



Sri Aurobindo Centre
for
Arts & Communication

A UNIT OF SRI AUROBINDO SOCIETY

Concept Note of the colloquium

Media Education and Social Concerns

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Freedom of expression is a litmus test of a vibrant democracy. However democracy itself is subject to public scrutiny on its track record vis-à-vis fulfillment of fundamental rights and expectations of its people. This inquiry encompasses scrutiny of agencies and content of the news. Motives and objectives of news need be examined on regular basis. Many times, objectives of news determine canons of the news. It is a fact, nonetheless, that the objectives are not static. Therefore, there is a constant change in the canons too. This necessitates scrutiny of the changing objectives before accepting, assimilating and accelerating any change.

This colloquium is a humble attempt towards working out shared understanding on a framework for scrutinizing the content and institutions of news. This quest is focused on examining the question whether our news agencies are giving news with a view to grow the agency or institution alone. Is it being done at the cost of the one who is on the receiving end of the news? We shall examine the opinion that in the growingly 'news affluent' time, one who is being provided with 'a lot of news' is getting dissociated with one's own past and future. Is the audience getting too much information divorced from one's own lived experienced?

This colloquium wants to bring institutions of media education on center stage. With the enormous growth and diversification of the service of news, there is parallel proliferation of the institution of media education. In this phenomenon it would be worthwhile to mull over existing pattern of curriculum and syllabi of institutions of media education. One can meaningfully explore the level of democratic consciousness and commitment in preparing teaming community of journalists. This allegation requires serious probing that there is an undue emphasis on 'creating', 'performing' and 'show-casing' of news. In other words is this true that in some media institutions, ethics of news is being compromised? To what extent is it true that presentation of news has become the core content of media education? Is it true even to some extent? What does it imply for our democracy? This collective endeavor of self-reflection of media education institutions aspires also to be a collective initiative towards our professional responsibilities of more positive and meaningful media education