

Abstract

This study examines the impact of gender dynamics on the experience of female war journalists reporting from conflict zones. Despite significant research on the representation and influence of female journalists in media, there is limited exploration of how gender affects information acquisition in war zones. This study aims to fill that gap by examining the unique challenges and contributions of female war correspondents. Through thematic analysis of 10 semi-structured interviews with female war journalists, it investigates whether being a woman impacts a journalist's ability to access, gather and disseminate information from conflict zones. This research addresses two primary research questions: whether gender influences journalists' ability to operate in conflict zones and if these effects are positive or negative. The findings show that female journalists possess unique advantages due to their gender, such as better access to female sources and having the ability to blend in through use of head and face coverings. However, they also face challenges such as cultural restrictions, increased risk, and family pressure. This study also touches on the effects of intersectionality, specifically focused on how women with certain identities may have access to both the male and female population by being seen as a "third gender". By discussing the nuanced interplay between gender and war journalism, this research contributes to the broader discourse on media, gender, and conflict.