

How is Twitter Furthering Opinion-Based Journalism?

Atulya S Nair

*Student, Media Studies Christ (Deemed to be University), Bangalore
E-mail: atulya.nair@mcn.christuniversity.in*

Abstract—*Twitter today is not just a place to put your thoughts in 280 characters. It is a place where many a times, country heads, pop stars, and major influencers have had a verbal battle against each other online, for the world to see. Twitter, has become a hub of socio-political and cultural activity and a source of news that is picked up by newspapers, broadcast news and digital news platforms. The whole media industry runs on the network it has cast all over the world with information. And many news agencies have taken to the new media, with official pages on all social media and websites like BuzzFeed, News Minute, Scroll, to update people on the going-ons of the world as soon as possible. But to navigate around a place as crowded and chaotic as the Internet is never easy.*

Today with the advent of usage of Internet as a medium into the mix, the storage space for memory has changed places. The new media is not a place to socialise but also to access old memories. Online space has become a key arbitrator in how memories and information is now processed. And hence social media and the rest of the Internet, become key stakeholders in making waves in a newsroom. Twitter more than other social media platforms hold sway over the news patterns in India. How the tweets of the US president about Obama and other matters, and how when a journalist like Dhanya Rajendran got death threats on her twitter wall because of one of her tweets on an actor's recent release becomes prime time news material.

More socio-politicaly inclined, Twitter is a space used by many journalistic entities to not only present news but to also help one express personal opinions, thus making it hard to understand whether they make a professional observation or recite a personal anecdote.

But if given space, is opinion based journalism quite capable of overtaking the rigour and objectivity of that of field reporting?