

# MOBILE JOURNALISM ON NEWS PRODUCTION IN KOMPASTV

Alvian Dwi Putranto <sup>1</sup>, Irwansyah <sup>2,\*</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Department of Communication Science, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences,  
University of Indonesia, 16242 Depok, Indonesia  
<sup>1</sup> alvian.dwi@ui.ac.id; <sup>2</sup> irwansyah09@ui.ac.id \*

\* corresponding author

## ABSTRACT

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The digital era as it is today makes humans able to take advantage of various existing technologies to facilitate their work, including in the field of journalism. Mobile journalism is a video journalism practice that only works on mobile devices and various accessories. KompasTV as news television is also trying to optimize mobile journalism to produce news material. This study aims to determine how the implementation of mobile journalism in the production of news material and its relationship to the speed and quality of KompasTV news broadcasts. The method used is literature review, interviews and also observation. The results of this study are that mobile journalism can increase the reactivity of journalists to events so that the actuality of the news will increase. There is a significant reduction in cost but also in quality of impressions. Mobile journalism has advantages and disadvantages, but this depends on how a journalistic media organization can work around it so that there is a balance between the speed of news delivery and the quality of the impressions.

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## 1. Introduction

The current rapid development of technology, especially in the field of information and communication technology, has made it easier for human work, including in the field of journalism. Various inventions of new media technology have changed the current practice of journalism, both in reporting, editing and sharing content. In particular, smartphone technology is increasingly sophisticated, equipped with cameras, voice recordings, internet access, and instant messaging applications that encourage the formation of mobile journalism around the world (Jamil & Appiah-Adjei, 2019). Mobile journalism or journalism is the process of gathering news information, compiling it into news material through applications and finally sharing it with an audience. All of this is done on one device, namely a mobile phone (Dubey, 2018). Mobile phones are revolutionizing practical journalism by changing the patterns of gathering and news as nowadays it is enough to use mobile phones to report and report on live productions from without the use of broadcast systems. However, the use of mobile phones in journalism still has its drawbacks. According to Yarbo (2018), cellphones have lower picture and sound quality when compared to professional cameras. And there are still many other limitations, such as applications that are not as complete and sophisticated as on a laptop or PC device. The use of mobile phones is superior in terms of practicality and cost efficiency.

Nowadays every news is a competition between different media organizations. Mainly on the latest news or breaking news. In order to win this competition every newsroom tries to react as quickly as possible to spread the news. This becomes very important, because a lot of unconfirmed information appears on social media (Maksimainen, 2020). Therefore, mobile phones are usually used for speed and effectiveness because they can be used both for communication and for content creation. In this case, the mobile phone will be used to edit, store, process information, create communication products, modify, and archive it (Szabo, 2014).

Various countries have used cell phones for journalistic activities. In the writing of Jamil & Appiah-Adjei (2019), mobile journalism has been implemented in Ghana and Pakistan. According to him, there are positive implications of mobile journalism such as high mobility, fast and economical news production and a better level of security for journalists. Mobile journalism for broadcast TV is also implemented in Finland. In writing Maksimainen (2020), mobile journalism increases reactivity and emotionality but requires multi-skill and multitasking. Meanwhile, in writing Dubey (2018), it is stated that Indian media has great potential for the growth of digital media and mobile journalism. Indonesia has a very large number of mobile phone users, even exceeding its population. According to Kemp (2021), in his writing entitled *Digital in Indonesia*, it was stated that there were 345.3 million cellular numbers as of January 2021. This number is equivalent to 125.6% of the total population. This can happen because many people have more than one number. Still in the same writing, of all users of gadgets, almost all of them have smartphones. This is an opportunity for Indonesia to be able to optimize the use of its mobile devices in journalistic activities.

KompasTV as a news TV station also often uses mobile phones to produce news material. Even live reports are also often done only with mobile phones. According to Bimo Cahyo, News Network Manager for KompasTV, there are 31 presenters, 55 regional bureau reporters and 88 contributors throughout Indonesia who are ready to do live reports at any time using the Skype video call application. The currently popular Zoom application is also often used to communicate with sources directly because of its convenience and practicality. KompasTV's seriousness in optimizing mobile journalism is seen when the digital department sends a set of mobile equipment such as smartphones, tripods, smartphone holders to portable lighting to dozens of regional bureaus. In addition, mobile journalism trainings are often held for journalists. Therefore, this paper is intended to find out how the implementation of mobile journalism in the production of news material and what it has to do with the speed and quality of KompasTV news broadcasts.

Mobile journalism is the process of gathering and disseminating information to the public, through the use of cellular technology and even tablets (Maccise and Marai, 2016). Mobile journalism is mainly used in the process of reporting and sending news via mobile devices, especially for breaking news. Mobile journalism is a modern process that facilitates media workflow and storytelling processes, where journalists are provided with basic training and equipment to move from one place to another independently. Although most journalists have integrated the use of laptops into the processing of news coverage, the use of mobile phones remains an important way for most journalists to advance in the journalism sector (Deen, 2021).

Podger (2019) explains some of the benefits of mobile journalism, considering that smartphones can be used in a variety of ways, such as production studios for radio, television program production, text production and even social content creation. These benefits include being affordable and portable. Affordable means that a smartphone can be used in making television-quality videos if the video is created using a professional video recording application, adding an external microphone and a tripod. Using this setup, there is a minimization of costs, as it is not the same as owning an entry-level TV camera. The process makes it possible and affordable for millions of people around the world to receive news,

through a multimedia storytelling process, especially for journalists and storytellers who work in NGOs, the education sector, or the business sector. Portable means most journalists can fit their equipment in a backpack, as phones, lightweight tripods, clip on microphones, and external lights weigh under three kilograms, making the process of producing high-quality storytelling easy and effective.

Correspondingly, some of the negative impacts of new technologies on mobile journalism are deterministic. For example, Blankenship (2016) found that mobile journalists have less specialized knowledge. While working off the crew gives them greater autonomy, the increase in work routines causes them to relinquish control over the needs of their media organization. Moreover, this mobile journalist allows some distractions from other professions, particularly public relations, to complete their work assignments within the stipulated deadlines with limited time and resources. Similarly, Kumar and Haneef (2018) found that the practice of mobile journalism leads journalists to learn new applications and tools, produces short videos by and for mobile devices, and spreads news to digital readers through various platforms, but also discourages journalists from appreciating the basics of news, reporting and news gathering skills.

The popularity of smartphones is associated with its universality and how these smartphones are available in different markets and societies. These small smartphones with better processing capabilities and connectivity have reduced operating costs. Smartphones also have the ability to run multiple multifunctional applications. Modern smartphones can store multimedia technology, high capacity sensor data, various communication logs, data stores created or even used by various applications. Smartphones are considered 'smart' because of the big difference between regular cell phones and phones that don't have such advanced technology. In addition, a smartphone is a device that has two characteristics. First, every smartphone contains a cellular network operator card that allows the phone to have a connection to the cellular network in the form of a SIM or USIM card in GSM and UMTS systems. The second aspect is that all smartphones have an operating system that has the ability to connect with third-party software (Theoharidou et al., 2012).

The use of mobile devices has also led to the rapid growth of modern citizen journalism. The use of mobile journalism promotes the expansion of mobile technology and new opportunities for journalism. The process has impacted the issue of mobile news reporting, impacting the general organization and practice of journalism. Where certain mobile device features such as location determination receive special attention. In addition, the use of mobile journalism is considered effective because it saves costs, increases usability and functionality, and minimizes journalistic risk (Jokela et al., 2009).

In every media organization, every newsroom and every meeting of the editor-in-chief, there is the theory of gatekeeping. In the field of media and communication, gatekeeping can be interpreted as a process that monitors which information will pass through the 'gate' and can be formed into products that can be consumed (Davie, 2018). Each of these gatekeeping steps will decide which stories to tell the public and which to reject. For a newsroom, gatekeeping requires browsing through the vast amount of material available and sifting through the most relevant and interesting stories to tell an audience, given the likelihood that the results will be published. Most likely mobile journalism has the power to challenge traditional journalism in its gatekeeping function, because it provides the public with a wide variety of material with a light and fast publishing process. Simultaneously, this adds to the burden of newsrooms in fact-checking as they must meet journalistic standards but also survive the competition against citizen journalism and other news organizations (Maksimainen, 2020).

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Although mobile journalism can greatly benefit from having a small actioncam and a mini DSLR, its main strength has always been the cell phone which has now become a tool of the communications revolution (Borum & Quinn, 2016). The use of mobile phones is usually important because it provides applications to take pictures, edit materials, to send them. With an additional monopod or tripod, wireless microphone, and rechargeable video light, the quality and impact of the end result will be greatly improved. "It's axiomatic from every industry that a successful product creates a commercial around it. Mobile phones as video tools are an example of this". (Gyimah, 2015).

In newsrooms, one of the most important elements is reactivity to current news situations – how quickly editorial staff can react to an event, gather the required material, edit it into a final story, and publish it (Borum & Quinn, 2016). With traditional broadcasting equipment, these options are limited to some extent. The fact that the BC-kit is usually located inside the newsroom and requires a schedule to match the cameraman slows down the process. In addition, more camera warehouses and reporting crews usually require special vehicles, while mobile journalists can use taxis or public transportation to reach their destinations (Maksimainen, 2020). More detailed differences between the use of broadcasting-kit, VJ-kit or video journalist -kit, and mojo-kit or mobile journalism - kit can be seen in the following table.

**Table 1. Comparison of broadcasting-kit, VJ-kit, and mojo-kit.**

	<b>Broadcasting-kit</b>	<b>VJ-kit</b>	<b>Mojo-kit</b>
<b>Crew</b>	1 camera person and 1 reporter	1 reporter	1 reporter
<b>Main Devices</b>	1 camera broadcast	1 video camera	1 smartphone
<b>Supporting Devices</b>	Lighting, microphone, tripod	Lighting, microphone, tripod, laptop	Lighting, microphone, tripod
<b>Heavy</b>	Heavy	Medium	Light
<b>Price</b>	Expensive	Medium	Affordable
<b>Reliability</b>	High	High	Medium
<b>Visibility</b>	High	Medium	Low
<b>Accessibility Control</b>	Fast	Medium	Slow
<b>Recording Quality</b>	Very good	Well	Low until good
<b>Learning curve</b>	Steep	Medium	Sloping
<b>Speed publication</b>	Slow	Medium	Fast

Source: Maksimainen , 2020

The concept of mobile journalism can cut costs and crew size significantly because it only takes one reporter to do everything, no separate cameraman or editor is needed. That is why news reporting is no longer a privilege of large companies with their broadcasting equipment, but of small companies, associations and ultimately ordinary citizens. The use of

mobile phones and internet connections that are increasingly easy to reach have greatly changed our behavior. And in terms of technological development and efficiency, it is quite possible that only the change itself is permanent (Erämetsä 2004).

## 2. Method

The writing method used in writing this article is a literature review with a qualitative approach through the steps developed by Ramdhani, et. al. (2014). These steps begin with selecting a review topic. There are several tips for choosing this topic. First, read the book at a glance and identify broad topics in the discipline of interest. Second, read the chapters related to the chosen topic to familiarize yourself with the vocabulary (key words), the main author, and the problems or controversies in that area. Third, talking to other people, such as experts, or reading about the topic can also help identify what subject areas the reviewer is interested in and can help show how much information there is on the topic.

The next step after selecting a topic is to identify in a structured manner the appropriate and related information. The types of articles selected for a good literature review are theoretical presentations, review articles, and empirical writing articles. Selecting the work of a single author can be one method of starting a literature review. After collecting the articles that you want to use in the literature review, the next step is to analyze each article, break it down and identify important information in it. Then synthesize the collection of articles (integrate and identify conclusions that can be drawn from the articles as a group). The secondary data criteria used in writing this article include textbooks and review articles, descriptions or summaries by people other than the original author. This secondary data does not contain any new information.

Data was collected by interviewing two sources. Interviews were conducted via telephone and the WhatsApp messaging application. The interview has a strong narrative nature so that the author can investigate in depth. Previously the author had prepared a list of questions to provide development opportunities while keeping the interview process running according to the purpose of writing (Alshenqeeti, 2014).

The quality of the show also cannot be ruled out, considering that KompasTV is a television medium that displays images and sound. Observations were made on photographs and screen recordings of KompasTV news shows to analyze the quality of the picture and sound.

## 3. Results and Discussion

The author conducted interviews with two informants who work at KompasTV. First, a contributor or freelance journalist who lives in the city of Surakarta named Christian Widi Nugraha is 37 years old. Widi explained his experience as a KompasTV journalist who quite often uses smartphones to cover news. The second is Ruly Novian, 47 years old, serving as Executive Regional Assignment Editor in charge of supervising regional coordinators in coordinating with all coverage teams from all regions in Indonesia, including video journalists and contributors. Ruly looks more at the perspective of the policy makers at KompasTV and how the coverage results from the region as a whole.

Widi, the first informant, said that he uses a mirrorless camera, handycam, and smartphone to cover the news. He uses his smartphone quite often especially when fast visual delivery is needed. According to him, using a smartphone can be fast and efficient because taking pictures, editing, streaming for live report needs, even typing to sending scripts can all be done only with a smartphone. Although it has various advantages, smartphones have some disadvantages as well. As with lenses, smartphones are considered unable to zoom like digital cameras in general. In addition, for taking long pictures such as

live reports by utilizing the video call feature, the smartphone is very easy to overheat or the temperature is too hot. This is different from cameras that have better durability in taking pictures with a long period of time. For that, Widi has tips on choosing a good smartphone to use as a coverage tool. First, pay attention to the resolution of the camera, because this is the most important component in capturing coverage shots. Second, look for a processor type that doesn't heat up easily because sometimes there are live reports that require the smartphone to operate continuously for a long time so that the temperature rises. Finally, pay attention to the internal memory to store various data or videos which are usually large.

Not all coverage can be done using a smartphone, there are some events that should or can't even use a smartphone. For example, the presidential agenda, this is because the agenda is considered very important and requires good image quality. In addition, using a smartphone to cover the president is considered less professional as a media crew. Furthermore, terrorist raids and isolation of Covid-19 patients. This is more of a zoom feature that is not found on smartphones, because the coverage is usually done remotely for the safety of journalists. Then coverage with high temperature conditions is not recommended using a smartphone because it is easy to heat so that overheating often occurs and if it is allowed to continue it will quickly damage the smartphone. According to Widi, the use of smartphones is considered to increase the speed of coverage so that the results of the coverage can be immediately broadcast.



**Figure 1. Widi while doing a live report using a smartphone.**

Widi uses a smartphone with the Oppo Reno 2 brand. According to the author's observations, using a smartphone is considered more practical. In Figure 1, a journalist only needs to use a smartphone to do a live report using the Skype video call application. The necessary devices are a smartphone for video calls, a tripod, an audio splitter to split the input and output headphone jack on the smartphone so that it can be connected to an external microphone, external microphone, and earphones. All of these devices are quite practical when taken on the go and quick to install.



**Figure 2. Mobile journalism devices in the form of smartphones, holders and portable lighting.**

The second informant, Ruly Novian, said that the use of smartphones for coverage was almost 50% of the total coverage. The main advantage of this smartphone is the speed. Usually when the program requires the latest material and wants to broadcast immediately, the coverage and delivery can be done using a smartphone. In addition, if a report is needed directly at the scene, the studio can contact journalists via video call applications such as Skype or Zoom. This is considered to be faster and more efficient than using a video camera because several processes need to be passed so that the visuals can be received by the KompasTV newsroom. According to him, if there is no need for the speed of image transmission, it is advisable to use a higher quality coverage camera. For example, for humanist or feature coverage. Visual delivery from smartphones is also enough via the Whatsapp or Telegram applications which are very popular in the community. It's just that the visual quality has decreased because there is a limit to sending via the platform. This smartphone is also often used for breaking news broadcasts, either for free to air national TV or exclusive digital KompasTV. The weakness, according to Ruly, lies in the battery which may run out quickly.

According to Ruly, the picture and sound quality of smartphones are still not as good as video cameras. However, in journalism, actuality becomes an important point. So if events can be reported soon then image quality can be compromised a bit. One of the biggest obstacles in mobile journalism is the signal from cellular operators. If the signal at the scene is good, the live report or image transmission can run smoothly. However, if the signal is not good, there are several ways to work around this. For live reports, visual and audio capture using different phones. The picture is taken with the Skype video call application, while the audio is taken from a cellular phone connection. This is to anticipate if the internet signal is cut off, only the visuals will be lost, but the audio from journalists is still there to report. Then for visual delivery, it can be done by cutting the duration per ten seconds. So the visuals that are sent can be immediately processed by the editorial team. If you immediately send a full three-minute video, for example, then the delivery time will be longer, especially if it is constrained by a weak signal. Although it can all happen due to various factors including the type of smartphone and the cellular operator used.

KompasTV so far does not have a specific policy regarding mobile journalism. However, there are visual quality standards that match broadcast standards, namely with a video camera with a minimum full HD resolution. If you use a smartphone, the minimum camera resolution is 16 megapixels.

If observed, the live report images with smartphones do look less sharp when compared to professional cameras, but they are good enough. Video calls do depend on the operator connection used. If the signal is not good, the image will look laggy or pixelated. The resulting sound quality is also not clear, less clear and sounds like the sound when we hear through a telephone connection.



**Figure 3. Capture screen impressions KompasTV . Above: taken use video camera . Bottom: taken use smartphones .**

Compared to video cameras, the images produced from smartphones at first glance look just as good, but if you look at it in more detail, the resulting image quality looks less sharp. While the results of the video camera images look sharper and the depth of field is also visible, so that the focus on the object looks clearer with a more out of focus background. Actually, smartphones have this depth feature but it looks unnatural. The most noticeable thing is when there is movement in the image. In pictures taken using a smartphone it looks broken, while on the video camera it looks very smooth. This makes the smartphone unsuitable for coverage with fast movements, such as pursuit coverage, or fast-moving sports. In addition, because the zoom feature on a smartphone is very limited, it is also not suitable for coverage by taking pictures that are far from the object. The sound quality is also slightly different, the sound captured by the video camera is clearer and clearer, the voice around the interviewee is not caught too much and sounds more natural. On a smartphone, a lot of noise from the surroundings is also recorded so that it interferes with the voice of the source. The sound is also not as clear as from the video camera recording but it can be heard enough.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Mobile journalism sounds so interesting because in fact mobile journalism is based on a very close, familiar and frequently used device, namely a cell phone and its various accessories and applications. It can be obtained by almost everyone and can be used anywhere even without the addition of other devices. Mobile phones here can be used from production to broadcast on television screens. This phone is considered very practical, efficient and fast, thereby increasing the reactivity of journalists to an event. However, the practice of mobile journalism also has side effects. All of the final results were judged to be of poor quality. Media organizations also have to compromise with this, especially when it comes to journalism where the speed of news delivery is also an important point here. But don't forget, television media is not social media that contains various content from anyone indiscriminately. All productions in television media are carried out by professionals in their fields so that it is hoped that whatever is broadcast can be of good quality in terms of content and appearance. In mobile journalism, there will always be a dilemma between reactivity and quality.



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