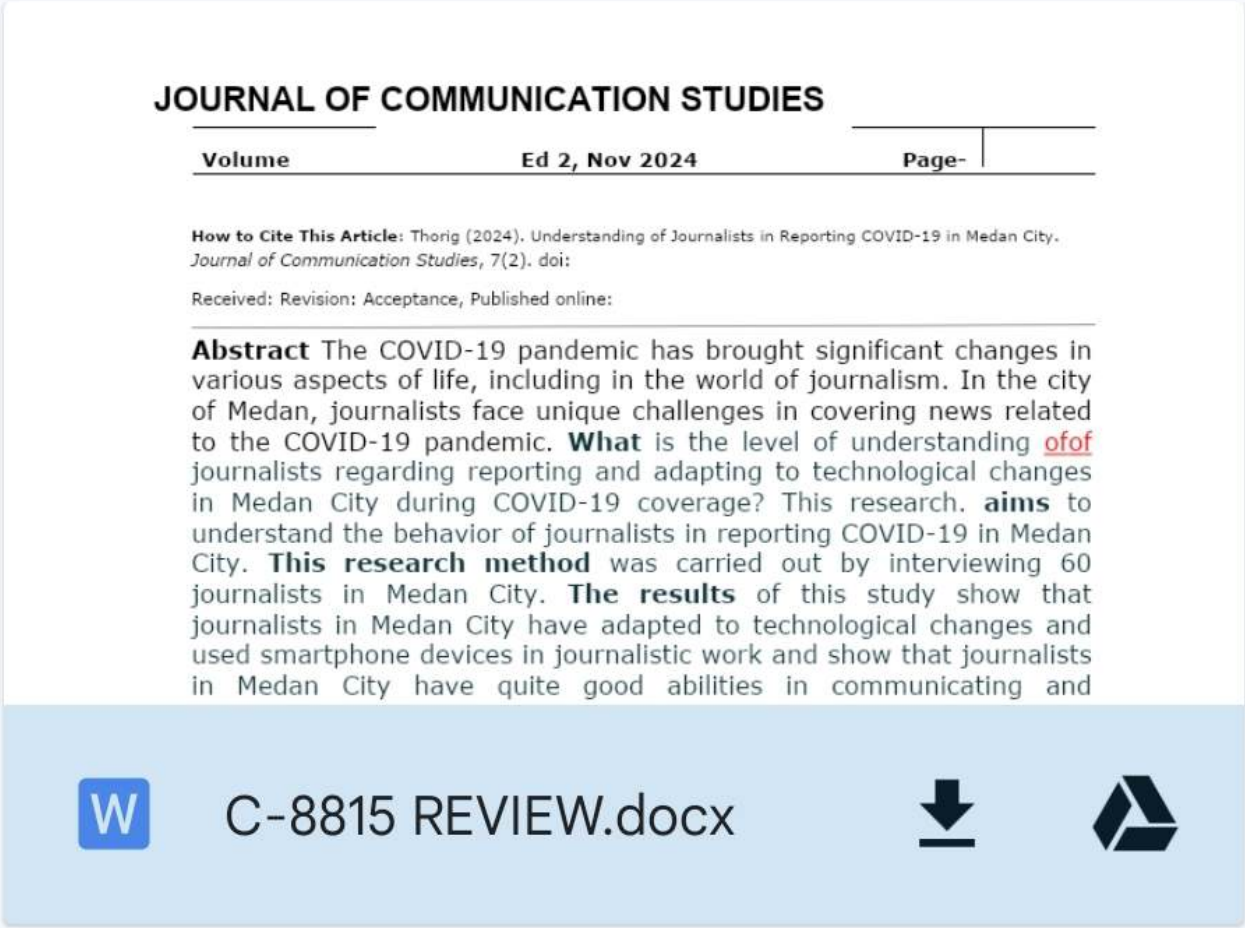
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Keywords: digital understanding; journalists; reporting, covid-19 pandemic;

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic that has hit the world since the end of 2019 has had a major impact on various aspects of life, including health, economy, society, and communication. In Indonesia, including in the city of Medan, this pandemic has created new challenges for various professions, one of which is journalists. As a conveyor of information to the public, the role of journalists is very vital in a global health crisis like this. Accurate, clear, and reliable information is needed to help the public understand the situation, take precautions, and calm public unrest.

The city of Medan, one of the major cities in Indonesia, faces unique challenges in reporting news related to COVID-19. The high number of cases, population density, and cultural diversity are factors that affect the way journalists carry out their duties. In the midst of uncertain conditions, journalists must be able to present information that is not only informative but also educational, as well as combat hoax news that often appears during a pandemic.

Journalists' understanding of issues related to COVID-19 is the key to quality reporting. Journalists need to have sufficient knowledge about the virus, how it spreads, its impact on health, and related government policies. In addition, the ability to verify information and present it in a timely manner is essential. In this context, training and access to valid sources of information are crucial aspects for journalists.

This study aims to examine the understanding of journalists in Medan City in covering issues related to COVID-19. Through this research, it is hoped that an overview of the level of understanding of journalists, the challenges they face, and the strategies used in conveying information to the public can be obtained. The results of this study are expected to provide recommendations for increasing the capacity of journalists in dealing with future health crises, as well as improving the quality of news coverage in Medan City in particular and Indonesia in general.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative method to explore the understanding of journalists in reporting COVID-19 in the city of Medan. This method was chosen because it was able to delve deeply into the views, experiences, and challenges faced by journalists in carrying out their duties during the pandemic.

Steps taken in this study:
Research Design This research uses a qualitative case study design, which focuses on an in-depth understanding of specific phenomena in a specific context. Medan City was chosen as the location for the case study because it is one of the major cities in Indonesia with a significant rate of COVID-19 cases and active media covering the pandemic.

Research Participants Research participants are journalists who work in various mass media in the city of Medan, including print, online, radio, and television media. The selection of participants was carried out by purposive sampling, which is based on certain criteria such as experience in COVID-19 coverage, position in the media, and availability to be interviewed.

Data Collection Techniques: Data is collected through the following techniques:

In-Depth Interview: Semi-structured interviews are conducted to gain in-depth information about the journalist's insights, experiences, and challenges. Interview questions cover topics such as understanding COVID-19, the information verification process, challenges in reporting, and the psychological impact of the pandemic on their work.

Participatory Observation: Researchers participate in several reporting activities to observe firsthand how journalists collect and present information related to COVID-19.

Document Analysis: Analysis of articles, reports, and news published by mass media in Medan related to COVID-19 is carried out to understand how information is conveyed to the public.

Data Analysis Techniques The collected data is analyzed using a thematic analysis approach. The steps in this analysis include:

Transcription: Transcribing all interviews and observations. Coding: Code the data to identify important themes. Categorization: Grouping similar codes into broader categories.

Key Themes: Organize the main themes that emerge from the data. Interpretation: Interpreting findings in the context of relevant theories and literature. Validity and Reliability, to ensure the validity and reliability of the research, several steps are taken, including: Data Triangulation: Using various data sources (interviews, observations, documents) to verify the findings. Member Checking: Ask participants to review interview transcripts and research findings to ensure accuracy.

Audit Trail: Keeps a detailed record of the research and analysis process to allow for checks by other parties. Research Ethics: This research pays attention to the principles of research ethics, including: Informed Consent: Asking for consent from participants after explaining their objectives, procedures, and rights in the research. Confidentiality: Maintain the confidentiality of participants' identities and personal information. Non-Maleficence: Avoiding actions that can harm participants physically and psychologically.

This qualitative method, it is hoped that the research can provide in-depth insight into the understanding and experience of journalists in covering news related to COVID-19 in the city of Medan, as well as provide recommendations for future improvements.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the research from this research are found that: First, adaptation to technological changes, the majority of journalists in Medan City have adapted to technological changes. They use smartphone devices in their daily journalistic work. The use of this technology includes taking photos, recording videos, writing articles, and sending news directly through messaging and email applications. Second, the ability to communicate and collaborate using digital devices. They utilize communication applications such as WhatsApp, Telegram, and Zoom to coordinate with colleagues, resource persons, and editors. Third, the behavior of journalists in COVID-19 coverage in Medan City shows a high awareness of the importance of maintaining health protocols during COVID-19 coverage. They tend to avoid crowds and opt for remote interviews to reduce the risk of transmission.

An important point taken starting from the COVID-19 Pandemic crisis phenomenon is an unprecedented health crisis and quickly impacted every country in the world in just a matter of weeks. Initially, the Director-General of the United Nations (UN) paid attention to certain groups most affected by this pandemic, namely those living in poverty and in conflict zones, the elderly, children, and most importantly frontline health workers (Thibaut & ELNahas, 2023). In Europe, the response to Covid-19 shows the potential for a transformation to food democracy, although many are also likely to maintain the status quo, according to the study's findings(López Cifuentes & Fiala, 2022). In Abidjan, Ivory Coast, the study explored public perceptions of COVID-19 vaccines, considering vaccine risks and disease severity, which are crucial in vaccine uptake to control the global pandemic.(Tibbels et al., 2022). The study analyzed 1.6 million Portuguese tweets about COVID-19 and China, finding themes such as "Chinese virus," chloroquine, and communism, with a predominance of negative sentiment. The findings

illustrate political polarization in Brazil and its impact on perceptions of the pandemic. (Rodrigues de Andrade et al., 2021). The virtual conference of isirv and WHO on October 19-21, 2021 discussed the response to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and other respiratory diseases, focusing on antivirals, vaccines, surveillance strategies, influenza treatment, and RSV. This report summarizes presentations to the medical and scientific community(McKimm-Breschkin et al., 2022). The existence and literacy of KIM journalism in Bandung Regency. The findings show that KIM was established in 2016 by the Communication and Information Service, but the literacy of KIM members needs to be improved(Saepullah & Rustandi, 2020). New Zealand's Aotearoa government communication during the COVID-19 crisis through PM Jacinda Ardern's daily press conference with Dr. Ashley Bloomfield shows open, honest and straightforward communication; motivating language; and expressions of concern. This strategy supports COVID-19 elimination efforts by building trust and mobilizing public support (Beattie & Priestley, 2021). The study analyzed COVID-19 conversations on Facebook Italy, finding that the infodemic led to group polarization and the spread of unverified content. Controversial issues such as migrant flows and 5G technology are often linked to disinformation. The influence of public figures and major media on the platform plays an important role in shaping public opinion(Guarino et al., 2021). This research explores the qualifications of radio journalists in Bandung, focusing on understanding journalistic philosophy, media character, ability to process messages for radio broadcasts, and professional ethics. The findings show the importance of universities in preparing prospective radio journalists with adequate qualifications to face the challenges of convergent media(Yudhapramesti & Fadilah, 2013). The news media has a dominant influence on the social aspects of vaccination, while Twitter tends to focus on individual perspectives. The findings show that there is a mutual interaction and a shift in meaning in the topics of discussion(Wang et al., 2024). The spread of COVID-19 misinformation through the Pandemic on social media, analyzing how themes, types, sources, emotions, and fact-checking labels affect the power of online misinformation (Lee et al., 2023). COVID-19 vaccination impacted Asia-Pacific stock market volatility by mitigating standard risks and extreme adverse effects, as well as identifying panic sentiment as a potential influence(Li et al., 2023). The COVID-19 pandemic changed the dynamics of cardiovascular services and the stress of CV doctors, from the beginning of support to politicization and misinformation that reduced professional self-esteem(Josephson & Gillombardo, 2023). Analyzing treatment practices in the context of Covid-19 pandemic policies, and applying Foucault's theories of biopolitics and 'car escapes' to understand their impact on everyday life(Holmberg et al., 2023). Analyze the impact of socio-ecological factors on global COVID-19 mortality rates, using the SES framework and suggest policy strategies for long-term economic recovery and pandemic control(Shi et al., 2023).

Bangladesh in maintaining lockdowns during the Covid-19 pandemic failed due to a focus on disparities in the country's capacity and political and social pressures affecting policy implementation(Ali et al., 2021). An analysis of epistemic expressions in The Guardian's article on COVID-19 compares commitment to information between 2020 and 2022 and explores its social implications for understanding and teaching (Carretero, 2023). At Europe responded to COVID-19 in the context of

urban food systems, asking whether this response would maintain the status quo or encourage a transformation toward food democracy(López Cifuentes & Fiala, 2022).

The results of this discussion show that the COVID-19 pandemic is not only a global health crisis, but also has a wide impact on social, political, and economic aspects. This research highlights how the pandemic has resulted in an increasingly sharp polarization of public opinion, where people are divided into groups that have different views on the handling of the pandemic and the policies implemented. This polarization is largely triggered by the massive spread of misinformation through social media, where fake news and misleading information quickly spread, leading to confusion and mistrust among the public. Social media, which was originally thought to be a tool to accelerate the spread of information, is now also a major means of spreading fake news and conspiracy theories. For example, some platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp are the main places for the spread of hoaxes about vaccines, medicines, and preventive measures. This not only worsens the health crisis situation but also widens the gap of misunderstanding in society. In this context, the response of governments and the international community has varied greatly. Some countries have successfully implemented effective policies with transparency and clear communication, while others have struggled to manage information and overcome uncertainty. Swift and appropriate government actions, such as the implementation of lockdowns, vaccine procurement, and enforcement of health protocols, require efficient communication support to ensure that important messages reach all levels of society. The shift in health service dynamics during the pandemic also emphasizes the importance of open communication in managing crises. For example, effective communication between healthcare workers and patients is critical in ensuring that information about COVID-19 prevention and treatment is well communicated. In addition, the need to maintain mental health and individual well-being during the pandemic is also a major concern, demanding attention from various parties, including the government, health institutions, and the media. These studies provide in-depth insights into the complexity of the pandemic in both global and local contexts. The pandemic has highlighted the challenges that exist in the global health system, including inequality in access to health services, and reliance on technology in crisis management. On the other hand, the pandemic also presents opportunities for future social and policy transformation, such as increased investment in public health, wider adoption of digital technologies, and more inclusive health system reforms. In the context of journalism, technological adaptation has become a key factor in improving the work efficiency of journalists. During the pandemic, the use of smartphones and other digital devices has allowed journalists to report news quickly and efficiently. Journalists no longer have to return to the office to submit their reports; They can easily transmit multimedia content, such as photos and videos, directly from the field location. The technology also allows them to be more flexible in reporting, which is crucial given the physical mobility restrictions implemented during the pandemic. Additionally, technology has supported journalists in overcoming reporting challenges during crises, such as social restrictions and shifts in working styles. With digital communication tools, journalists

can stay connected to news sources, editors, and their colleagues in real-time, and continue to produce quality content even in challenging situations. This not only improves their work efficiency but also expands the scope of news coverage, providing broader and more in-depth information to the public. However, technological adaptation also faces challenges, such as privacy and data security concerns, which need to be addressed carefully. The success of using technology during the pandemic provides valuable lessons on how journalism can adapt quickly to the changing situation and the ever-evolving information needs of society. This marks an important change in the way media works, which will likely continue even after the pandemic ends. Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown how important adaptation and innovation are in communication and journalism. Despite the significant challenges, the pandemic also opened up opportunities for improvement and transformation in the way we manage information and communicate, which can have a long-term impact on society and the media industry.

Although journalists in Medan City have shown good ability in utilizing digital technology to improve the efficiency and speed of news reporting, they face significant challenges that include digital security risks, the spread of fake news, changes in work patterns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the psychological impact caused by such changes, so it is important for media companies to develop comprehensive strategies to address these issues and supporting the welfare of journalists; Rapid technological developments allow journalists to work more effectively but also increase the risk of data leakage and the spread of inaccurate information, where regular digital security training and a robust data protection system are crucial to prevent information leaks and maintain public trust, while the spread of fake news is an additional challenge that requires good information verification skills from journalists to ensuring the accuracy of news, plus the pandemic has forced changes in work patterns such as working from home and virtual reporting which not only affects the way work but also adds to the mental stress of journalists, causing digital fatigue that impacts productivity and mental health; Therefore, psychological support that includes counseling and stress management training should be part of the policy of media companies to help journalists cope with stress and improve their well-being; This research provides important insights into the strategies of journalists in adapting to technology and the pandemic situation, as well as how they manage their psychological impacts, which can be used as a reference for further studies and assist media companies in designing policies and training that are more in line with the needs of journalists in the digital age, so that with a holistic approach to these challenges, media companies can create a productive, supportive, and integrity work environment, as well as contributing to the delivery of accurate and reliable information in society, and ensuring that journalists can carry out their duties efficiently and by maintaining professional integrity in the face of various changes and challenges in the digital era.



Figure 1. Map of Medan City, North Sumatra Province
Source: Field Research Results assisted by Google Maps (20 July 2020)

Journalists obtained data and then described word to sentence so that it became a message that was published to the public regarding the news of Covid-19 in the city of Medan. This news represents other news that is distributed to publishing institutions in Medan City, including:



Regional Kompas.com of Young Regional Heads Against the Covid-19 Pandemic Young Mayor Bobby Nasution's Action to Fight Covid-19 in Medan, colored by the Removal of the Health Officer This article has been published on Kompas.com with the title "Young Mayor Bobby Nasution's Action to Fight Covid-19 in Medan, colored by the Removal of the Health Officer", Click to read: https://regional.kompas.com/read/2021/08/04/050700778/aksi-wali-kota-muda-bobby-nasution-perangi-covid-19-di-medan-diwarnai?page=all

MEDAN, KOMPAS.com - As a young leader who was just inaugurated in February 2021, Medan Mayor Bobby Nasution was faced with a fairly heavy problem, namely the COVID-19 pandemic. For this man who was born on July 5, 1991, the biggest challenge for young people to become

leaders is himself. "People out there can say, children easily don't know anything. I don't understand. Don't get me wrong, those who don't understand it are a plus point. As long as we want to learn," he said. The 30-year-old man considers the safety of the people to be an extraordinary responsibility. "So, the first toughest challenge is yourself. Inevitably, to continue to learn, and work to serve the community. Amid a pandemic like this, public health is the top priority," said the Mayor of Medan, Bobby Nasution when met Kompas.com at his official house in Medan, on Saturday (31/7/2021) evening. In fighting COVID-19, Bobby also made some breakthroughs to invite the public to follow health protocols (prokes) to reduce the number of positive coronavirus cases.



This article has been published on Kompas.com with the title "Young Mayor Bobby Nasution's Action to Fight Covid -19 in Medan, colored by the Removal of the Health Department", Click to read: https://regional.kompas.com/read/2021/08/04/050700778/aksi-wali-kota-muda-bobby-nasution-perangi-covid-19-di-medan-diwarnai

Medan Mayor Bobby Nasution is intensively tightening the Micro PPKM. (DOC. Public Relations of the Medan City Government) Recently, Medan City became the only area in North Sumatra that implemented PPKM Level 4. Likewise, before changing to PPKM level 4, the central government released many regions outside Java and Bali that implemented emergency PPKM. The city of Medan is also included in the list. As a consequence of the implementation of PPKM, community activities are restricted. Some roads, both on the border and in the city core, were blocked and guarded tightly by the authorities. Conditions like this have lasted for at least three weeks until many residents protest. Especially those who open food and beverage businesses. This is because one of the rules implemented during PPKM is restrictions on the operation of cafes, restaurants, and restaurants.





Saturday, 22 July 2023, 17:23:56 Covid-19 Read 679 Times Share FACEBOOK TWITTER Judu: Steps to Handle Covid-19 in the Style of Bobby Nasution
https://portal.pemkomedan.go.id/berita/langkah-langkah-penanganan-covid-19-ala-bobby-nasution read3388.html

Bobby Nasution began carrying out his duties as Mayor of Medan during a very challenging time, namely when the COVID-19 pandemic was still raging with a wide and deep impact. In line with his priority programs in healthcare, Bobby Nasution immediately took proactive steps to address this crisis. The measures are designed to address urgent health challenges, while also considering the economic impact faced by the citizens of Medan City. One of the main steps taken by Bobby Nasution is the development and implementation of a collaborative pandemic handling strategy. In this context, careful planning and rigorous evaluation of progress are crucial. Health programs such as mass vaccinations, extensive COVID-19 testing, and health education campaigns are carried out with the aim of reducing the spread of the virus and protecting public health. To support this, Bobby Nasution ensures that all measures are taken systematically and supported by various stakeholders, including medical personnel, local governments, and the community. In addition to focusing on the health aspect, Bobby Nasution also faces serious economic challenges due to the pandemic. The impact of COVID-19 on the economy of citizens has been enormous, with many businesses forced to close and people's incomes declining drastically.

In response, Bobby Nasution implemented various policies to help the economy recover. These include social assistance for affected residents, support for small and medium-sized businesses, and other initiatives aimed at reducing the economic burden on communities. At the peak of the crisis, the city of Medan was once in the status of PPKM (Enforcement of Community Activity Restrictions) Level 4, which is the highest level of activity restrictions. In this situation, various community activities are experiencing strict restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. More than 50 points in Medan City, including public places and crowd centers, have experienced access restrictions. This measure is intended to reduce social interaction and control the spread of the

virus in the community. This restriction policy also includes the closure of street lights at night. This decision was taken as an additional precautionary measure to reduce the likelihood of people wandering outdoors after night, potentially increasing the risk of spreading COVID-
19. By turning off street lights, it is hoped that it can reduce outdoor activities and encourage people to stay indoors to maintain their safety and that of others. In addition to these measures, Bobby Nasution also encourages community involvement in pandemic mitigation efforts. Through effective communication campaigns, he educated the public on the importance of complying with health protocols, including the use of masks, maintaining distance, and washing hands regularly. This communication is carried out through various channels, including social media, radio, and public posters, to ensure that important information regarding COVID-19 can reach all levels of society. During these difficult times, Bobby Nasution also adopted a data-driven approach to monitor the development of the situation and adjust policies as needed. By using COVID-19 case data, hospital occupancy rates, and other health indicators, it can make more informed and responsive decisions. Regular evaluation of the policies implemented is also an integral part of this approach, ensuring that the steps taken are effective in addressing the challenges at hand.

In his overall approach, Bobby Nasution has shown a strong commitment to protecting the health and well-being of the people of Medan City, while also addressing the economic impact of the pandemic. The strategies implemented, both in terms of health care and economic recovery, reflect coordinated and adaptive efforts in dealing with this relentless crisis. The support and decisive action taken by the city's leadership played a crucial role in addressing the major challenges posed by the pandemic, as well as in preparing the city for recovery and a better future.

Researchers found that the results of data citations from previous studies showed that news media, social media, and open access partially increased the likelihood of policy citations, while articles behind paywalls and full open access were less likely to be cited(Dorta-González et al., 2024). Journalists in Medan City have successfully adapted to the digitalization of media, using smartphone devices for communication, collaboration, and innovative digital content creation. The millennial generation dominates, showing flexibility in the face of technological changes (Masril et al., 2024). This research explores journalists' views on constructive journalism in Gatra.com and Kompas.id, highlighting a good understanding. Support from the editorial board is needed to overcome obstacles in the journalistic work process and produce more comprehensive and empowering news (Rahmaniar, n.d.). YouTube is an important forum for the distribution and discussion of COVID-19 news. There is a stable pattern in the network that combines misinformation with other content, highlighting the challenges of dealing with infodemic and information fragmentation(Röchert et al., 2021). Social media influences public debate and opinion on global issues. The K-nearest neighbor algorithm and decision tree were used for sentiment analysis, resulting in classification accuracy of 94.58%, 88.89%, and 90.45%, respectively. These findings are important for politicians, journalists, and social media users (Sinha et al., 2024). The study examined 60

newspaper articles about violence against doctors in India, revealing three main themes: victimization narratives, changing doctor-patient relationships, and the medical profession crisis. The media shapes public opinion, and reflects cultural values, but lacks the voice of the patient(Samant et al., 2024). Media news reports on gun violence are often episodic, weakening support for public health solutions. A study in Philadelphia found that victims of firearm injuries felt dehumanized and depressed by media coverage. These findings underscore the importance of trauma-based reporting that includes the victim's perspective for positive change (Beard et al., 2023). Social media to report on public services, improve understanding of healthy internet, citizen journalism, and journalistic skills(Damayanti et al., 2023). Mass media is an important need that provides information to the public. However, the fierce competition leads to violations of journalistic ethics. Research shows that Serambi Indonesia journalists understand and apply journalistic ethics, such as introducing themselves with press cards, covering both parties, being independent, and giving the right to answer (Jufrizal, 2019). Software reference to integrate artificial intelligence and knowledge base in supporting journalists and editors to help news organizations improve the efficiency and quality of news production through an integrated knowledge platform(Gallofré Ocaña & Opdahl, 2023). The study explores how journalists deal with the dual identities of media organizations (MIOs) and suggests the transparency needed to maintain reputation and integrity(Heckert & van der Goot, 2022). The Communication Studies Study Program at the university creates graduate journalists, who play the role of information distributors and pillars of democracy. The introduction of mass media and journalism to students of the Abdi Catholic Vocational School I and II, West Jakarta, received a positive response with an average score of 7.37 out of 10 on the evaluation test(Oktavianti, 2021). Journalists enforce code of ethics standards and prioritize news verification to maintain media integrity(Lak'apu et al., 2020). Application of journalistic code of ethics in the media Despite several violations, socialization, and reprimands to improve compliance with the Code of Ethics(Maria & Jahang, 2022).

Interviews with 60 journalists in Medan City regarding their understanding of COVID-19 coverage and adaptation to technological changes:

1) Technology Adaptation: Smartphone Use: 95% (57 out of 60) journalists use smartphones to take photos and videos. 90% (54 out of 60) of journalists use editing apps on smartphones to speed up the news delivery process. 85% (51 out of 60) of journalists send news directly from the coverage location using smartphones.
2) Understanding Health Protocols: Health Protocols: 100% (60 out of 60) of journalists stated that they understood the importance of maintaining health protocols during reporting. 80% (48 out of 60) of journalists choose remote interviews to reduce the risk of transmission. 70% (42 out of 60) of journalists avoid crowds and prefer virtual press conferences.
3) Communication and Collaboration Skills**:**

a) Digital Communication**:**

- ➢ 90% (54 out of 60) of journalists use WhatsApp and Telegram to communicate with colleagues and sources.
- ➢ 75% (45 out of 60) of journalists use video conferencing applications such as Zoom to conduct interviews.
- ➢ 85% (51 out of 60) of journalists feel their ability to communicate and collaborate digitally has improved during the pandemic.

4) Challenges Faced: Challenges in Coverage:

a) 65% (39 out of 60) of journalists said it was difficult to get direct access to news sources due to pandemic restrictions.

b) 70% (42 out of 60) of journalists feel the pressure to deliver news quickly and accurately is increasing.

c) 60% (36 out of 60) of journalists admitted that there was difficulty in maintaining a balance between work and mental health during the pandemic.

5) Training and Support: Technology Training:

a) 55% (33 out of 60) of journalists received training on the use of digital technology during the pandemic.

b) 60% (36 out of 60) of journalists feel their media companies provide sufficient support in terms of training and work equipment.

6) Changes in Work Patterns:

a) New Work Patterns:

- ➢ 80% (48 out of 60) of journalists work more from home and do remote reporting.
- ➢ 75% (45 out of 60) of journalists feel that this change in work patterns requires them to be more independent and creative in their search for news

The conclusion of the interview results from 60 journalists in Medan City has shown a good ability to adapt to technological changes during COVID-19 coverage. They utilize smartphones and digital applications to support their journalistic work. Their understanding of health protocols is also quite good, although there are challenges in gaining access to news sources and maintaining a balance between work and mental health. Support from media companies in the form of training and work equipment also helps journalists face the challenges of the pandemic. This research provides important insights into the behavior and adaptation of journalists in the digital era and during crises such as the pandemic.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that journalists in Medan City have successfully adapted to technological changes during COVID-19 coverage. They use smartphone devices for journalistic work and have good skills in communication and collaboration through digital devices. Their understanding of COVID-19 coverage and adaptation to technology shows adequate preparedness to face the challenges of the pandemic. This research provides valuable insights that are expected to contribute to further understanding of journalists' behavior in the digital era and during the pandemic.

Advice for Journalists: Improve Digital Skills: Continue to deepen knowledge and skills in the use of digital technology. Participate in

relevant training and workshops to optimize the use of smartphone devices and digital applications in journalistic work. Comply with Health Protocols: Always comply with health protocols when reporting, especially in a pandemic situation. Consider remote interview methods and avoid crowds to maintain personal health and that of others. Information Verification: Prioritize information verification before distributing it. With fake news on the rise during the pandemic, it is important to maintain journalistic integrity and ensure that the information presented is accurate and trustworthy. Leverage Technology for Collaboration: Use digital apps and platforms to communicate and collaborate with colleagues and resource persons. Utilizing this technology can increase efficiency and effectiveness in news gathering and delivery. Take Care of Mental Health: Pay attention to mental health and the balance between work and personal life. Seek support if you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, and be sure to get enough rest. Ongoing Training: Continue to take ongoing training provided by media companies or journalistic organizations. This training covers not only technology but also ethical aspects, digital security, and effective communication strategies. Innovation Exploration: Always open to trying innovations in reporting. Explore the use of social media, podcasts, and other multimedia platforms to deliver news engagingly and interactively. Build a Professional Network: Build strong relationships with fellow journalists, technologists, and other media professionals. These networks can be a valuable source of support, collaboration, and knowledge sharing. By following these suggestions, journalists in Medan City and elsewhere can continue to evolve and adapt to technological changes and dynamic situations, while maintaining high journalistic standards. By following these suggestions, journalists in Medan City and elsewhere can continue to evolve and adapt to technological changes and the dynamics of the situation, while still maintaining high journalistic standards.

In this study, several important points can be identified. First, Technology Adaptation by Journalists in Medan City have successfully adapted to technological changes, especially by using smartphone devices and digital applications to carry out their journalistic tasks. Second, the ability to communicate and collaborate through digital platforms, such as messaging applications and video conferencing. This shows the importance of technology in improving the efficiency of news reporting. Third, an understanding of COVID-19 coverage that illustrates that journalists have an adequate understanding of health protocols and challenges faced during COVID-19 pandemic coverage, including remote interview strategies to reduce the risk of transmission. Fourth, contributing to the understanding of Journalism provides valuable insights into journalists' behavior in the digital era and pandemic situations. This is expected to contribute to a further understanding of how journalists are adapting to changes in the work environment and technology. Fifth, implications for the media industry in designing policies, providing appropriate training, and preparing journalists to face future challenges, both in the context of pandemics and technological evolution. These points explain the relevance and significance of this research in the context of understanding the dynamics of the journalism profession in Medan City during the COVID-19 pandemic and the digital era.

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