

## Interpretation of television journalists utilizing smartphone technology on reporting disaster

S.S. Kurnia, D. Ahmadi, S.I. Karsa, F. Firmansyah & D. Iskandar  
*Universitas Islam Bandung, Bandung, Indonesia*

**ABSTRACT:** Television journalists innovate by using smartphone technology in reporting on disasters. This study aims to reveal how the determination of technology in smartphones changes the reporting pattern of television journalists in disaster coverage. This research was conducted using a qualitative approach with the interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) method to explore personal experiences and individual personal perceptions. Data collection was carried out by interviewing, observing and documenting research subjects, namely 33 television journalists in West Java who are members of the Indonesian Television Journalists Association (IJTI), while the object in this study is the use of smartphone technology in disaster coverage. The results of the study found that television journalists realized that the speed of online media coverage made television journalists work harder. The function of smartphones with a number of applications can replace broadcasting tools used by television journalists more efficiently and effectively.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has a high potential for natural disasters (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana 2016). Several studies have shown that areas in Indonesia are at high risk of experiencing disasters, including West Java (Ishak 2011; Ruswandi et al. 2008). West Java Province is one of the most populous provinces, and has a high potential for disaster, so efforts are needed to minimize the impact of disasters with adequate disaster information literacy (Marlyono et al. 2016).

Reporting on disasters is a challenge for journalists. Journalists in reporting on disasters also place themselves as victims for reporting in dangerous zones that could threaten their lives. Journalists as historical witnesses in disaster events need more preparation (Tandoc & Takahashi 2018). During a disaster, journalism needs to be persuasive in reporting images to encourage sensitivity in the community (Cottle 2013).

In Indonesia, journalists must be sensitive to disasters by promoting sensitive disaster journalism (Sukmono & Junaedi 2018). Journalists have a big role and responsibility in disaster events (Sanusi 2018). In covering disaster, journalists are required to prioritize ethics by presenting actual facts that have occurred at the disaster site (Panuju 2018). The mass media, especially television, is an important part of covering traumatic events such as disasters (Juditha 2016). Journalists are required to be the first to reach the disaster site, and thus be able to provide information to officials to follow up and provide assistance (Sreedharan et al. 2019). However, television journalists in disaster events are more difficult than other journalists (Rochimah & Junaedi 2014). For this reason, information technology plays an important role in assisting television journalism in reporting on disaster sites.

Television media compete to present news quickly, especially live broadcasts (Haryanto 2018). In reporting on disasters in West Java, television stations use several technologies to obtain videos or pictures directly from the location of the disaster. The latest live broadcasts and videos of the location of the incident played a role in disseminating information as well as ensuring the areas that needed to be evacuated. Based on this background, this research to reveal interpretation of television journalists utilizing smartphone technology on reporting disaster.