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The Role of Local Mass Media in Anticipating Hoax Information
(Case Study at Radar Tasikmalaya)

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ABSTRACT

The spread of false information and hoaxes is significantly fueled by the spread of unverified content on social media. Journalism, especially at the regional level, plays an important role in countering misinformation. This research investigates the role of local media, particularly Radar Tasikmalaya, a leading news media in West Java, in addressing and countering hoaxes originating from its geographical area. Using a qualitative case study approach, this research explores how regional journalism functions as a countermeasure against misinformation. Data was collected through in-depth interviews with Radar Tasikmalaya editors, observation of journalistic practices, and documentation study of published news. Interviews provided insights into the editorial strategy and responsibilities assigned to journalists, while observations highlighted the news reporting process. The documentation study complements these findings by analyzing how published content handles and clarifies circulating hoaxes. This research found that Radar Tasikmalaya plays a proactive role in maintaining information accuracy by assigning journalists to fact-check and clarify misinformation. When misinformation is identified, journalists are expected to immediately verify and correct it through their reports. This approach not only increases public trust in the media, but also emphasizes the social responsibility of journalists in providing accurate and reliable information to the public. The findings illustrate the important role of local media in maintaining journalistic standards and countering the spread of false information.

Keywords: *Journalism, local media, Radar, Tasikmalaya, anti-hoax*

ABTRAK

Penyebaran informasi palsu dan hoaks secara signifikan dipicu oleh penyebaran konten yang belum diverifikasi di media sosial. Jurnalisme, terutama di tingkat regional, memainkan peran penting dalam melawan misinformasi. Penelitian ini menyelidiki peran media lokal, khususnya Radar Tasikmalaya, sebuah media berita terkemuka di Jawa Barat, dalam menangani dan melawan hoaks yang berasal dari wilayah geografisnya. Dengan pendekatan studi kasus kualitatif, penelitian ini mengeksplorasi bagaimana jurnalisme regional berfungsi sebagai langkah penanggulangan terhadap misinformasi. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui wawancara mendalam dengan editor Radar Tasikmalaya, observasi praktik jurnalistik, dan studi dokumentasi berita yang telah diterbitkan. Wawancara memberikan wawasan mengenai strategi editorial dan tanggung jawab yang diberikan kepada jurnalis, sementara observasi menyoroti proses pelaporan berita. Studi dokumentasi melengkapi temuan ini dengan menganalisis bagaimana konten yang diterbitkan menangani dan mengklarifikasi hoaks yang beredar. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa Radar Tasikmalaya berperan proaktif dalam menjaga akurasi informasi dengan menugaskan jurnalis untuk melakukan pengecekan fakta dan mengklarifikasi misinformasi. Ketika informasi yang salah teridentifikasi, jurnalis diharapkan untuk segera memverifikasi dan mengoreksi melalui laporan mereka. Pendekatan ini tidak hanya meningkatkan kepercayaan publik terhadap media, tetapi juga menekankan tanggung jawab sosial jurnalis dalam menyediakan informasi yang akurat dan dapat dipercaya bagi masyarakat. Temuan ini menggambarkan peran penting media lokal dalam menjaga standar jurnalistik dan melawan penyebaran informasi palsu.

Kata Kunci: Jurnalistik, media lokal, Radar, Tasikmalaya, anti hoax

INTRODUCTION

The development of information technology does not only affect the people who consume information. Journalism as a news producer has also undergone changes. The practice of journalism in the digital era has changed in its characteristics to fast news processing, fast distribution to reach audiences and can be trusted (Waluyo, 2018). In the process, although there have been some changes in the concept and form of journalism, the democratic role of journalism remains the same. Journalism is still expected to serve the needs of democracy, to balance and scrutinize power, and to tell the truth, which are the most essential elements of journalism (Tong & Lo, 2017).

Easy access to online news for free seems to create a shift that has an impact on the rapid demand for information in society, even if it is less accurate (Karambelkar, 2019). In the age of social media, fraud and falsification of information has become easier and faster to produce. In its current existence, social media is a favorite choice for sharing information easily, regardless of whether the information is true or false. (Othman, Hassan, Sabri, & Nayan, 2020). The flood of information in the community is due to the increasing number of information producers who easily disseminate this information without having any responsibility for the impact that will result from the information, even though the information is not true.

Mass media with social media that has the speed of dissemination of information in society.Everyone can become an information producer with their smartphone connected to the internet and social media (Monica Anderson, 2019). Smartphones have become a lifestyle and also a must-have device for obtaining information, and even carrying out social activities (Prekshaa Jain & Patil, 2016) (Karataº, 2019). The speed with which information is obtained and disseminated again makes journalists seem to have lost their function in society. In fact, the function of journalists as information gatekeepers is to ensure that the information received by the public has been proven factual. In obtaining fast information, journalists work together and exchange information with each other in organizational communication patterns (Firmansyah & Asgha, 2020). However, when talking about social media, journalists can also get caught up in viral information on social media. And public trust in the credibility of journalists will decrease if they know that their trusted sources of information also follow information on social media. While mainstream journalism in several countries has an important role in public life as a source of information (Hoey, 2017) (Maria Touri, 2017).

Various hoax events have become a global phenomenon. Hoaxes can be understood as fake news/hoaxes. The life of a hyper-connected society causes hoaxes to thrive in the post-truth era (Simarmata, 2019). Journalists can be one of the disseminators of false

information. Wrong information is deliberately spread by journalists, one of which is to increase the chances of the audience reading or watching the news they publish (Ariestyani & Utami, 2021). The intense competition in the media industry means that journalism ethics and rules are often ignored.

In the concept of the nine elements of journalism, one of the main tasks of journalism is to seek the truth (Arismunandar, 2001). In ethics, journalists need to prioritize facts over sensations (Christiany Juditha, 2014) (Panuju, 2018). In finding facts, journalists carry out several stages. Even in reporting facts, journalists need to think about what information needs to be presented in the news. As is the case in investigative reporting, not all facts can be disclosed and disseminated to the public (Kurnia, Othman, Firmansyah, & Kuswarno, 2020). Information in the news submitted by journalists must be fact-checked, verified, and accountable. So conventional mass media should not be trapped in the virality of information on social media but instead become a remedy for the spread of false information in society

So this study aims to describe how local media carry out their journalistic duties to prevent the spread of hoaxes on the internet and social media. Radar Tasikmalaya is one part of the large Jawa Pos group. As a local media in West Java, Radar Tasikmalaya is one that is quite developed, apart from working in print, online and local television media. In other studies, local media has power in presenting local realities that can be used to reproduce or produce information (Purworini, Kuswarno, Hadisiwi, & Rakhmat, 2016). Local media with good management will be able to develop their companies by taking advantage of their regional characteristics and advantages. Editorial management, namely management in the media that deals with journalistic aspects ranging from news search to news production (Hutauruk & Atnan, 2018).

In the concept of psychology, belief in untested and conspiratorial information originates from epistemic, existential, and social motives. People's trust in information is a form of motivated social cognition (Douglas, Sutton, & Cichocka, 2017). So in order to break the public's trust in circulating information, the task of journalism is to present counter-information that is proven by the facts. Local media have a role due to geographical factors that support fast verification. Local media such as Radar Tasikmalaya can help clarify information related to the coverage area.

This research seeks to express the idea that local media can be a solution to the circulation of hoax information. In Indonesia, hoaxes are still one of the problems that are difficult to handle due to low media literacy. (Udhany, 2022). With the involvement of local media in confirming the information circulating, fact-checking by local media can be one of the solutions in counteracting false information. The spread of false information can create

confusion and discord. The spread of false information is therefore intolerable in principle and should be countered with greater prevalence. News consumed online can have a greater impact than news consumed on electronic media. Even fake news can have a huge impact compared to regular news, especially on sub-populations in society (Allen et al., 2020). There is a need for research involving system development in information and news development to help the public anticipate fake news. Research involving the development of fake news detection models or network analysis to identify patterns of fake news distribution is needed as a way out in the spread of hoaxes (Kim et al., 2021). The comparison of fake news with verified trusted media news will help the public sort out information. This research can provide a reference for how local media plays a role in anticipating fake news in the future.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach with the case study method, which is a different form of investigation that allows comprehensive and in-depth insights into various issues (Harrison, Birks, Franklin, & Mills, 2017). The type of case study used is the single case, by examining a single object, namely Radar Tasikmalaya. Case studies can be used to capture the complexity of a case, including temporal changes, as well as explore the contextual conditions of a case (Hollweck, 2016). In addition, case study research seeks to find how and why in a case of a unique phenomenon. The uniqueness of this research is that regional media coverage which is considered not of the caliber of national news from a certain point of view can be an antidote to hoaxes.

Research data collection was carried out by means of interviews, observation and documentation studies. Interviews were conducted with the editors of Radar Tasikmalaya, which were supplemented with observational data on how Tasikmalaya journalists cover and make news. While the documentation data is used as supporting data, namely radar Tasikmalaya news which clarifies hoaxes circulating in the community. The key informants in this study were the chief editor of Radar Tasikmalaya, the Managing Editor of Radar Tasikmalaya, and field journalists of Radar Tasikmalaya who were able to describe the fact-checking process carried out in news reports originating from information that had not been fact-tested. Data analysis, namely by coding the interview results and then categorizing them to find research findings. Interview data is synchronized with observation and documentation data to be able to determine research results that can thoroughly describe the research topic raised. The research findings are then linked to journalistic concepts and theories within the framework of media reporting organizations.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fact-checking journalism is a hypermedia organization formed in the realm of journalism. This context places fact-checking journalism not only as a journalistic activity, but also as a manifestation of information organization formed in digital media. This condition refers to the phenomenon of fact-checking journalism which provides factual claim content along with evidence and rebuttals on a digital platform (Nurlatifah & Irwansyah, 2019). The concept of hypermedia journalism as a fact checker needs to be applied to local media as the fastest fact checker because of its geographical advantage. Radar Tasikmalaya as part of the Jawa Pos group, is one that applies fact-checking journalism even though it is not yet equipped with sophisticated digital technology.

Fact Check Journalism at Radar Tasikmalaya

Radar Tasikmalaya Editor-in-Chief Usep Saepullah said that as agents conveying facts, journalists are equipped to clarify hoaxes circulating in society. Journalists should be a bright spot in the existence of information that is not proven by facts, and even unverified, "..hoaxes are clearly unverified..we automatically instruct our duty to inform verified news. we will automatically fight hoaxes.." Usep admits that not all information circulating in the community is used as a news reference. However, if the information concerns the interests of the wider community, it needs to be straightened out immediately. Editors, according to him, also monitor the information that develops in society. From public spaces in the community or even information from relatives can be considered by the editor to be used as a reference if it has news value. "Indeed, if some related information is the closest that is indeed the subject of discussion, it will definitely appear in the news. "...in the past, there was even an anti-hoax page which contained clarification of information circulating in the community, then it was cleaned up with real facts, carried out by journalists with journalistic rules.." In a media group, information networking is very important, because the relationship between the media in the group will create a good ecosystem for checking facts. The information network system within the media group will be easier and more reliable than the information network between media that is not in the group. This is due to the competition factor between the media which needs to be considered in order to check and check the facts and data received. For example, if there is a case where there is information circulating on social media which is currently busy, we will definitely verify the truth..."

Dissemination of information from the media cannot be done haphazardly, even editorial policy, according to Usep, journalists must be careful in conveying information on social media. Even if journalists find incorrect information on social media, journalists have an obligation to straighten it out. Every journalist becomes an agent in fact-checking even in his own social media. "...because it is our responsibility as a media to spread information, because it is part of disseminating information, our responsibility as a media is to nourish information, now that is part of the information that is sick, now we are healthy. These are the facts that we are reporting.. ."

Usep admits that Radar Tasikmalaya journalists also sometimes receive information from social media. Editors also often assign field reporters to check facts that are currently viral on social media. However, Usep explained that journalists sometimes have more initiative in finding misinformation on social media. This is what makes Radar Tasiklamaya need to instill the task of journalists to become information gatekeepers and not get caught up in erroneous and unverified information, "... just be a goalkeeper at the Editor and above...". Regarding the carelessness of his journalists, who reported wrong information from social media, Usep admitted that this had never happened. However, the firmness of the editorial team towards journalists' carelessness will still be given sanctions according to their mistakes. However, Usep still believes that journalists owned by Radar Tasik have the ability and credibility in carrying out journalistic activities "...surely something like that because I am sure that when they understand journalistic rules they will not automatically spit out information like that...which is not true. really verified.."

If there are errors in the news, the first thing that needs to be checked is the editor who has the authority to check the news submitted by journalists. The function of the editor is crucial in filtering information and facts found by journalists so that they become news. That's why Usep has the view that conventional mass media should not follow the issues that develop in social media. Checking information, without following what is going viral on social media. Because according to him, viral on social media is pseudo-viral, that is, information that is busy is not necessarily information that the community needs or wants. "...actually those of us who are on social media are not the main material, maybe it's just a little and not too big. Because usually we have our own issues. So that's the issue... wow, social media is crowded. Then it has to do with the value of the news, we don't force our entry into that area..because we have our own issues..that is what is being published today...we already have our own picture..."

The task of conventional mass media is not to counter information on social media. Usep added that the main task of journalism is to seek the truth to produce news based on facts

that are not only informative but also provide education to the public. Usep believes that in leading Radar Tasikmalaya as the Editor in Chief it is necessary to prioritize good journalism, then automatically there will be public trust. Because according to him the public wants quality information from the news delivered by Radar Tasikmalaya. The advantage of local media is that they have more geographical proximity so that their coverage will be more complete compared to national media. "...we just carry out proper journalism activities because automatically readers can see that Radar Tasik is more complete and can develop the siu into news from several different angles. National media sometimes only reports from one point of view.."

Radar Tasikmalaya's consistency in presenting quality journalistic products will create self-confidence in its readers. In fact, according to Usep, if there are people who get dubious information, they will first look for references to the Radara Tasikmalaya news. Useo gave an example during the regional elections, the surveys used were indeed surveys that had quality and credibility so that there was no market demand or candidates to sway opinions. "...because our aim is because of its distribution area in Tasikmalaya, we want our media to be truly trusted so that it will attract the market and surveys, thank God our survey results are the highest in the regions. For example, there is a Pilkada survey, of course we will tell you the position like this. Margin one, two, three, we know. Every time there is an election, we will definitely give the survey. Thank God we are trending up..."

Radar Tasikmalaya even gave a slogan that if readers want to get correct information about local news, they must first check on Radar Tasikmalaya. Usep is even confident in providing guarantees to the public regarding information in the news published in the media. Accuracy, objective facts, data verification and even grammar in reporting, according to him, training has been given to journalists so that the journalism of journalists is always abreast of developments. "...objective facts, because we are doing the right journalistic activities. Verifiable facts like that. We have language training, together with our linguist language center almost every year, the last few years with Uniusba there have been several trainings, it automatically becomes a new knowledge..". Even so, he admitted that not all journalists have a journalistic background. Radar Tasikmalaya journalists sometimes don't have sensitivity to wrong information circulating in society. Correcting wrong information is the responsibility of journalism to prioritize fact checking.

Hoax Sensitive Journalist

If hoaxes are considered a virus that is difficult to handle in the era of speed of information, then this hoax virus can be considered a disaster in society, because hoaxes can confuse the public or even mislead the public into dangerous situations, for example hoaxes regarding disasters which can result in the affected community taking the wrong action. rescue steps. So journalists need to have a sensitive attitude to disasters (Filosa Gita Sukmono and Fajar Junaedi, 2018) so that the information produced and reported to the public is a fact.

In an interview with the Managing Editor of Radar Tasikmalaya, Sandi Abdul Wahab explained that a good journalist must be sensitive to information circulating in the community. In his experience as an editor, there is a lot of information circulating in the community that confuses the public with really important information. "...often (hoaxes occur in the community)..especially yesterday about vaccinations that can cause people to die then what are the abnormalities of the disease and so on, we often report about vaccines that have just been recently. If it used to be and is still running until now it is a political hoax for national and local clarification…"

Radar Tasikmalaya, according to Sandi, is also very focused on handling false information in society as part of its journalistic activities. But the news is not only to anticipate hoaxes, there are priority aspects in raising an issue that really needs to be clarified so as not to mislead the public. "We prioritize what is viral in the community first, if for example we find hoax news but there are not many responses or responses from the community we ignore it but if it is really viral and the community asks for certainty then we will cover it, because this community is also different from before the community. have started to be literate about waiting, the truth is that they already have their own resistance about not swallowing raw information on social media."

When the information emerged, Sandi was of the opinion that Radar Tasikmalya journalists had a mechanism for checking facts. Journalists in carrying out fact checks on information circulating in the community always discuss it with journalists from other media regarding information circulating on social media. "... well that's where we move. Isn't this true about natural disasters and so on, how come there isn't anything on Radar. We often clarify something that is really viral and then many people ask why it's not on Radar even though it's already busy on social media. From that, we then try to cross check the sources that need to be checked…"

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According to Sandi, the problem with fake information is because information traffic is only on social media. Information obtained on social media is then redistributed on social media. The spread on social media, according to him, does not have filtering and gatekeeping in filtering false or true information. The mass media is not involved in the dissemination of this information so that journalism becomes a secondary source of information, the opposite of what it should be. Journalists are now carried away by searching for information on social media as material for their news. "...now everything is on social media, clarification on social media, word of mouth is rare. Some (journalists) monitor it on social media, the public also prefers to provide information through social media…"

Local media often clarifies reports in national media which do not present complete and comprehensive information in their reports. Local media journalists who are part of the local population sometimes have more valid information from reliable sources. The lack of detail in reporting in the national media is an opportunity for local media to complement or even clarify information that has spread to the public. "...sometimes (the national media) choose sources incorrectly, for example while sources don't exist. Our journalists finally clarified the viral information quoted from the national media..." That's why, according to Sandi, local media journalists also monitor information in reports in the national media. "... there is, for example, a positive response if it is shared by readers regarding the accuracy of local media in reporting, it becomes a positive response from the public, responding to incomplete (information) from national (media)..".

But not all misinformation can be clarified. Sandi revealed that sometimes information spreads too quickly so that readers only believe information that has not been proven factual. When the news is published with this issue but with the actual facts, the public just ignores it. "...in my experience... what I have monitored is that at the beginning it is difficult to overturn viral misinformation, this information will continue to spread and people will believe it. So fast journalism is also important so being the fastest is also important…"

Every Radar Tasikmalaya journalist, according to Sandi, is equipped with journalistic skills as well as an understanding of virality and the flood of information in society. Journalists need to have expertise in determining the scale of the news value in the information that is circulating. Journalists are also given the freedom to judge whether information needs to be clarified or not, to whom the clarification is to be made, to how journalists handle conflicts in the field. However, if it is a sensitive issue, field journalists will first consult the reader. This is because sometimes journalists are faced with dangerous situations when seeking the truth on issues that are developing in society. "...we always give them (journalists) the freedom to become decision makers below, make decisions under whatever happens they

decide. in nature there is no pressure except from special sources on conflict news that cannot be decided on their own and needs to be consulted with the editor..”

As gatekeepers, editors need to have extensive knowledge and networks to be able to criticize information covered by field journalists. Sandi said that it was not uncommon for journalists to be deceived by information circulating and lazy to check and double-check. So it is the duty of the editor to ensure that any information conveyed in the news is valid and fact-checked. “... because as journalists we are favored by regional proximity, so because we editors also come from field journalists, editors usually already know the point of coverage. With long experience as a field journalist, those doubts will reveal themselves. For example normally this person wouldn’t talk like this or the event couldn’t possibly have happened in that location. then if there is any doubt the editor will contact the source directly...”

Even though Radar Tasikmalaya journalists need to verify data and also report directly in the field, that doesn’t mean journalists are not allowed to obtain information from social media. Sandi emphasized that social media is only the initial data. The journalist’s job is to provide truth and clarification of information circulating. “... social media is the initial data collection, their initial data collection monitors everything in the field. For example, if there is a resident in Karang Nunggal who uploads an incident that is difficult to reach, then if journalists cannot cross check directly with the residents, then go to the nearest person, for example the Karang Nunggal Police Chief, Karang Nunggal Sub-District Head, the local village head. A coverage system that is difficult to reach but important to report on, so it’s okay for field journalists to take information from social media as initial data...”

If there are errors in reporting or trapped in false information, the editorial team will take firm action against journalists in stages. “... we call (the journalists) based on the chronology first, what is the reporting process like, then, for example, if those who protest that this news is not true, we generally apologize...” Unlike social media, mainstream mass media has a social responsibility. in the news. Therefore, any misinformation requires clarification and a right of reply. Sandi explained that in the process of community clarification and the right of reply, it is a fairly important role in community participation to ward off hoaxes and check facts in information that is spreading. Collaboration between press companies, government and society is key in creating fact-checking journalism.

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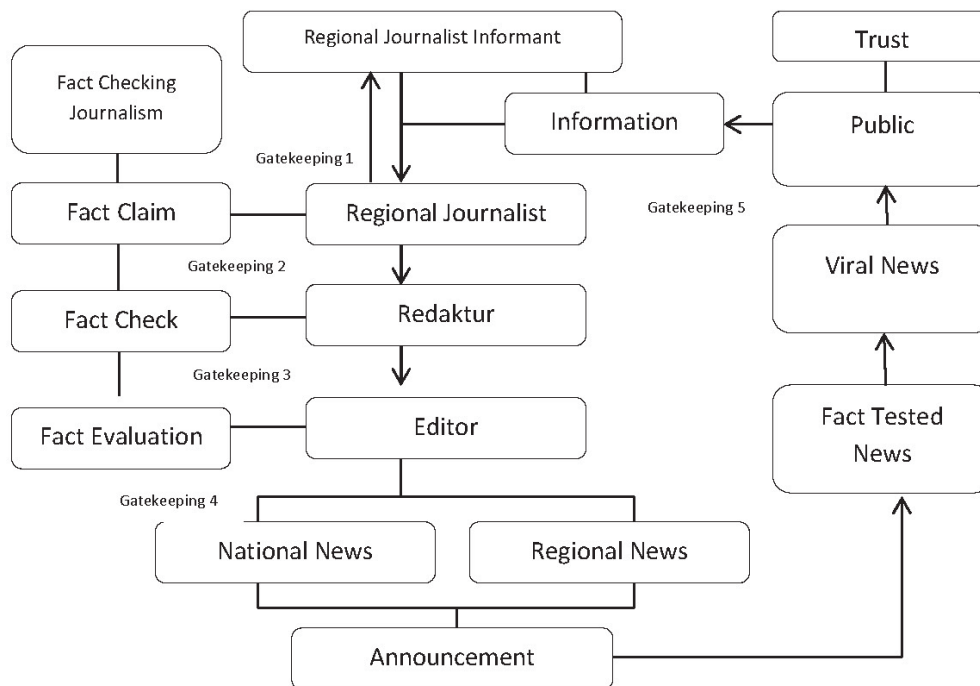
Flow of Fact-Checking Journalism

Figure 1. Flow of Fact Checking Journalism in Local Media
Source: Researcher Data Processing (2021)

In the concept of gatekeeping information, several views regarding gatekeeper orientation as a search for objectivity and a sharp separation between reporting facts from disseminating opinions. Efficient gatekeeping produces unbiased news, an assumption that will shape subsequent conceptualizations of gatekeeping. The role of the gatekeeper in a more complicated communication process offers a communication model that emphasizes that the gatekeeper functions as a message receiving agent and transmits information that can be done intentionally or unintentionally, especially when the information is out of reach (Tandoc, 2018).

In the press industry, the gatekeeper is an important element in checking facts. Journalists need to apply hoax sensitivity, namely journalists are aware that there is misinformation in society. So journalists who recognize this information can check claims of facts that occur in the field as the first gatekeeper. Journalist information can go through the community directly or can come from a network of journalist informants in the community. This network can be a citizen, apparatus, local government, or indeed someone who is deliberately assigned by the journalist to monitor events in the area. In the first gatekeeping, journalists will usually

receive information and then check the facts on the ground, or seek the truth through their network of informants. This fact was then verified again in the second gatekeeping process, namely the editor. Editors are journalists who have more experience than the journalists under them. Editors have a wider network of informants so that they can carry out more thorough data verification, for example to officials or related officials who can provide accurate information. As the second gatekeeper, the editor becomes an important filter in checking facts on the ground.

The fact-checking process does not end at the editorial stage. Facts need to be re-evaluated by the editor, both in terms of selecting information to convey to the public and grammar that is easy for readers to understand. In journalism, the acquisition of information is important but the delivery of information is also important. News in the local media needs to be considered, especially in determining the agenda setting and framing of the news. Determining headlines in local media also needs to be considered as a way to attract readers' interest (Wandik, M.Golung, & H.Mulyono, 2017). Information that has been fact-checked and re-evaluated at the third gatekeeping stage at the editor level is then ready to be conveyed in fact-tested news to the public. People who receive information from news that has been tested and clarified will then respond, whether it is related to the truth in the news or if there are errors in the news that need to be corrected. Then the last gatekeeping is in the community as readers. The difference between conventional mass media and social media is the right of reply and the code of ethics that must be followed by journalists. Local media will find it easier to clarify because of geographical proximity to their readers. So if there is misinformation or a violation of the code of ethics it will be easier to correct (Samsuri, 2013) (Gawi, Aminulloh, & Yasak, 2017). The responsibility of the press in checking facts on information developing in society will build public trust in news in conventional media and criticize information in social media.

The problem of the uncontrolled spread of hoaxes can be solved by involving every stakeholder in the production of information, namely the government, mass media, active communities on social media, and also public information watchdog institutions or communities. The mass media not only acts as a producer of news in accordance with its agenda setting, but also as a clarifier of issues and information that are not true. The mass media is a collaborator and liaison between the community and the government so that it can provide information knowledge that is in accordance with the facts. Local mass media is unlike national mass media which has a wide range of news coverage. Local media specifically report issues that are in their area and can easily and quickly check the truth of the issues circulating. Meanwhile, local media with internet technology can be read by everyone who

accesses it on their smartphones. Research shows that the role of local media is very important. In local media, people in the regions are more often given the opportunity to speak out than in national media. Local media stands out as an important contributor to an informed citizenry. (Mathisen, 2021).

Journalists in local mass media will get the truth in their area faster than national media journalists, who do not necessarily know the area of the incident. National journalists sometimes only rely on press releases issued by institutions which sometimes do not match the facts on the ground or are interpreted incorrectly by journalists (Dempster et al., 2022). This study recommends increasing the role of local media not only as producers of local news but also in clarifying hoaxes on information that can emerge from social media or even national media. Local media is required to provide in-depth, factual, and actual news at a speed that can keep up with social media. Local media even need to encourage the participation of citizen journalism in their sections so that information can be confirmed immediately. This study also recommends a good system built by the local government, local media, community, society, and other stakeholders to create an anti-fake information climate in the local community.

CONCLUSION

The role of journalism in anticipating hoaxes has not been carried out by press companies in several regions. Local media can play a very important role in fact-checking information circulating in society. The geographical proximity factor makes it easier for journalists in local media to obtain the truth compared to national media based in the capital. Increasing the understanding and credibility of journalists as a fact-checking agency is very important. The results of the study show that Radar Tasikmalaya has carried out a fact-checking journalism strategy by assigning journalists to be sensitive to information circulating in the community, especially false information.

To increase hoax-sensitive journalists, the editorial team routinely and periodically conducts training for journalists regarding journalism as well as ethics and elements of journalism. Radar Tasikmalaya collaborates with university academics to conduct training and upgrade journalistic skills. The result is that as fact finders and first gatekeepers in checking facts, journalists will morally conduct fact checks based on journalistic principles. With the quality of journalists who have applied journalistic principles and are guided by the truth, information in society can be controlled by applying fact-checking journalism. In the future, the role of local media is very important as a fact checker, especially for media that already has groups or groups in various regions. Local media can carry out a fact-checking

strategy to restore public confidence in quality reporting so that the fast-paced factor with social media is no longer a problem for the press industry.

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