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## Application of The Journalistic Code Of Ethics For Press LPM Dynamics State Islamic University of North Sumatra In News

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**Abstract:** This research was conducted to analyze how the application of the journalistic code of ethics for Journalists of the Student Press Institute (LPM) Dinamika UIN SU in the news about the campus. Due to detected violations in applying the journalistic code of ethics in a campus news. This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach with interview and observation techniques. This research was conducted at the secretariat of LPM Dinamika UIN SU which was attended by 6 informants. The results of this study first, LPM Dinamika has implemented a journalistic code of ethics as a reference or guideline in making and publishing news about campus that refers to article 4. However, there are campus journalists who do not fully understand the journalistic code of ethics, especially in article 5. Second, to prove that all campus news is honest and can be accounted for, LPM Dinamika verifies information by keeping an archive of interviews or evidence of events. Third, the challenges faced by LPM Dinamika internally are the lack of understanding of journalists in the application of the journalistic code of ethics and the external challenge of the destruction of the LPM Dinamika secretariat. Fourth, the solution to the challenges faced is that LPM Dinamika provides training on understanding the journalistic code of ethics and processing journalistic language in campus news properly.

**Keyword:** Application of Code of Ethics, Journalists, Reporting.

### INTRODUCTION

The development of information and communication technology has changed the system of disseminating information from printed forms such as newspapers, magazines, tabloids to all-digital ones, namely online magazines, podcasts, online articles and so on. The development of information and communication technology has changed the system of disseminating information from printed forms such as newspapers, magazines, tabloids to all digital, namely online magazines, podcasts, online articles and so on. This change is considered quite good and adequate due to the ease with which information can be obtained by simply clicking on news titles or searching in the online news center channel. This is an opportunity for anyone who is good at making news, especially campus journalists.

Student Press Organization (LPM) Dinamika UIN SU is one example of many well-known campus journalists. LPM Dinamika UIN SU is a student activity unit engaged in the world of journalism which was established on October 16, 1993 until an indefinite time. LPM Dinamika UIN SU consistently disseminates information about inside and outside the campus in the form of writing such as online articles, magazines, tabloids, and audio-visual forms.

Campus journalists engaged in the auspices of the campus carrying out the practice of journalism have a role that presents accurate, objective and accountable information to readers. The coverage of information in the campus environment is processed into news that is taking place in campus life, campus events, academic activities, and current and in-depth issues. Not only that, news that exists outside the campus and national scale news is also news that can be processed in the LPM Dinamika channel, namely [www.lpmdinamika.co](http://www.lpmdinamika.co).

Campus journalists have the characteristics of independence and freedom, which means that they are free to explore topics to be raised or discussed. Student involvement, which means the contribution of students who take part in disseminating and collecting information from inside and outside the campus and various media, which means that in the practice of journalism using various supporting media such as Youtube, Instagram, and Spotify mass media, is a reliable step in utilizing mass media with the development of information technology through mass media that can be reached by users widely. (Anas, 2020)

In the practice of journalism, a campus journalist is able to apply the journalistic code of ethics as a reference in finding, making, and presenting news that will be published in print and online. The journalistic code of ethics serves as a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for media workers in carrying out their duties so that they are not mistaken, professional and responsible. And, this journalistic code of ethics is to protect the wider community from the possibility of negative actions from media workers so that reputation and integrity are maintained.

It should be noted that the journalistic code of ethics consisting of 11 articles as an updated mode of the Indonesian journalists' code of ethics is the legal basis for the journalism profession. Thus, the journalistic code of ethics is a value standard that must be used as a reference for journalists in carrying out the journalistic profession.

It can be understood that a journalist who does not understand the journalistic code of ethics is the same as a journalist who does not have a journalistic goal. Vice versa, if a journalist is able to obey and make the journalistic code of ethics a reference in his work then the journalist is considered a person who respects the rights and obligations of the press and is classified as professional in carrying out his duties (Daulay, 2016).

Mochtar Lubis The book *Journalism and Press Freedom* states that the key to a journalist's job is honesty. Journalists or especially campus journalists must adhere to the principle of honesty in carrying out their duties. Because the task of a journalist is also to participate in educating the nation's life and if once a journalist writes or makes news that is not true (lie) then there will be misdirection or fooling among readers (Emeraldien et al., 2022).

In this study, researchers took restrictions on the application of the journalistic code of ethics in articles four and five (Fenny Thresia, 2020). Article 4 reads, "A Journalist in Indonesia shall not make news that is untrue, false, leads to malice, sadism, and obscenity." And article 5 reads, "A Journalist in Indonesia must not mention the identity of victims of moral crimes and must not mention the identity of children who are victims of crimes."

Article 4 emphasizes the responsibility of journalists in presenting true, accurate and balanced information. Article 4 is a reference for all Indonesian journalists to carry out their duties. Meanwhile, Article 5 creates the right to privacy in the identity of victims of moral and juvenile crimes. In Article 5, journalists must be careful in disseminating information

about victims of crime and must not add information to the identity of victims of moral crimes.

This is where the unique challenges faced by campus journalists come in. The campus environment is often full of internal and external dynamics that can affect the process of gathering and presenting information. Therefore, an in-depth understanding of how campus journalists apply Articles 4 and 5 in carrying out their duties is required.

Cited by media online Solopos Jateng, The Press Council received 434 complaints of violations of the journalistic code of ethics throughout 2023 and 97% came from online media. This has become a separate evaluation and understanding for campus journalists, news reporters or other broadcasting units.

From the initial observations in the field that have been made by researchers, it is found that from the news articles that have been published there are violations of the journalistic code of ethics article 5, where campus journalists provide the identity of immoral victims that occurred in Medan Tuntungan. This is due to a lack of supervision of straight news that must be published quickly.

As described above, researchers collected several relevant studies such as research conducted by Takalelamulang (2020) entitled Application of the Journalistic Code of Ethics in KomunikaSulut Online Media. This research discusses the same subject as the researcher but is slightly different in the focus of examining articles 4 and 5. This research discusses the lack of honesty in reporting information and how many journalists do not understand the journalistic code of ethics.

Furthermore, research by Anita (2021) entitled Application of the Journalistic Code of Ethics in the Student Press, there is an evaluation for campus journalists in the application of the journalistic code of ethics and there are differences with the researcher's research, namely in articles 4 and 5.

The purpose of researchers conducting this research is to find out the application, verification of information, challenges, and other supporters in the application of the journalistic code of ethics in articles 4 and 5. Not only that, for campus journalists this research is an evaluation and benchmark that the journalistic code of ethics must be a reference in carrying out the duties of a journalist. Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in conducting research on, "The Application of the Journalistic Code of Ethics to Journalists of the Student Press Institute (LPM) Dinamika in Campus News."

## **METHOD**

In this research researchers used descriptive qualitative research with the type of field study research conducted directly at the Secretariat of the Student Press Institute (LPM) Dinamika UIN SU on January 25, 2024 - February 25, 2024. As researchers dug up information in the study, 6 informants of the Daily Management were obtained, namely the General Manager for the 2023-2024 Period, the Chief Editor for the 2023-2024 Period, the Managing Editor for the 2023-2024 Period, the Coverage Editor for the 2023-2024 Period, the Online Editor for the 2023-2024 Period, and the Language Editor for the 2023-2024 Period.

In this research, the data collection techniques used emphasize observation and interviews. Observation here intends to observe the implementation of this journalistic code of ethics both in finding and writing news until the news is published. Interviews in this study to explore information on indicators in the study, namely application, verification of information, challenges faced by LPM Dinamika journalists in applying the journalistic code of ethics.

The data sources that support this research are primary data sources and secondary data sources. Primary data sources refer to LPM Dinamika journalists during observation and

interview data collection techniques. While secondary data sources refer to news articles that have been published by LPM Dinamika and other supporters.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Application Of The Journalistic Code Of Ethics For Press LPM Dinamika**

Based on the results of research conducted by researchers through observations and interviews with LPM Dinamika journalists in the application of the journalistic code of ethics which refers to articles 4 and 5. as follows: The application of the journalistic code of ethics article 4 has improved and has been applied. The application of the journalistic code of ethics article 5 is not well implemented in the sense of disseminating victim information. There are challenges in applying the journalistic code of ethics articles 4 and 5 such as a lack of understanding in applying the journalistic code of ethics articles 4 and 5.

As stated by the informant Mrs. Desi as the Reporting Editor when interviewed, “LPM Dinamika journalists look for and package news as clearly as possible and are honest, so I as a reporting editor ensure that any data for news to be raised must be data from credible sources by paying attention to article 4 of this journalistic code of ethics.” (Desi, interview, February 2, 2024)

In addition, it is also reinforced by the expression of the informant Mrs. Pujiati, In line with its implementation, the Editor-in-Chief admitted that there was a deliberate mistake due to a lack of supervision in publishing the news without protecting the privacy rights of moral victims, “I admit that when the news was made, I as the editor-in-chief and the editor did not pay much attention to the news to be published considering that news like this must be published as soon as possible. Until we realized when one of the alumni told us to take-down and revise the news content.” (Tri Pujiati, interview, February 1, 2024).

The discussion of the above results is the movement of the application of the journalistic code of ethics starting from the knowledge of LPM Dinamika journalists about the journalistic code of ethics being the main requirement for becoming a member or part of an organization engaged in journalism. This can be seen when recruiting new members, LPM Dinamika always adds questions to the written exam related to the journalistic code of ethics and the oral exam makes the journalistic code of ethics an important issue. This is considered good enough to make campus journalists know the journalistic code of ethics and aims to make the knowledge of campus journalists related to the journalistic code of ethics the main thing to enter the world of journalism.

With the understanding of campus journalists related to the journalistic code of ethics, it is an opportunity for campus journalists to explore more in finding news to pour creative ideas related to news around campus, as stated in the book contemporary journalism. Suherdiana, (2020) said that campus journalists are a means of conveying creative ideas, information, and new thoughts.

However, knowledge without understanding can lead to misunderstandings and violations. Just knowing is considered insufficient to become a campus journalist who maintains press ethics and the image of the campus. In this understanding, LPM Dinamika UIN SU campus journalists are considered lacking in understanding each point of the journalistic code of ethics. There are some who do not understand one point or several points in the journalistic code of ethics, one of which is in article 5.

This statement can be seen from the publication of news on the news of UIN SU students being victims of immorality, LPM Dinamika journalists included the identity of the faculty and study program of the student. This incident is considered a lack of understanding by campus journalists of the journalistic code of ethics in article 5. Presumably this incident is an evaluation for all campus journalists to better understand the points of the journalistic code of ethics.

In line with the above statement, in making news, of course, the journalistic code of ethics is a guideline for campus journalists to carry out their duties. This is evidenced by the number of campus news, be it straight news, indepth news and features, guided by the journalistic code of ethics. Article 4 of the journalistic code of ethics is a reference for campus journalists in presenting honest news by obtaining clear information data in the process of reviewing information with sources.

application of the journalistic code of ethics article 4, most of the news about campus made by campus journalists is in accordance with the interpretation of the journalistic code of ethics article 4.(Fatimah, 2022) that is:

1. Not making fake news

A journalist is prohibited from intentionally creating or spreading false news (hoaxes). Journalists must always verify and test information before publishing news. If fake news is published, journalists and media must immediately clarify and apologize to the public.

2. Not making slanderous news

Journalists are prohibited from making slanderous news that can dehumanize or defame a person or other party without evidence. All negotiations must be accompanied by accurate evidence.

3. Not making sadistic news

Journalists should avoid excessive coverage of scenes of violence or sadism that may arouse horror or hatred in readers/listeners. Reporting should pay attention to its social impact.

4. Not making obscene news

Journalists are prohibited from broadcasting news, pictures, illustrations or descriptions that show or depict nudity or sexual scenes. Immoral content can damage the morals of society.

In addition, the application of article 5 of the journalistic code of ethics is considered less applied by campus journalists. This is due to a lack of understanding of article 5 of the journalistic code of ethics. Please note that the interpretation of the journalistic code of ethics article 5 is the following:

1. Item 5 aims to protect the privacy and identity of victims of moral crimes such as rape, sexual harassment, and so on. It also protects the identity of children who are victims of crimes.
2. In reporting on these cases, journalists are prohibited from mentioning details of the victim's identity such as full name, address, and other information that can be used to trace the victim's identity.
3. Journalists are only allowed to write the initials of the victim's name, age, occupation and general identity without details that can be used to reveal the victim's identity.
4. Journalists must be sensitive and ethical in applying this article to protect the best interests of victims of crimes of decency and child abuse.

### **Data Verification of News and Information**

In LPM Dinamika's news cannot be separated from factual information and can be connected based on its meaning of the real or reality of a reality in an event. A news fact is built in the form of a report that will be published to the public (Koto, 2020). The making of news about campus by campus journalists goes through several stages and it is at this stage that campus journalists are required to find sources who are competent in the issues raised.

After determining the sources to collect information, campus journalists are expected to verify the news by reporting all interview archives such as a list of questions or answers to sources in the form of recordings or other documentation. This is done to become an accountability material if at any time the news raised gets a negative response or is less



effective in reporting. Verification of information on news is required in every journalistic activity because it avoids misinformation. A journalist must double-check to anticipate unverified news and this is mandatory in news gathering (Seran, 2018).

In the process of verifying this news information from campus journalists covering news in the field, the script will be sent to the online editor. The online editor is tasked with seeing whether the script is in accordance with the rules of writing on the web, one of which is that the script has included direct quotes from sources or not, if it is deemed correct, then the script will be given to the language editor for journalistic language editing and finally the script will be submitted to the editor-in-chief to see the application of the journalistic code of ethics and finally the editor-in-chief will give it back to the online editor to publish the script.

This is also reinforced by Rofitrah's statement regarding the verification of information and data stored in the archivist for one period. That as a press institution under the auspices of the University, of course all actions including reporting will later be held accountable if there are irregularities, as conveyed by the Online Editor, "To verify a news or information we as campus journalists must investigate the truth of the news. Whether the news is just student opinion, reality happens or just conjecture, this is mandatory to see when going to cover then we have an archive of interviews or all data during coverage in order to be able to take responsibility if our news is wrong." (Rofitrah, interview, February 1, 2024).

The description above is in line with the statement (Fakhrurrazi, 2019) that the function of a supervision in a press organization is very necessary if the lack of supervision actions will occur violations that can harm a press organization institution.

### **Challenges and Solutions in Implementing Journalistic Code of Ethics Articles 4 and 5**

In this journalism activity, there are certainly obstacles or challenges in the application of the journalistic code of ethics articles 4 and 5, namely some campus journalists are considered lacking in understanding the journalistic code of ethics so that there are scripts that are returned to journalists to revise. Lack of access support in obtaining information, in this case some campus journalists claimed to have been rejected by sources because they were not happy with the issues raised.

In addition to the obstacles in the application of the journalistic code of ethics articles 4 and 5, there are challenges in the application of the journalistic code of ethics articles 4 and 5, namely the existence of unknown individuals rioting against the secretariat of LPM Dinamika UIN SU, this is known to have a motive of displeasure with the news raised by LPM Dinamika. Not only that, one of the study programs at UIN SU requested a take-down of the news that discussed the problems of the study program, this was felt to be enough to provide challenges to LPM Dinamika in applying the journalistic code of ethics that reports factually and honestly. As the informant said that the challenges in applying the journalistic code of ethics are internal challenges such as a lack of understanding in applying the journalistic code of ethics article 5.

"Early in the recruitment process for LPM Dinamika journalists, of course we inserted questions or discussions about the journalistic code of ethics because this is our guideline when covering and making news. But there are still those who do not understand this journalistic code of ethics and there are other challenges such as our secretariat being vandalized by individuals who have pain about the news we publish."

The solution to the obstacles and challenges in implementing the journalistic code of ethics articles 4 and 5 is to make continuous training by presenting presenters who are experts in their fields, this should increase understanding to LPM Dinamika journalists. For solutions related to reluctant sources to be questioned, please sort or select replacement sources whose information can be accounted for and can improve good communication with University officials in order to get credible source opportunities.

## CONCLUSION

The journalistic code of ethics is a guidebook for LPM Dinamika journalists in carrying out their duties. The application of the code of ethics articles 4 and 5 has been implemented well by LPM Dinamika UIN SU, but the application of article 5 is quite lacking due to the lack of understanding of campus journalists about this, resulting in violations in providing the privacy of the victim's identity. Verification of information to process news is also carried out by LPM Dinamika as a form of responsibility in publishing news. In applying this journalistic code of ethics, there are internal challenges from campus journalists who do not understand the journalistic code of ethics and external challenges from the destruction of the LPM Dinamika secretariat. Hopefully the campus can provide full support and help in the journalism movement carried out by the LPM Dinamika UIN SU student activity unit.

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