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TRANSFORMATIONS OF MEDIA PRACTICE IN ALGERIA WITHIN THE ELECTRONIC ENVIRONMENT AND EXECUTIVE DECREE NO. 20/332: A FIELD STUDY ON A SAMPLE OF ALGERIAN JOURNALISTS

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to examine the reality of media practice in Algeria in light of Executive Decree No. 20/332, which regulates online media activity and the right of reply and correction. The issuance of this new decree comes at a time when the Algerian media landscape is witnessing intense debate over the increasing blocking of electronic news websites in recent months under various pretexts, while the government maintains that its intention is merely to regulate the sector rather than restrict freedoms.

Based on this premise, the study adopts the descriptive survey method to explore the state of media practice under the decree from the perspective of a sample of Algerian journalists. The participants were selected using a simple random sampling technique to respond to a questionnaire specifically designed to achieve the study's objectives.

KEYWORDS

Media Practice, Executive Decree, Algerian Journalists

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Introduction:

The technological revolution has profoundly transformed human societies and various aspects of daily life, and the field of communication and media has been no exception. These technologies have reshaped the elements of the communication process: what was once a horizontal flow — from the sender to the receiver — has become an interactive, multidirectional exchange from everyone to everyone. Consequently, media practice has evolved through a technological intermediary that could potentially serve as an alternative medium. This technological transformation has generated new concepts in the field of media and communication, including media practice within the new media environment.

These developments highlight the impact of technology in creating a new model of media practice, where multimedia technologies have become accessible to all — a sign of the democratization of information production, dissemination, reception, and critique. This transformation has, in turn, generated a new environment that allows individuals to exchange information and enrich electronic content, liberated from the traditional forms of control imposed on conventional media, which have proven incapable of stopping the free flow of information.

The emergence of this networked type of media prompted the Algerian authorities to enact regulations governing this activity. In alignment with global legislative movements aimed at regulating media work, the Algerian legislator has, for the first time, given significant importance to this issue through **Executive Decree No. 20/332**, which organizes online media activities and establishes the right of reply and correction. However, this decree has sparked considerable debate in the Algerian media sphere, much like previous laws: some view it as a framework for organizing media work, while others consider it a means of consolidating governmental control and dominance over the media.

Research Question

What is the reality of media practice in Algeria under Executive Decree No. 20/332?

Sub-questions

1. What are the requirements for media practice within the electronic environment under this executive decree?
2. What is the impact of the enactment of Executive Decree No. 20/332 on media practice in the electronic environment?
3. What are the challenges and difficulties facing electronic media practice in Algeria under Executive Decree No. 20/332?

Research Objectives

1. To shed light on the reality of media practice within the electronic environment under Executive Decree No. 20/332, which regulates online media activities and the right of reply and correction.
2. To identify the key legal provisions introduced by Executive Decree No. 20/332 that govern media practice in the electronic environment.
3. To explore the main challenges confronting media practice under Executive Decree No. 20/332

Definition of Key Concepts**Executive Decree:**

Decrees can be classified as administrative decisions issued by the Head of State in the exercise of his administrative function, as defined by constitutional provisions or constitutional custom. These are administrative acts issued by the executive authority and, as such, are subject to administrative oversight. Executive decrees are issued by the Prime Minister and are intended to implement laws or regulations (executive regulations). (Hashmi, 2014)

Media Practice:

Linguistically: The term “to practice” means to engage in, handle, or exercise something. It is said: *He practiced matters or tasks* — meaning he dealt with them and gained experience through repetition and involvement. (Researchers)

Conceptually:

Practice refers to a set of beliefs, ideas, or values that encompass a vision of knowledge and of the relationships between the individual and society within a given activity. (Doumou, n.d)

Operational Definition:

Media practice refers to the journalist's exercise of the profession with all the rights and duties it entails. A journalist acquires expertise through two main pathways: first, gaining knowledge through practical engagement in media work, and second, developing specialized understanding within their specific field of practice.

Methodological Procedures of the Study**1. Type of Study and Methodology**

This study falls within the scope of descriptive research, according to its main objective. Descriptive studies are defined as:

"Studies that aim to describe events, individuals, beliefs, attitudes, values, preferences, interests, and various behavioral patterns, as well as media systems and institutions, and to interpret the interrelationships among these elements and others". (elHamid, 1993)

Every research study requires a methodological framework, as it represents the path that guides the researcher through all stages of the study in order to reach scientifically objective results.

According to Abd al-Rahman Badawi, methodology in scientific research is defined as: "The path leading to the discovery of truth in the sciences through a set of general rules that govern the reasoning process and direct it toward obtaining verified knowledge". (Mersli, 2010)

It is well known that this type of study may rely on several methods, and the nature of the topic itself determines the most appropriate one. In this context, the descriptive method was selected, as it is defined as:

"A form of systematic, scientific analysis and interpretation that aims to describe a phenomenon or problem and provide a comprehensive conceptualization of it by collecting structured data and information, classifying and analyzing them, and subjecting them to rigorous study." (Khandakji & Khandakji, 2012)

this research belongs to the family of descriptive studies, which are used to identify and analyze various dimensions of a given phenomenon. They aim to describe, in an accurate and comprehensive manner, the characteristics and conditions of the research problem by collecting, analyzing, and interpreting facts and drawing conclusions. Therefore, the choice of research method is not made randomly; rather, it is determined by the nature and objectives of the study. In this case, our research seeks to examine the relationship between different variables within the context of media practice under the Executive Decree No. 20/33.

Study Population and Sample

Clearly defining the study population is essential, as it helps the researcher determine the most appropriate scientific approach for studying this population and the feasibility of collecting data that will contribute to the research objectives.

The population of this study consists of Algerian journalists. The research relied on random sampling, since there are two main types of samples: non-random and random. The latter was deemed most suitable for this study, given that we adopted a quantitative approach. Among the different types of random samples, the simple random sample was chosen to best serve the research objectives and align with its methodological requirements.

Data Collection Tools

The instruments used in a study represent one of the most critical steps in the scientific research process, as they determine how information is collected, organized, and classified in order to achieve accurate results. Research tools encompass a wide range of techniques, both tangible and conceptual, that enable the researcher to meet the objectives related to the research problem.

In the field of media and communication studies, research instruments are defined as:

"The means—whether material or conceptual—that a researcher uses to approach and analyze the problem under investigation." (Tamar, 2017)

In this study, we relied on the questionnaire as the primary data collection tool, as it is considered the most appropriate instrument for the objectives of this research. The questionnaire was designed to systematically elicit responses from participants.

It is an essential methodological tool for collecting information and data relevant to the study's topic. In this research, we used an electronic questionnaire, distributed to a sample of Algerian journalists under study, in order to gather data related to the research problem.

The electronic questionnaire was structured around **four main sections**:

1. **Section One:** Personal information of respondents (gender, professional role).
2. **Section Two:** Requirements of media practice within the electronic environment.
3. **Section Three:** The impact of Executive Decree No. 20/332 on media practice in the electronic environment.
4. **Section Four:** Challenges and difficulties facing media practice in the electronic environment under Executive Decree No. 20/332

Theoretical Framework of the Study

This study is grounded in a theoretical framework that plays a crucial role in addressing the issue under investigation. Specifically, it is based on examining the actions of political systems within the media sphere — an approach that intersects significantly with the Social Responsibility Theory, which forms the foundation of this research.

The core principle underlying the Social Responsibility Theory is that freedom is simultaneously a right, a duty, and a responsibility. This theory emphasizes the necessity for media institutions to be free from governmental restrictions while remaining committed to serving the public interest. In other words, absolute freedom must be exercised with restraint so as not to conflict with the needs and requirements of society.

As Mohamed Abdel Hamid notes, the concept involves integrating the individual project under the umbrella of the collective project, ensuring that the interests of the individual do not clash with those of the community or the public at large. Therefore, press freedom, as described by Merrill, should be understood as relative and realistic freedom, rather than the absolute idealistic freedom that disregards social responsibility.

Results and Discussion

Table 1. Distribution of the Study Sample According to Gender

Gender	Frequency	%
Male	36	75%
Female	12	25%
total	48	100%

The results indicate that the proportion of males is higher than that of females in the study sample. Males constitute 75% of respondents, while females represent only 25%.

Table 2. Distribution of the Study Sample According to Professional Seniority

Professional Seniority	Frequency	%
Less than 5 years	10	20.83%
5 – 10 years	13	27.08%
11 – 20 years	19	39.58%
More than 20 years	16	12.05%
Total	48	100%

The findings concerning professional seniority reveal that the majority of respondents have between 11 and 20 years of professional experience (39.58%). This result indicates that media institutions tend to rely on professionals with moderate experience levels, who have accumulated sufficient field knowledge to contribute to the development of journalistic performance, particularly in the realm of digital publishing. It also reflects a tendency among media organizations to capitalize on the expertise of seasoned journalists to facilitate the transfer of knowledge to younger generations.

The second largest group includes journalists with 5 to 10 years of experience (27.08%). This segment combines both professional training and practical fieldwork, making them effective contributors within media institutions.

Respondents with less than 5 years of experience constitute 20.83% of the sample, which represents a considerable proportion that highlights the presence of emerging talents, despite their relatively limited professional exposure.

In contrast, journalists with more than 20 years of experience make up the smallest group (12.05%). This may be attributed to factors such as retirement, career transitions to managerial or supervisory positions, or the changing dynamics of newsroom staffing. Nevertheless, this group remains qualitatively significant for its role in mentoring and transferring expertise within media institutions.

Table 3. Distribution of the Study Sample According to Job Position

Job Position	Frequency	%
Editors	13	27.08%
Editors-in-Chief	6	12.05%
Section Heads	8	16.76%
Correspondents	21	43.75%
Total	48	100%

The results of the study indicate that the largest proportion of respondents belong to the category of correspondents (43.75%), followed by editors (27.08%), then section heads (16.67%), and finally editors-in-chief (12.05%).

This distribution clearly highlights that media institutions attach significant importance to field-level operational staff, particularly correspondents and editors, who form the backbone of news production. They play a central role in gathering information and generating journalistic content, underscoring the heavy reliance of media organizations on these groups for event coverage and content generation across various media platforms.

Conversely, the relatively low percentage of editors-in-chief reflects the hierarchical structure of media institutions, where supervisory and managerial positions are fewer at higher administrative levels.

Overall, this distribution reveals a clear orientation toward strengthening field and editorial work, which represents the core of journalistic activity, especially amid the highly competitive environment where media outlets strive to deliver timely, distinctive, and high-quality content.

It is also evident that media organizations prioritize correspondents and editors, as they make up the majority of the workforce. This reflects a strong institutional dependence on operational roles directly involved in news gathering and content production. Such a tendency can be explained by the nature of journalistic work, which fundamentally depends on ensuring a continuous flow of information and the rapid processing of events.

Hence, the presence of correspondents in the field and editors within newsrooms is essential for maintaining professional standards and ensuring timely publication. Meanwhile, the limited representation of supervisory positions such as section heads and editors-in-chief indicates that the primary focus of media institutions lies in daily content production, rather than administrative or organizational management.

Section One: Requirements of Media Practice in the Digital Environment

Table 4. Distribution of the Study Sample According to Perceived Advantages of Working in the Institution

Distinctive Feature of Online Journalism	Frequency	%
The journalistic work itself	44	91.67%
Reduced government censorship	4	8.33%
Total	48	100%

The results of the study show that the vast majority of respondents (91.67%) consider the journalistic work itself to be the most distinctive aspect of online journalism. This finding reflects a professional awareness that the appeal of working in this field lies not merely in external conditions or incentives, but primarily in the nature of journalistic work—its direct engagement with events, speed of information dissemination, and responsiveness to real-time developments.

In contrast, only 8.33% of respondents view the reduction of governmental censorship as a major advantage of working in digital media. This suggests that censorship remains a persistent and influential factor, even within the digital space. The finding implies that freedom in online journalism is not absolute, but rather constrained by different forms of pressure and oversight.

As noted by Sadeq Rabah in his study, some journalists may turn to online journalism as an alternative space to escape the rigid censorship imposed by traditional media institutions. This supports the argument that the shift toward digital journalism is not solely a technological transformation, but also a professional and expressive outlet for journalists seeking greater editorial freedom within the constraints of conventional media systems.

Table 5. Distribution of the Study Sample According to the Availability of Technical Resources in the Institution

Availability of Technical Resources	Frequency	%
No	15	31.25%
Yes	33	68.75%
Total	48	100%

The results indicate that 68.75% of the respondents confirmed that their institutions possess the necessary technical resources for operating within the digital media environment. This suggests that most media organizations strive to keep pace with digital developments by ensuring at least a basic technological infrastructure that enables journalists to perform their tasks efficiently in the digital field.

Conversely, 31.25% of journalists reported the absence of adequate technical facilities in their institutions. They attributed this shortfall to limited financial resources, which negatively affects the ability to invest in essential equipment and technological tools. Many linked this deficiency to the lack of financial support from investors and advertisers, who remain skeptical about digital advertising as a profitable investment avenue. This situation directly impacts institutional revenues and limits their capacity for development, as highlighted by Ibrahim Baaziz in his book *Electronic Journalism and Modern Media Applications*.

These findings reflect a disparity among institutions in terms of their technological readiness, which can significantly affect the quality and efficiency of journalistic work in the digital environment.

Overall, it can be observed that the majority of journalists believe their institutions provide adequate technical means for digital media work, indicating a general trend toward modernization and technological adaptation. However, the notable proportion of respondents reporting insufficient resources reveals a gap in digital preparedness across some institutions. This underscores the existence of financial constraints stemming from advertisers' limited confidence in online advertising, which consequently affects institutional revenues and restricts investment in technological infrastructure. As a result, such deficiencies can negatively influence the quality of journalistic output and hinder continuous innovation within these institutions.

Table 6. Distribution of the Study Sample According to the Availability of Financial and Legal Right

Availability of Financial and Legal Rights	Frequency	%
No	12	25%
Yes	36	75%
Total	48	100%

The data reveal that 75.00% of journalists stated their institutions provide them with financial and legal rights, reflecting a clear institutional commitment to ensuring proper professional conditions. This is particularly relevant given the challenges currently facing journalism, such as mobility costs, constant news monitoring, and field coverage, which all demand financial support and legal stability.

This proportion indicates that media organizations increasingly recognize the importance of providing incentives and guarantees to improve professional performance, commitment, and job satisfaction.

In contrast, 25% of respondents reported that they do not receive sufficient financial or legal rights, pointing to inequality in how institutions respect journalists' entitlements. Such discrepancies may result from financial difficulties or organizational shortcomings, which can negatively impact journalists' job security and professional stability.

These findings underscore the need to strengthen legal and financial oversight mechanisms to ensure fair and equal treatment for all professionals in the media sector.

Table 7. Distribution of the Study Sample According to the Organization of Training Programs

Type of Training	Frequency	%
Periodic Training	8	25%
Continuous Training	0	
No Training Provided	40	75%
Total	48	100%

The results demonstrate that the vast majority of journalists (83.33%) reported that their media institutions do not conduct any training programs, which is an alarming indicator of the lack of attention to professional development and capacity building within these organizations. This finding is particularly concerning given that journalism requires constant adaptation to technological and professional changes in areas such as digital publishing, editorial techniques, and media ethics.

Only 16.67% of respondents indicated that their institutions provide periodic training, a limited percentage suggesting sporadic and unstructured training efforts. Meanwhile, continuous training scored 0.00%, revealing a complete absence of sustained professional development programs.

This situation reflects a significant shortfall in institutional training policies, which can severely affect journalists' readiness to cope with evolving professional demands. Therefore, these results highlight the urgent need for revising training and capacity-building strategies within media institutions, especially in light of the rapid transformations shaping the media landscape today. Ensuring regular and structured training is essential for enhancing professional skills, improving journalistic quality, and ensuring adaptability in the ever-changing digital media environment.

Section Two: The Impact of Executive Decree No. 20/332 on Media Practice in the Digital Environment

Table 8. The multiplicity of media laws reflects the state's interest in electronic media and improves institutional performance

Response	Frequency	%
Yes	31	64.58%
No	17	35.42%
Total	48	100%

The results indicate that 64.58% of journalists believe the proliferation of media laws does *not* reflect genuine state interest in electronic media nor contribute to institutional improvement. In contrast, 35.42% think these laws demonstrate governmental concern and promote sectoral development.

This distribution reveals a generally skeptical view among journalists, perceiving such laws as instruments of control rather than support, thus undermining trust in state efforts to enhance media performance. Many respondents interpret these regulations as serving political interests rather than safeguarding press freedom, highlighting a gap between legal texts and the realities of media practice. Consequently, journalists call for inclusive reform that balances regulation with freedom and ensures the practical application of these laws to strengthen the profession rather than restrict it.

Table 9. The issuance of Executive Decree No. 20/332 contributes to organizing electronic media work

Response	Frequency	%
Yes	38	79.17%
No	10	20.83%
Total	48	100%

According to the data, 79.17% of respondents agree that the decree contributes to regulating electronic media work, reflecting broad appreciation for a clear legal framework that legitimizes and structures online journalism. Most journalists view it as a positive step toward formalizing digital journalism, improving working conditions, and clarifying professional rights and duties.

However, 20.83% express reservations, possibly due to concerns over enforcement mechanisms or fears of the decree being used as a tool for censorship rather than support. These findings suggest that while the decree is widely welcomed, transparent implementation remains crucial to maintaining trust and ensuring it strengthens, rather than restricts, journalistic freedom.

Table 10. The delay in issuing the decree affected electronic media practices

Response	Frequency	%
Yes	36	75%
No	12	25%
Total	48	100%

The results show that 75% of journalists believe the delay in issuing Decree No. 20/332 negatively impacted electronic media practices. The absence of a clear legal framework led to professional and legal uncertainty, inconsistent standards, and a lack of protection for journalists' rights, ultimately affecting content quality and freedom of expression. Conversely, 25% see no direct impact, suggesting some journalists adapted to the situation or believe that the law's effectiveness depends more on implementation than timing.

Overall, these findings underscore the importance of timely legal regulation to ensure a stable and professional digital media environment and to foster confidence in the sector's governance and growth.

Table 11. The Licensing Requirements for Creating an Electronic News Website under Executive Decree No. 20/332 Are Excessive

Response	Frequency	%
Yes	44	92%
No	4	8%
Total	48	100%

The results show that the vast majority of journalists (92%) believe the licensing conditions set by Executive Decree No. 20/332 for creating an electronic news website are excessive and restrictive. This reflects strong dissatisfaction with the decree's provisions related to licensing procedures. Journalists argue that instead of facilitating regulation and encouraging digital media investment, these requirements have become

bureaucratic barriers that hinder freedom of initiative and limit the growth of digital journalism—particularly for individual journalists and emerging media startups that lack the administrative or legal resources to comply.

In contrast, only 8% consider the conditions reasonable, likely representing journalists working in well-established organizations capable of meeting the legal and administrative criteria.

Overall, the findings suggest that the decree is perceived more as a restrictive mechanism than a supportive framework, potentially discouraging new media initiatives and limiting media pluralism. This highlights the need to simplify licensing requirements to better align with the realities of the sector and promote a more open, balanced digital media environment.

Table 12. The Requirement to Register Websites under the National Domain (.dz) Aims to:

Purpose	Frequency	%
Identify potential website owners	33	69%
Cleanse the media landscape of informal websites	6	13%
Limit the creation of new websites	10	21%
Total	48	100%

According to the findings, the majority of journalists (69%) believe that the requirement to host websites under the national domain (.dz), as stipulated in Decree No. 20/332, primarily aims to identify and control potential website owners—that is, to regulate the digital space by linking media outlets to verifiable national identities. This reflects an effort by authorities to strengthen oversight and ensure traceability within the electronic media sector.

Meanwhile, 21% of respondents view this condition as an attempt to restrict the establishment of new websites, expressing concern that such regulations could discourage small or independent initiatives and thus reduce media diversity. A smaller portion (13%) believe the measure aims to cleanse the digital landscape of unregulated or non-professional sites, aligning with efforts to enhance content credibility.

Overall, journalists perceive this condition as a double-edged policy: while it promotes accountability and transparency, it also raises fears of indirect censorship and limits on media freedom. Therefore, achieving a balanced approach—ensuring both regulation and openness—remains essential for fostering a healthy and pluralistic digital media environment.

Table 13. Approval of the General Specifications Outlined in Executive Decree No. 20/332

Response	Frequency	%
Yes	10	21%
No	38	79%
Total	48	100%

The data indicate that a large majority of journalists (79%) disagree with the general specifications set out in the decree's regulatory framework, reflecting widespread rejection or reservation toward its content. Respondents argue that many of these provisions are unrealistic, overly complex, or incompatible with the practical realities of digital journalism. They believe these conditions may impose unnecessary administrative and legal burdens, particularly on new or independent outlets, thereby limiting freedom of practice and innovation.

In contrast, only 21% of journalists support these conditions—likely those working in established institutions with sufficient resources or who view strict regulation as necessary to maintain professional standards.

These findings reveal a clear gap between legislative frameworks and professional realities in the field of digital media. Most journalists perceive the decree as adding legal weight rather than fostering professional development. The results underscore the need for inclusive policy revision—through consultation with media professionals—to ensure that future regulations are practical, applicable, and supportive of press freedom and digital innovation rather than restrictive.

Section Three: Obstacles Facing Electronic Media Practice in Algeria

Table 14. Major Obstacles Affecting Professional Electronic Media Practice

Main Obstacle	Frequency	%
Difficulty accessing information sources	0	0%
External pressures on the institution	17	36%
Temporary or permanent website suspension without judicial order	6	13%
Legal prosecution of journalists	13	27%
Absence of a specific advertising law	12	25%
Total	48	100%

The results indicate that the most significant challenges facing electronic journalism in Algeria are legal, political, and structural, rather than purely technical or professional.

The highest proportion (36%) of respondents identified external pressures as the most influential constraint—reflecting the impact of political, economic, or institutional interference that undermines journalistic independence.

Legal prosecution ranks second (27%), showing that many journalists feel vulnerable to legal intimidation or unclear laws that may be used to suppress critical reporting.

Additionally, 25% pointed to the absence of a clear advertising law, linking financial instability in electronic media to the lack of structured advertising mechanisms.

Only 13% mentioned website suspension without judicial order, suggesting this remains a relevant but less frequent issue, while 0% selected “difficulty accessing sources,” indicating that digital media has eased access to information.

These findings demonstrate that the real barriers to digital journalism in Algeria stem from the institutional and regulatory environment, not technological limitations. The results call for legal reform, protection guarantees for journalists, and a clear advertising framework to ensure financial sustainability and editorial freedom.

Table 15. Adequacy of Institutions’ Financial Resources to Meet Their Needs

Response	Frequency	%
Yes	25	52%
No	30	48%
Total	48	100%

More than half of the journalists (52%) believe that electronic media institutions lack sufficient financial resources to meet operational needs, reflecting real financial hardship that affects workflow and sustainability.

This shortage includes low salaries, limited technical equipment, and weak funding for field coverage or digital development.

Meanwhile, 48% consider the resources adequate, indicating a disparity between better-resourced and financially struggling institutions.

These results underline the uneven economic landscape of Algeria’s electronic media, where financial instability remains a key structural issue. Strengthening advertising regulation and transparent funding mechanisms is essential to enhance media independence and ensure sector sustainability.

Table 16. Signing of Employment Contracts upon Joining the Institution

Response	Frequency	%
Yes	17	36%
No	31	64%
Total	48	100%

According to the data, 64% of journalists reported working without a formal employment contract, revealing a lack of legal structure governing employment relations within digital media institutions.

This exposes journalists to professional and social insecurity, including the absence of benefits such as social insurance, health coverage, or compensation rights.

Only 36% of journalists stated they had contracts, showing that a minority of organizations maintain formal employment practices.

These findings highlight a significant legal and professional vulnerability in Algeria's electronic journalism sector, emphasizing the need for legislative action to enforce binding employment contracts and guarantee journalists' rights, stability, and motivation.

Table 17. Satisfaction with Received Salary

Response	Frequency	%
Yes	4	8%
No	44	92%
Total	48	100%

An overwhelming majority (92%) of journalists express dissatisfaction with their salaries, reflecting a severe financial crisis in the electronic media sector.

This high level of dissatisfaction points to a lack of fair compensation for the intensive and continuous work required in digital journalism.

Only 8% of respondents expressed satisfaction, confirming that financial stability is the exception rather than the norm.

This situation highlights the structural funding crisis affecting digital media, largely due to the absence of organized advertising markets and financial support frameworks.

Consequently, journalists remain vulnerable to economic pressure and arbitrary sanctions, undermining both professional independence and press freedom.

Overall, these findings underscore the urgent need to establish a fair financial framework, regulate digital advertising, and ensure minimum wage protections to enhance job security and sustain the credibility and independence of Algeria's electronic media.

Conclusions

It is undeniable that electronic media in Algeria has undergone remarkable development in recent years, as reflected in the quantitative and qualitative diversity of media outlets and their growing adoption of modern communication technologies. This transformation has offered journalists new spaces of freedom while simultaneously introducing challenges tied to the legal and professional environment. The findings of this study reveal that the field remains largely male-dominated (75%), with most journalists possessing 11–20 years of experience (39.58%), indicating that Algerian media institutions prioritize skilled professionals capable of adapting to digital journalism.

Moreover, the results highlight structural and organizational challenges: a lack of permanent contracts (64%), limited access to professional training (83.33%), and persistent financial constraints, as many journalists earn below the guaranteed minimum wage. While 79.17% of respondents believe that Executive Decree No. 20/332 contributes to regulating electronic journalism, 92% view its licensing conditions as restrictive, revealing tension between control and regulation.

These findings underscore the need to enhance journalists' socio-professional conditions, ensure stronger legal protections for online reporters, and invest in continuous professional development. The study also emphasizes promoting transparency and ethical standards to guarantee the credibility of Algerian electronic journalism. Ultimately, improving journalists' material and legal conditions remains essential to strengthening their role in building a free, responsible, and professional media landscape in the new digital environment.

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