



UNIVERSIDAD DE CÓRDOBA

CONSTRUCTIVE JOURNALISM FOR BUSINESS NEWS IN THE ARAB MIDDLE EAST

Periodismo constructivo para la prensa económica
en el Oriente Próximo Árabe

By

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INFORME RAZONADO DE LAS/LOS DIRECTORAS/ES DE LA TESIS

(se hará mención a la evolución y desarrollo de la tesis, así como a trabajos y publicaciones derivados de la misma)

La tesis realizada por D. Hamoud Almahmoud, titulada "Constructive Journalism for Business News in the Arab Middle East" ("Periodismo Constructivo para la prensa económica en el Oriente Próximo Árabe") está íntegramente redactada en inglés, dado que el doctorando es ciudadano sirio residente en Emiratos Árabes Unidos y desconoce el español. Almahmoud es un periodista con una larga y exitosa carrera profesional en la región, de forma que su experiencia profesional ha repercutido muy positivamente en la investigación realizada. En todo el periodo de realización de la tesis, el doctorando ha demostrado el máximo interés y dedicación. Ha realizado dos estancias de investigación en la Universidad de Córdoba de tres meses de duración total, durante las cuales pudimos planificar, discutir y avanzar en el desarrollo de la investigación. Además, ha participado en más actividades de formación de las estrictamente requeridas, incluyendo congresos internacionales especializados. Ha establecido colaboraciones con instituciones especializadas en periodismo constructivo (Solutions Journalism Network y Bonn Institute).

La tesis es una investigación sobresaliente en ética aplicada al periodismo, en la cual se analiza la situación y potencialidades de la cultura y la práctica periodística en la región de Oriente Próximo desde la perspectiva de la deontología y ética profesionales. La tesis es el resultado de un esfuerzo sostenido y de una aplicación académica constante desde el inicio en el Programa de Doctorado. Concretamente, la tesis explora las posibles implicaciones de la integración de los principios del periodismo constructivo en el sector de las noticias económicas de los países árabes. La investigación, que abarca siete países de Oriente Próximo (Jordania, Líbano, Siria, Irak, los Emiratos Árabes Unidos, Arabia Saudí y Qatar), emplea una metodología cualitativa donde el doctorando ha demostrado un trabajo riguroso y multifacético para la recopilación y el análisis de datos. El resultado es una contribución sobresaliente, original y señera, al conocimiento de la situación de la información sobre negocios en la región, así como una propuesta sofisticada y realista, respaldada por la amplia trayectoria profesional de D. H. Almahmoud en el sector.

En el capítulo introductorio, se sientan las bases para un examen de la intersección entre Periodismo Constructivo y sociedad, profundizando en sus fundamentos éticos. Además, este capítulo evalúa críticamente el impacto global y regional del Periodismo Constructivo, con un énfasis específico en la región árabe, extrayendo ideas de una extensa revisión de la literatura académica. El capítulo segundo realiza una exploración en profundidad de los códigos de ética del periodismo en el Oriente Próximo árabe. A través de contenidos meticulosos y análisis éticos, el investigador evalúa el cumplimiento y cumplimiento de estos códigos en varios países de la región, yuxtaponiéndolos con estándares internacionales. Este capítulo proporciona información valiosa sobre los marcos éticos que guían el periodismo en el mundo árabe, sentando las bases para debates posteriores. El capítulo tercero se dirige a la aplicación del periodismo constructivo en el ámbito de las noticias económicas en el Próximo Oriente árabe. Al examinar la evolución y las responsabilidades éticas del periodismo económico, la investigación ofrece una visión general completa del panorama de las noticias económicas en varios países árabes. A través de entrevistas con periodistas económicos, el capítulo evalúa la viabilidad y los desafíos de integrar los principios del Periodismo Constructivo, al tiempo que subraya el papel de la ética en los informes económicos. En el Capítulo 4, la tesis presenta un estudio de caso práctico de la aplicación del Periodismo Constructivo en los países árabes, dilucidando la convergencia entre los Enfoques de Investigación Constructiva y el Periodismo Constructivo. A través de una sólida metodología de investigación y análisis de datos cualitativos, el capítulo proporciona información sobre cómo aprovechar el periodismo constructivo para cerrar la brecha entre el conocimiento académico y las soluciones comerciales prácticas en la región árabe. La conclusión de la tesis reafirma el papel fundamental del periodismo constructivo en el avance del progreso social y la defensa de la integridad periodística. Enfatiza la necesidad de códigos de ética periodística en el mundo árabe para facilitar mejor el periodismo constructivo, destaca el potencial de las noticias económicas como plataforma para su aplicación y propone un marco integral para su implementación en la región.

Este valiosa investigación ha generado ya varias publicaciones de gran calidad. Basándose en los resultados del primer capítulo se publicó: Almahmoud, H., & Córdoba, R. C. (2024). Looking for Constructive Journalism Principles in Arab Journalism Codes of Ethics: A Study on UAE, KSA, and Qatar. In Handbook of Applied Journalism: Theory and Practice (pp. 435-455). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland. Con base en el capítulo segundo: Almahmoud, H., & Cejudo, R. (2022). Work culture and values in media companies in the Arab Region: the case of Jordan and Lebanon. Un nuevo pacto empresa-sociedad. Economía social y ética, 39.

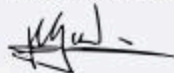
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En conclusión, esta tesis representa una contribución sobresaliente al discurso académico sobre periodismo constructivo, ofreciendo valiosas ideas y recomendaciones para su aplicación dentro del sector de noticias económicas de los países árabes y mi informe es por tanto completamente positivo.

Por todo ello, se autoriza la presentación de la tesis doctoral.

Córdoba, a 9 de mayo de 2024

Las/los directoras/es



Fdo.:Rafael Cejudo Córdoba

Statement of Original Authorship

I, Hamoud Almahmoud, solemnly affirm that the work presented in this document is a result of my original research. It has not been previously published nor submitted for fulfillment of requirements in any other degree program. Wherever contributions of others are involved, every effort has been made to indicate this clearly, with due acknowledgment in the text and comprehensive listing in the reference section.

Hamoud

Signature:

Hamoud Almahmoud

Date:

08.04.2024 _____

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To my family, and especially my wife, your love, patience, and sacrifices have been the foundation of my success. Your support has been my greatest strength.

To all, I am eternally grateful and commit to giving back to you and our society with the knowledge and experience I have gained.

Abstract

This thesis investigates the feasibility and potential impact of applying Constructive Journalism (CJ) within the business news sector of the Arab Middle East, focusing specifically on seven countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. The study begins by examining the foundational elements of CJ, tracing its origins, and analyzing its development as a concept. It identifies three core pillars of CJ: a public-oriented approach, a focus on solutions, and a forward-looking perspective in journalism. The research then delves into the successful application of CJ in various countries, highlighting how these pillars are shaped by journalistic ethical codes, particularly the emphasis on corporate social responsibility within journalistic organizations and the broader commitment to social responsibility among journalists. The research utilizes a deontological content analysis approach to examine the codes of ethics in the countries under study, which serves as the foundation for implementing (CJ). The analysis reveals that the ethical standards in the studied Arab countries align with international journalism ethics to varying degrees, ranging from 50% to over 90%. Additionally, the study examines the reinforcement mechanisms of these ethical codes, encapsulated in the concept of "Additional Terms and Value Pressure" (ATVP), which are found to predominantly support social values, reflecting the cultural emphasis on public good in the Arab region. Supporting this notion, researchers like Kibarabara (2023) view the application of (CJ) as a catalyst for enhancing ethical standards, which promotes a media landscape more aligned with the public good, even in countries with restricted press freedom. Building upon this understanding of the existing journalistic infrastructure and political regulations conducive to CJ, the thesis argues that the successful implementation of CJ is not limited to countries with high levels of press freedom. The research presents examples of effective CJ application in various African nations and other parts of the world, demonstrating its potential as a valuable tool for conflict-affected Arab countries in their efforts towards peace and reconstruction. CJ is also posited as beneficial for other Arab countries experiencing development, aiding their progress and advancement. Therefore, this thesis positions Constructive Journalism (CJ) as a promising approach for the

Arab Middle East, capable of enhancing economic reporting and contributing to societal development and peacebuilding. Through in-depth interviews with business news journalists and a practical case study, the thesis establishes a framework for the better implementation of CJ through gradual steps and effective methods within the context of the Arab region.

Resumen

Esta tesis investiga la viabilidad y el potencial impacto de aplicar el Periodismo Constructivo (PC) en periodismo empresarial en países del Oriente Próximo Árabe, centrándose específicamente en siete: Jordania, Líbano, Siria, Irak, Emiratos Árabes Unidos, Arabia Saudita y Qatar. El estudio comienza examinando los elementos fundacionales de PC, rastreando sus orígenes y analizando su desarrollo como concepto. SE identifican tres pilares centrales del PC: la orientación al público, la orientación a las soluciones y la perspectiva de futuro para el periodismo. La investigación profundiza en la aplicación exitosa de PC en varios países, destacando cómo los anteriores pilares están moldeados por códigos éticos periodísticos, particularmente el énfasis en la responsabilidad social corporativa dentro de las organizaciones periodísticas y el compromiso más amplio con la responsabilidad social entre los periodistas. La investigación utiliza un enfoque de análisis de contenido deontológico para examinar los códigos de ética en los países estudiados, lo cual sirve como base para la implementación del PC. El análisis revela que los estándares éticos en los países árabes estudiados se alinean con la ética del periodismo internacional en diversos grados, que van desde el 50% hasta más del 90%. Además, el estudio examina los mecanismos de refuerzo de estos códigos éticos, sintetizados en el concepto "Términos Adicionales y Presión de Valor" (ATVP), que apoyan predominantemente los valores sociales, reflejando el énfasis cultural en el bien público en la región árabe. Apoyando esta noción, investigadores como Kibarabara (2023) ven la aplicación de PC como un catalizador para mejorar los estándares éticos, lo cual promueve un panorama mediático más alineado con el bien público, incluso en países con libertad de prensa restringida. Partiendo de esta comprensión de la infraestructura periodística existente y las regulaciones políticas propicias para la CJ, la tesis sostiene que la implementación exitosa de la PC no se limita a países con altos niveles de libertad de prensa. La investigación presenta ejemplos de aplicación eficaz de PC en varias naciones africanas y otras partes del mundo, lo que demuestra su potencial como herramienta valiosa para los países árabes afectados por conflictos en sus esfuerzos por la paz y la reconstrucción. PC también se considera beneficioso para otros países árabes que

experimentan desarrollo, ayudando a su progreso y avance. Por lo tanto, esta tesis posiciona al PC como un enfoque prometedor para el Oriente Próximo árabe, capaz de mejorar la información económica y contribuir al desarrollo social y la consolidación de la paz. A través de entrevistas en profundidad con periodistas de prensa económica y un estudio de caso práctico, la tesis establece un marco para la mejor implementación del PC mediante gradualmente con métodos efectivos dentro del contexto de la región árabe.

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List of Abbreviations

ATVP	Additional Terms and Values Pressure
CHSJ	Code Of Honor for Saudi Journalists
CJ	Constructive Journalism
CPI	Corruption Perception Index
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists
CQAR	Content Quality Audit Report
CRA	Constructive Research Approach
CSJ	Conflict-Sensitive Journalism
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CT	Constructive Techniques
DBA	Doctor of Business Administration
DJ	Development Journalism
EBF	Economic, Business, and Financial Journalism
ECSM	Ethical Charter for Syrian Media
Escwa	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESG	Environmental, Social, and Governance
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
HBR	Harvard Business Review
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IFJ	International Federation of Journalists
IJ	Investigative Journalism
IMC	Sierra Leone Independent Media Commission
JPA	Jordanian Press Association
JSC	Journalism for Social Change

KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
MBA	Master of Business Administration
MD	Medical Doctor
MENA	The Middle East & North Africa
NGO	Non-profit organization
NLP	Natural Language Processing
NPC	Nigerian Press Council
OHCHR	UN Human Rights Office
ONO	The Organization of News Ombudsmen and Standards Editors
Petra	Jordanian News Agency
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PR	Public Relations
RSF	Reporters Without Borders
SEC	U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
SJ	Solution Journalism
SJN	Solutions Journalism Network
SRJ	Socially Responsible Journalism
SRT	The Social Responsibility Theory
SVT	Swedish National TV
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UAEJA	UAE Journalists Association
UNDP	The United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNGC	The United Nations Global Compact

I. Introduction

In this thesis, I explore the application of constructive journalism (CJ hereinafter) in the Arab region, drawing upon my personal journey as a journalist from Syria. Post the 2011 war, I witnessed firsthand how media polarization and weaponization of journalism fueled violence and the spread of fake news. Amidst this turmoil, unbiased journalists were marginalized, labeled as 'gray' position people by all sides, whether the government or the opposition (García & Ouariachi, 2021). In such a hostile environment, the dilemma of a journalist's role in post-conflict reconstruction and trust-building became a pressing issue for me. Reflecting on the negative role played by journalists in Syria, where many were perceived as suppliers of hate speech and violence (Salem et al., 2019; Dickinson, 2015), I sought answers on how journalism could contribute positively to rebuilding war-torn societies. This quest led me to the study *"Reconstructing Rwanda; How Rwandan reporters use constructive journalism to promote peace"* by McIntyre and Sobel (2018), revealing the transformative role of Rwandan journalists in peacebuilding and economic development. The parallel between the journalistic narratives in Syria and Rwanda was striking. In both contexts, media played a role in large-scale violence (UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR, 2022). Rwandan journalists, however, began to amend this through training in constructive/solution-based journalism. Observing their positive impact, I began to delve into the potential of CJ as a vital tool for not just Syria, but the broader Arab region, witnessing similar conflicts in countries like Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan and Libya.

In this introductory section, the groundwork will be laid for understanding the critical importance of constructive journalism within the sphere of journalistic practice, alongside the pivotal role it assumes. Through a meticulous review of existing literature, this paper will trace the evolutionary trajectory of the relationship between traditional journalism and its public audiences, leading to the emergence of constructive journalism and the philosophical as well as ethical rationale supporting such an approach. The connection between classical ethical theories and CJ, characterized as a form of solutions-oriented journalism, will be elaborated upon. This introduction will not only articulate the research problem but also underscore the significance of this study in the context of Arab countries. Additionally, it will provide an overview of the methodological approaches adopted in each chapter, ultimately culminating in a strategic

framework for deriving conclusions and formulating recommendations regarding the application of CJ within the journalistic domain of Arab nations.

Constructive journalism emerged as a promising approach, aligning with the dual role of journalists in developing countries: as critical watchdogs and as change agents collaborating with governments for national development (Kalyango et al., 2016; Gyldensted, 2011). This dual perception is crucial in CJ, which aims to not only expose problems but also highlight solutions and progress. To deepen my understanding, I pursued training in one of the main branches of CJ known as ‘solutions journalism’ through the Solutions Journalism Network (SJN) in the USA and discovered the centrality of ethical codes and socially responsible journalism in practicing CJ (Kibarabara, 2022). Constructive journalism, as Meijer (2012) notes, balances reporting on societal issues with guiding discussions toward potential solutions, aiming to rebuild public trust eroded by persistent negative news coverage.

This thesis suggests that CJ could be instrumental in the growth and reconstruction of Arab countries. To understand this hypothesis, it is necessary to first explore the concept of CJ and its increasing significance on the global stage. The roots of CJ can be traced back to the worldwide ‘news avoidance’ phenomenon, which has contributed to a decline in public trust in the media (Kalim, 2019). This erosion of trust in journalism has become a significant issue worldwide in the 21st century. McIntyre (2019) points out that this decline has been noticeable since the early 2000s, marking a significant shift in how the public perceives the media's role and its credibility. This trend is further supported by a study from the Pew Research Center (2011), which found a prevalent audience weariness towards negative and overly critical news, highlighting a widening gap between the production of news and its reception by the public.

The decline of trust in news media is not restricted to any single region. Newman (2023) reports that globally, only 40% of individuals express trust in most news most of the time. This phenomenon is more pronounced in countries like the USA, where a Gallup poll (2020) indicated that only 28% of Americans perceive journalists as upholding high standards of honesty and ethics. The Reuters Institute report in 2020, further highlights that in free nations worldwide, only a third of the people exhibit overall trust in the news (Newman et al., 2020). This data underscores the profound challenge faced by media professionals in establishing and maintaining public trust. In the Arab world, the impact of these global trends is intertwined with regional dynamics. The historical context, political landscapes, and cultural nuances of Middle

Eastern countries shape the public's perception of media. For instance, issues such as government censorship, political instability, and cultural sensitivities play a significant role in influencing media consumption and trust. This regional specificity necessitates a nuanced understanding of the decline in media trust within the Arab context (UNESCO, 2011). The response to this decline has manifested in various forms, including the emergence of the "*Constructive News*" movement. Initiated by Danish journalist Ulrik Haagerup (2014), this approach that is later known as constructive journalism advocates for a balanced reporting methodology that transcends the traditional focus on negative news. Haagerup critiques the prevailing news criteria, particularly the notion that sensational or negative news takes precedence, encapsulated in the phrase "If it bleeds, it leads". This critique aligns with the broader conversation about news negativity and avoidance (p. 18).

Echoing Haagerup's sentiments, Gyldensted (2015) in her book "*From Mirrors to Movers*" elucidates the transformative potential of journalism. She argues for a shift from journalism as a mere reflection of reality "mirrors" to a force that actively influences and mobilizes societal change "movers". This paradigm shift, grounded in positive psychology, emphasizes expanding mindsets, changing the framing of questions, and engaging in storytelling that inspires action. Research across various regions, including the United States, Europe, and select nations in Africa and Asia, has demonstrated significant achievements in the realm of constructive journalism. These successes are primarily characterized by a resurgence in audience trust and increased engagement with news reporting (McIntyre, 2019). This trend underscores the potential of constructive journalism to revolutionize media consumption and public discourse.

In contrast, the Arab world presents a different landscape. Here, the adoption of CJ is still in its nascent stages and based on individual attempts, with limited academic studies and no formal declarations of its implementation. This gap in the literature and practice prompted this investigation into the practical elements and frameworks essential for integrating constructive journalism within the region's media outlets. This thesis endeavors to mitigate this gap by illustrating the congruence between the media codes of ethics prevalent in Arab countries and the tenets of CJ. Through conducting comprehensive interviews and subsequent data analysis, this study aims to illuminate the potential for implementing CJ within the Arab context. The culmination of this research seeks to offer actionable conclusions that could facilitate the broader

adoption and utility of CJ in the region. The hypothesis points that such integration could effectively navigate the unique challenges endemic to the Middle East, thereby cultivating a more informed, engaged, and trusting public. However, this endeavor necessitates a nuanced understanding of the region's cultural, political, and social complexities to ensure a sensitive and effective application of these journalistic principles. The phenomenon of diminishing trust in media and journalism is not isolated to the Arab world but is a global issue with distinct ramifications for this region. The rise of initiatives like CJ presents a potential solution for reversing this trend. By advocating for a more balanced, positive, and impactful approach to news reporting, these movements offer a blueprint for redefining journalism's role in society. As these concepts continue to gain momentum, they hold the potential to significantly alter the media landscape in the Middle East and potentially have a broader global impact.

A recent research conducted by BBC Media Action in various Arab nations illuminates a burgeoning expectation among audiences regarding the role of media. This study reveals that audiences are increasingly seeking more than just the presentation of news in a balanced manner. Instead, there is a growing desire for media outlets to engage actively in discussing solutions to everyday challenges and to function as a catalyst for positive change. This expectation transcends the traditional journalistic paradigm of merely reporting events and extends into a realm where media is viewed as a proactive agent in society, capable of not only highlighting issues but also contributing to their resolution (Buccianti & El-Richani, 2015). This shift in audience expectations aligns with the principles of CJ, a journalistic approach that emphasizes solution-oriented reporting and public engagement. The findings of the BBC Media Action report reinforce the notion that audiences in the Arab world are increasingly favoring media that not only informs but also empowers and inspires. This inclination towards solution-focused media content reflects a broader societal aspiration for media to play a constructive role, moving beyond the confines of sensationalist reporting. Such trends underscore the importance of adapting journalistic practices to meet these evolving audience needs. By incorporating CJ principles, media organizations can respond to this demand for a more engaged and solution-oriented form of journalism. This approach not only aligns with the ethical imperatives of truth-telling and social responsibility but also resonates with the cultural and societal contexts of Arab countries, where there is a strong tradition of community and collective problem-solving. The research findings from BBC Media Action mark a significant

transformation in audience expectations within the Arab world, highlighting the necessity for media to assume a more proactive, solution-oriented, and socially responsible role within society. Indeed, CJ could be instrumental in regions where the application of ethical codes is weak. In fact CJ application could help leveraging the codes of ethics application, as CJ inherently embodies an ethical approach. The recommendation from BBC Media Action underscores a paradigm shift towards societal interests, advocating for journalism practices to be predominantly guided by public interest rather than governmental influence. Within this framework, CJ is posited as a strategic tool to augment the adherence to ethical codes for the benefit of the public. This assertion is supported by the research of Kibarabara (2023), who argue for the potential of CJ to act as a catalyst in enhancing the application of ethical standards, thereby promoting a media landscape that aligns more closely with public good.

Most of the successful applications of CJ have demonstrated that the key to this shift toward CJ lies in awakening the code of ethics within the media, focusing more on advancing society rather than merely reporting its problems. This has become clearer after multiple studies revealed that applying codes of ethics largely depends on the individual journalists, more than on any external authorities attempting to enforce them (Black and Roberts, 2022). That is why I devoted one chapter to study codes of ethics in the studied Arab countries. Researchers experimenting with the prospective application of constructive journalism are primarily examining the codes of ethics in the media, seeking their roots in concepts like corporate social responsibility (CSR), corporate citizenship, problem-solving, and positivity of media organizations and journalists. The notion that media ethics is an oxymoron overlooks the complexities and challenges inherent in the mass media industry. Black and Roberts (2022) emphasize that media professionals, like their counterparts in other fields, have a responsibility to either aid the public or, at the very least, avoid causing harm. This perspective is crucial for understanding the ethical dilemmas faced by journalists and media outlets. The role of the media in shaping public opinion is indisputable in contemporary society. As Borges (2011) notes, the media is not only a channel for information and a platform for collective discourse but also a powerful agent in popularizing values, attitudes, and behavioral models. This influential capacity of the media raises legitimate concerns among citizens about its potential misuse or manipulation.

Journalism's codes of ethics serve not only to protect journalism from political influence or monetary dominance but also to ensure news reporting favors the public good. Luengo et al. (2016) identify the dominance of market-driven interests like clickbait tendency in journalism over ethical values as a major threat to journalistic integrity. This tension between commercial objectives and ethical journalism presents a significant challenge, requiring ongoing vigilance and a commitment to ethical principles by media professionals. Furthermore, the media's code of ethics is key to preventing journalism from being dominated by market forces and political entities. Feenstra (2020), in *'Kidnapped Democracy'*, explores the dual nature of media as a tool that can either contribute positively to society or be exploited by malevolent actors to mislead and manipulate public opinion. This dichotomy underscores the critical need for ethical media practices that safeguard democratic values and the public interest. The discourse on ethics and morality provides a foundational framework for understanding these challenges. As specified by Black and Roberts (2022), "ethics," derived from the Greek "ethos," pertains to decision-making about what is good or bad, right or wrong, essentially reflecting one's character. On the other hand, "morality," rooted in Latin origins, relates more directly to people's behavior and customary actions. While ethics represent the principles or guidelines for behavior, morality is the actual enactment of these principles in real-world scenarios. This distinction is further elaborated through philosophical concepts such as deontology and consequentialism. Deontology focuses on the ethics of actions before they are taken, while consequentialism is concerned with the outcomes or consequences of those actions. Researchers like Cejudo (2010) point out the inevitable divergence between these two philosophical approaches in the application and evaluation of ethics. The debate around media ethics, especially in the era of constructive journalism, is vital in navigating the challenges faced by the media industry. Understanding the nuanced differences between ethics and morality, and the philosophical underpinnings of deontology and consequentialism, is essential for media professionals committed to upholding ethical standards in their work. This commitment is crucial for ensuring that the media remains a force for good in society, capable of informing, educating, and empowering the public while maintaining integrity and trustworthiness.

The debate over duty-based ethics (deontology) versus consequentialism underscores a fundamental dichotomy in moral philosophy, particularly relevant in the field of media ethics. The perspectives of philosophers Immanuel Kant, Bernard Gert, and William David Ross

provide distinct viewpoints within the deontological framework, each with implications for ethical decision-making in media. Immanuel Kant, renowned for his emphasis on universal moral laws, emphasizes that actions should be guided by categorical imperatives that respect individuals as ends in themselves. This principle is crucial in media ethics, particularly in ensuring that journalistic practices do not exploit individuals for the sake of a story, and that reporting respects the inherent dignity of all subjects. Bernard Gert's contribution lies in his articulation of a set of moral rules to be applied rationally and impartially. For media professionals, Gert's framework suggests a structured approach to ethical dilemmas, promoting clear and rational thinking in assessing the ethical dimensions of reporting, advertising, or public relations activities. William David Ross introduces the concept of prima facie duties, which are assessed through intuition to determine the most pressing obligations in a given situation. This approach is particularly relevant in the fast-paced, often complex world of media, where professionals must swiftly navigate ethical challenges and weigh various competing duties (Black & Roberts, 2022).

In the framework of CJ, when evaluating news reporting from an ethical standpoint, we dissect it into three core components: 1) Truthfulness of the content, 2) Appropriateness of the presentation, and 3) Impact of the report. These components can be assessed through different philosophical lenses. Firstly, Immanuel Kant's perspective emphasizes the paramount importance of truthfulness. Kant, a guru deontologist, advocates for an uncompromising adherence to truth, irrespective of the potential negative consequences that might ensue from such reporting. This approach prioritizes the intrinsic duty to report truthfully over the consideration of societal impacts. In contrast, Bernard Gert's ethical approach, often characterized as "Kant with consequences", balances the necessity of truth-telling with the consideration of outcomes. Gert's philosophy would necessitate that news be true, but also that it yields positive consequences for the audience. However, Gert's framework does not deeply delve into the method of conveying this truth. David Ross provides a more nuanced approach, offering flexibility in assessing the ethicality of news reporting. Sometimes referred to as a "soft" or mixed-rule deontologist, Ross suggests a careful evaluation of several conflicting duties, taking into account their consequences. His approach allows for a more balanced assessment, considering both the obligation to report truthfully and the potential impact of such reporting. These philosophical perspectives collectively offer a comprehensive ethical framework for constructive journalism.

Kant's approach underlines the non-negotiable duty of truth-telling, Gert introduces the consideration of consequences, and Ross offers a pragmatic method to navigate between these duties, ensuring that the news is reported ethically while also considering its societal impact. This multi-faceted ethical evaluation is crucial in the context of constructive journalism, as it seeks to not only inform but also contribute positively to society (Black & Roberts, 2022, p. 356).

The ethical principles advocated by these philosophers — rational thinking, respect for individual freedom, and the pursuit of happiness — are integral to the moral maturity and conscientious decision-making required in media ethics. However, the application of these duty-based ethics in media is fraught with challenges. Media ethics, governed by principles such as truth-telling, minimizing harm, maintaining independence, accountability, and loyalty, often faces conflicts. For instance, the journalistic imperative to "seek truth and report it" can clash with the equally important need to "minimize harm." This tension reflects the complex interplay between providing the public with accurate information and protecting individuals from the potential negative consequences of that information. Similarly, the principle of maintaining independence in journalism can sometimes conflict with the need for accountability and transparency. Ensuring editorial independence might limit how much a media outlet can disclose about its processes or decision-making, which can affect transparency. These ethical dilemmas extend beyond journalism to other areas like advertising and public relations, where professionals must balance truth-telling with protecting client interests, and loyalty to clients with broader responsibilities to the public and societal good. As a result, while duty-based ethical theories provide valuable frameworks for media professionals, the practical application of these theories often involves navigating complex and competing principles. This reality underscores the need for media professionals to develop a deep understanding of ethical theories and apply them with discernment and judgment in the multifaceted scenarios they encounter in their work.

At this juncture, balancing what to report in the news with how to report it, while maintaining independence and accountability, and reporting objectively yet suggesting solutions, is where professionalism is essential. Therefore, the question of professionalism in journalism becomes synonymous with ethical practice. Professionalism in mass communication extends beyond individual actions to encompass broader ethical practices. Roiphe (2016) highlights the importance of building reputations based on ethical practices, prioritizing the public good over

personal gains. This approach emphasizes the role of ethics codes as moral compasses for individuals and organizations in the media industry. However, as Roberts (2019) observes, the mere existence of an ethics code does not automatically confer ethical status on an organization. Historical examples, such as pirates and street gangs who also had their codes, demonstrate that ethics codes must be grounded in universally accepted moral principles to be effective (Rostami et al., 2017).

The application of CJ has demonstrated significant impacts of ethics driven reporting on society by offering all aspects and perspectives of problems. Thus, presenting solutions in a convincing manner has led to increased audience engagement and trust in the news, especially in areas where this approach has been implemented. As detailed by McIntyre and Gyldensted (2018), audiences exposed to constructive journalism, which is characterized by its focus on solutions and positive outcomes, tend to feel more engaged and are likely to regain trust in news media. This approach, prioritizing ethical and socially responsible reporting, has been found to exert a substantial influence on audience behaviors. Research conducted across various global regions supports this observation, indicating that solution-oriented news is more engaging and effective in prompting action among audiences, as observed in studies by Hermans and Drok (2018). CJ, which thrives in environments with a free press and adherence to professional journalistic ethics, has also gained significant traction in countries with less press freedom. In such contexts, it plays a crucial role in promoting peace and addressing key social issues. Krüger (2017) highlighted that in countries like Rwanda, Pakistan, and some African nations, efforts to implement solutions-based journalism have demonstrated its effectiveness in using journalism to progress societies and tackle problems, even amidst political challenges. This observation is supported by McIntyre and Sobel's findings, which also noted a similar trend successfully in Rwanda, whose government is an authoritarian regime (McIntyre & Sobel, 2018).

In this thesis, I explore the potential application of Constructive Journalism (CJ) in Arab countries. I begin by examining the origins, key principles, and various forms of Constructive Journalism in Chapter 1. This sets the stage for my analysis of the interplay between Constructive Journalism and society. This initial chapter also scrutinizes the ethical underpinnings and corporate social responsibilities that bolster Constructive Journalism, evaluates its impact across global and regional contexts with a special focus on the Arab region,

and culminates in presenting the outcomes derived from a comprehensive analysis of Constructive Journalism academic literature.

Chapter 2 transitions to a focused examination of Journalism Codes of Ethics within the Arab Middle East, investigating the current state of journalism and the nuanced application of ethics codes across various countries in the region. Through a meticulous content and deontological analysis, this chapter evaluates the adherence to and enforcement of these codes, providing an in-depth look at the ethical frameworks guiding journalism in countries like Jordan, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Syria, and Iraq, and concludes with a synthesis of the findings from this ethical analysis.

Progressing to Chapter 3, the discourse shifts to the application of Constructive Journalism within the business news domain in the Arab Middle East. By evaluating the evolution and ethical responsibilities of economic journalism, this chapter offers a detailed overview of the business news landscape across several Arab countries, followed by an analysis of interviews with economic journalists to assess the potential and challenges of incorporating Constructive Journalism principles. The chapter further explores the role and significance of ethics in business news, ultimately outlining the prospects for leveraging Constructive Journalism in this field within the Middle East.

Chapter 4 presents a practical case study of Constructive Journalism application in the Arab countries, examining the intersections between Constructive Research Approaches and Constructive Journalism. This exploration includes a comprehensive research methodology, qualitative data analysis focusing on public, solution, and future orientations, and concludes with insights on applying Constructive Journalism to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical business solutions in the Arab region.

The thesis concludes by emphasizing the crucial role of Constructive Journalism in driving societal progress and preserving journalism's integrity. It reexamines the adequacy of Journalism Codes of Ethics in the Arab world for fostering Constructive Journalism, highlights the untapped potential of business news for Constructive Journalism application, advocates for Constructive Journalism as a conduit for bridging academic knowledge with business realities, and proposes a comprehensive framework for the application of Constructive Journalism within the Arab countries.

II. Methodology

This study aims to explore the prospects of applying constructive journalism within the domain of business news in Middle Eastern countries. Historically, the Middle East has been characterized as a region with limited press freedom, stringent regulations, and significant government intervention in media practices, including the codes of ethics governing media (UNESCO, 2011; Sidani, 2018). In this context, the potential implementation of CJ which aligns with the three main pillars of being public, solutions, and future-oriented (Hermans & Drok, 2018), presents an intriguing avenue for research. This approach could offer a new paradigm in media reporting in the Middle East, contributing to a more ethical, responsible, and impactful journalistic practice in a region where such initiatives have been historically sparse. Applying constructive journalism in the Arab region, where journalism traditionally holds less impact and popularity, could be a strategic move to gradually increase journalism's influence and public trust. This approach, focusing on constructive solutions-based journalism, may present a path for the media to become more impactful. Although Allam (2019) expressed concerns about the potential for blending the solution-focused aspect of constructive journalism with propaganda in low-freedom countries, there are success stories to consider. For instance, the gradual implementation of investigative journalism (IJ hereinafter) in the Arab region, despite that (IJ) needs press freedom to thrive, has shown promise. This experience has been facilitated by non-profit organizations and training programs that have educated journalists in these methods. Initially, journalists applied these techniques of IJ to non-sensitive topics such as societal issues, health, and environmental concerns, but over time, as they became more confident, Arab journalists began to tackle more complex subjects. Eventually, journalists even began to approach more sensitive areas like politics, pushing the boundaries of what was previously considered permissible. According to the B° English Newsletter in 2023, constructive journalism is not only a viable approach in the Arab region but also a methodology that can be effectively taught and adopted by trained journalists (Bonn Institute, 2023).

In the first chapter of this thesis, the exploration is centered on the concept of Constructive Journalism (CJ) and its interplay with society, particularly within the context of the Arab countries of the Middle East. This inquiry necessitates a comprehensive analysis of the origins and evolution of CJ, aiming to delineate whether its successful implementation across

various regions is a consequence of specific local conditions or if broader, universal factors also play a pivotal role. The primary objective of this chapter is to evaluate the efficacy of CJ as a strategic remedy for the widespread issue of mistrust between the media and its audience through leveraging the commitment of applying professional codes of ethics. This evaluation assumes heightened significance in the Arab region, marked by its distinct challenges, including limited press freedom, government controls and widespread censorship. Through a meticulous dissection of CJ's principles and methodologies and a comparative analysis of its impact across regions with varying degrees of press freedom, this research endeavors to ascertain CJ's potential as a transformative mechanism in bolstering journalistic credibility and enhancing public trust within the Arab media landscape. This research will encompass an extensive review of the existing literature on CJ, alongside case studies from diverse countries where CJ has been implemented, and a detailed analysis of the socio-political dynamics within the Arab countries. Furthermore, this chapter will probe into the theoretical foundations of CJ, scrutinizing how its core tenets may be tailored to the unique cultural and political contexts of the Arab region, with the ultimate aim of determining whether CJ represents a universally viable model or if its success is inherently dependent on specific conditions of media freedom and public engagement.

Continuing this exploration, the chapter will delve into the intricate nexus between journalism codes of ethics and the foundational principles of CJ. This examination is imperative for comprehending how CJ, with its emphasis on society-oriented journalistic approaches, is deeply rooted in the conventional codes of ethics of journalism. The analysis will focus on identifying and scrutinizing elements of social responsibility and corporate citizenship encapsulated within these codes of ethics, thereby drawing a direct correlation to the principles of CJ. Employing a detailed methodology, this exploration will analyze the journalism codes of ethics from various Arab countries, examining how these codes embody concepts of social responsibility, public service, fairness, and integrity—components that are fundamental to both traditional journalistic ethics and the avant-garde methodologies of CJ. The aim is to reveal how these ethical frameworks inherently incorporate or can be harmonized with the essential pillars of CJ, such as solution-focused reporting, positive storytelling, and active audience engagement. Additionally, this analysis will undertake a comparative study to highlight the similarities and differences in ethical guidelines across different Arab countries, providing insights into the diversity of journalistic practices within the region and their potential impact on the adoption and

adaptation of CJ principles. By establishing a clear linkage between the codes of ethics in journalism and the nascent practices of CJ, this chapter aims to lay the groundwork for understanding how CJ can be seamlessly integrated into the existing media landscape in the Arab region. This foundational analysis is crucial for gauging the readiness and potential receptivity of the Arab media industry to embrace the CJ model, setting the stage for a more in-depth investigation into the practical applicability of CJ principles in these countries and assessing their capacity to elevate journalistic quality, foster public trust, and positively impact society.

Furthermore, this chapter engages with the ongoing discourse surrounding CJ, particularly its solution-centric focus. It argues for a holistic approach that harmoniously integrates problem-focused and solution-focused narratives within journalism, positing this blend as crucial for the sustainable evolution of the field. The reception and application of CJ across diverse cultural and geopolitical contexts are thoroughly examined, revealing a disparity in the prevalence of constructive approaches between Western nations and regions such as Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This observation underscores the imperative for extended research into the adoption and adaptation of CJ within non-Western regions, especially the Arab world. Through a content analysis of ethical media codes across the Arab region, this study uncovers a pronounced commitment to social responsibility, indicative of a strong dedication to societal welfare—an essential element for fostering a harmonious society. This chapter also ventures into the potential of CJ within the Arab context, highlighting the significant role that innovative technologies and new economic models could play in promoting journalistic independence and sustainability. Such advancements hold the promise of enhancing the capacity for delivering unbiased and diverse news content, thereby improving public trust and engagement.

Chapter Two of this thesis, entitled "Codes of Ethics of Journalism in the Arab Middle East Countries and the Search for Constructive Journalism," builds on the foundational inquiry established in the initial chapter into the concept and scope of Constructive Journalism (CJ). This investigation delves deeper into the essence of CJ, highlighting its pivotal role in directing journalism towards the public interest, with a keen focus on solutions, future perspectives, and the overarching societal benefit. It meticulously explores the intricate nexus between the ethical codes governing journalism and the fundamental principles underpinning Constructive Journalism, thereby illuminating how CJ's emphasis on addressing societal challenges is deeply rooted in the traditional ethos of journalistic integrity. The analysis presented in this chapter

brings to the forefront the manner in which social responsibility and corporate citizenship are interwoven within these ethical frameworks, thus demonstrating a profound resonance with CJ's core values. Key aspects of CJ such as its solution-oriented, public-oriented, and future-oriented disposition are accentuated, further advocating for CJ's commitment to fostering a positive psychological approach in news production. This approach is geared towards generating content that is not only anchored in truth and utility but is also engaging and compelling to its audience.

Chapter Two offers an exhaustive overview of the dynamic interplay between ethical journalism and Constructive Journalism, showcasing its adaptability and pertinence across a spectrum of social and political environments. By conducting a detailed analysis of the journalism codes of ethics within specific nations of the Arab Middle East—particularly, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar—the chapter seeks to ascertain how these codes align with CJ's essential tenets, including truth-telling, inclusivity, societal empowerment, and privacy protection. This exploration aims to not only gauge the adherence of these ethical codes to the principles of CJ but also to comprehend their contribution towards crafting solutions and envisaging a future that advances the public good, thereby setting the stage for a deeper investigation into the practical applicability and potential impact of CJ principles within these contexts. This analysis embarks on a comprehensive examination of the ethical frameworks that govern journalism within select Arab Middle Eastern countries, specifically Jordan, Lebanon, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Syria, and Iraq. This research aims to deconstruct these ethical codes to ascertain their alignment with or deviation from the principles of CJ, as articulated by Hermans and Gyldensted (2018). These principles—truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement—serve as benchmarks for assessing the commitment of each country's media code of ethics.

By providing a detailed overview of the current state of journalism in the Arab Middle East and conducting a meticulous analysis of the journalism codes of ethics, this chapter aims to offer invaluable insights into the alignment of these codes with CJ principles and their potential to drive solution-focused and future-oriented journalism for the public interest. The findings will illuminate whether the journalistic environment in these Arab Middle Eastern countries is conducive to the growth and effectiveness of constructive journalism, thereby contributing to the broader discourse on the role of ethical journalism in societal advancement. This research adopts

a qualitative content analysis methodology to scrutinize the journalism and media codes of ethics within the Arab region of the Middle East, focusing on seven specific countries: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, The United Arab Emirates (UAE), Syria, Qatar, Lebanon, Iraq, and The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). These countries were selected due to their diverse standings in press freedom, transparency, and the professional, social, and political heterogeneity they exhibit. Such diversity presents a broad spectrum of journalistic ethics codes and their implementation practices, offering a rich comparative analysis landscape.

The research centers on the official journalistic codes of ethics that delineate the professional conduct within each country, regardless of the actual enforcement of these codes. Sources of these codes vary, with some being issued by press associations like The Jordanian Press Association code of ethics, and others facilitated by international organizations, for instance, the Journalists' Pact for Strengthening Civil Peace in Lebanon, which was a collaborative effort between the Lebanese Ministry of Information and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Furthermore, this study examines codes from the Saudi Journalists Association, The UAE Journalists Association, and the Syrian Journalists Union, alongside independent codes significant to Qatar and Iraq, such as the Al-Jazeera Code of Ethics and The Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics. The cornerstone of this analysis is the alignment of these codes with the standards set forth by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ hereinafter) in its Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists, issued in 2019. The IFJ Charter, recognized by UNESCO as a benchmark of professional journalism standards and self-regulation, serves as a crucial reference point for this assessment. In order to gauge the alignment of the subject country's code of ethics with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) code, a scoring system was established with three possible values: 0, 0.5, and 1. A score of 1 denotes a complete match between a specific article of the country's code and its IFJ counterpart. A score of 0.5 indicates a partial correspondence, while a score of 0 is allocated when a particular IFJ code article is not present in the country's code. This scoring system facilitates the assessment of the level of alignment between the two sets of ethical guidelines.

Moreover, the IFJ codes of ethics were categorized in alignment with the principles of constructive journalism, as defined by The Windesheim University of Applied Sciences' Journalism Department. These principles—truth-telling, inclusivity & diversity, contextual reporting, social empowerment, solutions & future orientation, and audience engagement—are

used as analytical lenses to assess the ethical frameworks of the selected Arab countries. By doing so, the research aims to uncover the extent to which these codes not only comply with global journalism ethics standards but also embody the tenets of constructive journalism, offering insights into the potential for integrating such principles within the journalistic practices of the Arab Middle East.

The study in this chapter will conduct a thorough deontological analysis, scrutinizing the enforcement mechanisms of these codes and their interaction with local laws and regulations. This examination is crucial for understanding the extent to which these ethical frameworks support the ideals of CJ, including the ethical commitment to accurate and truthful reporting, the representation of diverse voices and perspectives, the empowerment of societies through journalism, and the ethical management of privacy concerns in journalistic practice. Moreover, the analysis will evaluate how these ethical tenets contribute to the overarching goals of CJ, particularly the advancement of solutions-oriented and future-focused journalism. This aspect of the study is pivotal in understanding how ethical practices in journalism can be harnessed not merely for immediate reporting goals but also for their broader impacts on societies. By scrutinizing these codes of ethics through the lens of CJ, the chapter seeks to uncover the potential of ethical journalism as a potent instrument for addressing societal challenges and fostering a more positive and forward-looking public discourse. Furthermore, the methodology of this chapter will delve into the influence of "Additional Terms and Values Pressure" (ATVP hereinafter) on these ethical codes, categorizing ATVP into social, political, and professional factors. This investigation will measure the extent of these pressures across the selected countries, aiming to discern the potential prevalence and effectiveness of CJ in these contexts. The analysis is predicated on the hypothesis that the potential for CJ's success in these countries not only hinges on adherence to its principles but also on a favorable social weighting within the ethical codes. A score of 1 was given when legislation limited the application of ethical codes, and 0 when no such obstacles were present. The influence of each country was assessed based on the ATVP, indicating that countries with higher ATVP scores have more political, social, and professional influence on the legally mandated ethical codes. The main goal of this analysis is to examine how social, political, and professional factors affect the implementation of ethical codes in journalism. If social pressure is dominant, it indicates a higher chance of constructive journalism (CJ) being practiced, as the social factor plays a significant role, despite the influence

of political and professional factors. On the other hand, predominant political pressure suggests a stronger political influence on the potential of CJ, potentially resulting in a mix of politicized ethics and professional journalism practices. The dominance of professional terms or factors in ethical codes and media regulations signifies a more favorable environment for journalistic freedom and professionalism, which can foster the practice of CJ. In the concluding stage of this study, I will conduct a thorough evaluation of the ethical codes of journalism in selected Arab countries, focusing on two key aspects:

Alignment with International Standards: This aspect will involve comparing the ethical codes of each country's journalism with the benchmarks set by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). The comparison will help in understanding the extent to which each country's journalism ethics align with globally recognized principles and practices.

Impact of Additional Terms and Values Pressure (ATVP): I will assess the influence of ATVP, which encompass the terms and values arising from external laws and regulations, on the application of these ethical codes. This aspect will highlight the prominence of social, political, or professional elements in shaping these codes. Understanding how external factors influence journalistic ethics and practices within each country is crucial for this analysis.

Chapter Three of this thesis, titled "Applying Constructive Journalism in Business News of The Arab Middle East Countries," extends the foundational exploration of (CJ) into the realm of economic journalism within the Arab Middle East. The initial chapter laid the groundwork by detailing CJ's core principles, including solutions, future, and public orientation, alongside essential practices such as truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement. The successful deployment of CJ across various geopolitical contexts, from developed nations to countries navigating post-conflict reconstruction, underscores the vital role of ethical journalism and social responsibility in the effective enactment of CJ principles. This inquiry is particularly poignant in the context of the Arab world, where the spectrum of press freedom varies dramatically, and the socio-political landscape has been markedly shaped by events such as the Arab Spring. The potential for CJ to be appropriated as a tool for propaganda by regional authorities presents a complex challenge, as noted by Allam (2019). Against this backdrop, my research aims to uncover the integration of CJ within the journalistic ethical frameworks and regulations across Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the UAE, KSA, and Qatar. Despite the lack of explicit references to

solution-oriented journalism, a commitment to social responsibility was evident across these countries, offering a fertile ground for the application of CJ principles.

Therefore, this chapter endeavors to assess the viability of CJ within the economic journalism sector of the Arab Middle East. It will explore how CJ's principles can be operationalized to address the unique challenges and opportunities presented by the region's economic landscape. By evaluating the readiness of media institutions and journalists to embrace CJ, alongside the societal impact of such journalistic practices, this analysis aims to illuminate pathways for integrating constructive approaches into economic reporting, thereby fostering a more engaged, informed, and empowered public. The investigation progresses into examining the interrelationship between business news, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and Socially Responsible Journalism (SRJ), marking a shift towards understanding the evolving ethical landscape within economic journalism. The focus then narrows down to the specific context of business news reporting in the Arab Middle East, delineating the unique journalistic landscape in each of the seven countries under study: the UAE, KSA, Qatar, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. This section aims to provide an overview of the economic journalism environment, identifying the nuances and commonalities that define economic reporting in these regions.

To delve deeper into the potential for CJ within this context, I conducted in-depth interviews with economic journalists from each of the studied countries. The interviewees selection methodology was meticulously designed to target journalists with a specialization in economics from seven distinct nations: the UAE, KSA, Qatar, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. These journalists were mandated to possess no less than five years of experience in reporting on economic matters, aiming for an equitable representation across genders and various media outlets, including but not limited to television, online platforms, newspapers, and magazines. In the initial phase, four journalists from each aforementioned country were chosen based on the outlined criteria, consisting of an equal number of female and male journalists, each representing one of the specified media outlets. This preliminary selection was conducted among journalists of renown, as determined through the investigator's professional expertise in the field. Following this, a total of 28 journalists who met these conditions were approached via e-mails. A subset of these candidates was subsequently excluded due to their inability to participate during the designated month or their lack of response to the initial outreach communication. Ultimately,

seven journalists, distinguished by their extensive experience in the realm of economic journalism from among the 12 who expressed a willingness to participate, were selected for inclusion in the study. These individuals not only represented the geographical focus of the study but also had accrued more than five years of experience in economic journalism. The composition of gender among the chosen interviewees comprised three females and four males. With respect to their media affiliations, there was a balanced representation encompassing television (two journalists), newspapers (two journalists), online platforms (two journalists), and magazines (one journalist), thus ensuring a comprehensive array of perspectives within the research.

These structured, comprehensive interviews sought to capture the journalists' perceptions regarding CJ, its potential for implementation, and the challenges and opportunities it presents within the realm of economic and business reporting. To guarantee that the individuals were well-informed on the topic, I distributed the questions to them ahead of time through email. Conducted via recorded Zoom calls in the Arabic language, these discussions were transcribed, analyzed, and subsequently translated into English to ensure the integrity of the data collected (The raw transcription of the interviews available [here](#)). Utilizing NVIVO software, the interviews were systematically coded according to the sequence of questions outlined in the appendices, facilitating a thematic data analysis that culminated in the derivation of specific codes. This methodological approach allows for a precise assessment of CJ's prospects within economic journalism in the Arab Middle East, offering insights into how CJ principles can be integrated into economic reporting to address the unique challenges and leverage opportunities in these countries. The chapter concludes with the formulation of recommendations based on the findings from the thematic analysis, setting the stage for further research and practical application of CJ in enhancing the quality, impact, and societal relevance of economic journalism in the Arab Middle East. This comprehensive examination serves as a pivotal step towards understanding the readiness and potential receptivity of the economic journalism sector in the Arab region towards embracing the CJ model, with the ultimate goal of fostering a more informed, engaged, and responsible public discourse.

Chapter Four, "A Practical Case of Constructive Journalism Application in the Arab Countries," presents a pivotal examination of CJ practical applications within the journalistic landscapes of the Arab Middle East. This chapter builds upon the theoretical foundation laid in

earlier chapters, which characterized CJ by its focus on solution-oriented narratives, future-orientation, and enhanced public engagement, underpinned by principles of veracity, context-sensitive reporting, inclusivity, diversity, societal empowerment, and audience participation. The effective integration of CJ across varied geopolitical environments, from the developed landscapes of Sweden and Germany to the emerging contexts of Rwanda, highlights the importance of integrating social responsibility and ethical standards within journalistic practices. Chapter Four presents a pioneering study of CJ in the Arab Middle East. The chapter's main focus is on how CJ helps bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practitioners. It discusses the elements of CJ and how a specific example shows that academic research can be rewritten in a journalistic style that provides solutions to the daily lives of business practitioners, helping them progress.

Furthermore, the chapter aims to establish a connection between Constructive Research Approach (CRA) which refers to the applied research that is relevant to people's daily lives and CJ. It also presents a practical example that can be widely taught in the region, demonstrating the applicability of the approach. This practical exploration aims to substantiate the theoretical and empirical findings discussed earlier, demonstrating the successful application of CJ through collaborative efforts between academic researchers and journalists. This practical case meticulously analyzes interviews conducted with 16 academic researchers who have either developed journalistic skills within the business domain or collaborated closely with business journalists to weave CRA principles into CJ practices. The study embraced an inquiry-based approach as delineated by Johnson & Stake (1996), focusing on an in-depth exploration of various phenomena, events, activities, or processes over an extended period through the employment of diverse data collection strategies. The primary technique employed for data gathering was interviews. The selection of participants aimed to include academics who had made concerted efforts to reinterpret their scholarly work into a journalistic format, incorporating practical solutions within their articles to cater to business practitioners. Specifically, the target group consisted of academic contributors who had re-published their scholarly outputs in the United Arab Emirates-based online practice magazine, Harvard Business Review Arabia (HBR Arabia), embedding actionable solutions within their contributions and who were actively engaged in academic or professional work within the Arab region. From an initial pool of 205 authors identified as potential participants, 50 met the established selection criteria and were

subsequently approached via email. Among these, 16 were able to participate in interviews, presenting the most equitable gender distribution achievable from the subset of authors who were both available and willing to engage in dialogue on the subject matter. The participant cohort consisted of 16 professionals actively involved in disseminating their knowledge through mainstream media channels. This group included 11 individuals with Doctor of Philosophy (PhDs), 2 with Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees, 2 holding Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degrees, and one Medical Doctor (MD). Participants in the interviews received questions via email in advance to familiarize themselves with the topic. The interviews were conducted and analyzed in the English language. I used Zoom to conduct the recorded interviews. Transcripts were then created, and the data was analyzed using NVIVO software (The raw transcription of the interviews available [here](#)).

The discussion highlights a prevalent disconnect between the rigors of academic research and its practical application in the journalistic and business spheres. Notably, academic research, particularly those findings published in peer-reviewed journals and conference outputs, often remains siloed from practical utilization due to a perceived lack of immediate relevance and accessibility. The analysis further delves into the challenges of bridging the gap between academic rigor and practical relevance. It suggests that academic researchers and journalists face parallel challenges in engaging and impacting their intended audiences. On one hand, academic research in management and similar fields is frequently bypassed by practitioners in favor of more immediately applicable knowledge. On the other hand, journalism grapples with issues of 'news avoidance' and fatigue among audiences, driven by a perception of overwhelmingly negative reporting and a hunger for solutions-oriented content. To counter these challenges, the chapter advocates for a 'praxis-oriented' approach (Barkho, 2014a), emphasizing the need for academic research to be communicated in more accessible language and formats that resonate with practitioners' needs. Similarly, it calls for journalism to pivot towards more constructive narratives that not only report on societal issues but also explore potential solutions, thereby fostering a more engaged and informed public discourse. This practical study not only underscores the necessity of making academic insights more applicable to real-world scenarios but also highlights the potential for CJ to serve as a catalyst for positive change. By aligning the methodologies and language of academic research with the practical demands of journalism, there is significant potential to enhance the impact of scholarly work in the business world and

beyond. Thus, chapter Four offers a compelling narrative on the practical application and challenges of implementing CJ in the Arab countries. Through a detailed examination of a real case involving the collaboration between academic researchers and journalists, the chapter demonstrates the transformative potential of CJ when applied within the unique socio-cultural and political context of the Arab Middle East. This approach not only addresses the relevance and engagement issues faced by both fields but also positions CJ as a proactive contributor to societal problem-solving and positive societal change.

The thesis synthesizes the findings from four distinct chapters to formulate overarching conclusions and a framework for the effective implementation of CJ within the Arab region. It posits that the cornerstone for successfully integrating CJ lies in fostering a particularly responsible journalistic ethos, which can be cultivated through adherence to media organizations' ethical codes. This is further supported by advocating for journalism that is less influenced by political propaganda and more motivated by societal interests. The research identifies business news as an ideal starting point for the incremental application of CJ, with professional journalists providing insights through in-depth interviews. Through these interviews, this study identifies successful examples of solution-focused journalism. It elucidates specific circumstances that contribute to the effective application of CJ in a step-by-step manner. Moreover, the study highlights the influence of fundamental Arabic ethics in motivating individuals and organizations to engage in positive actions and contribute to societal betterment by resolving problems effectively.

This thesis was a base for some academic publications, starting with the first chapter of this thesis where we authored a chapter in the book [Handbook of Applied Journalism: Theory and Practice](#), published by Springer Nature Switzerland in 2024. This chapter, entitled "Looking for Constructive Journalism Principles in Arab Journalism Codes of Ethics: A Study on UAE, KSA, and Qatar," served as the foundation for our research (Almahmoud & Córdoba, 2024). The second chapter of this thesis was also a base for a chapter in the academic book *Un nuevo pacto empresa-sociedad. Economía social y ética*, published by Dykinson, S.L. in 2022, served as the foundation for an academic publication. The chapter, authored by Almahmoud and Cejudo (2022), is titled "Work Culture and Values in Media Companies in the Arab Region: The Case of Jordan and Lebanon.". Moreover, a paper extracted from chapter four of this thesis titled "Bridging the gap between academic knowledge and business practitioners in the Arab region

through constructive journalism" was [published in May, 2024, in the Journal of Applied Journalism & Media Studies](#) (scopus indexed Q2). This achievement is based on the findings of this chapter and its case study.

In the technical composition of this thesis, meticulous attention was given to adhere to the standards set forth by the American Psychological Association (APA), specifically the 7th edition of its publication manual. This adherence to APA guidelines is evident in the referencing style throughout the thesis, ensuring uniformity and academic rigor in the citation of sources and literature. Additionally, the [Springer Nature Manuscript Guidelines for English Textbooks](#) were employed as a framework for the overall writing style. These guidelines, known for their emphasis on clarity, coherence, and consistency in academic writing, provided a structured approach to presenting the research findings, discussions, and conclusions. The integration of these two sets of guidelines — APA for referencing and Springer Nature for manuscript composition — has resulted in a thesis that not only aligns with academic standards but also maintains a professional and reader-friendly format. This combination of styles and guidelines ensures that the thesis is both academically robust and accessible to a wide range of readers, including scholars, practitioners, and students interested in the fields of journalism, media ethics, and business ethics studies.

Chapter 1

1. Constructive Journalism and Society

In exploring the potential of applying Constructive Journalism (CJ) in the Arab countries of the Middle East, it is imperative to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the origins and evolution of CJ. This historical and contextual examination is crucial to understand whether the successful implementation of CJ in various regions can be attributed solely to the specific conditions prevalent in those areas, or if there are other underlying factors contributing to its effectiveness. The core objective of this chapter is to assess the viability of CJ as a remedial approach to the pervasive issue of mistrust between the media and its audience. This assessment is particularly relevant in the context of the Arab region, which is characterized by a unique set of challenges, including restricted press freedom and prevalent censorship. By dissecting the principles and methodologies of CJ, and comparing its impact in regions with a free press to its potential in more controlled media environments, the research aims to determine if CJ can act as a transformative tool in enhancing journalistic credibility and public trust in the Arab media landscape. This inquiry will involve a thorough review of existing literature on CJ, case studies from various countries where it has been implemented, and an analysis of the socio-political dynamics of the Arab countries. The chapter will also delve into the theoretical underpinnings of CJ, examining how its tenets can be adapted to the specific cultural and political contexts of the Arab region. The ultimate goal is to establish whether CJ can be a universally applicable model or if its success is contingent upon certain pre-existing conditions of media freedom and public openness.

In this chapter of the research, the exploration will delve into the intricate relationship between journalism codes of ethics and the foundational principles of CJ. This examination is crucial in understanding how CJ, with its society-oriented journalistic approaches, is rooted in

the traditional ethos of journalism. The chapter will focus on identifying and analyzing elements of social responsibility and corporate citizenship within these codes of ethics, drawing a direct correlation to the tenets of CJ. The methodology for this exploration will involve a detailed analysis of the journalism codes of ethics from various Arab countries. This will include an examination of how these codes address the concepts of social responsibility, public service, fairness, and integrity — all of which are integral to both traditional journalistic ethics and the innovative approaches of CJ. The objective is to uncover how these ethical frameworks already incorporate or can be aligned with the key pillars of CJ, such as solution-focused reporting, public audience orientations and positive future tendency. This analysis will also entail a comparative study of the similarities and differences in the ethical guidelines across different Arab nations. This comparative approach will provide insights into the diversity of journalistic practices within the region and how they may influence the adoption and adaptation of CJ principles. By establishing a clear link between the established codes of ethics in journalism and the emerging practices of CJ, this chapter will lay a foundational understanding of how CJ can be integrated into the existing media landscape in the Arab region. It will set the stage for further investigation into the practical applicability of CJ principles in these countries, assessing their potential to enhance journalistic quality, public trust, and societal impact. This foundational analysis is essential for understanding the readiness and potential receptivity of the Arab media industry towards embracing the CJ model.

1.1.1. Constructive Journalism Birth And Concept

The historical trajectory of journalistic discourse has incrementally contributed to the emergence of the concept of "constructive journalism". During the 19th century, the predominant content of mainstream media was characterized by chronicles, visual representations, and sensationalist narratives. Such media largely remained disconnected from the quotidian experiences of the general populace. However, at the beginning of the 20th century, there have been consistent movements to revolutionize the journalism discourse, especially journalism's relation to social ethics and responsibilities. The first initiative was taken by Walter William, “The Father of Journalism Education”, at the end of the 19th century. He pioneered Journalism education in America, and in 1908 at the University of Missouri, he established the first American journalism institution. The course syllable was based on his well-known Journalist's

Creed, which was based on the idea that only constructive journalism is practical and flourishes (Bro, 2018, p.1). The initial movement and journalism education in America altered public opinion about journalism's societal role. However, the turmoil of the world wars impeded any legislative measures in America and the rest of the world. After World War II ended, in 1947, a commission was formed to formulate ethical standards of Journalism. The commission was chaired by the President of the University of Chicago, Robert Hutchins. The commission published a report to benchmark the responsibilities of a free and independent press. The report emphasized that the core principle of journalism is social responsibility. The commission overwhelmingly criticized the press performance for not uplifting the social standards and broadcasting content to incite social disintegration, futility, and indifference. Furthermore, it alleged the press for alienating the readers from the ground realities and the social problems (Iggers, 2018, p. 67). This criticism was essential to push for Journalism ethics and creating social responsibility as basics for journalism, later known as Constructive Journalism (CJ). Later, it was realized that journalism should increase its synergy with the audiences and maintain impartiality in its content by self-auditing. Therefore, a movement to promote ethical practices in news organizations and perform their social responsibilities started in many countries during the 1980s. The Organization of News Ombudsmen and Standards Editors (ONO) was established as a nonprofit entity in response to a broader movement advocating for journalistic integrity and standards. Comprising a diverse international membership, ONO encompasses readers' representatives, esteemed journalism institutions, news ombudsmen, and standards editors. This organization offers a neutral forum for professional discourse, drawing participants from various global regions including India, Europe, Australia, and North America. In addition to its annual conference, ONO organizes smaller congresses hosted by member nations. These collaborative efforts have facilitated a dialogue on emerging consensus-driven journalistic practices and have addressed numerous challenges inherent in contemporary journalism. Central to ONO's mission is the enhancement of public trust through the promotion and upholding of rigorous ethical standards in global journalism (UNESCO, 2011, p. 91). The first achievement of the organization was the significant role played by the ombudsman in 1990. The ombudsman made journalism abide by the social interest and enforced the codes of ethics by responding to the reader's complaints and suggestions (McKenna, 1993).

During the early stages of journalism's evolution, the practice of constructive journalism had not yet been conceptualized. Nevertheless, a seminal shift occurred in 1993 when a publication guideline titled "Positive News" was introduced in the format of a printed newspaper (Atanasova, 2019, p. 703). This innovative approach paved the way for a series of movements between 2000 and 2011, each emphasizing a unique journalistic genre. Preceding the formalization of Constructive Journalism, there were movements such as "Active Journalism," "Public Journalism," "Peace Journalism," and "Solution Journalism" (Benesch, 1998). It was not until 2012 that the term "Constructive Journalism" (CJ) was officially coined. The foundational tenet of CJ is to eschew the prevalent negativity in media while maintaining impartiality in content dissemination. As a consequence of adopting CJ principles, contemporary constructive journalism is perceived to be more actionable "Solution-oriented," "Public-oriented," and "Future-oriented" (Hermans & Drok, 2018). However, in spite of these progressive shifts aimed at aligning journalism more closely with societal needs and restoring public trust, global news audiences have been in decline. McIntyre's research posits that a significant portion of the audience deemed news to be overly detrimental in the early 21st century (McIntyre, 2019, p. 1029). This sentiment is further echoed by a study conducted by Patterson, which revealed that a staggering eighty-four percent of Americans surveyed expressed that news content was predominantly disheartening (Patterson, 2001).

In the early stages of media development, numerous media experts endeavored to curtail movements championing the social and ethical obligations of journalism. For instance, a plethora of newspaper establishments and publishers overtly contested the findings of the Hutchins Commission in 1947. They interpreted the report as an infringement upon press liberties, deeming it a direct assault on their editorial sovereignty (Iggers, 2018, p. 68). This contention is further exacerbated by the advent of digital media, which empowers every individual to disseminate content globally. This proliferation of unchecked content harkens back to the tumultuous media landscape post-World War II, which initially prompted the formulation of the Hutchins Commission. Friend & Singer (2007) offered a counter-perspective to the conventional press paradigms. They posited that given the ubiquity of digital media, anyone can assume the mantle of a publisher, making the enforcement of ethical standards on the Internet considerably more challenging. They further contended that the primary hindrances to curating and broadcasting information to a global audience are rooted in financial or technological constraints.

He further stated that although the codes of ethics became debatable in the digital era and social media revolution. Many experts stress using ethics for the journalists' professional survival and argue that the primary difference between journalism and any other approach for publication is the ethics followed in preparing and disseminating the information. Friend & Singer (2007) suggested that the enduring relevance and sustainability of a journalist's profession hinge predominantly on the intrinsic value of their professional contributions. In the digital realm, where virtually anyone can don the hat of a publisher, the distinguishing hallmark of a journalist lies in their adherence to time-honored ethical standards (Friend & Singer, 2007, p. 24). Contrarily, Iggers (2018) contended that in the digital milieu, acceptability is predominantly driven by ratings rather than ethical considerations. Yet, the pivotal question remains: "Can such practices still be classified as journalism?" (Iggers, 2018, p. 85).

With the prevalence of digital and social media, a new term, 'News Fatigue' was introduced in 2011. The 'News Fatigue' term was born as a reaction to the overwhelming negativity in the news. The traditional news reporting style is criticized for giving exceptional attention to problems rather than finding solutions or the space for constructive news in the disseminated information. Furthermore, it focused on the audience's grogginess from incessantly receiving negative information (Aitamurto & Varma 2018, p. 11). Additionally, the Pew Research Centre in 2011 conducted a survey concluding that most audiences are exhausted from negative-critical journalism. Nearly Seventy-five percent of the respondents complained about the political leaders criticizing rivals and not focusing on self-improvement or solving social issues. Furthermore, the survey asked the respondents for suggestions, and 83% participants suggested that news organizations should primarily focus on exploring solutions to problems the general public faces worldwide (Pew Research Center, 2011). Nearly after a century, the movement started by Walter Williams to promote constructive news in journalism again resurfaced due to extremely polarizing and negative journalism in global media outlets. Ulrik Haagerup, the News departments' head at the Danish National Broadcasting Company, published a column about positive journalism. In the 2400-word column, published in 2012, titled "Constructive news", Haagerup posits the notion that future journalists ought to augment the conventional news values by integrating a 'constructive news' criterion. This would serve to counterbalance the prevalent narratives of death, devastation, and societal despair with news

pieces that highlight solutions, inspiration, and other narratives bearing constructive implications (Bro, 2018, p. 3).

Starting from 2012, CJ started to formulate its own criteria and suggest the idea of embedding constructive news approaches in journalism practice. Furthermore, steps were taken to make CJ a part of the journalism curriculum. For instance, Aarhus University in Denmark established an Independent Institute named Constructive Institute to promote positive media News. Moreover, several universities around the globe included subjects to go constructive in the journalism curriculum. For example, Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands, established a Chair Professor of CJ in the journalism department. Multiple academic and professional conferences on CJ are regularly arranged with the support of these networks (Hautakangas & Ahva 2018b, p. 657). In his later publication, *Constructive News*, Haagerup (2014) underscores the imperative for journalists to strike a balance in their reporting, emphasizing their duty to the public. He suggests, "If we only look for problems, we leave people in the dark" (p. 1). Furthermore, Haagerup offers a critique of the entrenched news criteria, particularly highlighting the adage "If it bleeds, it leads." He characterizes this as a cynical maxim prevalent in the editorial ethos of American local news media, suggesting it perpetuates a fallacy that sensationalism is the exclusive path to journalistic success (Haagerup, 2014, p. 29). The journalist who coined the term 'constructive Journalism' Ulrik Haagerup, was profoundly influenced by a recurring and pressing question that ultimately led him to explore the paradigm of constructive journalism. The question, "Why are you always so negative?", is one that resonates frequently within journalistic circles. Whether in formal conferences or casual congregations of journalists, newspaper editors, publishers, and other media professionals, this query often emerges as a topic of discussion. Yet, the responses to this question, more often than not, lack depth and introspection. A common retort is, "We are not negative; we are merely fulfilling our roles as journalists." Such a response, while seemingly dismissive, is often accompanied by extensive justifications. The underlying sentiment expressed is that the realm of journalism is not meant to be a repository of comforting narratives or fairy tales. Instead, it is a domain where the stark realities of the world are confronted, analyzed, and disseminated with rigorous objectivity and impartiality (Haagerup, 2014, p. 8).

Haagerup established the first Constructive Journalism Institute in 2017 and was highly concerned about the power and influence of the media power on society. He resolved to bring a

positive mindset to news reporting, editing, news broadcasting, publishing houses, and the overall media industry for more accommodative politics and a harmonious future for the ordinary person worldwide. Although sensationalism and fiction have been part of the press media since the early ages, journalism's power prevailed with two historical events. The Watergate scandal and the Pentagon Papers Leak during the 1970s changed the news reporting paradigm. At that time, reporting these events was considered the pinnacle of journalism. It was unanimously agreed that trustworthy journalism should be negative and critical of events (Hermans & Gyldensted, 2018; Feldstein, 2006). Starting with the Watergate scandal coverage, the general perception prevailed that "critical reporting" was excellent. However, over time, critical reporting transformed into "critical attitude reporting" and completely overshadowed "critical scrutiny reporting" (McIntyre & Gyldensted, 2018, p. 3). Alternatively, the reporting focused on the truth, comprehensive investigation, impartiality, neutrality, and uprightness has lost its position in mainstream journalism. Journalists have started giving prime importance to non-critical views, creating and promoting biased stereotypes, and what he and she said investigative styles (Stephens, 2014). In an endeavor to delve deeper into the pervasive negativity in journalism, Jackson (2019) embarked on a study to discern the reasons behind the human proclivity towards unfavorable news over positive narratives. Her findings suggest that this inclination might have evolutionary roots. Drawing from anthropological perspectives, Jackson posits that our tribal forebears depended on vigilant sentinels who would station themselves on elevated terrains, vigilantly monitoring for impending threats. These sentinels would then alert the tribe, allowing them ample time to strategize and prepare. Such alerts would invariably trigger the primal "Fight or Flight" response, a physiological reaction that floods the body with adrenaline, priming it for immediate action. This ancient mechanism, Jackson argues, might still influence our contemporary gravitation towards negative news, as it taps into deep-seated survival instincts (Jackson, 2019).

Sigmon (2016) proved through studies that there is always a good way to report bad news. However, an analysis in Denmark to get public views about news content in the country in 2011, showed that most respondents were disappointed with the conventional news content, and nearly 75% expressed exhaustion watching politicians quarrel on public and private TV channels. Around 50% of respondents replied that the news programs' prime focus is broadcasting information about divergences and conflicts. Nearly 83% suggested that media

outlets should focus more on the issues faced by societies worldwide and transmit more content about solutions to these issues. The striking facts in the survey encouraged Haagerup to think out-of-the-box. He suggested that the traditional news preparing and presenting criteria cannot solve the modern world's problems. He proposed the new idea of Constructive news for a more inclusive and socially acceptable medium to fulfill the public's information needs. He defended the transformation by quoting Albert Einstein's saying: "Without changing our pattern of thought, we will not be able to solve the problems we created with our current pattern of thought" (Haagerup, 2014, p. 23). He also quoted Steve Jobs, who referred to a discussion with his biography author Walter Isaacson, describing his view about the News industry: "The axis is constructive-destructive" (Haagerup, 2014, p. 11).

Reporting on problems without reporting progress alongside creates a lack of context, an imbalance, and an excess where adverse News reporting has moved from being helpful to becoming harmful (Jackson, 2019). News organizations that pride themselves on shining a light on the world's ills have contributed to them as no one is shining a light on them . Gyldensted (2015) narrates in the prologue to her book *"From Mirrors to Movers"*: "Five Elements of Positive Psychology in Constructive Journalism; Expand the Mind, Storm the Brain, Change the Question, Tell it Right and Move the World" (Gyldensted, 2015, p. 14). The mindset of this positive psychological ground is also viewed by McIntyre & Gyldensted (2017) as a base for CJ to employ positive psychology approaches to news preparation and production to make useful, truthful, and appealing coverage while holding to journalism's core functions. They identified multiple gatekeepers between truthful information and the audience and suggested a mindset change to access truthful information. The gatekeepers identified are (McIntyre & Gyldensted, 2017):

1. The person present at the point of an event sees this event selectively; some things are noticed, and others go unnoticed.
2. The reporters receive the information from the primary source (s). They decide to select parts of the facts and emphasize a few in making the story.
3. The editors get the stories from the reporter and make a decision to trim, augment, rewrite, or let them go as is.

4. The stories are collected for broadcasting on channels. Now the presentation of stories on the big screen is now at the mercy of the broadcaster. Based on the channel's policy, it is stopped or presented to the audience.

5. If the story goes overseas, other gatekeepers will decide if it is worth their time, regardless of whether it is broadcast or printed (Hermans & Gyldensted, 2018., p. 37-38). These previously mentioned gatekeepers' mindsets appear as constraints to applying ethical codes to align the new reporting with the social obligation of media outlets.

Constructive journalism, according to its gurus such as Gyldensted (2015) suggest that news reporting should borrow positive psychology from behavioral sciences to overcome the negative bias in the reporting and present a more truthful picture of the events to the world. This suggested approach will contribute to the public's well-being by inciting substantial positive emotions, such as aspiration and positivity, and subsiding negative emotions, such as anxiety and irritation (Fredrickson, 2001). Furthermore, Hermans & Gyldensted (2018) argued that constructive journalism prompts individuals to engage with their surroundings and improves participation in social activities. Moreover, CJ avoids broadcasting outrageous and immoderate opinions, stories leading to conflicts, and unrealistic problems. By outcasting negative journalism, CJ provides space for positive elements in reporting. For instance, with CJ approach, the journalist comprehensively investigates the context of events, promptly observes the actual developments of the events, and gathers several approaches to solutions to the event. Furthermore, CJ reaches out to different stakeholders to broadcast a more substantial and engrossing progress of the events and reminds the authorities of their responsibility to come forward and contribute (Hermans & Gyldensted, 2018).

The excess of negativity is considered by some scholars as a bias within the news created an erroneous assessment of risk leading individuals to deem the world more precarious than reality. The negativity bias causes reduced enthusiasm in the audiences, promotes distress, elevates the sentiments of being useless, incites individuals to be disrespectful and aggressive in dealing with others, and makes people less sensitive to positive information. Furthermore, the negative bias deludes individuals so much that they do not care about their surroundings and people in their social lives (Jackson, 2019). Jackson further referred to the Educator and Historian C. John Sommervilles' idea: "The news is not, in fact, a reflection of everything that goes on in the world. It is a reflection of everything that goes wrong in the world." Moreover, she

explained her views about a balance in journalism by referring to Richard Boyatzis's opinion: "You need a negative focus to survive, but a positive focus to thrive" (Jackson, 2019, pp. 86, 153). The positive impact of CJ is not only on individuals but transcends beyond it to society. Peter Bro researched the impact of CJ on society. Bro (2018) concluded that CJ positively impacts society. He argued that news prepared and broadcasted with the CJ approach encourages audiences to participate in positive activities, stimulates them to be more social, and strives to explore solutions to problems faced at the individual or societal level. He strongly advocated that CJ nurtures a problem-solving attitude in the audiences and helps them be more focused and future-oriented (Bro, 2018). Ulrik Haagerup and Catherine Gyldensted are enthusiastic promoters of the current CJ movement. They have carefully drafted guidelines of CJ for the journalist and press industry. The guidelines include six vital elements in CJ according to Mast et al. (2018):

1. preparing news to promote solutions rather than focus on problems.
2. inclining the audience to strive for a better future.
3. giving space to different opinions and criticism.
4. promoting harmony among the audience.
5. encouraging the audience to express themselves, providing a full context.
6. broadcast the comprehensive aspects of the news.

Although prominent journalists and the audience both widely admire CJ. It remains imperative to distinguish between CJ and the phenomena of "post-truth" and propaganda. Several professionals in the field express reservations about incorporating a CJ-oriented positive framework into news reporting. A prevalent critique posits that constructive journalism is synonymous with merely presenting positive news. Yet, Professor Liesbeth Hermans of the Constructive Institute refutes this notion. In a scholarly article, she emphasizes that CJ prompts journalists to transcend the traditional issue and conflict-driven narratives, urging them to investigate alternative perspectives that encompass solutions, future prospects, and action-oriented methodologies (Hermans, 2022).

Additionally, Jackson (2019) underscored the significance of integrating both problem-focused and solutions-focused approaches in journalism. Contrary to the prevailing notion of synchronizing these methodologies, she dismissed the need to prioritize one over the other. Instead, Jackson posited that the coexistence of both strategies is paramount for the

sustenance and vitality of journalism and the broader media landscape. Nevertheless, she emphasized the imperative of meticulously analyzing past successes and failures. Such an examination, she contends, facilitates a more nuanced understanding of the world, thereby informing efforts to forge a more promising future (Jackson, 2019). Therefore, the primary duty of journalists is to portray the world honestly. In the realm of journalism, adherence to the profession's core values is imperative for the investigation and dissemination of authentic and factual information, the crafting of unbiased reports, and the honest communication with audiences. This commitment also encompasses the facilitation of a public platform for critique and the enthusiastic integration of innovative and beneficial Constructive Techniques (CT). Kovach and Rosenstiel (2014) emphasize the significance of these principles in journalism. The implementation of CT in journalistic practices culminates in the emergence of "Rigorous Journalism (RJ)," distinguished by its incorporation of the key elements of Constructive Journalism (CJ) and "Solutions Journalism (SJ). While SJ views solutions as a significant aspect of journalistic reporting, RJ integrates problem-solving into traditional journalistic approaches to news coverage. In this context, the purpose of CJ is not merely to highlight problems but to provide a spectrum of actionable solutions. This approach aligns with the broader objectives of both CJ and SJ, which collectively aim to expand journalists' perspectives, encouraging them to spotlight solutions that have the potential to effectuate positive societal transformations. Aitamurto & Varma (2018) further elucidate this perspective, underscoring the pivotal role of these concepts in shaping modern journalism. The introduction of the term "constructive journalism" has invariably led to a pertinent inquiry: does it not simply equate to proficient journalism? Is there a genuine necessity to introduce a fresh nomenclature within the journalistic discourse? Detractors argue that championing the concept of CJ inadvertently establishes a novel benchmark for normative practices in the realm of journalism. Given that a foundational objective of journalism is to propel society onward, the question arises: who possesses the prerogative to delineate this trajectory?

1.1.2. Pillars of Constructive Journalism

In the past decade, researchers and professionals in journalism tried to define guidelines and set pillars for a comprehensive CJ method. Larsen (2019), argued that negative and positive sentiments influence audiences, and the journalist must consider their impacts. Assessing the

impact, the reporter must present positive emotions while giving information about issues and disastrous situations. His primary objective should be the welfare of the audience, along with good sentiments for their financial, health, and safety improvements. Research shows audiences react positively toward affirmative opinions even in climatic circumstances (Larsen, 2019). Furthermore, the constructive narrative has a motivating impact on positive practical activities in society. The journalist can use media power to incite emotions by showing empathy and personifying the situation, positively impacting the situation (Maier et al., 2016). A sincere promoter of modern constructive journalism, Ulrik Haagerup, deeply analyzed the media industry and pointed out four historical tendencies commonly practiced in media outlets during the 1970s and still applied to the media industry (Haagerup, 2014). The media tendencies that still govern the media industry according to him are;

1. Initially, news became commercialized. During the 60s and early 70s, tabloid media celebrities' primary focus was sex, crime, sports, and scandals.
2. The anti-authority riot movement followed the commercialization in the late 60s. This was when the media challenged the authority and became a significant power to put the state in an accountable position to the general public and presented the reservations of social injustice to the concerned authorities.
3. There was a golden age of journalism when journalists made strenuous efforts to investigate and include proof in reporting stories. For instance, during the Watergate scandal, the journalist reported proof in the news and showed that the political powers could not be trusted. Similarly, The New York Times presented complete stories of the Pentagon papers.

However, the current trends in newsrooms have become too closely associated with the funding of media, public relations, industry, political parties, and interest groups (Haagerup, 2014, p. 12). After articulating this background, Haagerup clarified that the news audience is capricious and curious simultaneously. Furthermore, they are changing continuously. The audience is deeply interested in the relevant news along with the context and is peculiar about the reason behind that and inquires about certain behaviors of individuals. CJ is an innovative method of focusing on society's problems with stimulating narratives exploring solutions and determinations rather than concentrating only on problems and suffering. CJ replies to the query of why the quality of public media is relevant to society. With engaging news, CJ gives a clear purpose to society (Haagerup, 2014). In a famous book, "*From Mirrors to Movers: Five*

Elements of Positive Psychology in Constructive Journalism", Cathrine Gyldensted argued that CJ initiated building the new CJs pillars by altering the journalists' questions and urging the journalists to behave as a "Detective, Anthropologists, a Future Researchers or a Captain's" approach. The detective mindset gives attention to the pretext of the issue and inquires about past developments. The journalists inquire with a focus on the possible motive of the issue. At this point, they follow the classical inquiries of journalists: "When, What, Where, Who, Why, and How?" After this, they adopt the role of an anthropologist and ask repetitive questions to explore the relations, patterns, different positions, and narratives. These are more complicated than a detective's inquiries. They ask questions such as "What was vital to X and Y? What is your opinion about...? What were your justifications for...? Over time, what has altered? How did it influence anyone? Yourself? How did you manage the situation?" (Gyldensted, 2015, p. 99) In the realm of journalistic inquiry, the questions stemming from the Future Researcher mindset are intricately tied to the prospective implications of an issue on both individual and societal scales. These inquiries are inherently contemplative, encompassing a range of scenarios, potential alternatives, and hypotheticals. Such questions are posed with the intent to catalyze societal change or mobilization. Examples include: "Given the current context, what course of action would you suggest for A? In your assessment, what are the potential ramifications of...? How might this benefit both individuals and society at large? What measures are essential to achieve the desired outcomes?" Depending on the context, these questions can be directive, introspective, galvanizing, and can even set a specific agenda. Subsequently, questions rooted in the Captain's mindset are strategically oriented, often with a reactive undertone. Their primary purpose is to instill a sense of accountability within the audience. Such questions might include: "In light of the challenges presented, what solutions and preventive measures do you propose? How can similar incidents be averted in the future? Which strategies require modification? Who undertook specific actions, and when? Will there be opportunities for others to explore alternative approaches? When is the anticipated completion date?" These questions not only seek answers but also prompt introspection and proactive thinking.

In a contribution to the field, Professor Karl Tomm, a distinguished Canadian psychiatrist, formulated a structured guideline for journalists, specifically addressing the art of question-asking in the context of potential issues. Tomm's framework is predicated on four previously delineated roles, recommending a sequential approach: commencing with the

Detective mindset, transitioning to the Anthropologist, then the Future Researcher, and culminating with the Captain's perspective. He further emphasized the importance of integrating the conventional journalistic inquiries, commonly referred to as "the five Ws: who, what, where, why, and when," by introducing an innovative sixth dimension: "What now?" (Gyldensted, 2015, p. 100). This augmentation to the standard journalistic repertoire is increasingly recognized as a hallmark of contemporary journalism. Such a pioneering methodology redirects the focus from mere issues and conflicts, offering audiences a more authentic representation (Beckett & Deuze, 2016). The primary impetus behind this novel approach is to fortify the trust between media entities and their audiences, fostering more profound engagements and dialogues (Wenzel et al., 2017).

The Windesheim University of Applied Sciences' Journalism Department, situated in The Netherlands, pioneered a significant advancement in the field of Constructive Journalism (CJ) in 2016. They introduced a set of guidelines, termed the "six constructive principles of journalism," which are as follows:

- 1- **Solutions-Oriented Reporting:** Journalists are encouraged to not only highlight problems but also to incorporate potential solutions, thereby providing a more holistic narrative.
- 2- **Future Orientation:** Beyond the conventional journalistic inquiries (who, where, what, how, why), there is an emphasis on the forward-looking question: "What now?"
- 3- **Inclusiveness and Diversity:** It is imperative to ensure that diverse perspectives and opinions are represented when framing news narratives, promoting a comprehensive understanding of the issue at hand.
- 4- **Empowerment:** The narrative should actively involve those directly affected by the issue, as well as experts in the field. By providing them a platform, journalists can facilitate a deeper understanding of the root causes, implications, and potential alternative solutions.
- 5- **Contextual Reporting:** Rather than merely reporting on issues, journalists should aim to provide a comprehensive context. This can be achieved by systematically framing the news and offering a visual representation, backed by verifiable data, to provide a more in-depth understanding of the issue's broader context.
- 6- **Audience Engagement and Empowerment:** The process of news reporting should be collaborative, integrating inputs and viewpoints from the general public. This co-creation approach fosters a more inclusive and participatory media environment. Hermans & Gyldensted

(2018) emphasize that these principles underscore the pivotal role journalists play in objectively molding societal perceptions. Furthermore, Couldry & Hepp (2017) contend that the essence of constructive journalism lies in its capacity to shape social constructs in an informed and balanced manner.

Constructive journalism, with its commitment to presenting solutions and charting positive paths forward, integrates principles from behavioral science to establish an evidence-based theoretical framework (McIntyre & Gyldensted, 2017). This approach introduces a future-oriented perspective, adding a novel layer to conventional news reporting by probing into prospective outcomes. This is achieved by supplementing the traditional journalistic inquiries – "what, where, why, when, how, and who" – with the forward-looking question: "What now?". However, integrating this future-oriented dimension presents challenges. It does not seamlessly fit within the paradigm of rapid news dissemination, as the depth and deliberation required by CJ approach are often at odds with the business model of fast-paced journalism (Hermans & Drok, 2018, p. 10). Yet, the strength of the CJ model lies in its potential to elicit insightful reactions and actionable strategies from interviewees, paving the way for tangible solutions. McIntyre & Gyldensted (2018) categorize the questions employed in this model into three distinct types:

Basic Investigative Questions: These address the fundamental aspects of an event or issue, inquiring into the specifics of "who did what, where, when, and why?" Such questions aim to uncover the tangible facets of a situation.

Rounded Questions: These delve deeper into the personal and broader implications of an event or issue, asking questions like "how did this affect you or others?" or "what is your interpretation of A or B?"

Reflexive Questions: In this category, the interviewer introduces a fresh perspective on a topic, prompting the interviewee to reflect and potentially reconsider their stance or understanding. Indeed, Constructive Journalism represents a holistic and contemplative method of news reporting, focusing on solutions, future possibilities, and in-depth comprehension. This approach is encapsulated in the "Solutions Journalism Toolkit," as articulated by Sarika & Martin (2015), which identifies three foundational elements that are crucial to solutions journalism, a significant aspect of constructive journalism. These elements are::

Highlighting Positive Deviations: Journalists are encouraged to spotlight positive outliers or narratives that demonstrate progress, leading to constructive news segments. Taking the example of gun control, a news piece might highlight a particular region or state that has successfully implemented gun control measures. By showcasing success stories, it challenges the notion of inevitability and diminishes the rationale for failure elsewhere.

Data-Driven Reporting: Merely spotlighting a commendable initiative or idea is insufficient in journalism. A robust news story necessitates the backing of verifiable data, which should be transparently referenced within the narrative.

Reframing Conflict: In solutions journalism, the conflict isn't typically between individuals or political entities. Rather, the tension is embedded in the challenges faced. The narrative emphasizes how protagonists grapple with and surmount complex issues that stump others. The emphasis is on their strategies, resilience, and tenacity in navigating these challenges. Consequently, the pillars of constructive journalism are inherently optimistic, solution-centric, and forward-looking, with the overarching goal of galvanizing society towards positive change. This ethos aligns with the principles of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and journalistic Codes of Ethics, suggesting a potential synergy between these domains. By integrating these principles, journalism can evolve to not only inform but also inspire and catalyze societal advancement.

1.2. Debating the concept of constructive journalism

Incorporating constructive elements into journalistic methodologies has engendered scholarly discourse contrasting new journalistic paradigms—namely, advocacy journalism and activism journalism—with constructive journalism. The conflation between constructive journalism and activism has spurred scholars to delineate the characteristics of each, drawing upon the historical function of journalism at both individual and societal strata (Frohmann, 2007). Central to the tenets of both advocacy and activist journalism is not merely the elucidation of the origins and ramifications of societal issues, but also the exploration of potential resolutions (Dixit, 2010). Research undertaken by Ibrahim & Nayan underscored the positive societal ramifications stemming from journalistic endeavors rooted in the advocacy paradigm (Ibrahim & Nayan, 2018). Yet, the demarcation between advocacy and traditional journalism remains a

subject of ongoing scholarly debate, particularly concerning journalism's role and influence within societal constructs (Pitt & Green-Barber, 2017). Historically, journalists have anchored their professional ethos in the impartial dissemination of information, consciously eschewing any impetus to effect societal change, endorse political agendas, or sway public perceptions on pertinent issues (Hanitzsch, 2011). Nonetheless, detractors of conventional journalistic practices contend that journalists, even under the guise of impartiality, inevitably infuse their narratives with personal biases, thereby influencing societal perceptions. Such critiques posit that journalists ought to transparently acknowledge and address critiques when they inadvertently or overtly endorse particular values or perspectives (Powers, 2018). In a parallel vein, numerous scholars advocate that those engaged in constructive journalism should embrace the advocacy model, ensuring content analysis that furnishes readers with actionable, positive, and constructive insights (Dyer, 2022).

The Solution Journalism Network (SJN) conducted a survey amongst its members to ascertain whether the Constructive Journalism (CJ) paradigm accommodates solutions-oriented journalism. A significant 82% of the participants affirmed that solutions-based journalism is encompassed within the CJ framework. Nonetheless, adherents of the SJN methodology are advised to present audiences with a spectrum of potential solutions, refraining from endorsing or advocating for a singular resolution to a given issue. Conversely, a subset of respondents posited that, contingent upon specific contexts, journalists might be justified in championing particular solutions (Powers & Curry, 2019). Fisher (2016) contends that journalists are inextricably linked to advocacy. He asserts that, based on prevailing circumstances, a journalist might subtly hint at a specific solution or overtly endorse one. Fisher further draws parallels between journalism and public relations, suggesting that whether intentional or inadvertent, the information relayed by a journalist can shape specific narratives and viewpoints. Consequently, he posits that journalists invariably engage in advocacy, be it to a pronounced or minimal degree.

Advocates of CJ tread carefully in the ongoing discourse contrasting advocacy with construction. Central to CJ's ethos is the acknowledgment of the imperative to address enduring societal challenges. Yet, those championing this journalistic approach frequently demur from overtly endorsing social welfare initiatives, maintaining that their role is to objectively chronicle potential solutions rather than championing them. Such a strategic stance is designed to demarcate CJ from advocacy, anchoring CJ firmly within journalism's conventional oversight

function (Aitamurto & Varma, 2018). However, the boundary delineating mere reporting from advocacy remains a contentious issue within the realm of journalism studies. Proponents of pure reporting posit that the hallmark of journalism lies in its neutrality, which distinguishes it from advocacy. In contrast, critical theorists, drawing from works like Waisbord (2008) and Fisher (2016), contend that journalism is intrinsically intertwined with strategic communication. Ostertag's scholarship offers a nuanced perspective, suggesting that activist journalism serves as a conduit for social movements and disenfranchised communities, enabling them to articulate their grievances and aspirations while marshaling support for specific political objectives. Both public and activist journalism, while occasionally assuming roles that are both facilitative and revolutionary, contribute constructively to societal discourse. However, Ostertag underscores that proffering solutions is not the quintessential feature of either public or activist journalism (Ostertag, 2007).

Proponents of CJ meticulously distance themselves from overtly endorsing social welfare initiatives, emphasizing their commitment to impartially documenting solutions, devoid of any biases or value-driven influences. Nonetheless, they concede that the inherent power of journalism in shaping public agendas can inadvertently bestow legitimacy upon, and normalize, the solutions spotlighted in media narratives, thus steering public discourse (Aitamurto & Varma, 2018). While championing the ethos of constructive influence and aspiring to ameliorate societal conditions via the dissemination of actionable solutions, both journalistic paradigms—Solution Journalism (SJ) and CJ—strategically demarcate themselves from other journalistic genres with congruent objectives, such as public journalism, advocacy journalism, and civic journalism (Curry, & Hammonds, 2014). In doing so, they reiterate their allegiance to impartial reporting, even as they are guided by overarching principles of societal betterment and optimism. The evolving discourse surrounding SJ and CJ underscores a paradigmatic shift in journalism's role. Historically perceived as a predominantly passive watchdog, journalism is increasingly being reconceptualized as an active, constructive participant in societal dynamics. Krüger encapsulates this transformation by coining the term "Change-Agent" to describe journalism's emergent role as a proactive societal catalyst, rather than a mere passive chronicler (Krüger, 2017, p. 403). However, despite the emphasis on constructive outcomes, proponents of SJ and CJ might exhibit hesitancy in fully embracing this metamorphosis from passive observation to active involvement (Aitamurto & Varma, 2018). In contrast, when someone becomes actively supportive of a

particular notion, it is frequently referred to as propaganda. However, the perception of propaganda varies substantially among different people. Some regard it as a Machiavellian strategy, where powerful and unscrupulous political groups manipulate symbols in a deceitful and unethical manner. For these critics, propaganda is inherently immoral, viewed as an evil instrument of manipulation. Conversely, others see propaganda as an unavoidable aspect of any technologically driven culture. In this view, propaganda is considered a morally neutral tool, capable of serving various purposes, not all of which are negative. The term "propaganda" is often employed in a pejorative sense, used to undermine ideas or information from sources perceived as suspicious or having dubious motives. This selective use of the term indicates a double standard in the labeling of similar practices, varying according to the user's identity (Black & Roberts, 2022).

1.3. Types of constructive journalism

McIntyre & Sobel (2017) conceptualize Constructive Journalism (CJ) as an overarching term that subsumes various forms of alternative journalism, including peace, public, and activist journalism. These alternative journalistic paradigms, while distinct in their approaches, share a common lineage with mainstream media, championing the principles of impartiality and the watchdog role of journalism. For instance, public journalism fosters a symbiotic relationship between journalists, society, and local communities. Within this framework, communities perceive journalists as invaluable allies, crediting them for highlighting their concerns without succumbing to conflicts of interest (Rosen, 2001). In a similar vein, peace journalism offers a transformative lens through which conflicts are reported. Rather than sensationalizing violence or framing conflicts within the binary of victory and defeat, peace journalism emphasizes narratives of reconciliation and underscores the human toll of warfare (Lynch & McGoldrick, 2005). Bro (2018) postulates that the diverse manifestations of CJ are deeply rooted in foundational journalistic ethics, social corporate responsibility (SCR), and professional values. Bro further posits that among the various iterations of the CJ paradigm, activist journalism, which emerged in the previous century, has been the most efficacious in effecting social change. A myriad of movements have emerged over the years, each seeking to influence and redefine the trajectory of mainstream journalism. These include engaged journalism, conciliatory journalism,

slow journalism, networked journalism, interactive journalism, citizen-based journalism, participatory journalism, and care journalism (Hermans & Drok, 2018). Each of these movements has played a pivotal role in shaping the broader landscape of journalism. While some have honed in on specific facets of the journalistic enterprise, others have endeavored to holistically enhance the profession. Certain journalistic movements have been particularly instrumental in galvanizing public action. For instance, civic journalism, also referred to as public journalism, catalyzed societal movements in the United States during the late 1980s (Heikkilä et al., 2010). This form of journalism seeks to bolster the nexus between professional journalists and the broader populace, as well as between the public and their elected representatives. Waisbord (2013) posits that the philosophical underpinnings of civic journalism are rooted in communitarian theory. This theory posits that journalists are not detached observers but integral members of the communities they serve. As such, they ought to engage in dialogues and exchanges with their fellow community members, thereby facilitating societal advancement. Hermans & Drok (2018) posit that dialogues and discussions are the bedrock upon which democratic societies are built. Within the journalistic sphere, the principles of civic journalism have been assimilated into the broader CJ framework, as highlighted by authors like Haagerup (2017) and Gyldensted (2015). The ethos of civic journalism resonates with the objectives of CJ, both emphasizing public-centric reporting and underscoring the social responsibility incumbent upon journalists. Thus, CJ, akin to civic journalism, promotes a public-centric approach, solution-driven narratives, and actively solicits feedback from the citizenry.

CJ's overarching aim is to educate the public about their civic rights and responsibilities, both in their public and private spheres (Costera Meijer & Bijleveld, 2016).

Constructive Journalism amalgamates various journalistic paradigms under a singular conceptual umbrella, recognizing the intrinsic value of each:

Public-Oriented Approach: Journalists are envisioned not as aloof observers but as deeply embedded within the communities they serve. This entails actively soliciting public perspectives on pressing issues, engaging with diverse stakeholders for a multifaceted understanding, co-creating narratives with those directly affected, fostering public debates, and comprehending the values, interests, sentiments, and opinions of the populace.

Solution-Oriented Approach: Beyond merely spotlighting problems, journalists are tasked with highlighting potential solutions. This involves elucidating both readily available and more intricate, yet feasible, solutions to societal challenges.

Action-Oriented Journalism: This approach amplifies the role of journalism, empowering the public to proactively address their challenges and sculpt a more harmonious society. Often termed "future-oriented journalism", it transcends the confines of breaking news, delving into the myriad possibilities that lie beyond immediate events (Hermans & Drok, 2018).

Activist Journalism: Here, journalists lay the groundwork for social movements, often aligning with marginalized communities to amplify their concerns and mobilize support, be it societal or political (Ostertag, 2007).

Peace Journalism: This form of journalism seeks to engender constructive outcomes, especially in regions rife with conflict (Hoffmann & Hawkins, 2015, p. 66). As a cornerstone of CJ, peace journalism eschews narratives centered on warfare, violence, or binary outcomes like victory or defeat. Instead, it accentuates reconciliation and is intrinsically solution-driven, as articulated by Krüger (2017, p. 406). In summation, Constructive Journalism is a holistic framework that integrates diverse journalistic approaches, each contributing uniquely to the overarching goal of fostering a more informed, engaged, and harmonious society.

From traditional media houses to burgeoning new media start-ups, various forms of CJ have been adopted in news reporting across regions like the European Union, the United States, and Scandinavian countries. A notable study indicates that 462 news outlets affiliated with the US-based Solutions Journalism Network have adopted a solutions-centric approach. Esteemed publications such as The New York Times, with its 'Fixes' column, exemplify this trend. The BBC World Service has also ventured into "Solutions-Focused Journalism." In a significant shift, the Dutch National Newspaper Trouw, in 2017, proclaimed its commitment to a future-centric and optimistic editorial stance (Hermans & Gyldensted, 2018). These evolutions in journalism can be conceptualized as reformative projects, as articulated by Carpentier (2005). They have set the stage for modern-day constructive journalism and its pursuit of societal advancement. Concurrently, the public journalism movement, which underscores the primacy of reporting on public life, has gained traction. In an era where some pundits are predicting the demise of journalism, there's a renewed optimism about its future as a public service (Iggers, 2018). Historically, each variant of CJ has been a product of specific movements that spurred growth in

that particular journalistic approach. The resultant focus is evident in contemporary media coverage. For instance, the public-oriented approach delves into the daily lives of individuals, capturing their habits, routines, and challenges. This perspective bestows upon journalism a renewed mandate to chronicle events, solutions, and future trajectories (Meijer, 2012). By the mid-2010s, movements championing constructive and solutions journalism emerged. These approaches prioritize positive narratives over conflict-centric reporting. Initially spearheaded by professional bodies and journalists, the academic and research communities soon joined the fray. By December 2020, academic contributions to this field were substantial, with 23 theses/dissertations and 73 research articles dedicated to solutions and constructive journalism published in premier journals and conferences (Lough & McIntyre, 2021).

This momentum in constructive journalism has birthed specialized entities. For instance, The Constructive Journalism Project, founded in London in 2014 by Sean Dagan Wood and Danielle Bat, has global aspirations. Journalists worldwide attend its training workshops. A notable output from this project is Jodie Jackson's book, which guides the public in refining their media consumption habits (Jackson, 2019). In 2015, Cathrine Gyldensted penned a book on CJ and subsequently co-founded the CJ Network in 2017, fostering collaboration and promoting the philosophy of CJ (Gyldensted, 2015). She also pioneered a conference dedicated to constructive journalism in December 2016. Additionally, the Constructive Institute at Aarhus University was established by Haagerup in 2017. This institute offers an annual fellowship for media professionals and has been instrumental in promoting CJ practices globally (Lough & McIntyre, 2021). Furthermore, the Solutions Journalism Network (SJN), founded in 2013 by journalists Tina Rosenberg, David Bornstein, and Courtney Martin, has been pivotal. Before SJN's inception, its founders employed diverse methodologies to spotlight societal challenges. SJN now conducts workshops, provides funding to bolster journalism, and offers online training for educators, journalists, and other stakeholders (Powers & Curry, 2019). In essence, the landscape of journalism is undergoing a transformative shift, with a growing emphasis on constructive, solutions-oriented approaches that aim to effect positive societal change.

1.4. Global good practices of constructive journalism

In this section of the research, we will embark on a thorough exploration of both academic literature and documented case studies pertaining to Constructive Journalism (CJ) and Solution Journalism. The primary aim is to scrutinize the practical applications of these journalistic approaches, with a specific focus on their real-world impact and the feedback received from the societies where they have been implemented. The approach will involve a multi-faceted analysis:

Academic Research Review: This will entail a comprehensive examination of scholarly articles, research papers, and academic texts that discuss CJ and Solution Journalism. The focus will be on studies that explore the theoretical foundations of these approaches, their evolution, and their implications for journalism as a practice. This review will provide a solid academic grounding for understanding the principles and objectives of CJ and Solution Journalism.

Case Study Analysis: A key component will be the analysis of a range of case studies from different geographical and socio-political contexts. These case studies will be selected based on their relevance and the extent to which they exemplify the principles of CJ and Solution Journalism in practice. The analysis will consider various factors such as the nature of the issues covered, the methodologies employed, the challenges faced, and the outcomes achieved.

Feedback and Impact Assessment: An integral part of this exploration will be assessing the feedback from the communities and societies where these journalistic endeavors have been applied. This will involve looking at audience reactions, engagement metrics, and any available data on the societal impact of these journalism practices. The goal is to gauge the effectiveness of CJ and Solution Journalism in fostering a more informed, engaged, and empowered public.

Comparative Analysis: The research will also include a comparative analysis to understand how the application and impact of CJ and Solution Journalism vary across different societies and cultures. This will help in identifying the factors that influence the success or challenges of these approaches in various settings. By navigating through academic research and practical case studies, this section aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how CJ and Solution Journalism are applied in real-world scenarios and their effectiveness in achieving their intended societal impacts. This exploration will be instrumental in assessing the feasibility and potential of applying these approaches in the context of the Arab countries of the Middle East.

1.4.1. Global Perspectives On Constructive Journalism And Audience Reception Analysis

Many news organizations from a variety of cultures and with varying degrees of press freedom have successfully implemented CJ in their reporting. For example, many media outlets, including The New York Times and the BBC World Service, started practicing the solutions approach in their work. The US-based Solutions Journalism Network (SJN) has identified 462 news organizations and began providing them with training and capacity building to encourage them to practice solutions journalism. The BBC World Service has also adopted a solution-focused journalism approach in its news stories. Additionally, the Dutch National Newspaper Trouw announced a shift in practice in 2017, emphasizing a future-oriented and hopeful focus as a guiding principle for their Newsroom (Hermans & Gyldensted, 2018). In Sweden, there is an alternative case where a media outlet aimed to integrate constructive journalism practices with the slogan ‘Kill your victims’. This phrase is written on a small sign by Ingrid Thornqvist, the head of Foreign news at the Swedish national TV station (SVT). The slogan does not harm real-life victims but symbolizes a desire to move away from standard narratives typically presented by journalists. Thornqvist intends to challenge the traditional portrayal of specific individuals, such as impoverished African women who are often depicted as passive victims of disasters and exploitation due to their lack of resources. By displaying the sign, Thornqvist encourages journalists to think differently and explore alternative perspectives beyond the usual narratives. The aim is to broaden the coverage of stories about Africa and remind journalists to approach their work with fresh perspectives and innovative approaches (Gyldensted, 2015, p. 17).

De Correspondent, a Dutch online News platform, has implemented a unique approach to News coverage by assigning correspondents focused explicitly on curiosity, progress, and innovation subjects. They believe that emphasizing these subjects will make their highly engaged members more inclined to participate actively in discussions and contribute to the platform's growth. De Correspondent has seen an increase in subscribers, whom they refer to as members, as they actively collaborate with the platform's reporters under the motto "From Breaking News to Breaking New." They strive to provide in-depth analysis of the mechanisms and structures behind societal issues rather than simply reporting on surface-level News. Another example of

constructive journalism is Positive News, a UK-based publication established in 1993. After a successful crowdfunding campaign, it relaunched in 2016 as a magazine and online platform. Positive news covers environmental and sustainability issues with a solutions-focused approach. They publish a mix of journalist-authored articles and sponsored content, allowing organizations to contribute positively to the media landscape. This study on Positive news highlights how constructive journalism can contribute to a sustainable future by focusing on solutions, reporting optimistically on sustainability, amplifying diverse voices, and offering alternative stories aligned with social desirability and cultural resonance. Sweden's National Television/SVT has also embraced constructive journalism practices. Erika Bjerstrom, a prominent journalist, transitioned from being an aggressive investigative reporter to adopting productive journalistic formats. SVT holds annual meetings for foreign News correspondents, camera crews, and administrative personnel, providing networking opportunities, workshops, and feedback sessions. These examples showcase the application of constructive journalism principles in different contexts, demonstrating its potential to engage audiences, promote positive narratives, and contribute to societal progress. Sweden's National Television/SVT has recognized the value of the positive approach to journalism, inspired by the UK's Positive news, and applied it in their context as a country known for having a free press. Based in Stockholm, SVT organizes an annual correspondents' meeting, gathering their foreign News correspondents, camera crews, and administrative staff for a week of networking, workshops, and feedback sessions. Among the talented correspondents is Erika Bjerstrom, a highly esteemed journalist in her 50s specializing in constructive journalistic formats. Bjerstrom's career began with an aggressive investigative approach, often seeing conspiracy in various situations, mainly when it involved large corporations seemingly working against the interests of ordinary individuals. She mentioned that she once had a black-and-white perspective, viewing companies as inherently deceptive. She reported on a potential risk of dioxin in ice cream, a toxin linked to cellulose used in paper manufacturing. The article, with the alarming headline 'Ice cream contains dioxin,' triggered widespread public concern and a drop in ice cream sales. However, the industry and experts criticized her reporting as sensationalist, a criticism that was well-founded; the actual risk of dioxin was minimal. This episode was a turning point for her, underscoring the profound influence and responsibility inherent in journalism" (Gyldensted, 2015, pp. 18-111).

A positive attitude can help journalists overcome biases and understand a situation more fully, rather than focusing on aggressive criticism. Gyldensted emphasized this point. The text suggests that news journalism can be improved by incorporating techniques from behavioral sciences, such as positive psychology, to address bias in journalists' portrayal of the world (Gyldensted, 2015). Research in neuroscience and behavioral studies suggests that positive mental states can profoundly impact individuals, similar to how sunlight affects the growth and development of plants. Just as plants thrive in the presence of the sun, positive information and a solutions-focused approach can benefit people. In a scholarly investigation by Fatima (2020), the utilization of constructive journalism in the context of crisis communication was scrutinized, with a particular emphasis on The New York Times' portrayal of the COVID-19 pandemic. The research disclosed that the newspaper's editorial approach to the COVID-19 crisis was chiefly characterized by constructive journalism. Notably, the analysis identified several salient constructive and adverse frames. The primary constructive frames encompassed "solution-oriented" and "mathematical" perspectives. In contrast, the most observable negative frames were categorized as "blame attribution," "consequences," and "conflict." Intriguingly, the study found that the "blame attribution" frame garnered more prominence compared to the "solidarity" frame, and the "denial" frame overshadowed the "concern" frame. Furthermore, the research underscored the dynamic nature of framing across various stages of the crisis, mirroring the fluctuating severity of the situation. Such findings underscore the imperative for adaptive journalistic coverage that can pivot its focus in response to emergent challenges (p. 2). For the identification of constructive frames, Fatima employed the theoretical framework proposed by Hermans and Gyldensted (2018), while the negative frames were extrapolated from preceding studies and incorporated into the analytical process.

The New York Times' approach underscores the potential of Constructive Journalism (CJ) as a foundational tenet for contemporary media practices. Nevertheless, it is imperative to recognize the inherent subjectivity in the application of constructive journalism, especially given the observed prevalence of blame and negativity during tumultuous times. In a separate scholarly investigation centered on the COVID-19 crisis, a cohort of 492 participants was exposed to various social issues, each accompanied by a series of images and headlines. The empirical evidence revealed that headlines with a constructive and helpful orientation elicited lower levels of anxiety and anger compared to their negative counterparts. Moreover, the restrained use of

graphic imagery was associated with reduced feelings of anger, fear, perceptions of COVID-19 risk, and anti-Chinese sentiments (Fatima, 2020). Notably, the emotions of rage and anxiety were identified as mediators in this relationship. Such results advocate for the potential benefits of CJ during crises and emphasize the need for deeper academic exploration into the visual components of news dissemination. Additionally, this research illuminates the ramifications of news consumption via social media platforms during emergencies, elucidating how specific elements of disseminated content, including headlines and imagery, can significantly shape public sentiment and reactions. The aforementioned results resonate with the theory of affective intelligence, addressing the pivotal concerns surrounding the impact of news and social media on public sentiment during crises. This research augments existing literature by accentuating the importance of information selection and prioritization, rather than merely concentrating on the mode of information presentation. Furthermore, it underscores the profound influence of a constructive orientation on audience responses to media narratives. In a comprehensive online survey conducted with 3,263 participants from the Netherlands, spanning ages 20 to 65, there was a discernible positive appraisal of constructive journalism. However, it was observed that certain constructive elements garnered more acclaim than others. The appreciation for constructive journalism exhibited variability, contingent upon factors such as age, educational pedigree, and the degree of interest in news. Such findings corroborate the notion that constructive journalism is progressively being embedded within journalistic paradigms, as posited by Herman & Gyldensted (2018).

The integration of constructive journalism (CJ) into media practices can yield discernible outcomes and foster narratives that prompt action. An empirical study encompassing 608 American adults posited that the formulation of journalistic content, when imbued with a solutions-driven perspective, holds the potential to not only benefit the media industry but also fortify democratic processes. Participants who engaged with solutions-oriented articles manifested heightened confidence in the fairness, veracity, precision, and thoroughness of the content. Delving deeper, this research introduced the notion of narrative transportation, delineated as the profound immersion and absorption of an individual within a narrative. The study postulated that this phenomenon of narrative transportation would act as a mediator, culminating in an amplified trust in solutions-oriented stories and a pronounced alignment with the beliefs articulated within the narrative (Thier, et al., 2019). In a parallel vein, evidence from

the United States underscores the favorable reception of solutions-centric journalism by audiences, emphasizing its actionable nature. An investigative endeavor undertaken at the University of Texas in 2014 sought to gauge the ramifications of constructive narratives on its readership. This study, which encompassed 755 participants, bifurcated them into two distinct cohorts. One group was presented with traditional articles delineating issues such as India's endemic poverty, the precarious housing situation in New York, and the challenges faced by children with psychiatric conditions. In contrast, the second group engaged with analogous stories, but these narratives culminated with a focus on plausible solutions. Notably, participants who delved into the solutions-oriented news exhibited heightened feelings of being informed, engaged, and displayed a keener interest in pursuing further readings on the subject, in stark contrast to their counterparts who engaged with non-solutions-based stories (Gyldensted, 2015).

Moreover, Hermans and Gyldensted (2019) undertook a comprehensive investigation into the public's reception of news. Their findings indicated a distinct preference among audiences for news that incorporates constructive elements. Similarly, Meier (2018) executed a parallel study in Germany, examining the effects of both positive and negative news narratives. Meier's conclusions underscored the significance of constructive sentiments in news, suggesting that they serve to counterbalance prevailing negative perceptions of the world. Importantly, audiences recognize and appreciate the constructive components that orient towards solutions, as these elements instill feelings of hope. On a broader scale, a predominant presence of constructive narratives in media coverage augments the public's perception of feasible solutions, fosters the emergence of role models, and stimulates emulation and active engagement. Hence, it can be concluded that CJ elements in the news reports create a new perception 'Journalists are moving the world; instead, they're not mirrors' (McIntyre & Gyldensted, 2018, p. 12). Strictly following the CJ practices enable journalists to move society by portraying a more realistic world frame. Moreover, it strengthens journalists' connection with the public.

Societies in general highly regard public oriented journalism, specifically its ethical, professional, and corporate social responsibility aspects (Atanasova, 2019; Hermans, & Gyldensted, 2018). Jodie Jackson also described these principles in her book *You Are What You Read* (Jackson, 2019). In her research, Jackson elucidated the ethical and social responsibility imperatives in modern journalism, advocating for their enhancement to positively influence societal outcomes. In a similar vein, Iggers (2018) concurred with Jackson's perspective, positing

that the ethical dimensions in journalism bear resemblance to those found in the legal and medical professions. Nonetheless, it is pivotal to recognize that journalism plays a unique role in molding societal values and shaping public opinion concerning the standards it ought to uphold. Jacquette, in his seminal work "Journalistic Ethics," emphasized the indispensable role of a free press in sustaining professional journalism. He asserts, "Journalism fulfills its responsibility to deliver true information in the public interest only to the extent that there is respect and protection for a free press" (Jacquette, 2006, p. 2). Building on this, Jacquette (2006) contends that the ethos of a free press fosters an environment conducive to the practice of professional journalism. He further posits that the sanctity of press freedom should be prioritized above the tenets of professional journalism. However, it is essential to consider alternative viewpoints and empirical data, which indicate that even in contexts where press freedom is curtailed, journalism—when adhering to ethical standards and corporate social responsibility—can still exert a profound societal influence.

1.4.2. Constructive Journalism Across Cultures: Implications and Opportunities in the Arab Region

Scholars found differences in applying CJ practices according to culture, press freedom, and each country's priorities. The journalism content was analyzed thoroughly in a research by Lough & McIntyre (2021) gathering of multiple studies representing 23 countries across several continents. The analysis indicated that a little over one-third of the articles 34% examined in the study had constructive or solutions-oriented journalism approaches in the context of the United States or North America, while just under one-third 29% focused on Europe. Furthermore, the study examined the presence of constructive / solutions journalism in Africa 5%, Asia 4%, and Latin America 1%. For a more realistic analysis, the study suggested increasing the research's scope, consistency, and conceptual rigor to advance constructive journalism. Specifically, it recommends expanding the international range beyond the United States and Europe, integrating more cross-national studies, defining solutions journalism as a form of constructive journalism, investigating audience effects and theorization, and utilizing the Journalistic Compass framework to contextualize different approaches while maintaining a focus on theory development (Bro, 2018). Moreover, to see the cultural differences in applying constructive journalism around the

world, a study by Sørensen (2020) looked into Journalists' use of constructive journalism by comparing this practice between Norway and Ethiopia. This study involved in-depth interviews with thirteen journalists from six media organizations in two countries (Norway and Ethiopia). The aim was to explore and compare how these companies and their cultures interpret and implement CJ practices. The result suggests that the organizations' environment influences the CJ practice. Furthermore, the similarities and differences in the approaches taken by the two media organizations also have an impact. Both organizations shared the goal of presenting news balanced, adopting a deliberate and less aggressive approach. The universal implications of CJ were evident, as the challenges faced in Ethiopia, for example, differed from those in Norway. In Ethiopia, solutions were focused on saving lives, while in Norway, they may take a different form—nonetheless, both media entities in the respective countries aimed to build trust and credibility with their audiences.

Multiple CJ approaches share a common objective: to achieve specific effects on the audience. These effects can be observed at different levels: on the micro-level, CJ aims to influence audiences' information and sentiments; on a medium-level, it seeks to enhance loyalty towards a media company; and on a macro-level, it aims to contribute to societal progress. A recent article discussed a comprehensive definition of constructive journalism. This article discusses two experiments investigating audience responses to German-language News and features presented in constructive and non-constructive formats. The results showed a range of insights. At the micro-level, constructive forms of journalism can counteract a pessimistic worldview by conveying a solution-oriented approach and instilling a sense of hope in the audience. On the macro level, the increased willingness to share constructive stories suggests that constructive reporting can enhance perceptions of possible solutions and inspire and motivate engagement. However, it is crucial to maintain a cautious approach and avoid overly idealizing problematic issues, as excessive positivity may lead to the perception of commercial or political influence in the constructive story. Striking a balance between highlighting hopeful prospects and maintaining critical distance is advisable (Meier, 2018).

In the context of media evolution in CJ application, the Rwandan paradigm serves as a quintessential illustration of the interplay between constructive journalism, political machinations, and the liberties of the press. A seminal study by McIntyre & Sobel (2018) delineated the shift from a journalism paradigm heavily tainted by political agendas to one that is

more constructive in nature. The dark annals of the 1994 Rwandan genocide witnessed certain media practitioners wielding their influence in a pernicious manner, disseminating animosity via state-sanctioned channels of hate media. Subsequent to this bleak period, Rwanda's media milieu has witnessed profound metamorphoses, catalyzing notable socio-economic progressions. Grounded in the tenets of social responsibility and framing theories, McIntyre & Sobel (2018) embarked on an empirical investigation, encompassing in-depth dialogues with Rwandan media professionals. This inquiry probed their perceptions of their extant roles and scrutinized the potential influence of constructive journalism in the nation's post-genocide rebuilding and resurgence. The empirical outcomes resonate with the axioms of the social responsibility theory. Constructive journalism, in essence, champions the proactive endorsement of societal welfare by media entities. The revelations from the study underscore that Rwandan media practitioners accord primacy to conventional journalistic duties such as enlightening and edifying the populace, whilst cognizant of their unique mandate in fostering national unity and reconciliation. They accomplish this by consistently employing constructive journalism techniques, including solutions journalism and restorative narratives, which involve reporting stories inspiring hope, facilitating healing, and showcasing resilience. These journalists strongly believe that such reporting styles have played a significant role in the post-genocide reconstruction of the country. Croatian journalists share similar concerns about the fine distinction between constructive journalism and political influence.

In a similar context, another study conducted in Croatia examined the potential and application of the CJ approach in a country with distinct social, cultural, and historical backgrounds compared to Denmark or other Western European countries where constructive journalism is practiced. Three Croatian language experts analyzed the potential implicit meanings of the term "constructive" for Croatians to gain insights into journalism in Croatia. Additionally, interviews were conducted with fifteen broadcast journalists and editors in Croatia to explore the opportunities and challenges associated with implementing constructive journalism ideas in their Newsrooms. The findings indicate that Croatian journalists exhibit a proactive approach to journalism, and their overall perception of constructive journalism ideas is positive. Both linguists and journalists recognized potential ideological connotations associated with constructive. However, journalists cautioned in reporting on possible solutions and practical strategies to avoid being perceived as influenced by specific ideologies. Regarding

implementation, most journalists highlighted differences in mindset, political influences, and established Newsroom routines as the primary obstacles (Kovacevic & Perisin, 2018).

In the Arab region, journalism faces challenges due to insufficient training and stringent political regulations. However, amidst this turmoil and transition, CJ is needed among writers, journalists, and publishers in the Arab world. The question arises: how can constructive journalism be effectively implemented in such a constrained environment? Alkhalaf (2020) investigated the potential of publishing constructive and independent journalism in the Arab region. Moreover, considering legal, social, and political perspectives, the study investigated the obstacles and challenges associated with these novel publishing platforms. The study's findings reached a consensus on two critical points. Implementing new technology and the new economics digital models in establishing new publishing platforms promotes freedom of speech, reporting, and information circulation. This would result in independent journalism without financial or editorial control from governments, ultimately empowering free journalism within societies and augmenting journalists' influence on public opinion. Secondly, the study found that this new revenue model would provide journalists with a sustainable income, reducing their dependence on government entities and journalistic and media institutions controlled by these governments. This financial independence further reinforces the role of journalists in delivering unbiased News and information to the public.

Examining the positive effects of journalistic coverage, the case of Saudi Arabia, as analyzed by Alhomou (2014), offers an illustrative example. Alhomou's research underscores the profound influence wielded by Saudi journalists when they tailor their news narratives to resonate with the local cultural milieu and the nation's developmental objectives. Such an approach to journalism, characterized by its alignment with local priorities and its commitment to societal betterment, has been termed "development journalism" (DJ hereinafter) by academic circles. This paradigm of journalism emphasizes the constructive role of the media in societal development. A subsequent investigation by Allam & El Gody (2021) delved into the nuances of "development journalism" and explored its potential intersections with constructive journalism. Post their emancipation from colonial rule and during periods of economic expansion, the concept of DJ found favor with several Arab administrations. Within this framework, DJ seeks to galvanize the populace to engage proactively in discourses spanning the political, economic, cultural, and other societal domains, marking a shift from a government-centric to an

audience-centric vantage point (Wilkins et al., 2014). Nonetheless, it is worth noting that independent and oppositional media outlets approach DJ with a degree of circumspection, perceiving it as a form of solution-oriented and principled journalism. Such outlets contend that the primacy in news reporting should be accorded to fostering audience engagement to avert attrition (Allam & El Gody, 2021).

In the Arab context, academic inquiries have delved into the prospects of constructive journalism. A seminal study by Alsoradi scrutinized the application of "peace and war journalism" methodologies in news narratives disseminated by six Arabic television channels, which are financially backed by non-Arabic nations. These channels encompass Al-Hurra TV, Russia Today (Arabic), France24 (Arabic), BBC (Arabic), TRT (Arabic), and MAKAN 33. Alsoradi's research critically assessed their reportage of two pivotal events in the Arab milieu during 2017 and 2018: the US President Donald Trump's proclamation of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the geopolitical crisis entangling Qatar, the UAE, and KSA (Alsoradi, 2019). To dissect the journalistic methodologies employed, Alsoradi leveraged a theoretical scaffold rooted in peace and war journalism paradigms. Spanning from December 6, 2017, to April 6, 2018, a total of 162 news narratives were meticulously analyzed. The empirical evidence unearthed a predominant reliance on language that either victimized or demonized the subjects. The sextet of channels exhibited a marked proclivity for employing victimizing rhetoric and demonizing lexicon, which, in effect, intensified the conflicts (Alsoradi, 2019). This observation is congruent with antecedent scholarly works, which have posited that war journalism tends to overshadow peace journalism in the region when chronicling conflicts. This trend has been corroborated by Ersoy (2016) and subsequent research, underscoring the dominance of war journalism in news dissemination.

In the realm of CJ, a notable shortcoming within the region is illuminated by a study undertaken by Al Khalifa (2019). This research scrutinized the reportage of Al Jazeera TV and several Gulf States, encompassing Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, and Bahrain, in the context of the 2017 Qatar crisis. The findings underscored that Al Jazeera's coverage was conspicuously skewed, largely sidelining the statements from the boycotting nations. Instead, the emphasis was predominantly on Qatar's viewpoint and narratives that bolstered Qatar's stance in the dispute. Notably, Al Jazeera's journalistic lens appeared to shift when Qatar found itself at the epicenter of a conflict. For instance, during the Qatar crisis, the economic narrative painted the boycotting

nations as grappling with financial tribulations, while concurrently depicting Qatar's economy as resilient enough to weather the sanctions. In a parallel, Al Jazeera's coverage of the Yemen War underwent a discernible pivot. The initial focus on the perils posed by the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels transitioned to accentuating the humanitarian catastrophe precipitated by the coalition's offensives and their subsequent inability to realize their objectives. Such observations lend credence to the hypothesis that Qatar's geopolitical interests significantly influence Al Jazeera's media narratives, positioning the channel as an instrument to further Qatar's diplomatic objectives (Al Khalifa, 2019). In a related study, Tobias (2018) conducted an analysis of four programs from both Al Jazeera and BBC TV stations, proffering recommendations pertinent to Al Jazeera and analogous media entities. The findings revealed that three out of the four programs under scrutiny deviated from the conventional news program template, intimating that a more avant-garde format might resonate more profoundly with a younger demographic. In terms of content dimensions like character types, narrative genres, and the equilibrium between negative and positive news, the programs exhibited no marked disparities. However, pronounced differences were evident in stylistic and tonal elements, suggesting that inventive presentation modalities hold promise in captivating specific audience segments (Tobias, 2018).

Scholars have extensively explored peace journalism as a subset of constructive journalism, often examining its application in real-world scenarios, such as the Syrian conflict. One such case study conducted by Arafat (2021) focused on Syrian opposition diaspora journalists. These journalists adopt a unique perspective, as they see no contradiction between being advocates and maintaining their independence as professional journalists. They firmly believe that both roles complement each other, aiming to promote democracy, serve the public interest, and facilitate the flow of information across borders in an oppressive military environment where political expression is severely restricted (Pidduck, 2012). Another perspective on constructive coverage of the Syrian war comes from the research by Andersson (2019), who analyzed how certain US media outlets framed the conflict in alignment with the principles of peace journalism and constructive journalism. This approach contrasts with the framing typically seen in mainstream US media. The studied media sources actively promoted diplomatic and peaceful solutions to the Syrian war and often provided a platform for voices outside the US political elite (Andersson, 2019).

Constructive journalism, particularly in regions like the Arab world where conflicts and wars persistently dominate the landscape, can serve as a transformative tool. By altering the narrative and viewing events through a fresh journalistic lens, there exists the potential to foster peace. Blacksin (2021) embarked on an exhaustive research endeavor spanning two years, immersing himself in participant observation with journalists stationed in Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria. This study delved deep into myriad facets, ranging from the political underpinnings of conventional categorizations to the symbolic implications of casualty figures. It also examined how bylines can sometimes veil the true authorial presence, among other entrenched journalistic conventions. Upon scrutinizing the news industry's style guides, a discourse analysis unveiled the profound influence of journalistic language on the act of truth-telling. Blacksin's thesis posits that war coverage is not a mere objective chronicle of wartime occurrences. Instead, it is a construct, shaped by linguistic parameters that dictate the portrayal and documentation of war. Embedded within the realm of journalism are latent opportunities to reconceptualize war, offering alternative viewpoints. By subjecting the methodologies, ideologies, and linguistic choices prevalent in war coverage to rigorous scrutiny, and discerning what might be either obscured or accentuated, there emerges a window to contest prevailing war interpretations and to unearth alternative narratives (Blacksin, 2021).

In the context of the Syrian conflict, the potential of CJ to reshape narratives for heightened impact has been underscored. Chouliaraki & Al-Ghazzi (2021) embarked on an analysis of narrative techniques, with a particular emphasis on the concept of flesh witnessing—a mechanism that lends credence to truth-telling and delves into its ramifications. Their findings revealed that Western narrative constructs strategically pinpoint the emotional facets of flesh witnessing, such as the valor of martyrdom, the purity of child innocence, or the stark presentation of devastation. Concurrently, there is a discernible trend to diminish or entirely omit the immediacy of experiences recounted by non-Western observers (Chouliaraki & Al-Ghazzi, 2021). In response to the challenges of in-depth reporting during the Syrian conflict, Lara Setrakian, a former ABC news journalist, launched the 'Syria Deeply' website in 2012. This digital platform was conceived with the intent to demystify, elucidate, and contextualize the intricacies of the Syrian conflict—nuances that are frequently rendered in reductive terms by mainstream media. Within the narrative framework of 'Syria Deeply', readers are presented with both the challenges and potential resolutions, facilitated by a holistic examination of diverse

perspectives. Setrakian's TED Talk illuminated the deficiencies in the contemporary news industry, characterized by an overflow of oversimplified, sensationalized, and occasionally erroneous information (Jackson, 2019). 'Syria Deeply' emerged as a corrective to this predicament, carving out a niche for thorough and discerning reportage, thereby countering misconceptions and distortions.

To analyze the implementation of constructive journalism in the Arab region, it is crucial to assess the extent of in-depth professional journalism conducted in this area. A comprehensive study conducted by Al-Shami (2020) sheds light on the media coverage of corruption as a case for professional journalism. It found four prevalent corruption issues in Arab countries. These include financial and administrative problems, legislative and judiciary matters, abuse of power and political influence, and medical concerns. The research delves into the challenges that in-depth journalism faces in the Arab world and reflects on the prospects for future journalism. Consequently, journalism in this region needs an investment in professional journalism in order to accomplish CJ. This investment could take various forms, such as financial support for journalists working in economically challenged countries. Additionally, it involves building and enhancing journalistic capacities and offering legal guidance, consultancy, and protection to Arab journalists. By taking these measures, the advancement of constructive journalism in the Arab region can be further facilitated, promoting transparency and accountability in the face of corruption. Furthermore, the growth and success of IJ as one of the practices of in depth journalism hinges on the fundamental principle of freedom of expression. A study conducted by Al-Shami (2020) emphasizes that the effectiveness of the media is contingent upon not only access to information and freedom of expression but also the ethical and professional standards upheld by investigative and in depth journalism. Furthermore, in data journalism as another face of in depth news, Arab journalists encounter obstacles and challenges that can be classified into two dimensions. The first dimension pertains to the organizational aspects, including the workplace, availability of information sources, ease of access to such data, availability of training opportunities, and support for adopting new methods in their practice. The second dimension is internal, involving individual experience and motivational factors, especially in cases where data journalism requires continuous self-development. Regrettably, the economic constraints prevalent in the Arab journalistic landscape have significantly hindered the

advancement of data journalism in the region and cast uncertainties on its prospects (Lewis & Nashmi, 2019).

In order to conduct a more thorough examination of the journalistic business models that might impede Constructive Journalism (CJ) within the specified region, it is beneficial to elucidate the operational frameworks of Arab journalistic entities. A substantial segment of these media outlets, which receive financial backing from governmental bodies, exhibit a reluctance towards modernizing their journalistic methodologies with contemporary data gathering, analysis, and visualization techniques. Conversely, privately held newspapers might possess political or commercial affiliations with the governing regime, a factor that could engender public skepticism owing to the potential biases inherent in such connections (Fahmy & Attia, 2020). Despite the myriad challenges encountered by journalistic entities, individual journalists within Arab nations endeavor to transcend these limitations. For example, a study conducted by Kirat (2004) illuminated that female journalists in the UAE articulated challenges in attaining empowerment and avenues for professional advancement. They expressed discontent with their news organizations' policies concerning continuing education and refresher courses, with a significant portion not having been afforded the opportunity to engage in training workshops, seminars, or lectures. Nonetheless, the study manifested that these women journalists demonstrated a high level of job satisfaction (90%), albeit encountering difficulties in their interactions with sources whilst probing sensitive matters. However, notwithstanding the adversities journalism confronts across various Arab nations, there have been notable endeavors in certain locales, like Lebanon, where the journalistic practices have demonstrated greater resilience. A recent study orchestrated an exhaustive two-month review of online media monitoring encompassing the months of July and August 2021. The examination of the scrutinized articles unveiled a predominant emphasis on portraying the collective suffering endured by the populace. The narratives frequently ascribed the nation's faltering state and economic disintegration to the actions of the political and business elites, accentuating their complicity in perpetuating systemic corruption, engendering a culture of impunity, and prioritizing the sustained hegemony of the power elite over the welfare of the nation or the requisites of their constituents. Such scholarly investigations furnish indispensable instruments to fathom the foundational causes underpinning the prevailing circumstances, and envision potential resolutions, thereby presenting the prospect of implementing Constructive Journalism

(CJ). This insight capacitates media consumers to initiate actions beneficial for themselves, their respective confessional communities, and the nation at large (Helou & Sensenig, 2021).

In spite of the challenges faced by Arab journalism in establishing a foundation for in-depth and constructive journalism, some notable journalistic initiatives have emerged, as studied by Gomez (2021). The research focused on media start-ups in Jordan and Lebanon, namely Raseef22, Daraj, 7iber, and Sowt. Objective criteria were used to assess these initiatives, such as audience rates, business consolidation, external support from partners, and the ability to engage young readers traditionally uninterested in conventional media. The author conducted structured interviews with the editors and founders of these news platforms and analyzed the content they produced. The research revealed that these initiatives have constructed unique and innovative narratives despite economic sustainability challenges and ongoing political pressures. International agreements with global organizations have shaped their business models, making them the driving forces for transformative journalism and critical thinking in the region, a development unimaginable just a few years ago (Gomez, 2021). Similarly, Sulaiman (2021) conducted a study on six entrepreneurship media outlets in the Arab world, examining their potential to contribute to real journalism and serve as a rescuing front for a declining profession. The findings demonstrated promising prospects, but there is room for further development in the context of Arab media, even in the startup-based press. While initially focused on news-based, star-making, and cheerleading content, the outlets lacked stories that discuss disagreements, withdrawals, lawsuits, bankruptcy, closure, and failure, essential for extracting valuable lessons. The author suggests the integration of entrepreneurship media into journalism schools and media hubs, similar to other specialized areas like health and science media, to enhance their impact and efficacy. Various researchers have meticulously investigated the role of Arab journalism in tackling critical societal challenges, with some efforts reflecting rudimentary applications of CJ principles. For instance, Moniruzzaman (2018) embarked on a study encompassing 37 Muslim-majority nations to discern their efficacy as community watchdogs and their capacity to hold political actors accountable. The analysis unveiled that robust media systems were scarcely present in these countries, with advocacy for press freedom being notably constrained. The media landscape in many of these nations was found to be heavily swayed by prevailing political forces, especially within authoritarian regimes. Contrastingly, a study by Alsomali & Basodan (2021) accentuated the empowering influence of social media within Arab societies, elucidating

how these platforms have facilitated societal discourse on pivotal social issues, thereby propelling them into the public and political spotlight.

Expanding the scope, Alaqil & Lugo-Ocando (2021) have examined the role of business journalism in the Arab domain in simplifying statistics and reporting them simply for the society to grasp. Their investigation delved into the utilization of statistical data by journalists in the KSA and UAE for articulating business and financial narratives, and the subsequent impact on their professional ethos. The inquiry revealed a dissonance between journalists' perceptions of statistics in business reporting and their actual application during data handling phases of reporting. The researchers underscored the imperative of fostering transparency and accountability within business and corporate spheres in the Arab realm, notwithstanding the identified lacunae in business and financial journalism. These challenges, encompassing news-gathering methodologies, engagement, and analytical capacities, markedly affect the caliber of the resultant news product. Media outlets within Arab nations frequently exhibit affiliations with central governmental structures, and private media proprietorship is often intertwined with these governmental entities, engendering a milieu of potential self-censorship among journalists. Although Arab and Western journalists confront analogous challenges, the strategies to surmount these obstacles markedly diverge owing to the unique complexities and contextual facets inherent in each region (Alaqil & Lugo-Ocando, 2021). Another study by Alhuntushi & Lugo-Ocando (2020) further reinforces this concern, highlighting deficiencies in News reporting of science statistics due to a lack of education and training. The authors emphasize the urgency of addressing this issue to improve the quality of journalism. Interestingly, these findings align with those of a previous study in the same domain (Nguyen & Lugo-Ocando, 2015), demonstrating a significant overlap between the challenges faced in the Western context and those in Arab countries. Thus, the previous research findings are essential as over-reliance on official sources can compromise responsibility, impartiality, and neutral reporting, especially when journalists lack a financial or business background to challenge these accounts (Li, 2014). However, research indicates that one of the root causes of poor journalism in the Arab world lies in the inadequate teaching of media and journalism in educational institutions. Instead of preparing students for real-world scenarios, many regional schools focus predominantly on theoretical aspects. Consequently, graduates often lack the necessary skills and preparation to thrive in the media industry's labor sector (Tahat et al., 2017).

1.5. Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility as a base for Constructive Journalism

In this section of the research, we emphasize the fundamental premise that CJ is first and foremost driven by journalism's commitment to society, with an overarching goal of advancing societal progress. This principle forms the cornerstone for establishing the criteria for what constitutes a successful implementation of CJ. The analysis here centers on the observation that the most impactful applications of CJ have consistently underscored the revival and reinforcement of journalistic ethics, both at the organizational and individual levels. The key aspects to be explored include:

Awakening the Code of Ethics within Media Organizations: This part of the discussion will focus on how media organizations employing CJ have revisited and revitalized their ethical frameworks. It involves understanding how these organizations have redefined their responsibilities towards society, moving beyond the traditional role of merely reporting problems to actively participating in solution-oriented discourse. This shift often entails a strategic reorientation towards more responsible and community-focused journalism.

Emphasizing Social Responsibility in Journalism: A critical aspect of CJ's success is its emphasis on the social responsibility of journalism. This section will delve into how CJ encourages media entities to recognize their influential role in shaping societal narratives and public opinion. It will explore how this realization impacts editorial decisions, story selection, and the overall approach to news reporting, with a focus on constructive and positive storytelling.

Instigating Codes of Ethics for Individual Journalists: The research will also examine the role of individual journalists in this paradigm shift. It will discuss how CJ principles influence journalists to internalize a sense of citizenship in their reporting. This involves a commitment to ethical standards, including truthfulness, fairness, and a focus on solutions, which can help in building trust and engagement with the audience.

Case Examples and Practical Applications: To illustrate these concepts, the section will reference specific case studies and examples where media organizations and individual journalists have successfully integrated these principles into their work. This will provide a

practical perspective on how CJ's focus on ethical journalism and social responsibility translates into real-world reporting and storytelling.

By exploring these aspects, this section aims to elucidate how the most effective implementations of CJ are those that awaken and adhere to a strong code of ethics in journalism, thereby reinforcing the profession's social responsibility and nurturing a sense of citizenship among journalists. This approach not only contributes to a more informed and engaged society but also redefines the role of journalism in fostering societal progress.

1.5.1. Constructive Journalism & Society Change

In the realm of media, the ethical responsibilities of professionals are multifaceted and complex. These professionals are tasked with communicating truthfully, minimizing harm, maintaining loyalty to stakeholders, and upholding transparency and accountability. The challenge lies in navigating these sometimes conflicting responsibilities in a way that upholds ethical standards while also serving their audience interests. The selective nature of truth in advocacy, while necessary for promoting audience' interests, must be carefully managed to avoid causing unnecessary harm. This is especially pertinent when considering the potential impact on vulnerable groups. Ethical practice in this context demands that professionals prioritize the public interest, especially when client actions may cause undue harm. Transparency plays a crucial role in this process, ensuring that the public is informed and that business operations are not hindered inappropriately. Kidder (1995) highlights the importance of balancing the interplay of truth-telling, harm minimization, loyalty, and transparency in professional persuasive communications. This balance is critical for maintaining ethical integrity in the field.

Defining professionalism in journalism and mass communications is further complicated by factors like differing media roles in society, cultural variances, and various political environments. Shan and Christians (2015) note that achieving a unified code is challenging in a field as diverse and globally spread as mass communications. Ethics codes serve multiple purposes, including enhancing the public relations value and justifying a profession's role to society and governments. These codes are particularly crucial in times of increased scrutiny and diminished credibility. However, not adhering to these codes, especially the aspirational ones, can have negative consequences. Effective ethics codes resonate with both practitioners and the public, articulating ideals, reminding of societal contributions, and encouraging responsible

actions. In summary, ethical communication in the media involves a delicate balance of freedoms and responsibilities. The creation and adherence to well-thought-out ethics codes are essential in guiding professionals through the complex landscape of media ethics, ensuring that their actions contribute positively to society while fulfilling their professional duties. The pursuit of a professional and ethical media landscape is indeed a complex endeavor, marked by the challenge of finding an optimal balance between stringent external regulation and a total absence of oversight. This process, particularly pertinent in the field of journalism and mass media, centers on the concept of enforceable ethics. This concept raises critical questions regarding the equilibrium between media freedom and the public's trust in the media's accuracy, balance, and fairness. An essential consideration here is understanding the costs associated with gaining and maintaining this trust, and whether achieving such a level of trust is both desirable and feasible.

In addressing these challenges, professional accountability emerges as a viable intermediary solution, situated between the extremes of strict external regulation and complete anarchy. As articulated by Davis (2010), media professionals are subject to various forms of accountability:

Government Accountability: This involves adherence to legal standards, encompassing laws against libel, privacy invasion, obscenity, copyright infringement, and the upholding of fairness requirements. When media practitioners violate these minimum standards, they face legal consequences. This form of accountability underscores the role of legal frameworks in shaping media practices, ensuring that they operate within the bounds of law while also highlighting the potential for legal constraints to impinge on media freedom.

Accountability to Fellow Practitioners: This aspect entails the creation and adherence to ethical codes, active participation in professional events, the establishment of press councils, implementation of movie rating systems, and engagement with ombudsmen, consultants, and external reviews. Professional conduct is often evaluated against the norms of peer groups, which play a crucial role in reinforcing professional standards. Peers can either support or denounce the practices of their colleagues, thereby influencing the overall ethical landscape of the media industry.

Marketplace Accountability: Media entities are also answerable to their consumers - the readers, viewers, and listeners. Public perception plays a significant role in this regard. If the audience deems media outlets to be irresponsible, they can manifest their discontent through

criticism or by boycotting their services. This form of accountability is critical, as public engagement and trust are indispensable for the media's survival and effectiveness. The journey towards a professional and ethical media environment is one of balancing various forms of accountability. It involves ensuring responsible journalism while simultaneously preserving media freedom and fostering public trust. This balance is not only crucial for the integrity of the media but also for its ability to effectively serve and inform the public.

Incorporating the previous discussion on the balance between professional and ethical media practices, it's crucial to delve into the nuanced relationship between legal authority and individual ethical decision-making within the realms of law and media. This relationship is complex, as laws typically embody a societal consensus on moral conduct, yet they can occasionally clash with the principle of individual ethical autonomy. Laws generally set the minimum ethical standards necessary to shield society from potentially harmful behaviors, including abuses of power. These legal guidelines establish fundamental ethical behaviors, emphasizing respect for rights, private property, and prohibiting harm to others. In the context of media, as previously discussed, this translates into adhering to laws against libel, privacy invasion, and copyright infringement, among others.

In more developed societies, where mass communication enjoys greater freedom, there are still legal boundaries in place. These include penalties for publishing damaging inaccuracies, invading privacy, using copyrighted material improperly, the prohibition of child pornography, and restrictions on obscene content. Additionally, advertising is regulated to ensure truthfulness in the promotion of goods and services. These legal constraints, while ensuring a basic ethical standard, also pose challenges to media freedom and individual ethical decision-making. Furthermore, the evolution of ethical codes in various media sectors, despite some arguments against their necessity, highlights a growing recognition of the importance of ethical guidelines. These codes, varying from national to local levels, are designed as principles and acceptable conduct benchmarks for professionals in the field. They aim to guide behavior but lack legal enforceability. This absence of enforceability in courts, coupled with the general lack of internal punitive mechanisms within communicator groups due to free speech concerns and litigation risks, underscores the challenges in ensuring adherence to these ethical standards. In summary, the interplay between legal frameworks and individual ethical choices in the media industry is intricate and multi-layered. Laws provide a basic ethical framework, while ethical codes offer

more detailed guidance, yet both face limitations in terms of enforceability and in balancing with the principles of media freedom and individual autonomy. This complex landscape necessitates a continued effort to find an optimal balance between legal obligations, ethical guidelines, and the preservation of media freedom and public trust.

In contemporary communication scholarship, the role of persuasion is recognized as a ubiquitous and integral component of human interaction. Academic discourse, as delineated by Duffy and Thorson (2015), posits that ethical persuasion is essential in fostering and maintaining meaningful relationships and interactions across various life domains, including personal relationships, business engagements, job pursuits, and ideological exchanges. This concept underscores the continuous effort individuals make to influence others, advocating for personal viewpoints or interests, necessitating an ethical approach to persuasion and receptiveness to being persuaded in a similar manner. The ethical dimensions of persuasion become particularly salient in the modern media environment. This context is marked by a conflation of information, entertainment, and persuasive content, raising numerous ethical concerns. These include challenges related to selective truth-telling, balancing competing loyalties, and ensuring transparency and accountability in media practices. Ethicists, as highlighted by Nelson et al. (2009), advocate for the transparency of persuasive messages and their creators, enabling audiences to discern the nature of the content they are receiving—whether it is objective news, persuasive material, or a blend of both. Additionally, the provenance of the message should be clear to the audience. The regulation of persuasion in news, as these scholars suggest, might ultimately be driven by market forces, particularly by audiences who are informed and capable of critically evaluating biases and questioning the origins of these biases.

In the realm of journalism, ethical persuasion is exemplified by the concept of 'constructive journalism.' This term, as described by Jackson (2019) and further elaborated by Bro (2018), involves not only reporting problems but also offering solutions. Constructive journalism is characterized by its comprehensive approach to news reporting, where various perspectives are presented, leading to the suggestion of solutions drawn from collective insights and analogous cases. This approach is encapsulated in the principles developed by the Journalism Department at Windesheim University of Applied Sciences in 2016. Known as the six constructive elements, these principles advocate for a Solutions Orientation in news coverage, where potential resolutions are explored in conjunction with identifying problems.

They emphasize a Future Orientation, incorporating a forward-looking "What Now?" query to supplement traditional journalistic inquiries. The principles also underscore the importance of Inclusiveness and Diversity in news reporting, incorporating a wide array of voices and viewpoints. Empowerment of People is achieved by presenting diverse perspectives and exploring resources, collaborations, and solutions, thereby empowering both victims and experts. The Explanation of News and Contextualization principle mandates that news reporting should provide data and clear infographics for a comprehensive understanding of events, rather than merely covering isolated incidents. Lastly, the principle of Co-creation promotes the engagement of the public in collaborative journalistic content creation, highlighting the role of journalists in shaping the social construction of mediated realities, as explored by Couldry & Hepp (2017).

Researchers widely debate the role of media in society through constructive types of journalism. In recent years, this discussion has been linked to ethics and social responsibility practiced by journalists and journalism organizations. Thier et al (2019) presented approaches for journalists to earn the general public's trust: addressing solutions to social problems and creating a captivating narrative. CJ encourages journalists to realize that news should be prepared and to be acceptable to society, and they should observe the effects of their stories. They must frame their stories such that they incite productive change in society. CJ motivates journalists to reevaluate news values, and their work must cover stories of progress, collaboration, calamities, and conflicts (McIntyre & Gyldensted, 2018). In an endeavor to scrutinize CJ practices within the practical realms of global journalism, an investigative study was conducted to validate the purported social role of journalism as claimed by media establishments. This empirical inquiry meticulously analyzed 242 ethical codes encompassing 94 countries. The findings divulged that a mere 1% of these ethical codices were enacted to galvanize solutions to societal dilemmas, whilst, the other journalistic principles such as the dissemination of information, constituted 48%, while allegiance to social interest was observed at 40%. Additionally, propitious social roles like the mobilization of public opinion and community engagement were markedly low, recorded at 5% and 2% respectively (Himmelboim & Limor, 2010, p. 82).

Some scholarly endeavors have associated societal care with the prevalence of justice, underscoring a potential correlation between journalistic ethics and societal justice (Steiner & Okrusch, 2006). In parallel, I embarked on a content analysis of the ethical codes within our focal study encompassing the following nations: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, United Arab

Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. The analysis was conducted on a scale of 0 to 5, where 0 represented passivity, and 5 represented full commitment. In the column titled "Solutions Oriented Codes of Ethics", I assessed the content of all the journalism codes of ethics from each country I am studying, looking for any verbal or written references to solutions as an integral part of journalism practice encouraged by these codes of ethics. Similarly, in the column "Social Responsibility in Codes of Ethics," I analyzed the content of all articles of these codes of ethics, searching for any expressions of commitment to society while reporting the news. Finally, in the column "Text of Social Commitment in Codes of Ethics," I mentioned the specific text where this social commitment is mentioned in the codes of ethics articles for each country. The findings revealed that none of the ethical codes from these scrutinized nations advocated for a journalistic role in reporting solutions or espoused constructive-based journalism within their ethical frameworks (See Table 1). Nevertheless, an examination of the journalistic ethical codes across all studied nations manifested a discernible commitment to social issues. More notably, amidst the nations embroiled in perpetual political and sectarian strife, namely Lebanon and Iraq, a clarion call was made within their journalistic ethical codes urging journalists to uphold peace-making as a cardinal objective.

Table 1: Evaluating the Emphasis on Solutions and Social Commitments within Journalism Ethical Codes across Selected Arab Countries

Country	Solutions Oriented Codes of Ethics (%)	Social Responsibility in Codes of Ethic (Scale 0-5)	Text of Social Commitment in Codes of Ethic
UAE	0%	5	Dedication to both public and societal welfare

KSA	0%	5	Upholding societal and individual truthfulness
Lebanon	0%	5	Encouragement by Lebanese media entities and their personnel for initiatives, projects, and activities that vehemently discard violence and discrimination, concurrently promoting civil tranquility within Lebanon.
			Adherence to both personal and institutional responsibility, whilst maintaining allegiance to professional ethos and values is imperative.
Qatar	0%	5	Recognition of human societal diversity, encompassing varying races, cultures, beliefs, values, and distinctive individual characteristics, ensuring their impartial and accurate representation.
Syria	0%	5	Allegiance to societal, familial values, and norms.

Jordan	0%	5	Adherence to societal values and motivations.
Iraq	0%	5	Societal dedication with an emphasis on fostering solidarity, unity, and tranquility.

Note: The scale ranges from 0 to 5, where 0 signifies passivity and 5 denotes complete commitment. (Own Source).

The tabulation encapsulates an evaluative analysis on the prominence of solutions-oriented journalism and the extent of social commitments delineated within the journalism codes of ethics across selected Arab nations. Despite a notable absence of solutions-based ethical stipulations, a unanimous, maximal score on social responsibility reflects a profound commitment to societal issues as envisaged within the respective national ethical frameworks. Each country elucidates a unique facet of social commitment, ranging from promoting truthfulness to fostering peace and unity, thereby underpinning the significance of ethical journalism in nurturing a harmonious society. Upon a rigorous analysis of various nations' allegiance to social responsibility, advancing towards a constructive approach emerges as a quintessential pathway. Despite the ethical codes exhibiting a passive demeanor towards constructiveness or solution-oriented methodologies, the notion remains an intrinsic aspect of journalism practice. Hossain & Aucoin (2018) vehemently posited that both journalists and journalistic entities ought to augment their endeavors towards constructiveness. They propounded a multi-faceted approach wherein journalists could evaluate human behavior across diverse contexts through six interlinked processes: (a) Social fabricating context; (b) Facilitating a realm for discourse grounded in human values; (c) Envisioning a community-centric model that encompasses all individuals, with a heightened focus on the marginalized or suppressed segments, thereby innovating journalism for catalyzing positive societal metamorphosis; (d) Eschewing narratives that incite an unwelcomed rendition of society; (e) Persistently assimilating values that augment compassion towards ordinary individuals, whilst emboldening journalists to incessantly introspect ethical decision-making; and (f) Amplifying transparency to

ensure that both processes and outcomes are discernible to the populace, thereby aiding journalists in cultivating and enhancing audience trust (Buzzanell, 2010; Hossain & Aucoin, 2018). Furthermore, Loizzo et al. (2017) articulated that journalists could elevate their competencies in addressing social issues through rigorous training and adoption of the Journalism for Social Change (JSC) paradigm to instigate positive repercussions. Mastery of JSC can be achieved via online educational platforms, thus facilitating a global learning sphere. Such an educational endeavor would capacitate learners globally in acquiring proficiency in solution-oriented journalism techniques and narrating news stories with an underlying objective of fostering positive societal change. This amalgam of continued education, ethical introspection, and a community-centric journalistic approach forms a cornerstone for not merely reporting the circumstances but contributing actively towards societal betterment.

The exploration of fundamental reforms in the realm of journalism that propels societal progress underscores the imperative for a paradigm shift in the ethical foundations of journalism (Çamuroğlu Çığ & Çığ, 2016). The elucidation of Development Journalism (DJ) by certain scholars serves as a holistic framework encapsulating constructive journalism, envisioned as a catalyst for positive societal transformation (Allam & El Gody, 2021). By leveraging communication as a conduit for national development, DJ emphasizes the cardinal principle of neutrality in news dissemination, thereby facilitating a platform for audience engagement and opinion expression. The inception of DJ during the 1960s was aimed at fostering media participation in the nation-building narrative (Salas, 2021). Chalkley's (1968) interpretation of DJ revolves around the educational aspect of journalism, enlightening the populace on prevailing issues, stimulating solution-oriented discourse, and thereby enabling an active contribution towards national development. On a similar note, Larsen's case study delineates the practical dimensions of audience response to constructive narratives amidst crisis, unveiling a positive inclination towards such narratives. This study further accentuates the integral role of emotions in guiding actions, irrespective of their positive or negative nature. Nevertheless, a discerning recognition of the potential disparate long-term effects of positive and negative emotions is deemed crucial. The overarching narrative emerging from these discussions and scholarly endeavors underscores a collective call for a reevaluation and reformation of journalistic ethics. This reformation seeks to align journalism more closely with constructive, solution-oriented narratives and engagement, thereby contributing to national development and societal

betterment. Through the lens of Development Journalism and other constructive journalistic paradigms, the potential for fostering a more positive, engaged, and proactive citizenry becomes a tangible and achievable aspiration.

Furthermore, McIntyre and Gyldensted (2017) demonstrated that CJ and positivity are interconnected but should not be labeled as superficial or uncritical. Critics expressed concerns that the active social involvement of journalists can increase the risk of bias towards particular interest groups. The first is about the idea that journalists should involve themselves in problem-solving, as it is frequently related to activism and perceived as a violation of professional objectivity. The second is the objection to the hard emphasis on being accountable for the impact of the news, as it can significantly restrict professional autonomy. The third is the willingness of journalists to avoid negativity bias, as it will transform journalism into a mere showcase of Good News, thereby limiting attention to societal issues and exposing abuses of power (Hermans & Drok, 2018). However, despite these valid critiques, it is worth noting that News stories framed in a solution-oriented manner and evoking positive emotions have been found to increase readers' motivation to take positive actions such as charitable donations, environmental responsibility, or expressing political opinions. Conversely, exposure to catastrophically-framed News stories has been shown to diminish motivation (Baden et al., 2018). For instance, when the Huffington Post introduced a dedicated section for Good News (McIntyre & Gibson, 2016), traffic to HuffPost Good News increased by 85% in one year, and its content received twice as many social referrals as other content. Inspired by this success, the Huffington Post further committed itself to producing constructive stories (Huffington, 2015).

1.5.2. Constructive Journalism & Cultural Differences

Cultural differences are critical to the journalists' perception of social issues (Krüger, 2017). A study of 1,800 journalists from 18 countries found that objectivity, impartiality, reporting political information, and checking governments' performance are essential journalistic codes worldwide. The importance of neutrality, reliability, truthfulness of information, and following universal ethical codes is universally recognized, but the degree to which they are valued varies from country to country. Furthermore, the analysis revealed that Western journalists are less supportive of promoting specific values, ideology, and social transformation and strongly follow the universal principles of ethical reporting. However, journalists from other

parts of the world are more officious in their role perceptions and more moderate in their ethical views (Hanitzsch et al., 2011). Another study argued that news media play important roles in their communities regardless of cultural differences. The research suggested that the media should provide more information: they should construct an everyday reality, bring the public into the mainstream debate, and work to circulate the community's moral values (Iggers, 2018). The news media help build a picture of the world inside the head of people living in complex modern societies. The pictures in many heads may vary in detail, but they share some abstract standard features that give a feeling of a common culture. A recent online survey of around 600 Australians identified four critical roles for journalists: life mentors, community representatives, motivating entertainers, and service providers. These roles are reflected in recent theories on the roles of journalism in society, providing valuable insights into the desired roles of journalism. Moreover, they are crucial in improving our understanding of journalism's significance within the community. (Hanusch, 2017). These findings demonstrate the importance of offering a cultural perspective, aesthetic experience, and societal reflection on contemporary life. (From & Nørgaard, 2018). The practice of codes of ethics and constructive journalism in Asia is partially researched. A research study in Indonesia shows that journalism practices are mainly controlled by the organizations' internal conduct and a government-supported body in a country with restricted press freedom. As an example, the analysis showed that media outlets use several techniques to escape the complete practice of Indonesian Law No.40 of 1999 related to Journalism Press and Journalistic Ethical Codes of Ethics. A deep insight into the analysis by focusing on three national Newspapers reveals to follow several ideological model theories. For instance, a model narrates that media ownership will decide the political views transmitted to the general public. Similarly, another elite values model theory allows the intervention from the media owners in editorial decisions, prohibiting the edit and journalist's professional independence and restricting the media content (Hutasuhut & Ngenget, 2017).

Another example from Asia is the Case of Cambodia. The country has limited freedom of expression, minimum salary, lesser information access, negligible training opportunities, an unfriendly work environment in the local press, legal issues, a regrettable view of journalism, and poor media revenue. These were all major external issues threatening good journalistic practices that were hard for individual journalists to overcome. The problem is also exemplified by the probability of journalists involving in bribes (Quinn, 2018). The issues were exacerbated

by journalistic corruption in Cambodia. Financial dishonesty, or envelope journalism, is frequently reported in African and Asian countries, and it is the primary reason for substandard professional awareness and weaker political, social, and economic contexts (Rao, 2016). However, several types of journalistic training experiences in Cambodia and acknowledging the cultural values have affected local journalists' approach to ethical reasoning. The journalists in Cambodia accepting bribes in the same cases were like monks accepting donations, or the necessity to follow social etiquette, keep face and not offend a host, was more critical than following the strict ethical values. Journalists in Cambodia have a similar attitude to what Xu (2016) realized in China in that they use multiple cultural excuses to "help to relieve the discomfort between what they should do and what they do" (Quinn, 2018, p. 238).

In Pakistan, journalists enjoy a better press freedom atmosphere as they practice almost no codes of ethics. A study analyzed Pakistan's primary English and Urdu private television News channels and Newspapers for their adherence to journalistic ethics. The findings show that English Newspapers follow professional standards more strictly than Urdu Newspapers. However, there are weaknesses in reporting, impartiality, and detachment. These weaknesses are more significant in private television News channels. Specifically, as to reporting, the study of the channels gives more attention to unimportant issues and misses many vital issues or events. Furthermore, the media sometimes present a clear bias on essential matters rather than reporting neutrally neutral. A significant gap exists considering objectivity; television channels frequently follow a non-investigative approach and report matters in a more general way that appears misleading sometimes. Unverified news is aired to be exclusive, which proves incorrect later on. Newspapers and TV News channels typically focus on a particular segment of society. Thus, the study suggested that media regulatory authorities should enforce a strict code of ethics for media organizations. This code should include clear guidelines regarding reporting, impartiality, detachment of news content, and quality of news reporting in order to become socially effective and constructive (Arshad & Ashraf, 2014).

In Africa, most countries have nearly uniform ethical codes, and some government-related bodies control the code of ethics. For instance, the ethical codes of Nigeria and Sierra Leone have similarities and differences in the definition of their codes and adopting entities. The similarity is that Sierra Leone Independent Media Commission (IMC) is a government body established by the Independent Media Commission Act. The state and a body

of journalists jointly established the Nigerian Press Council (NPC) in Nigeria. At the same time, national unity and ethnicity are the most common differences in applying codes of ethics (Serwornoo, 2019). The Afro-communal moral theory, as explained by Sandel (1998), should not be misunderstood as relativist or utilitarian. Although it values the community, it does not imply mindlessly adhering to the beliefs of a particular social group. Instead, it emphasizes the significance of nurturing relationships based on shared lifestyles and caring for the well-being of others. This approach views these relationships and their positive and constructive impact on quality of life as intrinsically valuable. (Metz, 2015). Similarly, in Kenya, different respondents believed that adherence to the ethical codes is very poor, and reporters tweak a story to provoke a public response. However, all the reporters and writers do not agree with this attitude. The editors think the reporters prepare factual reports and are only edited to change the angle. At the same time, sub-editors perform their duty in the Newsroom and what is churned out as stories. Reducing news editors' role in controlling the newsroom process would be more beneficial. The Kenyan media is very active in the fight against corruption. Substantial efforts are made to ensure self-regulation by making the media council of Kenya an independent government regulatory body, mentoring, monitoring, and controlling media house operations (Ochieng et al., 2014).

In delving into the realm of constructive journalism, it becomes apparent that media entities within nations characterized by diminished transparency and freedom encounter a more arduous journey towards embodying the tenets of constructive journalism, necessitating amplified efforts and comprehensive training to delineate it distinctly from propaganda. The discourse propounded by Simon (2023) accentuates the indispensability of fostering and safeguarding public interest journalism, envisaging the formulation of a global information infrastructure dedicated to serving the public interest. This paradigm is posited as a linchpin in buttressing press freedom within less transparent nations, furnishing a collective rationale for defending press freedom and forging alliances with various sectors to engender a positive metamorphosis in the global information arena. Further scrutiny into the nexus between press freedom and corruption is undertaken in the scholarly exploration by Daniels (2011). The exposition postulates a robust correlation between the presence, proliferation, and implementation of free media, and the measurement of corruption within a societal structure. It is contended that an autonomous press epitomizes a potent mechanism to unveil governmental

malffeasance, with nations boasting a free press projected to exhibit reduced corruption indices in comparison to their counterparts devoid of free press liberties. The hurdles confronting publishers across diverse geographic locales, encapsulated in the narrative by Newman (2023), underscore the prevalent issues of dwindling trust, waning engagement, and an unpredictable business milieu. This report accentuates the criticality of ensuring a robust provision of precise, adequately funded, independent journalism in nations with lesser transparency. It is also illuminated that the dynamics of political polarization and media critique can erode trust in media institutions, with a discernible association between diminished trust and media criticism being acknowledged. The holistic understanding of these multifaceted discussions elucidates the imperative of not only nurturing constructive journalism but also creating a conducive environment for its flourishing, especially in nations where press freedom is precariously positioned.

1.5.3. Social Responsibility and Ethics: A Root for Constructive Journalism

The influence of corporations including media organizations extends significantly beyond their immediate commercial transactions, impacting society in broader dimensions. This influence manifests not only through their core business operations but also through their engagement in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Such activities have the potential to substantially modify the cultural fabric of communities. Furthermore, it is posited that corporations bear distinct responsibilities in the promotion and safeguarding of cultural assets. This obligation arises from the characterization of cultural goods as public or quasi-public goods and is further underscored by the substantial social and political roles that these corporations play in the contemporary landscape (Cejudo, 2017). In recent years, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has been widely accepted and gained a central position in policies in many companies. This wide adaptation is due to globalization and compulsions from public and media stakeholders. Embracing social responsibility assures that corporates' activities do not harm society and the overall ecosystem (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the New Academy of Business, 2003). Media outlets perform dual social roles. Firstly, media outlets are corporations and must maintain a favorable ecosystem within the working space for

better outputs. For instance, media outlets must adjust their journalistic and political activities to well-defined socially responsible standards and publish them as CSR reports. Secondly, they publish reports about other organizations that can influence the general public and their liking or disliking. For instance, influencing audiences empowers media outlets to propagate social values and shape businesses and markets. Moreover, the audience can improve their education and adopt social and consumer behaviors from the contents of the media (Osman, 2017).

Furthermore, The United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) is a UN program to inspire businesses globally to implement more maintainable and accountable standards and processes; it also advises all corporations to register their compliance and any process in the implementation. UNGC has nine clauses related to workplace standards, Human rights in offices, and labor regulations. Ahva & Hautakangas (2018) considered self-understanding and social responsibility professional requirements for their job. A journalist working in an organization that complies with conciliatory journalism finds it easy to examine the complex nature of issues in reporting and finds enough space for beneficial disagreements. The journalists benefitting from this method struggle to practice this approach in their everyday lives. The success of UNGC motivated progress in the media industry, and they strived to renovate their brands and create their professional identity. The UNGC got recognition, and social responsibility echoes in the media industry. This provided a valuable opportunity for journalists and media organizations to address their professional worries and focus on their primary duties even in very tense circumstances. The work determined that a reporter with a conciliatory mindset finds it easy to examine complicated issues and change his or her working style suitable to the circumstances (Ahva & Hautakangas, 2018).

The core tenets of the Social Responsibility Theory (SRT) emphasize the media's accountability to the community and the importance of earning public trust. To achieve this, journalists have the responsibility to adhere to journalistic standards, conduct unbiased examinations of issues, present impartial reports, and objectively present observed facts (Baran & Davis, 2011). Consequently, the journalism practice of socially responsible media entails a commitment to professional journalism practices that result in greater freedom for media outlets through the resourcefulness of information management (Information Resources Management Association, 2019). Practically, the ethical objectives play a significant role in this socially

responsible media to operate on three levels, according to Krüger (2017), that are closely connected:

At the micro-level: The fruitful content is carefully prepared with a conscious perception aiming solution orientation. Therefore, the reports benefit the users, readers, viewers, and listeners, unlike the traditional approach, where they are burdened with problems only.

At the Meso-level: The media outlets are recognized as helpful and optimistic to attain greater reach, reading times, and audience loyalty.

At the macro level: The media become role models by bringing social progress, and users look to them for possible solutions and perspectives.

In a nutshell, CJ facilitates CSR implementation in media. This approach positively integrates a solutions-focused mindset through reports and results in sustainable culture and the future of society. The audience receives content from multiple sources that provide them with culturally resonant and socially enviable reports to influence their lives (Atanasova, 2019) positively. Due to the continuously changing environment, the media houses, reporters, editors, and newscasters frequently assess their roles in politics, society, and economics. They analyze their impact on the society they sincerely work for and their future role. Haagerup examined these questions and concluded that CJ is an innovative approach to solving society's issues by presenting inspiring stories and exploring solutions instead of focusing on traumatic problems (Haagerup, 2017). The audience wants the media outlet to focus on quality journalism to find the real meanings of news and present their values. CJ answers these questions with a clear purpose (Haagerup, 2017).

According to Feenstra (2014), the primary purpose of broadcasting tools is to magnify the voices of society and end the mainstream media's monologues. Modern broadcasting tools also enable citizens to express their responses and put a check on the media. The check is further extended by allowing other media outlets to monitor content and active citizens through alternative media, e.g., the Internet. However, they will face tremendous challenges if most audiences recognise their rights and responsibilities. Citizens acting as auditors of media outlets, demanding adherence to media standards, become crucial in fostering transparency within the media sector and complementing self-regulation. To effectively embrace new communication tools, journalists must recognize that news is socially constructed, educate themselves on the impact of their stories, and frame their narratives to promote positive change. This entails redefining news values and actively seeking and covering stories of progress and collaboration, in addition to

those highlighting destruction and conflict (McIntyre & Gyldensted, 2018). But how can journalists be empowered by the ethics of the social responsibility of their organizations to conduct a constructive approach to journalism? According to Colero (2018), it can be reached by training them on this and beginning with an appeal to universal, humanity-recognizing values and principles. The generally acceptable trait of taking responsibility and caring is the most practical and significant for journalism. The principle of care can facilitate another path to ethical journalism in addition to the traditional journalism approaches of professionalism, righteousness, and constructiveness. Ethical journalism gives space to justice and other rights practiced worldwide for so long (Rao & Wasserman, 2015). To increase the knowledge of journalists regarding human behaviors, training should be arranged in six particular process areas: (a) the context of social construct, (b) respect of human values to increase dialogues; (c) developing an inclusive vision that incorporates every individual of the society, (d) change the narrative such that every person feel inclusive in the society; (e) integrating interactivity and encourage weaker by showing compassion and journalist should be self-reflexive during interviews considering the moral decision making; and (f) follow transparent processes to achieve and sustain the trust of the audience (Buzzanell, 2010). By embracing universal value-based ethical training and its practical implementation, journalists can fulfill their potential as leaders and serve as the conscience of the communities they are dedicated (Hossain & Aucoin, 2018).

In the pursuit of integrating Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) within corporate media frameworks, Lee and Riffe's (2017) seminal study provides critical insights. This research delved into the identification of entities responsible for setting CSR agendas in media corporations. A key aspect of their investigation involved scrutinizing the interplay between journalistic practices and CSR initiatives. This was achieved by conducting a thorough analysis of press releases disseminated by prominent media organizations. The empirical evidence for this study was amassed from an extensive dataset, encompassing over 1,000 news articles and approximately 7,700 press releases, with a focus on renowned news corporations such as The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times. Furthermore, Lee and Riffe (2017) developed a model to elucidate the correlations between a company's environmental standing in stock exchanges and its commitments to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, in relation to the extent of media coverage received. The data analysis revealed a significant correlation between media coverage on ESG aspects and the environmental ranking of the

company. This implies that journalists are more inclined to allocate increased coverage to companies demonstrating a higher commitment to ESG standards, compared to their counterparts. This finding underscores the influence of corporate environmental performance on media reporting practices. But, why are journalists not strong in identifying which company is doing CSR right or not? Morton and Aroney may clarify these variations' explanations. They mentioned that "journalists and the media organizations for which they work routinely assume they can identify what is in the public interest." But the authors suggest that journalists must learn more about the instinctive and accountable commencement of the public interest and give space to the usually marginalized voices of society for a more sustainable future (Morton & Aroney, 2015). Hautakangas and Ahva (2018a) studied other aspects of journalism in an action research project for Finnish journalists and conceived the idea of Socially Responsible Journalism (SRJ). They concluded that journalists practicing SRJ had well-defined goals and practices that could be easily practiced in their everyday work. This strategy will elevate the standards of the media organizations and their ratings in the public. While in the context of Arab journalism, a study conducted remote interviews with the four major local TV stations and six editors of prominent Newspapers in Lebanon. The results surprisingly revealed that no CSR principles were followed, and in many cases, there were no CSR departments in the media outlets (Osman, 2017).

CSR is vital for social coverage as it relates journalists to society through ethics. Journalism is a social construct. Therefore Since the standards, traditions, and norms are dynamic entities, there is a need for continuous monitoring, consideration, reconsideration, and deviations from all the members of society (Vos & Singer, 2016). Moreover, journalism is a social construct. Therefore, journalists must adapt themselves to society's changing dynamics continuously. In the Meta-journalistic approach, the individuals publicly define the social norms, fix limits, and make decisions about the space for journalistic practices (Carlson, 2015). Some journalism institutions have adopted the ombudsman model to monitor the balance between professional journalism practice and the public interest. Some have created a position of public representative to safeguard society's concerns and analyze their feedback. Alternatively, some Newspapers have created a section for viewer comments section, e-mail section for readers to get and broadcast public views for auditing. With the advent of social media, media outlets open themselves to responses (Ferrucci, 2018). Furthermore, researchers suggested that with the

current communication tools, the media outlets and audience are closely connected; therefore, they should communicate as ordinary people intermingle in practical life (Fortner & Fackler 2013). This will give the public confidence to express their views cordially and positively contribute to social issues. Furthermore, it does not prompt individuals to voice their opinion disguisedly in degrading any person in authority. Although few journalists still define objectivity as the major impediment to performing a positive and productive role in society. Wilkins & Christians (2008), in their book "The Handbook of mass media ethics," believe that the standard of responsible journalism should motivate journalists to: "What can contribute to enhancing the peace of society. During the 1933 Convention for Facilitating the International Circulation of Films of an Educational Character," the participants were enthusiastic about the fruitful and profitable influence of the media industry on nonviolent relations among nations. On October 11, 1933, this agreement was drafted and signed in Geneva. All the member nations of "The League of Nations" agreed to play a positive role in the mutual understanding of their communities. These goals were aligned with the objectives of the League of Nations and further stressed to urge moral disarmament (Fortner & Fackler, 2013).

The transformation in journalistic standards reveals the emergence of institutional norms and morals, followed by a period when fresh norms are defined to replace the previous standards. Schudson believes journalistic norms are broadly defined and normalized by integrating them into usual practice and routine (Schudson, 2001). It is generally agreed that practice becomes a norm if adequately communicated and discussed. In the case of journalism, it's essential to understand how journalists talk about and establish transparency as a journalistic norm (Vos & Craft, 2016). Kieran suggested that good intentions are insufficient for transparency in practicing journalism norms (Kieran 1998). The limitation of good intentions is that they do not always lead to good actions. For journalism, he preferred virtue, as a virtuous person will always act ethically, even in the most challenging circumstances. Herrscher (2002) advocated that a universal journalistic ethical code remain valid under all circumstances. He believed it is essential to debate the likelihood of universal codes for all social and political workers and even reporters who change their ethical standards according to the situation. He believed that the most significant aspect of journalism is the pursuit of truth. Prominent journalists think that journalism's crucial aspect is verifying that the event has occurred. The reporter's taste or opinion can influence the event's details. However, the journalist reporting multiple events is genuine.

Therefore, the essence of journalism is reporting the truth. Furthermore, it is a journalistic virtue to report the truth and nothing but the truth, although complete truth is more complicated. The complete truth is infinite, and the journalist has to select from the whole to prepare the News story in one way or another. A journalist has to rely on debate, opinion, discussion, and argument for a story. In such circumstances, objectivity and fairness become more significant than the truth. Furthermore, recognizing journalism's primary goal of informing the public about significant events worldwide is fundamental for understanding the practices of news journalists, and this goal demands journalists to work impartially and maintain objectivity in reporting (Kieran, 1998).

Furthermore, eliminating sensationalism from the truth-telling in the news and being objective does not mean journalism cannot use sentiments in the news. Shapiro (2020) believes positive sentiment can help increase people's reactions toward news content. A recent study revealed that fake news focuses on negative sentiments (Nazmul & Rahnema, 2021). While a journalist following ethical standards ponders the 'facts' as they are the main entities on which truth devotedly rests (Berry, 2016). Constructivist theory suggests that society constructs the truths, meaning that truths are products of societal processes. The ethical concern lies in how these constructed truths are gathered, mediated, and presented rather than considering the truths themselves as a bunch of myths. Tayyab and Abbas propose using Content Quality Audit Reports (CQARs) to ensure journalism institutions adhere to ethical principles in constructing truth (Tayyab and Abbas 2019). CQARs guarantee that journalistic information is consistent with society's legal, social, and economic values. These checks aim to promote productive and ethical practices in journalism. Additionally, CQARs are considered mandatory for national security. Furthermore, the checks stop the intentional twisting of facts, ensure that the judicial decisions are impartial and do not give undue favor to the management or an interest group, and ensure that records are reliable and interpretations are acceptable. Other scholars outlined criteria to assist journalists in maintaining the content audit and ensuring ethical workflow. A researcher's belief in non-compliance instances of non-compliance with ethical standards can often be attributed to a misalignment between these standards and other professional requirements specific to journalistic and advertising texts (Kryukova, 2018). The main reason for insufficient attention to ethical aspects of media content is the lack of precise wording of ethical standards in codes of professional ethics. When the ethical guidelines are not clearly defined, it can lead to

ambiguity and interpretation gaps, making it challenging for journalists to adhere to a consistent ethical framework. This limitation can be removed by open discussions within the professional community about professional standards and language ethics violations. By engaging in these discussions, professionals can identify areas of improvement, develop mechanisms to prevent breaches, and collectively enhance professional standards. According to Ben Messaoud, journalists must safeguard their ethics in the digital publishing era. To achieve this, they should follow the ethics from the literature on traditional media while acknowledging the distinctiveness of social media as a vital element in both institutions and society. Specifically, they should intensify their monitoring of fake news and rumors, expanding beyond selective and formal studies. This calls for adopting a multidimensional monitoring approach that employs multiple methods and outputs, enabling a more accurate understanding of the intricate relationship between fake news and the media and journalism industry (Ben Messaoud, 2021).

The current news media landscape has prompted a change in nature and journalistic practices. The innovative platforms, a focus on transparency, and reflexivity have created an environment where the basic definition of journalism is questioned (Carlson, 2015).. Furthermore, the primary purpose of objectivity became a central point of debate and is contested by modern or alternative learning and practicing journalism (Mast et al., 2016). Therefore, the experts and audience are worried about diminishing trust in conventional journalism, increasing division in society, and increasing complications in the closely connected world (Mast et al., 2018). Kovach and Rosenstiel think that the primary objective of journalism should be telling the truth, and reports should be meaningful and concise. They believe that a journalistic presentation of the world should be impartial and argue that pursuing the truth must consider that the reality presented is genuine and verifiable (Kovach & Rosenstiel, 2014). Adding constructive content to journalism is related to objectivity in journalism's ethical code. In 1996, The American Society of Professional Journalists replaced objectivity in the ethical code with accountability (Hermans & Gyldensted, 2018). Constructive Journalism (CJ), as posited by Gyldensted, challenges the traditional notion of objectivity within the journalistic sphere. Gyldensted asserts that objectivity, although traditionally revered, is not the crux of journalistic integrity and efficacy. The conventional model of objectivity entails the provision and transmission of exhaustive information concerning a particular issue. However, the practical reality reveals that journalists often delineate a fraction of a larger reality, as they elucidate a

story from a chosen perspective. This methodological choice underscores the journalist's commitment to convey a particular narrative angle to the audience, which, according to Gyldensted (2015), eclipses the objective ideal. Therefore, she advocates for a journalistic ethos anchored in neutrality, truthfulness, and accountability, rather than a rigid adherence to objectivity. Furthermore, intertwined with the notion of objectivity is the prevalent myth of neutrality, which suggests that journalists are mere reporters of news rather than active creators. The discourse posits that journalists should restrain from transcending their roles as impartial observers and messengers, even when motivated by good intentions, as such actions could potentially compromise their objectivity (Iggers, 2018). However, the ethical code governing journalism does not deter journalists from probing and reporting on constructive elements. The overarching aspiration of journalism, as delineated by Gyldensted (2015), is to forge narratives that are both captivating and rigorously accurate. Expanding upon this, Iggers (2018) articulates that executing ethical journalism entails a harmonious balance among three cardinal principles:

1. Ensuring the collection and dissemination of news is factual, untainted, and meaningful.
2. Upholding a sense of independence in journalism, while evading elements that might bias the news reporting, including the opinions of sources, or the interests of victims and beneficiaries.
3. Alleviating negative repercussions and challenges arising during journalistic endeavors, while treating sources, victims, and colleagues with respect and consideration, recognizing their humanity rather than exploiting them for journalistic gain.

Hence, the traditional notion of objectivity interpreted by mainstream media outlets and its historical implementation can help explain why there is a reliance on sources affiliated with dominant societal institutions. Journalists working in demanding schedules and at risk of legal issues need explicit guidelines in preparing news articles (Boudana, 2011). Moreover, Iggers (2018) argued that acceptable journalism is based on informed judgment rather than maintaining a neutral standpoint about the events significant to the community's life. The informed viewpoint can be achieved using principles such as; maintaining fairness and abstaining from sensationalism. These principles involve differentiating between facts and opinions, presenting diverse perspectives balanced, and notably drawing upon sources considered conventionally authoritative (Tuchman, 1970). The working environment in media outlets is transforming, and

media outlets practicing constructive journalism have a distinct economic model, news values focus, and an increased objectivity level (Atanasova, 2019).

The emergence of digital platforms has transformed the ethical codes of Journalism. Recent research reveals that adopting ethics in media practice in the digital domain depends on the digital legislation practiced in the country. Moreover, the transformation significantly influences the attitude of the reporters and norms adopted in the working places of the media outlets. Furthermore, a balance between the financial and political intentions of the media outlets and their willingness to participate in efforts for credibility in journalism's domain. Recently a study was conducted to compare the development and practicing of ethical codes in thirteen countries from different regions, including Europe (Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, United Kingdom), North America, and the Arab world (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia). The study showed that the general public and the journalists struggling for democracy in the societies of the Arab world led the movement for enacting the ethical codes. They have conducted detailed interviews with activists, professionals, and journalists to define ethical codes for the digital domain. On the other hand, European institutions are well structured and functioning as per approved ethical codes. However, practices outside media organizations are random and do not publish content systematically. Therefore, the issue for Europe in the digital era is maintaining the freedom and sustainability of journalism. The highlighted cases where the Internet effectively pursues ethical journalism by focusing on fairness and accountability (Heikkilä et al., 2012).

The professional communities in digital platforms work hard to define ethical standards for journalists who make decisions daily in digital Newsrooms. They strive to formulate a conducive environment where an ethical community with sharing responsibility will flourish among the journalists. In addition to the valuable collective institutions, journalism in the digital era should efficiently sustain the prevailing ethical challenges (García-Avilés, 2014). However, digital Newsrooms developed with their ethical issues, such as the ascription of online content, the usage of content from online sources, piracy of online news, use of direct quotations found online without proper sourcing and attribution, usage of personal information in reports that were initially located online, privacy and secrecy online content, referring to the business and corporate secrets sourced online, faking of identity to obtain personal information from email or social media tools, revealing of private information with consent, blackmail individuals of

reporting personal information to increase pressure on the sources, and illegal use of videos on online platforms, such as YouTube and Dailymotion (Ramaprasad et al., 2012). Internet and overall Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have significantly increased ethical issues in journalism. A recent study suggested that out of 99 codes related to ethics in journalism, only nine codes referred to issues related to challenges in the Internet and ICTs areas. The study firmly asked the experts to define new ethical codes to assist journalists in handling emerging issues of the new era (Díaz-Campo & Segado-Boj, 2015). Another study about the ethical issues and the need for codes of ethics in the current era observed that the codes practiced in the previous era are poorly adapted to the ethical standards of data verification. They were onus to fulfill the requirements for journalistic objectives (public services, honesty, and objectivity) in data journalism (Fahmy & Attia, 2020).

Practicing codes of ethics became more challenging worldwide with the prevalent technological era. The magnitude of fake news, polarization, and populism skyrocketed with the Internet and digital journalism. However, according to Suárez-Villegas, (2015) the ethical principles of journalism remain constant across different news platforms. The core idea is to adapt fundamental journalistic principles, such as the commitment to truth-seeking and respect for human rights, to the evolving landscape shaped by technological advancements. These changes have given rise to a new journalistic culture, yet the study underscores the importance of maintaining these ethical standards irrespective of the medium used for news production. Therefore, the time after 2011 gave birth to a post-truth era where some groups engineer the truth and are on the way to replacing the trends established by the CJ and other approaches (Haagerup 2014; Gyldensted 2015). This ethical transformation in digital journalism can be seen in a multitude of studies worldwide. The studies are about different continents with different political and journalism freedom rankings to examine the practice of the previous ethical code in the digital era and to find to what extent the essence of good journalism is adopted in the digital domain, and finally to explore if the journalism overall is still a constructive one.

In the Arab countries, for example, All Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries except Qatar have a minimum of one clause in their laws demanding in some way journalists to ensure that their reports are "true," For instance, Article 248 of Bahrain's penal code explicitly puts "false report" in the crime category during a public hearing. Similarly, Article 9 of Saudi's media law clauses binds journalists to "observe objective and constructive criticism that aims at public

interest and which is based on facts and evidence." In contrast, in The UAE, article 38 of the Cybercrime Law criminalizes spreading through electronic means "any incorrect, inaccurate or misleading information which may damage the interests of the State or injures its reputation, prestige or stature" (Duffy, 2014, p. 24). Exploring the practice of ethical code truth-telling in Arab countries showed that the elites in Arab countries have enforced multiple constraints on the media industry and the general public. They have prevented press freedom by labeling them a threat to national security (Masri, 2019). Due to the strict regulations on press freedom, many citizens do not believe in the official line. Every significant government action aims to restrict information and is attributed to national security, making the media useless. Therefore many Arab nationals frequently use digital platforms developed and controlled by other countries. In 2018, a study on digital media popularity showed that in every ten internet users from Arab countries, six use Facebook and WhatsApp to get authentic information, despite the government propaganda that digital platforms are the primary source of proliferating fake news (Martin & Hassan, 2020). Furthermore, the citizens in the Emirates reported the lowest spreading of fake political news on digital platforms, while Saudis registered the highest fake political news online. The highest number of reporting fake political News in Saudi is due to the strict legislation in the country. For instance, sharing fake News in Saudi can be sentenced to jail for up to five years (Daniel & Daniela, 2019). Therefore, Saudis internet users abstain from sharing fake news online and actively report them promptly (Martin & Hassan, 2020). Instead, the cybersecurity law UAE imposes responsibility on users who use communication mediums to transmit false or uncertain information that could damage another person's organization's reputation, integrity, or safety (Gross, 2017). The ethical codes of the UAE government are very strict about safeguarding the public from fake news and maintaining public safety. Therefore, UAE cyber standards are very effective in ensuring that users of WhatsApp and other social media in the UAE abstain from misuse of the platforms and use it only for beneficial purposes (Kabha et al., 2019).

Since the Internet is a noisy space, the Arab countries ranked partially free (Lebanon and Tunisia) by the Freedom House Report are flooded with fake news because their laws are lenient about fake news (Freedom House, 2020). However, the fake news is not punished as harshly as in, say, Saudi Arabia (Martin & Hassan, 2020). Due to the global nature of digital platforms and uneven laws in different countries, Hamada supports the definition of a global journalism ethics model and suggests that ethical laws can be defined from the Islamic perspective of globalism

(Hamada, 2016). He argued that the Islamic worldview supports a modern multicultural society that defines clear limits of freedom for any individual. Therefore, he stresses that the same ethical model can be applied to journalism in the digital era. The space provided to pluralism is vast, the primary goal of the universe's unity is never lost, and there are no chances of anarchy. Without surpassing the local cultures, It establishes shared universal values for all human beings. The proposed ethical model has four guiding principles: giving space to cultural diversity and pluralism, justice, freedom of expression, and moderation (Hamada, 2016). Therefore, the alignment between ethical journalistic norms and society must hold great importance to the future of constructive journalism. Experts understand the need for significant reforms prioritizing public interest and ethical values. These reforms will provide alternative approaches for a new public sphere that will help to resolve conflicts (Çamuroğlu & Çığ, 2016). Old and new media have their strengths and weaknesses in news reporting. The ideal strategy involves leveraging the strengths of each medium to practice trustworthy and positive journalism. Practicing journalism with social responsibility ensures the freedom of news reporting with a deep sense of duty to pursue justice for everyone (Information Resources Management Association, 2019). Howard (2004) suggested that such balanced news reporting can be seen as conflict-sensitive journalism CSJ (hereinafter). CSJ carefully uses words, looks for solutions, seeks an explanation, welcomes comments from any individual, and abstains from emotional terms. Furthermore, CSJ enables journalists to develop skills for conflict analysis and provides an opportunity for journalists to gain knowledge (Howard, 2004). Nonetheless, the unbounded accuracy and thorough balance/objectivity may be challenging, but it is still possible to practice sound journalism. He thinks including conflict sensitivity as an additional principle alongside accuracy and balance makes sound journalism impossible. Conversely, CSJ puts equal weight on peace and justice by providing the audience with a comprehensive understanding of the conflict's background and the underlying issues of inequality and injustice (Information Resources Management Association, 2019). CSJ in developing countries will be a more workable approach in the quest for more socially responsible and responsive journalism (From & Nørgaard Kristensen, 2018). Traditional and new media journalists should add peace journalism to CJ's approach for fruitful results (Musa, 2014).

The key characteristics of this newer type of CJ are commonly related to reporting social and political issues in the news. Due to its jovial and solution-seeking approach, CJ will

challenge conventional writing approaches about complicated news topics. In this respect, CJ will benefit from the approaches of service journalism, especially about the audience address and a more significant role for journalists in society (From & Nørgaard Kristensen, 2018). Haagerup (2017) motivates journalists to build news stories that are original and unique, not necessarily intimate in a geographical or emotional sense. The primary objective of the stories should be the care of citizens and society. Furthermore, they must provide perspective, knowledge, and understanding (Haagerup, 2017). Getting insights from western mature journalism ethics, such as Europe, shows that there are thirty national codes of ethics for journalism, with only twenty functional press councils. During the 1990s, European countries defined and revised these codes to ease implementations. However, in the new Central and Eastern European democracies, several recent codes have been established. The primary objectives of these codes are to practice accountability to the public and sources and safeguard the professional integrity of journalists from external influences. The fundamental principles shared by most European codes emphasize the importance of providing truthful information, prohibiting discrimination based on characteristics such as race or sex, utilizing fair methods in gathering information, upholding the integrity of both the source and the journalist, and protecting freedom of expression and comment. Interestingly, the dissimilarities and similarities among these national codes do not appear to align with any traditional divisions such as geography or language. (Laitila, 1995). But how do journalists and experts perceive the enforcement of the codes of ethics? A study interviewed 100 international experts from 14 countries, most of the European plus Jordan and Tunisia from the Arab countries, showed that the media industry should develop its self-regulation system to monitor and enhance the quality of its content (Fengler et al., 2015).

The self-regulation system for journalism ethics reinforcements is deficient even in well-established democratic nations like those in Europe. This broader concept is not limited to media companies or corporations, but extends to the entire social subsystem of communication. It suggests enhancing the array of self-regulatory mechanisms to improve social communication and underscores the importance of commitment to self-regulation. This responsibility is not just on media companies, but also on the professionals within these organizations and the general public, advocating for a collective approach to regulating and improving the quality of social communication (Aznar, 2019). A group of Swiss journalists conducted a study and concluded that significant limitations exist on the essential resources available for research and report

production. Furthermore, journalists have limited autonomy, exacerbating the challenges in journalistic practices (Fürst & Schönhagen 2018). The analysis of the Swiss press code shows that individual journalists are primarily responsible for good journalism. And they hardly address the differences between ethical codes and the economic interests of the media outlets he/she works for. Another study has examined the stance of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia regarding the violations of a journalistic ethics code and the liability of journalists. An examination of the court's previous judgments verifies that it views a journalist's failure to adhere to the provisions of a code of ethics as a factor in assessing the acceptability of their conduct in terms of liability for damages. The absence of effective sanctions has been identified as a significant limitation of self-regulation in News corporations (Poler & Čeferin, 2017). Therefore, codes of ethics, which serve as self-regulatory mechanisms, should be the basis for verifying the acceptability of a journalist's behavior in a court of law. The essence of self-regulation is to educate journalists, increase their skills to perform logical analysis, prompt self-correction in their professional work to elevate their professional standards, enhance their credibility, and gain acceptance in society. Hence, employing journalism ethics standards as a basis for conviction in court cases could potentially jeopardize the incentive to uphold elevated ethical standards for journalists. (Korpisaari, 2014).

In a broader scholarly context, researchers have posed inquiries regarding the comprehension, execution, and assessment of mechanisms aimed at fostering media accountability and transparency within the journalism profession across diverse nations. With the notable exceptions of Finland and Switzerland, the prevailing media self-regulation practices have left many European journalists dissatisfied with their perceived efficacy. Employing a rating scale ranging from 1 to 5, it is discerned that the most effective instruments for the implementation of ethical codes are company policies, which obtained a rating of 3.71, closely followed by media regulations, garnering a rating of 3.64. Conversely, traditional tools, such as ethical codes (with an average rating of 3.43) and press councils (with an average rating of 2.95), which have been long-standing practices in most countries, exhibit a comparatively modest impact. Furthermore, the analysis reveals that the relatively flat and informal newsroom structures in Finland serve as conducive environments for the cultivation of constructive criticism. Notably, Finland and Switzerland, both endowed with relatively thriving media industries, are better positioned to allocate resources towards enhanced accountability

mechanisms compared to nations characterized by intense media market competition, as highlighted in the study conducted by Fengler et al. (2015).

Many research showed that discussion about the social responsibility of journalism in the news has been resurfacing in recent years in different contexts and emphases (Christians and Nordenstreng, 2004; Ahva & Hautakangas, 2018). The critical question about the role of journalism in society mainly depends upon organizations' perceptions of ethical codes. Generally, the politician, the majority of the citizens, and media scholars criticize media organizations for not fulfilling their due role in society. However, Himelboim & Limor analyzed 242 ethical codes in 94 countries to explore the social roles of journalists perceived by media outlets (Himelboim & Limor 2010). The study recognized and associated the social roles of journalists in society and the locations of power depending on the country's geopolitical circumstances and the nature of media outlets. The study observed that nearly every country across the world uniformly perceives the role of journalism. Citizens in every country believe that media organizations are not offensive but defensive to the locations of power, unbiased, and isolated from society. The results also focused on the control of media organizations in determining these roles. The study concluded that distributing information 48% is the most significant journalistic service to the public, determination to social interest ranked second 40%, mobilizing public opinion received a marginal position of 5%, involvement in the community got 2%, and motivating society to find solutions of social problems attained only One percent (Himelboim & Limor 2010). As we see from this study, journalistics' role in society and finding solutions is not practically significant in most of the codes of ethics included in the study.

Harro-Loit (2015) conducted an empirical investigation with the objective of identifying the primary entity responsible for overseeing the implementation of journalism codes and ethical standards. The study under consideration drew upon data derived from the research initiative titled "Media Accountability and Transparency in Europe." The empirical findings presented herein represent a comprehensive comparative analysis encompassing the perspectives of journalists hailing from 14 distinct countries. These countries include Tunisia, Spain, Austria, Romania, Jordan, Finland, Estonia, Italy, Germany, Poland, Switzerland, Netherlands, France, and the United Kingdom. Notably, the study's outcomes reveal a noteworthy and thought-provoking insight: a substantial majority, approximately two-thirds, of the surveyed journalists indicated that they do not perceive themselves as being ultimately accountable to a

divine authority in their professional conduct. Instead, the most influential determinants shaping their ethical comportment and journalistic practices emanate from within their professional milieu. Specifically, the key stakeholders identified as exerting the most substantial influence over journalists' ethical conduct comprise the publisher, the editor-in-chief, and their fellow colleagues within the Newsroom. To elaborate on these statistics, it is noteworthy that 44% of respondents acknowledged a sense of accountability towards their publishers, while a more substantial 66% expressed a sense of accountability towards the editor-in-chief. Additionally, an equally substantial 64% of the surveyed journalists articulated a pronounced sense of accountability vis-à-vis their colleagues working within the Newsroom environment (Harro-Loit, 2015).

Additionally, Mauri-Ríos and Zuberogoitia-Espilla (2020) conducted a study about Spanish journalists with a primary focus on exploring the influence of journalists' personality factors, such as age and level of education, professional factors, such as working experience, experience type, and current role in the media outlet. This research shows that three factors influence journalists' perception of ethical codes. First, the care of the ethical codes is mainly determined by the journalists' age in personal factors. Older professionals give higher value to the ethical codes and feel more accountable to the ethical codes. Second, in the professional factors, the study showed that previous and current work experiences in any particular medium influence journalists' perceptions of codes. Thirdly, the length of a professional career gives more accountability and confidence in ethical codes. The main journalistic code of ethics that confuses the practice of constructive journalism is when they are keen to peer feedback or criticism more than society, as negative criticism is embedded in journalism. Rodríguez carried out a research study as a segment of a global study on journalism ethics, explicitly focusing on the ability of Spanish journalists to handle criticism (Rodríguez-Martínez, 2017). The study's prime objective was to analyze how they report, accept, and assess criticism, drawing comparisons between their perspectives and international journalists. Data was collected from 123 Spanish journalists selected from 1762 professionals worldwide. Data analysis showed that Spanish journalists receive more substantial criticism from their supervisors, Ninety percent, and fellow workers, Eighty-six percent. Furthermore, they receive a higher criticism from the regulatory than self-regulatory bodies; e.g., Ombudsman gives Twenty-one percent, and users/citizens give Sixty percent, while the general public is less critical and criticizes social

media only Fifty-two percent. However, the study suggests that Spanish journalists do not emphasize peer criticism as much as their international counterparts. Nevertheless, they strongly associate transparency and accountability with their audience.

Worldwide historical studies pointed out many resemblances in ethical codes and their practices, mainly depending on self-regulation plus organizations' commitment to enforcement. Bykov et al, (2015) concluded that journalists in the United States, professionals, prepared moral and ethical codes for journalists much earlier than in Russia. The United States had defined the codes in the first decade of the 20th century, while Russia followed in the 1990s. The analysis indicates that certain societal conditions are vital for the emergence of ethical codes of journalism. However, In the United States, the media was enormously harmed by the yellow press and flooded with negative information and scandals. As a result, solid ethical codes emerged, and professional unions and associations were established. To some extent, a similar trend was observed in Russia. After its disintegration in the 1990s, the press in Russia had virtually no regulations, and journalists had no responsibility to society. At that time, ethical standards put some limits on journalists.

1.6. Results; The outcome of the Analysis of CJ Academic Literature

This section delves into the complex nexus between journalism's ethical codes and the underpinnings of Constructive Journalism (CJ). It is pivotal in discerning how CJ's society-focused journalistic practices are intertwined with journalism's traditional principles. The focus here is on unraveling the elements of social responsibility and corporate citizenship within these codes, thereby elucidating their alignment with CJ's core values. Central to CJ are its key pillars: "Solution-oriented," "Public-oriented," and "Future-oriented" (Hermans & Drok, 2018). These embody the positive mindset integral to CJ, as McIntyre & Gyldensted (2017) observe, forming a foundation for the application of positive psychology in news production. This approach aims to generate content that is beneficial, authentic, and engaging, while adhering to the essential duties of journalism. The authors highlight the need for a paradigm shift in mindset to bridge the gap between truthful information and the audience. The validity of CJ, particularly its emphasis on solutions, is often questioned regarding its adherence to professional journalism

standards. Jackson (2019) addresses this by advocating for a blend of problem-focused and solution-focused methodologies in journalism. Contrary to the traditional dichotomy of these approaches, she emphasizes their coexistence as essential for the continuity and robustness of journalism and the wider media sphere. Jackson's argument extends to the importance of reflecting on past achievements and failures to gain a more comprehensive understanding of global events and to shape a better future. The intersection of CJ's principles (public, solution, and future orientations) with journalism's ethical codes and social responsibility is significant in determining an organization's or individual journalist's capability to practice CJ (Jackson, 2019). Global case studies, particularly from Western nations, have demonstrated CJ's efficacy in engaging audiences and restoring media-society trust. Hermans and Gyldensted (2019), and Meier (2018) in Germany, have further substantiated these findings.

The application of CJ, however, varies according to cultural contexts, press freedom, and national priorities. An extensive study encompassing 23 countries revealed that constructive journalism approaches were most prevalent in the United States and Europe, with less representation in Africa, Asia, and Latin America (Lough & McIntyre, 2021). This highlights the necessity to expand research beyond Western contexts, particularly into regions like the Arab world, the focus of this thesis. Despite the observed limitations in applying ethical codes in Asia and Africa, successful CJ implementations have been noted in Syria (Arafat, 2021) and Rwanda (McIntyre & Sobel, 2018). Sørensen's (2020) comparative study between Norway and Ethiopia further illustrates the adaptability of CJ to different socio-political environments. This adaptability underscores the potential of CJ in regions with restricted freedoms and democratic processes, highlighting the essential role of ethical codes and social responsibilities even at the individual journalist level.

In the Arab region the content analysis I conducted for the purpose of this thesis of ethical media codes across Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar revealed a strong emphasis on social responsibility despite the lack of explicit solutions-oriented guidelines. Each country demonstrated a unique commitment to societal issues, which is crucial for fostering a harmonious society. The social commitment inherent in the media codes of ethics in the Arab region is robust, reflecting the collective, family, and tribal ethos of Arab communities where public good is highly valued, as noted by Sidani (2018). Confirming this potential for CJ in the Arab region, Alkhalaf (2020) investigated the feasibility

of publishing constructive and independent journalism. The study examined the role of emerging technologies in democratizing access to information from various open sources. It also emphasized the ability of citizens to contribute and share information through social media platforms, empowering free speech and independent journalism beyond government control. This technological advancement has the potential to offer journalists sustainable income, thereby enhancing their autonomy and capacity to deliver unbiased news and information. In summary, this section provides a comprehensive analysis of the potential technological influences on modern journalism. In conclusion, this chapter presents a comprehensive analysis of the interplay between ethical journalism and CJ, demonstrating CJ's versatility across different global contexts and its significant potential in the Arab region.

Chapter 2

2.1. Codes of Ethics of Journalism in the Arab Countries and the Search for Constructive Journalism

In the preceding chapter, an in-depth exploration was undertaken to understand the concept and scope of CJ, elucidating its fundamental pillar of orienting journalism towards public interest, solutions, and future perspectives. This exploration also delved into the complex interplay between journalism's ethical codes and the foundational principles of Constructive Journalism. The chapter underscored how CJ's emphasis on societal issues is intrinsically linked to the traditional principles of journalism. It further examined how social responsibility and corporate citizenship are integrated within these ethical codes, revealing a strong alignment with the core values of CJ. Key elements of CJ, including its solution-oriented, public-oriented, and future-oriented nature, were highlighted, underscoring CJ's commitment to a positive psychological approach in news production. This approach aims to generate content that is not only truthful and beneficial but also compelling. Additionally, the chapter addressed the debates surrounding CJ, particularly its focus on solutions, advocating for an integrated approach that combines both problem-focused and solution-focused perspectives in journalism. This integration is posited as critical for the ongoing development and sustainability of journalism.

The application and reception of CJ across diverse global contexts, shaped by varying cultural norms, levels of press freedom, and national priorities, were also examined. Research indicates a more pronounced prevalence of constructive approaches in Western countries, with comparatively lesser representation in regions such as Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This disparity highlights the need for expanded research into non-Western regions, particularly the Arab world. Instances from countries experiencing limited freedoms showcased the versatility and potential of CJ in varied socio-political environments. In the Arab region, a content analysis

of ethical media codes revealed a pronounced focus on social responsibility, indicative of a profound commitment to addressing societal issues, an essential component for nurturing a harmonious society. The chapter also delved into the potential of CJ in the Arab region, emphasizing the role of innovative technologies and new economic models in fostering independent journalism. These advancements could lead to enhanced journalistic independence and sustainability, thus improving the capacity for delivering unbiased and diverse news content. In summary, the chapter provided a comprehensive overview of the relationship between ethical journalism and CJ, demonstrating its adaptability and relevance across various social and political landscapes. Building upon the foundational understanding of Constructive Journalism (CJ) and its integration with journalism's ethical codes, this chapter aims to conduct a nuanced analysis of the journalism codes of ethics within specific Arab Middle East nations: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. The central objective of this analysis is to discern how these codes resonate with the fundamental criteria of CJ, especially in terms of their dedication to truth-telling, inclusivity in representing diverse populations, societal empowerment, and the safeguarding of privacy. This exploration is designed to investigate not only the adherence of these codes to the principles of CJ but also to understand how they contribute to creating solutions and envisaging a future that serves the public good.

The analysis will involve a thorough deconstruction of the ethical frameworks governing journalism in these countries, examining the enforcement mechanisms and the interplay with local laws and regulations. By delving into these ethical codes, the study will illuminate the extent to which they align with or diverge from the ideals of CJ. Key areas of focus will include the ethical commitment to accurate and truthful reporting, the representation of diverse voices and perspectives within media narratives, the role of journalism in empowering societies, and the ethical handling of privacy concerns in journalistic practice. Furthermore, the analysis will extend to evaluate how these ethical tenets contribute to the overarching goals of CJ — notably, the fostering of solutions-oriented and future-focused journalism. This aspect of the study is crucial in understanding how ethical practices in journalism can be leveraged not just for immediate reporting objectives but also for their longer-term impacts on societies. By examining these codes of ethics through the lens of CJ, the chapter seeks to reveal how ethical journalism can be a powerful tool in addressing societal challenges and contributing to a more positive and

forward-looking public discourse. In summary, this chapter will offer a comprehensive examination of the journalism codes of ethics in selected Arab Middle East countries, evaluating their alignment with the principles of CJ and their potential in driving solution-focused and future-oriented journalism for the public interest. The first section was the source of academic publication we conducted through a chapter titled (Looking for Constructive Journalism Principles in Arab Journalism Codes of Ethics: A Study on UAE, KSA, and Qatar) in the *Handbook of Applied Journalism: Theory and Practice*, published by Springer Nature Switzerland in 2024 (Almahmoud & Córdoba, 2024) .

This chapter begins by providing an overview of the current state of journalism in the Arab Middle East. It then proceeds to conduct a thorough deontological analysis of the journalism codes of ethics in the selected countries: Jordan, Lebanon, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Syria, and Iraq. The analysis primarily focuses on assessing the alignment of these countries' media codes of ethics with international standards, particularly in terms of adherence to the principles of constructive journalism. These principles, as defined by Hermans and Gyldensted (2018), include truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement. The degree to which each country's media code of ethics commits to these principles will be critically evaluated.

Furthermore, the section explores the effects of reinforcement mechanisms that assess the influence of political, social, and professional factors on ethical codes. It evaluates the extent to which "Additional Terms and Values Pressure" (ATVP) affects. ATVP is classified into three main categories: Social, Political, and Professional factors. The analysis will measure the influence of each category in each of the seven countries, as well as collectively, to determine the extent of political, social, or professional pressures exerted on journalistic practices. The chapter aims to uncover the potential for the prevalence of CJ in these countries. This potential is predicated not only on the adherence to the principles of CJ but also on the dominance of a favorable social weighting within the codes of ethics. The findings will provide insights into whether the current journalistic environment in these Arab Middle Eastern countries is conducive to the growth and effectiveness of constructive journalism. This section was a base for one academic publication, as chapters of an academic book. The chapter titled (Work culture and values in media companies in the Arab Region: the case of Jordan and Lebanon) as part of *Un*

nuevo pacto empresa-sociedad. Economía social y ética published by Dykinson, S.L. in 2022 (Almahmoud & Cejudo, 2022).

2.1.1. The status of Journalism in the Arab Middle East

In exploring the application of Constructive Journalism in the Arab region, a deep understanding of its social and ethical dimensions is essential. The modern digital era brings forth an exigent need for reconfiguring journalistic ethics and practices. Constructive Journalism, a paradigm promoting solution-focused discourse, aligns well with this need (McIntyre, 2015). The crux of this engagement lies at the intersection of journalistic Codes of Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) which are crucial for academicians and practitioners navigating the evolving media landscape. The Arab region, with its unique media dynamics marked by state control and censorship, presents distinct challenges and opportunities for the adoption of Constructive Journalism (Rugh, 2004). The burgeoning digital media sphere is a gateway for fostering constructive narratives, contingent upon the adherence to Codes of Ethics and incorporation of CSR principles. This alignment is pivotal for enhancing transparency, accountability, and fostering a positive societal discourse (Hafez, 2014), and can potentially spur broader democratic and socio-political advancements in the region (Ayish, 2003). The Codes of Ethics in journalism are instrumental in guiding practitioners towards responsible information dissemination, embodying the values of impartiality, truthfulness, and accountability (Ward, 2018). In a complementary vein, CSR, traditionally rooted in corporate culture, finds its relevance in media houses aiming for a positive societal imprint (Carroll, 2015). This confluence amplifies the essence of Constructive Journalism, which is ingrained in positive psychology and solution-oriented narratives, advocating for a holistic and responsible journalistic approach (Gyldensted, 2015). The symbiotic relationship between Codes of Ethics and CSR elucidates a pathway for actualizing Constructive Journalism, which, in turn, cultivates a culture of responsible reporting and enriches democratic dialogue. This exploration not only elevates media sustainability and ethical adherence but also contributes to the growing discourse on impactful journalism. As academic scrutiny continues, dissecting the intertwined dynamics of these domains will be instrumental in advancing journalistic practices in alignment with societal expectations and the imperatives of social justice and corporate responsibility. The ethics of journalism are intrinsically tied to the status and credibility of the journalism sector in any

geographical or political context. Ethical adherence forms the bedrock of trust, transparency, and accountability, which are imperative for the journalism sector to thrive and effectively serve its societal functions. This relationship is particularly pronounced in environments where information is a critical resource for public discourse and democratic engagement. When journalists adhere to a stringent code of ethics, it elevates the status of journalism, reinforcing its role as a reliable source of information and a crucial pillar of democratic societies. Conversely, ethical lapses can erode public trust and diminish the stature of the journalism sector.

Transitioning to the context of Arab countries, the status of journalism often mirrors the broader socio-political and regulatory landscape. The media landscape in many Arab nations is characterized by state control, censorship, and sometimes a palpable lack of freedom of expression. These factors invariably influence the ethical frameworks within which journalists operate, and by extension, the public's perception and trust in journalistic outputs. The application of Constructive Journalism in such a context necessitates a meticulous examination of the existing ethical frameworks, and an understanding of how these frameworks intersect with the broader socio-political dynamics. This examination provides a foundational basis for exploring how the principles of Constructive Journalism could be harmonized with existing ethical codes to enhance the status of journalism in the Arab region, thereby fostering a more informed, engaged, and empowered citizenry. Through this lens, we can begin to unravel the complex tapestry of factors that influence the status of journalism in Arab countries and pave the way for meaningful discussions on advancing ethical and constructive journalistic practices in the region. This chapter analyzes the professional values of journalism in Arab countries through the perspective of international ethical codes considering the regional context, i.e., focusing on the local legal bases and ethical codes affecting the profession. Firstly, the Arab region is ranked the lowest in freedom of speech globally. International watchdogs such as Reporters Without Borders (RSF from now on) have even concluded that there is no free press in the majority of Arab countries (RSF, 2023). Similarly, UNESCO has declared that the Arab region is the most unsafe for journalists globally (UNESCO, 2018). Furthermore, Freedom House (a U.S. watchdog for press freedom) considers Arab countries as not free, except Lebanon, Kuwait, and Morocco, which are considered partially free. Tunisia would be the only free country (Freedom House, 2020). This context of freedom limitation in the region is reflected in practical journalism and its standards. Accordingly, Lewis & Nashmi have classified the barriers faced by Arab journalists

into four categories: two structural ones, which are limited access to data and expectations of the social and political institutions, plus two barriers of individualistic nature are ignorance and resistance to change (Lewis & Nashmi, 2019, p.1). Nonetheless, this restrictive environment has given rise to specific virtues in the perceived standards of excellence for Arab journalists.

Patriotism is the most prominent case since it is considered a core virtue by many Arab journalists, not a breach of professional ethics, even if such patriotism might suppress censure of the current political order and lessen freedom of the press (Al-Najjar, 2011). Similarly, in Arab countries, journalists prefer keeping a low profile as a professional principle.

Furthermore, in the cultural context of Arab/Muslim society, rulers are commonly deliberated as the indisputable heads of the community. The political and social providence of the people is in their hands (Ngwainmbi, 2019). Therefore, Arab journalists work in professional environments where the ethical foundations are manifested by universal codes, local standards imposed by political regimes, and Islamic cultural boundaries. Furthermore, Arab states follow different references in formulating their media ethics and journalism codes. This unique approach allows practices prohibited in some countries to generate confusion among professionals working in international news agencies (Drumwright & Kamal, 2015). Nevertheless, to integrate local practices with international organizations, the Arab worldview could offer a futuristic ethical journalism model that promotes diversity in a multicultural society and prevents unrestricted relativism. Various factors have influenced the evolution of the professional Arab ethical system. On the one hand, the dominance of religion and adherence to philosophy in society are the normative forces. Furthermore, the historical cultural exchanges influenced the "Arab ethical mindset." Finally, the economic pressures, colonial history, and political experiences shaped their approach over the last two centuries (Sidani, 2018). The Arab ethical mindset is a complex and multifaceted concept that has been shaped by a variety of sources, including Arab culture, Islam, and Western influences. This diversity has led to a wide range of opinions among journalists about the best way to approach ethical issues. Some journalists believe that Arab values should be given priority, while others argue that Western ethical principles are more universal and should be applied in all cases. This plurality of views has made it difficult for Arab journalists to develop a unified code of ethics. However, there have been some attempts to do so, and a number of Arab journalism organizations have adopted codes of ethics that reflect the values of their members (Hamada, 2016). The Code of Ethics for Arab

Journalists has been praised by some for its commitment to journalistic principles, but it has also been criticized by others for being too vague and for failing to address some of the specific ethical challenges that Arab journalists face. However, Hafez (2002) argues that the Arab journalism codes of ethics are evolving and becoming incrementally globalized, where the islamic and Arabic traditional ethics are more aligned with the international standards..

In this section, I comprehensively analyze the ethical codes of journalism/media outlets in the studied Arab countries of the Middle East; Jordan, Lebanon, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Syria, and Iraq. The analysis of these seven countries will present an overall picture as they represent most of the Arab region. Moreover, these countries also represent different political and cultural systems practiced in the region. Therefore, our analysis will cover the impact of political and cultural diversities on journalism. Furthermore, the content of journalism codes in each country will be analyzed considering the influence of the legal environment, and they shall be assessed in terms of their compliance with international standards. This way, the analysis will illuminate the concepts and values affecting the codes. Similarly, the research will explore the differences between what is proclaimed in the codes and what is implemented and enforced. Thus, the high matching of the codes regarding international standards might not be translated into an appropriate professional practice. On the other hand, specifications and values added to the codes by the laws, or even by the journalism associations, could handicap the professional practice under the pretext of cultural differences. We will explore case studies of how the authoritarian elites manipulate the local powers and suppress the opposition to impede modernization and improvements in journalism. They present false narratives of promoting national sovereignty, local culture, and ancestral traditions to prolong and extend their power (Herrscher, 2002).

2.1.2. The context of The Arab Journalism Codes of Ethics

In the Arab world, professional values and standards of journalism are in their infancy and developing in a different direction than the traditional Western journalistic developed over centuries. It can be argued that unique economic, cultural, societal, and political realities play a significant role in development (Stroud, 2019). The same discrepancy appears when applying ethical journalism norms to individual countries of the Arab states. In Iraq, for example, professional standards are still evolving after over a decade of ousting the dictatorship from this

country, with a conflict between conventional Western journalistic standards and other economic, societal, political, and cultural veracities (Relly et al, 2015). Although the Freedom House survey described earlier ranked Lebanon as partially free, many journalism students and young journalists argue that the country's chronic corruption forces local journalists to indulge in unethical behavior, compromising their credibility and integrity. These fresh journalists acknowledge that journalism is the "fourth estate." Still, they believe that this position is severely weakened when journalists are prevented from reporting the facts due to the political prejudices of editors and gatekeepers, economic pressures, and employment-related compulsions. The integrity of journalism is consequently damaged (Bou Zeid & El-Khoury, 2019). Furthermore, to explore the underlying factors that have formulated the ethical and practical codes of Arab journalists, Ngwainmbi (2019) surveyed journalists from Sudan and Qatar. He concluded that the respondents exhibited higher confidence in the impact of journalism on public opinion, but they had lower confidence in its role as a policy influencer. The ethics issues in journalism were theorized within the religion and culture domains that connect both cliques. Another study focused on the dilemma of censorship versus ethical obligations to spread awareness to the public. The study concluded that 74.4% of Qatari journalists believe it is challenging to scrutinize corruption-related information. However, 125 interviews with prominent journalists from all the significant newsgroups in the country revealed that journalists acknowledge the limitations and usual denigration of Qatar's journalism, including scarcity of thorough commentary, and journalists are frequently regarded as amplifiers and representatives for the officials, focusing excessively on mundane government actions (Kirat, 2016). In some other Arab states like the United Arab Emirates, Alzaabi et al. (2019) suggested that social media platforms have uncovered the state of the traditional media regarding one of the central values enshrined in codes of ethics which question 'credibility'. According to the study, "journalists believe that social media have a high credibility compared to traditional media" in this country (Alzaabi et al., 2019, p. 536). As a result, journalism in the Arab countries studied is still struggling to maintain professionalism and balance it with the pressure of censorship and a lack of capacity building.

Nevertheless, in some cases, Arab journalism tried to adopt some international and regional ethical standards to add more professional practices. In Saudi Arabia, Deen's (2019) study revealed a tendency among Saudi journalists to prioritize foreign ethical standards,

particularly those of Egypt and the United States, over local journalistic ethics. The research concluded that American ethical codes most prominently influence Saudi journalists, followed by Egyptian codes, and lastly, Saudi journalistic ethics. Deen (2019) recommended that the media authorities and journalist associations in Saudi Arabia create an updated ethical guide. This refreshed guide should align with technological and communication advancements and be infused with inspiration from societal values, as well as the cultural and lifestyle nuances of the audience (Deen, 2019). The discussion of Arab journalism codes of ethics has headed Arab journalists to ponder on their Islamic culture in Muslim-dominated nations. Muchtar et al. (2017) have identified four Islamic guidelines for journalism: striving for the community benefit (*maslahah*), fact and fact-telling (*siddiq* and *haqq*), pedagogy (*tabligh*), and reasonableness (*wasatiyyah*). Their survey of journalism in Asia (Malaysia, Bangladesh, Qatar, Indonesia, Turkiye, Oman, and the UAE), Europe (Kosovo and Albania), and Africa (Egypt, Sierra Leone, and Sudan) found expositions of these guidelines in the examined countries. As a result, Muchtar et al. concluded that "journalists' roles in Muslim-majority countries are not so much shaped by a distinctively Islamic worldview as they were by the political, economic, and socio-cultural contexts" (Muchtar et al., 2017, p. 555). In line with Muchtar's findings, some studies suggested that the Islamic guidelines propose a futuristic ethical journalism paradigm that safeguards a universal pluralism in a multicultural society (Hamada, 2016).

In the realm of journalistic ethics within the Arab region, a nuanced analysis reveals a landscape marked by significant regulatory constraints and oversight by political authorities. The established prohibitions pertain to various domains, including intellectual property, safeguarding public norms, combating child pornography, ensuring copyright adherence, mitigating defamation, and addressing concerns pivotal to national security and public order. Particularly in nations encompassed within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), defamation is predominantly construed from a legal perspective as a criminal rather than a civil infraction. This perspective is evidenced by the legislation governing the journalistic codes of conduct within Arab nations, where defamation is unequivocally characterized as a criminal violation within the media laws (Zaid, 2018; Duffy, 2014). The legal frameworks within these regions extend special protection to political leaders and public officials, a provision that ostensibly contrasts with the exigencies of robust media scrutiny requisite for fostering accountability to the public. Specific legal stipulations elucidate the criminal nature attributed to acts of defamation, including libel and

slander, within the GCC countries. The laws dictate that individuals found culpable of disseminating false accusations are susceptible to legal resources, including reporting to law enforcement authorities and subsequent arrest (Duffy, 2014). For instance, distinctive legal provisions within countries such as Bahrain delineate punitive measures for defamation, encapsulating penal sanctions such as imprisonment or imposition of substantial fines. Similar legal enactments are discernible within the United Arab Emirates' cybercrime legislation, which categorically criminalizes acts of defamation perpetrated through digital communication platforms.

An examination of legal codes, such as Article 326 of the Qatar penal code, reveals explicit legal provisions that prescribe acts of public defamation, stipulating penalties encompassing imprisonment or monetary fines. A collective appraisal of legal frameworks within countries such as Kuwait, Oman, and Saudi Arabia corroborates the criminal classification accorded to acts of libel. Conclusively, an overarching legal consensus within the GCC countries prevails, wherein defamation is unequivocally adjudged as illegal, with no prevailing legal provisions to consider the veracity of the statements as a constitutive element of defense. The expansive or dubious public order provisions in the Arab media laws direct journalists to self-censorship (Galander, 2015). For instance, a reporter digging into dishonesty at a government department could be alleged to disturb public order by exposing the injustices (Duffy, 2014). UAE's Cybercrime Law prescribes the electronic sharing of inaccurate, incorrect, or deceptive information that may damage the state's interests or stature. Kuwait's media law dictates journalists validate the authenticity of their reports. Oman's penal code forbids false statements or unjust accusations that lead to national currency devaluing or compromising trust in the state's economic conditions. However, with the rise of citizen journalism, Arab bloggers have been successful in networking and often actively lobby for each other. Therefore, they can effectively work together to decide the ethical and journalism standards, making it difficult for state officials to find spurious motives to chastise them for reporting (Hamdy, 2017).

Every nation prevents broadcasting its defense-related data that could risk its security. Likewise, media laws prevent sensationalism for pursuing truth and objectivity in journalism (Frost, 2015). However, media and journalists in a nation should collect information and write in a manner suitable to its culture. For instance, in France, the Law covers a wide range of issues dealt with by other countries in their press codes of ethical conduct. Therefore, the French code

of journalistic conduct is more regulated than in Sweden, The Scandinavian country has practically no legislation around ethical media activity, and practitioners strictly follow a robust code devised by the regulatory media council (Herrscher, 2002). Nevertheless, there is a dire need for well-defined principles to solve the problems created by powerful states, financial organizations, and journalists globally. They must unearth the illustrious motives to prolong the elites' power and the people's ignorance (Herrscher, 2002). While, in the Arab countries, some guidelines are crafted by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). CPJ is a U.S. non-profit and non-government organization working for press freedom globally. The international staff of CPJ observes and reports press freedom disruptions and attacks on journalists. CPJ reported that a few Middle East countries prohibited their national media from censoring the leadership of other GCC states (Alkazemi et al., 2018). However, Arab journalists feel accountability for the people they serve. This accountability includes the need to be fair and balanced and a commitment to be more independent. The professional debate about the factors deterring the application of moral and professional norms can be pretty intense. In Kuwait, for example, the factors compromising the ethical codes to which media professionals are answerable are extensively discussed, such as journalists accepting bribes (Onyebadi & Alajmi, 2014).

The priority of news channels is to report breaking news and sensational images rather than to consider the rights and interests of subject persons, including victims of violence or the public in general. The news culture of Arab television, relative to most Western news cultures, does not shy away from showing footage of violence and atrocity (UNESCO, 2018). However, Arabic televisions followed the journalistic principles and standards British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Trust defined between 2007 and 2017. On the other hand, many other international broadcasters, such as France 24 Arabic, Deutsche Welle (D.W.), Al-Hurra, and R.T. Arabic, are partially determined to serve the population in their own country. Moreover, Al-Jazeera, Al-Arabiya, and Sky News Arabia have been in ongoing disputes during the Gulf Crisis 2017. This crisis started when Egypt, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain put an embargo on Qatar after accusing it of allegedly sponsoring terrorism. The three networks reporting on the 2017 Gulf Crisis involved persistent violations of fundamental journalistic principles, despite Al-Jazeera introducing journalistic codes in 2006 and 2010 and Sky News Arabia claiming to be a trusted and professional news source dedicated to delivering impactful news (Al-Najjar, 2020). According to another study, it is believed that globally, journalism has a poor public reputation,

and they do not have high regard for journalism. They doubt journalists and are cynical of their profession. Journalists are viewed as disreputable, untrustworthy, and dishonest, like politicians. They are criticized for putting the truths of the case aside and promoting a personal or sectional interest. The people respond with certain mistrust or disdain to the fact that the essence of journalism is truth-telling (Kieran, 1998). As outlined in professional codes, journalism ethics clearly recognize that truth, accuracy, and objectivity are the foundational principles of journalism ethics. Various codes of German, Malaysian, and Saudi Arabian—stress that it is the primary duty of a journalist to report the truth stemming from the public's right to be adequately informed (Hafez, 2002).

2.1.3. Enforcing Codes of Ethics in the Arab Region

Enforcing codes of ethics is a vital part of the discussion on this topic. Drafting a code of ethics is not enough; the most essential aspect is the application of the code. Ethical rules are incorporated into media regulations in some Arab nations, while others have them as separate entities. Additionally, various ways have been employed for their implementation, including self-regulation, government regulation, and a mix of the two. The ombudsman concept, widely known and rooted in Western journalistic culture, refers to an expert or body that oversees journalism organizations' commitment to ethical codes and provides a public outlet for complaints (Wilkins & Christians, 2008). Despite their controversial nature, newspaper ombudsmen play a crucial role in fostering transparency, accountability, and public trust in journalism (Meyers, 2000). Opponents have two main objections to the Ombudsmans' role. Firstly, they have a significant financial impact. Secondly, they create a bureaucratic layer between the general public and factual information. On the other hand, proponents view ombudsman as a "funnel" for the reader to get adequate details (McKenna 1993). Also, they appreciate an ombudsman's reductive effect on libel complaints (Pritchard 1993). And finally, newspapers need independent reviewers to work as connections to the public and keep journalists within their boundaries. Although the news ombudsmen's count is rising globally, these self-critics are becoming redundant in countries like the Netherlands and the United States for two reasons: firstly, with the bloggers and other social media options, the newsrooms no longer need expensive ombudsmen. Secondly, some chief editors believe that selecting senior journalists for editorial functions can improve quality without any ombudsmen (Evers, 2012).

The ombudsman practice is practically abolished in Finland, Great Britain, and Central Eastern Europe. (Heikkilä, et al. 2012). A recent study showed the absence of ombudsmen in several Arab countries, except in Lebanon, through a disciplinary body related to the journalist's syndicate. Another study surveyed journalists from 14 countries, including two Arab countries, Jordan and Tunisia, and other European countries showed that 64.7% of the journalists experience significant responsibility toward their coworkers in the news studio, 66% toward the editor-in-chief, and 44.4% toward the producer. (Harro-Loit 2015). Fengler et al. (2015) interviewed 100 international experts from 14 countries, primarily European plus Jordan and Tunisia from the Arab countries. The study revealed that on a rating scale of 1–5, the professional code of ethics scores 3.43, press councils acquire 2.95, analysis in the news media secures 2.72, and the Ombudsman obtains 2.27. The outcomes are partially justified by the irregular exercise of these codes in some states. According to the researchers, the media industry should continuously observe the standard of its self-management systems.

Every nation enforces media standards by passing laws. Democratic countries in the West have introduced a cultural ethic for the media person that handles the majority of issues of confidentiality, honesty, harassment, and fidelity. In a few instances, the concerned community will implement those ethics by law. In his book *Journalism Ethics and Regulation*, Frost (2015), described an array of ethical standards of journalism practiced in most countries. Another approach is a self-regulatory statutory body. The body imposes a levy on the members for funding. Generally, the government defines the body under the legislation and is supported by legislation. Setting up a legislative body by Law is usually easier for a government than having a range of decrees enforcing ethics. Similarly, another possibility is for a voluntary regulatory body to consider complaints in the industry. The state implements the ethical codes by regulation, a legislative governing body, or a combination of both. Sometimes a practitioner's body is created to enforce the regulation, such as in several Western European countries or elsewhere. Alternatively, India, South Africa, and Australia have formulated press councils or syndicates. Journalists are paid members of the councils/syndicates by Law or work voluntarily. In several Arab countries, parliaments pass media laws, and the state frequently uses these laws to guide prominent journalists affecting state affairs (Amin, 2002). The Arab states constrain media content through these oppressive laws beyond the international codes defined by the UN

conventions and using regulatory organizations fully controlled by the powerful elites (Zaid, 2018).

Law and ethics are crafted with a core intent to ensure public order, safeguard the individual's rights, and protect the state. However, they differ in their unique features and details. The primary distinction between Law and ethics is that a legislative body imposes a law on the industry, while ethics is a self-enforced and self-imposed practice. Moreover, Law has a defined applicable date, while ethics has no effective date. The Law can expire or be annulled, but ethics is unremitting. Furthermore, Law is enforced by formal institutions, such as the judiciary, police, and legislature; while ethics are practiced voluntarily (Okoye, 2008). During the Arab uprisings, also known as Arab Spring in 2011, Arab journalists overwhelmingly used digital media, created new possibilities for self-management as an influential segment of society, and mastered the skills for societal mobilization. During the uprising period, journalism bypassed the traditional impediments of censorship and repression imposed by the states. In addition, it mastered the skill of escaping the states' censorship and repression. However, the freeing potential of journalism using digital media was short-lived, and Arabs are now dealing with a profoundly negative outlook on life outside the digital world, a living space shaped by the digital prevalence and the rise of control on society (Abdulla, 2013). In many Arab countries, journalists' professional associations, syndicates, or councils have glued themselves more tightly to the states or submitted their professional spirits to media outlets. For instance, a heartbreaking and extreme scenario appeared in Syria, where journalism organizations have been thoroughly associated with the state (Zaid, 2018).

The advent of the Arab Spring heralded a transformative epoch in journalistic practices, facilitating the rise of citizen journalism. Characterized by participants not formally accredited as professional journalists and thus, not mandated to adhere to conventional journalistic ethical codes, press guidelines, or legal regulations, this emergent cadre of communicators has cultivated a proclivity for disseminating raw and uncensored flows of communication (Hamdy, 2017). Occupying this dynamic media space, these citizen journalists have navigated the realms of media control intrinsic to socially regulated societies such as those within the Arab world, where self-censorship has emerged as a prominent mechanism of media modulation (Galander, 2015). Notwithstanding the prevailing climates of oppression pervasive in various Arab nations, discernment reveals that numerous local journalists have endeavored to forge affiliations with

non-governmental organizations, seeking the operational latitude to espouse and enact journalistic codes of ethics (Heikkilä et al., 2012). This aspiration, however, coexists with a spectrum of perspectives within the journalistic and academic communities. A contingent within these realms articulates concerns, asserting that the imposition of a code of conduct potentially constraints media freedom. Contrastingly, a substantive segment of the journalistic community has cast a critical gaze upon the practical applicability of ethical constructs, discerning a dichotomy between theoretical ethical postulations and the exigencies of practical journalism, particularly within contexts such as Kuwait. Within this discourse, ethical guidelines are perceived, albeit critically, as instrumentalities wielded to subtly orchestrate press oversight, thereby circumscribing journalists' capacities to fulfill their quintessential societal roles with unbridled efficacy (Alkazemi et al., 2018). Moreover, there is a nuanced consideration of self-censorship, as articulated by Newton et al. (2004), where a discernible reluctance among journalists to castigate peers for ethical transgressions has been observed, attributable to an aversion to professional humiliation and the resultant public reproach emanating from inter-media coverage of ethical lapses. Thus, the landscape of journalistic ethics within the Arab world is delineated by a mosaic of complexities, encompassing emergent paradigms of citizen journalism, prevailing modalities of self-censorship, and the multivalent perceptions of ethical conduct within the journalistic profession.

2.2. Methodology of Content Analysis of The Codes of Ethics

This research uses a qualitative approach to content analysis of the existing journalism/media codes of ethics for the Arab region of the Middle East. The seven countries I focused on are; The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, The United Arab Emirates (UAE), Syria, Qatar, Lebanon, Iraq, and The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). These seven countries have different rankings in press freedom and transparency. Furthermore, they have professional, social, and political dissimilarities. They present significant varieties of journalism codes of ethics and their practices. This research analyzes the official journalistic codes of ethics that represent the journalism practice in each country, despite how the code of ethics was enforced. The press associations issued some of our surveyed countries' codes, such as The Jordanian Press Association code of ethics, or with the United Nations' assistance, such as the Journalists' Pact

for Strengthening Civil Peace in Lebanon issued by the Lebanese Ministry of Information and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Similarly, some codes were obtained from the Saudi Journalists Association Code Of Honor For Saudi Journalists (CHSJ), The UAE Journalists Association (UAEJA) Code of Ethics and Syrian Journalists Union Code of Ethics. As for Qatar and Iraq, there were independent codes of ethics that are significant; the Al-Jazeera Code of Ethics for Qatar and Iraq; The Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics, and the Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media prepared in support of the BBC and UNESCO.

Analysis of the codes mentioned above seeks to know how much the articles of these codes match the standards established by the international deontology of journalism. As a proxy of international codes and anchoring points, our study considered The Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists issued by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) in 2019. IFJ represents 187 associations from more than 140 countries and trade unions with more than 600,000 media professionals. IFJ is the largest non profit organization for journalists in the world and is based in Belgium. IFJ represents journalists in the international trade union movement and the United Nations system (International Federation of Journalists- IFJ, 2019). UNESCO considers the IFJ Charter to be one of the professional standards in journalism, which is an example of good self-regulation compared to a wide range of codes of ethics regulating different aspects of communication. To assess the codes, we set a scale of matching between the IFJ and the subject country's codes using three possible scores: 0, 0.5, and 1. Score 1 represents a complete match between the country's specific article of the code of ethics with the IFJ one. A score of 0.5 means a partial matching, and a score of 0 is given when a particular IFJ code article does not exist in the country's code. (Table 2). The highest possible score is 16, as sixteen articles are in the IFJ code. I also coded IFJ codes of ethics in groups similar to the principles of constructive journalism that are considered as the guidelines according the manual of The Windesheim University of Applied Sciences' Journalism Department, situated in The Netherlands, namely; The truth-telling, inclusivity & diversity, Contextual Reporting, social empowerment, solutions & future orientation and audience engagement (Hermans & Gyldensted, 2018).

Table 2. Template of matching Scores of Codes of Ethics of the Studied Countries Against IFJ.

CJ Principles	IFJ Codes	Country	
		Local Code of ethics	Matching score
Truth Telling	Truth Telling: Article 1: The journalist's first duty is respecting the facts and the public's right to truth.		Full= 1 Partial= 0.5 Nil= 0
Inclusiveness and Diversity	Freedom to collect Information Article 2: While performing their assignments, the journalist shall abide by principles of freedom in gathering and broadcasting news and give space to honest comment and criticism. He/she will distinguish factual information from commentary and criticism clearly.		Full= 1 Partial= 0.5 Nil= 0
	Plagiarism avoidance Article 10: The journalist must refrain from grave professional misconduct such as slander, Libel, plagiarism,		

	defamation, distortion of facts, or false accusations.		
	<p>Fair methods to obtain information and photos</p> <p>Article 4: The journalist's methods for gathering data, photographs, documents, and information must be ethical and factual. Journalists must always identify themselves as such and abstain from making covert recordings of sights or sounds unless it is the only practical way to gather the information that is material of considerable public interest. Journalists will proclaim their right to a complete approach to sources of information and the ability to research any topics of public interest independently.</p>		<p>Full= 1</p> <p>Partial= 0.5</p> <p>Nil= 0</p>
	<p>Privacy respect</p> <p>Article 8: The journalist shall abide by the right to privacy and treat him/her with dignity and respect. The journalist will maintain transparency, informing interviewees of</p>		<p>Full= 1</p> <p>Partial= 0.5</p> <p>Nil= 0</p>

	<p>how their talk and any additional information will be used in the publication. Extra care will be given when dealing with inexperienced or weak interviewees.</p>		
	<p>Hate speech and bias avoidance.</p> <p>Article 9: Journalists have to disseminate facts and opinions without contributing to the spread of prejudice or hatred. They should try not to encourage the spread of prejudice based on geographic, social or racial background, gender, sexual tendency, language, belief, ability, and other identities.</p>		<p>Full= 1 Partial= 0.5 Nil= 0</p>
<p>Empowerment</p>	<p>Defamation libel, and slander avoidance</p> <p>Article 10: The journalist must refrain from grave professional misconduct such as slander, Libel, plagiarism, defamation, distortion of facts, or false accusations.</p>		<p>Full= 1 Partial= 0.5 Nil= 0</p>

	<p>Sources secrecy</p> <p>Article 7: The journalist must uphold professional secrecy and safeguard the identities of confidential sources.</p>		<p>Full= 1</p> <p>Partial= 0.5</p> <p>Nil= 0</p>
	<p>Solidarity with colleagues.</p> <p>Article 12: The journalist will stand with his/her coworker in exercising their right of coverage, the duty to report, and the right to make a criticism, commentary, satire, and editorial choice.</p>		<p>Full= 1</p> <p>Partial= 0.5</p> <p>Nil= 0</p>
Audience Engagement	<p>Fairness in dissemination and commentary of news and information</p> <p>Article 5: The need for fact-checking, citing reliable sources, and giving people a chance to respond shall not be compromised by a sense of haste or sensationalism.</p>		<p>Full= 1</p> <p>Partial= 0.5</p> <p>Nil= 0</p>
	<p>Accuracy and error correction</p> <p>Article 6: The journalist must make reasonable efforts to swiftly and openly correct any errors or inaccurate</p>		<p>Full= 1</p> <p>Partial= 0.5</p> <p>Nil= 0</p>

	information published, ensuring the changes are clear and thorough.		
Contextual Reporting	<p>Fact reporting</p> <p>Article 3: The journalist must only use information that has been independently verified and whose sources are accessible to them. The journalist must refrain from falsifying any documents or withholding vital facts. Additionally, the journalist should use caution while accurately reporting on claims and other content made by people and posted on social media websites.</p>		<p>Full= 1</p> <p>Partial= 0.5</p> <p>Nil= 0</p>
	<p>Refraining from acting as an ancillary of the security services or police.</p> <p>Article 11: The journalist should abstain from working as an ancillary of any state agency or police. They will present the information made public through a media outlet.</p>	NA	<p>Full= 1</p> <p>Partial= 0.5</p> <p>Nil= 0</p>

	<p>Conflict of interest avoidance</p> <p>Article 14: The journalist shall not participate in any job or engagement likely to endanger his/her freedom. However, He/she will follow the criteria for the collection/dissemination of information. They have the liberty to accept, such as "off the record," anonymity, or embargo, provided these duties are clear and incontestable.</p>		<p>Full= 1 Partial= 0.5 Nil= 0</p>
	<p>Keeping independence</p> <p>Article 13: The journalist should uphold the principle that the freedom of the press should not be used to serve any other interests and should not be exploited for personal gain. They should avoid receiving any unfair advantage or benefits based on the dissemination or withholding of information. The journalist's responsible for preventing or resolving any situation that may create</p>		<p>Full= 1 Partial= 0.5 Nil= 0</p>

	<p>a conflict of interest in their professional work. They should also ensure no confusion between their journalistic activity and advertising or propaganda. Furthermore, journalists should refrain from engaging in insider trading or market manipulation, maintaining integrity and transparency in their reporting.</p> <p>Article 15: Prominent journalists shall consider it his/her obligation to sincerely follow the principles narrated previously. They may not be forced to carry out a professional act or express a view contrary to their moral or professional values.</p>		
Solutions & Future Reporting	N/A		<p>Full= 1 Partial= 0.5 Nil= 0</p>
Enforcement Body	Reinforced by self-regulatory bodies with no government Interference		<p>Full= 1 Partial= 0.5 Nil= 0</p>

IFJ Score			16
Country's Codes scores			Total =
Matching %			%

Fig. 1, Scores; Full match= 1, Partial match= 0.5, Nil (no match) = 0. Own Source.

This analysis delves into the enforcement mechanisms of ethical codes by press syndicates/associations, as well as laws and legislations. At this enforcement stage, the focus is not solely on the ethical codes of the studied countries, but also on laws and regulations that influence the practical application of these codes. This includes media laws, cybersecurity laws, penal codes, and other relevant regulations. The mechanism has been codified as Additional Terms and Values Pressure (ATVP). The analysis illuminates various conditions or exceptions added to each code of ethics as legal indicators or values imposed by social, political, or professional mechanisms. These "additional terms," which interfere with professional values (hereafter "additional terms and values"), are categorized into social, political, and professional-driven groups. A score of 1 was assigned when legislation added a term or value that limited the application of these codes of ethics, and a score of 0 was given when no such obstacles were present. The influence of each country was then assessed based on the ATVP, revealing that countries with higher ATVP scores have more political, social, and professional influence on the ethical codes, as mandated by law (refer to Table 3).

The purpose of this analysis is to evaluate the impact of social, political, and professional factors in enforcing codes of ethics. If social pressure predominates, it suggests a greater likelihood of implementing constructive journalism (CJ) due to the significant influence of the social factor, notwithstanding the roles of political and professional factors. Conversely, predominant political pressure indicates a greater political influence on the potential of CJ, possibly leading to a blend of politicized ethics and professional journalism practice. Dominance of professional terms or factors in codes of ethics and media regulations signals a healthier environment for journalistic freedom and professionalism, which could facilitate the practice of

CJ. In the concluding phase of this study, I will thoroughly evaluate the ethical codes of journalism in the selected Arab countries. The focus will be on two key aspects:

A). Alignment with International Standards. Here, the comparison will be against the benchmarks set by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). This will help in understanding how closely each country's journalism ethics align with globally recognized principles and practices.

B). Impact of Additional Terms and Values Pressure (ATVP). The assessment will delve into the influence of ATVP, which represents the terms and values arising from external laws and regulations, on the application of these ethical codes. The prominence of social, political, or professional elements in shaping these codes will be highlighted. This aspect is crucial for understanding how external factors influence journalistic ethics and practices within each country. The ultimate goal of this analysis is to evaluate each country's journalistic environment for its conduciveness to CJ. To achieve this, I will conduct a content assessment of each country's codes of ethics, scrutinizing the articles and their enforcement mechanisms. The evaluation will specifically seek out the presence and extent of the three main pillars of CJ:

Public Orientation: The focus on serving the public interest and ensuring responsible reporting.

Solution Orientation: The emphasis on not just reporting problems, but also exploring potential solutions.

Future Orientation: Looking beyond current events and considering the long-term implications and future possibilities.

These pillars will be assessed through the lens of CJ's principles as outlined by Hermans & Gyldensted in 2018, which include truth-telling, inclusivity, diversity, empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement. This comprehensive approach will provide a nuanced understanding of each country's journalistic standards and practices, and how conducive they are for the practice of Constructive Journalism.

Table 3. Additional Terms and Values ATVP Measurements for Codes of Ethics, Template.

Additional Terms and Values ATVP

Code article	Social	Political	Professional
Article n			
TOTAL	a	b	c
$ATVP = (a + b + c)/n$			

Fig. 2, scores; ATP applied=1, not applied= 0. Own Source.

2.3. Deontological Analysis of Journalism Codes of Ethics of Arab Countries in The Middle East

2.3.1. Jordanian Journalism Codes Of Ethics

Jordan is considered as a not free country in the 2022 index, in respect of obstacles to access and limits on content as well as violations of user rights according to Freedom House (Freedom House, 2023). Moreover, according to Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Jordan's media control themselves and avoid subjects that are implicitly off-limits to them. Stories are not unusual to be written and then spiked by wary editors. Journalists are subject to close surveillance and must associate themselves with the state-dominated Jordanian Press Association (JPA from now on) (RSF, 2020). JPA is among regulatory bodies for broadcasting in the Arab world. The narrated goals of JPA are promoting and developing national audiovisual productions, guaranteeing public service, encouraging national culture and ethical values, and monitoring the amenability of the T.V. and radio stations with their licensing responsibilities (Zaid, 2018). The JPA code of ethics mainly guides Jordan's media ethics. Besides this code of ethics, there are three laws to reinforce them and add more terms that are media related: Press and Publishing Law (1988), Cyber Crime Law (2023), and The Jordanian Penal Code (1960). These laws augment the codes of ethics by adding enforcement measures, new articles, and additional conditions and values.

The Jordanian government has designated the JPA as the authority to oversee the Code of Ethics. However, according to UNESCO, JPA has many limitations. For instance, many media

workers fail to get a JPA membership. The problems faced by the workers include strict requirements for JPA membership, unnecessary strict clauses in the Code of Ethics, and sanctions imposed by the code that is, in many cases, disproportionately severe (UNESCO, 2018). At any rate, our analysis shows that the code of ethics of the JPA matching score is 12.5, equal to 78.12% (Table A 1, Appendices). However, this high percentage of matching to the IFJ codes does not mean that journalism ethics in Jordan are fully implemented, as the JPA added several additional terms, values, and exceptions to divert the ethical codes to some specific directions. For example, it can be read in Article 2 that one must consider the boundaries set by laws in reporting. Also, in article 3, it is stated one should not publish any report on an ongoing court case without court authorization. Finally, article 4 states that one should not publish any news that could harm the principles of society. Furthermore, although the international codes suggest that cautious and precise guidelines for protecting national security or public order at the same time protect free speech from state mishandling (Duffy, 2014), the JPA code of ethics suggested in Article 5 that a term to the standard of avoiding any discrimination in reporting and made it permitted when it is in favor of the national interest. Arab journalists associate patriotism with "justice" and "public good." Consequently, for many Arab journalists, patriotism is not a breach of journalistic ethics but a virtue (Al-Najjar, 2011).

In the Press & Publishing Law, similar additional codes apply, such as not publishing any news on a case still under trial by a court unless the court grants permission. Moreover, it considers objectivity, balance, and keeping society united as a primary goal in reporting. Cyber Crime Law (17, 2023) has also addressed this area. Specifically, Article 11 proposed a penalty of three months in Prison and between (100- 2000 Dinar) (around \$500-\$10,000) fine for any involvement in Libel, slander, or defamation in the reporting. However, in the Jordanian penal code (16, 1960), an exception was made for the case in Article 198 with this condition, "if the libel and slander proved to be true, the charges should be dropped." As a national foundation for the code of ethics, both codes of conduct set by JMC carry similar articles about respecting Islam, Nationalism, the constitution, the King, and the army and security forces. Both Code of Professional Conduct for Audiovisual Media and the Code of Conduct for Community Radios are voluntary and keen on self-commitment. Still, JPA's main journalistic code of ethics is mandatory and reinforced by the press and publication law, applied and monitored by a disciplinary committee. Generally, the JPA code of ethics is taken as legislation because it has

the power of legislation by the Press & Publishing law. In table A 2 (Appendices), we classify the reinforcement mechanisms that considered 'additional terms' set by JPA as well as The Press And Publishing Law (8, 1988), Cyber Crime Law (17, 2023), and The Jordanian Penal Code (16, 1960) into three categories: Social, Professional and Political Terms, and Values. We give a score of 1 when the additional term is applicable and 0 for not being applicable. We found that Jordan's legislation has added 10 terms categorized as socially driven, 6 professional, and 9 politically driven terms. One of those terms, "avoiding defamation, libel, and slander," overlapped the three categories. Some others overlapped social and professional terms such as "balance," "objectivity," "keeping the society united in reporting", 'avoidance of reporting on crimes and scandals, "not to use bad language," and "sensational reporting." Adding to that is "not to encourage and publish news of charlatans' myths," the "right of people and duty of the media to correct wrong reporting," and "to give special consideration to fair reporting on children and women." The politically driven terms are mainly setting boundaries for laws in reporting and warning about any breach. The terms also set the floor for criticizing the King, the Crown Prince, or the guardians of the throne, as such criticism can be sentenced to imprisonment of up to three years according to the Penal Code (article 195). However, all additional political terms set by the JPA or law articles are a mix of social and political terms in cases such as "degrading nationalism" or "causing any rationalism or sectarianism." Any of these cases will result in imprisonment with hard labor according to Penal Code (article 130). Additionally, to not publish any report on an ongoing court case without court authorization, except for the corruption cases, JPA (Article 3), and not to publish any news that could cause damage to the society's principles, or incite disobeying the authorities or the constitution, JPA (Article 4). Furthermore, the press and publishing law (Article 38) prevents publishing any news on a case still under trial by a court unless the court authorizes it to publish. Another exception seems political but is associated with the public interest allowed to discriminate in case of reporting when this favors the national interest, JPA (Article 5).

The findings from the analysis of Jordan's media codes of ethics reveal a significant alignment with the International Federation of Journalists' (IFJ) standards, with a 78% match. This high degree of conformity indicates that key principles such as truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement are well addressed in the Jordanian context. The analysis also highlights the strong

influence of social pressure in the enforcement mechanisms of these codes. This suggests that there is a solid foundation for public orientation within Jordanian media, aligning well with one of the main pillars of Constructive Journalism (CJ). However, while the potential for public orientation is notable, the application of the other two pillars of CJ — solution orientation and future orientation — still requires exploration and implementation. The regulatory ecosystem in Jordan appears to be conducive to these aspects, but their practical application and effectiveness in the media landscape need to be further assessed. This assessment provides an optimistic view of the potential for practicing Constructive Journalism in Jordan, especially given the strong alignment with IFJ standards and the presence of a robust public orientation. The next steps would involve encouraging and observing how solution-focused and future-oriented journalism develops within this framework, enhancing the overall quality and impact of journalism in Jordan.

2.3.2. Lebanese Journalism Codes Of Ethics

In the recent Freedom House Index (2022), Lebanon has been categorized as a "partially free" country, reflecting a nuanced landscape of freedom within the Arab nation. The journalistic community had anticipated a transformation in the political climate following the October 2019 revolution, expecting it to dismantle the inviolable status previously enjoyed by eminent public personalities. Contrary to expectations, the aftermath has witnessed an intensification of political constraints on the media. This is particularly discernible in the context of an exacerbating economic turmoil and obstructions encountered in the investigation of the catastrophic 2020 Beirut port explosion. In an exploratory study conducted by Harb (2018), Lebanese journalists were engaged in discussions pertaining to the ethical dimensions of journalism practices within the country. Their insights reveal a paradoxical environment where freedom of speech is ostensibly present, yet the autonomy of the press remains compromised. The legal framework governing journalistic activities is primarily delineated by the antiquated Press & Publishing Law of 1962. Discussions advocating for a contemporary revision of this law have been persistent over the years, as corroborated by information available on the official website of the Ministry of Information. Nevertheless, the enactment of a reformed legal directive remains pending. Supplementing this are influential legislations such as Penal Code number 340, which continues to exert significant impact on the media landscape. The official ethical guideline operational in

the current scenario is The Lebanese Media Honor Code for Civil Peace Enforcement. This directive, promulgated jointly by the Lebanese Ministry of Information and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2013, delineates the ethical contours of media practice. Additionally, a voluntary code, predicated on principles of self-regulation and autonomy, was instituted in 2016 by representatives of digital media, under the auspices of Lebanon's media council. However, for the purposes of this research, the analysis has been confined to the examination of the official ethical code. We observed that the Lebanese Media Honor Code for Civil Peace Enforcement matches the IFJ code with a score of 13.5, which means 84.37% (See Appendices, Table B 1). Despite this higher matching percentage, the Lebanese Media Honor Code has additional terms and values that may affect the enforcement of practice, detailed as follows: 1. Personal interest should not overcome public interest. 2. Strive for the protection of the judicial system and national security, and public unity. 3. Avoid sectarian provoking in journalism. In the slander section Article 13, the media must avoid Libel, slander, and defamation except when reporting on the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

In the legislations of Lebanon, the pressure of additional terms and values has been articulated, which are systematically cataloged in Table B 2 (Appendices). A nuanced categorization of these legislative addenda reveals a diversity of focal areas, with four terms being ascribed to "social" considerations, another quartet to "Professional" dimensions, and a more substantial assembly of seven terms emerging within the ambit of political terms in 15 of the Additional Terms and Values Pressure (ATVP). Analogous to the legislative landscape observed in Jordan, an intricate interplay between political and social terms is evident. Illustrative instances include prohibitory statutes such as the Press & Publishing Law (Article 56), which mandates the restraint of unauthorized dissemination of information pertinent to court proceedings and parliamentary debates, as well as issues anchored in corruption investigations. Such regulatory prescriptions extend to the circumscription of content that transgresses public ethical norms and conventions, with legal repercussions encompassing potential imprisonment and pecuniary penalties. The legislation further elucidates a spectrum of terms where political and social domains are intertwined. Salient among these are legal proscriptions aimed at preserving societal harmony and preventing the inception of sectarian discord or disrespect towards religious sentiments and international dignitaries (Press & Publishing Law, art. 62; Penal Code, art. 584). Penalties affiliated with contraventions of these statutes are delineated in terms

of imprisonment durations and fines. In some legislative instances, the articulated terms and stipulations resonate predominantly with political imperatives. Explicit in this category are legal directives that circumscribe the journalistic latitude, particularly in contexts involving political commentaries and criticisms. The Press & Publishing Law (art. 58), for instance, predicates strict penalties, including licensure suspensions and monetary fines, for media entities that engage in unauthorized political critiques or endorsements. A congruent legislative tenor is discernible in statutes that delineate punitive measures, encompassing imprisonment and fines, for actions perceived as contemptuous towards foreign dignitaries (Penal Code, art. 292, 386).

Lebanon's media landscape is characterized by pronounced subjectivity, marked polarization, and an overt politicization that permeates its multifaceted outlets, including radio stations, newspapers, and television channels. This observation is corroborated by Reporters Without Borders (RSF, 2020), which elucidates that the Lebanese mass media predominantly operate as instrumentalities of propaganda, reflective of the interests of affluent businessmen or entrenched political factions. Notably, the Lebanese Media Honor Code for Civil Peace Enforcement adopts a voluntarist approach towards adherence, enabling entities to commit to its guidelines through mechanisms of self-regulation. This voluntarist paradigm is also evident in commitments articulated by the Ministry of Information, journalistic syndicates, and within the ambit of the Digital Media Code of Ethics. However, a structured enforcement architecture is delineated within the Press & Publishing Law, particularly in Article 99, which envisages a Disciplinary Council operationalized under the aegis of the press syndicate. This entity, conceptualized to parallel the functionalities of an Ombudsman system (Heikkilä et al., 2012), comprises a consortium of legal and professional members tasked with the enforcement of ethical codes. The regulatory framework is underscored by a tiered penalty structure, ranging from formal censures to suspension and expunction from syndicate membership, aimed at members adjudged to be in violation of the prescribed ethical guidelines. In the prevailing climate of political flux, it is pertinent to note the emergence of media outlets that advocate and amplify citizen journalism. However, this trend also appears to foster an environment conducive to the proliferation of partisan biases, further exacerbating the landscape of media polarization (Melki et al., 2012). Thus, the media in Lebanon navigates a complex interplay of voluntary ethical commitments and structured regulatory oversight within a broader environment marked by political vicissitudes and inherent biases.

The analysis of Lebanon's media code of ethics reveals a commendable alignment of approximately 84% with the International Federation of Journalists' (IFJ) standards. This high level of congruence indicates that essential principles for constructive journalism — such as truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement — are well established in the Lebanese media landscape. A notable aspect of Lebanon's media code is its explicit emphasis on promoting and safeguarding peace, a critical element in a country grappling with sectarian tensions. This focus aligns closely with the values of constructive journalism, particularly in a context where media can play a pivotal role in conflict resolution and fostering social cohesion. However, there are areas for improvement, particularly in the realm of solution orientation. Despite the code's clear stance on advocating for peace, the implementation of solution-focused journalism appears less defined. When examining the enforcement pressures based on the Additional Terms and Values Pressure (ATVP) model, it is evident that political factors exert a significant influence, scoring a 7 against the 4 scored by both social and professional factors. This indicates that political pressures are predominant in the media landscape, potentially impacting the unbiased application of other values in journalism. Despite this, Lebanon's partial press freedom offers a window of opportunity for journalists to practice constructive journalism. The existing freedom, albeit limited, allows media professionals to work towards the public good, navigating through the political challenges. This situation highlights the resilience and potential of Lebanese journalism to further integrate and amplify constructive journalism practices, contributing positively to the nation's complex social and political fabric.

2.3.3. The United Arab Emirates' Journalism Codes Of Ethics

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) holds the distinguished position of being the most transparent nation in the Arab domain, as per the 2022 Corruption Perception Index (CPI), where it is globally ranked at the 27th position. However, there exists a notable dichotomy in the realms of transparency and freedom of expression in this country. As per the 2022 data from Reporters Without Borders (RSF), the UAE is positioned at 138 out of 180 countries concerning the freedom of journalism. This paradoxical reality shapes the UAE as a singular case in the journalistic landscape, drawing most of the boundaries governed by ethics and conventional norms. A meticulous study on media ethics within the UAE has unveiled the complexities and

challenges intertwined with the profession of journalism in the country. Cultural dictates significantly influence and mold the characterization of media content. Journalists and media professionals operate within an intricate web of considerations, where there is a perpetual deliberation concerning the content's alignment with the diverse demographic fabric, Islamic laws, and the potential receptivity and response to the content (Piecowyte, 2011). This necessitates a nuanced navigation through the ethical dimensions, and traditional norms, to foster a balanced and respectful media representation, underscoring the multifaceted nature of practicing journalism within the UAE.

For a comprehensive analysis, we have explored the journalisms' codes of ethics in UAE and matched them with the international code of IFJ to seek values and exceptions posed by laws. Firstly, to study UAE journalism's codes of ethics and their matching with the IFJ charter, we need to consider that UAE's Journalists Association (UAEJA) has a code of ethics applied voluntarily by self-regulation and by editors in chief (The UAE Journalists Association Code of Ethics, 2016). While El-Mekkawi (2018) study highlights the strong commitment of UAE journalists to ethical codes and the role of the UAE Journalists Association, Our study reveals additional laws and regulations influencing their adherence to these ethical standards. This suggests a complex interplay between personal commitment to ethics and the impact of external legal and regulatory frameworks on journalistic practices in the UAE. The UAE has rigorous enforcement of some codes of ethical standards in several laws and legislations such as (Press & Publishing Law 15, 1980), (Cyber Crimes Decree 5,2012), and (The Penal Code 4, 2019). As (Table C 1, Appendices) shows in the measurement of the UAE code of ethics against the IFJ results on 90.06% match. However, when we see the table of the additional terms and values set by the UAE laws and regulations (Table C 2, Appendices), we can define the actual applications of these standards of the codes. We found that 32 additional terms and values were added as in Table C 2 (Appendices); 12 of them were social, 14 were political, then 6 were professional, which may refer to a high influence of the political aspects of the media practice in the UAE (Piecowyte, 2011). In the standards of "Truth-Telling," where the IFJ stated in Article (1): "Respect for the facts and for the right of the public to truth is the first duty of the journalist," the UAE JA stated the same, but the UAE Press & Publishing Law (15, 1980) has some restrictions on the "truth-telling," therefore not to apply this standard on the following; The president and rulers excluded as in article 70, as well as Islam, The political regime, the state interests and

social foundations as in article 71. Article 72 also prohibits journalists from reporting any issues that could harm public behavior, issues related to minors, and spreading destructive principles in society. Article 73 inhibits reporting on crime incitement, causing societal trouble and division. Article 76 forbids publishing any report that can harm Arab states, friend Islamic countries, and other aligned states. Article 77 also prohibits any reports of injustice in Arab culture and history. In the "Fairness in dissemination and commentary" article, the UAE Cyber Crimes Decree (5,2012) has also restricted this principle as mentioned in Article 24; Fine and imprisonment if promoting or praising any programs or ideas which would prompt hatred, racism, sectarianism, riot, or damage the public order and public morals, social peace or national unity or prejudice. UAE Press & Publishing Law added some values and terms to "Fairness in dissemination and commentary," such as in article 81; Not publishing any report could harm the local currency and the economy. Similarly, article 85 forbids publishing any information without considering all parties of the subject's opinions. This part shows a good sign for empowerment and audience engagement. In the part of fact reporting as one of most important IFJ standards faced additional terms from the UAE Cyber Crimes Decree. Article 29 set imprisonment and up to one million Dirham fine (more than 365 thousands USD) on publishing news, statement information, or rumors on the internet with the intent to damage the reputation or to make sarcasm, harm stature or prestige of the state or its president or vice-president, rulers or any of its institutions, etc. The Accuracy and error correction IFJ standard was also made mandatory in the Press & Publishing Law, Article 42. Correcting any published error can bring a punishment of 1 year in Prison and a fine of up to ten thousand Dirhams (more than 300 USD) if not complying is mandatory. However, privacy respect was a subject of strictness from press law and cybersecurity. In Article 79, the Press & Publishing Law made it clear not to publish any private information that can cause harm to any person's business, reputation, or fortune, even if it is true.

The UAE Cybersecurity law suggests imprisonment and up to five hundred thousand Dirham (around 150 thousand USD) for intrusion into the privacy of another person using any of the following means: disclosure of conversations or communications or video or audio, interception, recording, eavesdropping, transmitting, or transferring. The law prohibits publishers from photographing others, creating, transferring, disclosing, copying, or saving electronic photos, or publishing electronic photos, news, comments, statements, scenes, or information, even if true and correct, as in Article 21. "Hate speech and bias avoidance" code of ethics

reinforced by the cybersecurity law article 24 with imprisonment and a fine up to one million Dirham (more than 300 thousand USD) for promoting or praising any programs or ideas which would prompt riot, hatred, racism, sectarianism, or damage the national unity or social peace or prejudice the public order and public morals. The same Law has also reinforced the code of "Defamation, Libel and slander avoidance" with an additional term in article 20, with imprisonment and a fine of up to five hundred thousand Dirham (around 150 thousand USD) to whoever insults or accuses another person of a matter of which he shall be subject to punishment or being held in contempt by others. If a public official or servant is subjected to slander or insult during or because of his work, this shall be assumed as a provoking factor. Additional terms and values enforce the same code from Article 372 of the UAE Penal Code. Prison plus a fine of 20 thousand Dirham (up to 7 thousand USD) to those who commit slander or defamation will be maximized for publishing in journalism. And according to the penal code Article 375, if slander toward a government employee, the charges may be dropped if the case is proven correct and relevant to his/her job. In concluding the analysis of the potential for implementing Constructive Journalism (CJ) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), it is noteworthy that the content of the UAE's media codes of ethics aligns closely with over 90% of the standards set by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). This alignment indicates a strong foundational basis for ethical journalism practices in line with international norms.

However, the analysis reveals a nuanced landscape in terms of the enforcement of these codes. A significant presence of additional terms and values, referred to as ATVP (Additional Terms and Values Pressure), suggests a considerable influence of political factors on media practices in the UAE. Of these ATVP, 14 are identified as politically oriented, 12 as social, and 6 as professional. This distribution indicates a substantial impact of political considerations in media reporting and operations within the country. Despite this, the notable prominence of social factors within the ATVP, almost rivaling the political aspects, presents an optimistic outlook for the adoption of CJ in the UAE. CJ, fundamentally driven by a commitment to social responsibility in journalism, finds fertile ground in an environment where social considerations are evidently significant. The nearly equal weighting of social and political factors suggests that while political influences are strong, there is also a substantial space for journalism practices that prioritize social impact and responsibility. Therefore, the potential for CJ in the UAE appears promising, given the substantial emphasis on social factors within the media landscape. This

scenario creates an opportunity for CJ to thrive as a socially responsible and ethically driven journalistic approach, aligning with both the existing ethical standards and the societal needs of the UAE, especially with remarkable codes of ethics that are reassuring on the principles of CJ such as the truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement.

2.3.4. Saudi Arabia' Journalism Codes Of Ethics

In a 2022 report by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is positioned significantly low in the global index concerning journalistic freedom, holding the 166th rank out of 180 countries. The report elucidates that the Saudi media landscape is predominantly under stringent official oversight and control, leading to a pervasive atmosphere of self-censorship, which is also prevalently observed within the realms of social networks. Even those media entities that are privately owned are not exempt from this, as they typically align their operations and content according to governmental directives as articulated by the Saudi Press Agency (SPA). The Saudi press exhibits a dichotomy, primarily segmented into two predominant factions. Newspapers such as Al-Watan and Okaz are representative of what is conventionally regarded as the “liberal” facet, while the Al-Riyadh newspaper epitomizes the conservative spectrum within the journalistic domain. An empirical study that involved the participation of 600 digital media consumers has yielded insightful conclusions regarding the professional competencies of media personnel within the Kingdom. The findings underscore a noticeable deficiency in essential journalistic skills among some media professionals, who appear to prioritize personal notoriety, often achieved through the dissemination of scandalous content. The study advocates for the implementation of legal interventions and the provision of comprehensive training programs aimed at enhancing the professional acumen of media personnel. Such measures are proposed to facilitate a media environment that resonates more harmoniously with the national agenda and objectives (Alotaibi, 2016).

To analyze the de facto ethics of Saudi journalism from the perspective of codes of ethics, we have measured the Saudi Journalists Association's Code Of Honor For Saudi Journalists (CHSJ) issued in 2004. CHSJ was drafted voluntarily and applied by self-commitment. The measurement against the IFJ code showed an 84.37% match in terms of the announced codes (See Appendices, Table D1). This score was affected by some partially matched articles, such as

for the freedom to collect information, where an exception was made that the information should not conflict with the basic religious and national interests and influence on the country's security or its public order or serve the foreign interest in conflict with the national interest. Furthermore, the absence of some articles to match the IFJ, such as "Refraining from acting as an auxiliary of the police or other security services" and "Solidarity with colleagues." Moreover, as shown in other countries in the study, other laws have intervened to enforce and apply some additional values and terms. Five regulations enforce the additional terms and values. They are The Regulation for Publication, Decree 23, 2000, The Executive Order Of The Regulation For Publication, 2001, Anti-Cyber Crime Law, Decree 17, 2007, The Executive Order for Electronic Publishing, 2020, and The Regulation for Audio-Visual Media, Decree 33, 2017. The additional terms and values were, in total, 28. Of many, 13 were social values, 10 were political, and 5 were professional, as in Table D 2 (Appendices). These religious and conservative rules were more reflected in the additional terms and values imposed by other legalizations to enforce the code of ethics and media practice. Truth Telling, as a principle of the code of ethics, was the most restricted rule by laws; The Regulation for Publication, Article 9, Prohibits publishing anything against Islamic rules and state laws. Refrains from dividing the unity of people or harming national security matters. Affirming not to publish court cases without authorization. The executive order of the regulation for publication also prohibited in Article 73 any content that could harm the national currency, hurt the kingdom's economic reputation, or disturb the markets. As well as not publishing any material that misleads or deceives consumers.

Furthermore, the legislative framework governing media and cyber activities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is markedly stringent. According to the Anti-Cyber Crime Law, Article 6 delineates punitive measures—including a fine up to 3 million SAR (approximately 800 thousand USD) and imprisonment up to five years—for acts involving the creation, dissemination, or retention of content that potentially disrupts public order, morality, religious values, or individual privacy through digital or informational networks. Additionally, the Executive Order for Electronic Publishing, as stipulated in Article 15, prohibits the media from disseminating content that could adversely impact Islam or contravene state laws, including content that may jeopardize national, interstate, and security interests, or incite societal discord or hatred. Similarly, the Regulation for Audio-Visual Media (Article 5) mandates adherence to public policies, proscribing content that disparages Islamic symbols, the King, and the Crown

Prince or that jeopardizes relations with friendly nations. Concurrently, the Regulation for Publication (Articles 35-38) emphasizes accuracy and mandates the rectification of erroneous news content, with violations incurring fines, suspension of journalists, and potential cessation of publications. Provisions to safeguard individual dignity and reputation are also explicitly articulated. For instance, restrictions against defamation, libel, and slander, and specific provisions for respecting privacy and preventing harm to the dignity of Islamic scholars and state officials are encompassed within the legal provisions such as the Anti-Cyber Crime Law (Article 3) and the Regulation for Publication (Article 9). Privacy considerations are further amplified in legal instruments such as the Anti-Cyber Crime Law (Article 3) and the Executive Order for the Regulation for Publication (Article 73), where violations involving intrusions into personal lives through unauthorized publication of images or information are subjected to punitive actions including fines and imprisonment. The legal framework also encompasses provisions against hate speech and biased content, as elucidated in the Regulation for Audio-Visual Media (Article 5), which proscribes content that could foment sectarianism or destabilize societal harmony. A study by Lahlali (2011) underscores the ethical dimensions of journalistic practices within the Kingdom, indicating that Saudi journalists exhibit a proclivity to avoid content that promulgates violence, extremism, and terrorism, and demonstrate a commitment to respecting privacy and individual choices, reflecting a broader adherence to the customs and traditions intrinsic to conservative societies. Finally, principles pertaining to journalistic independence and integrity, such as prohibitions against accepting gifts or donations without informed consent (Regulation for Publication, Article 30), and directives against plagiarism, with an emphasis on upholding copyright protections (Regulation for Audio-Visual Media, Article 5), underscore the multifaceted legal and ethical considerations shaping media practices within the Kingdom.

The readiness of the media in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to adopt Constructive Journalism (CJ) appears promising, as evidenced by a substantial alignment of the local media codes of ethics with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) code. An 84.37% match indicates a strong foundation for incorporating key CJ principles such as truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement. This alignment suggests a conducive environment for CJ, despite potential concerns regarding the practical implementation of these principles. Furthermore, the media acts and codes of ethics in KSA are notably oriented towards social values. This orientation is reflected in

the distribution of Additional Terms and Values Pressure (ATVP), with 13 identified as social, 10 as political, and 5 as professional. This distribution highlights a predominant social influence within the media landscape of KSA, even amidst a strong political presence. The greater emphasis on social aspects in the ATVP suggests a favorable environment for the social responsibility elements of CJ. Importantly, the societal values in KSA are deeply rooted in Islamic religious principles, which inherently advocate for public good and social welfare, as noted by Sidani (2018). This religious foundation not only reinforces the social orientation of the media but also provides a robust ethical and cultural framework that supports CJ's focus on solution-oriented and socially empowering journalism. This religiously inspired emphasis on societal betterment aligns well with the core tenets of CJ, potentially enhancing its effectiveness and acceptance in the KSA media landscape. Thus, the combination of a high degree of ethical alignment with IFJ standards and a strong social orientation underpinned by religious values presents a fertile ground for the successful integration and practice of Constructive Journalism in Saudi Arabia.

2.3.5. Qatar Journalism Codes Of Ethics

Qatar, a wealthy Gulf emirate, has emerged as a powerful architect of a media empire that resonates profoundly throughout the Arab world and beyond. This emirate has cultivated a media landscape where influential platforms, such as Al Jazeera, have played a transformative role in shaping the broader media narratives across the Arab regions. However, beneath this influential exterior lies a landscape fraught with challenges, particularly in the domain of domestic political reporting. A conspicuous dichotomy exists in the realm of Qatari journalism, marked by a global ranking of 119 out of 180 in press freedom, as per Reporters Without Borders (RSF, 2022). The media, while influential, navigates significant constraints, exemplified by Al Jazeera's paradoxical stance. While the broadcaster remains vociferously outspoken in various arenas, it exhibits a discernible reticence in covering domestic occurrences within Qatar, often sidestepping comprehensive reporting of the emirate's internal affairs (RSF, 2022; Al-Najjar, 2020). Further compounding this scenario is a prevailing perception of the Qatari media operating as a conduit for state propaganda, predominantly echoing the governmental narratives and functions (Kirat, 2016). This raises essential questions regarding the autonomy and ethical dimensions of journalistic practices within the country. Additionally, an exploration by

Ngwainmbi (2019) underscores a specific perspective, revealing that journalists within the region exhibit a notable confidence in influencing public opinion, yet harbor reservations regarding their efficacy in shaping policy outcomes. Thus, Qatar's media landscape presents a multifaceted tableau, characterized by influential outreach juxtaposed against internal constraints and ethical considerations.

Qatar state has no national code of ethics for journalism. Al-Jazeera is the only media to voluntarily announce its code and commit to it (which we are studying in this research). However, journalism in Qatar is enforced primarily by three regulations; The Publications and Publishing Law, 8, 1979, The Penal Code, 11, 2004, and The Cybercrime Prevention Law, 14, 2014. Comparing Al-Jazeera's code of ethics with the IFJ code showed a match of 62.5% (See Appendices, Table E 1). The lower match is due to missing fundamental principles not included in the comparison to IFJ codes. For instance, freedom to collect information, fair methods to obtain information and photos, plagiarism avoidance, defamation libel, slander avoidance, and conflict of interest avoidance were not included. Moreover, to explore the interventions from the state legislations, we found 36 additional terms and values, comprising 12 social, 8 professional, and 16 political, as shown in Appendices, table E 2. These legislations are detailed as the following; for the Truth Telling Code, Article 17 of The Publications and Publishing Law states that if any newspaper published false news or mistakes that could harm the public interest, the authority would ask the newspaper to correct it or face a ban of publication and distribution. In the same Law, Article 47 prohibited publishing any news reports that could cause an uprising to topple the political system, endanger national security, or any news about the national army. In addition, the law inhibits the publication of contents prejudicial to the heads of states or damage the consensual affairs with the neighboring Arab and other aligned countries. Furthermore, the law prohibits publishing content ridiculing or defaming religions or their teachings, including any provocation for sectarian, racial, or religious inclinations. Similarly, it is illegal to broadcast any material that may harm the national coinage or germinate skepticism about the state's financial status, plus all contents harmful to ethics, personal status, or liberty. Finally, the law prevents reporting matters under investigation or process in courts of Law related to any ordinary citizens or their status unless authorized by a court.

Furthermore, Article 333 of The Penal Code dealt with the "Fair methods to obtain information and photos." The law suggested imprisonment and fines for unauthorized

information access or recording undercover for people's private lives. Similarly, Article 8 focused on Cybercrime Prevention Law and has restricted "Fairness in dissemination and commentary of news and information." Broadcasting content using a network or information technology techniques which disrupt social ethics or principles is punishable by a sentence of up to three years imprisonment and a penalty of up to QR100,000 (around 27 thousand USD) or either of these penalties. Article 6 of the same law augmented the terms "Fact reporting" with a conviction of up to three years imprisonment and a penalty of up to QR500,000 (around 127,000 USD), or either of these convictions shall be given on any person who uses information network, or an information technology technique sets up or manages a webpage on the internet to distribute untrue information to compromise the safety of the state or its public peace or local and international security. Article 17 of The Publications and Publishing Law also added the accuracy and error correction code. The article states, "If any newspaper published false news or mistakes that could harm the public interest, the authority would ask the newspaper to correct it or face a ban of publication and distribution." Not to mention that "Privacy respect" was a principle most restrained by most legislations, such as The Penal Code, Article 331, where imprisonment and fine for publishing any information or photos about people's private lives even if they were factual. Article 47 of The Publications and Publishing Law emphasized not to publish; Every content detrimental or that harms a person's goodwill, finances, or trade name, either by denigration or blackmail or otherwise eliminating him of his duties. Nor to publish news related to the default of businessmen, financial institutions, or banks unless authorized by a court. In the same context, Article 203 of The Penal Code enforced imprisonment and fines for publishing news about court cases, victims, or plaintiffs without authorization from the court. Moreover, Article 8 dealt with The Cybercrime Prevention Law and suggested imprisonment and penalties for disseminating information, images, or video or audio footage associated with the sanctity of anyone's private or household or disrespecting or slandering others even if the charge is factual. Finally, Article 263 of the Penal Code inhibited "Hate speech and bias avoidance".

Additionally, the law enforces a punishment of imprisonment and a fine for producing materials against the Islamic religion or any other religion that Islam recognizes. Article 18 The Publications and Publishing Law has warned about "Defamation, Libel and slander avoidance." If any newspaper published any news that included defamation or slander to any person, the authority would ask the newspaper to correct it or face a ban on publication and distribution.

Similarly, Article 47 of the law states that no one shall publish any defamatory content that questions the duties of a public employee unless written in good faith and based on rational persuasion for the public benefit. In the same principle, there was imprisonment and fine for publishing news, photos or video or audio recordings related to the sanctity of people's private or family life, even if the same is true, or insults or slanders others, enforced by the Cybercrime Prevention Law, Article 8. Finally, "Plagiarism avoidance" as a code of ethics was reinforced by The Penal Code, Article 206, through the imprisonment of up to three years for any plagiarism act for non-official documents and up to ten years for committing it on official documents. The assessment of the potential for implementing Constructive Journalism (CJ) in Qatar, particularly within the context of Al-Jazeera's media practices, presents a complex picture. The comparison of Al-Jazeera's code of ethics with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) code reveals a 62.5% match, indicating a significant deviation from IFJ standards, which also reflects on the alignment with the principles of CJ. The lower degree of congruence can be attributed to the absence of several fundamental principles in Al-Jazeera's code, which are crucial both to the IFJ standards and to the ethos of CJ. Key omissions include aspects such as truth-telling, freedom in information gathering, fair methods for obtaining information and photos, avoidance of plagiarism, defamation, libel, slander, and conflict of interest. These missing elements represent critical facets of journalistic integrity and are essential for the successful application of CJ. Additionally, the influence of state legislation on media practices in Qatar is evident in the presence of 36 additional terms and values (ATVP), categorized as 12 social, 8 professional, and 16 political. The predominance of political factors in these additional terms suggests a strong state influence on media operations and content. This political influence could potentially constrain the scope and effectiveness of CJ, particularly in areas that are politically sensitive.

However, the substantial representation of social factors in the ATVP indicates that there is still a considerable emphasis on public interest and social issues within Qatar's media landscape. This focus on social aspects provides an opportunity for CJ to gain traction, especially in topics and areas that are not politically sensitive. CJ, with its inherent focus on positive, solution-oriented reporting and social empowerment, could find a receptive audience and a conducive environment in Qatar for those subjects that align with the social priorities and public interest. In conclusion, while the political influence and the gaps in alignment with IFJ standards present challenges, the strong social orientation within Qatar's media environment offers a

potential avenue for the adoption and success of CJ, particularly in non-politically sensitive domains. This scenario suggests that CJ could play a role in enriching the media landscape in Qatar, provided it navigates the political sensitivities and focuses on areas where its principles align with the public interest and social priorities.

2.3.6. Syrian Journalism Codes Of Ethics

According to the Freedom House Report, one of the world's highest oppressive states significantly jeopardizes political privileges and civil freedom in Syria. The country ranked "Not free" in Freedom House's annual report (Freedom House, 2023). Furthermore, Reporters Without Borders ranked Syria 171 out of 180 in press freedom (RSF, 2022). The country has been torn by the civil war since 2011; the chances of capture, kidnapping, or death make journalism life-threatening and dangerous. According to RSF, in March 2018, the government gave itself a new tool for cracking down on the Internet by creating special cybercrime courts. Despite the so-called "alternative Syrian media" created in the diaspora and committed to a joint code of ethics under the Ethical Charter for Syrian Media ECSM (ECSM, 2015). The freedom of journalism inside Syria is highly compromised. The ruling government owns most of the media outlets in Syria, and they broadcast the government's agenda. Market accountability is subsumed in state accountability. Consequently, financial objectives are fundamentally similar to political ones (Heikkilä et al., 2012).

The Syrian media landscape is characterized by a complex interplay of legislation and ethical guidelines that shape journalistic practices within the country. In 2018, the government-led Syrian Journalists Union introduced a code of ethics, articulated within Media Law Article 4, aimed at governing the conduct and operational frameworks of journalism. However, this landscape has been historically marred by several impediments, notably the abuse of power and political influence, which have been paramount in undermining press freedom and journalistic integrity (Al-shami, 2020). In a thorough examination of the regulatory landscape, several legislative instruments have been instrumental in shaping the media environment. For instance, Media Law 108, promulgated in 2011, ostensibly aimed at quelling uprisings, has been a significant feature, imbued with provisions that constrain the principles of truthful reporting and other fundamental journalistic ethics. Furthermore, regulatory enactments such as the Regulation of Network Communication against Cyber Crime (2012) have augmented existing

legislative frameworks, including the Penal Code Law Article 148 (1949), in tightening the regulatory grip on journalistic practices. A comparative analysis with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) code reveals a congruence of only 50% with the Syrian Journalists Union Code of Ethics. This analysis unveils notable omissions in areas such as the freedom to collect information, protection of source confidentiality, plagiarism avoidance, and prohibitions against affiliations with security agencies or the police, as well as the management of conflict of interest (See Appendices, Table F 1). Conversely, the Syrian legislation introduces an array of reinforcement terms and values, amounting to 17 additional provisions that intricately weave social, professional, and political dimensions into the ethical tapestry of journalism within the country (6 social, 6 political and 5 professional terms) (See Appendices, Table F 2). These augmentations, while enriching the code of ethics, concurrently function to circumscribe the role and operational latitude of media within the Syrian landscape.

Furthermore, In the part of the "Truth-Telling" article of the code of ethics, The Media Law, Article 12, has added, "Not to publish anything can harm national security, the army, and secret intelligence services." As well as for the "Freedom to collect Information," where it said: "Journalists have a right to search for information, analyze, comment on and disseminate with no interference or bias." The Law for the Regulation of Network Communication against Cyber Crime, Article 12, C, has also affected "Fact reporting" by warning that providing false news with the knowledge of the provider of the falseness will cause a fine between 200 thousand Syrian Pound to one million (equal to up to 300 USD). For the "Accuracy and error correction" code of ethics, The Media Law, Article 28 has articulated people's right to ask for error correction of the news and the media's duty to publish and broadcast. And refusing to correct error reporting as per Law for the Regulation of Network Communication against Cyber Crime, Article 12, A, will cause a fine between 200 thousand Syrian Pounds and one million (equal to 300 USD). Also, as per the same Law, in Article 23, imprisonment to whom broke someone's privacy on the network without consent, even if the information were accurate. Hate speech and bias avoidance codes were also influenced by The Media Law, Article 12, warning that not publishing anything can harm public unity, hatred content, religious beliefs, national security, the army, and secret intelligence services. Relevant to that, the "Defamation, Libel and slander avoidance" code was enforced by additional terms and values of The Penal Code, Article 375-376-377, by articulating that slander to any person using direct or indirect language such as

raising a question to suspect someone's dignity is prohibited and causes imprisonment (ranging from three months to three years depending on the level of officials that are subjected to). And according to the same Law, except for the slander targeting the head of the state, any other slander will be relieved if it is accurate and related to the subject's public job. Article 712 of The Penal Code prohibits plagiarism, warning that it will cause fines and imprisonment.

The assessment of Syria's readiness to embrace Constructive Journalism (CJ) presents a nuanced and challenging picture, as evidenced by a comparative analysis with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) code. The Syrian Journalists Union Code of Ethics aligns with only 50% of the IFJ standards, highlighting significant gaps in key areas. These areas include the freedom to collect information, the protection of source confidentiality, the avoidance of plagiarism, prohibitions against affiliations with security agencies or the police, and the management of conflict of interest. Such omissions critically undermine foundational principles of CJ, such as truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement. In contrast, Syrian legislation introduces a complex mix of Additional Terms and Values Pressure (ATVP), comprising an equal number of social and political values (6 each), along with 5 professional values. This distribution suggests that while there are significant political constraints, the equal weight given to social terms indicates a potential space for CJ, especially in areas that are not politically sensitive. The emphasis on social terms could allow for CJ practices that focus on societal issues, community empowerment, and solution-oriented reporting, avoiding the pitfalls of political sensitivities. Supporting this potential for CJ in Syria is the fact that some Syrian journalists, particularly those operating outside the direct influence of Syrian authorities, have successfully experimented with CJ practices, as noted by Arafat (2021). These instances demonstrate the feasibility of CJ under certain conditions, particularly when journalists can operate with greater freedom and less political interference. However, the successful implementation of CJ in Syria, particularly within its borders, would require careful navigation of the complex and often restrictive media landscape. Journalists would need to strategically choose topics that align with the social aspects of the ATVP, leveraging the potential for positive, solution-focused reporting that resonates with the public and aligns with the ethical constraints and realities of the Syrian media environment. This approach would allow CJ to contribute meaningfully to the Syrian media landscape,

providing socially relevant and empowering journalism while adhering to the limitations imposed by the current political and professional context.

2.3.7. Iraqi Journalism Codes Of Ethics

Iraq's media landscape is an intricate mosaic of democratic aspirations and operational challenges. The political architecture of the country encompasses a multifaceted system bolstered by competitive elections, allowing diverse ethnic, religious, and nationalist factions substantial representation. Despite this democratic semblance, the journalistic milieu is marred by pervasive corruption and formidable security impediments, substantially obstructing the flourishing of a robust democratic governance. Various evaluative indices provide a nuanced portrayal of the media environment in Iraq. For instance, Freedom House (2022) categorizes Iraq as "Not free" in journalistic contexts, illuminating the prevalent governmental pressures and harassment aimed at curbing critical content. Similarly, the Reporters Without Borders index presents a grim picture, positioning Iraq at a low global ranking, thereby highlighting the daunting challenges, such as terrorism and political instability, that pervade the journalistic sphere (RSF, 2022). In a historical examination, post-Saddam Iraq witnessed a surge in developmental interventions, chiefly from western non profit organizations (NGOs), focused on enhancing journalistic capacities and establishing news outlets (Al-Rawi, 2013). Such initiatives aimed at fostering a media environment aligned with democratic norms and practices. However, the convergence of various factors, including state weaknesses, external pressures, and internal threats, complicates the journalistic landscape, casting shadows of uncertainty and vulnerability over media practices (RSF, 2020; Relly et al., 2015)). Furthermore, governmental strategies seeking to influence media narratives through material incentives reflect the hidden interplays of power, political culture, and the evolving dimensions of conflicts of interest within Iraq's journalistic arena (Al-Ansary, 2011; Relly, 2012).

The media landscape in Iraq is characterized by a division amongst its journalists, primarily between the Iraqi Media Network, which operates under the aegis of the Iraqi Parliament, and media outlets subjected to editorial control exerted by owners with pronounced partisan or sectarian affiliations (Freedom House, 2017). This dichotomy illustrates the plurality of influences and allegiances that shape the journalistic environment post the fall of Saddam's regime. Consequent to this regime change, there has been the advent of two pivotal ethical

frameworks: the Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics (2006) and the Code of Honor for the Profession of Iraqi Media (2008). These codes manifest the evolving ethical considerations and professional guidelines seeking to navigate the journalistic practices within the country. Nevertheless, the overarching legal framework governing media operations remains anchored in historical legislations, namely, the Iraqi Penal Code 11 (1969) and The Law of Journalists' Rights 21 (2011). Our exploratory study embarked on a comparative analysis, juxtaposing these indigenous ethical codes against the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) code of ethics, while also discerning the additional terminologies and values encapsulated within the prevailing laws. The outcome of this comparative endeavor unveiled a substantial congruence, with a 93.75% match relative to the IFJ code (Appendices, Table G 1). However, this alignment also unveiled nuances in the interpretational fidelity of certain ethical precepts such as "plagiarism avoidance" and the role of journalists relative to law enforcement agencies. For instance, while the Code of Honor for the Profession of Iraqi Media articulates the imperatives of informational accuracy, it lacks explicit directives against plagiarism. Similarly, while engaging with the ethical considerations of journalistic affiliations with security services, the code ambiguously positions journalistic acts in a hierarchy above legal adherence, thereby leading to a partial alignment with the corresponding ethical provisions of the IFJ.

The legal framework governing journalistic practices in Iraq is embellished with a multitude of additional terms and values pressures (ATVP), as elucidated by various laws and ethical codes, and comprehensively tabulated in our study (Appendices, Table G 2). These legal and ethical directives have incorporated a spectrum of social (5 values), professional (6), and political (7) considerations, cumulatively totaling seventeen distinct terms and values. A closer scrutiny of these directives reveals intricate stipulations and prohibitions aimed at steering journalistic ethics and practices toward politics more than the social or professional values and terms. For instance, the law navigates the paradigms of 'Truth-Telling' by permitting journalists the right to access official documents and information, albeit circumscribed by considerations of public order and legal integrity (Law of Journalists' Rights, Article 6; Iraqi Penal Code, Article 236). Furthermore, the laws in Iraq endeavor to meticulously balance 'Freedom to Collect Information' against potential risks to societal harmony and lawful order, as articulated in various legal articles that prescribe penalties for activities such as the dissemination of false news or unauthorized publication of legal proceedings (Iraqi Penal Code, Articles 210-211, 236). The

ethical principle of 'Accuracy and Error Correction' is navigated with a nuanced approach that allows journalists rights to commentary within legally defined boundaries, while also safeguarding the confidentiality of sources (Law of Journalists' Rights, Articles 4, 5). Moreover, the laws exhibit a focused sensitivity towards 'Privacy Respect,' prescribing punitive measures for violations related to the unauthorized publication of personal and private details (Iraqi Penal Code, Article 238). Lastly, the legal framework reflects a stringent posture towards 'Defamation, Libel, and Slander Avoidance,' establishing a regime of penalties for acts of public slander or unauthorized publications, with specific applicative considerations for journalistic contexts (Iraqi Penal Code, Articles 233, 234, 235; Law of Journalists' Rights, Article 8). In summation, the legal and ethical tapestry of Iraqi journalism is woven with diverse strands of considerations, reflecting a complex interplay of values and directives aimed at cultivating a balanced and responsible journalistic ecosystem.

In examining the potential for Constructive Journalism (CJ) in Iraq, a comparative analysis of the country's indigenous media ethical codes against the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) code of ethics reveals significant insights. The comparison indicates a high level of alignment, with a 93.75% match to the IFJ code. However, this substantial congruence also brings to light certain nuances in the interpretation and application of ethical principles, particularly concerning issues like plagiarism avoidance and the relationship between journalists and law enforcement agencies. For example, the Code of Honor for the Profession of Iraqi Media, while emphasizing informational accuracy, does not explicitly address plagiarism. This omission could potentially impact the integrity and reliability of journalistic content, key components of CJ. Furthermore, the code's treatment of journalists' interactions with security services is somewhat ambiguous, placing journalistic duties on a somewhat higher plane than legal compliance. This stance may lead to conflicts with the IFJ's ethical provisions and could potentially compromise fundamental CJ principles like truth-telling and contextual reporting. The legal base in Iraq, which guides journalistic practices, is characterized by a range of additional terms and values pressures (ATVP). These encompass various social (5 values), professional (6), and political (7) considerations, amounting to seventeen distinct terms and values in total. A detailed examination of these directives suggests a pronounced emphasis on steering journalistic ethics and practices towards political dimensions rather than social or professional ones. This focus is reflective of Iraq's socio-political context, where sectarian

conflict and politicization permeate various aspects of life, including the media. Nevertheless, the need for common ground and peace solutions in Iraq, much like the case in post-conflict Rwanda as discussed by McIntyre & Sobel (2018), underscores the potential role of CJ. In environments marked by conflict and division, CJ's focus on solutions and social empowerment could be particularly impactful. The emphasis on social factors within the ATVP, despite the political challenges, indicates an opportunity for CJ to contribute to nation-building and reconciliation efforts. By fostering a narrative that centers on solutions, constructive engagement, and community cohesion, CJ can play a pivotal role in bridging divides and promoting a more unified and peaceful societal discourse. In conclusion, while the political landscape in Iraq poses challenges to the full realization of CJ, the underlying social needs and the demonstrated success of similar approaches in other post-conflict settings suggest that CJ has the potential to be a significant force for positive change and societal rebuilding in Iraq.

2.4. Results Of The Studied Countries Codes Of Ethics

Analysis

This research entailed a comprehensive examination of the journalistic codes of ethics in seven Arab nations: Jordan, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. Each code was meticulously scrutinized in accordance with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists. Furthermore, the articles within these codes were systematically categorized based on the principles established by the Journalism Department at Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands. These principles encompass truth-telling, inclusivity and diversity, contextual reporting, social empowerment, solutions and future orientation, and audience engagement, as outlined by Hermans and Gyldensted (2018). However, I considered that the high score of matching a country's code of ethics is influenced by enforcement mechanisms, whether a statutory body or an independent self-regulatory body, as the IFJ suggested in Article 16 (IFJ Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists, 2019). As for the codes of each of the studied countries matching the content of the 16th Article of the IFJ code, we ordered these countries according to their scores and percentage of the match against the IFJ code from the highest match to the lowest. We found that Iraq has the highest match through the two independent codes of ethics, the Iraqi Media Network Code of

Ethics and Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, where both have a 15 score in matching which is equal to 93.75% against the IFJ code, followed by the UAE through Journalists Association (JA) code of ethics in a score of 14.5 against the IFJ code which results as 90.06% match. Then both Lebanon and Saudi Arabia in similar scores of 13.5, equal to 84.37% match, through The Lebanese Media Honor Code for Civil Peace Enforcement and the Saudi Journalists Association's Code Of Honor For Saudi Journalists (CHSJ). Jordan to The Jordanian Press Association JPA code of ethics score is 12.5, equal to 78.12% match, then in Qatar, Al-Jazeera's code of ethics against the IFJ code showed a score of 10 matches of 62.5%. Lastly, The Syrian Journalists Union Code of Ethics against the IFJ code scored 8; the percentage match was only 50%.

Upon the implementation of enforcement mechanisms, it is imperative to examine whether the observed order remains consistent. To begin with, it is essential to highlight a key provision within the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists. Specifically, Article 16 of the Charter asserts that journalists, while adhering to the general laws of their respective countries, should acknowledge the authority of independent, self-regulatory bodies concerning matters of professional honor. This recognition is stipulated to occur explicitly to the exclusion of any form of interference from governmental entities or other external parties. This clause underscores the importance of journalistic autonomy and the role of self-regulation in upholding professional ethics within the sphere of journalism (IFJ Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists, 2019). In the practical application of our study, we discovered notable variations in the recognition and enforcement of journalistic codes of ethics across the seven Arab nations under scrutiny. Specifically, only three of these countries – Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria – exhibit formal legal recognition of journalistic codes of ethics. In these countries, dedicated press associations are tasked with the enforcement of these codes. This arrangement suggests a structured approach to upholding journalistic standards, with explicit recognition and designated bodies responsible for oversight. Contrastingly, in the remaining countries of the study – the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia (KSA), and Qatar – the approach to journalistic ethics is integrated differently. Here, the ethical guidelines for media practice are incorporated within the broader media-related laws. This integration implies that ethical considerations in journalism are governed more directly by legal frameworks, rather than through independent or semi-independent journalistic bodies. This distinction in the enforcement

and recognition of journalistic ethics highlights varying approaches to media regulation and the role of ethics in journalistic practice within these countries.

In the conducted study, it was observed that among the seven Arab countries analyzed, only Lebanon's press syndicate operates as an independent entity implementing an ombudsman system. In contrast, the journalism associations in Syria and Jordan are under the influence of government control, as noted by Heikkilä et al. (2012) and Zaid (2018). Specifically, in Jordan, adherence to the code of ethics is mandatory for all media personnel, and this code is integral to the public order. Conversely, in Lebanon, the code of ethics relies on voluntary commitment from media outlets, supported by the collective efforts of the Editors' Syndicate, Press Syndicate, Ministry of Information, and the National Council for Audiovisual Media, enforced through a disciplinary body. In Syria, compliance with the code of ethics is mandated through The Journalists' Union, as stipulated in Article 4 of the Media Law. Meanwhile, in the UAE, KSA, Qatar, and Iraq, the codes of ethics are maintained through self-regulation by the issuing bodies. Frost (2015) highlights that the most prevalent enforcement mechanisms for these codes of ethics include industry self-regulatory bodies, statutory bodies defined and supported by government legislation, or direct statutory bodies established by law. Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria have adopted the approach of having a statutory body as defined and supported by government legislation. In contrast, the UAE, KSA, Qatar, and Iraq employ the law as a statutory body. Nonetheless, all seven countries incorporate additional legislative measures, imposing further terms and values to enforce these codes of ethics. Such measures often render adherence to certain ethical principles mandatory, with significant penalties for non-compliance. This indicates a substantial level of governmental intervention in the enforcement of journalistic ethics across these nations.

The analysis of the reinforcement of journalistic codes of ethics is intrinsically linked to an examination of the interplay between these codes and other laws and regulations in the respective countries. This aspect of the study involves a detailed exploration of how external legal and regulatory frameworks intersect with, and potentially influence, the journalistic codes of ethics in each of the seven Arab countries under consideration. Such an analysis is crucial for understanding the broader context within which journalistic ethics operate. It involves identifying specific instances where national laws, whether pertaining to media, freedom of expression, or other related areas, either align with or contradict the principles outlined in the

codes of ethics. This investigation is not limited to direct legal stipulations but also encompasses the broader regulatory environment that can impact journalistic practice, including censorship laws, information access regulations, and data protection statutes. The objective is to discern how these external legal and regulatory elements shape the practice of journalism in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Iraq. This includes assessing whether these external factors support the autonomy and ethical responsibilities of journalists, or if they impose constraints that may challenge the principles of independent and ethical journalism. Such an analysis will provide a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted legal and ethical landscape within which journalists in these countries operate.

The "Additional Terms and Values Exerting Pressure" (ATVP) concept emerges as a critical factor influencing the professional codes of journalism, as elucidated in the study. ATVP encompasses a range of external influences, predominantly legal, that exert a directive force on the ethical framework within which journalism operates. These influences can manifest in various forms, including political, social, or professional pressures. According to the methodology delineated in the study, ATVP constitutes a collection of supplementary stipulations enforced through legal mechanisms. These stipulations significantly impact how journalistic ethics are applied and interpreted. They act as external modifiers that can potentially alter the fundamental principles of journalistic ethics or skew their application in practice. This concept is essential for understanding the complex dynamics between journalistic ethics and the legal environment in which they function. It underscores the notion that the practice of ethical journalism is not solely governed by internal codes and standards but is also shaped by external legislative and regulatory forces. These external elements can either reinforce the ethical standards set forth in journalism or pose challenges to their adherence, thereby shaping the landscape of journalistic practice. In an ideal scenario, a free press operates without any interference from regulatory bodies, allowing for the uninhibited application of ethical codes. However, in the context of the Arab countries where this study was conducted, such an ideal state of press freedom is not the prevailing environment. Consequently, the research involved an analysis of the interplay between social and professional terms and values in relation to political influences. The study posits that in these environments, where press freedom is limited, the ability to prioritize social and professional values over political ones is considered a notable

achievement. This prioritization is seen as a lever for fostering the potential of constructive journalism, even within constrained environments.

To classify the seven Arab Middle Eastern countries in respect of (ATVP) from highest to lowest, we found that Qatar state has the highest additional terms and values pressure. Qatar has three regulations; The Publications and Publishing Law, 8, 1979; The Penal Code, 11, 2004 and The Cybercrime Prevention Law, 14, 2014. The ATVP added by these legislations were 36 additional terms and values; 12 social, 8 professional, and 16 political. Then, the UAE, through several laws and legislations such as (Press & Publishing Law 15, 1980), (Cyber Crimes Decree 5, 2012), and (The Penal Code 4, 2019) has added 32 ATVPs; 12 of them were social, 14 were political, and 6 were professional. In KSA, The Regulation for Publication, Decree 23, 2000, The Executive Order Of The Regulation For Publication, 2001, Anti-Cyber Crime Law, Decree 17, 2007, The Executive Order for Electronic Publishing, 2020. And The Regulation for Audio-Visual Media, Decree 33, 2017. These regulations have added a total of 28 ATVPs. Of many, 13 were social values, 10 were political, and 5 were professional. Jordan legislations have added 25 ATVPs, of which 10 additional terms are categorized as socially driven, 6 professional terms, and 9 are politically driven. That was through some legislation, starting from the Jordanian Press Association JPA code, which was considered legally part of the public order. Then by the influence of there are three laws: Press and Publishing Law (1988), Cyber Crime Law (2015), and The Jordanian Penal Code (1960). Syria and Iraq both have 17 ATVPs. Syria has added 6 social, 5 professional, and 6 political, as in 17 ATVP, through The Media Law 108, 2011, The Regulation of Network Communication against Cyber Crime, 17, 2012, and The Penal Code Law 148, 1949. In Iraq, the Iraqi Penal Code, 11, 1969, and The Law of Journalist's Rights, 21, 2011 have added 17 ATVPs; 5 terms and values added are social, 6 professional, and 6 political. For Lebanon, which has the lowest pressure on the code of ethics, The Press & Publishing law of the year 1962 and the Penal Code number 340 of the year 1943 have added 15 ATVP, where there are 4 additional terms and values categorized as "social," another 4 were categorized as "professional" and (7) as political terms.

The study employs a comparative approach to evaluate the "Additional Terms and Values Pressure" (ATVP) across the seven countries in question. This comparison is quantitatively represented in Table 4, where the ATVP of each country is weighed against Lebanon's ATVP, which serves as the benchmark due to its status as the country with the lowest ATVP value of 15.

This baseline value is assigned a weight of 1 for the purposes of this analysis. To calculate the relative weight of ATVP in other countries, their respective ATVP values are divided by Lebanon's ATVP value (15). For instance, considering Jordan, where the ATVP is quantified at 25, the calculation would be 25/15. The resultant figure, in this case, 1.66, indicates that the pressure exerted by additional terms and values in Jordan is approximately 1.66 times greater than that in Lebanon. This method of calculation allows for a direct comparison between the countries, providing a clear indication of the relative magnitude of ATVP in each. It offers a nuanced understanding of how external pressures vary across these nations and their impact on the codes of ethics in the journalistic landscape. This approach is instrumental in quantifying and comparing the degree to which external factors influence journalistic practices in different regional contexts.

Table 4. “Additional Terms and Values Pressure” (ATVP) weight on codes of ethics by country.

Country	ATVP	ATVP Weight
Lebanon	15	1
Iraq	17	1.13
Syria	17	1.13
Jordan	25	1.66
KSA	28	1.86
UAE	32	2.13
Qatar	36	2.4

Note: Lebanon, as the country with the lowest ATVP, which has 15 ATVPs considered 1 other country.
(Own Source)

The research findings reveal significant variations in the enforcement mechanisms of journalistic codes of ethics across the seven Arab Middle Eastern countries studied. A key observation is that countries like Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan possess legal recognition for their

codes of ethics and have established statutory bodies for their enforcement. These statutory bodies are either government-defined, as in the cases of Syria and Jordan, or independent, as seen in Lebanon. The study indicates that the presence of government recognition for the code of ethics, coupled with a statutory body for its enforcement, tends to reduce the "Additional Terms and Values Pressure" (ATVP) ratio. This implies that such a framework can mitigate external pressures influencing journalistic ethics. Conversely, in countries lacking formal law recognition of codes of ethics, such as the UAE, KSA, Qatar, and Iraq, there is a higher incidence of political terms and values reinforced by law. This is evident from the data presented in Table 5. However, it is noteworthy that these countries also demonstrate a pronounced emphasis on reinforcing professional and social terms and values within their legal frameworks. This distinction is further illuminated by the varying nature of the socio-political landscapes in these countries. The UAE, KSA, Qatar, Iraq, and Jordan exhibit social and religious systems that significantly influence the framing and enforcement of journalistic codes. This is contrasted with the more secular systems in Lebanon and Syria. The study's findings thus reflect how different societal and religious contexts shape the legal frameworks surrounding journalistic ethics, affecting the degree and nature of external pressures on journalism in these countries.

Table 5, Country's Additional Terms & Values on Codes of Ethics categorized.

Country	Political Terms & Values	Professional and Social Terms & Values
Qatar	16	20
UAE	14	18
KSA	10	18
Jordan	9	16
Syria	6	11
Iraq	6	11
Lebanon	7	8

(Own Source)

The number of political terms and values can be used to show how the government controls ethics. The number of professional and social terms and values can be used to show how codes are professionally and socially driven. For example, the government can use political terms and values to create laws and regulations that control what is considered ethical behavior. Professional and social terms can use codes of ethics to guide the behavior of their members. In all cases, the government's intervention in applying the codes of ethics of journalism is applicable in all of the seven countries, in which may confirm that artificial issues crafted by states, financial groups, and even some journalists are used to create false notions of cultural relativism to adulterate the communication systems that empower the elites and illiterate the public (Herrscher, 2002). These problems are reflected in the lower scores against IFJ and, especially, in a higher ATPV. Unfortunately, patriotism is still a professional norm and not a violation of journalism's ethics for many Arab journalists, such as the media witnessed, during the 2017 Gulf crisis (Al-Najjar, 2020). Also, this could be an example of how public interests can be politicized by some autocratic governments.

The comprehensive examination of journalism ethics codes across various Arab countries underscores the potential for leveraging these codes as a foundation to foster and implement constructive journalism. A critical observation from Table 2 is that social and professional terms and values carry the most significant weight in all the studied Arab countries. This finding suggests that these countries possess a robust base conducive to the advancement of constructive journalism, particularly because social factors play a crucial role in its implementation. However, an important consideration, as highlighted by Sidani (2018), is the relatively high presence of political terms in the codes of ethics across each of the studied countries. This prevalence poses a persistent challenge, as it may lead to the risk of politicization in the application of these codes. Such a risk could potentially undermine the impartiality and effectiveness of journalistic practices. Despite these challenges, an in-depth analysis of the individual country scenarios reveals clear opportunities for furthering constructive journalism. By focusing on tailored training and piloting both institutional and individual initiatives in constructive journalism, there is considerable scope for enhancing the media landscape in these countries. This approach necessitates a concerted effort to integrate constructive journalism principles within existing frameworks, while also addressing the potential limitations posed by political influences. The

goal would be to not only uphold journalistic ethics but also to steer media practices towards more positive, solution-focused, and socially beneficial reporting.

In a summary of the potential for Constructive Journalism (CJ) in each of the seven countries:

Jordan: Jordan's media codes of ethics show a 78% match with IFJ standards, indicating a strong foundation for CJ principles. The strong influence of social pressure suggests a robust public orientation in Jordanian media, aligning well with CJ. However, further exploration and implementation are needed for the other two CJ pillars — solution and future orientation. Overall, there is an optimistic view for CJ in Jordan, especially with its strong alignment with IFJ standards and public orientation focus.

Lebanon: Lebanon's media code of ethics aligns approximately 84% with IFJ standards, indicating a well-established foundation for CJ principles. The code explicitly emphasizes peace promotion, aligning with CJ values. Political factors, however, exert significant influence, potentially impacting unbiased journalism. Despite this, partial press freedom in Lebanon offers opportunities for CJ practices, especially in navigating political challenges and contributing positively to the nation's complex social and political fabric.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA): The media in KSA shows an 84.37% match with IFJ standards, promising for CJ adoption. The media's orientation towards social values, deeply rooted in Islamic religious principles, aligns with CJ's focus on societal betterment. The combination of ethical alignment with IFJ standards and strong social orientation underpinned by religious values presents fertile ground for CJ in Saudi Arabia.

United Arab Emirates (UAE): UAE media codes of ethics align over 90% with IFJ standards, providing a strong foundation for CJ. However, political factors significantly influence media practices. The prominence of social factors in the ATVP suggests that journalism practices prioritizing social impact and responsibility have promising potential in the UAE, particularly for CJ.

Qatar: Al-Jazeera's code of ethics shows a 62.5% match with IFJ standards, with significant gaps in key areas crucial to CJ. State legislation heavily influences media practices. Despite the strong state influence, the considerable emphasis on public interest and social issues within Qatar's media landscape offers potential for CJ, especially in non-politically sensitive domains.

Syria: The Syrian Journalists Union Code of Ethics aligns with only 50% of IFJ standards, showing significant gaps in key areas. The equal weight given to social and political terms in the ATVP suggests potential for CJ in non-politically sensitive areas. The success of CJ practices by Syrian journalists outside the country's direct influence indicates possible opportunities for CJ under certain conditions.

Iraq: Iraq's indigenous media ethical codes show a 93.75% match with IFJ standards. However, certain nuances in ethical principles' interpretation, especially regarding plagiarism avoidance and journalist-law enforcement relationships, present challenges. The emphasis on political dimensions in the ATVP reflects Iraq's socio-political context. Nonetheless, the need for peace solutions and the emphasis on social factors in the ATVP suggest CJ could significantly contribute to societal rebuilding and bridging divides in Iraq.

In assessing the potential for Constructive Journalism (CJ) across the seven countries—Jordan, Lebanon, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Syria, and Iraq—a common theme emerges around the alignment of local media codes of ethics with the International Federation of Journalists' (IFJ) standards. This alignment varies considerably, from a high of 93.75% in Iraq to a low of 50% in Syria, indicating differing degrees of foundational support for CJ principles like truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, and social empowerment. Most countries demonstrate a significant alignment, suggesting that the core values of CJ are not entirely alien to these regions. This alignment is a crucial factor, as it provides a basic ethical framework upon which CJ can build. However, issues such as the lack of directives against plagiarism and ambiguous positions regarding journalists' interactions with security services highlight challenges in fully embracing CJ's ethical demands. Another striking similarity across these assessments is the influence of additional terms and values pressure (ATVP), which encompasses social, professional, and political considerations. Political factors often exert a significant influence, as seen in countries like Lebanon and Qatar, where they potentially impact unbiased journalism practice. Conversely, the strong social orientation in countries like KSA and UAE suggests a more conducive environment for CJ's focus on societal betterment. In nations like Syria and Iraq, where political and social factors are intertwined, the potential for CJ lies in non-politically sensitive areas, leveraging CJ's strengths in community empowerment and solution-oriented reporting. These findings indicate that while political landscapes vary, the presence of strong social factors across these countries offers fertile

ground for CJ, provided it can navigate the complex interplay of social, professional, and political dynamics in each media landscape.

Considering the tenets of Constructive Journalism (CJ) as delineated by Hermans and Gyldensted (2018), which include truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement, and underpinned by the theoretical framework of Couldry and Hepp (2017), there emerges a vision of journalism deeply intertwined with public collaboration in content creation. This approach not only empowers audiences but also fortifies the journalist's role in shaping the social construction of reality. These components collectively forge a dynamic foundation for CJ, transforming the media's role into one that is more proactive, inclusive, and solution-oriented. In academic discourse, the link between CJ and social care has been increasingly recognized, with research by Steiner and Okrusch (2006) highlighting a potential convergence between journalistic ethics and societal justice. This fusion of journalism and ethics assumes critical importance in the context of media's influence on societal perceptions and the promotion of justice. Building on these theoretical underpinnings, our research delved into a content analysis of journalism ethics codes in select Middle Eastern countries, namely Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the UAE, KSA, and Qatar. These codes were evaluated on a scale ranging from 0 (no engagement) to 5 (full commitment) to gauge adherence to ethical standards. Our analysis revealed that the ethical codes of these nations did not explicitly incorporate the principles of CJ or endorse a role for journalists in solution-focused reporting. This finding is striking, especially when contrasted with the comprehensive CJ framework developed by Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, which underscores elements like solutions orientation and co-creation in journalistic practices (Hermans & Gyldensted, 2018). Despite this, the ethical codes across these countries showed a commitment to addressing social issues, with a notable focus on peace-making in journalism. Such directives resonate with CJ's emphasis on empowerment and future orientation, encouraging journalists to contribute to conflict resolution and peace-building. This analysis uncovers the intricacies of the media landscape across Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the UAE, KSA, and Qatar. Despite the absence of formally articulated Constructive Journalism (CJ) principles, there is an underlying acknowledgment of the media's role in societal improvement. This role becomes particularly significant in regions affected by conflict, where the media's contribution to peace-building is not just beneficial but essential. The primary challenge is

bridging the gap between the current ethical standards in these countries and the comprehensive, solution-focused ethos of CJ.

Building on the findings from the previous chapter, where it was established that all the studied countries scored the highest (5) in terms of social responsibility within their media codes of ethics, the current chapter's analysis further accentuates this aspect. It was found that the regulatory pressures in these countries predominantly favor social terms and values. This trend sets a solid foundation for implementing solutions and constructive-based journalism, given that these countries are rooted in Islamic culture, which dominates the Muslim-majority nations even in the officially secular regimes. The Islamic guidelines for journalism, as delineated by Muchtar et al. (2017), include striving for community benefit (*maslahah*), adherence to truth and fact-telling (*siddiq* and *haqq*), educational dissemination (*tabligh*), and maintaining reasonableness (*wasatiyyah*). The alignment of these Islamic principles with the ethos of CJ offers a unique opportunity for these nations. It indicates that the existing social infrastructure is well-suited for the adoption and promotion of CJ practices. This synergy between the Islamic guidelines and CJ principles could potentially facilitate the integration of CJ into the mainstream media narrative in these countries, thereby enhancing their media's role in societal development and conflict resolution.

Chapter 3

3.1. Applying Constructive Journalism in Business News of The Arab Middle East Countries

In the initial chapter, we established that the core tenets of Constructive Journalism (CJ) encompass solutions, future, and public orientation, delving into the practical principles that govern CJ, such as truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement. We observed the successful implementation of CJ in diverse contexts, ranging from developed nations like Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, and the USA, to countries aspiring for peace and progress such as Rwanda. These examples illustrate that the integration of social responsibility and ethical codes in journalism is crucial for the effective practice of CJ. The potential for applying CJ in regions like the Arab world, where press freedom varies significantly, is an intriguing aspect of this study. This point of inquiry is particularly relevant considering the experiences of transitional democracies like Egypt and Tunisia post-Arab Spring in 2011. Allam (2019) explored this potential, noting both excitement and apprehension about whether the solution-oriented mindset of CJ might be co-opted as propaganda by some regional authorities. Consequently, my research seeks to unearth the roots of constructive journalism within the journalistic codes of ethics and regulations in the Arab region. This exploration began with an analysis of the codes of ethics in chapter two, for Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the UAE, KSA, and Qatar, focusing on their alignment with social responsibilities and solutions. Despite the absence of explicit references to solution-based journalism ethics, all countries demonstrated a commitment to social responsibility, providing a promising foundation.

Furthermore, when comparing these codes of ethics against international standards, a significant correlation ranging from 50% to over 90% was found, indicating the presence of CJ principles such as truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement, at least in theory. The analysis also

included the influence of legal and regulatory frameworks on the enforcement of these ethical codes, using a metric termed "additional terms and value pressure" (ATVP). This revealed a predominance of government-led terms favoring social good. The findings suggest a potential for the application of CJ in these countries, drawing parallels with the successful implementation of investigative journalism in the Arab region, as discussed by Bebawi (2016). The approach there relied heavily on training to empower Arab journalists, even those from more government-controlled environments, to develop capacity in non-politically sensitive areas like health, environment, and economy. Thus, this chapter will adopt a similar approach to assess the potential for CJ in the Arab region, particularly in business news, given its relevance to everyday life and its relatively apolitical nature.

This chapter will commence with an examination of the history and characteristics of business news globally and then specifically in the Middle East Arab countries. It will assess the historical and current interplay between business news, society, politics, and power. Following this, the chapter will delve into the ethical responsibilities of economic journalism, exploring the evolving relationship between business news, corporate social responsibility (CSR), and Socially Responsible Journalism (SRJ). The focus will then shift to the context of business news reporting in the studied countries, providing an overview of the economic journalism landscape in each. Subsequently, in-depth interviews with economic journalists from each of the seven countries will be conducted to gauge the potential for CJ in Arab countries, particularly in the realm of business news, identifying opportunities and challenges. This will lead to the formulation of recommendations through thematic data analysis using Nvivo software.

3.1.1. Business news evolvement and specification

The development of economic and financial journalism is deeply linked to market forces, emerging primarily as a resource for merchants and brokers who saw potential in consistently providing commercial and financial information to market participants (Arrese, 2016). Some of the leading European cities with bustling trade activity, including Venice, Antwerp, Amsterdam, Hamburg, and London, had established price currents and shipping lists by the end of the 17th century (McCusker, 2005). The media has been covering business and financial events in various forms since the Dutch 'Tulip mania' of the 1630s. Financial journalism evolved in parallel with the growth of liberal capitalism. It witnessed significant expansion from the late nineteenth to the

early twentieth centuries, a period when the connection between market bubbles and the media became more pronounced (Shiller, 2002; Ojala & Uskali 2006). In the 18th and early 19th centuries, business news thrived independently, somewhat obscure from the attention and governmental scrutiny ignited by the political press. This period witnessed the advent of novel economic newspapers, characterized by a blend of news and opinion, extending beyond mere commercial and market information (Arrese, 2016). A significant inflection point in the trajectory of U.S. business journalism materialized with the establishment of the Kiernan News Agency in 1869, marking a pivotal expansion in both the breadth and influence of business reporting. The rudimentary business news found in pre-Colonial publications, primarily listing commodity prices with minimal narrative, gave way to a more sophisticated form of business reporting with the advent of the Industrial Revolution. This evolution played a pivotal role in the growth and specialization of industries (Wells, 2020). Throughout the span of nearly a hundred years, from the late 19th to the late 20th century, the political clout of business and financial press experienced a dip, barring perhaps the decade following the 1929 crisis. During this turbulent period, certain publications played a significant role in legitimizing among the business community some economic policies deemed unfavorable to business. For instance, Fortune magazine, a newly launched publication at that time, endorsed 'corporate liberalism' thereby fostering the cultural and social engagement of businesses in the 1930s and 1940s. Nonetheless, such instances were more the exception than the norm (Arrese, 2016).

The emergence of mercantile manufacturing enterprises, a new professional class, and the decline of small-scale merchants sparked a demand for specialized business news. In response to major societal and demographic transformations in the United States - such as population increase and urbanization of U.S. cities - journalism underwent significant change. These changes offered a larger, more accessible audience, resulting in the development of the commercial advertising model and the penny press, according to historian Gerald Baldasty. The transition of newspapers' financing source from political parties to commercial advertising was a turning point. Baldasty argues that the penny press served as the foundation for the press becoming a tool for businesses rather than political entities (Wells, 2020). With the ascendancy of neoliberalism displacing Keynesianism in industrialized nations, Economic, Business, and Financial (EBF) journalism became more widespread. This trend was not confined to Britain but mirrored in the news media of other Western democracies like the Nordic region, France, and

Canada. In the US, business journalism saw explosive growth from the 1970s. By the early 1980s, the 'New Economy' further accelerated this trend. It's estimated that American business journalists increased from 4800 in 1988 to over 12,000 by 2000. During the same period, newspaper coverage of business doubled, the number of business magazines surged from 358 to 694, and previously dull business sections underwent makeovers (Shiller, 2002; Roush, 2011). The media landscape transformed further in 1980 with the advent of CNN, introducing 24-hour, rolling news to television screens and setting the stage for specialized business channels like CNBC and Bloomberg. The late 1990s saw the rise of numerous websites dedicated to financial matters, with TheStreet.com in the USA being particularly notable (Cassidy, 2005). As a result, across all forms of media, both nationally and globally, economics, business, and finance became a standard component of news coverage.

The media's function as a disseminator of financial information and analysis is critical in shaping public perception and investor behavior. However, the integrity of this role has occasionally been called into question, particularly in the context of historical economic crises. In the periods preceding major financial collapses, such as the infamous Wall Street Crash of 1929, the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997, and the abrupt cessation of the 'New Economy' expansion in 2000, even the most circumspect segments of the financial press have appeared to perpetuate an unyielding confidence in the perpetuity of market expansions. This phenomenon can be partially attributed to a pervasive narrative within financial journalism that championed the 'democratization' of stock market investment. The term 'democratization' in this context refers to the increasing accessibility of stock market investments to the general public, a trend that was hailed as a positive development for individual financial empowerment. However, scholars such as Frank (2001) and Yun et al. (2002) have critiqued this narrative, arguing that it was advanced with a negligent disregard for the intricate and often perilous nature of financial markets. The media, in its enthusiasm to report on the potential of wealth generation through market participation, frequently downplayed or overlooked the inherent risks involved. This critique suggests that the financial media, in its portrayal of the stock market as a space for egalitarian wealth creation, may have inadvertently contributed to the speculative bubbles that precipitated these economic downturns. By disseminating a one-sided view that emphasized the benefits of market participation without equally stressing the potential for loss, the media failed

to provide a balanced perspective that could have fostered more prudent investment decisions among the public.

Moreover, the media's role in these scenarios was not merely passive; it actively shaped the discourse around financial markets. The optimism conveyed in financial reporting arguably had a performative effect, reinforcing investor confidence and encouraging a bandwagon effect that drove more individuals to invest without a full understanding of the volatility and risk of financial markets. This uncritical endorsement of market participation, coupled with a lack of comprehensive risk analysis, may have amplified the consequences of the inevitable market corrections. In light of these observations, it becomes evident that the media holds a profound responsibility in the realm of financial reporting. It must balance the imperative to inform and educate the public about opportunities in financial markets with the ethical obligation to present a realistic assessment of the risks involved. Failure to do so not only undermines the media's credibility but also has the potential to contribute to the kind of unchecked optimism that has historically preceded financial crises. In the wake of the global financial crisis of 2008, the international media were subjected to censure for what was perceived as their insufficiently rigorous examination of political and financial institutions. This critique was grounded in the belief that the media had ostensibly neglected their duties as the Fourth Estate—a term that carries significant weight in the context of journalism. The concept of the Fourth Estate refers to the role of the press as an independent observer and watchdog of those in power, holding them accountable to the public. Stemming from traditional European concepts of the three estates of the realm—clergy, nobility, and commoners—the Fourth Estate represents another unofficial 'estate' that wields influence and acts as a check on the other three by informing the citizenry and thereby enabling them to hold their leaders to account. In its capacity as the Fourth Estate, the media is entrusted with the critical function of providing vigilant oversight of the activities of government and financial entities, ensuring transparency and protecting public interest against malfeasance. This role is predicated on the foundational democratic principle that an informed populace is essential to the health and function of a democracy. Marron et al. (2010) suggest that in the period leading up to and following the financial crisis, the media did not adequately challenge the assertions of those in positions of economic and political power. The implication of this failure is profound, as it suggests a dereliction of the journalistic duty to scrutinize and

question, to probe beyond the surface of public statements and policies, and to expose underlying issues that could have ramifications for the public good.

The criticism leveled at the media implies that, rather than acting as a critical counterbalance to power, the press may have been complicit or at least insufficiently critical in the face of the narratives constructed by financial and political authorities. This perceived complicity would represent a significant abdication of the Fourth Estate's role as a pillar of democratic society, which is predicated on the press providing the checks and balances necessary to prevent the abuse of power and to ensure that decisions affecting the public are made with transparency and accountability. Concurrently, a chorus of scholars faulted financial journalists for their apparent ignorance of the institutional context in which they operated (Tambini, 2010), their insufficient training and expertise (Davis, 2007), and their inadequate focus on economic specifics (Schiffrin & Fagan, 2012). A study by Starkman (2009) found that while American newspapers did voice some warnings about investment and banking issues between 2000 and 2003, these cautionary tales and investigative pieces were conspicuously absent post-2004. In other countries like Denmark, media were also viewed as neglecting their watchdog role during the financial crisis, due to a lack of political conflict between the government and the opposition (Andersen, 2011).

Addressing the functional aspects of the journalistic watchdog role in business news, the discourse revolves around whether journalists should be as proactive in holding business entities accountable as they are in scrutinizing politicians. We contend that it is imperative for journalists to alert the public to emerging threats within the business sphere, akin to their response when political actions potentially undermine societal well-being. To this end, the watchdog ideal should be equally applied to business coverage (Kalogeropoulos et al., 2014). A comparison of political and business news coverage may be illuminating, given the increasingly manifest influence of business entities, particularly in light of the financial crisis. Reich's empirical findings (2011) show a tendency among financial journalists to rely on fewer sources, depend more heavily on public relations, and be less proactive in initiating contact with sources, compared to their political journalism counterparts. However, when it comes to diversity of sources and cross-checking, the differences are minimal (Kalogeropoulos et al., 2014).

In the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, there has been a marked increase in scholarly engagement with the disciplines of Economic, Business, and Financial (EBF) journalism.

Historically, these sectors did not attract extensive academic scrutiny, but the pervasive and profound consequences of the crisis have catalyzed a renewed interest in the field (Merrill, 2019). The crisis underscored the significant role that journalism plays in the economic sphere and prompted a reevaluation of how these sectors are covered by the media. The delineation of terms within EBF journalism is complex, as noted by Hayes (2014, p. 60), who points out the difficulty in distinctly categorizing these areas of reporting. The term 'business' is often employed as an umbrella term, encompassing a broad array of topics. Shaw (2015), however, offers a more nuanced perspective, distinguishing financial journalism as content that is specifically tailored for investors, from business journalism, which is directed toward a broader audience. It should be noted that within the scholarly discourse, certain researchers employ the term 'business journalism' as an inclusive descriptor that encompasses the reporting of economic issues to both specialist and non-specialist audiences. Moreover, with 'economic' coverage addressing macroeconomic issues, 'business' concentrating on the operations of companies and industries, and 'financial' focusing on the intricacies of financial markets, investment strategies, and consumer finance (Merrill, 2019). The multidimensional nature of roles within EBF journalism is further elucidated by Starkman (2014), who critiques the state of reporting leading up to the 2008 crisis. He posits that journalists became so embedded within the corporate communications apparatus that their capacity for critical and independent reporting was significantly compromised. Starkman's analysis suggests that contemporary business and financial journalism is predominantly influenced by the pursuit of 'access' to high-level sources. This access-centric approach often takes precedence over the imperative of 'accountability' to the public, potentially leading to a bias in reporting that favors the narratives of those who benefit from bullish financial markets (Merrill, 2019). This shift in journalistic priorities raises important questions about the role of the media in economic discourse and the potential consequences of its reporting practices. The emphasis on access over accountability may not only skew the information presented to the public but also diminish the media's role as a watchdog of economic and financial institutions. The 2008 crisis serves as a stark reminder of the need for rigorous, independent journalism that can effectively inform the public and hold powerful economic actors to account.

The relationship between business news coverage and financial crises is complex and indirect. While deficiencies in economic reporting do not cause crises per se, the absence of

comprehensive narratives in such reporting can hinder the implementation of necessary remedial actions. This inquiry focuses on examining the reportage by business journalists at The New York Times during the Great Recession, employing the method of newsroom ethnography. This approach is instrumental in shedding light on the cognitive processes journalists engage in when defining newsworthiness and the practical realities of their professional routines (Usher, 2017). In a critical analysis, Starkman (2009) of the Columbia Journalism Review undertook a retrospective content analysis of major mainstream business news outlets, including The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and the Financial Times, for the period leading up to the financial crisis (2000-2007). Starkman suggested that journalists suffered from a cognitive bias akin to "Stockholm syndrome," implying an undue sympathy and identification with their subjects. He argued that the press not only fell short of their watchdog role but also actively propagated deceptive information. Consequently, the public was presented with narratives that scarcely served as cautionary signals, thus undermining the anticipatory function of the press in alerting the public to impending economic downturns (Starkman, 2009, p. 7).

business news has significant implications on the public's daily economic behaviors, such as consumption and saving habits. Therefore, individuals actively seek updates on economic conditions that could affect their current or future economic situations (Starr, 2010). Since business news is intrinsically linked to individuals' everyday lives, they can contribute their experiences and ideas to the production of such news (Lee & Pae, 2016; Park & Park, 2015). Furthermore, business news helps individuals understand current and future economic conditions (Merrill, 2018; Starr, 2010). Yet, despite the public's interest in economic sectors, journalists often fail to meet the public's informational needs, largely due to an overreliance on elite sources (Harrington, 1989; Hopmann & Shehata, 2011). In essence, the portrayal of business news can differ significantly from economic realities, with potential real-world implications. However, the evolving news landscape, particularly the increasing prevalence of online news consumption and social media as a news filter, may be altering the nature of the business news disseminated and consumed (Mitchell et al., 2016). Economic and business journalism has been criticized for its tendency to normalize crises. This means that journalists often report on economic and business news in a way that makes it seem like these crises are normal and to be expected. This can lead to people becoming desensitized to these crises and not taking them seriously. It can also make it difficult for people to understand the full impact of these crises. For example, during the 2008

financial crisis, many economic and business journalists reported on the crisis in a way that made it seem like it was just another normal event. This led to many people not taking the crisis seriously, which in turn made it worse. It is important for economic and business journalists to be aware of this tendency to normalize crises and to try to avoid doing so. They should report on these crises in a way that highlights their seriousness and the impact they have on people's lives (Suttles & Jacobs, 2010), a disproportionate emphasis on scandals over substantive issues (Entman, 2013), and a susceptibility to manipulation by public relations (Doyle, 2006; Tambini 2010). In a longitudinal tri nation content study involving U.S., UK, and Australian academic researchers concluded that the press exhibited a chronic lack of skepticism when assessing financial trends and maintained a concerning proximity to their sources (Knowles et al., 2015). Borden & Tew (2007) even suggest that journalists display little genuine interest in fulfilling their watchdog roles. These criticisms illuminate some of the key issues plaguing business journalism, especially their failure as watchdogs.

It has been argued that economic journalists may be unduly influenced by a neoliberal pro-business perspective, ultimately serving the interests of businesses and profit-seeking entities (Chakravartty & Schiller, 2010). McChesney (2008) critiques business journalism, contending that it is skewed towards serving big businesses and investors. He remarks that corporations are seldom held accountable for their actions, while government misconduct receives considerably more attention. This bias may be attributed to publishers' inherently pro-business leanings, which inevitably permeate journalistic practices. In the interest of appeasing investors and advertisers, journalists often refrain from critiquing the market and expressing undue interest in the affairs of other corporations, thereby ensuring media organizations remain profitable. Major scandals, such as Enron and Worldcom, only make the headlines when they break, highlighting the failure of journalists' watchdog responsibilities as they are unable to challenge an essentially profit-driven capitalist system (McChesney, 2008). Business news functions as a vital cog in the wheel of finance, furnishing key players with necessary information for decision-making and offering evaluations of the economy, markets, companies, and executives. Criticisms of economic journalism primarily revolve around two central issues. Firstly, business journalists may exhibit an excessive investor-centric focus, thereby neglecting to challenge systemic issues in a capitalist system that tends to privilege the affluent over the impoverished. Secondly, business journalism may be flawed in its capacity for watchdog and accountability reporting, with journalists

concentrating on event-specific news while overlooking systemic problems. These issues, in particular, warrant an ethnographic examination of a Great Recession newsroom, a setting where journalists have generally failed to acknowledge their own complicity in deficient coverage (Usher, 2017).

However, distinguishing between the effects of actual economic performance and news coverage of the economy poses a significant challenge. Existing research indicates that news coverage of the economy can predict economic attitudes (Casey & Owen, 2012). The research findings reveal that a considerable correlation between media tone and public opinion persists, even after accounting for actual economic performance. Furthermore, Alanyali et al., (2013) findings present align with the hypothesis positing a reciprocal influence between fluctuations in the news and market movements. Notably, it's been suggested that citizens' economic perceptions may be shaped more by news coverage of the economy than by the actual state of the economy. Another possibility is that both business news coverage and tangible economic performance collectively influence public perceptions of the economy. News coverage of the economy indeed mirrors certain ground realities of the economy, including job reports, stock market trends, economic growth, and so forth (Boydston et al., 2018). One might posit that the positive correlation between economic performance and economic assessments may reflect a direct causal link, devoid of media influence. Unlike certain social and political phenomena predominantly experienced through the media, economic realities are routinely experienced by the masses, which may inform their perceptions of economic performance. People's economic experiences, such as job gains or losses, income fluctuations, and price changes, along with their social interactions about these experiences, could shape the public opinion about the economy. In periods of prosperity, positive economic experiences may lead to a more favorable perception of the economy, and vice versa during economic downturns. In essence, collective economic experiences may directly form collective economic opinion without any direct or intervening media effects (Boydston et al., 2018). It's worth noting that a portion of business news coverage potentially influencing collective perceptions may be biased, being excessively optimistic or pessimistic compared to actual economic performance. In other words, a segment of news coverage may be extra-economic, deviating from economic realities. Various factors might contribute to this extra-economic nature of news coverage, one of which could be journalistic incentives fostering a negativity bias in reporting (Soroka 2006). Various methods have been

adopted to measure the tone of business news coverage, such as counting the frequency of usage of certain terms (Doms & Morin, 2004; Hopkins & King, 2009), employing sentiment dictionaries (Soroka et al, 2014), and developing dictionaries for specific research contexts (De Boef & Kellstedt, 2004). These measures have significantly enriched our understanding of the origins and consequences of media coverage of the economy.

The research confirms that economic attitudes strongly correlate with actual economic performance. This correlation reassuringly supports the notion of the media's role in accurately reflecting the "true" state of the economy and the expectation that consumer evaluations should correspond to economic performance, according to (Boydstun et al., 2018). Moreover, researchers have provided evidence suggesting that economic attitudes may be influenced by the portion of media coverage deviating from actual economic performance. Economic evaluations aren't fully explained by economic performance, and when these evaluations deviate from economic fundamentals, their movement can be linked to media coverage that is more or less positive than predicted by economic performance measures. In some instances, Media coverage of economic issues that goes beyond the usual economic indicators can provide a valuable service to the public by shedding light on aspects of the economy that government measures may miss. In other cases, News outlets may unintentionally mislead the public by overstating economic downturns, particularly when described in sensational terms to attract readers. As a result, a critical task for future research is to empirically investigate the systemic causes of this extra-economic media coverage (Boydstun et al., 2018).

In addition, the growing importance of creativity in the business press is quantitatively expressed, and it is related to the field of activity. Journalists and business press editors, who assess societal perceptions of creativity, are unable to separate themselves from mainstream trends and personal experiences. Media texts are shaped by the press coverage of pertinent issues, events, and contexts and are also influenced by the readership, who determine which texts they choose to read, thereby influencing the production of such texts (Sederevičiūtė-Pačiauskienė et al., 2018). The findings from interviews with financial journalists in a study carried out by Strauß (2018) have brought into question the effectiveness of contemporary journalists in fulfilling their roles as societal watchdogs, a concept previously outlined by Usher (2012). Despite a majority of the participants expressing a desire to unmask business-related misconduct, a direct embodiment of the investigative role, it was observed that a scant few engaged in this

type of journalism. The main thrust of their daily journalistic pursuits was found to be largely confined to routine economic reporting, which encompassed subjects such as quarterly earnings, analyst profiles, and investment advice. Only a pair of respondents acknowledged delving into in-depth IJ, as exemplified by the Panama Papers investigations. The notion of a financial journalist as a watchdog is pivotal for societal functioning, particularly with respect to corporate and financial oversight. However, the perception and actualization of this watchdog role are subject to significant variation across different media outlets (Usher, 2012). This role can manifest in a number of ways, including: (1) the dissemination of information to the public, (2) facilitating informed action based on this information, (3) the journalistic approach adopted, and (4) the ability of the journalist's work to spur action from the public or government.

A multitude of studies have underscored the direct and indirect influences that business news has on economic behavior. Uhl (2012), for instance, demonstrated that television news tone and consumer sentiment could serve as viable predictors of private consumption, with the former proving to be the more robust of the two variables. In a model comprising television news tone, personal income, and savings, the best predictions for private consumption in the United States were generated. Goidel et al. (2010) further reinforced these findings, showing that personal financial expectations, which ostensibly influence consumption, strongly correlate with economic indicators and, to a lesser extent, business news tone and volume on national television. However, Lischka (2016) pointed out that business news coverage of national issues has only a limited potential to predict public economic sentiment, and an even lower potential to predict the sentiment of economic experts. This limited potential is attributed to the conspicuous nature of the topic and low media dependency, coupled with easy access to real-world cues. Nevertheless, increased consonance in news coverage and a recession period could potentially enhance news effects. This notion aligns with the theoretical expectation that economic sentiment guides economic behavior, which in turn aligns with real-world economic indicators.

Importantly, Lischka (2016) emphasized that business news does not merely mimic the real-world aggregate economy. Indeed, the content and tone of news items, their consonance and volume on the same topic, can vary considerably, rendering them more volatile than aggregate economic indicators. Yet, business news tends to mirror the aggregate reality under specific circumstances, for instance, when the topic is less elusive and complex or when the economic

situation is critical. The correlation between the state of the economy and news coverage tends to be most stable during economic downturns and periods of increased unemployment, when news interpretation becomes more consonant. The public economic sentiment, however, seems to depend more on real-world cues than on business news. The absence of agenda-setting effects might be due to habituated information inertia. Public economic expectations are largely influenced by their own past experiences, exhibiting strong autoregressive tendencies. The economy is seen as a doorstep issue that directly impacts people's daily lives (Haller and Norpoth, 1997), suggesting that personal experiences, more than the news, tend to be the source of information about the general economic situation and unemployment. The volatility of public expectations is not as extreme as that of news coverage over time. Nonetheless, this discussion primarily revolves around sociotropic perceptions, which are considered to depend heavily on news (Hagen, 2004).

In the realm of economic journalism, the essentiality of critical questioning, exhaustive fact-finding, and accurate reporting cannot be understated, given the far-reaching implications of economic journalism on every facet of society (Hayes, 2014). The demand for business news, concomitant with the spread of free-market principles worldwide, has engendered a rise in the number of journalists specializing in this field and editors recognizing its indispensability in news coverage. This makes business news the forefront of investigative journalism, commanding significant attention on print and broadcast media, thereby escalating the significance of business journalists (Hayes, 2014). Undurraga, (2017), posits a traditional dichotomy within economic journalism: the provision of news for financial markets versus serving the public interest. The financial press often acts as a bridge between investors and financial markets, while general newspapers typically cater to the public interest. Business reporters shoulder a considerable onus to adhere to the general guidelines of journalistic practice, with competency, honesty, and impartiality being paramount in reporting on business, economy, and government (Hayes, 2014). Misreporting, whether due to inaccuracies or the perversion of objective reporting by personal opinions, can lead to detrimental repercussions such as job loss, hindered investment, or the propagation of corruption and incompetence in governmental or corporate sectors. As such, journalists should strive for the pinnacle of quality in their reporting, keeping in mind that every story, irrespective of its magnitude, impacts society. If a story is founded on baseless data or rumors, its repercussions can be significantly damaging, potentially beyond repair.

Many scholars concur that news coverage has the power to shape the public's agenda and perception of the economy. While traditional news media influence the public agenda, individuals can also glean economic information from their daily lives, often overriding the impact of media coverage. This is known as the obtrusive contingency hypothesis, which proposes that agenda-setting effects diminish as personal experience with an issue increases (Lischka, 2015). Hence, the media may only dictate the agenda for abstract, less conspicuous topics. Furthermore, individuals are more inclined to rely on the information derived from their personal economic sentiment than that acquired from general news (Lischka, 2015). Yet, another study by Svensson et al. (2016) investigated the impact of exposure to ambiguous business news on consumer confidence, a precursor to economic behavior. Consumer confidence, encompassing individuals' assessments of their personal financial situation and the national economy, was linked to exposure to ambiguous news and changes in consumer confidence, with the latter being mediated by economic uncertainty. (Svensson et al., 2016) finding suggests that the way business news is presented can influence consumer confidence. Earlier research at the aggregate level identified a correlation between the negativity in news and consumer confidence. Other studies, like Boomgaarden et al. (2011), illustrated that negative news coverage negatively affected national economic expectations, leaving personal economic expectations unaffected. In line with this, Hetsroni et al. (2012) discovered that extensive viewership of television news correlated with heightened economic pessimism at both personal and national levels. Collectively, these findings suggest that consumer confidence can be manipulated by the manner in which news is presented (Svensson et al., 2016). Moreover, Svensson et al. (2016) suggest that individuals exposed to ambiguity may err on the side of pessimism when evaluating the state of the economy due to the associated uncertainty, which can evoke fear. This fear, as Smith & Ellsworth (1985) and Lerner & Keltner (2001) found, can trigger pessimistic risk assessments, leading individuals to be more conservative in their economic outlook and behavior. Another conclusion drawn from findings is that individuals exposed more frequently to ambiguous economic television news are more likely to exhibit lower consumer confidence due to increased uncertainty (Svensson et al., 2016). Separately, research by Andrei et al. (2018) indicates that significant business or business news events can garner investor attention to the stock market and enhance price discovery. Specifically, their findings propose that business or business news can intensify market reactions to earnings announcements, while other news may serve as a mild

distraction. Moreover, Arrese (2016) underscored the significant role of economic publications in effecting mindset changes in the ruling classes of countries like Argentina, Spain, Russia, China, and South Africa during periods of restricted press freedom before and after political shifts.

3.1.2. The Arab Region's Business News Scene

Within countries of the Arab region characterized by unique cultural, political, and religious frameworks, financial and business journalists operate under constraints that can significantly influence the media system where they are based (Rinnawi et al., 2011). It's paradoxical that despite this region being replete with some of the world's most valuable economic resources, and being the cradle of significant financial centers and stock markets, there's a lack of comprehensive research within this particular domain. The Arab region is a consistent source of important news stories on topics like investment wealth funds and the oil and gas industries, not to mention its substantial purchasing power in sectors such as defense, high-tech, and general goods (Hanieh, 2015). Although there is a lack of information about business and financial journalism in the Arabian Gulf we can still understand some aspects. We can find similarities between the limitations in reporting business and finance news in these regions and what we see in contexts. These shortcomings are influenced by factors such as training in business and finance as well as the problematic relationship with or sometimes even cooperation, with their news sources, which can compromise journalistic integrity (Babaker, 2014). Espinosa & Alarcón (2016) have emphasized the pivotal role of numerical data in depicting the complex facets of economic reality, a statement corroborated by current research. Nevertheless, There is a significant disparity between the importance that journalists place on statistics in the context of business news and their practical application during the data manipulation process. This suggests a dissonance between journalists' intentions and their actions, particularly in their handling of data. This inconsistency becomes critical given that these numbers should act as catalysts fostering transparency and accountability in business and corporate issues within the Arab world. Such a discrepancy elicits questions about business journalists' competence to articulate the role of statistical data in business news and their usage of such data in framing their business news stories. Other factors such as the level of journalists' education, their specialized training, and the accessibility of data, might have a more significant

influence on the final product of journalists' business news stories (Alaqil & Lugo-Ocando, 2021).

Most economic journalists, both within the Arab world and the West, appear to lack formal statistical training, a finding that gives rise to significant concerns. The literature on business journalism has consistently maintained that journalists should receive comprehensive training in using numerical data effectively, as well as in presenting it to the public in an understandable and impactful manner (Knowles et al., 2015; Tambini, 2010). This point is further underscored by the quantitative findings of the study, which show that an overwhelming majority of the articles analyzed leaned heavily on single sources (78.3%), with only around a quarter containing elements that could be considered critical, interpretative, or analytical. The deficiencies in statistical training adversely impact journalists' capacity to leverage data effectively in holding the corporate world accountable and maintaining transparency. This issue is not unique to any one region, but is a shared problem among journalists in both the West and the Arab world (Alaqil & Lugo-Ocando, 2021). Al-Maadid et al. (2020) conducted an illuminating analysis that revealed noteworthy distinctions in the responsiveness of core and peripheral (GCC) countries' financial markets to news. The research enriches the extant literature in several ways. Firstly, it incorporates news in the form of newspaper headlines, offering interpretations of business and political releases that influence agents' investment decisions. Secondly, it employs an econometric framework that illuminates the potential non-linear dynamic connections between stock returns and their plausible determinants. This non-linear approach was found to be more congruent with the data compared to the conventional linear model. Thirdly, the study foregrounds the GCC countries, contributing extensive and novel empirical evidence. Finally, the study controlled for factors such as domestic monetary policy and various economic and financial shocks. Overall, the findings suggest that there are significant associations between negative business news and stock returns. Intriguingly, business news from larger economies was found to have not only domestic, but also cross-border adverse effects (Al-Maadid et al., 2020).

Delving deep into the realm of journalism in the Arab world, it's essential to recognize that the evaluation criteria shouldn't be based solely on the standards and practices followed in liberal democracies, which often have institutions and systems in place to safeguard reporters' independence. For their Arab counterparts, the professional landscape is more challenging and

daunting, thus making critical appraisal of their work unjust, especially considering the contextual challenges they face. Journalism in Arab countries, with its unique constraints, demands careful comparison with its Western counterpart. However, when it comes to handling statistical data, Arab journalists encounter challenges akin to those faced by their Western peers, especially in terms of holding the corporate and financial sectors accountable for their wrongdoings. Such common issues potentially harbor shared solutions, one of which could be improving education and training related to numerical data. It is, therefore, essential to take proactive measures to enhance journalism's overall quality in areas susceptible to improvement (Alaqil & Lugo-Ocando, 2021). Reinforcing the initial findings, Al-Maadid et al. (2020) indicate the crucial role of news as a determinant of GCC stock returns, with business news exerting a more pronounced influence. The exploration of linguistic metaphors within Arab business news reporting shows its significance, Domaradzki, (2013) reveals three key empirical findings. Firstly, conflict metaphors are deeply rooted in the said reporting style. Secondly, various linguistic realizations of these metaphors can be used interchangeably. Lastly, in relation to the cognitive and pragmatic aspects of conflict metaphors, Arabic and English share many similarities. These metaphors provide users of both languages with a highly useful framework for understanding and evaluating various social phenomena. They are frequently employed for comparable persuasive reasons and subsequently generate analogous networks of entailments, which guide readers' interpretations in both languages.

3.2. The Ethical responsibilities of economic journalism

In recent times, the significance of economic journalism has become increasingly evident. This prominence has sparked conversations about the social responsibilities of economic and business reporting. Many scholars refer to the ethical dilemma of the business news. The practice of source selection, as highlighted by Strauß (2019), can inadvertently be one of the ethical problems that create a self-referential information ecosystem, one where a small and privileged elite are predominantly cited. Usher (2012) suggests another face of this ethical dilemma where such a skewed reliance can undermine the traditional role of journalists as watchdogs, potentially compromising the balance of perspectives shared with the public. This necessity for a diverse array of views is equally pertinent to business news as it is to political

discourse. The rationale being, the portrayal of economic circumstances and insights into business or financial spheres is frequently dictated by these elite sources who, although proficient in economics, may not present a comprehensive view of the situation (Kim & Kim, 2017). A scrutiny of research pertaining to source selection further underscores this concern. Davis (2000, 2007) indicates that news coverage in domains of economics, business, and finance has an inherent bias towards institutional or elite sources. Such an inclination often overshadows voices from the general public, such as everyday citizens or representatives from civic organizations. The repercussions of this approach can be rather concerning. Knowles et al. (2015) argues that the media's failure to cover a wide range of sources inevitably limits the scope of news coverage. This is because the media is often biased in its reporting, and only focuses on sources that support its own agenda. This can lead to a lack of diversity in news coverage, and can prevent people from getting a well-rounded view of the world. Such observations are consistent with studies by Lee & Pae (2016) and Park & Park (2015), who demonstrate that the representation of civic voices, even in comparison to sectors like education and culture, is relatively diminished in business news (Hopmann & Shehata, 2011). The significance of this discourse on source selection becomes even more pronounced when one considers the correlation between business news and the shaping of public sentiment. As articulated by Baek & Lee (2020), understanding the interplay between elite and non-elite sources in business news is crucial, especially given its profound influence on public financial perceptions and actions.

Public sentiments regarding current and anticipated economic conditions are inextricably linked to their engagement with business news, especially topics like inflation and unemployment (Goidel et al., 2010). Compared to other news genres, business news possesses a unique power to sway public opinion. This is primarily because the majority lacks a robust comprehension of economic terminologies and theories. In such a landscape, as Nadeau et al. (2000) emphasize, elite sources are not just informing but actively shaping public perceptions of real-world scenarios, as well as projections for the future. The interplay between financial journalism and its sources has long been a subject of academic interest and scrutiny. According to seminal studies by Davis (2000), Doyle (2006), and Knowles et al. (2015), financial journalists exhibit a pronounced reliance on elite financial sources, primarily because they offer specialized insights into the intricacies of the economic and financial domains. However, this dependence bears inherent challenges. Usher (2012) suggests that financial journalism,

particularly during periods of market volatility and uncertainty, often falters in its watchdog role — a role that necessitates diverse and informed sources to uncover potential discrepancies, misbehavior, and irregularities. Instead, the narrative is frequently driven by the consensus of these elite financial stakeholders. Reinforcing this observation, a content analysis conducted by Knowles et al. (2015) across newspapers in the U.S., U.K., and Australia unveiled a discernible dominance of elite voices. These voices, such as public relations spokespeople and financial analysts, not only monopolized the news but also set its tone by being prominently featured at the onset of articles. In stark contrast, the voice of ordinary citizens, which potentially offers alternative perspectives, was relegated to reactionary roles, typically appearing later in the narrative.

3.2.1. Business News and Social Responsibility

The genesis of corporate social responsibility (CSR) can be traced back to 1953 with the seminal work of Bowen, which defined the social obligations of business professionals. Originally, the emphasis was placed on the individual's societal awareness rather than the broader corporate entity. This perspective, however, underwent a transformation due to the managerial paradigm shift and a growing societal disillusionment with businesses, a sentiment rooted in escalating societal challenges (Martínez, 2005). By the 1980s, the dictionary of business ethics incorporated the term "stakeholders", even though antecedent references to this notion were evident. Freeman's pivotal work ignited debates on stakeholders, categorizing them as entities indispensable for an organization's survival (Freeman & Reed, 1983). Furthermore, in an era characterized by rapid globalization, the role of business news in shaping public perception and influencing policy decisions cannot be understated. Business news serves not only as a mirror reflecting the intricacies of global financial systems but also as a lens through which societies interpret and respond to economic challenges and opportunities. As gatekeepers of this vital information, journalists and media outlets bear a profound social responsibility. Their narratives can either foster informed public discourse, promoting transparency and accountability, or they can perpetuate misconceptions, leading to misguided policies and public apprehension. The ethical imperative for accurate, balanced, and comprehensive reporting is heightened by the pervasive impact of economic decisions on societal well-being, from individual livelihoods to global economic stability. This part delves into the multifaceted dimensions of the social

responsibility inherent in business news dissemination, examining the potential consequences of its neglect and the imperative for upholding journalistic integrity in this critical domain.

Shifting the lens to the nature and impact of business news on society, Knorr Cetina & Bruegger (2002) characterize it as knowledge curated and relayed by the sources. Its significance is heightened given its direct ramifications on public sentiment, influencing individuals' everyday attitudes and microeconomic behaviors (Adoni & Cohen, 1978). Interestingly, the public seems to exhibit a predilection for business news that resonates with their daily lives, such as price indices and interest rates, over broader macroeconomic themes like exports/imports or federal budgets (Lee & Pae, 2016; HyeYang, 2004). This impact has been maximized with the evolution of the digital era presenting an opportunity to juxtapose traditional news sources with the burgeoning realm of social media. As Soroka et al. (2014) intriguingly posit, the economic narratives constructed on platforms like X (previously Twitter) could offer divergent perspectives compared to conventional news outlets. In their pioneering research, they embark on a nuanced exploration, contrasting the tenor of employment related discussions across newspapers and X. Such research illuminates the multifaceted landscape of economic discourse across varied mediums. Yet, the ethical paradox emerges. While the general public engages with business news both as consumers and active market participants (Lee & Pae, 2016), their voices are conspicuously absent, especially in discussions intimately connected to their economic well-being (Park & Park, 2015).

With the advent of the digital age, however, the dynamics of traditional media gatekeeping have undergone transformative shifts. A burgeoning array of news sources and mediums has emerged, with easy accessibility facilitated by technological advancements such as computers and cell phones. Contemporary research suggests that this digital proliferation has potentially weakened the impact of conventional media gatekeeping mechanisms, e.g., Bennett & Iyengar, (2008). However, in times of economic turbulence or stagnation, the audience is inundated with an amplified volume of business news. In stark contrast, during phases of economic buoyancy, such as recovery or growth, the media landscape is relatively bereft of economic narratives. According to Lischka (2016), this disproportionate coverage inevitably influences public perception of the economy. The intricacies of media gatekeeping and its effects on the perception of business news have been a focal point of numerous academic endeavors. One salient aspect of this ethical and social responsibility discourse is the media's inclination

towards negativity in business news coverage. Studies, including the seminal work by Soroka (2006), have underscored that positive economic developments, *ceteris paribus*, often garner less media attention compared to equivalent negative downturns. This propensity towards negativity has been further expounded in several scholarly articles, as evidenced by studies aiming to bridge the interplay between negativity and gatekeeping (Shoemaker & Reese, 1995). Interestingly, while newspapers are observed to demonstrate a negativity bias in their portrayal of fluctuations in unemployment rates, platforms such as X (previously Twitter) appear to sway towards positivity. This evolving media landscape has profound implications. With an escalating fraction of the populace consuming news through social media platforms, the predominant information ecosystem could be inherently more optimistic. Such a paradigm shift could significantly influence both economic and political behaviors. One can envision a society wherein political actors are lauded or rebuked based on divergent perceptions of economic realities rooted in either social media or traditional news outlets. Similarly, shifts in consumption patterns could be dictated by varying anticipations of economic futures, predicated on the nature of the media being consumed.

Recent findings by Barbaglia et al. (2022) further elucidate this discussion. The researchers discerned a robust correlation between economic sentiment measures and the business cycle. Specifically, sentiments pertaining to domains such as the economy, unemployment, and manufacturing exhibited cyclical behaviors and societal impact. Moreover, narratives surrounding the financial sector and monetary policies were predominantly pessimistic during economic downturns and vice versa. A striking observation was the profound pessimism in the financial sector sentiment during the Great Recession, followed by a gradual recovery. Encouragingly, the indicators proposed by the researchers accurately depicted these economic cycles, shedding light on the interrelation between variables and business fluctuations. Further, the incorporation of sentiment measures in a factor-based model was found to enhance forecast precision, underscoring the utility of sentiment analysis in understanding and predicting economic trajectories. Another study by Barbaglia et al. (2022) has unveiled the transformative potential of harnessing sentiment measures in the domain of economic forecasting. By integrating these measures with traditional macroeconomic statistics, there is an added dimension of real-time, high-frequency data analysis. The granularity provided by such alternative datasets empowers researchers to engineer more potent indicators, further refining the predictive power

of their models. The promising trajectory indicated by the initial findings points towards the utility of sentiment extraction, especially from news sources, in enhancing macroeconomic forecasting precision. Yet, it is pertinent to note that the realm of text analysis in economics and finance remains nascent. Comprehensive exploration is requisite to fully discern its potential and contextual relevance across varied sectors within economics and finance. In a related but different field, the role of the media, especially the business press, has been a subject of rigorous ethical and social responsibility scrutiny, particularly in the aftermath of financial crises. Despite the mounting evidence suggesting possible shortcomings in reporting, many in the journalistic community remain steadfast in their stance. They maintain their position as vigilant watchdogs, proposing that the public's potential oversight is to blame. This sentiment was palpably echoed by figures like Jim Cramer of Mad Money, who opined that certain responsibilities lay beyond the purview of the press (Usher, 2012). Post-crisis retrospections often reverberate with critiques aimed at the press. Notable figures, including Scheer (2010) and Kurtz, (2007), expressed their reservations about the press's efficacy. These critiques, resonating with past sentiments, accentuate perceived inadequacies in financial journalism's role as a proactive watchdog. Moreover, mainstream figures, such as Jon Stewart, have underscored what is perceived as misplaced exuberance exhibited by channels like CNBC, coupled with the undue adulation of corporate figureheads (Starkman, 2014; Usher, 2012).

Navigating further into the intricate interplay between media social responsibility and finance, Kogan et al. (2022) present a compelling analysis of the ramifications of fraudulent activities and their subsequent effects on information dissemination within social networks. Through a rigorous examination grounded in trust-centric models and the significance of social capital in financial activities, they suggest that the reverberations of market manipulation lead to a recalibrated market equilibrium. Post-scandal, investors exhibit increased skepticism, even towards credible news emerging from social platforms. Leveraging the capabilities of natural language processing (NLP) on article commentaries, the researchers identified a discernible surge in the usage of terms like "fake" and "fraud" post the (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission) SEC's investigation. A linguistic algorithm further illuminated the pronounced negativity in subsequent commentary tones, indicating a palpable erosion of trust among the readership. Lischka's (2016) study provides fascinating perspectives on the complex relationship between news consonance and volume, especially regarding their impact on public economic

feelings. While one might naturally assume that greater news consonance would enhance the effects of news tone, the results indicate the opposite. Reduced news consonance often leads to a more optimistic economic sentiment in the public. This might be because varied news tones on a single topic are seen by the public as signs of positive economic indicators. Additionally, when news volume increases, it magnifies the overall effect of news tone on economic expectations. As Doms and Morin (2004) pointed out, consumers are more inclined to update their economic predictions during times of extensive news coverage, like in recessions. The influence of news consonance and volume has significant societal implications. Lischka (2016) outlines the wider effects of business news on public sentiment and actions. Economic journalism plays a crucial role in shaping public economic feelings, which can indirectly influence public economic behavior. Interestingly, the direction of this influence might be unexpected: Negative news might spur buying intentions, as the public perceives downturns as favorable times for major purchases. Therefore, excessively negative reporting might not always lead to reduced spending or even a recession, especially if individual financial situations remain stable.

In the field of economic journalism, Hayes (2014) underscores the paramount importance of ethical considerations that are related to the social responsibility of the news. Business journalists must be cautious of potential conflicts of interest and pressures, especially when investigating businesses that may be involved in ethically dubious practices with far-reaching social consequences. Moreover, an unwavering commitment to impartiality remains essential. Any semblance of bias, even if inadvertent, can have dire consequences for companies, underscoring the profound responsibility shouldered by business journalists. Hayes further elaborates on the term 'business journalist', which has become an umbrella term encompassing financial, economic, and business reporting. The ubiquity of business journalism's relevance is rooted in its profound impact on a vast swathe of the populace, underlined by the imperative for transparency in emerging economies and the information needs of investors and the general public. To further advance the business journalism discourse by contending that the economic narratives presented to the public are disproportionately skewed towards negativity. This portrayal markedly influences public economic forecasts, albeit without significant perturbation of retrospective evaluations. Building upon media-dependency theory, Lischka emphasizes the criticality of defining retrospective and prospective judgments, both conceptually and empirically (Lischka, 2015). Concluding this exploration into economic journalism, Soroka et al.

(2014) assert that such journalism is not a mere reflection of tangible economic trajectories. Instead, it is saturated with inherent biases. Pivotal research has unearthed a predilection among journalists to emphasize negative economic developments, often relegating positive events to the periphery. This negativity bias permeates various economic reports, as evidenced by trends in recession news coverage according to Wu et al., (2002), further accentuating the responsibility and influence of economic journalism. The media's tendency to focus on the negative can be traced back to a complex web of reasons. Central to this inclination is the conceptualization of the media as the "fourth estate," an entity vested with the responsibility of upholding the tenets of modern democracies (Lischka, 2015). As sharp-eyed observers, media entities function to oversee and, in turn, shape the actions of governing bodies, ensuring they remain accountable and responsive to the needs of the citizenry (Whitten-Woodring, 2009). It is against this backdrop that negative economic trends are disproportionately spotlighted. Such negative coverage acts as a conduit to broadcast policy failures, whereas accentuating positive developments does not align with this watchdog ethos (Lischka, 2015). This observed asymmetry in news coverage dovetails with established psychological paradigms. At the heart of this phenomenon is the negativity effect, a cognitive bias wherein negative information is accorded greater significance than its positive counterpart when forming evaluative judgments (Ahluwalia, 2002).

Consequently, in the minds of citizens, a surge in business news articles might signal perturbations in the national economy's health. However, in periods characterized by economic tumult, one could postulate that the media might magnify positive economic shifts, considering them as deviations from an overwhelmingly negative narrative. Given the association between media coverage and novel developments, burgeoning news volumes during economic downturns could be interpreted as harbingers of positive economic tides (Lischka, 2015). Empirical studies described a marked asymmetry in the public's receptivity to business news. Specifically, while negative narratives engender heightened pessimism, their positive counterparts fail to evoke a commensurate surge in optimism (Soroka, 2006). This observation aligns with Lischka's (2015) postulation that the tone of business news is inextricably linked with the public's economic perceptions. Consequently, narratives espousing economic prosperity engender optimism, whereas bleak economic forecasts precipitate pessimistic outlooks. However, echoing sentiments from Hester & Gibson (2003) and Soroka (2006), the adverse ramifications of negative news are

anticipated to weaken the uplifting effects of positive news, an assertion formalized in Lischka's third hypothesis. In the process of evaluating the prospective economic landscape of their nation, individuals evince increasing optimism commensurate with economic growth. However, this sentiment is counterbalanced by the deleterious effects of negative business news. The volume and tone of such news sow seeds of pessimism among the masses. Crucially, Lischka (2015) underscores that the cognitive mechanisms underpinning the effects of tangible economic realities and news coverage diverge considerably, especially when comparing retrospective evaluations with forward-looking expectations.

3.2.2. The Business News and Corporate Citizenship

A thorough understanding of corporate citizenship mandates intrinsic behavioral modifications within a corporate entity. This implies that organizational decisions, at every echelon, should resonate with the foundational tenets of corporate citizenship. A myopic focus solely on CSR, a prevalent trend, inadvertently alienates firms from the intricate internal deliberations pivotal for authentic corporate citizenship (Birch, 2013). For a comprehensive embodiment of corporate citizenship, the external representation of a firm ought to mirror its internal governance. Regrettably, these internal mechanisms often evade rigorous examination. Presently, the discourse on social responsibility is predominantly external-centric in many corporations, yet genuine corporate citizenship necessitates its permeation throughout the corporate fabric (Birch, 2013). The paradigm of corporate citizenship, synonymous with CSR, integrates self-regulatory principles and values within business strategies and operations (Lin, 2019). This research defines corporate citizenship by gauging the degree to which corporations fulfill both overt responsibilities (economic and legal facets) and covert responsibilities (ethical and philanthropic facets) as anticipated by stakeholders (Maheshwari & Yadav, 2015). Corporate citizenship manifests in various dimensions: economic (benefits conferred to employees), legal (compliance with statutory mandates), ethical (adherence to moral standards), and philanthropic (participation in altruistic endeavors) (Lin, 2010). Stakeholder perceptions and expectations are invariably molded by the specific industry and sector in which a corporation is entrenched. Instead of pursuing a monolithic definition applicable to all corporate entities, a more pragmatic approach entails sector-specific interpretations of corporate citizenship. Gardberg and Fombrun (2006) advocate for segmenting corporate citizenship into distinct profiles congruent with a

company's institutional milieu. Nonetheless, this methodology falls short in encapsulating the intricate and multifaceted nature of corporate citizenship, thereby complicating lucid articulation (Gardberg & Fombrun, 2006).

In this part, we shall delve into the multifaceted realm of corporate citizenship. It will be posited that corporate citizenship is an amalgamation of four dimensions: economic, legal, ethical, and philanthropic. Astute corporate entities recognize profitability as an elemental prerequisite for their sustenance. Economic stewardship is paramount for corporations to discharge their broader societal obligations. Contrary to popular belief, the pursuit of profits is not antithetical to corporate citizenship but is, in fact, a foundational imperative (Carroll, 2013). In the field of economic journalism and business news, the ethical compass of media organizations plays a pivotal role in shaping the narratives presented to the public. Damstra & Boukes (2018) studied the effect of the business news on society's perceptions, differentiating between positive and negative aspects of economic status, media coverage, and people's past and future economic judgments. We've discovered that the public often receives a negatively biased view of the economy. The ethical foundation of these organizations is intrinsically linked to the decision-making processes of their employees, which has been a focal point in organizational ethics research. While overarching factors such as the organization's ethical climate, codified conduct guidelines, and systems of rewards and sanctions can mold ethical determinations, the intrinsic values and convictions of the employees stand paramount. A significant body of research has delved into the ethical ideologies and judgments of employees within Western contexts, predominantly the United States (Al-Khatib et al., 2002). Yet, there remains a shortage of studies addressing the ethical dilemmas encountered by media professionals in non-Western nations, especially within the Arab milieu (Al-Kazemi & Zajac, 1999). This research endeavors to bridge this lacuna by probing the interplay between ethical perceptions and judgments in the context of media organizations' corporate citizenship. Ethical judgment, within the media landscape, pertains to an individual's evaluation of the moral implications of a narrative or journalistic approach. This judgment is integral to the ethical decision-making trajectory (Hunt & Vitell, 1993). Absent a moral dimension to a story or approach, media professionals might sidestep ethical considerations, leaning instead towards economic or sensationalist motivations (Jones, 1991). Grasping the ethical perceptions and judgments of media professionals is imperative, given their ripple effect on organizational efficacy and public trust. Ethical

transgressions within media houses can strain interpersonal dynamics and diminish public faith in the institution's integrity (Zajac, 1996). As media conglomerates expand and their structures grow intricate, there's a risk of ethical disconnect between ground-level reporters and top-tier decision-makers (Roberts & O'Reilly, 1974; Ntildeo et al., 2000).

Tailoring corporate governance and ethical codes to address the idiosyncrasies of media enterprises in the Middle East is imperative, that is why I am tackling this in my thesis from the perspective of the journalism codes of ethics and the reinforcement mechanisms, in order to conclude the constructive journalism practice. Thus, to catalyze investment and growth, especially in family-run media houses, it's crucial to dismantle ethical impediments. Advocacy for systemic reforms from The Middle East & North Africa (MENA) governments is essential. Yet, considering the autocratic tendencies of several MENA regimes, effecting change might necessitate substantial internal and external advocacy. An alternative strategy could be to champion voluntary adoption of best practices in governance among family-owned media entities, underscoring the long-term market advantages (Bishara, 2011). From an Islamic perspective, ethical journalism is not merely a professional obligation but a spiritual one. Islamic tenets offer a unique value-driven ethical framework governing journalistic endeavors. These guidelines demarcate ethical boundaries, endorse morally upright journalistic practices, and proscribe unethical ones (Mohammed, 2013, p. 879). Rooted in divine edicts, the Islamic ethical system permeates all societal facets, including journalism, aiming to bolster social responsibility and justice. Muslim journalists are tasked with balancing profitability with societal betterment, accentuating corporate citizenship. This chapter elucidates the Islamic ethical framework, emphasizing the halal (permissible) and haram (prohibited) dichotomy in journalistic practices. Ensuing chapters will delve deeper into journalism ethics, guided by Islamic principles (Mohammed, 2013, p. 881).

3.3. Context of Business News in the Studied Countries

Journalism in the Arab world operates within a unique context that differs significantly from the liberal democracies of the West. In these democracies, systems and institutions are in place to safeguard the independence of journalistic practices. However, for Arab journalists, the

challenges are more pronounced, making their journey more arduous. It is therefore unjust to evaluate their work using the same benchmarks as those applied in the West, especially given the distinct circumstances they navigate. Yet, when it comes to handling statistical data in economic reporting, Arab journalists grapple with issues related to those faced by their Western counterparts. This is especially evident in their interactions with the corporate and financial sectors. Both groups can benefit from enhanced education and training in this domain, presenting an opportunity for collective improvement in journalism. As Alaqil & Lugo-Ocando (2021) suggest, it's crucial to focus on areas where tangible advancements in journalism can be achieved. However, a concerning trend emerges when delving deeper into the practices of business journalists in Arab nations. A significant majority, over 83%, of articles do not show evidence of journalists questioning or verifying the statistical data provided by their sources. This observation aligns with Alheezan's (2010, p. 198) findings, which highlight a general reluctance among journalists in the region to scrutinize their data. Furthermore, Alaqil & Lugo-Ocando (2021) found that a substantial 72.6% of articles containing criticism of statistical data leaned heavily on foreign experts. This over-reliance raises concerns about potential biases, as these experts might not always offer impartial perspectives. In this section, we present an overview of business news pertinent to seven specific Middle Eastern Arab nations, which form the focal countries of our scholarly research. These countries include the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Qatar, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq.

3.3.1. Business News In The United Arab Emirates (UAE)

In the context of business news in the UAE, the relationship between businesses and journalism presents a complex dynamic. Duffy (2014) notes that certain businesses view regional journalism as merely an extension of their public relations (PR) or marketing efforts, sometimes even resorting to offering incentives for positive coverage. This blurring of lines between journalism and PR in business news can sometimes cast a shadow over the integrity of regional journalism. However, this doesn't mean that all journalists compromise on ethics. Subaihi (2021) points out that even dedicated and ethical reporters can sometimes be viewed in a negative light. Expatriate journalists have expressed that local officials and executives often give the impression of being accountable solely to their superiors, rather than the media. Yet, an Emirati media professional has highlighted the significant influence of public opinion on both government and

business decisions. The role of news and social media in shaping this public opinion is undeniable. Leaders in the UAE, both from the government and business sectors, actively monitor public sentiments, especially those expressed in Arabic. They even ensure that spokespeople are readily available to engage with influential columnists and broadcasters.

The legal landscape in the UAE also plays a pivotal role in shaping domestic business news reporting. Gibbs (2019) points out that the 1980 press law contains provisions that discourage publishing any material that might adversely affect the national currency or create economic confusion. The broad interpretation of defamation in the penal code and its extension to digital platforms through the 2012 cybercrimes law further complicate the journalistic landscape. Additionally, the limited number of firms mandated to disclose financial data and a prevailing regional culture of business discretion further influence the news reporting process. Although journalism was "decriminalized" in 2007, a deep-rooted culture of self-censorship persists, which is recognized as having an impact on business coverage. While there is a gradual shift towards transparency in various sectors, including business journalism, any significant acceleration in this trend would likely require amendments to the existing legal framework. In the rapidly evolving media landscape of the UAE, data journalism as part of business news is emerging as a trusted and objective tool for news dissemination. Respondents in a study by Parasie (2019) viewed algorithms and databases as robust and transparent mechanisms for business news creation and distribution. They believed that data journalism, with its emphasis on accountability, augments the significance of journalism within Emirati society. Al Jwaniat et al. (2023) further elaborate on this, noting that respondents perceive data journalism as a novel method of news reporting and storytelling. The comprehensive data accompanying news reports aids audiences in comprehension and interpretation. To ensure accessibility, respondents prioritize simplicity in representation, employing graphs, maps, and charts crafted with effective graphical tools. This approach, as Túnñez-López et al. (2020) suggest, is designed to bolster the audience's interpretative and critical thinking skills.

In the multi aspects world of economic and business news in the UAE, the role of public relations (PR) and communication cannot be fully grasped by media actors. The research by Farhi et al. (2023) underscores the significance of PR and communication strategies for companies aiming for long-term economic sustainability. Their findings suggest that businesses which prioritize these strategies not only reinforce their own economic prospects but also

contribute to the broader growth trajectory of the UAE's economy. This aligns with the earlier discussion on the interplay between businesses and journalism in the UAE, where some businesses view regional journalism as an extension of their PR efforts. Given this context, it becomes imperative for corporate entities in the UAE to integrate PR and communication into their overarching business strategies. This emphasis on effective communication is further corroborated by Verhoeven et al. (2012), who found a positive correlation between public relations, communication, and corporate sector organizations. Their findings suggest that private media entities in the UAE prioritize effective communication, reinforcing the earlier observations about the evolving media landscape and the significance of data journalism as a trusted tool for news dissemination. However, while the importance of effective communication is recognized, challenges persist in the field of business journalism, especially concerning the use of statistics in news reporting. Alaqil & Lugo-Ocando (2021) conducted interviews with journalists in the UAE and KSA, revealing three critical insights. Firstly, while journalists acknowledge the significance of statistics in news production and for the public, there exists a disparity between their understanding of statistics and their practical application in articles. Secondly, the educational backgrounds of journalists and potential gaps in their statistical training can impede their effective use of statistics, thereby affecting the news production cycle. Lastly, challenges in accessing statistical reports can hinder timely news delivery. These findings, when viewed in conjunction with the emphasis on PR and communication, underscore the need for a holistic approach to enhance the quality and efficacy of economic and business news in the UAE.

Yet, the blurring line between the PR and real business journalism in the UAE, is not the only face of the problem. Kieran (1998) suggests that journalism, on a global scale, grapples with a tarnished public image, often accused of sidelining truths for personal or sectional interests. Mellor (2023) underscores this by revealing that much of the Arab media, including outlets in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, are veering towards clickbait rather than fostering audience trust. In the UAE, where the sway of social media eclipses traditional journalism (Alzaabi et al., 2019), media leaders lament the unethical practices of social media influencers, particularly their appropriation of media content (emaratalyoum.com, 2016). The tendency toward clickbait led some media influencers on social media to go extreme in covering some events. For instance, an expat media influencer in the UAE faced legal consequences for a video that mocked Emirati

citizens' luxury car purchases, violating both the cybersecurity act and societal norms (english.alarabiya.net, 2023). Another incident involving a female influencer delivering a hate speech in one of her videos according to the court which sentenced imprisonment and a financial fine (emaratalyoum.com, 2023). These incidents underscore the intricate interplay between media, culture, and ethics in the UAE's dynamic landscape.

3.3.2. Business News In Saudi Arabia (KSA)

In recent years, the business media landscape in Saudi Arabia has witnessed significant shifts and developments. The geopolitical dynamics of the region, as evidenced by the 2017 Gulf Crisis, have had profound implications for businesses, with the Crisis with Qatar shedding light on the volatility of stock market performances in the Middle East (Bouoiyour & Selmi, 2019). Concurrently, the rapid adoption and evolution of social media platforms and messaging apps, underscore the changing nature of communication and community-building in the country (Reelfs et al., 2022). Furthermore, platforms like X (Twitter) have grown in prominence, becoming integral to the dissemination of information and shaping public discourse in the kingdom (Khan et al., 2021). These developments highlight the intricate interplay between geopolitics, technology, and media in shaping the business environment in Saudi Arabia. In such an environment, the business media in Saudi Arabia were between two sorts of media; one is traditional media which includes newspapers and another is social media and a more digital based media. This messy scene was reflected on a rise of ethical and legal violations of regulations in the media sector. According to data from the General Commission for Audiovisual Media, there were in excess of 4,000 reported violations of media guidelines and ethical standards during the initial quarter of 2023 alone. A comprehensive breakdown available at (perform.gcam.gov.sa) indicates that these transgressions varied, encompassing issues like digital content non-compliance, the spread of sport fanaticism, and unauthorized media activities. It's also worth noting that social media influencers within KSA are required to be licensed. From the total count of violators, approximately 1,700 individuals were subjected to legal repercussions. The ramifications of these violations varied, encompassing monetary penalties, temporary suspensions, official warnings, and in certain instances, mandatory public acknowledgments of wrongdoing. A particular case that captured attention was that of a television sports anchor who incurred a fine of 50,000 Saudi Riyals for promoting extreme sports views, as documented by

alarabiya.net in 2023. Research by Deen and Pan (2022) further underscored a prevailing partiality among numerous Saudi media professionals, raising concerns about the equilibrium between veracity, harm reduction, and the enforcement of accountability.

Challenges faced by the Saudi media sector are multi-dimensional and are not limited to violations of regulations. Ashi (2019) uncovered that a substantial number of Saudi journalists demonstrated uncertainty about the specific media education and training essential for maintaining professional standards. Notably, 67% of media practitioners in the survey suggested that the Ministry of Culture and Information should spearhead initiatives to educate about media practices. Saudi Arabia's distinct cultural tapestry, enriched by its collective mindset intertwined with religious tenets and societal customs, adds layers of complexity to its media environment (Deen & Pan, 2022). This study has elucidated the existence of a tripartite division among Saudi media practitioners with respect to their adherence to professional ethical codes. These distinctions are predominantly predicated upon the educational background and professional training received by the individuals in question. Specifically, the ethical frameworks influencing Saudi journalists are primarily derived from three distinct origins: the Egyptian journalism code of ethics, the American journalism code of ethics, and the indigenous Saudi code of ethics. Each of these codes contributes to shaping the ethical landscape within which Saudi media professionals operate. Deen's 2019 investigation sheds light on this ethical puzzle. The research, which surveyed Saudi journalists, discerned a dominant leaning towards the American ethical code, succeeded in precedence by the Egyptian, and lastly, the Saudi ethical frameworks. This sequential influence emphasizes the urgency to revisit the prevailing ethical standards. Deen postulates that it would be prudent for media regulatory bodies to craft a revised ethical code—one that integrates emerging technological and communicative shifts while simultaneously echoing the societal beliefs, cultural intricacies, and predispositions of the Saudi populace. On the side of traditional journalism, where the newspapers are owned by the government, the business news were more controlled, Alhaqbani (2019) study on the portrayal of economic development matters in Saudi newspapers yielded several noteworthy observations. Among the 84 newspapers assessed, a striking 82 tackled the subject of economic development studies. Three prominent newspapers – Al-Riyadh, Okaz, and Al Yaum – each contributed an equivalent portion of 33.3% to the overall coverage. A closer analysis revealed that a significant 22.3% of this coverage in the said newspapers was allocated to topics linked to oil-driven economic

development. When dissecting the variety of content, news articles were predominant, constituting 60.7%, trailed by press reports (18%), topical issues (17.4%), and in-depth investigations (3.3%). The newspapers invariably utilized primary headlines (100%), while introductory titles (35.4%) and subheadings (4.9%) appeared less commonly. The content was predominantly designed to mold cognitive understanding, with correspondents being the chief contributors. Nonetheless, the depth of exploration into economic subjects was discerned to be rather cursory.

In light of these revelations, Alhaqbani forwarded several pivotal suggestions. Firstly, he identified a compelling need for heightened academic engagement in this field, to refine the caliber of economic journalism. A discernible absence of comprehensive analytical perspectives in the economic coverage was evident. Consequently, Alhaqbani underscored the necessity for the adoption of more profound journalistic techniques, encompassing investigative pursuits, analytical interpretations, and grounded explanations, all aimed at effectively elevating public cognizance. The harmonious integration of the media and economic realms is paramount for realizing enduring societal advancement. This underscores the significance to educate and prime economic journalists, ensuring they possess both the requisite skill set and forward-looking perspective to proficiently delve into economic development concerns. Therefore, in alignment with the Kingdom's Vision 2030, which places considerable emphasis on the economy, Alhaqbani recommends that economic topics receive more in-depth media attention. Given the vision's focus and the study's findings, it's evident that there's a need for a more profound and comprehensive media approach to economic issues in Saudi Arabia.

3.3.3. Business News In Jordan

The media scene in Jordan seemed generally controlled by authorities. Spies (2017) delved into the evolving dynamics of media production, consumption, and state censorship. As the media becomes increasingly individualized, state censorship has transitioned from central negotiations between governmental entities and media institutions to a more dispersed form of control. This control manifests in various ways, from prosecutions of journalists to shifting regulatory frameworks and professional codes that emphasize "responsibility" and "balance". Despite these constraints, Spies notes that journalists, whether from independent online news platforms or larger state-aligned outlets, still possess avenues for resistance. Furthermore, Spies

(2017) poses a compelling argument regarding the strategic approach of the Jordanian authorities towards its media. The system, according to Spies, employs the media as a form of window-dressing, a tactic that showcases a semblance of democratic ideals without genuinely empowering its citizens or the broader civil society institutions. This strategy, while partly directed at its citizenry, is primarily aimed at appeasing foreign investors and donors, thereby adding a superficial layer of freedom atop its autocratic core. This fact has been reflected in journalism practice in economy news. Where journalism mostly speaks the government perspective. In recent years, the media landscape in Jordan has undergone significant transformations, particularly in the field of business news. Tahat (2017) embarked on an in-depth analysis of the Jordanian daily newspapers, specifically examining their inclination towards the utilization of the marketing model in news production, a strategy considered pivotal in addressing the business crises faced by these newspapers in the past. The study, which analyzed a total of 1024 news stories from Al Rai and Addustor, found that a significant majority of the Jordanian newspapers, approximately 64%, did not prioritize the marketing model in their news content. Interestingly, Al Rai demonstrated a slightly higher propensity to incorporate marketing values compared to Addustor. Furthermore, the study highlighted that a staggering 94.4% of these stories predominantly relied on official sources, with the public sphere content making up about 74% of the sample. In terms of story size, 60% were small, 26% medium, and 14% large, with two-thirds of these stories being the handiwork of journalists, while the remainder were produced by the Jordanian News Agency "Petra".

The rapid evolution of media platforms, particularly social media, has significantly influenced various sectors in Jordan, including entrepreneurship and official broadcasting. A notable shift has been observed in the world of women's entrepreneurship, where social media platforms have emerged as pivotal tools for business operations. A study on Jordanian women entrepreneurs revealed that these platforms have not only facilitated their business activities but have also instigated profound social changes in their lives (Boshmaf, 2023). The empowerment derived from these platforms has been instrumental in elevating the status of women's entrepreneurship in the country. On the other hand, the official media discourse in Jordan, especially during the Coronavirus pandemic, has been characterized by its participatory, integrative, and interactive approach. The official Jordanian broadcasting has adeptly employed media tools to address both the health and economic implications of the pandemic, reflecting a

comprehensive and responsive media strategy (Al-Rousan, 2020). These developments underscore the pivotal role of the media in shaping economic and social narratives in Jordan.

3.3.4. Business News In Qatar

In recent years, Qatar has undergone significant economic modernization, reshaping the boundaries of media reporting in the country. This transformation has provided reporters with a clearer understanding of the permissible limits within which they can operate, even though the media landscape remains strictly regulated (Alhantushi & Lugo-Ocando, 2023). The nation's strategy for human and economic development has been intricately linked with its media landscape. Notably, Qatar's approach to development has been anchored in four primary industries: sport, art, education, and media. This strategic alignment is evident in the establishment of renowned institutions such as the journalism school at Northwestern University in Qatar (LaMay, 2019). Furthermore, the media environment in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including Qatar, has been characterized by significant challenges and opportunities. The anti-Qatar media narrative, influenced by regional dynamics, has been a testament to the complexities journalists face in the region (Khalil et al., 2023). However, amidst these challenges, Qatar has strategically employed soft power tools, such as football, to enhance its country branding. This strategy has been evident in the nation's interactions with international media, including the Catalan sports press, highlighting the interplay between sports, media, and economic narratives in Qatar (Portet & De San Eugenio Vela, 2013). The code of conduct of the business news media landscape in Qatar presents unique challenges for journalists, largely influenced by the intertwining of religious and cultural boundaries. Ngwainmbi (2019) highlights the intricate environment in which Qatari journalists operate, emphasizing the significant constraints they face. A staggering 74.4% of these journalists have expressed the immense difficulty they encounter when attempting to investigate corruption, attributing these challenges to the nuanced caveats present within the Qatari socio-cultural fabric. Kirat (2016), through comprehensive interviews with 125 journalists spanning all news organizations in the country, further underscores this sentiment. The findings reveal that while these journalists are acutely aware of the criticisms and perceived weaknesses of journalism in Qatar, they continue to navigate this complex terrain with a keen sense of responsibility.

The challenges confronting economic journalists in Qatar extend beyond the confines of conventional media. The digital sphere, especially social media platforms, has emerged as a new arena where freedom of expression is contested. A significant event in 2020 serves as a testament to this ongoing struggle. The President of the Qatar Bar Association, a distinguished member of the legal fraternity, was summoned by the Public Prosecution on grounds of purportedly breaching the cybersecurity legislation. The alleged offense was his critique of a monetary policy introduced by Qatar's central bank, shared on a social media outlet (www.alaraby.co.uk, 2020). This occurrence not only highlights the precarious nature of public discourse for professionals in Qatar but also prompts reflection on the broader ramifications for digital freedom of speech within the nation. Qatar has used Aljazeera TV channels as a tool to enhance its international image, but this portrayal doesn't accurately represent the domestic media landscape in Qatar. In 2019, Al Khalifa examined the way Al-Jazeera TV reported on regional disputes. The study revealed that Al-Jazeera's reporting shifted when Qatar was a party in conflicts, such as the GCC crisis and the Yemen war, aligning with Qatar's official stance. Additionally, Barkho (2019) highlighted that Al-Jazeera presents differing narratives in its Arabic and English channels. The network has not consistently applied its ethical standards to its digital information sources. This absence of distinct guidelines for editing content from social media has allowed social media activists to express personal biases and openly take sides on contentious issues (Barkho, 2013). Upon evaluating the previous findings, it is clear that while Qatar has achieved considerable progress in multiple domains, the sphere of journalism and freedom of expression is still laden with complexities. Media professionals, whether from traditional or digital backgrounds, face the intricate task of reconciling cultural and religious values with the principles of their vocation. The path forward demands a sophisticated comprehension of these interplays and a collective effort to cultivate a setting that supports uninhibited discussion and ethical journalism.

3.3.5. Business News In Iraq

Since the onset of the 2003 war in Iraq, the journalistic landscape has experienced chaotic shifts mirroring the nation's political upheavals and uncertainties. The media landscape, though punctuated with semi instances of freedom, remains fragmented. This semblance of freedom, more often than not, is co-opted into propaganda apparatuses wielded by political figures, religious factions, and other influential entities. A comprehensive study by Relly et al. (2015)

employed a questionnaire-based approach with Iraqi journalists, revealing several pressing concerns: (1) Pervasive government oversight and influence over media outlets, (2) Rampant corruption within governmental institutions, (3) Pressures exerted by commercial entities, (4) Incidents of physical violence directed at journalists, and (5) Interventions by religious groups. Furthermore, Iraq's media atmosphere has been shaped not only by domestic events but also by global occurrences and overarching political dynamics. The intricate relationship between political authority and the media has been prominently observed during pivotal moments, ranging from the Iraq conflict to global catastrophes such as Hurricane Katrina. The business news's function, swayed by both remote economic forces from corporate stakeholders and the proximate journalistic encounters with political spin, has recurrently faced scrutiny for its perceived inability to challenge and interrogate power structures (Bennett et al., 2007). This sentiment resonates within the discourse on the political economy of media, underscoring the imperative for a reimagined journalistic paradigm, particularly in environments like Iraq where robust systemic critique is conspicuously absent (McChesney, 2008).

The economic media landscape in Iraq, particularly in the Kurdistan Region, has been shaped by a myriad of factors, both internal and external. One of the significant challenges faced by media professionals in the region is the bureaucratic violence and the overarching influence of governmental entities. Journalists and editors from diverse media backgrounds have had to navigate this complex environment, balancing their professional autonomy with the economic motivations that often drive media capture (Faris et al., 2023). Furthermore, the transitional nature of Iraq's democracy has brought to the fore the impact of advertisers on media and journalism. The economic underpinnings of business media in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) have been significantly influenced by advertising, which serves as a primary source of funding for many media outlets. This dynamic has profound implications for the political economy of media in the region, shaping the narratives and content produced (Faris et al., 2023). According to Freedom House, the media environment in Iraq is a poor climate for news media support (Freedom House, 2013). The prevalent culture of favoritism, combined with the sway of ethnic and political factions in the media, challenges the institutional conditions for upholding professional values against conflicts of interest. This situation poses a hurdle to democratic principles that promote the strengthening of professionalism on a global scale (Waisbord, 2013). The process of democratic political development is, in fact, often measured by the “ability to

meet western democracies standards, and the fourth estate ideal in particular” (de Albuquerque, 2013, p. 744). Moreover, Weaver et al. (2009) found a host of constraints on professional autonomy, including commercial imperatives of news organizations as “profit-making businesses” (p. 76). One study found media ownership and type of media (state-run, political party, private) played a role in perceptions about physical violence in Iraq (Kim, 2010).

3.3.6. Business News in Syria

In examining the landscape of journalism in Syria, it's evident that the media spectrum comprises a broad range of authorities, both within and outside the country's borders. The distinction primarily lies between territories controlled by the government and those held by the opposition, irrespective of their geographical location. Notably, in government-controlled regions, journalism has predominantly echoed a singular narrative, that of the state. This uniformity in voice is particularly evident in business news coverage. For instance, the majority of business news in the Syrian daily press predominantly focuses on the inflation issue. However, these reports often lack in-depth analysis or explanatory content, merely presenting the issue in a superficial manner (Hme, 2016). A comprehensive study analyzed the work of 197 journalists in the economic sector, spanning both public and private Syrian central newspapers. These journalists ranged from full-time professionals to part-time contributors. After rigorous data collection and statistical analysis, several key conclusions were drawn (Hallak, 2017). According to the study, there's a significant gap in training tailored to the specific needs and expectations of economic journalists, which adversely affects their performance. Moreover, the principle of unity of command, a cornerstone of effective administrative organization, is often compromised. Multiple parties influence press work, leading to inconsistencies and, consequently, a detrimental impact on journalistic performance.

Remuneration, including wages and bonuses, also, plays a pivotal role in influencing journalists' performance. The compensation structure often conflicts with the intrinsic nature of journalism, which is fundamentally a creative endeavor. However, despite facing numerous professional pressures, many Syrian economic journalists believe that their work stands out and often surpasses the expectations of their higher-ups. In summary, while the Syrian media landscape post-war is vast and varied, challenges persist, especially in the realm of business

news coverage. The need for comprehensive training, a unified command structure, and a fair compensation system are paramount for the evolution of journalism in the country.

The post-war economic landscape in Syria has been a subject of intense media scrutiny, both domestically and internationally. The media's portrayal of this economic narrative is deeply associated with the broader geopolitical context of the Syrian conflict. The Syrian government's foreign policy, often perceived as being at odds with Western economic interests and values, has inadvertently created a space for the opposition's media campaigns to gain prominence. This is not merely a reflection of the government's stance but is also indicative of the opposition's adept understanding of journalistic values in the economic realm. Syrian activists, particularly those focusing on economic videography, have become proficient at underscoring their authenticity, a crucial element in today's business news coverage. However, This expertise also has its drawbacks, as it can be used to stage misleading economic events in order to attract media attention. These tactics highlight the difficulties that professional newsrooms face in determining the credibility and representativeness of business news content (Andén-Papadopoulos & Pantti, 2013).

Syria's business news landscape is further complicated by its historical media dynamics. While professional media associations within the country have traditionally been aligned with the state, there has been a shift post-war. Mirroring trends in other Arab nations recovering from conflict, Syrian economic journalists have increasingly sought collaboration with non-governmental organizations to establish ethical codes of conduct for economic reporting (Heikkilä, et al. 2012). The role of diaspora activists in this context cannot be understated. These activists have been instrumental in bridging the gap between on-ground economic realities and mainstream media narratives, both locally and globally. Despite the fragmented nature of opposition groups, they have effectively constructed a cohesive economic information infrastructure. This has been achieved with the support of diaspora activists, enabling them to communicate their economic perspectives to mainstream media, thereby shifting the narrative in favor of previously marginalized voices (Bennett, 1993). Hänska and Shapour (2013) suggest that activists, especially those focusing on economic issues, are becoming increasingly attuned to the operational dynamics of newsrooms. The Syrian opposition, both domestically and among the diaspora, has refined its understanding of editorial processes related to business news. By tailoring their content to meet the demands of professional newsrooms and cultivating

relationships with global and national economic media outlets, the opposition has significantly influenced the economic narrative of post-war Syria. However, The influence of social media is dependent on the broader political and media landscape of the host country, with countries like Russia being notable exceptions (Andén-Papadopoulos & Pantti, 2013). In conclusion, the scene of post-war business news in Syria is illustrative of the evolving dynamics of journalism, the strategic role of diaspora activists in economic reporting, and the challenges newsrooms face in an era of information complexity.

3.3.7. Business News In Lebanon

In recent years, Lebanon's business news sector has struggled with one of its most profound challenges since the cessation of the civil war over twenty-five years ago. Amidst a highly charged regional environment, marked by extremist rhetoric and an oversimplified binary of allegiance, economic journalists and editors are constantly under immense pressure from the higher ranks within their media organizations. The primary focus has shifted towards emphasizing security and stability in the face of perceived terroristic threats, often sidelining the essential principles of press freedom and media independence. This shift is even more obvious when juxtaposed with the early 2000s, as the economic downturn has exacerbated the already fragile conditions for many economic journalists, photographers, and camerapersons. This vulnerability has made them susceptible to manipulation by political figures and media magnates, both locally and regionally (Trombetta, 2018).

The business news in Lebanon, much like other journalistic practices, has been deeply influenced by political influence. Historically, Lebanon's media scene has been vibrant, diverse, and reflective of its multifaceted political and social fabric. The Lebanese media is known for its diverse opinions, confrontational interviews with officials, and robust critiques of policies (Harb, 2018). However, the shadow of political affiliations looms large, leading to prevalent self-censorship. The boundaries, both explicit and implicit, on sensitive topics are well-known, and transgressions are swiftly dealt with. The intricate nexus between Lebanese media and politicians is evident, with many politicians having significant stakes in media outlets. The financial lifeline for most Lebanese media entities is the funding from political figures or foreign states, predominantly from the Arab Gulf nations. The ever-changing political alliances in the region have resulted in fluctuating political money – funds meant to shape and propagate specific

political narratives. This financial instability has led to significant setbacks, with two national newspapers, *As-Safir* and *Al-Itihad*, ceasing their operations in recent years. Many media houses are also struggling to pay their employees on time (Harb, 2018). However, research indicates that while upcoming media professionals in Lebanon value ethical journalism, the prevailing corrupt system in Lebanon often pushes them towards compromising practices. When journalists are prevented from reporting facts without fear of reprisal, it not only undermines their credibility but also jeopardizes the very essence of journalistic integrity. This significantly diminishes the media's influence, despite its perceived power (Bou Zeid & El-Khoury, 2019).

3.4. Data Analysis of economic journalists interviews on constructive journalism potentials

In order to assess perceptions surrounding the nascent paradigm of Constructive Journalism, as well as its potential implementation, challenges, and prospects within Middle Eastern Arab nations, I conducted interviews with seven economic journalists representing each of the seven countries under study: the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Qatar, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. These interviews were characterized by their structured, in-depth nature. For the purpose of conducting structured interviews within this study, a purposive selection process was employed to identify economic journalists who met specific criteria and agreed to participate within a designated timeframe set for May 2023. The selection criteria targeted journalists specializing in economics from seven countries: the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Qatar, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. These journalists were required to have a minimum of five years of experience in covering business news, with the objective of achieving a balanced representation across gender and media outlets, including television, online platforms, newspapers, and magazines. Initially, four journalists from each country were selected based on these criteria, comprising two females and two males, with each representing one of the aforementioned media outlets. This initial selection was made from among well-known journalists, as identified through my professional experience in the field. Subsequently, a total of 28 journalists fitting the criteria were contacted via email. Some candidates were excluded due to unavailability during the specified month or failure to respond to the outreach email. Seven journalists with the most years of experience in

economic journalism out of the 12 journalists who were willing to participate were chosen for the study. These individuals not only represented the targeted countries but also possessed over five years of experience in economic journalism. The gender distribution among the interviewees included three females and four males. Regarding their affiliation with media organizations, there was representation from television (two journalists), newspapers (two journalists), online platforms (two journalists), and one from a magazine, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives within the study (Appendices, table H) (The raw transcription of the interviews available [here](#)).

The formulated questions, as detailed in (Appendices, table I), were designed to encompass the overarching theme of Constructive Journalism (CJ) and to explore the potential for its application in the aforementioned countries. This exploration particularly emphasized the potential opportunities and challenges that might arise within the domain of economic and business reporting. The interviews were facilitated through recorded Zoom calls in Arabic language. Subsequently, these recordings were transcribed and analyzed in Arabic language, then the analysis translated into English. Upon coding the interviews in alignment with the sequence of the questions, we utilized the NVIVO20 software for data analysis, resulting in the derivation of specific codes (Table 6).

Table 6- Codes Extracted from The economic journalists interviews.

Name	Description
CJ Application in Arab Countries	The Concept and potential application of Constructive journalism in Arab countries especially in business news
Familiarity with Constructive journalism	How people are familiar with constructive journalism concept
Traditional journalism	Problems reporting journalism
Convincing Journalists	How people are convinced to the application of Solution journalism
Public awareness	Public awareness related issues while applying solution journalism in the Middle East

Name	Description
Cultural dependency	The application of constructive journalism is subjected to cultural considerations of regions
Biases	Biases in propagating news
Balancing analysis	The ethical consideration of balance analysis of News
Credibility	The ethical consideration of credibility in business news
Presentation and publication ethics	Ethics associated with presentation and publication of news
Universal ethics	Ethics without boundaries
Legal ethics	Legal ethics in business news
Economic journalism	Presenting economic facts in news
Negative perceptions about journalists	How people view journalists in a negative way
Reporting solutions	Journalist role to report solutions
Freedom of expressions	Expressing constructive news with no fear of political or any other pressure
Solution journalism	The role of journalism to offer solutions not only problems
Opinion based solutions	Presenting opinions through articles and magazines
Mediation for solutions	Role of media in mediation for solutions
Societal effects	Social issues in applying constructive journalism
Impact assessment of policies	Media role in evaluating public policies
Issues of integration	Burdening a single journalist with multiple tasks from printing to presenting news
Issues of Specialization	Journalists are not specialized in their field
Journalism vs activism	How constructive journalism and activism are perceived

Name	Description
Media polarization	The issue of polarization in media due to political and other problems
More solution-oriented efforts	Solution oriented efforts by media in countering problems
News source choice	Choice of source to authenticate the news
Political issues	Political issues that hinder the application of Constructive journalism in Middle East
Solution oriented audience	The audience who prefer solutions not only problems to be presented in media
Spread positive	Role of journalism to spread positivity
Varying economic situations	Constructive journalism is subject to change in economic conditions of countries
Way forward	A future outlook of the constructive journalism in the Middle East

3.4.1. The thematic Analysis

The detailed analysis of the transcripts from the respondents resulted in the generation of the following thematic areas about constructive journalism in business news in the studied seven Arab countries from the Middle East (UAE, KSA, Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq). We will delve into the details in the following section. Upon analyzing the interviews, it was found that the terms "solution," "journalism," "economic," "ethics," and "people" were mentioned most frequently and were central to the discussions. (see Appendices, Appendix A, B). As a results this is the thematic analysis extracted:

1. Familiarity with Constructive Journalism

The concept of “ Constructive and solutions based journalism” holds a certain level of intrigue, evoking both interest and confusion in the Middle East world. This concept has witnessed a paradigm shift from traditional journalism to social media, and the evolution from radio to television and print journalism. Respondents' perceptions span a spectrum, with some acknowledging exposure to the concept through reading and personal exploration, while others encountered it through specific channels like specialized journalism magazines. While responding to the queries one of the respondents said: “Solutions Journalism, I read about, and also met people from Lebanon and Jordan, who were trained on it. I have read about four or five articles published by young journalists in an investigative journalism conference .” Another replied: “I came across the term, of course, because I edit a specialized magazine in journalism.” Some participants find the concept vaguely portrayed, attributing this opacity to philosophical undertones, particularly in Arabic translations. This lack of clarity appears to stem from the diverse and nuanced presentations of the idea. Certain interviewees indicate encountering the concept in a context different from the one articulated during the interviews, suggesting alternate interpretations. Regarding the concept's ambiguity, one of the participants said: “The concept is not very clear to me because the way it was presented I felt that there was a kind of philosophy in it, especially in the Arabic translation.” Overall, the exploration of familiarity with constructive journalism in this context underlines a diverse spectrum of understanding and awareness, encompassing both enthusiastic recognition and a sense of uncertainty regarding its essence and application.

2. The Potential Application of Constructive Journalism in Arab Countries

In the dynamic landscape of the Arab Middle East, the concept of constructive journalism has emerged as a promising avenue for reshaping the narrative surrounding business news. This approach gains even more significance given the region's intricate challenges and complex socio-economic realities. Examining insights from respondents of the study, this exploration unveils the potential benefits and hurdles associated with implementing constructive journalism principles within the Arab context. Some illustrations of this perception documented by the respondents of the study are as follows: “It is applicable in the Arab countries in the sense that the journalist can simply provide solutions instead of only raising problems.”

The Arab countries, including Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon, have weathered storms of conflict and social upheaval. In this context, the relevance of constructive journalism becomes evident. One of the participants emphasizes: “Yes, we in the UAE are a country of solutions in the first place, a pioneering country to address issues and in any conflict, be the reforming party and not be the party that increases the chasm or gap, more than a human and global model.” A key tenet of constructive journalism lies in innovation and adaptability. The Arab Middle East comprises diverse societies, each with its distinct challenges and perspectives. Solutions applicable in one country might not be universally viable. Therefore, embracing innovative and unconventional approaches becomes imperative to address the region's evolving challenges effectively. One of the participants elaborated on his understanding as given: “The only countries in the Arab region that can apply solutions and constructive journalism in my mind are the developed countries in the middle east such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia. In these countries, the people are more willing to see solutions and innovation, and apply outside-the-box thinking in the media, where the media sheds light on matters that the audience may not be aware of, and the public there is psychologically prepared to receive these solutions.”

The Arab region emerges as a potential model for this transformative approach. As highlighted in the transcripts, the readiness to embrace constructive journalism is tied to its development status. Unlike less developed societies, the Gulf nations exhibit a willingness to entertain innovative ideas presented by the media. This inclination for solutions-oriented reporting serves as an instructive example for the wider Arab Middle East. “I expect that on the contrary it can be a viable approach, because the thought of leadership in general is a reformist thought that loves progress and always searches for solutions.” In essence, constructive journalism offers a roadmap to navigate the challenges and complexities of the Arab Middle East, particularly within the sphere of business news. By centering on solutions, engaging experts, and embracing innovative strategies, journalists possess the power to tackle issues and contribute to the positive evolution of Arab societies. As the region continues its transformation, constructive journalism shines as a guiding beacon toward a more informed and progressive future.

3. Constructive Economic Journalism in the Arab Middle East

According to all interview participants, constructive journalism in the Arab Middle East has a burgeoning potential within media circles that seeks to go beyond the traditional confines of reporting and analysis. Rooted in the ethos of solutions journalism, this emerging trend seeks to address pressing economic challenges while also highlighting viable paths toward positive change. In a region where economic issues hold significant sway over people's lives, the role of the journalist takes on a multifaceted dimension. The responsibility of conveying complex economic matters with accuracy and clarity is not only a professional duty but also an ethical imperative. One mistake can have far-reaching consequences, affecting not just companies but also the broader populace. "When you want to present, you have to present a solution through an economic report, economic analysis, article...various categories."

The contours of constructive economic journalism are shaped by various perspectives, as demonstrated by the range of viewpoints. While some respondents view it as additional work some journalists will be lazy to do, others recognize its potential to make a meaningful impact. "If you are asking for solutions in journalism, then you are asking for extra work (extra work), for sure, because this thing is not compulsory in the journalism we learned". In an environment where economic fluctuations can impact livelihoods, constructive journalism has the power to transcend borders and institutions. This approach allows journalists to move beyond mere reporting and delve into problem-solving, equipping readers with solutions and actionable insights. "This is evident from the abundance of statistical houses in Lebanon. There are many study centers that give numbers that journalists use for their articles, whether on the political or economic level." In conclusion, Constructive Economic Journalism in the Arab Middle East emerges as a dynamic and vital movement that seeks to engage, inform, and empower its audience by addressing economic challenges head-on and offering viable solutions. This approach not only advances economic discourse but also contributes to the broader well-being of the region's societies.

3.4.2. Challenges for Constructive Journalism

3.4.2.1. Issues of Specialization in Journalism

In the ever-evolving landscape of journalism, the challenges presented by specialization have become a significant focal point, especially when considering the application of constructive or solutions journalism within the realm of business news in the Arab Middle East.

This subtheme delves into the multifaceted role that contemporary journalists are expected to play, navigating between traditional reporting and the demands of a digital age. The fusion of roles, from writing and editing to social media management and data analysis, has given rise to a debate over the feasibility and effectiveness of an "integrated journalist." This synthesis of functions often leads to a plethora of hurdles and complexities. The participants of the study highlight the overwhelming burden placed upon modern journalists who are tasked with an extensive array of responsibilities, including editing, video creation, storyboarding, and social media management. The question arises: can a single individual effectively fulfill all these roles, or does specialization hold the key to more impactful journalism? Highlighting the challenges associated with journalism one of the respondents mentioned: "An integrated journalist who is supposed to seek solutions is a big burden. Can he do editing, social media management, video creation, and story board writing? This is too much for a journalist." Similarly, another respondent showed his apprehensions: "In addition, he is required to be a data analyst as well.". Various participants of the study urged for specialization, advocating for media professionals with specialized knowledge and expertise. This is particularly relevant when considering the role of solutions journalism, which demands a deep understanding of various fields to effectively propose and analyze potential remedies. "I believe very much in the necessity of media professionals specializing in different fields, even when they play the role of solutions journalism or constructive journalism." The question of whether an integrated journalist can effectively balance multiple roles and the potential benefits of specialization become key points of consideration in the pursuit of more impactful and constructive journalism.

3.4.2.2. Political Issues and Polarization

Political Issues and Polarization emerge as significant challenges that require insightful consideration in the Arab world. The region is characterized by intricate political landscapes and deep-seated polarization, both of which exert considerable influence over media content. Throughout the Arab world, media outlets often find themselves ensnared within the webs of polarization, controlled by vested political interests that can wield media as a tool for manipulation and propaganda. This form of polarization does not confine itself to political boundaries but extends its grasp into economic and military spheres, further exacerbating the challenge for journalists seeking to report on business matters in an unbiased and constructive

manner. “What we are facing now in the entire Arab world or even some other countries in which some of the media are controlled by certain parties that have a kind of polarization.” In a region marred by political turmoil and unrest, audiences yearn for innovative and transformative solutions that transcend traditional rhetoric. This sentiment extends beyond politics to encompass economic and social issues, requiring journalists to navigate a delicate balance between presenting practical solutions and avoiding simplistic calls for revolutionary change. “If we talk about politics, it is not easy to suggest solutions; it is different because we are dealing with a political problem that is mostly present in quite a few Arab countries. Thus, the first challenge facing the journalist is the political topics or persons, whether in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon or even Egypt.” As journalists endeavor to apply constructive journalism principles to business news in the Arab Middle East, they are confronted with political challenges and polarization. This theme emphasizes the need for journalists to uphold journalistic integrity, employ discernment in source selection, and creatively approach solutions that address the unique complexities of the region.

3.4.2.3. Public Awareness

Public awareness plays a crucial role in convincing people about the solutions presented through constructive journalism, particularly in the context of applying this approach to business news in the Arab Middle East. As experts endeavor to highlight solutions, they encounter various hurdles in winning over the public's acceptance and fostering a deeper understanding of the proposed remedies. Many participants are of the view that persuading individuals to embrace solutions is a formidable task. One of the respondents said while showing his dismay to persuade people to solutions: “Often, pleasing people is an unattainable goal. No matter how solutions are offered by experts.” Few of the interviewees draw attention to the public's pivotal role in the constructive journalism process, being the primary recipients of the advocated solutions. However, others point out the inherent challenge of universally convincing the diverse public, emphasizing that not all individuals readily accept expert theories.

3.4.2.4. Sociocultural and Economic Conditions

This theme evaluates the multifaceted challenges faced when applying constructive journalism principles to business news in the Arab Middle East. The region's diversity, both in terms of culture and economic dynamics, presents a rich tapestry of complexities that demand a

nuanced approach to constructive reporting. The journey towards effective solutions journalism in this context necessitates a profound understanding of the heterogeneous environments that define the Arab Middle East. Each country within the region is characterized by a distinctive culture, history, and socio-economic landscape, thereby demanding tailored approaches to problem identification and solution generation. The very act of transplanting experiences from one locale to another underscores the significance of cultural compatibility. Constructive journalism, particularly in the realm of business news, must contend with the question: Do the solutions that have proven effective in one environment align with the sensibilities, traditions, and values of another? Cultural acceptance becomes a cornerstone upon which the effectiveness of solutions rests. Traditional norms, prevailing beliefs, and societal perceptions intersect with the proposed remedies, potentially determining their viability. One of the participants expressed these views: “Its application depends on the culture of each country. For example, Saudi Arabia is not like Egypt, Syria, or Sudan, as these are different environments, and you are the son of a specific environment, and therefore it is difficult to propose solutions to all these environments and all segments of society.”

Moreover, economic disparities across the Arab Middle East are intricately woven into the fabric of constructive journalism's challenges. Countries buoyed by stability and affluence exhibit distinct information needs compared to those grappling with crises, instability, or poverty. The depth and focus of solutions journalism are inevitably influenced by the economic landscape, with considerations ranging from inflation and exchange rates to citizen-centric concerns. One participant has said while responding to the queries related to the above topics: “News of the economy of a country such as the Emirates or Saudi Arabia is different from the news of the economy of countries suffering from crises, instability or problems.” As a practitioner of constructive journalism delves into business news in this region, the endeavor extends beyond mere reporting. It metamorphoses into an exploration of the intricate relationships between sociocultural norms, economic factors, and the communication of solutions. Each society's unique disposition towards change, be it receptive or resistant, shapes the narrative arc of constructive journalism. The very essence of solutions, as proffered through journalism, must navigate the intricate web of societal expectations, economic realities, and cultural values. In a landscape where constructive journalism aspires to enlighten, empower, and effect positive change, the subtheme of sociocultural and economic conditions emerges as a

compass, guiding journalists through the labyrinthine complexities of the Arab Middle East. It beckons them to adapt, to respect the intrinsic diversity of the region, and craft narratives of solutions that resonate harmoniously with the rhythms of each society.

3.4.3. Role of Constructive Journalism in Economic Journalism

3.4.3.1. Reporting and Mediating for Solution

This subtheme delves into the art of seamlessly integrating solutions within journalistic narratives, while also exploring the dynamic mediation between economic experts, decision-makers, and the public. At its core, the theme emphasizes the strategic inclusion of solutions within articles and reports. Rather than presenting solutions overtly, journalists adeptly weave practical ideas throughout their narratives. This approach ensures that solutions are effectively communicated without appearing overly theoretical, thus making them more relatable and actionable for readers. This nuanced approach to reporting serves as a bridge between complex economic concepts and practical recommendations, highlighting the journalist's role as a mediator between expert knowledge and public understanding. Discussing the role of journalists in society, one of the participants said: “The task of the journalist here is to convey and communicate the message between these specialists and between governments, the people and the readers, regardless of whether he is a specialist in economic affairs or not.”

The investigation also highlights the influence of constructive journalism on decision-makers. Journalists, acting as mediators, facilitate the flow of solutions to influential figures. This mediation involves conveying expert insights and practical solutions, thereby influencing informed decision-making processes. This relationship highlights journalism's potential to drive actionable change by shaping the perspectives of those in positions of power. One interviewee outlined his opinions about the importance of journalists as: “Journalist is not the one who provides solutions, but rather he must bring experts and specialists or rely on data and numbers and analyze them to provide solutions through them.” In essence, this theme evaluates the transformative role of constructive journalism in the Arab Middle East's economic press. By skillfully incorporating solutions into narratives, distilling complex economic concepts, and effectively mediating between expert knowledge and public communication, journalists emerge as catalysts for positive change within the economic domain.

3.4.3.2. Solution-oriented efforts

As depicted through a multitude of interviews, the concept of solution-oriented efforts resonates across various perspectives. Various interviewees underscore the importance of deriving solutions from a foundation of opinion polls and consultations with experts. This approach not only informs the solutions but ensures that they are contextually relevant and effective. These themes are aligned with the thoughts of one of the interviewees, as one of the interviewees has said: “Of course, this is possible if the solution, as I mentioned, depends on an opinion poll or consultation with experts and obtaining their opinions to provide a solution to a problem.” However, the challenge lies in balancing this endeavor, as some perceive it as preaching or dictating solutions without understanding the underlying issues. This friction emphasizes the need for a nuanced presentation that bridges solutions with empathy and understanding. Within the economic press landscape, specific efforts stand out. Initiatives such as incorporating positive angles into stories, featuring celebrities discussing developmental trajectories, and avoiding sensationalism are illustrative of the evolving nature of solution-oriented journalism. The integration of influencers and bloggers further amplifies these efforts, fostering a platform where constructive narratives flourish. It becomes evident that this approach thrives when anchored in research-backed solutions, expert opinions, and specialized insights, resonating with the realm of research papers and specialized programs. One participant has said while responding to this issue: “We started to implement stories and bring people or celebrities to talk while avoiding drumming (Drumming is an Arabic slang expression that refers to hypocritical journalists). We brought in one of the most famous influencers to link the path of development with cultural development. We present these ideas, but without using this term of constructive journalism, or pretending this approach as a systematic and institutional work.”

Television emerges as a potent medium for championing solution-oriented journalism. Its ability to facilitate inclusive dialogues and discussions positions it as a natural catalyst for collaborative problem-solving. Furthermore, the seamless integration of positivity into journalistic ethics has reinforced this transformational shift. In conclusion, the subtheme reflects a dynamic paradigm shift. Journalists are transitioning from being mere observers of economic challenges to becoming active agents of change. By weaving together expert insights, research-backed solutions, and inclusive dialogues, they are paving the way for a more comprehensive and effective approach to economic journalism. This transformation underscores

the capacity of the media to not only highlight issues but also to empower societies with the knowledge and tools needed to drive meaningful change.

3.4.4. The Importance of Business News Ethics in the context of Constructive Journalism

3.4.4.1. Credibility and legality of Business news

In the context of Constructive Journalism CJ, this theme delves into the intricate interplay between accurate reporting, journalistic integrity, and adherence to legal standards, all of which converge to shape the credibility of business news sources and their impact on the region's socio-economic discourse. At the heart of this investigation lies the fundamental principle of ensuring that business news is a steadfast transmitter of accurate and reliable information. The perspective of various interviewees emphasizes the significance of verifying the credibility of sources before disseminating information to the public. While advising journalists regarding the verification of their news, one of the participants said: “Not to be a transmitter of information whose credibility you do not know.” Similarly, another participant has said: “When you say the unemployment rate, for example, is 6%, and you know in the statistics that it is between 9% and 11%, and in order to try to gain the approval of an official, you cover that up. Here you are weakening credibility and violating morals.”

A recurrent thread woven throughout the subtheme is the intersection of legality and credibility. Interviewees stress that accurate reporting extends beyond just factual accuracy; it encompasses legal compliance as well. Commenting on the credibility of the journalists and their sources one interviewee has said: “When you say these numbers represent the income of a particular entity, ministry or country, and its budget and income appear as such, but its expenditures are less to cover some of the deficit, here you lose credibility.” The complexity of navigating the legal landscape while upholding journalistic integrity is evident across all the themes, which alludes to the challenges posed by the divergent legal aspects of business reporting. These challenges are particularly pronounced when addressing intricate economic issues with political ramifications. In such cases, credibility is intrinsically linked to the thoroughness of investigative journalism and the journalist's commitment to presenting accurate figures. In summary, the analysis intricately weaves together the principles of accuracy,

transparency, legal compliance, and ethical journalism within the dynamic realm of business reporting in the Arab Middle East. As the region's economic landscape continues to evolve, upholding credibility and legality remains pivotal in ensuring that business news not only informs but also empowers and shapes a more ethical and accountable business environment.

3.4.4.2. Impartial and Balance Analysis

The core tenets of this theme revolve around presenting information without interference, bias, or prejudice, ultimately ensuring accurate and fair coverage of events and issues. This approach is fundamental to upholding the integrity of journalism and maintaining the trust of audiences, especially in the context of applying constructive and solutions-oriented journalism within the Arab region. The voices of professionals from various interviews contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the significance of impartiality and balance in business news reporting. While counting the attributes of the journalists, one of the participants imagined his ideal journalist as: “I think the most important thing is sticking to the facts, balance: presenting the story in a balanced way.” This insistence on objectivity lays the foundation for credible journalism that aims to inform rather than sway opinions. Achieving this equilibrium between different perspectives ensures that the information is disseminated in a way that encourages critical thinking and informed decision-making.

The concept of impartiality transcends individual reporters and extends to the institutions they deal with. One of the participants said while commenting on the attributes of the broadcasting institutions: “We must know who we are dealing with mainly as institutions. Because whenever I fall into the trap of propaganda, or the trap of polarization, or the trap of propaganda, I think they are fatal factors.” Furthermore, the concept of ‘electronic flies’ (“Electronic flies” is a term used to describe online groups that support political parties by disseminating false information and promoting their propaganda.) highlights the potential harm caused by unfounded attacks, thereby emphasizing the role of balanced reporting in mitigating such risks. The notion that journalism should not be a tool for attacking opponents resonates with the principle of impartiality, as does the caution against proposing unrealistic ideas that lack correspondence with reality. Few interviewees highlight the essence of honesty and humility in conveying information. The journalistic responsibility to separate personal biases from news delivery is emphasized, aligning with the traditional journalistic values taught in schools and

universities. Additionally, the notion of "balancing in a different way" when looking at events from diverse perspectives underscores the nuanced approach required for truly balanced reporting. Drawing insights from multiple interviews, this section highlights the necessity of presenting information accurately, transparently, and without bias. In an era where information can be easily manipulated, adhering to the principles of impartiality and balance becomes essential for fostering informed public discourse and sustaining the credibility of business news reporting in the Arab Middle East. The aspects highlighted in this discussion are closely aligned with the principles of diversity and inclusivity in news reporting, which are fundamental components of constructive journalism.

3.4.4.3. Journalism vs. activism

The interviews with various journalists underscore a fundamental distinction between solutions journalism and activism. Multiple interviewees were of the opinion that the mere inclusion of solutions journalism does not inherently transform a journalist into an activist, nor should it. Solutions journalism, rather than a catalyst for advocacy, is depicted as a powerful tool to amplify awareness and understanding. Among the participants, one of the members has expressed his opinions: "The journalist accepts to provide solutions to the people and makes an effort to be a social engine to reform this society, he can play this role without turning into an activist." This aligns with the sentiment expressed by many people, who posit that a journalist can actively contribute to societal reform without assuming the role of an activist. This reframing of the journalist's role resonates with the notion that while highlighting solutions, the journalist remains rooted in an impartial quest for truth. The very essence of being an activist stands juxtaposed with the ethos of traditional journalism. Activism tends to align with the fervent pursuit of a single cause, whereas journalistic integrity lies in the dispassionate dissemination of information. Nevertheless, the discourse encounters nuance and acknowledges that adopting a position as a journalist could compromise credibility. The responsibility of journalists in business news thus extends beyond impartiality to encompass fostering an environment where constructive solutions can thrive without crossing into advocacy. The integration of solutions journalism navigates the fine line between journalism and activism. The interviews' collective insights spotlight the transformative potential of this approach while reinforcing the vitality of upholding journalistic objectivity. As newsrooms embrace the imperative to drive positive

change through their narratives, they must navigate this intricate terrain, striving to reshape society without losing sight of the core tenets that distinguish journalism from activism. The quest for equilibrium continues, guided by a shared aspiration to inform, inspire, and empower in a region marked by both challenges and opportunities.

3.4.4.4. Traditional vs. Constructive Journalism

From the analysis of transcripts, two contrasting approaches have emerged as pivotal in shaping the discourse and impact of news dissemination: traditional journalism and constructive journalism. While traditional journalism has long been recognized for its role in presenting problems, Constructive Journalism, often referred to as Solutions Journalism, brings a paradigm shift by not only highlighting problems but actively seeking and presenting solutions within the narrative. This thematic exploration delves into the juxtaposition of these two approaches, specifically examining the application of Constructive Journalism in the realm of business news in the Arab Middle East. Traditional journalism, as epitomized by many news outlets, primarily operates as a "mirror of reality." It unveils existing societal challenges, offering a comprehensive view of issues. However, this approach often tends to concentrate on problems, potentially leaving readers or viewers disheartened or overwhelmed. Conversely, Constructive Journalism operates on the principle that journalism should extend beyond mere problem identification. It endeavors to be a catalyst for change, offering pathways to potential solutions while maintaining an unwavering commitment to professionalism and data-driven insights.

The shift from traditional to constructive journalism presents a compelling opportunity. This transformation can be witnessed through the integration of solutions-based reporting, which extends beyond analyzing economic concerns to proposing actionable remedies. By adopting this approach, journalists can become agents of change, collaborating with experts and economists to disseminate well-researched solutions that are rooted in tangible data. References from interviews with various journalists underscore the distinct nature of Constructive Journalism. One of the participants has envisioned constructive journalism as: "When you are present in private places and witness these issues, you have certainly noticed them and may have heard discussions and suggestions. I mean, there is an exchange of views, and then you write your report, where the solutions, ideas, and innovations that were put forward during these discussions appear." The divide between traditional and constructive journalism becomes particularly evident

when considering the content of business news. Traditional journalism often centers on reporting challenges and presenting economic data, while constructive journalism delves deeper to present these data in conjunction with practical solutions. This approach, akin to "piecemeal solutions," emphasizes that impactful change can often emerge from a series of incremental measures.

Moreover, the role of media platforms, especially television, emerges as a potential game-changer in applying Constructive Journalism. The participatory nature of television discussions can facilitate diverse viewpoints, fostering a space where multifaceted solutions can be examined and refined. One of the participants put his comment forward: "In the case of television, it may be the most capable of adopting this idea, because it has a good practice in bringing all the parties and bringing them into a particular dialogue or discussion." However, challenges persist in this transition. Some professionals within the media industry may view this shift as burdensome or unfamiliar, accustomed as they are to conventional modes of reporting. Nevertheless, the potential for profound impact remains undeniable. As Constructive Journalism gains traction, it has the capacity to empower the Arab Middle East by not only revealing economic challenges but also by catalyzing transformative change through the dissemination of practical solutions. Overall, solutions journalism in business news experiences a paradigm shift from passive reporting to active engagement. While traditional journalism paints an honest portrayal of societal issues, Constructive Journalism enhances this narrative by offering feasible solutions that hold the potential to reshape the course of events. By bridging the gap between identification and resolution, journalism can fulfill its transformative role, becoming an integral force for positive change in the region's business landscape.

3.4.4.5. The Way forward

From the transcripts, various references show that the concept of moving ideas forward resonates profoundly. In the pursuit of constructive journalism, where the emphasis is on offering solutions and actionable insights, the act of propelling concepts forward becomes a cornerstone. The deliberate intention to shift beyond mere reporting and catalyze tangible progress becomes the guiding light. Each news piece, each analysis, and each report serve as a conduit to propel the collective discourse toward meaningful change. This dynamic approach isn't confined to passive observation but is an active and deliberate stride toward advancing the business landscape in the Arab Middle East. Within this framework, one of the participants illuminates the significance of

action intertwined with solutions. He said: “Now we are trying to develop tomorrow. Many government decisions were modified or issued after we published some tangible solution in our business reporting” This theme represents a shift from mere analytical reporting to a more proactive and engaged form of journalism. As journalists delve into the complex world of business in the Arab Middle East, they are encouraged to focus not only on highlighting challenges but also on identifying and advocating for practical solutions that can influence outcomes. The prevalent collective societal structure in the Middle East, as revealed through our interviews, provides a foundation for encouraging journalists and even authorities to embrace a journalism approach that is driven by solutions rather than solely emphasizing the problems. According to our interviewees, this solutions-focused perspective of Constructive Journalism (CJ) aligns closely with the fundamental principles of journalistic ethics and social responsibility. It is viewed as a crucial element in advancing a more responsible and impactful form of journalism in the region.

3.5. Results: The prospects of Constructive Journalism in Business News within the Middle East

Through a comprehensive thematic data analysis of in-depth interviews with 7 economic journalists from the UAE, KSA, Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq, this study aimed to gauge their familiarity with the concept of constructive journalism, the challenges and prospects of its application in Arab countries, and their experiences and perspectives on its potential in business news. The ethical codes guiding these journalists in their pursuit of societal benefit through economic and business journalism were also explored. The following themes emerged from the analysis:

1. **Familiarity with Constructive Journalism:** The majority of the participants demonstrated a foundational awareness of the principles underpinning constructive or solutions-based journalism. Notably, while the concept appeared to be somewhat nebulous in its definition for many, there was an overarching acceptance of its tenets. The language employed by the participants, characterized by phrases such as “I heard about” or “I read about,” suggests a peripheral or second-hand familiarity rather than a deep, firsthand engagement with the concept. This indirect exposure, however, did not diminish

their receptivity. On the contrary, there was a palpable willingness among the participants to delve deeper into the intricacies of constructive journalism and potentially integrate its methodologies into their journalistic practices. This initial openness could serve as a foundation for more comprehensive training and exploration in the future, emphasizing the potential for the broader adoption of solutions-oriented approaches within their journalistic endeavors.

2. **Receptivity in Arab Countries:** Participants' insights illuminated a notable receptivity towards constructive or solutions-based journalism across a spectrum of Arab countries, irrespective of their prevailing socio-political climates. Whether examining nations embroiled in conflict, such as Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, or those characterized by affluence and relative stability, like the Gulf states, there appears to be a shared openness to the principles of constructive journalism. This receptivity, however, is not without its nuances. Each nation, with its distinct socio-political and cultural fabric, presents unique challenges and opportunities for the implementation of solutions-oriented journalism. Yet, a common thread emerges: the foundational tenets of journalism practiced in these countries, deeply rooted in and shaped by their respective political and cultural milieus, seem to inherently resonate with the core values of constructive journalism. This alignment suggests that, while the modalities of application may vary, the overarching philosophy of solutions-oriented journalism could find fertile ground across the diverse landscapes of the Arab world.
3. **Application in Business News:** The prospect of assimilating constructive journalism methodologies into the realm of economic news coverage in the Middle East presents a compelling avenue for exploration. By adopting this approach, there is an inherent potential to provide a more deeper and comprehensive understanding of economic narratives, thereby serving as an invaluable resource for both the general populace and decision-makers. However, this integration is not without its challenges. Participants expressed concerns regarding the augmented responsibilities that come with the territory of solutions-oriented journalism. Given the intricate nature of business news, the added layer of providing constructive insights might place a considerable strain on journalists who are already navigating the complexities of their domain. To address this potential strain, there was a consensus among participants on the merit of introducing specialized

roles within newsrooms. These roles would be singularly focused on solutions journalism, ensuring that the depth and rigor required for such reporting are maintained without diluting the quality or overwhelming the journalists involved. This specialization could pave the way for a more structured and effective integration of constructive journalism within the business news landscape of the Middle East.

4. **Call for Specialization:** Given the intricate nature of solutions journalism, there is a pronounced need for specialized knowledge and expertise. Participants underscored the importance of fostering a cadre of journalists equipped with domain-specific knowledge, positing that such specialization would be instrumental in ensuring the efficacy and credibility of solutions-based reporting. This specialized approach would not only enhance the depth and precision of the narratives but also bolster the trustworthiness of the solutions presented. As the field evolves, it is anticipated that the integration of constructive elements will transition from being a niche practice to a foundational component across diverse journalistic specialties, thereby elevating the overall quality and impact of journalism.
5. **Political Challenges:** The multifaceted political terrain of the Arab Middle East presents a myriad of challenges for the seamless integration of constructive journalism. Within this context, the onus on journalists is manifold. Firstly, they must unwaveringly uphold their professional integrity, ensuring that their narratives remain unbiased and objective. Secondly, the selection of sources becomes paramount; journalists must exercise discernment, opting for credible and balanced sources that enhance the veracity of their reports. Lastly, given the region's distinct political, cultural, and social nuances, solutions-oriented journalism demands a tailored approach. Journalists must craft solutions that are not only viable but also resonate with the unique socio-political intricacies of the region, ensuring that their narratives are both relevant and actionable within the Middle Eastern context.
6. **Public's Role and Reception:** In the field of solutions journalism, the public emerges as a pivotal stakeholder, being the foremost beneficiary of the proposed solutions. Their reception, understanding, and subsequent actions based on the presented solutions can significantly influence the impact and success of this journalistic approach. However, a salient challenge surfaces when addressing a heterogeneous audience with varied

backgrounds, beliefs, and perspectives. Achieving a universal resonance becomes a complex endeavor, given the diversity inherent in the public sphere. Recognizing this challenge, some participants proffered a thorough approach to content delivery. They advocated for the subtle infusion of solutions within narratives, eschewing explicit labels or overt emphasis. Such an approach, they posited, might facilitate a more organic assimilation of the solutions by the audience, circumventing potential resistance or skepticism that might arise from overtly branded "solutions" content. This subtle integration underscores the importance of understanding audience dynamics and tailoring content delivery mechanisms to optimize reception and impact.

- 7. Sociocultural and Economic Influences:** The practice of constructive journalism in the Middle East is inextricably intertwined with the region's wide-ranging sociocultural and economic tapestry. A nuanced understanding of these dimensions is paramount for the effective implementation and reception of solutions-oriented narratives. Economic disparities, which are pronounced across the region, play a pivotal role in shaping the contours of solutions journalism. These disparities, often rooted in historical, geopolitical, and resource-based factors, dictate the granularity and orientation of journalistic content. For instance, countries with robust economic foundations and relative stability may have information needs that gravitate towards innovation, sustainable growth, and global integration. In contrast, nations grappling with economic challenges might prioritize narratives centered on recovery, resilience, and foundational development. The Arabic culture, deeply rooted in Islamic principles, generally exhibits a strong inclination towards supporting solutions that benefit the public good (Mohammed, 2013). To effectively implement Constructive Journalism (CJ) in this context, it is crucial to consider the unique socio-cultural fabric of each country. This fabric, woven with distinct traditions, values, and societal structures, significantly influences how solutions are conceptualized, communicated, and perceived. For CJ to be genuinely impactful in the Arab world, it needs to align with these cultural nuances. This means ensuring that the solutions proposed through journalistic endeavors are not only practical but also culturally appropriate and resonant. Successful CJ in the Middle East demands a keen sensitivity to the region's varied economic conditions and its rich socio-cultural tapestry. Journalists must craft narratives that are relevant and engage with the audience on a

deeper, culturally connected level. In summary, the flourishing of CJ in the Middle East hinges on its ability to resonate with and reflect the region's diverse cultural landscapes and societal norms.

8. **Making Solutions Relatable:** In the domain of constructive journalism, the efficacy of proposed solutions is intrinsically linked to their accessibility and relatability to the target audience. While the foundation of these solutions often stems from rigorous academic research or expert insights, there exists a potential pitfall: the solutions, if presented in their raw, theoretical form, may appear esoteric and distant to the general populace. To circumvent this challenge, it is imperative that solutions are articulated in a manner that is both comprehensible and actionable for readers. This entails distilling complex concepts into digestible narratives, employing relatable analogies, and highlighting tangible outcomes or steps. Such an approach not only enhances the accessibility of the content but also fosters a sense of agency and empowerment among readers. This strategy accentuates the pivotal role of journalists as mediators in the knowledge dissemination process. They stand at the intersection of expert knowledge and public understanding, tasked with the responsibility of translating intricate solutions into narratives that resonate with the lived experiences and aspirations of their audience. In doing so, journalists not only inform but also facilitate the translation of knowledge into actionable insights, fostering a more informed and proactive public discourse.
9. **Journalists as Change Agents:** The traditional paradigm of journalism, which often positioned journalists as detached observers chronicling events and narratives, is undergoing a profound metamorphosis. In the contemporary landscape, journalists are increasingly being recognized as instrumental agents of societal change, particularly in the realm of economic journalism. This transformative role is underpinned by their ability to amalgamate expert insights with research-driven solutions, thereby offering narratives that are not just descriptive but prescriptive. Instead of merely highlighting economic challenges, they proactively present potential pathways to address these challenges, drawing from interdisciplinary knowledge and empirical research. Such an integrative approach can be a great tool for journalists in the Middle East to amplify the impact of economic journalism. By presenting actionable solutions alongside challenges, journalists empower their audience with the tools and knowledge to effect tangible change. This

proactive stance redefines the boundaries of traditional journalism, positioning journalists as not just informers but as catalysts, facilitating a more informed, engaged, and solution-oriented public discourse. In this evolved paradigm, journalists become indispensable partners in the collective endeavor of societal progression and transformation.

10. **Trust as the Bedrock of Constructive Solutions in Business Reporting:** In the intricate tapestry of constructive journalism, particularly within the business reporting sector of the Arab Middle East, trust emerges as a cardinal pillar. The efficacy of proposed solutions and their subsequent acceptance by society is contingent upon the credibility of the information presented. This credibility is, in turn, anchored in unwavering accuracy. The analysis underscores the confluence of several foundational principles: accuracy, transparency, legal compliance, and ethical journalism. These principles, when harmoniously integrated, fortify the trustworthiness of business narratives. The Arab Middle East's economic ecosystem is in a state of flux, shaped by geopolitical dynamics, technological advancements, and evolving market forces. Within this ever-shifting landscape, the onus on journalists to maintain both credibility and adherence to legal frameworks is paramount. By doing so, they ensure that business news not only serves an informative function but also acts as a catalyst, fostering an ethical, accountable, and empowered business ecosystem.
11. **The Imperative of Impartiality in Constructive Journalism:** The essence of constructive journalism is deeply intertwined with the principles of impartiality and balanced reporting. Insights gleaned from a series of interviews accentuate the criticality of presenting information in a manner that is both accurate and devoid of bias. In today's information age, where narratives can be easily skewed or manipulated, the commitment to impartiality becomes even more crucial. For business news reporting in the Arab Middle East, this commitment transcends mere journalistic ethics; it is a requisite for sustaining credibility in the eyes of an increasingly discerning audience. By ensuring that information is relayed transparently, without undue bias, journalists not only uphold the sanctity of their profession but also foster an informed and robust public discourse. Such a discourse, rooted in objectivity, is instrumental in shaping a more transparent and accountable business landscape in the region.

- 12. Navigating the Confluence of Journalism and Activism:** The foray of solutions journalism into the broader journalistic landscape introduces a nuanced interplay between traditional journalism and activism. Insights derived from the interviews underscore the transformative potential inherent in solutions journalism, emphasizing its capacity to drive societal change. However, this potential brings forth a critical challenge: maintaining the sacrosanct objectivity that underpins journalistic integrity. As newsrooms increasingly pivot towards narratives that champion positive societal change, they tread a delicate balance. The imperative is to effectuate societal transformation while steadfastly adhering to the foundational principles that demarcate journalism from activism. This pursuit of balance is ongoing, fueled by a collective aspiration to not only inform but also inspire and empower, especially in a region as diverse and dynamic as the Middle East.
- 13. The Evolutionary Trajectory of Constructive Journalism in Business Reporting:** Constructive journalism marks a significant departure from traditional journalistic paradigms, transitioning from a predominantly observational stance to one of proactive engagement. While conventional journalism has been instrumental in providing candid portrayals of societal challenges, constructive journalism augments this by proffering actionable solutions. This enhancement serves to bridge the chasm between problem identification and its resolution. In doing so, journalism transcends its conventional role, emerging as a potent catalyst for positive transformation, particularly within the business milieu of the Middle East.
- 14. The Intentionality of Progress-Driven Reporting:** The overarching ethos guiding the evolution of constructive journalism is a deliberate intent to transcend mere descriptive reporting and actively drive tangible societal progress. Every article, analysis, and report is envisioned as a vehicle to channel the broader discourse towards impactful change. This approach is not merely a passive reflection of events but represents a conscious, deliberate effort to propel the business ecosystem of the Arab Middle East forward. Some participants poignantly encapsulated this sentiment, emphasizing the symbiotic relationship between proactive action and the solutions-oriented ethos of constructive journalism.

In conclusion, the integration of constructive journalism in business news in the Middle East is not just a theoretical endeavor but a practical stride towards fostering positive change.

The insights from the participants underscore the significance of solutions intertwined with actionable steps. Based on the interviews conducted, it can be concluded that the environment for economic journalism in the Arab region, particularly in countries such as the UAE, KSA, Qatar, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq, is conducive to adopting and even expanding Constructive Journalism (CJ). Several interviewees confirmed that similar approaches to solutions-based journalism are already being successfully applied in their respective countries. However, they also cautioned against the potential misuse of such journalism as propaganda, emphasizing the need to remain vigilant against being perceived as mere mouthpieces or "electronic flies" for government agendas.

The interviewees indicated that there are no legal barriers to practicing CJ in the domain of business news. The primary requirement is a stronger adherence to codes of ethics and social responsibility commitments within media organizations. Additionally, there is a need for media outlets to invest in training and dedicating journalists to focus specifically on solutions-based economic reporting. The economic journalists interviewed acknowledged the value and feasibility of CJ, though some expressed that it might not be an easy task for all journalists to incorporate into their daily responsibilities. They suggested having specialized journalists within their teams who are trained and equipped to report on CJ. This approach aligns with the strategies recommended by The Solutions Journalism Network in its learning toolkits (The Solutions Journalism Network, 2023). They propose that solutions-based journalism can be effectively implemented either by training the entire news team to integrate it into their regular reporting or by developing specialized journalists within the team to focus exclusively on this type of reporting. This approach reflects a recognition of the unique challenges and opportunities presented by CJ, especially in the context of business news in the Arab region.

To augment the findings from the interviews, it's pertinent to refer back to the insights gleaned in chapter two regarding the readiness of the seven studied Arab countries for Constructive Journalism (CJ). The analysis conducted on the codes of ethics and social responsibility commitments in these countries revealed a significant alignment with the principles of CJ. This alignment, as observed in the second chapter, underscores the presence of foundational elements within the journalistic frameworks of these countries that are conducive to the principles and practices of CJ. Particularly, the emphasis on social factors within the codes of ethics resonates with the core tenets of CJ, such as inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment,

and solutions-oriented reporting. Combining these insights with the interview responses, it becomes evident that not only is there a theoretical framework supporting CJ in these countries, but there is also a practical inclination among journalists, especially in the economic sector, to adopt and implement these principles. This dual layer of readiness – both in terms of ethical codes and journalist attitudes – presents a robust platform for the growth and development of CJ in the Arab region. Such an environment offers the potential for journalism that is not only ethically sound but also actively contributes to societal well-being and constructive discourse.

Chapter 4

4.1. A Practical Case of Constructive Journalism Application in the Arab Countries

This investigation's foundational chapter delineated CJ as centering on solution-focused narratives, future-orientation, and heightened public engagement, encapsulating principles such as veracity, context-sensitive reporting, inclusivity, diversity, societal empowerment, and audience participation. The efficacious integration of CJ across diverse geopolitical landscapes, ranging from developed countries like Sweden and Germany to emerging nations like Rwanda, underscores the criticality of embedding social responsibility and ethical standards within journalistic practices. The potential of CJ in the Arab milieu, particularly in the post-Arab Spring transitional regimes of Egypt and Tunisia, has garnered attention, underscored by both enthusiasm and concerns regarding its potential misuse as propaganda (Allam, 2019). My scholarly inquiry delved into the journalistic ethical codes and regulations within the Arab region by examining seven Middle Eastern countries. This analysis scrutinized their adherence to CJ principles and societal accountability. Notwithstanding the absence of explicit references to solution-oriented journalistic ethics, a pronounced commitment to social responsibility was observed across the studied nations: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the UAE, KSA, and Qatar. Comparative analysis of these ethical codes against international benchmarks revealed a considerable congruence, ranging from 50% to over 90%, with CJ tenets. The "Additional Terms and Value Pressure" (ATVP) metric indicated a predominance of terms favoring societal welfare, notwithstanding the significant presence of politically charged terms. These findings suggest that the Arab region, paralleling the successful examples of IJ as noted by Bebawi (2016), possesses potential for the gradual incorporation of CJ, especially in business news reporting. This proposition is further buttressed by the Arabic and Islamic cultures' inherent propensity towards

endorsing solutions that advance the public welfare (Mohammed, 2013). To effectively implement CJ in these contexts, it is imperative to consider each country's unique socio-cultural tapestry, which profoundly influences the conceptualization, communication, and perception of solutions. For CJ to be truly effective in the Arab world, it must resonate with these cultural subtleties, ensuring that the solutions presented in journalistic endeavors are not only pragmatic but also culturally pertinent and resonant.

In the third chapter, in-depth dialogues with economic journalists from these nations revealed no legal impediments to the practice of CJ in business news. The primary requisite identified was enhanced adherence to ethical standards and social responsibility within media establishments. These journalists acknowledged CJ's value but highlighted the integration challenges in daily reporting. They advocated for specialized CJ training for journalists, reflecting strategies recommended by The Solutions Journalism Network (2023). This approach acknowledges the distinct challenges and opportunities associated with CJ in economic reporting in the Arab region. The interview findings, coupled with the insights from the second chapter, indicate a preparedness for CJ in the Arab world, both ethically and attitudinally, particularly in economic journalism. This dual readiness provides a robust foundation for CJ's growth in the region, suggesting a potential for journalism that is ethically sound and contributes positively to societal welfare and constructive discourse.

In chapter three, interviews with economic journalists revealed that Arab journalists require practical examples and case studies that are relevant to their region in order to understand how to apply CJ. To address this need, chapter four presents a practical case study from the region that Arab journalists can use as a learning resource to gain insights and perspectives on CJ. It is also worth mentioning that based on this chapter and this case we have a paper [published](#) in May, 2024 in the Journal of Applied Journalism & Media Studies under the title (Bridging the gap between academic knowledge and business practitioners in the Arab region through constructive journalism). This case study aims to substantiate the theoretical and empirical findings from earlier chapters, offering insights into CJ's practical implementation in a region marked by unique socio-political dynamics. It builds on previous chapters' facts to demonstrate successful CJ application through collaborations between academic researchers and journalists, extending rigorous academic knowledge to society through CJ. This synergy, termed Constructive Research Approach (CRA), has been applied by some academic researchers and

economic journalists. The case study strives to bridge the academic-practical divide, focusing on how CRA can align with CJ's principles to facilitate societal problem-solving (Pirainen & Gonzalez, 2014; Hermans & Gyldensted, 2019). This chapter includes interviews with 16 academic researchers who have developed business journalistic skills or collaborated with business journalists to extend CRA into CJ. Despite the rigor of academic research, particularly in peer-reviewed articles and conference outputs, there often exists a disconnect between this scholarly work and its practical application in the business world (Gummesson, 2014). This disconnect is further exacerbated by the tendency of practitioners to overlook academic research in favor of more immediately practical knowledge (Beer, 2001). Rigby's (2001) investigation into the tools and solutions employed by business practitioners revealed a significant underutilization of academic-derived methods. Of the 25 management tools and techniques surveyed in his study, only seven originated from academic research. This underutilization is attributed to the perceived lack of practical relevance in scientific research within the management field. Panda and Gupta (2014) highlight the necessity of bridging the gap between academic rigor and practical relevance to enhance the utility of academic research for business professionals and organizations.

The challenge extends to the recruitment practices of business organizations. Despite claims that academic research-based management practices can enhance employee productivity and financial performance, organizations often fail to integrate these practices (Pfeffer, 2001). One contributing factor to this disconnect is the inaccessibility of research-based knowledge for managerial practice, often due to the academic writing style, which may deter interest from business practitioners (Dziubaniuk et al., 2021). Ottesen and Grønhaug (2004) further argue that the transfer of academic marketing knowledge to the business community is hindered by the complex language used in academic journals and papers, which can be challenging for managers to understand. The limited relevance of academic research to business practitioners is often linked to a disconnect between the language, issues, and concerns of the academic and business worlds (Rudolph & Peluchette, 2011). To address this, McGahan (2007) suggests that academic researchers should strive to communicate quantitative data in a manner that is comprehensible to a broader audience. Latham (2007) proposes that academic scholars should consider employing alternative vocabulary, such as using "frameworks" instead of "theories" and "project" in place of "research," to make their findings more accessible to practitioners. This requires scholars to

develop a mindset and attitude that allows them to adapt their communication to different contexts and perspectives.

This case study focuses on leveraging constructive journalism to improve academic business solutions in the Arab region. The objective is to explore a real-world example of translating academic knowledge into a journalistic style, incorporating practical solutions for business professionals. This case serves as a tangible illustration of how constructive journalism can bridge the gap between academia and the business world. The study aims to demonstrate how these two domains can synergistically collaborate to address business challenges. By aligning the methodologies and language of academic research with the practical needs and language of business practice, there is potential to significantly enhance the application and impact of scholarly work in real-world settings. This analysis delves into the parallel challenges faced by academic knowledge and journalism in their endeavors to effectively engage and impact society. Both domains grapple with a disconnection from their intended audiences, albeit in different contexts and forms. Academic research, particularly in fields such as management, often remains isolated from practical application in the business world. Despite the methodological robustness of research disseminated through peer-reviewed papers and conference outputs, there is a notable gap in its practical relevance and utilization by practitioners. Gummesson (2014) highlights this disconnect, noting that practitioners seldom refer to academic research in their decision-making processes. Beer (2001) corroborates this observation, indicating a preference for practical knowledge over academic insights among practitioners. Panda and Gupta (2014) emphasize the importance of bridging this gap, underscoring the need for academic research to balance rigor with relevance to enhance its utility for business professionals and organizations.

Similarly, journalism faces its own set of challenges in connecting with society. Hermans and Drok (2018) identify a phenomenon known as 'news avoidance,' where audiences increasingly disengage from news consumption. This trend is partly attributed to the perception of news as overly negative, a sentiment echoed by McIntyre (2019), who notes a decline in news audiences in the early 21st century due to the predominance of negative reporting. Patterson (2001) found that a significant majority of Americans surveyed perceived news as depressing. The phenomenon of 'news fatigue,' as identified by Aitamurto and Varma (2018), plays a significant role in the evolving relationship between audiences and media, particularly in the

context of digital and social media landscapes. This fatigue stems from a consistent exposure to news that is predominantly negative and problem-centric, leading to a sense of weariness and disillusionment among audiences. Supporting this perspective, a study by the Pew Research Center in 2011 highlighted a public yearning for a journalistic approach that goes beyond mere problem reporting to include exploration of potential solutions. This preference aligns with the growing recognition that audiences are not merely passive consumers of news but are seeking active engagement with media content that addresses societal issues constructively. Furthermore, the persistence of this trend is evident in a Reuters Institute survey, as cited by Newman (2023), which revealed that global trust in news stands at approximately 40%. This low level of trust underscores the disconnect between audience expectations and the current news media output. The dissatisfaction seems to stem from the prevalent focus on problems without offering insights into possible solutions, or even a sense of hope or progress. In response to these challenges, both academic research and journalism are increasingly adopting a positive, solution-oriented approach, rooted in psychological principles, to re-engage with society. This approach, termed 'praxis-oriented,' as described by Barkho (2014a), seeks to bridge the gap between theory and practice. It involves a collaborative effort between journalism and academic research, aiming to make academic insights more accessible and applicable to real-world scenarios, and to steer journalism towards a more constructive and solution-focused narrative. This method not only addresses the issue of relevance and engagement but also positions both academic research and journalism as proactive contributors to societal problem-solving and positive change.

4.2. Constructive Research Approach and Constructive Journalism

As I discussed in the introduction and the first chapter, I have talked about the emergence of constructive journalism (CJ). It is essential to reference the pivotal moment in 2012 when Danish journalist Ulrik Haagerup initiated a paradigm shift through his op-ed 'Constructive News.' This publication advocated for the augmentation of traditional news values with a constructive criterion, aiming to rebuild public trust in journalism (Bro, 2018). Since its inception, CJ has expanded to include various forms such as service journalism, action journalism, peace journalism, public journalism, and solutions journalism, with the latter concept

predating the movement (Benesch, 1998). The essence of CJ is characterized by its focus on professional, ethical, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) drivers, as outlined by Atanasova (2019, p. 700) and Hermans & Gyldensted (2019, p. 4). This approach represents a commitment to a form of journalism that is public-oriented, solution-oriented, future-oriented, and action-oriented, actively seeking to mitigate the traditional news media's bias towards negativity (Hermans & Drok, 2018). The development and dissemination of CJ have been significantly influenced by professional networking and institutional support. Notably, the Constructive Institute, an independent organization, has established a strong collaboration with Aarhus University in Denmark to promote CJ. Educational institutions, such as Windesheim University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, have incorporated CJ into their journalism courses and even established a dedicated chair for a Professor of CJ. Furthermore, the European Public Broadcasting Union has been instrumental in organizing master classes in CJ. These initiatives have been complemented by a series of academic and professional conferences focused on CJ (Hautakangas & Ahva, 2018b, p. 657). In his influential book 'Constructive News,' Haagerup (2014) underscores the importance of balanced reporting as a cornerstone of the media's responsibility to the public. He argues that an exclusive focus on problems in news reporting leaves the audience uninformed about potential solutions (Haagerup, 2014, p. 1). Haagerup also critiques the traditional news criteria, particularly the 'if it bleeds, it leads' approach prevalent in American local news media, challenging its effectiveness and ethical implications (Haagerup, 2014, p. 29).

The Constructive Research Approach (CRA) and Constructive Journalism (CJ) share a fundamental goal: finding and presenting solutions to societal problems. CRA, a research methodology increasingly adopted across various disciplines such as business, information systems, project management, and management accounting, is grounded in the principle that research should not only address societal challenges but also contribute new knowledge (Baskerville & Pries-Heje, 1999; Piirainen & Gonzalez, 2014; Nemeschansky, 2017). This approach, popularized by Kurt Lewin in the 1940s, advocates for action research and the active involvement of individuals in the research process. Lewin argued that the purpose of research should extend beyond mere observation and description, aiming instead to improve real-world situations (Lewin, 1946). Similarly, CJ, as initiated by Ulrik Haagerup and expanded through various forms such as solutions journalism, emphasizes the importance of addressing societal

issues by providing news that is not only informative but also solution-oriented (Bro, 2018; Benesch, 1998). Both CJ and CRA are underpinned by a commitment to actively engage with and impact society positively. In CJ, this is achieved through journalism that goes beyond reporting problems to exploring potential solutions, thereby fostering a more informed and empowered public. CRA distinguishes itself from other research methodologies through its focus on practical outcomes and stakeholder involvement. Researchers employing CRA collaborate with stakeholders to identify and address social challenges, echoing the principles of CJ, which seeks to engage audiences with constructive narratives that highlight solutions and positive actions (Baskerville & Pries-Heje 1999). This approach aligns with the constructivist viewpoint, recognizing the importance of subjective experiences and the social construction of reality, a perspective that also resonates within the realm of CJ (Pang & Lee 2015). In essence, both CRA and CJ are driven by a similar ethos: to do more than just report on or research problems. They strive to propose and explore solutions, thereby contributing to societal improvement. This shared objective highlights the potential for synergy between these two approaches, suggesting that the methodologies and insights of CRA could enrich the practice of CJ, and vice versa. By integrating the solution-focused, stakeholder-engaged principles of CRA, CJ can enhance its impact, offering not only news that informs but also solutions that inspire and facilitate positive change.

4.2.1. The Commonalities Between CRA And CJ

The Constructive Research Approach (CRA) and Constructive Journalism (CJ) share foundational elements, notably their commitment to addressing societal issues and their grounding in positive psychology as a framework for investigating these problems. CRA, emerging as a contemporary research paradigm, was developed to address the inadequacies of traditional research methods in resolving practical problems (Bolton & Stolcis, 2003; Gold, 1999). This approach prioritizes the development of research topics and solutions that are directly relevant to societal challenges, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between scholars and practitioners (Jaurakkajärvi, 2020). CRA seeks to overcome the limitations of traditional research methods by focusing on the generation of knowledge that is not only theoretical but also practically applicable (Iivari, 2007). Duffy (2005) examined the impact of a positive orientation in academic research and its influence on public engagement. The study

found that, akin to constructive journalism, a positive approach in research facilitates the public's understanding of scientific concepts and increases their interest in scientific news. Furthermore, it was observed that positive research and journalism enhance the public's trust in media coverage. However, similar to the criticisms faced by CJ regarding the balance between constructive journalism and advocacy or propaganda, CRA has faced scrutiny. Critics argue that CRA may lack rigor and produce studies that are overly context-specific, focusing excessively on resolving specific issues without generating broadly applicable knowledge (Bolton & Stolcis, 2003). Additionally, concerns have been raised about the potential biases in CRA due to its participatory nature, particularly the influence of stakeholders on research outcomes. Despite these criticisms, CRA has been applied in various fields, including business, management, and information systems. For instance, Labro and Tuomela (2003) utilized CRA and CJ in management accounting research, focusing on process issues through case studies, and found that CRA can enhance the relevance and activity level of research in this field.

The constructiveness method has been widely adopted in numerous academic disciplines, receiving acclaim for its ability to produce practical solutions to pressing real-world problems (Bolton & Stolcis, 2003). Its structured methodology and emphasis on collaboration between scholars and practitioners render it an effective approach for impactful societal research. Revisiting the three pillars of constructive journalism – solutions orientation, future orientation, and public orientation as identified by Hermans & Gyldensted (2019) – one can observe similarities with the pillars of CRA. The six steps of CRA, include identifying a societal issue requiring a viable solution, engaging stakeholders in the research process, creating a collaborative research plan, conducting data collection and analysis, developing practical solutions based on this data, and finally implementing and evaluating these solutions. A notable advantage of both CRA and CJ is their ability to produce practical solutions to societal issues. Kasanen et al. (1993) highlight the practical appeal of CRA in various professional fields. The collaborative nature of CRA, involving both researchers and stakeholders, increases the likelihood of successful implementation of the solutions developed. Furthermore, CRA offers a valuable opportunity for academics to engage in research that has direct and meaningful societal benefits. For the successful integration and collaboration between the Constructive Research Approach (CRA) and Constructive Journalism (CJ), specific prerequisites are necessary. Initially, CRA must orient its research towards societal issues, proposing solutions that benefit

practitioners and other stakeholders. However, merely publishing these findings in academic journals is not adequate. Knowledge dissemination through academic journals confronts two principal challenges. The first challenge is the limited circulation of this knowledge, which often remains confined to academic circles and rarely reaches the general public or community-based practitioners. The second challenge is the complexity of academic language, which can be a barrier for stakeholders such as practitioners and the general public to fully understand and utilize this knowledge. To overcome these challenges, it is crucial to establish a conduit between academia and the broader public. This can be accomplished either through partnerships with journalists to translate academic papers into more accessible language or by utilizing journalistic methods to create condensed, more comprehensible versions of these academic works. These versions should then be disseminated through mass media channels that have a direct connection with the public, including online news sites, newspapers, television broadcasts, and social media platforms.

4.2.2. Rewriting Academic Knowledge In A Journalistic Style

In the realm of communication, the need for researchers and journalists to harness language that resonates with a wide-ranging audience, encompassing the general public, professionals in the field, and the organizations being examined, is paramount. This is crucial for the effective dissemination of research findings, as outlined by Barkho (2014b). The impetus for making academic research more accessible, especially to the business sector, lies in its multifaceted benefits. By reframing academic insights in a journalistic style, researchers can bridge the gap between scholarly work and practical application, thereby playing a pivotal role in influencing business strategies and operations (Hadjikhani & LaPlaca, 2013). One of the primary obstacles in this endeavor is the conventional academic writing style, which often appears dense and esoteric to those outside the academic sphere. This style has been cited as a reason for the waning interest of practitioners in academic publications (Dziubaniuk et al., 2021). To counter this, there's a growing emphasis on adopting a more journalistic approach to academic writing. This approach involves presenting complex research in a manner that is engaging, relatable, and easy to understand for a broader audience. Such a style not only enhances the readability of academic content but also ensures that valuable insights are not lost in translation from the ivory tower to the practical world. Christensen and Raynor (2003) argue that for academic theory to be

genuinely beneficial to business executives, it must be articulated in a manner that enables readers to contextualize and apply these concepts to their specific situations. This necessitates a shift in academic scholarship towards translating research findings into practical, actionable insights that are easily comprehensible and applicable by practitioners. Markides (2007) further underscores the importance of communicating research findings in a manner that is not only relevant but also practically useful to practitioners. This approach contrasts with the presentation of abstract theoretical concepts devoid of practical implications, which can hinder practitioners' ability to apply such research in their professional contexts and may lead to its underutilization in decision-making processes (Panda & Gupta, 2014). Therefore, the challenge for academics and journalists alike lies in bridging the gap between theoretical research and practical application, ensuring that their work is not only academically rigorous but also accessible and applicable in real-world business settings.

In 2005, Busco et al. documented a case where a scholarly article underwent significant editorial revisions for publication in a practitioner magazine (Busco et al., 2005). This adaptation resulted in an article that was stylistically distinct from its original academic form, a common occurrence when academic research is tailored for practitioner audiences. Such transformations necessitate a change in both the communication form and rhetorical style to suit the specific audience, aligning with Aristotle's ancient principles of audience-specific rhetoric (367-322 BC). A textual analysis reveals a significant genre shift from the original academic article's persuasive style to an authoritative tone in the practitioner magazine. Initially, the article presented a neutral, balanced, and inquiry-driven approach for an academic audience. However, for the practitioner audience, the style became more directive and authoritative, reflecting the scientific authority and offering clear, actionable advice. This stylistic shift also influenced how readers were expected to engage with the content: moving from a reflective and personalized interpretation in the academic context to a more direct, application-oriented approach in the practitioner-focused version (Nørreklit & Scapens, 2014). The underlying principle guiding this phenomenon can be traced back to the philosophy of language, particularly as articulated by Wittgenstein & Anscombe (1973). They proposed that the meaning of language is intrinsically linked to the social practices in which it is learned and utilized. Human activities are structured around language games, a concept that combines language with its associated activities. Language, akin to a toolbox, comprises words that can be assembled into various types of statements for diverse

purposes, including giving orders, describing, storytelling, reporting, and joking. The nature of a language, especially when limited to specific types of statements, inherently shapes a particular way of life and the corresponding social practices. In light of these considerations, Dziubaniuk et al. (2021) offered practical recommendations for academic authors and editors aiming to enhance the relevance and accessibility of their writing for broader audiences. These recommendations include simplifying complex terms, providing a clear structure, emphasizing key points for specific readers (such as through executive summaries), assessing the readability of crucial sections (like the introduction and managerial implications), and adapting author guidelines to encourage language that is more accessible, particularly in sections discussing conclusions and managerial implications. These strategies are geared towards bridging the gap between academic research and its practical application, ensuring that the valuable insights of academic work are not lost in translation to practitioner audiences.

The evolving research landscape is increasingly recognizing and addressing the paradoxical gap between academic theory, solutions, or case studies and the practitioners intended to utilize them. Recent developments suggest a shift towards more radical approaches to make academic research more accessible and relevant to the public and practitioners, beyond merely rephrasing peer-reviewed papers in academic journals. One such approach involves leveraging digital platforms like ResearchGate, Academia, and Google Scholar. While these platforms are primarily designed for researchers and students, they often provide free access to research papers, thereby facilitating easier discovery and comprehension of relevant information for a broader audience. This democratization of access is a crucial step in bridging the academic-practitioner divide (Dziubaniuk et al., 2021). Additionally, the use of social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn for sharing research summaries represents another strategy to connect academia with practitioners. These platforms can significantly enhance the visibility and comprehensibility of academic findings to a non-academic audience. However, this approach necessitates the creation of clear, concise, and engaging summaries that can resonate with and be understood by general audiences. Some academic journals, recognizing the importance of wider dissemination, have started publishing press releases and executive summaries on their websites. This practice, especially when coupled with attention from popular business magazines or media, can further amplify the reach and accessibility of research findings (Hamet & Maurer, 2017). Understanding and comprehension of written text are influenced by

various factors, including sentence length and complexity, the context of the text, the density of ideas or information, the reader's motivation, the organization and presentation of ideas, the complexity of the concepts, and even the reader's cultural background. These elements collectively determine the ease or difficulty with which a text can be understood and assimilated by the reader (Zamanian & Heydari, 2012). Thus, in the pursuit of rendering academic research more accessible and relevant to practitioners, it is crucial to acknowledge and address these factors. To bridge the gap between academia and practical application, adopting innovative dissemination strategies and customizing content for diverse audiences is key. By doing so, academic institutions can substantially amplify the practical utility and relevance of their research findings. Integral to this process is the incorporation of journalistic skills in crafting the content. This can be achieved either through researchers acquiring journalistic competencies themselves or through collaboration with professional journalists. Such partnerships are vital in translating dense academic material into more digestible, engaging, and publicly accessible formats. This approach aligns with the principles of Constructive Journalism, which advocates for solution-oriented, engaging, and accessible reporting. In our case study, this methodology is exemplified through the application of Constructive Journalism. By leveraging journalistic techniques, complex academic insights are transformed into narratives that not only inform but also empower and engage the wider public. This collaborative synergy between academia and journalism serves as a conduit for bringing scholarly research into the public domain, ensuring that the knowledge generated within academic circles reaches and benefits a broader audience. The result is a more informed public discourse, enriched by the depth of academic research and the clarity and engagement offered by journalistic storytelling.

4.2.3. Applying Constructive Journalism To Enhance Arab Academic-Business Solutions

In the Arab world, the integration of constructive journalism and academic knowledge to devise business solutions presents a nuanced and multifaceted landscape. Understanding the region's unique educational and economic dynamics, and the role of research in shaping practical business solutions is crucial. The educational landscape in the Arab region is marked by high tertiary enrollment rates, reflecting a strong cultural emphasis on education. In the Arab world, a

concerning disparity is emerging: educational achievements are not translating into proportional economic growth. This situation is underscored by the high rates of graduate unemployment, which signal a significant disconnect between the education system's output and the actual demands of the job market. This disconnect calls into question the effectiveness of higher education in bridging the gap between academic theory and real-world business applications, a concern highlighted by Hillman & Baydoun (2018). Adding to this complexity is the observation that numerous academic research manuscripts, though widely cited, often have minimal or negligible real-world impact. This discrepancy between academic recognition and practical application was emphasized by Moustafa (2018). It suggests a broader issue: a chasm between academic knowledge and its application in real-world scenarios. This gap is particularly troubling given the current calls for educational system reforms in the Arab world. These reforms aim to bolster business management research and education, thereby contributing to the cultivation of responsible and effective Arab leaders, as argued by Mousa (2021, 2022). The emphasis is on creating an educational framework that not only imparts theoretical knowledge but also equips students with the skills and insights necessary for real-world business challenges. Therefore, bridging this gap between academic knowledge and practical societal applications becomes imperative. This calls for a concerted effort to align academic research with practical business needs and societal challenges. Such alignment necessitates a reevaluation of current educational methodologies and research priorities, ensuring that they are relevant, applicable, and beneficial to both the business sector and society at large. This alignment is not just crucial for the economic development of the Arab world but is also essential for preparing a generation of leaders who can navigate and contribute effectively to the complex and evolving global business landscape. The higher education output in the Arab countries yields poor financial returns. This situation is partly due to the limited alignment of academic curricula with the evolving needs of local and global economies, highlighting the need for educational reforms and closer integration of academic knowledge with practical business applications. The region faces a dual challenge in academic research and publication. The scarcity of academic papers and their disconnect from practical business relevance are pressing concerns (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia -Escwa, 2013). Faculty members in universities, often burdened with heavy teaching and administrative responsibilities, find it challenging to engage in research. For instance, a faculty member at Aleppo University reported a stark contrast in

research productivity before and after their tenure in Japan. This case emphasizes the need for institutional support to balance teaching duties with research activities and prevent research from becoming marginalized.

Another significant issue is the language barrier in academic research. Much of the research is published in English, limiting accessibility for Arabic-speaking audiences (Findlow, 2006; UNESCO, 2023). This barrier hinders the dissemination and application of research findings within the region, reducing the potential impact of academic work on local business practices and policies. Addressing these challenges necessitates a strategic approach that connects academic research with societal and economic needs. Elsayed and Sabtan (2018) suggest that enhancing the research landscape in the Arab region can be achieved by linking scientific research to societal problems in sectors such as industry, agriculture, and services, creating an integrated system of scientific research that is relevant and impactful. Constructive journalism can play a pivotal role in highlighting the gaps between academic research and real-world business challenges. It serves as a medium to disseminate research findings, encourage dialogue between academia and industry, and foster a culture of innovation and practical application of academic knowledge. At this critical juncture, policy interventions in the Arab world can significantly enhance the synergy between academia and industry. Educational policies need to prioritize research and its practical applications, transforming academic institutions into hubs of innovation and problem-solving. Collaboration among governments, educational institutions, and the private sector is essential to create a supportive ecosystem for research, encourage the translation of academic knowledge into business solutions, and address linguistic barriers in research dissemination. In summary, the integration of constructive journalism with academic knowledge in the Arab world offers a unique opportunity to bridge the educational and economic growth gap. By aligning academic research with societal and business needs, fostering institutional support for research, and overcoming language barriers, the region can leverage its educational strengths to create sustainable economic and societal progress.

4.3. Research Methodology

In this chapter, I delve into the potential implementation of CJ in the Arab countries that I am studying, particularly in light of the limited attempts identified in the first three chapters. This

exploration is framed within the context of linking CJ with the constructive research approach CRA in academic knowledge. In the Arab world, certain journalism outlets like Harvard Business Review Arabia (or HBR Arabia) have been commendable in their efforts to involve academic scholars and researchers. These outlets invite scholars to adapt their academic work into more easily digestible articles for mainstream audiences. These journalistic pieces aim to simplify complex ideas and offer practical solutions to everyday problems. This approach aligns with the principles of CJ by providing solutions and future orientation to society. In my study I adopted a methodology focused on the integration of the Constructive Research Approach (CRA) with Constructive Journalism (CJ), specifically examining the case of HBR Arabia. This methodology involved analyzing the contributions of regional scholars and researchers who have produced valuable, society-relevant research, often meeting CRA criteria even without explicit identification as such. These researchers either personally adapted their academic work into a journalistic format or collaborated with professional journalists to do so. The objective was to make their research accessible to public practitioners. This research, once reformulated in a journalistic style, was published in public and mass media outlets, such as HBR Arabia, directly addressing practitioners. This process exemplifies the application of Constructive Journalism: identifying research that provides practical solutions, transforming it into a journalistic narrative, and disseminating it through media channels to offer insights and solutions to the professional challenges faced by practitioners, thereby enhancing the practical impact of academic research. The effectiveness of the solutions-based journalism model in elevating audience engagement on a global scale has been widely recognized. This model, which aims to counteract news avoidance and engage readers, has successfully increased audience engagement and enhanced their interaction with journalism (Lakhpatwala, 2021). It has also been shown to substantially boost subscription numbers, as indicated by research conducted by Kalim (2019). This global trend underscores the potential of solutions-focused journalism to not only engage audiences more deeply but also to drive subscription growth across various media platforms.

I adopted an inquiry-based approach, which involves exploring phenomena, events, activities, or processes in depth over a sustained period, using a variety of data collection methods (Johnson & Stake, 1996). My primary data collection method was interviews, a qualitative approach where the researcher gathers data directly from participants. This method often complements other methods such as surveys or focus groups to understand opinions,

experiences, and values of the population (Showkat & Parveen, 2017). For this study, I selected a sample of 16 academic authors who contributed to Harvard Business Review Arabia (HBR Arabia). Considering that an in-depth interview is a conversational data collection method, the ideal participant range for such studies is typically between 10-15 individuals (Burgess, 1984). The authors were chosen through purposive sampling from a pool of 205 academic authors who have contributed to HBR Arabia since its inception in 2014. These authors either hail from the Arab region or work within it. Purposive sampling involves the researcher's judgment in selecting participants who can provide the most relevant information for the study's objectives (Kumar, 2010). This method is particularly effective in constructing historical realities, describing phenomena, or developing insights about relatively unknown topics. My goal in selecting participants was to recruit academics who had actively sought to translate their academic knowledge into a journalistic style with solutions integrated into their articles, with the aim of reaching business practitioners. My goal in selecting participants was to recruit academics from the Arab region who had actively sought to translate their academic knowledge into a journalistic style with integrated solutions in their articles, aiming to reach business practitioners. The selection criteria were as follows: academic authors who had republished their work in the UAE-based online magazine, Harvard Business Review Arabia (HBR Arabia), with solutions included in their articles and were also working in the Arab region. Out of a total of 205 authors, I identified 50 who met these criteria and reached out to them via email. Sixteen were available for interviews, representing the best possible gender balance among the authors who had the time and willingness to discuss this topic.

The structure of the interviews was determined based on their objectives. Interviews can be categorized as structured, semi-structured, or unstructured, depending on the method of extracting information. In structured interviews, the interviewer follows a list of prepared questions, whereas in semi-structured interviews, they rely on a list of topics rather than specific questions (Showkat & Parveen, 2017). I opted for structured interviews, with predetermined topics and questions focusing on the key pillars of CJ such as solutions orientation, future orientation, and public orientation (Hermans & Gyldensted, 2019; Hermans, & Drok, 2018). In these interviews, participants act as observers, describing events and perspectives of others (Taylor et al., 2015). Another aspect explored was the extent of positive attitudes among academic researchers while working on their research. Creswell (2008) emphasizes the

importance of the researcher acknowledging their own values, assumptions, and biases at the start of the study, as their involvement in the research environment can be both beneficial and positive. The interview schedule, consisting of open-ended or closed-ended questions, was used in various formats, including face-to-face, telephone, or electronic mediums (Kumar, 2010). Initially, I contacted interviewees via email to familiarize them with the questions, followed by structured interviews conducted via recorded Zoom video calls. Internet video, telephone, or email interviews can provide more detailed and in-depth information than other data collection methods like surveys (Wallace Foundation, 2009). Even when using recording equipment, researchers should take notes as a backup, and if audio recording is used, prepare for transcription (Creswell, 2008). These interviews aimed to explore new themes or topics, test emergent hypotheses, explore feelings and opinions, and gather factual data (Tracy, 2019). The questions were designed to uncover the relevance between rewriting academic thought and papers in a constructive method and how this could engage public practitioners, linking CRA with CJ. I utilized open-ended, descriptive questions, allowing interviewees to discuss topics of importance and their associated meanings (Taylor et al., 2015).

4.3.1. The Research Questions

I compiled common guidelines for in-depth interview question from various sources (Kumar, 2010; Wallace Foundation, 2009; Showkat & Parveen, 2017), including moving from general to specific questions, asking positive questions before negative ones, using simple language, avoiding double-barreled or presumptive questions, following a logical order, and using a thematic approach for better analysis. In line with established guidelines for creating interview questions, I have crafted a series of inquiries (presented in Appendices, table J) aimed at academic authors. These questions are meticulously designed to delve into the utilization of Constructive Journalism (CJ) as a strategy to augment the pertinence of academic knowledge for the business sector. This line of questioning is especially relevant considering the authors' firsthand experience in transforming their academic research for dissemination in a business-centric publication such as Harvard Business Review Arabia. This transformation process, whether undertaken independently by the authors or in collaboration with the journalists or editors of HBR Arabia, provides a unique perspective on the intersection of academic research and business journalism. The framework for these questions is structured around the three

foundational pillars of Constructive Journalism: public orientation, solutions orientation, and future orientation. These themes not only guide the categorization of the questions but also form a foundational basis for subsequent data analysis. These pillars are inherently aligned with the Constructive Research Approach (CRA), as both seek to contribute actively to the needs of business practitioners by providing solutions to pertinent issues in the field. By focusing on these three pillars, the questions aim to delve into how academic authors perceive the role and impact of CJ in translating their academic research into formats that are more accessible and immediately relevant to the business community. The intention is to understand how these authors navigate the intersection of academic rigor and journalistic accessibility, and how they envision the future of this collaborative approach in contributing to the business landscape. This focus aligns with the overarching goal of the research: to explore and elucidate the potential of CJ as a transformative tool in bridging the gap between academic research and practical business application.

4.4.Data Analysis of the CRA- CJ Participant’s Practical Case

To effectively analyze the narrative structures of participant interviews, it is essential to establish a systematic plan for coding and organizing the data. This process may involve the utilization of computer software programs to facilitate analysis (Taylor et al., 2015). In qualitative research, the interpretation of data often involves identifying themes or patterns that emerge from the narratives. Additionally, data may be complemented with other forms of information such as open-ended observations or follow-up interviews, especially in mixed-methods research. This approach allows researchers to draw conclusions from both quantitative and qualitative data sources (Rossman, & Rallis, 1998). The coding process is a fundamental step in qualitative analysis. It involves the generation of detailed descriptions of the setting, participants, and events. This process is particularly useful for case studies, ethnographies, and narrative research projects. Coding starts with organizing the collected data, whether text or images, into segments or chunks, which are then labeled with terms, often derived from the participants' own language. For this analysis, I am utilizing NVivo 14 software, a tool specifically designed for handling descriptive data and facilitating content analysis. NVivo

simplifies the coding process by automating the identification of specific text related to emerging themes, thus reducing the manual effort required (Kumar, 2010).

The themes identified during the coding process often form the major findings in qualitative studies. These themes are used to structure the findings section of research papers, offering multiple perspectives from individuals and supported by diverse quotations and specific evidence (Creswell, 2008). However, a significant challenge in qualitative analysis is managing the extensive amount of verbal data. Common strategies for organizing this data include categorization by specific questions or by overarching themes. In this study, we have chosen to organize the data according to the thematic framework set out for the analysis, aligning with the themes of constructive journalism and the pillars identified in the research design. This thematic approach enables a focused and structured analysis, ensuring that the findings are grounded in the data while providing a coherent narrative of the participants' experiences and perspectives. This method not only enhances the clarity and relevance of the analysis but also ensures that the interpretations and conclusions are firmly rooted in the empirical evidence gathered from the interviews. This segment of the research concentrates on analyzing the data obtained to examine how academic research and knowledge produced in the Arab region can be rendered more relevant and accessible to society. The core objective is to bridge the existing divide between academic knowledge and business practitioners. This involves investigating the integration of Constructive Journalism (CJ) with a Constructive Research Approach (CRA) within this framework. The data were sourced from interviews with 16 participants, each selected for their expertise in transforming their business-relevant research into a journalistic format suitable for presentation to readers of HBR Arabia. This adaptation aimed at making the research accessible as constructive, solution-oriented news for business practitioners. The interviews were meticulously structured to elicit comprehensive and detailed perspectives. The cohort of participants represents a spectrum of 16 professionals who are actively engaged in disseminating their knowledge through mainstream media channels. This group is composed of 11 individuals with Doctor of Philosophy (PhDs), 2 with Master of Business Administration (MBA) degrees, 2 holding Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degrees, and one Medical Doctor (MD). For comprehensive profiles and backgrounds of these participants, refer to (Appendices, table K) (The raw transcription of the interviews available [here](#)).

Narrative research offers a broad spectrum of methodological techniques for story evidence study (Ollerenshaw & Creswell, 2002). Thus, it was incumbent upon the researcher to collect and analyze data in a manner that ensures the qualitative research represents a credible analytical perspective. As previously mentioned, data were gathered through 16 interviews. Thematic analysis was employed to explore the nuanced perceptions of the participants. For the analysis of the collected data, NVivo, a robust closed-source qualitative analysis software, was used. This software facilitated an organized and efficient analysis process. Prior to the analysis, three themes were developed, which then guided the coding process. These themes – public orientation, solutions orientation, and future orientation – were delineated based on the topics included in the interview questions. The thematic analysis approach enabled a structured examination of the data, ensuring that the analysis was aligned with the study's objectives and the theoretical underpinnings of CJ and CRA. This methodological approach was instrumental in unraveling the complex relationships between academic research, media representation, and their collective impact on business practices in the Arab world. Through this analysis, the study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of how academic knowledge can be effectively communicated and utilized in business contexts, leveraging the principles of CJ for societal benefit.

4.4.1. Analysis of Qualitative Data

The qualitative analysis of participant responses in this study reveals a pervasive and multifaceted gap between academic business researchers and business practitioners. Participants unanimously acknowledged this divide, citing several underlying factors contributing to its persistence. A critical aspect of this chasm is rooted in the accreditation systems of academic institutions. These systems predominantly reward researchers for publications in peer-reviewed journals, fostering a culture that prioritizes academic recognition over practical engagement. There is a notable absence of formal structures or incentives within these institutions to encourage researchers to engage with societal needs or, more specifically, with business practitioners. This systemic orientation towards academic output, rather than practical application, forms a fundamental barrier to bridging the gap between academia and industry. Additionally, participants identified a distinct linguistic divide between the two spheres. The academic vernacular, characterized by its specialized and often esoteric language, starkly

contrasts with the more pragmatic and accessible language used by business practitioners. This difference extends beyond mere terminology; it reflects a deeper divergence in the communication styles and modes of discourse prevalent in each domain. The disparity in objectives and methodologies between academic researchers and business practitioners further exacerbates this gap. While academic researchers primarily focus on knowledge acquisition and theoretical exploration, business practitioners are driven by the imperative to maximize profit and achieve practical outcomes. This dichotomy in focus and approach results in differing priorities and methodologies, thereby widening the gap.

Participants also emphasized the critical need for academia to shift its focus towards developing practical solutions for business challenges. It was suggested that academic research should aim to provide empirical solutions that directly address the practical needs of business practitioners. This entails fostering closer collaboration between academic institutions and corporate entities. Such partnerships could provide incentives for researchers to undertake practical research and promote the publication of research findings that have direct applicability to business operations. Despite the recognition of academic research as a vital tool in addressing business problems, its impact appears minimal in the Arab world. Participants highlighted a lack of collaborative efforts and transparency among regional corporations in utilizing academic resources for case studies and research aimed at resolving real-world business issues. The study also highlights the significant role that academic researchers can play in leveraging predictive modeling and forecasting tools. When effectively utilized, these tools empower businesses to foresee and harness upcoming opportunities and trends. This proactive approach, where academic researchers act as catalysts for forward-thinking business strategies, is pivotal in bridging the divide between academic insights and practical business applications. Moreover, the most frequent wordings by the interviews showed that there is a clear awareness of business and academic differences in tackling problems in this region (Appendexce, Appendix C). Moreover, the thematic analysis as articulated in (Table 7) delves into the concrete measures taken by each participant, all of whom are academic researchers, to reframe their business-related research into a journalistic and solution-oriented format. This transformation process, whether undertaken personally by the researchers or delegated to professional journalists affiliated with the target media—in this case, HBR Arabia—is meticulously examined. The study outlines the shared methodologies and narrative styles employed by the participants to effectively communicate their

research findings to a broader audience. By doing so, it not only showcases the versatility and adaptability of academic work for mainstream media but also emphasizes the importance of making scholarly research accessible and applicable to real-world business scenarios.

Table 7 - Themes of the interviews as referenced by the participants. Data analysis of chapter 4.

Theme	Topic	Description	References
Public Orientation	The gap between academic business research and business practitioners.	There is a gap between academic business research and business practitioners. The gap is identified by lack of an incentive system at Universities to encourage researchers to engage with the society.	36
	Impact of academic writing style	The academic writing style is one of the main obstacles for business practitioners not to read or understand academic Knowledge.	22
	The accessibility of academic output to the public.	Academic researchers and their institutions should work on their output to make it available in mainstream media in order to reach out to the business community.	25
	The ethical obligations of	Academic business researchers have an ethical obligation or responsibility	23

Theme	Topic	Description	References
	academic researchers toward society.	to present their research outcome to the business community.	
Solutions Orientation	The role of academic business research in solving business problems.	Academic business research should introduce solutions to the business problems in order to be relevant and impactful.	18
	Researcher's Approach to provide solution	Publishing in practice media and conducting collaborative business case studies with corporations and adding more empirical research.	22
Future Orientation	Role of Academic Researcher in future trends	Academic researchers should guide the businesses toward the future trends of opportunities and trends	20
	The attitudes of academic researchers	The attitude of researchers toward constructive research approaches.	19

References: The total number of references is calculated based on coding done by all users—for example, if two team members have coded the same content at the node, the coded content is combined and counted as two references, Source (Author).

4.4.1.1. Theme 1: Public Orientation

The study's participants shed light on the public's perception of business research, highlighting its critical orientation towards four key components: the imperative to engage business practitioners, enhancing the accessibility of research publications to these practitioners, adopting a general writing style comprehensible to non-academics, and presenting research

findings that are of tangible benefit to business organizations. One participant reflected, “Yeah, I do agree that one of the obstacles is reading academic papers. For many professionals it is a time-wasting task because they will think they will read like 20 or 30 pages full of jargon and academic terms and labels and analysis.” This sentiment underscores the prevalent disconnection between the complex academic discourse and the practical needs of business professionals. A proposed solution to bridge this divide involves providing simplified, summarized versions of research papers, which would contain fewer technical terms. Such an approach aligns with Lindholm's (2008) advocacy for knowledge production rooted in experiential understanding and the creation of workable solutions. Additionally, Labro and Tuomela (2003) emphasize the importance of practitioner participation in the research process to ensure relevance to business needs, defining this as a cornerstone of constructive research methodology. “We rewrite the output of that paper and in the media to reach out to the business community,” mentioned one participant, suggesting the need for rearticulating academic findings in a format more accessible to the business sector. The participants advocated for the establishment of university programs aimed at equipping researchers with journalistic skills to simplify their writing for non-scholars and training business practitioners to extract key insights from academic journals. This dual approach addresses the knowledge translation gap from both ends.

Further analysis revealed that traditional journal publications may not be the most effective means of reaching business practitioners, given their predominant readership of academic peers. Instead, participants highlighted the potential of media platforms for disseminating research findings to the business community. One participant noted, “I have a PR agency that writes, that writes a press release that makes sure that they get our research out, and then the media contact me.” This approach involves employing media professionals within academic institutions to leverage tools like social media and various offline media forms for wider distribution of research outcomes. Moreover, the integration of research-based teaching at all educational levels is crucial for fostering closer ties between academia and the corporate sector. Establishing committees to promote collaboration between these entities can lead to periodic training and sensitization programs offered by universities to the public, enhancing awareness of ongoing research. Participants emphasized the responsibility of academic institutions and researchers in producing results that address practical business problems, as highlighted by Oyegoke (2011). This responsibility extends beyond mere academic publication,

necessitating tangible outcomes that address real-world challenges. The engagement with society was viewed by participants not just as a duty but as a moral obligation, a shared responsibility between researchers and their academic institutions. One participant remarked, “So far most of the business schools in the region focus on publishing peer-reviewed journals and Scopus ranked publications. So whatever you do outside this is not counted in performance evaluation, not content in your promotion as in academia. So why would you do the extra step to translate an article and change the language, which is still difficult for us.” This observation reflects a broader issue within academic culture, where extracurricular efforts to make research more accessible and applicable to business and societal problems are often undervalued. Consequently, there is a pressing need for institutional change, encouraging researchers and their respective institutions to not only conduct studies that are societally and business-relevant but also to ensure the accessibility and applicability of their research findings to the broader business community.

4.4.1.2. Theme 2: Solution Orientation

In this study, the second thematic focus explores participants' perceptions regarding the ways in which academic business research can maintain its impact within the business world, specifically by offering practical solutions to business problems. One participant elucidated this idea, stating, “If you're doing empirical research, then you provide some recommendations. And often those recommendations are for practitioners to adopt.” This statement underscores the potential of academic research to directly influence business practices through empirically derived insights and recommendations. Participants highlighted the importance of sustained and effective communication between academic institutions and corporations. Such interaction is pivotal for providing solutions that are not only relevant but also tailored to specific operational needs. Participants suggested that academic institutions should actively communicate their expertise to businesses, thereby positioning themselves as go-to resources for research expertise in relevant areas. Echoing this sentiment, the analysis indicates that without clear identification of organizational problems, scientific research struggles to offer solutions. Consequently, collaboration and open lines of communication between academia and businesses become fundamental for the development of evidence-based solutions to organizational challenges. Kasanen et al. (1993) emphasize the necessity of close cooperation between academics and industry professionals in identifying issues, developing solutions, and evaluating outcomes. This

approach entails altering existing practices and generating new knowledge. Participants also addressed the presentation of research findings to the business community. They argued that research outcomes, often complex and laden with technical terminology, should be distilled into concise, actionable bullet points for quick decision-making. As one participant put it, “Maybe summarize the result of such research and in a more practical way and, you know, present them to the decision makers to utilize this research and get back to keeping them in the form of scientific issues.” Another suggested method for delivering solutions to business problems involves conducting studies that focus on enhancing technological and soft skills among corporate employees. This could be achieved through short-term training programs and courses designed specifically for corporate staff.

The study also identified a fundamental challenge in the procurement of research-based solutions: the lack of adequate funding. Research projects, especially those that are capital-intensive and long-term, demand significant academic rigor and financial resources. The absence of sufficient funding and incentives can deter researchers from undertaking important studies, irrespective of their potential economic or business impact. Hence, there is a call for the business community to be more forthcoming in sharing data for research purposes and in funding such research. One participant noted, “Business organizations should reach out to universities in order to help in solving some problems through research. But the thing is that they need to make sure that information is available. They should be transparent when they want to discuss these issues or these problems.” This statement highlights the need for openness and transparency from business organizations in their collaborations with academic researchers. Some participants view this collaborative engagement as mutually beneficial. On one hand, it offers scholars a platform to market themselves and their research. On the other hand, it provides corporations with access to scientifically grounded advice for addressing their problems, thereby creating a win-win situation for both academia and the business sector. The participants in the study unanimously recognized the crucial role of mainstream media, particularly outlets like Harvard Business Review, in bridging the gap between valuable, relevant academic knowledge and business practitioners. According to the insights gathered from the interviews, the adoption of a journalistic approach has been instrumental in breaking barriers and extending the reach of their work beyond the traditionally closed circles of academic journals and conferences. This strategy of utilizing practitioner-focused media channels has enabled academic researchers to showcase

their solutions and insights directly to the real business world. By translating academic knowledge into a format that is accessible and engaging for business practitioners, these researchers have effectively increased the visibility and impact of their work. The process has not only facilitated a broader dissemination of academic research but also fostered a more dynamic and reciprocal relationship between academia and the business community.

4.4.1.3. Theme 3: Future Orientation

The third thematic area of the study focuses on identifying the pivotal role of academic business researchers in guiding businesses towards future opportunities and trends. This theme also delves into the necessity for researchers to adopt a positive attitude during their research endeavors to effectively anticipate and address future challenges. A participant encapsulated this concept by stating, “You know, researchers in nature have to be futurists. So I think it is in the DNA of the researchers. One of the determinants of research success is the ability to predict the future and provide some insights about it.” This statement underscores the inherent nature of academic researchers to foresee and interpret future trends, a trait deemed essential for research success. The consensus among participants is that academic researchers should not only steer businesses towards upcoming trends but also maintain a positive outlook in their research activities. This proactive approach is vital for utilizing their expertise and experience in solving prospective problems. The tools at their disposal, such as simulations, modeling, development of new models, and experimentation, are instrumental in this process. As noted in previous themes, it's crucial for the research outcomes to be accessible and applicable to the business community, aiding in the development of innovative management strategies and fostering constructive discourse (Coleman et al., 2000). One participant elaborated, “So, simulation modeling, a systematic review, all this need to be taken care of and acknowledged by the researchers should not be away from all this aspect to have a real implementation, real impact of the research in the real world.”

Furthermore, while a positive mindset is encouraged in research, it should not deter researchers from reporting findings that may indicate negative trends. The importance lies in acknowledging both positive and negative futuristic trends to devise appropriate solutions. This balanced outlook aligns with the principles of constructive journalism and research approaches. Applied research, encompassing studies on planned and unplanned interventions, often

incorporates positive psychological aspects, such as interventions based on positive attribution styles (Seligman, 1992). As one participant noted, “because researchers had a positive mindset or a productive mindset, the research papers conducted in this area were done to find solutions.” Lastly, some participants discussed the influence of a researcher’s philosophical stance on their mental approach during the research process. They argued that possessing a positive or negative attitude is less consequential when employing quantitative methodologies. According to them, the significance and applicability of research are not necessarily contingent on the researcher’s attitude. The term "constructivism" in research refers to the extent to which findings facilitate positive societal change and provide solutions to societal issues. In Constructive Research Approaches (CRA), academic excellence and utility are intrinsically linked. The CRA's mission is to conduct high-quality research that not only addresses real-world problems but also fosters positive advancements. The capacity of research to effect positive change is a key metric for evaluating its relevance and utility. The participants further emphasized the importance of presenting their future insights and expert perspectives through mainstream media and business-oriented platforms like HBR Arabia. This approach was highlighted as crucial for directly engaging with key stakeholders, notably business leaders, who are in need of future insights derived from research-based knowledge but presented through a journalistic lens. By utilizing journalism as a tool, these academic researchers and experts have been able to communicate their findings and forecasts in a manner that resonates with business practitioners. This method not only makes complex academic research more accessible and digestible for a non-academic audience but also ensures that the information reaches those who can most benefit from it - the decision-makers and leaders in the business world. The participants underscored that this approach has been pivotal in bridging the gap between academic research and practical business application, facilitating a direct and impactful exchange of knowledge between researchers and business professionals.

4.5. Results of the Practical Case of Applying CJ to bridge the Gap with The academic knowledge

The conducted research was primarily focused on exploring the noticeable divide between academic business research and its practical implementation in the business sector. A

key aspect of this study was examining the role of constructive journalism in bridging this gap. This was achieved by transforming relevant and practical academic research into a format that is more accessible to the public. By employing a journalistic style that emphasizes storytelling and an easy-to-follow narrative, complete with practical tips for real-world application, the research aimed to make academic findings more comprehensible and applicable for the business community. The process involved sharing this reinterpreted research through mainstream journalism organizations. The essence of this approach lies in not just simplifying academic content, but also in ensuring that it retains its practical value and relevance for business practitioners. The goal was to create a conduit through which academic research could influence and inform business practices more directly and effectively, thus fostering a stronger link between academic insights and business actions. This analysis brought to light a multitude of significant findings, delineating both the nature of this gap and potential avenues to bridge it. One of the study's pivotal revelations was the identification of a significant gap between academic business research and the practical needs of the business community (Redgrave et al., 2022). The primary causative factor for this divide was attributed to the inadequate level of communication and collaboration between academia and the business world. This lack of effective interaction stands as a substantial barrier, impeding the transformation of academic insights into tangible business solutions. Further, the research pinpointed additional factors contributing to this gap. A critical issue raised was the lack of funding and incentives for researchers. This shortfall in support and motivation could lead to a research focus that is less aligned with practical business needs. This concern highlights the necessity for "better funding mechanisms and incentive structures" (Jaurakkajärvi, 2020) to encourage research that effectively bridges the academic-business divide.

The study underscored the "need for increased collaboration between corporations and academic institutions" (Rautiainen et al., 2017), deeming such partnerships crucial for spurring business and economic growth. Such collaborations would facilitate a more effective exchange of knowledge and expertise, enabling academic researchers to develop solutions that address real-world business challenges. Access to organizational data was spotlighted as a pivotal need. Researchers require access to "up-to-date and relevant data from the business world to develop effective solutions to both business and societal challenges" (Jaurakkajärvi, 2020). This access is crucial for conducting empirical research that leads to findings directly applicable to business

practices. Moreover, the study emphasized the role of researchers in aiding businesses to decipher market trends and patterns. With "adequate funding and collaboration, academic research can significantly contribute to business growth and survival" (Lugo-Ocando, 2015). A notable aspect of the study was the reference to international practices, particularly in some Western countries, where academic promotion systems have been modified to acknowledge and reward faculty who disseminate their findings in mainstream media. This reflects an understanding that "making academic knowledge accessible and relevant to the public enhances the societal relevance of academic institutions" (Redgrave et al., 2022). The style of academic writing was also examined, noting its often technical nature and complexity as a barrier to wider understanding. This finding suggests a need for scholars to adopt "more accessible writing styles to ensure their research findings are understandable and usable by business practitioners" (Rautiainen et al., 2017). Another critical finding was the definition of relevance in the context of constructive research approaches (CRA). The study found that "when research is empirical and has practical implications, there is an ethical obligation for researchers and educational institutions to disseminate their findings to the public" (Lugo-Ocando, 2015). This extends beyond ethical considerations, encompassing a broader responsibility to ensure that valuable research reaches the relevant audiences.

The study emphasized the role of journalists in disseminating academic research, highlighting that "the responsibility of making research accessible to the public is a shared one, involving both academics and journalists" (Lugo-Ocando, 2015). This collaboration is crucial for the public good, ensuring that valuable academic insights reach a broader audience and maximize their impact. In summary, the research presents a thorough analysis of the disconnect between academic business research and its practical application, offering insights into the causes of this gap and suggesting ways to bridge it. The findings underscore the importance of fostering collaboration between academia and the business community, improving funding and incentives for research, and ensuring that research findings are communicated in an accessible and relevant manner, all vital for ensuring that academic research contributes meaningfully to business practices and societal advancement. The study focuses on the ethical dimension of a constructive research approach (CRA), a crucial aspect of a researcher's duty, particularly in providing applicable solutions to practitioners. This perspective is strongly supported by Allwright (2005), who emphasizes the necessity for researchers to engage in a cooperative,

productive, and solution-oriented strategy that effectively addresses business and societal concerns. Our data analysis aligns with this view, underscoring the importance of these approaches, especially in times of crisis like the Covid-19 pandemic. During this period, the role of academic research in assisting businesses to navigate challenges and prepare for future uncertainties became particularly evident.

A significant finding from our interviews is the identification of two key orientations in academic research: "solution orientation and future orientation." These orientations are paramount for assisting the public and stakeholders in progressing and are integral to both constructive research and journalism. They reflect a broader trend towards a positive attitude of researchers towards society, an essential factor in both constructive journalism and the constructive research approach. This approach resonates with Seligman's (1992) concept of "applied research," which includes studies on interventions that incorporate positive psychology attributes, such as a positive attribution style. The interviews conducted as part of this study uncovered a notable gap in the familiarity with the 'Constructive Research Approach' (CRA) and its underlying principles of positivity and societal impact. Among the 16 participants interviewed, only three were aware of the term 'CRA', despite the fact that their research inherently embodied the CRA's pillars by being socially relevant, practical, future-oriented, and solutions-focused. This finding indicates a disparity between the recognition of the terminology and the actual application of the approach. Nevertheless, all respondents unanimously acknowledged and supported the key elements associated with both constructive research and journalism. These elements include the development of solution-based knowledge, the importance of public dissemination, and the emphasis on societal advancement. This consensus among the participants suggests that while there might be variations in terminology or familiarity with specific academic labels, there is a general agreement on the essential principles of addressing and resolving research problems in a collaborative and constructive manner. This alignment with the core tenets of constructive research and journalism resonates with the perspectives and findings of earlier scholars such as Kasanen et al. (1993) and Oyegoke (2011). These researchers have highlighted the significance of solutions based, collaborative and positive approaches in research, which form the foundational basis for the Constructive Research Approach. The study thus reaffirms the importance of these approaches in bridging the gap between academic research and practical societal applications, underscoring the effectiveness of

the CRA principles even in contexts where the specific CRA terminology is not widely recognized or used. Shapiro (2020) notes the effectiveness of positive sentiment in enhancing public engagement with content. This is supported by Meier's (2018) experiment, which demonstrated that constructive forms can alter a negative worldview by highlighting elements such as solution-orientation and an underlying spirit of hope. This increased willingness to share constructive stories indicates that constructive reporting can enhance the perception of possible solutions and role models, thereby encouraging engagement and emulation. This perspective is further encapsulated in the notion proposed by McIntyre & Gyldensted (2018, p. 12) that "journalists are not mirrors, rather, they're moving the world" through a constructive journalism approach.

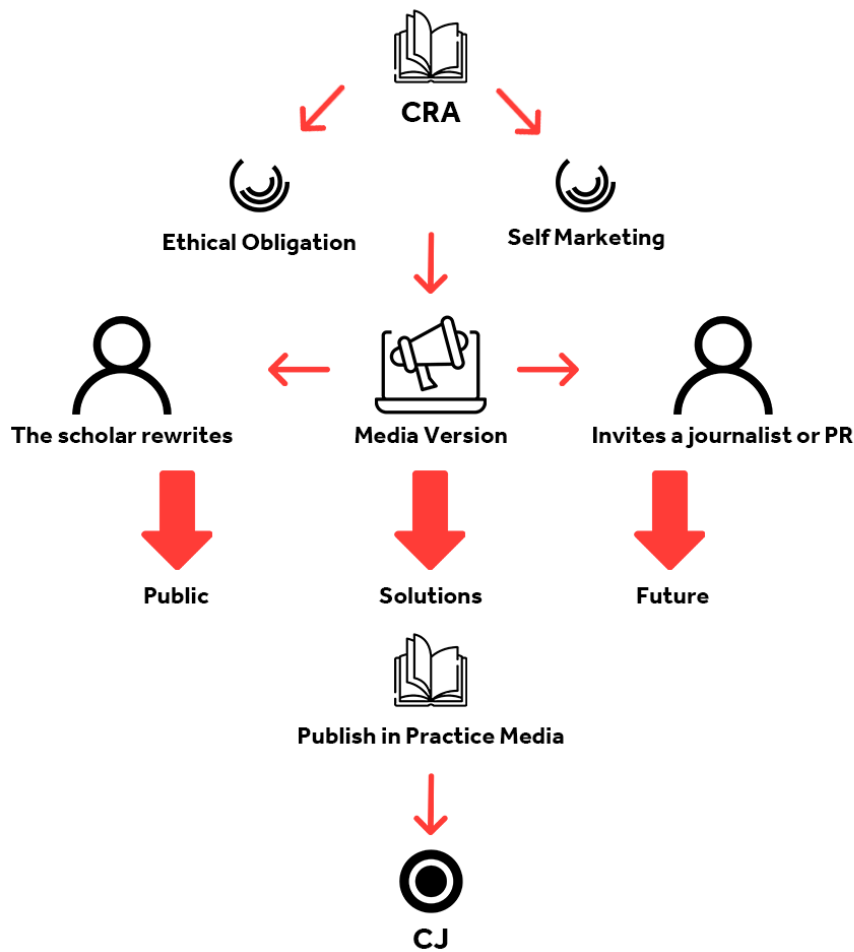
The parallels between academic and journalistic constructive approaches are striking. Both strive to be relevant to society, provide solutions to real-world problems, and propel society towards the future. These goals necessitate a positive attitude towards problem-solving. The similarities between the three main pillars of Constructive Journalism approach (CJ) – solution, future, and public orientation – and the six pillars of CRA, including societal problem-solving, stakeholder cooperation, and application of solutions, are evident and demonstrate a unified approach towards constructive research and reporting. The impact of this approach extends beyond academia. The 16 academic authors interviewed, who advocate for disseminating their knowledge to society, demonstrate a clear commitment to revising and republishing their academic articles in practice-oriented media outlets. This approach not only aligns with the ethical responsibility of researchers but also significantly enhances the societal impact and practical relevance of academic research. It shows a dedication to making academic knowledge not just a theoretical exercise but a practical tool for societal advancement. Furthermore, the study highlights the need for a more widespread understanding and adoption of constructive research approaches in academia. While the core principles of CRA are broadly supported, the lack of familiarity with the term and its implications suggests a need for more education and awareness among researchers. By fostering a deeper understanding of these approaches, academic institutions can encourage researchers to engage more directly and effectively with societal challenges, ultimately leading to more impactful and relevant research outcomes. In conclusion, our study illuminates the critical role of constructive approaches in both academic research and journalism. By embracing solution-oriented and future-focused strategies,

researchers and journalists can significantly contribute to societal progress and problem-solving. The emphasis on positive sentiment and practical application in research underscores the ethical responsibility of academics to extend their insights beyond the confines of scholarly publications, reaching out to wider audiences and making a tangible difference in the real world. As the field of constructive research and journalism continues to evolve, it holds great potential for fostering a more informed, engaged, and solution-focused society. The process by which academic researchers transition from applying the Constructive Research Approach (CRA) to embracing Constructive Journalism (CJ) can be outlined in several steps, as derived from our participant interviews:

1. Selection of Research: Researchers begin by selecting certain pieces of their work, which could be previously published in academic journals or presented at conferences.
2. Criteria for Public Sharing: The research chosen for public dissemination typically embodies elements of applied research and adheres to the principles of CRA.
3. Dual Motivation: Researchers, driven by both ethical obligations and a business-oriented motivation to market their expertise, actively plan to share their knowledge with the public and practitioners.
4. Adaptation for Public Comprehension: Participants either utilize journalistic skills to rewrite and adapt their research papers, or they rely on media editors for this task. The goal in both scenarios is to produce a journalistic version that is simplified and understandable to a general audience through mainstream media.
5. Focus on Practicality: The adapted content is structured to first highlight the business problems and then offer solutions, presented in a clear, bullet-point format for ease of understanding.
6. Regular Dissemination: Through consistent publications in practice-oriented magazines and mainstream media, the researchers contribute to the business community's knowledge, enabling them to learn and apply research-based solutions. This, in turn, helps businesses to progress and prepare for future challenges.

This journey, encompassing the transition from academic research to constructive journalism and ultimately societal impact, is visually represented in Figure 1. Our participants described this pathway as a means to achieve constructiveness in academic research, linking it to constructive journalism and thereby extending its reach and impact on society.

Figure 1, The journey to link academic research to constructive journalism and reach to society



CRA and CJ represent two distinct yet complementary methodologies in the dissemination of academic research, each targeting different audiences and utilizing different mediums for communication. This dichotomy underscores the intrinsic variations in reach and impact that these approaches offer and highlights their potential synergistic effect when

combined. CRA is primarily rooted in the academic domain, engaging scholarly communities and contributing to the body of knowledge within peer-reviewed academic journals. This approach is characterized by its rigorous methodological frameworks, theoretical underpinnings, and emphasis on scholarly discourse. CRA is instrumental in advancing academic understanding and scholarly debates, providing a platform for in-depth exploration, critical analysis, and the development of new theories and concepts. However, the reach of CRA is predominantly confined to academic circles, often limited by the specialized language and technical nature of scholarly publications, which may not be readily accessible or comprehensible to the general public or practitioners outside the academic realm.

In contrast, CJ employs mainstream media and journalism outlets as conduits to communicate research findings to a broader audience, encompassing both the general public and practitioners. This approach aims to translate complex academic research into accessible and engaging formats, thereby demystifying scholarly work and making it relevant and understandable to a wider audience. CJ plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between academic research and societal needs, ensuring that the insights and knowledge generated through scholarly work are not secluded within academic boundaries but are disseminated more broadly, fostering public awareness, understanding, and practical application. The integration of CRA and CJ, as explored in this research, offers a comprehensive strategy to maximize the impact of academic research. By initially employing CRA, research findings are grounded in academic rigor and contribute to scholarly discourse. Subsequently, through the application of CJ, these findings are repackaged and disseminated to a non-academic audience, including business practitioners. This dual approach ensures that research not only advances academic understanding but also resonates with and informs the practices of professionals in the field. Moreover, by making research findings more accessible to the general public, CJ enhances public engagement with academic knowledge, contributing to a more informed and educated society. The combined use of CRA and CJ represents a holistic approach to academic research dissemination. It acknowledges the importance of maintaining academic rigor and contributing to scholarly discourse while simultaneously ensuring that research findings are communicated effectively to those outside the academic sphere. This synergistic approach holds the potential to significantly bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical application, ensuring that

research findings are not only acknowledged within academic circles but are also embraced, understood, and utilized by practitioners and the broader society.

This practical case exemplifies the practical feasibility and potential benefits of implementing Constructive Journalism (CJ) within the Arab world. It highlights an opportunity for the Arab region to leverage CJ, particularly in a societal context that values solutions aimed at the public good. This aligns with the evolving codes of ethics in media, which increasingly emphasize public orientation, solution-focused narratives, and a forward-looking approach, especially pertinent in developing countries. CJ's application in the Arab context presents a unique intersection of cultural values and media ethics, fostering a media landscape that not only informs but also inspires and facilitates societal progress. By prioritizing stories that focus on solutions, constructive media practices can significantly contribute to public discourse in a manner that is both relevant and uplifting. This paradigm shift in media reporting, championed by CJ, is particularly crucial in the Arab region, where societal challenges are often complex and multifaceted. The emphasis on solution-oriented journalism provides a framework for not only highlighting issues but also showcasing innovative solutions and inspiring collective action towards positive change.

5. Conclusions

In this thesis, the potential of implementing Constructive Journalism (CJ) in the business news sector of Arab countries was explored, focusing on seven Middle Eastern Arab states: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the UAE, KSA, and Qatar. The study commenced by elucidating the foundational aspects of CJ, tracing its origins and conceptual development. This exploration revealed that CJ is anchored in three primary pillars: public orientation, solution orientation, and a future-focused approach to journalism. Further investigation into various successful implementations of CJ across different nations highlighted that these pillars are invariably influenced by the ethical codes of journalism, particularly the corporate social responsibility of journalistic organizations and the commitment of journalists to social responsibility.

The empirical evidence gathered in this study demonstrates that the application of CJ consistently yields positive outcomes in advancing societal progress and re-engaging audiences, thereby countering the phenomenon of 'news avoidance' and encouraging proactive public participation. This is a significant achievement in the media landscape of the Arab region, which has long struggled to regain public trust. Newman (2023) draws attention to a pressing issue highlighted in the annual survey of The Reuters Institute: a global trust in news at a mere 40%. This pervasive skepticism has given rise to a pattern of 'news avoidance,' exacerbated by the media's tendency towards negative and sensationalist reporting (Gyldensted, 2015). CJ, with its emphasis on solutions and a forward-looking perspective, presents itself as an effective strategy to counteract this trend. The approach holds promise for reversing the trend of news avoidance and enhancing media subscriptions, as evidenced by the findings of Kalim (2019). Thus, the study underscores the importance and viability of CJ in reshaping the landscape of news media, particularly in the context of the Arab region.

This research initially conceptualizes CJ as a blend of solution-oriented storytelling, forward-thinking, and enhanced public engagement, advocating for integrity, context-aware

reporting, inclusivity, diversity, societal empowerment, and audience involvement. CJ's possible adoption in varied geopolitical contexts, from nations with a free press to developing countries, underscores its significance in fostering journalistic social responsibility and ethical norms. The study then pivots to the applicability of CJ in Arab nations, where press freedom is limited and political entities significantly influence even the ethical standards of businesses (Sidani, 2018). A notable concern is whether journalists in these regions can report solutions that might conflict with the preferences of political authorities. This predicament is mirrored in the mixed reactions of Arab journalists towards CJ, oscillating between enthusiasm and trepidation, with fears of its potential misuse for propaganda purposes (Allam, 2019). Exploring the cultural contexts of the Arab and Islamic worlds, which intrinsically endorse solutions beneficial to public welfare (Mohammed, 2013), this study suggests a foundational basis for the implementation of CJ in this region. However, it also emphasizes the necessity of acknowledging each country's unique socio-cultural nuances to ensure the efficacy of CJ.

Furthering this exploration, the study analyzes journalistic ethical codes in seven Middle Eastern countries (UAE, KSA, Qatar, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon), assessing their alignment with CJ principles. Despite a lack of explicit CJ-oriented ethics, a discernible commitment to societal responsibility is evident. The "Additional Terms and Value Pressure" (ATVP) metric reveals a significant presence of terms favoring societal welfare alongside politically charged terms. This analysis suggests a potential for applying CJ in the region, notwithstanding political challenges. Drawing parallels with the gradual adoption of Investigative Journalism (IJ) in the Arab region since 2004, which initially focused on non-political topics like environment, health, and economy, the study suggests a similar approach for CJ, starting with business news (Bebawi, 2016). In-depth interviews with economic journalists indicate no legal impediments to CJ in economic reporting. The primary necessity identified is an enhanced commitment to ethical standards and social responsibility. Journalists acknowledge the value of CJ but highlight the integration challenges in routine reporting. They advocate for specialized CJ training, aligning with recommendations from The Solutions Journalism Network (2023). This reflects a readiness for CJ in the Arab world, particularly in economic journalism.

The study then presents a practical case to exemplify the application of CJ in the business and business news sector in the Arab Middle East. This case study, designed to corroborate the

theoretical and empirical findings of earlier chapters, showcases CJ's practical implementation in a region with distinct socio-political characteristics. It highlights a Constructive Research Approach (CRA), employed by academic researchers and economic journalists, to demonstrate the synergy between academic inquiry and journalistic practice (Piirainen & Gonzalez, 2014; Hermans & Gyldensted, 2019). The practical case includes interviews with 16 academic researchers who have either developed journalistic skills or collaborated with business journalists to integrate CRA into CJ. The case study presented in this research underlines the critical need for harmonizing academic research with the practical demands of the business world to augment the relevance and impact of academic pursuits. It confronts the simultaneous challenges that academia and journalism face in engaging their respective audiences effectively. This study draws a distinct comparison between the Constructive Research Approach (CRA), primarily oriented towards academic circles, and the Constructive Journalism (CJ) approach, which is targeted at the general public. By successfully integrating these two approaches, there is a potential to not only cultivate a more informed and engaged audience but also to promote the adoption of constructive journalism within the business sector and across a wider range of subjects. This methodology strives to bridge the gap between academic research and practical business applications, enhancing the overall impact and relevance of information disseminated through media channels.

The elements of CJ, as outlined by Hermans and Gyldensted (2018), such as truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement, form the core of a journalism vision that is deeply intertwined with public collaboration in content creation. Underpinned by the theoretical framework of Couldry and Hepp (2017), this vision envisions journalism as a collaborative endeavor heavily reliant on public participation and collaboration. This approach not only empowers audiences but also fortifies the journalist's role in shaping the social construction of reality. These components collectively forge a dynamic foundation for CJ, transforming the media's role into one that is more proactive, inclusive, and solution-oriented. In academic discourse, the link between CJ and social care has been increasingly recognized, with research by Steiner and Okrusch (2006) highlighting a potential convergence between journalistic ethics and societal justice. This fusion of journalism and ethics assumes critical importance in the context of media's influence on societal perceptions and the promotion of justice. Building on these theoretical underpinnings,

our research delved into a content analysis of journalism ethics codes in select Middle Eastern countries, namely Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the UAE, KSA, and Qatar. Our analysis revealed that the ethical codes of these nations did not explicitly incorporate the principles of CJ or endorse a role for journalists in solution-focused reporting. This finding is striking, especially when contrasted with the comprehensive CJ framework developed by Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, which underscores elements like solutions orientation and co-creation in journalistic practices (Hermans & Gyldensted, 2018). Despite this, the ethical codes across these countries showed a commitment to addressing social issues, with a notable focus on peace-making in journalism. Such directives resonate with CJ's emphasis on empowerment and future orientation, encouraging journalists to contribute to conflict resolution and peace-building. This analysis uncovers the intricacies of the media landscape across Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the UAE, KSA, and Qatar. Despite the absence of formally articulated CJ principles, there is an underlying acknowledgment of the media's role in societal improvement. This role becomes particularly significant in regions affected by conflict, where the media's contribution to peace-building is not just beneficial but essential. The primary challenge is bridging the gap between the current ethical standards in these countries and the comprehensive, solution-focused ethos of CJ. It is crucial to guarantee that the application of codes of ethics is independent of government propaganda, especially in Arab nations. Scholars contend that implementing CJ principles can enhance the autonomy and neutrality of codes of ethics (Kibarabara, 2023). This approach aligns with the prevalent Islamic ethics in Arab countries, which prioritize pro-social solutions (Mughtar et al., 2017).

The sequential evidence provided in this dissertation supports the potential application of CJ in analyzing business news in Arab countries. This can be demonstrated by presenting the findings and outcomes of each chapter, followed by a comprehensive conclusion;

5.1. Constructive Journalism Serving Society and Saving Journalism

In chapter one, the intricate relationship between journalism's ethical codes and the foundations of Constructive Journalism (CJ) is thoroughly explored. The chapter delves into how CJ's journalistic practices, which prioritize serving society, align with traditional journalistic principles. The focus is on examining the elements of social responsibility and corporate citizenship within these codes, highlighting their alignment with CJ's core values. The key pillars of CJ are "Solution-oriented," "Public-oriented," and "Future-oriented" (Hermans & Drok, 2018). The positive mindset at the core of CJ is exemplified by the ideas of McIntyre & Gyldensted (2017), which lay the groundwork for the application of positive psychology to news reporting. This approach aims to deliver beneficial, genuine, and engaging content while upholding the fundamental principles of journalism. The authors emphasize the need for a shift in perspective to bridge the gap between factual information and the audience. The validity of CJ, especially its focus on solutions, has been called into question regarding its adherence to professional journalism standards. In response, Jackson (2019) argues for a combination of problem-focused and solution-focused methodologies in journalism. In contrast to the conventional dichotomy between traditional journalism and citizen journalism (CJ), Jackson emphasizes their coexistence as essential for the continuity and robustness of the media landscape. She argues that reflecting on past achievements and failures is crucial for developing a comprehensive understanding of global events and shaping a better future. The intersection of CJ's principles (public, solution, and future orientations) with journalism's ethical codes and social responsibility determines an organization's or individual journalist's ability to practice CJ effectively. Global case studies, especially from Western nations, have demonstrated CJ's efficacy in engaging audiences and restoring trust between the media and society. Scholars such as Hermans and Gyldensted (2019) in Germany and Meier (2018) have further substantiated these findings. CJ has been instrumental in enhancing problem-solving and future planning in society. It serves as a savior for journalism, helping restore the relationship between the media and society and alleviating mistrust and news

avoidance. In many cases, CJ has effectively addressed the problem of declining trust in the media and news apathy.

The utilization of CJ is influenced by cultural contexts, press freedom, and national priorities, resulting in variations across countries. A comprehensive study involving 23 countries highlighted a higher prevalence of constructive journalism approaches in the United States and Europe, while it was less prevalent in regions like Africa, Asia, and Latin America (Lough & McIntyre, 2021). The importance of expanding research beyond Western contexts, particularly to regions such as the Arab world, is emphasized here, as this is the focus of this thesis. Successful implementations of CJ have been observed in countries like Syria (Arafat, 2021) and Rwanda (McIntyre & Sobel, 2018), despite the acknowledged limitations in applying ethical codes in Asia and Africa. Sørensen's (2020) comparative examination of Norway and Ethiopia exemplifies the adaptability of (CJ) in diverse socio-political contexts, demonstrating its potential in regions facing constraints on press freedom and democratic processes. This adaptability highlights the significance of ethical codes and social responsibilities at the individual journalist level, ensuring responsible reporting in challenging environments.

In the first chapter, global statistics revealed that only 1% of ethical codes were enacted to address societal issues, while other principles like information dissemination accounted for 48% and allegiance to social interest observed at 40% (Himmelboim & Limor, 2010, p. 82). My study examined the codes of ethics for journalism in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. It found no mention of solutions in the codes, while the emphasis on journalism's societal role received the highest score of 5 out of 5. Despite the societal commitment of the codes of ethics, my study suggests that including solutions in journalism codes of ethics is vital to gradually embed them into the DNA of journalism. However, the social commitment inherent in the work codes of ethics in the Arab region is robust, reflecting the collective, family, and tribal ethos of Arab communities where public good is highly valued, as noted by Sidani (2018). Confirming this potential for CJ in the Arab region, Alkhalaf (2020) investigated the feasibility of publishing constructive and independent journalism. The study emphasizes the transformative potential of new technologies and economic paradigms in empowering free speech and independent journalism, independent of government influence. This innovative model could offer journalists a sustainable source of income, bolstering their autonomy and ability to provide impartial news coverage. This chapter

thoroughly examines the intricate relationship between ethical journalism and CJ, showcasing CJ's adaptability in various global contexts and its immense promise for the Arab region, offering a comprehensive perspective on the subject.

5.2. Examining the Adequacy of Journalism Codes of Ethics in Arab Countries for Constructive Journalism

In the examination of the viability of Constructive Journalism (CJ) within seven nations—Jordan, Lebanon, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Syria, and Iraq—an overarching theme is discerned regarding the congruence between local media ethical guidelines and the standards propounded by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). This congruence exhibits considerable variance, extending from a zenith of 93.75% in Iraq to a nadir of 50% in Syria, thereby signaling diverse levels of foundational support for CJ's tenets such as veracity, contextualized reporting, inclusivity, and societal empowerment. The majority of these nations evince a notable alignment, insinuating that the foundational principles of CJ are not entirely extraneous to these jurisdictions. Such alignment is pivotal, as it furnishes an ethical scaffolding upon which CJ initiatives can be established. Nonetheless, the emergence of challenges, including the absence of anti-plagiarism measures and nebulous stances on journalists' interactions with security apparatus, underscores the hurdles in wholly adopting the ethical demands of CJ. A parallel drawn across these evaluations is the Additional Terms and Values Pressure (ATVP), encapsulating social, professional, and political influences. Political dynamics are particularly influential, as exemplified in nations like Lebanon and Qatar, where they potentially impede impartial journalistic practices. In contrast, the pronounced social orientation within countries such as KSA and UAE intimates a more favorable milieu for CJ's emphasis on societal betterment. In regions where political and social dynamics are interwoven, such as Syria and Iraq, CJ's potential is discerned within apolitical realms, harnessing its strengths in fostering community empowerment and solution-centric reporting. These insights suggest that despite the variability in political landscapes, the robust presence of social dynamics across these countries lays a fertile groundwork for CJ, contingent upon adept navigation through the intricate social, professional, and political dynamics within each media landscape.

Aligning with the principles of Constructive Journalism as outlined by Hermans and Gyldensted (2018), which encompass truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement, and predicated on the theoretical framework proposed by Couldry and Hepp (2017), there emerges a paradigm of journalism inherently linked with public participation in content creation. This methodology not only empowers audiences but also reinforces the journalist's role in the social construction of reality. These elements coalesce to form a robust foundation for CJ, transforming the media's role into a more proactive, inclusive, and solution-focused entity. Within academic circles, the nexus between CJ and social responsibility has been increasingly acknowledged, with studies by Steiner and Okrusch (2006) elucidating a potential amalgamation of journalistic ethics and societal justice. This confluence of journalism and ethics gains paramount importance in the context of the media's impact on societal perceptions and the advocacy of justice. Expanding on these theoretical foundations, this research ventured into a content analysis of journalism ethics codes within select Middle Eastern nations, encompassing Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the UAE, KSA, and Qatar. These codes were appraised on a scale from 0 (no engagement) to 5 (full commitment) to assess adherence to ethical norms. Our scrutiny revealed that the ethical codes across these countries did not explicitly integrate CJ principles nor endorse a journalistic role in solution-focused reporting. This observation is particularly striking when juxtaposed against the comprehensive CJ framework developed by Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, accentuating aspects like solution orientation and co-creation in journalistic endeavors (Hermans & Gyldensted, 2018). Despite this, the ethical standards across the studied nations demonstrated a commitment to addressing social issues, with a pronounced emphasis on peace-making in journalism. Such directives resonate with CJ's focus on empowerment and future orientation, urging journalists to partake in conflict resolution and peace-building endeavors. This analysis unravels the complexities of the media landscape across Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the UAE, KSA, and Qatar. Despite the absence of formally articulated CJ principles, there exists an implicit recognition of the media's role in societal amelioration. This role is especially critical in regions afflicted by conflict, where the media's contribution to peace-building is not merely advantageous but imperative. The primary challenge lies in bridging the gap between the prevailing ethical standards in these nations and the comprehensive, solution-focused ethos championed by CJ.

Advancing from the insights of the preceding chapter, wherein it was established that all examined countries achieved the highest mark (5) in terms of social responsibility within their media codes of ethics, the subsequent analysis further highlights this aspect. It was ascertained that the regulatory pressures in these nations predominantly advocate social norms and values. This trend lays a solid foundation for the implementation of solution-oriented and constructive journalistic practices, given that these countries are deeply ingrained in Islamic culture, which pervades the Muslim-majority nations, including those with officially secular regimes. The Islamic guidelines for journalism, as delineated by Muchtar et al. (2017), encompass striving for community welfare (*maslahah*), adherence to truth and factual reporting (*siddiq* and *haqq*), educational dissemination (*tabligh*), and maintaining moderation (*wasatiyyah*). The congruence of these Islamic principles with the ethos of CJ presents a unique opportunity for these nations, indicating that the existing social infrastructure is aptly prepared for the embracement and proliferation of CJ practices. This synergy between Islamic guidelines and CJ principles may facilitate the integration of CJ into the mainstream media narrative within these countries, thereby augmenting their media's role in societal development and conflict resolution.

An intrinsic element of the analysis of strengthening journalistic codes of ethics is the study of how these codes interface with other relevant laws and regulations within the specific nations being examined. This part of the research delves into the intricate interactions between external legal and regulatory frameworks and the journalistic codes of ethics in each of the seven Arab countries under consideration. The exploration aims to uncover potential influences and intersections that shape the journalistic codes of ethics in these countries. Such an analysis is crucial for understanding the broader context within which journalistic ethics operate. It involves identifying specific instances where national laws, whether pertaining to media, freedom of expression, or other related areas, either align with or contradict the principles outlined in the codes of ethics. This research is not limited to direct legal stipulations but also encompasses the broader regulatory environment that can impact journalistic practice, including censorship laws, information access regulations, and data protection statutes. The objective is to discern how these external legal and regulatory elements shape the practice of journalism in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Iraq. This includes assessing whether these external factors support the autonomy and ethical responsibilities of journalists, or if they impose constraints that may challenge the principles of independent and ethical journalism. Such

an analysis will provide a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted legal and ethical landscape within which journalists in these countries operate.

In the study, the "Additional Terms and Values Pressure" (ATVP) concept is presented as a crucial element affecting journalistic professional codes. ATVP comprises a variety of external factors, primarily legal, shaping the ethical framework within which journalism is practiced. These factors can take on various forms, including political, social, or professional pressures, exerting a directive force on journalism's ethical principles and guidelines. According to the methodology delineated in the study, ATVP constitutes a collection of supplementary stipulations enforced through legal mechanisms. The relationship between journalistic ethics and the legal environment is characterized by stipulations that significantly impact the application and interpretation of journalistic ethics. These stipulations function as external factors that can modify the core principles of journalistic ethics or influence their practical application. Understanding this concept is crucial for comprehending the intricate dynamics between journalistic ethics and the legal framework in which they operate. The concept that ethical journalism is not solely defined by internal codes and standards, but also influenced by external legislative and regulatory forces, is highlighted here. These external factors can have a significant impact on the practice of journalism. In an ideal situation, a free press operates without government or regulatory interference, allowing journalists to apply ethical codes without hindrance. In the context of the Arab countries where this study took place, press freedom is not the norm. Therefore, this study analyzes the relationship between social and professional terms and values on the one hand and political influences on the other hand. The study suggests that in environments with limited press freedom, prioritizing social and professional values over political ones is a significant accomplishment. This prioritization is believed to enhance the potential for constructive journalism, even in constrained situations.

The study revealed significant disparities in the enforcement mechanisms of journalistic codes of ethics in the seven Arab Middle Eastern countries examined. Notably, countries such as Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan have achieved legal recognition for their codes of ethics and established statutory bodies responsible for their enforcement. These statutory bodies vary in their composition, with some, like in Syria and Jordan, being government-defined, and others, like in Lebanon, being independent of government control. The study indicates that the presence of government recognition for the code of ethics, coupled with a statutory body for its

enforcement, tends to reduce the "Additional Terms and Values Pressure" (ATVP) ratio. This implies that such a framework can mitigate external pressures influencing journalistic ethics. Conversely, in countries lacking formal law recognition of codes of ethics, such as the UAE, KSA, Qatar, and Iraq, there is a higher incidence of political terms and values reinforced by law. The legal frameworks of the countries studied exhibit a notable emphasis on reinforcing professional and social values and norms. This emphasis is shaped by the varying socio-political landscapes in these countries. The UAE, KSA, Qatar, Iraq, and Jordan have social and religious systems that significantly influence the development and enforcement of journalistic codes. In contrast, Lebanon and Syria have more secular systems. These differences in societal and religious contexts are reflected in the study's findings, which highlight how they shape the legal frameworks surrounding journalistic ethics. The degree and nature of external pressures on journalism in these countries are also affected by these contextual factors.

The number of political terms and values can be used to show how the government controls ethics. The number of professional and social terms and values can be used to show how codes are professionally and socially driven. For example, the government can use political terms and values to create laws and regulations that control what is considered ethical behavior. Professional and social terms can use codes of ethics to guide the behavior of their members. In all cases, the government's intervention in applying the codes of ethics of journalism is applicable in all of the seven countries, in which may confirm that artificial issues crafted by states, financial groups, and even some journalists are used to create false notions of cultural relativism to adulterate the communication systems that empower the elites and illiterate the public (Herrscher, 2002). These problems are reflected in the lower scores against IFJ and, especially, in a higher ATPV. Unfortunately, patriotism is still a professional norm and not a violation of journalism's ethics for many Arab journalists, such as the media witnessed, during the 2017 Gulf crisis (Al-Najjar, 2020). Also, this could be an example of how public interests can be politicized by some autocratic governments.

The comprehensive examination of journalism ethics codes across various Arab countries underscores the potential for leveraging these codes as a foundation to foster and implement CJ. This finding suggests that these countries possess a robust base conducive to the advancement of constructive journalism, particularly because social factors play a crucial role in its implementation. However, an important consideration, as highlighted by Sidani (2018), is the

relatively high presence of political terms in the codes of ethics across each of the studied countries. This prevalence poses a persistent challenge, as it may lead to the risk of politicization in the application of these codes. Such a risk could potentially undermine the impartiality and effectiveness of journalistic practices. Despite these challenges, an in-depth analysis of the individual country scenarios reveals clear opportunities for furthering constructive journalism. By focusing on tailored training and piloting both institutional and individual initiatives in constructive journalism, there is considerable scope for enhancing the media landscape in these countries. This approach necessitates a concerted effort to integrate constructive journalism principles within existing frameworks, while also addressing the potential limitations posed by political influences. The goal would be to not only uphold journalistic ethics but also to steer media practices towards more positive, solution-focused, and socially beneficial reporting.

In a summary of the potential for Constructive Journalism (CJ) in each of the seven countries:

Jordan: An encouraging alignment with the International Federation of Journalists' (IFJ) standards is observed in Jordan's media codes of ethics with 78% match, reflecting a solid foundation for CJ principles. The notable influence of social pressure highlights a distinct public-oriented approach, aligning well with CJ's emphasis on citizen engagement. While there is a promising outlook for CJ in Jordan, further efforts and implementation strategies are needed to fully embrace the remaining pillars of CJ: solution-oriented and future-focused approaches.

Lebanon: Lebanon's media code of ethics aligns closely with IFJ standards with 84% match, indicating a solid foundation for CJ principles. The code places strong emphasis on promoting peace, which aligns with CJ values. However, political factors exert significant influence on the media landscape, potentially affecting the ability of journalists to maintain unbiased reporting. Despite this challenge, Lebanon's partial press freedom allows opportunities for CJ practices, empowering journalists to navigate political challenges and contribute positively to the nation's complex social and political environment.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA): The media in Saudi Arabia exhibits a remarkable 84.37% compliance with International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) standards, indicating a favorable environment for the adoption of CJ. The media's orientation aligns closely with social values deeply rooted in Islamic religious principles, which resonate with CJ's emphasis on societal betterment. This ethical alignment with IFJ standards and the strong social orientation supported

by religious values create a fertile ground for the successful implementation of constructive journalism in Saudi Arabia.

United Arab Emirates (UAE): The UAE media codes of ethics are largely in line with International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) standards with 90% match, providing a solid basis for CJ. Nevertheless, media practices are significantly influenced by political factors. The prominence of social factors in the Arab Media Vision Plan (ATVP) implies that journalism practices that emphasize social impact and responsibility may have promising potential in the UAE, particularly in the context of CJ.

Qatar: Al-Jazeera's code of ethics closely aligns with the IFJ standards, demonstrating a 62.5% match. However, there are significant gaps in crucial areas essential for CJ. The media practices in Qatar are heavily influenced by state legislation, which can pose challenges to journalistic independence. Despite this, there is a strong emphasis on public interest and social issues in Qatar's media landscape, which offers potential for promoting CJ, particularly in domains that are not politically sensitive.

Syria: The Syrian Journalists Union Code of Ethics aligns with only 50% of IFJ standards, showing significant gaps in key areas. The equal weight given to social and political terms in the ATVP suggests potential for CJ in non-politically sensitive areas. The success of CJ practices by Syrian journalists outside the country's direct influence indicates possible opportunities for CJ under certain conditions.

Iraq: The indigenous media ethical codes of Iraq exhibit a remarkable 93.75% alignment with the standards set by the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). Nevertheless, specific nuances in the interpretation of ethical principles, particularly concerning plagiarism avoidance and the relationship between journalists and law enforcement, pose challenges. The emphasis on political dimensions in the ATVP is a reflection of Iraq's socio-political context. Despite this, the ATVP's focus on social factors and the need for peaceful solutions suggests that citizen journalism could make a significant contribution to repairing societal divisions and fostering reconstruction in Iraq.

5.3. Business News As a Potential field for Applying Constructive Journalism

This study aimed to understand the familiarity of economic journalists from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia (KSA), Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq with the concept of constructive journalism, the potential challenges and opportunities associated with its application in Arab countries, and their perspectives on its relevance in business news reporting. The study also examined the ethical codes that guide these journalists in their pursuit of societal benefit through economic and business journalism. To conduct the study, in-depth interviews were conducted with seven economic journalists, and the data collected was analyzed using a comprehensive thematic analysis approach. The following themes emerged from the analysis:

1. **Familiarity with Constructive Journalism:** The participants demonstrated a basic understanding of the principles of constructive or solutions-based journalism. While many participants found the concept to be somewhat vague, they generally expressed acceptance of its tenets. The language used by the participants suggests that their familiarity with the concept was indirect rather than firsthand. Despite limited exposure, the participants were receptive and eager to explore constructive journalism further. They expressed interest in potentially integrating its methodologies into their journalistic practices. This initial openness provides a foundation for more comprehensive training and exploration in the future, which could lead to the broader adoption of solutions-oriented approaches in journalism.
2. **Receptivity in Arab Countries:** Across a range of Arab countries, participants' insights revealed a remarkable receptivity to constructive and solutions-based journalism, regardless of their socio-political contexts. From conflict-torn nations like Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon to affluent and relatively stable Gulf states, a shared openness towards the principles of constructive journalism was evident. However, this receptivity is not uniform; each country presents its own challenges and opportunities for implementing solutions-oriented journalism due to its distinct socio-political and cultural fabric. Nevertheless, a common thread emerges: the fundamental principles of journalism practiced in these countries, shaped by their political and cultural environments, seem to

align with the core values of constructive journalism. This alignment suggests that while the practical applications may vary, the overarching philosophy of solutions-oriented journalism could resonate across the diverse landscapes of the Arab world.

3. **Application in Business News:** Integrating constructive journalism methodologies into economic news coverage in the Middle East is an intriguing concept. This approach has the potential to provide a more in-depth and comprehensive understanding of economic narratives, benefiting both the general public and decision-makers. However, challenges need to be considered. Participants expressed concerns about the added responsibilities that come with solutions-oriented journalism. The intricate nature of business news, coupled with the requirement for constructive insights, could strain journalists already navigating their complex domain. To address this potential strain, participants agreed on the value of introducing specialized roles within newsrooms. These roles would be dedicated solely to solutions journalism, ensuring the depth and rigor required for such reporting while maintaining the quality and avoiding overwhelming journalists. This specialization could facilitate a structured and effective integration of constructive journalism within the business news landscape of the Middle East.
4. **Call for Specialization:** The intricate nature of solutions journalism demands specialized knowledge and expertise. Participants emphasized the need to cultivate a cadre of journalists with domain-specific knowledge, arguing that this specialization is crucial for ensuring the effectiveness and credibility of solutions-based reporting. Such expertise would not only improve the depth and accuracy of the storytelling but also enhance the reliability of the solutions presented. As the field matures, it is expected that the incorporation of constructive elements will evolve from a niche practice to a fundamental aspect across various journalistic specialties, thus elevating the overall quality and impact of journalism.
5. **Political Challenges:** In the multifaceted political landscape of the Arab Middle East, constructive journalism faces a myriad of challenges. To navigate this complex terrain effectively, journalists must shoulder multiple responsibilities. Firstly, they must maintain

unwavering adherence to professional integrity, ensuring that their narratives are characterized by impartiality and objectivity. Secondly, the selection of sources becomes a critical determinant of journalistic credibility; journalists must exercise discernment, selecting credible and balanced sources that contribute to the veracity of their reporting. Finally, given the unique political, cultural, and social dynamics of the region, solutions-oriented journalism demands a tailored approach. Journalists must devise solutions that not only offer practical feasibility but also align with the distinct socio-political intricacies of the Middle East, ensuring that their narratives are relevant and actionable within the regional context.

6. **Public's Role and Reception:** In solutions journalism, the public plays a central role as the ultimate beneficiary of the offered solutions. Their perception, interpretation, and consequent reactions to presented solutions profoundly influence the impact and effectiveness of this journalistic approach. However, addressing a diverse audience with varying backgrounds, beliefs, and viewpoints poses a substantial challenge. Achieving widespread resonance becomes intricate due to the inherent diversity of the public sphere. Recognizing this challenge, some practitioners suggest a nuanced approach to content delivery. They advocate for the subtle incorporation of solutions within narratives, avoiding overt labels or excessive emphasis. This approach, they argue, may facilitate a more natural absorption of solutions by the audience, potentially bypassing resistance or skepticism that might arise from explicitly branded "solutions" content. This subtle integration underscores the importance of understanding audience dynamics and customizing content delivery methods to optimize reception and impact.
7. **Sociocultural and Economic Influences:** The Middle East's CJ potential is closely linked to its varied sociocultural and economic tapestry. Understanding these factors is vital for successful solutions-oriented storytelling. Economic disparities, rooted in historical, geopolitical, and resource-based factors, shape journalism's content. For example, economically stable countries may focus on innovation, sustainable growth, and global integration, while nations facing challenges prioritize recovery and foundational development. The deeply-rooted Islamic principles in Arab culture encourage support for

solutions benefiting the public good. For constructive journalism to be effective, it must align with each country's socio-cultural fabric. Solutions should be culturally appropriate and resonate with traditional values, societal structures, and communication methods. Successful constructive journalism in the Middle East requires sensitivity to varied economic conditions and rich socio-cultural heritage. Journalists must craft narratives that connect with audiences on a deeper cultural level. The flourishing of constructive journalism in the region hinges on its ability to reflect diverse cultural landscapes and societal norms.

8. **Making Solutions Relatable:** In the realm of CJ, the effectiveness of proposed solutions hinges on their accessibility and relatability to the target audience. While these solutions often originate from rigorous academic research or expert insights, there's a potential pitfall: presenting them in their raw, theoretical form may alienate the general public. To overcome this challenge, it's crucial to articulate solutions in a comprehensible and actionable manner. This involves simplifying complex concepts into digestible narratives, employing relatable analogies, and emphasizing tangible outcomes or steps. Such an approach not only enhances accessibility but also instills a sense of agency and empowerment in readers. Journalists play a pivotal role in this knowledge dissemination process. They stand at the crossroads of expert knowledge and public understanding, tasked with translating intricate solutions into narratives that resonate with the lived experiences and aspirations of their audience. In doing so, journalists not only inform but also facilitate the transformation of knowledge into actionable insights, fostering a more informed and proactive public discourse. This strategy underscores the importance of journalists as mediators, as they bridge the gap between specialized knowledge and public comprehension, ensuring that solutions are not just understood but also acted upon.
9. **Journalists as Change Agents:** The conventional model of journalism, which viewed journalists as detached observers, is rapidly transforming. Today, journalists are increasingly seen as agents of societal change, especially in economic journalism. This transformative role is rooted in their ability to combine expert insights with

research-based solutions, resulting in narratives that are both descriptive and prescriptive. Instead of just reporting on economic challenges, journalists proactively suggest potential solutions by drawing on interdisciplinary knowledge and empirical research. This integrative approach can be a powerful tool for Middle Eastern journalists to amplify the impact of economic journalism. By presenting actionable solutions alongside challenges, journalists empower their audience with the knowledge and tools to effect tangible change. This proactive stance redefines the boundaries of traditional journalism, positioning journalists not just as informers but as catalysts for a more informed, engaged, and solution-oriented public discourse. In this evolved paradigm, journalists become essential partners in the collective endeavor of societal progress and transformation.

10. **Trust as the Bedrock of Constructive Solutions in Business Reporting:** The importance of trust in constructive journalism, particularly in the field of business reporting in the Middle East, cannot be overstated. The acceptance and effectiveness of proposed solutions depend on the credibility of the information presented. This credibility is built upon unwavering accuracy. The analysis highlights the fundamental pillars of journalism: accuracy, transparency, legal compliance, and ethical principles. When fused together, these principles enhance the reliability of business narratives. In a dynamic economic environment, influenced by geopolitical, technological, and market changes, journalists bear the responsibility of maintaining both credibility and legal compliance. In doing so, business reporting not only informs but also stimulates an ethical, responsible, and empowered business landscape.

11. **The Imperative of Impartiality in Constructive Journalism:** Constructive journalism's essence is inextricably linked to the principles of impartiality and balanced reporting. Interviews reveal the utmost importance of presenting information accurately and unbiasedly. In the current information age, with narratives vulnerable to distortion and manipulation, impartiality is paramount. For business news reporting in the Arab Middle East, this commitment transcends journalistic ethics, becoming essential for maintaining credibility with a discerning audience. By presenting information transparently,

journalists uphold their profession's integrity and foster an informed public discourse. Such discourse, rooted in objectivity, is instrumental in creating a more transparent and accountable business environment in the region.

12. Navigating the Confluence of Journalism and Activism: The emergence of solutions journalism in the journalistic landscape presents a complex interaction between traditional journalism and activism. Interviews conducted with journalists highlight the potential of solutions journalism to drive societal change, but also raise concerns about maintaining journalistic objectivity. As news organizations increasingly embrace narratives that promote positive societal change, they face the challenge of balancing the pursuit of societal transformation with the preservation of journalistic integrity. This ongoing pursuit of balance is motivated by the aspiration to not only inform but also inspire and empower audiences, particularly in a region like the Middle East which is characterized by diversity and dynamism.

13. The Evolutionary Trajectory of Constructive Journalism in Business Reporting: Constructive journalism represents a substantial shift from conventional journalistic approaches, moving from a primarily observational position to one of active participation. While traditional journalism has been vital in presenting impartial accounts of societal issues, constructive journalism goes beyond this by offering feasible solutions. This advancement bridges the gap between identifying problems and resolving them. Consequently, journalism evolves from its traditional function, becoming a powerful agent for positive change, especially within the business environment of the Middle East.

14. The Intentionality of Progress-Driven Reporting: Constructive journalism aims to go beyond reporting events and drive real-world improvement. Each piece of writing is crafted to foster a dialogue that leads to significant change. This approach isn't just a mirror of events but a conscious effort to propel the Middle Eastern business ecosystem forward. Participants recognize the interdependence of proactive action and the solution-oriented philosophy of constructive journalism.

The incorporation of constructive journalism into business news in the Middle East is not just a theoretical pursuit, but a tangible step toward catalyzing positive transformation. Insights gathered from participants underscore the vital role of solutions coupled with practical actions. Based on conducted interviews, it is evident that the environment for economic journalism in the Arab region, especially in countries like the UAE, KSA, Qatar, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq, is conducive to embracing and potentially expanding Constructive Journalism (CJ). Several interviewees acknowledged the successful implementation of similar approaches to solutions-based journalism in their respective countries. However, they also caution against the potential misuse of such journalism as propaganda, emphasizing the significance of vigilance to avoid being perceived as mere mouthpieces or "electronic flies" for government agendas.

In the realm of business news, the interviewees underscored the absence of legal obstacles to practicing CJ. They emphasized the paramount importance of adhering more stringently to ethical codes and social responsibility commitments within media organizations. Moreover, media outlets should invest in training and dedicating journalists to focus exclusively on solutions-based economic reporting. While acknowledging the value and feasibility of CJ, some interviewed journalists expressed concerns about the potential challenges of incorporating it into their daily responsibilities. They suggested having specialized journalists within their teams who are trained and equipped to report on CJ. This approach aligns with strategies proposed by The Solutions Journalism Network, which advocates for implementing solutions-based journalism either by training the entire news team or by developing specialized journalists dedicated to this type of reporting. This approach recognizes the distinctive opportunities and challenges specific to CJ, particularly in the context of business news in the Arab region.

5.4. Constructive Journalism As a Solution To bridge The gap Between Academic Knowledge and Businesses

The main focus of the research was to investigate the significant divide between academic business research and its practical implementation in the business sector. A crucial aspect of this study involved examining the role of constructive journalism in bridging this gap. This was achieved by transforming pertinent academic findings into a format that was more

accessible to the general public. By adopting a journalistic approach that emphasized storytelling and a narrative that was easy to follow, complete with practical tips for real-world application, the research aimed to make academic findings more understandable and applicable for the business community. The process entailed disseminating this reinterpreted research through mainstream journalism organizations. The essence of this approach was not only to simplify academic content but also to guarantee that it retained its practical value and relevance for business practitioners. The goal was to establish a channel through which academic research could directly and effectively influence and inform business practices, thereby fostering a stronger link between academic insights and business actions. This study identified a significant gap between academic business research and the practical needs of businesses, which is attributed to a lack of communication and collaboration between academia and the business world. The analysis found that this disparity acts as a substantial barrier, hindering the translation of academic insights into tangible business solutions. Several factors were identified as contributing to this gap. One prominent issue was the lack of funding and incentives for researchers, which leads to a research focus that is less aligned with practical business needs. Another contributing factor is the difficulty researchers face in accessing relevant data and the lack of opportunities for researchers to engage with practitioners. To address this gap, several strategies were proposed. These include creating better funding mechanisms and incentive structures to encourage research that is more closely aligned with business needs, establishing platforms for researchers and practitioners to engage with each other, and making relevant data more accessible to researchers.

The study emphasized the importance of enhanced collaboration between corporations and academic institutions. Such partnerships are crucial for driving business and economic growth. Collaboration would enable a more efficient exchange of knowledge and expertise, allowing researchers to develop solutions to pressing business challenges. Researchers highlighted the necessity of accessing organizational data, emphasizing the need for up-to-date and relevant data from the business world to create effective solutions for both businesses and societal challenges. The accessibility of academic research is crucial for empirical studies that yield practical applications in business contexts. Moreover, the study highlighted the role of researchers in aiding businesses in comprehending market dynamics. As Lugo-Ocando (2015) posits, with "adequate funding and collaboration, academic research can significantly contribute

to business growth and survival." Notably, the study referenced international practices, especially in Western countries, where academic promotion systems have been revised to recognize and reward faculty who disseminate their findings through mainstream media. This reflects the understanding that "making academic knowledge accessible and relevant to the public enhances the societal relevance of academic institutions" (Redgrave et al., 2022). The study also examined the style of academic writing, noting its technical nature and complexity as a barrier to wider comprehension. This finding suggests a need for scholars to adopt "more accessible writing styles to ensure their research findings are understandable and usable by business practitioners" (Rautiainen et al., 2017). Another critical finding was the definition of relevance in the context of CRA. The study found that "when research is empirical and has practical implications, there is an ethical obligation for researchers and educational institutions to disseminate their findings to the public" (Lugo-Ocando, 2015). This extends beyond ethical considerations, encompassing a broader responsibility to ensure that valuable research reaches the relevant audiences.

The study underscored the pivotal role of journalists in disseminating academic research, emphasizing that "the onus of rendering research comprehensible to the general public is a collective endeavor shared by both academia and journalism." (Lugo-Ocando, 2015). This collaborative effort is imperative for the common good, ensuring the dissemination of valuable academic knowledge to a broader audience and maximizing its impact. In summation, the research furnishes a comprehensive analysis of the disparity between academic business research and its practical application, offering insights into the etiologies of this chasm and proffering potential solutions to bridge it. The study emphasizes the need for fostering collaboration between academia and the business sector, while improving funding and incentives for research. It also highlights the importance of ensuring that research findings are communicated in an accessible and relevant manner. These factors are essential for ensuring that academic research contributes meaningfully to business practices and societal advancement.

At the core of this study is the ethical dimension of a CRA, which is a crucial aspect of a researcher's duty. This approach focuses on providing applicable solutions to practitioners and involves careful consideration of the ethical implications of research. Allwright (2005) supports the notion that researchers should adopt a collaborative, productive, and solution-focused strategy that effectively addresses business and societal concerns. Our data analysis aligns with this view, highlighting the significance of these approaches, particularly during challenging times

such as the Covid-19 pandemic. During this period, academic research played a crucial role in helping businesses navigate challenges and prepare for future uncertainties, emphasizing the importance of such research efforts.

Our interviews have uncovered a crucial finding—the presence of two key orientations in academic research: "solution orientation" and "future orientation." These orientations are essential for aiding the public and stakeholders in making progress. They represent a broader shift towards a positive attitude among researchers, which plays a vital role in both constructive journalism and the constructive research approach. This approach aligns with Seligman's (1992) concept of "applied research," which encompasses studies on interventions incorporating positive psychology attributes, such as a positive attribution style. Through interviews conducted for this study, a significant gap in knowledge of the CRA and its underlying principles of positivity and societal impact was revealed. This finding highlights a disconnect between the recognition of the terminology and the actual application of the approach. Despite potential differences in terminology or familiarity with specific academic labels, all respondents showed unwavering support and recognition for the key elements pertaining to constructive research and journalism. These elements include the generation of solution-oriented knowledge, the significance of public dissemination, and the focus on societal progress. This consensus among the participants signifies that there is a shared understanding of the fundamental principles required to address and resolve research problems collaboratively and constructively.

This harmonization with the central tenets of constructive research and journalism coincides with the perspectives and discoveries of earlier scholars such as Kasanen et al. (1993) and Oyegoke (2011). These researchers have accentuated the significance of solutions-based, collaborative, and positive approaches in research, which constitute the foundational basis for the CRA. Consequently, the study reaffirms the importance of these approaches in bridging the gap between academic research and practical societal applications, underscoring the effectiveness of the Constructive Research Approach principles even in contexts where the specific Constructive Research Approach terminology is not widely recognized or utilized. In his work, Shapiro (2020) highlights the efficacy of positive sentiment in augmenting public engagement with content. This assertion is bolstered by the empirical research conducted by Meier (2018), who demonstrated that constructive forms of journalism possess the capacity to alter negative worldviews by emphasizing elements such as solution-orientation and an underlying spirit of hope. The resultant

increase in willingness to share constructive stories suggests that constructive reporting can enhance the perception of viable solutions and role models, thereby encouraging engagement and emulation. This perspective aligns with the notion proposed by McIntyre & Gyldensted (2018, p. 12) that journalists serve as agents of change rather than mere observers, actively shaping the world through their constructive journalistic approach.

The parallels between academic and journalistic constructive approaches are remarkable. Both aim to address pressing societal issues, offering solutions and envisioning a better future. This shared goal requires a positive and proactive problem-solving mindset. Strikingly, the three main pillars of CJ—solution orientation, future orientation, and public orientation—align closely with the six pillars of CRA, including societal problem-solving, stakeholder cooperation, and practical application of solutions. This convergence underscores a unified approach to constructive research and reporting. Notably, the impact of this approach transcends academia. Interviews with 16 academic authors revealed a strong commitment to disseminating their knowledge beyond academic circles. These authors actively revise and republish their research in practice-oriented media outlets, demonstrating a genuine dedication to making a tangible difference in society. Adopting CRA holds significant implications for academic research. It not only adheres to the ethical responsibilities of researchers but also elevates the societal impact and practical applicability of academic work. This approach transforms academic knowledge from a theoretical exercise into a practical tool for societal progress. The study underscores the necessity for broader comprehension and implementation of constructive research approaches within academia. Despite the widespread support for the core principles of CRA, the unfamiliarity with the term and its ramifications suggests a need for enhanced education and awareness among researchers. By nurturing a deeper understanding of these approaches, academic institutions can motivate researchers to engage more proactively and effectively with societal challenges, leading to research outcomes with greater impact and relevance.

Our study emphasizes the crucial impact of constructive approaches in academic research and journalism. By adopting solution-oriented and future-centric strategies, researchers and journalists can make a significant contribution to societal progress and problem-solving. The focus on positive sentiment and practical application underscores the ethical responsibility of academics to extend their insights beyond scholarly publications, reaching a wider audience and making a tangible difference. As the field of constructive research and journalism progresses, it

carries the potential to foster a society that is more knowledgeable, engaged, and solution-focused. The process by which academic researchers transition from applying the CRA to embracing CJ can be outlined in several steps, as derived from our participant interviews:

1. Selection of Research: Researchers begin by selecting certain pieces of their work, which could be previously published in academic journals or presented at conferences.
2. Criteria for Public Sharing: The research chosen for public dissemination typically embodies elements of applied research and adheres to the principles of CRA.
3. Dual Motivation: Researchers, driven by both ethical obligations and a business-oriented motivation to market their expertise, actively plan to share their knowledge with the public and practitioners.
4. Adaptation for Public Comprehension: Participants either utilize journalistic skills to rewrite and adapt their research papers, or they rely on media editors for this task. The goal in both scenarios is to produce a journalistic version that is simplified and understandable to a general audience through mainstream media.
5. Focus on Practicality: The adapted content is structured to first highlight the business problems and then offer solutions, presented in a clear, bullet-point format for ease of understanding.
6. Regular Dissemination: Through consistent publications in practice-oriented magazines and mainstream media, the researchers contribute to the business community's knowledge, enabling them to learn and apply research-based solutions. This, in turn, helps businesses to progress and prepare for future challenges. This pathway, as described by our participants, offers a means to achieve constructiveness in academic research. By connecting academic research with constructive journalism, it extends its reach and impact on society.

The CRA and CJ are two distinct but complementary methodologies for disseminating academic research. Each one targets a different audience and uses different mediums. CRA is primarily rooted in academia, engaging scholarly communities and contributing to the body of knowledge within peer-reviewed journals. It is characterized by rigorous methodological frameworks, theoretical underpinnings, and emphasis on scholarly discourse. CRA is instrumental in advancing academic understanding and scholarly debates, providing a platform for in-depth exploration, critical analysis, and the development of new theories and concepts.

However, its reach is predominantly confined to academic circles, often limited by the specialized language and technical nature of scholarly publications, which may not be accessible or comprehensible to the general public or practitioners outside academia. On the other hand, CJ aims to bridge the gap between academia and the broader public by presenting research-based information in a clear, concise, and engaging manner. It utilizes various communication mediums such as articles, podcasts, documentaries, and multimedia platforms to disseminate research findings and facilitate public dialogue. CJ emphasizes the practical implications of research, translating complex academic concepts into actionable insights that can inform public policy, decision-making, and societal discourse. By incorporating storytelling elements, multimedia components, and accessible language, CJ enhances the reach and accessibility of academic research, fostering a more informed and engaged society.

The distinction between CRA and CJ highlights their inherent differences in scope and influence. CRA is essential in fostering academic discussions and developing theoretical frameworks, while CJ plays a crucial role in making knowledge accessible to the public and enhancing their understanding of complex issues. When employed in tandem, these approaches can have a mutually reinforcing impact, harnessing the strengths of both to bridge the divide between the scholarly world and society at large. In contrast to traditional academic dissemination methods, CJ leverages mainstream media and journalism outlets to communicate research findings to a broader audience. This approach seeks to translate complex scholarly work into accessible and engaging formats, making it relevant and understandable for both the general public and practitioners. By bridging the gap between academic research and societal needs, CJ ensures that scholarly insights and knowledge are not confined to academia but are disseminated more widely, fostering public awareness, understanding, and practical application. The integration of CRA and CJ offers a comprehensive strategy to maximize research impact. CRA establishes a solid foundation by ensuring academic rigor and contributing to scholarly discourse. CJ then repackages and disseminates these findings to a non-academic audience, including professionals in the field. This dual approach ensures the advancement of academic understanding while also informing practical applications. Moreover, by making research findings accessible to the general public, CJ fosters public engagement with academic knowledge, leading to a more informed and educated society. This combined approach recognizes the importance of academic rigor and effective communication, bridging the gap

between theory and practice, and ensuring that research findings are embraced and utilized by a wider range of stakeholders.

In the Arab world, CJ offers a practical and potentially beneficial approach to media. It aligns with the region's societal values, which emphasize solutions aimed at the public good. This resonates with evolving media ethics that prioritize public orientation, solution-focused narratives, and a forward-looking perspective, especially relevant in developing countries. In the Arab context, CJ presents a unique blend of cultural values and media ethics. It promotes a media landscape that not only informs but also inspires and facilitates societal progress. By focusing on solution-oriented stories, constructive media practices can significantly contribute to public discourse in a relevant and uplifting manner. This paradigm shift in media reporting, championed by CJ, is crucial in the Arab region, where societal challenges are often complex and multifaceted. The emphasis on solution-oriented journalism provides a framework for not only highlighting issues but also showcasing innovative solutions and inspiring collective action toward positive change.

5.5. A Comprehensive Framework for Applying CJ in The Arab Countries

Drawing upon the previous results, the following comprehensive conclusions can be articulated as a framework for applying CJ in the Arab region:

1. Based on the evidence gathered, it is reasonable to assert that CJ is not only applicable but potentially beneficial in regions with restricted freedoms, such as the Arab countries. This suitability is further reinforced by specific cultural, legal, and ethical facets inherent to these nations, which inherently prioritize social welfare within journalistic practice. Kibarabara (2023) emphasizes that the Western origins of CJ do not preclude its relevance and effectiveness in other global contexts. In Africa, for example, there have been successful CJ initiatives by both individuals and institutions in countries like Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda, and, to a limited extent, Egypt and other Middle Eastern nations. These initiatives, originally developed as solutions journalism, demonstrate the adaptability of CJ across diverse environments. In Ivory Coast, Anderson Diédri, the Chief Editor at the media outlet eburnietoday.com, has highlighted the significant role of

solutions journalism in addressing developmental challenges. Moreover, CJ is increasingly seen as a tool to combat pervasive negative narratives around war, corruption, conflict, and poverty. Achieving this requires a strategic emphasis on resource allocation and providing tailored training for local journalists, enabling them to effectively capture and convey the complexities of their respective local environments.

2. The implementation of CJ within the Arab region is feasible, whether through individual journalists or media organizations, by adhering to ethical journalism codes and corporate social responsibility (CSR) towards society. The analysis of interviews with economic journalists provides substantial evidence for this possibility. Interestingly, some journalists are already practicing aspects of CJ, albeit without explicitly labeling it as such. This is further corroborated by the collaborative efforts observed between academic researchers and journalists in the case study of Harvard Business Review Arabia. The essence of CJ lies in its commitment to ethical journalism, focusing on public, solution, and future-oriented reporting. These principles can be encapsulated as journalism with an interventionist and socially driven mindset. It's important to note that while “constructive journalism” lacks a universally accepted definition, its core remains a commitment to societal progress and intervention (Bro, 2018). Hanitzsch et al. (2014) discovered that journalists are inclined to adopt interventionist roles, especially in public media organizations and in contexts with constrained political freedoms, like in developing economies and transitional democracies. This aligns with the concept of “development journalism” (DJ), a term recognized in academic circles. DJ accentuates the media's role in societal development, a perspective increasingly explored in studies such as those by Allam & El Gody (2021). In the Arab world, post-colonial and during economic growth phases, DJ has been embraced by various administrations. This approach propels the media to motivate public engagement in diverse societal discussions, transitioning from a government-focused to an audience-centered approach (Wilkins et al., 2014). This conclusion underscores the potential and adaptability of CJ within the Arab media landscape, aligning it with the broader goals of societal advancement and responsible journalism.
3. The analysis of interviews with journalists from the studied countries in the Arab Middle East reveals two distinct approaches in news dissemination: traditional journalism and

CJ, also known as Solutions Journalism. This exploration examines their roles, particularly in the context of business news. Traditional journalism has long functioned as a "mirror of reality," reflecting societal challenges and providing a comprehensive overview of issues. This form of journalism tends to focus on problems, which can sometimes result in a sense of despair or overwhelm among audiences. In contrast, CJ goes beyond simply identifying problems. It aims to act as a catalyst for positive change by actively seeking and presenting solutions, while still upholding professionalism and relying on data-driven insights. The transition from traditional to CJ offers a notable opportunity for the media landscape. This change is characterized by the adoption of solutions-based reporting, which not only analyzes economic issues but also proposes actionable solutions. Journalists, in this paradigm, become agents of change. They collaborate with experts and economists to offer well-researched solutions grounded in factual data. Insights from interviews with journalists highlight the unique nature of Constructive Journalism and its potential to make a significant impact. As CJ gains momentum, it holds the potential to empower the Arab Middle East. It does this by not just exposing economic challenges but also by facilitating transformative change through the dissemination of practical, solution-oriented information. In summary, the integration of solutions journalism into business news represents a shift from passive reporting to proactive involvement. While traditional journalism provides an honest depiction of societal issues, CJ builds on this by offering viable solutions. This approach has the power to reshape events and bridge the gap between problem identification and resolution. In doing so, journalism transcends its traditional role and becomes a pivotal force for positive change within the region's business sector, contributing to a more informed and proactive society.

4. The research conducted within the scope of this thesis reveals that in the studied Middle Eastern Arab countries, there exist foundational elements within the codes of ethics of journalism organizations and regulatory frameworks that are conducive to supporting CJ practices. These ethical codes and regulations, deeply rooted in the journalistic landscape of these countries, provide a structural basis that can facilitate the adoption and effective implementation of CJ principles. These codes of ethics, often embedded in the ethos of media organizations and reinforced by national regulations, inherently support the key

tenets of CJ such as accuracy, responsibility, and public service. The alignment of these existing ethical guidelines with the objectives of CJ — like focusing on solutions, promoting social good, and fostering a future-oriented approach to journalism — suggests that the foundation for embracing CJ within these media landscapes is already in place. Therefore, the transition to or inclusion of CJ practices in these countries' journalistic routines may not require a radical overhaul of existing ethical frameworks but rather an adaptation or reemphasis of these principles to align more closely with the goals of CJ. This compatibility between existing journalistic ethics and the aspirations of CJ presents a promising opportunity for media organizations in these countries to evolve their reporting styles in a way that aligns with CJ's more constructive and solution-focused approach. In the Arab region, my content analysis of ethical media codes across Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, conducted for this thesis, indicated a pronounced emphasis on social commitments. This was observed despite the absence of explicit guidelines oriented towards solutions. Each of these countries displayed a distinct dedication to societal issues, underscoring the importance of such a commitment in cultivating a cohesive society. To investigate the roots of constructive journalism within the ethical framework of Arab media, I compared the codes of ethics in these focus countries against the international standards set by the International Federation of Journalists' (IFJ). The analysis revealed a compatibility ranging from 50% to over 90%. Therefore, the principles of Constructive Journalism, including truth-telling, contextual reporting, inclusivity, diversity, social empowerment, solutions, future orientation, and audience engagement, are present at least in the form of commitments within these codes. Furthermore, I examined the laws and regulations influencing the enforcement of these codes of ethics using a methodology I termed "Additional Terms and Value Pressure" (ATVP). This analysis indicated that, despite government-led terms, a majority of these regulations are aligned with social good. This finding suggests a strong potential for the application of Constructive Journalism in these countries. The robust social commitment reflected in the media codes of ethics in the Arab region can be attributed to the collective, familial, and tribal ethos prevalent in Arab communities, where the public good is highly esteemed, as Sidani (2018) notes. Additionally, in considering the cultural

contexts of the Arab and Islamic worlds, it is pertinent to acknowledge their inherent support for solutions that promote public welfare, as highlighted by Mohammed (2013). This cultural and ethical alignment presents a conducive environment for the growth and application of Constructive Journalism in the Arab region.

5. This research advocates for a gradual implementation of CJ in the Arab region, drawing inspiration from the successful rollout of IJ initiated by the Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ) in Jordan in 2004 (a non profit organization established to train Arab journalists on IJ. ARIJ's strategy effectively trained approximately one thousand journalists from over ten Arab countries over a decade. This process involved a series of carefully calibrated steps: Firstly, ARIJ adopted a flexible approach towards terminology, opting for less contentious labels like 'in-depth journalism' or 'investigative journalism' to suit the sensitivities of different countries. This tactic allowed for the introduction of IJ concepts without provoking resistance in countries with restricted press freedoms. Secondly, the training initially focused on journalists in four countries neighboring Jordan before expanding to a broader audience. This incremental expansion facilitated a more sustainable and impactful learning process. Another crucial strategy employed by ARIJ was initiating IJ on topics that were less politically sensitive, such as environmental, health, and economic issues. This approach enabled journalists to build their investigative skills in a relatively safe area before tackling more politically charged subjects. The results of this strategy were profoundly positive, leading to a substantial capacity building among journalists, who later confidently applied their skills to more politically sensitive topics (Bebawi, 2016; Bdoor & Alkhalidy, 2023). Applying these strategies to CJ could be even more straightforward, given that CJ is inherently less sensitive than IJ. I propose adapting ARIJ's successful model to CJ, maintaining flexibility in terminology—whether it be referred to as constructive journalism, solutions journalism, or development journalism—and initially focusing on non-political topics. This approach can facilitate the gradual introduction and acceptance of CJ in the Arab media landscape, potentially leading to a similar flourishing and widespread adoption as seen with IJ.
6. In this thesis, the focus is placed on applying CJ to business news within the context of Middle Eastern Arab countries. This decision is underpinned by various considerations.

Primarily, business news plays a pivotal role in public life due to its significant influence on societal issues while typically avoiding direct political entanglements. It also offers a broad spectrum of coverage, touching upon diverse societal aspects. Furthermore, the choice is informed by the identified deficiencies in the reporting of business news and the apparent lack of specialized training for Arab economic journalists, as discussed in chapter three (Alaqil & Lugo-Ocando, 2021). The potential for CJ to enhance the capabilities of economic journalists and journalism in the Arab world is particularly promising, given the enthusiasm observed among economic journalists during the in-depth interviews analyzed in the same chapter. A critical aspect of applying CJ in the economic domain involves considering cultural compatibility. Solutions effective in one environment may not necessarily align with the traditions, values, and sensibilities of another. Cultural acceptance, therefore, becomes a crucial factor determining the success of proposed solutions. This is evident from a participant's perspective, highlighting the diverse cultural contexts across Arab countries like Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, and Sudan, and the challenges in proposing universally applicable solutions. Additionally, the economic diversity within the Arab Middle East presents unique challenges for CJ. The disparity in economic conditions – ranging from countries experiencing stability and prosperity to those facing crises, instability, or poverty – significantly influences the nature and depth of solution-focused journalism. As one participant noted, economic reporting in affluent countries like the Emirates or Saudi Arabia differs markedly from that in countries dealing with economic crises or instability. As practitioners of CJ venture into the realm of business and economic reporting in this region, their work transcends conventional reporting. It becomes an exploration into how sociocultural norms, economic circumstances, and the communication of solutions interplay. The receptiveness or resistance of each society to change shapes how CJ narratives are crafted and presented. The essence of the solutions offered through journalism must adeptly navigate through the complex tapestry of societal expectations, economic realities, and cultural values. This delicate balancing act is essential for CJ to resonate and be effective in the diverse contexts of the Arab Middle East.

7. In the complex and rapidly evolving Arab Middle East, CJ could be a beacon of hope for transforming the narrative in business news. This approach is particularly relevant given

the region's intricate socio-economic challenges. Insights from respondents in this study highlight both the potential advantages and obstacles in implementing CJ within the Arab milieu. A notable perspective shared by an economic journalist for the study indicates the applicability of CJ in the Arab context, where journalists can actively engage in providing solutions rather than merely highlighting problems. Countries like Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon have endured significant conflicts and social unrest, underscoring the importance of CJ in these settings. A journalist from the UAE pointed out the country's proactive approach in dealing with issues and conflicts. This perspective showcases the UAE positioning itself as a global model in high technology and solution-oriented approaches. The essence of CJ is rooted in innovation and adaptability, qualities that are crucial in the diverse and varied landscape of the Arab Middle East. The unique challenges and perspectives of each society within the region necessitate tailored and innovative solutions. A one-size-fits-all approach is less likely to be effective given the varied socio-economic contexts across different Arab countries. CJ, with its focus on solution-based narratives, expert engagement, and innovative reporting strategies, empowers journalists to address pertinent issues and contribute positively to the development of Arab societies. As these societies continue to navigate through periods of change and transformation, CJ stands as a pivotal force in guiding them towards a more informed, progressive, and solution-oriented future, especially in the realm of business news. This approach not only aligns with the immediate needs of these societies but also lays the groundwork for a sustainable and forward-thinking journalistic practice in the region.

8. The research interviews with Arab journalists underscore the importance of prudence in the application of Constructive Journalism, particularly in the context of proposing solutions. The journalists interviewed for this research collectively emphasize the significance of grounding solution-oriented efforts in comprehensive opinion polls and expert consultations. Such a foundation not only enriches the proposed solutions but also ensures their contextual relevance and effectiveness. However, a critical challenge identified is the need to strike a delicate balance. There is a risk of solutions being perceived as preachy or propagandistic if they are not carefully presented. This concern highlights the importance of nuanced reporting that combines empathetic understanding

with solution-based narratives. In the realm of economic journalism, several initiatives exemplify this evolving approach. These include incorporating positive story angles, featuring public figures in discussions about developmental progress, and steering clear of sensationalism. The use of influencers and bloggers is also increasingly significant, as it helps to disseminate constructive narratives more broadly. This approach is most effective when it is anchored in research-based solutions, expert analysis, and specialized insights, mirroring the depth and rigor typically found in research papers and specialized programs. A key aspect of offering solutions in journalistic stories is the avoidance of "drumming," a term used in the Arab context to describe insincere or hypocritical journalism. Equally important is to steer clear of a preaching tone. In some Arab societies, there is a skepticism towards figures who appear to be lecturing or pushing a particular agenda. The preference, as indicated by the interviews, is for modest experts who carefully and thoughtfully communicate solutions. Therefore, in the application of Constructive Journalism within the Arab world, especially in business news, it is crucial to navigate these cultural nuances. Journalists must balance the delivery of well-researched, expert-backed solutions with a presentation style that is perceived as genuine, respectful, and devoid of any hidden agendas. This approach will resonate more deeply with audiences, fostering a constructive and informed public discourse.

9. The incorporation of CJ techniques in economic reporting is a crucial aspect of transforming news narratives into catalysts for actionable change. This approach is characterized by skillfully integrating solutions into narratives, simplifying complex economic concepts, and serving as an effective mediator between expert knowledge and public comprehension. The emphasis is on strategically embedding practical solutions within articles and reports. Journalists, through this method, subtly interweave practical solutions into their stories, ensuring that these solutions are communicated in a manner that is both accessible and engaging for the audience. This nuanced form of reporting acts as a conduit, bridging the gap between intricate economic theories and tangible, everyday applications. By doing so, journalists fulfill a pivotal role as intermediaries who translate expert knowledge into understandable and relatable information for the general public. This function is not just about relaying information; it's about contextualizing and presenting it in a way that resonates with and is actionable for the audience. Furthermore,

the study sheds light on the impact of constructive journalism on decision-makers. Journalists, in their role as mediators, are instrumental in channeling solution-focused insights to influential individuals and entities. This process involves not just reporting on expert analyses and practical solutions but also framing them in a way that influences informed decision-making. Such a dynamic underscores the power of journalism to not only inform but also to shape policy and decisions by presenting well-researched, solution-oriented perspectives to those in authority. In essence, constructive journalism in the economic domain is about more than reporting; it's about fostering a dialogue between experts, policymakers, and the public, with journalists playing a central role in this interchange. Through this approach, journalism transcends its traditional boundaries and becomes a key player in driving positive, informed, and pragmatic changes in the economic sphere.

10. In the Arab world, the application of CJ is met with the formidable challenges of political issues and deep-seated polarization. The media landscape in this region is intricately entangled in complex political dynamics, often leading to content that is heavily influenced, if not controlled, by various political entities. This influence of polarization extends beyond political discourse, infiltrating economic and military reporting, and poses a significant hurdle for journalists committed to unbiased and constructive reporting in the realm of business and economics. Amidst this environment of political unrest and complexity, there is a growing demand among audiences for journalism that not only reports on issues but also provides innovative and transformative solutions that go beyond traditional political narratives. This expectation encompasses not just political, but also economic and social issues, challenging journalists to strike a fine balance. They are tasked with offering practical and constructive solutions while avoiding oversimplified or radical proposals for change. When dealing with political content, the task of suggesting solutions becomes increasingly complex, particularly in countries like Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Egypt, where political challenges are pervasive. For journalists in the Arab Middle East endeavoring to adhere to the principles of Constructive Journalism, especially in economic reporting, these political and polarizing challenges are front and center. They must navigate these waters with a high degree of journalistic integrity, careful selection of sources, and a creative approach to presenting solutions.

This approach is crucial to address the region's unique challenges effectively and to fulfill the role of CJ in fostering informed and solution-oriented discourse in the face of political complexities.

11. The topic of specialization within the context of CJ is explored, particularly in relation to its application in business news reporting in the Arab Middle East. The question arises whether CJ should be adopted gradually by a select group of specialized and trained journalists or integrated more broadly across all newsroom personnel. This consideration of specialization is a critical point of discussion, given the unique requirements and challenges of implementing constructive or solutions journalism in this specific journalistic field. The economic journalists interviewed for this study recognized the potential and practicality of CJ, but some pointed out the difficulties in incorporating it into the routine reporting practices of all journalists. They proposed having a dedicated group of specialized journalists within their teams who are specifically trained in CJ techniques. This suggestion is in line with the strategies recommended by The Solutions Journalism Network in their learning toolkits (The Solutions Journalism Network, 2023). According to these guidelines, solutions-based journalism can be optimally implemented either by equipping the entire news team with the necessary training for integrating it into their regular reporting or by nurturing a subset of specialized journalists within the team who focus exclusively on this type of journalism. This dual approach acknowledges the distinct challenges and opportunities that CJ presents, particularly in the business news sector of the Arab region. The study's participants also emphasized the importance of specialization in media. They advocated for journalists who possess specialized knowledge and expertise, especially considering the demands of solutions journalism. This form of journalism requires a comprehensive understanding of various domains to effectively propose and scrutinize potential solutions. The call for specialization aligns with the incremental approach adopted in investigative journalism, where select journalists were intensively trained and prepared to become pivotal figures and leaders within their media organizations. Thus, the thesis highlights a strategic consideration in the implementation of CJ in the Arab Middle East: whether to broadly integrate CJ principles across all newsroom practices or to foster a specialized group of journalists who are specifically trained and focused on solutions-oriented reporting. This decision is

crucial in effectively navigating the complex landscape of business news in the region and ensuring the successful adoption and impact of CJ.

12. Training in Constructive and solutions-based journalism is a crucial element in the successful implementation of CJ. As highlighted in the introduction of this thesis, the transformative journey of Rwandan journalists, who played a significant role in the reconstruction of their country through CJ, was largely facilitated by comprehensive training in these methodologies (McIntyre & Sobel, 2018). For effective CJ, especially in the field of business news, journalists should initially receive training in specialized topics like data collection and statistical analysis (Hallak, 2017). This foundational knowledge is essential for understanding and accurately reporting on economic issues. Beyond technical skills, training should also focus on instilling a commitment to ethical journalism and social responsibility. Colero (2014) suggests that this can be achieved by training journalists to align with universal values and principles that emphasize responsibility and care, traits that are foundational for impactful journalism. Additionally, according to Loizzo et al. (2017), training journalists in their constructive role is vital. They advocate for the adoption of the Journalism for Social Change (JSC) paradigm, which emphasizes the journalist's role in addressing social issues positively. Mastery of JSC, they argue, can be facilitated through online educational platforms, creating a global sphere of learning. This approach enables journalists worldwide to gain skills in solution-oriented journalism and storytelling that aims to drive positive societal change. The availability of CJ training is increasingly accessible through online platforms offered by international organizations. The Bonn Institute and the Constructive Institute at Aarhus University are notable examples. The latter provides an annual fellowship for media professionals, playing a key role in promoting CJ practices globally (Lough & McIntyre, 2021). Similarly, the Solutions Journalism Network (SJM) has been instrumental in advancing this field. Before its inception, the founders of SJM utilized various methods to highlight societal challenges. Currently, SJM offers workshops, funding support, and online training for educators, journalists, and other relevant stakeholders (Powers & Curry, 2019). In summary, the field of journalism is experiencing a paradigm shift towards more constructive, solutions-oriented reporting. This shift is marked by an increasing focus on training programs that equip journalists with the skills

necessary to produce journalism that not only informs but also contributes to positive societal change.

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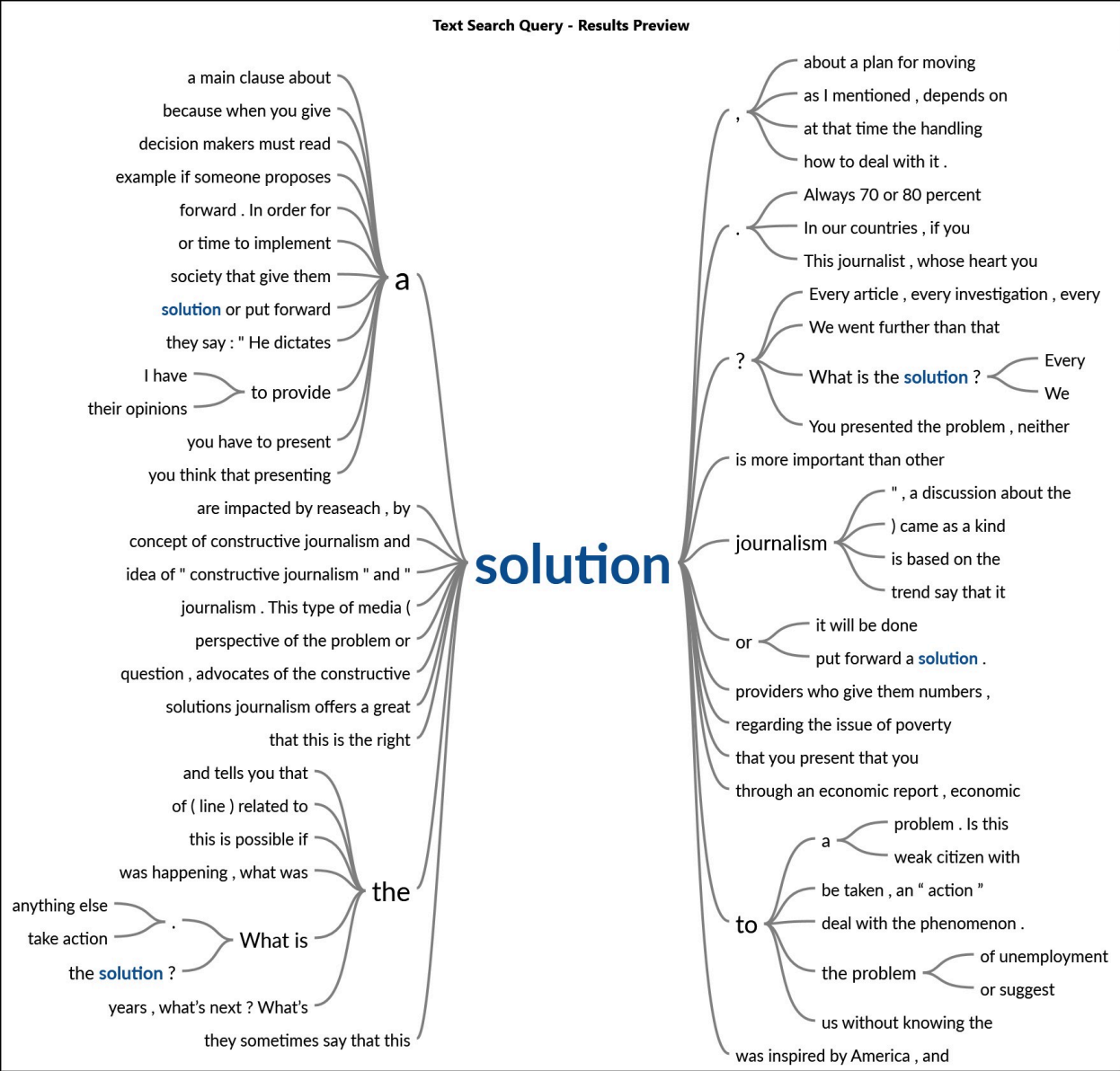
7. Appendices

Figures

Appendix A. Highest frequency in the wording count and focus of the economic journalists from the Arab Region- data analysis, Chapter 3.



Appendix B, Word Tree of data analysis, Chapter 3.



Appendix C, Words conceptualization. Data analysis- Chapter-3



Tables

JORDAN

Table A 1. Jordan's Codes of Ethics against the IFJs Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists

CJ Principles	IFJ Codes	Jordan	
		The Jordanian Press Association (JPA) code	Matching score
Truth Telling	Truth Telling	Individuals and people have the liberty to express and retrieve truthful information. (Principles and objectives)	1
Inclusiveness and Diversity	Freedom to collect Information	Journalists can access information, news, and statistics that appeal to people from various sources and analyze, publish, and comment on them. Article (7)	1
	Plagiarism avoidance	Journalists must respect the literary rights of publishing and intellectual property, recognize the rights of others and not quote any work from others or colleagues in the profession without indicating its source. Article (6)	1
	Fair methods to obtain information and photos	Not obtaining information or disseminating it using fraudulent methods and illegal means. Article (12)	1

	Privacy respect	Journalists must respect the reputation of families, families, and individuals and the confidentiality of citizens 'affairs, per international principles. And the ethics of journalistic work and the laws in force in the Kingdom. Article (11)	1
	Hate speech and bias avoidance.	Journalists must work to affirm national unity, call for social solidarity, and avoid harmful and offensive references to a person's tribe, color, belief, gender, origin, or any illness or disability, both physical and mental. Discrimination can only be mentioned if this is to achieve the national interest. Article (5) Note: (Scored partially due to the exception of the national interest for discrimination).	0.5
Empowerment	Defamation libel, and slander avoidance	Every person is eligible to respect of his personality, family, and healthy life and his correspondence, defamation of them or accusations of falsehood or insult, slander, and slander, publishing their private secrets and taking pictures of them by any means for people without their consent in private places are considered behavioral violations prohibited by law. Article (11/A)	1
	Sources secrecy	The journalist does not disclose his confidential news sources to people or colleagues. Article (7)	1
	Solidarity with colleagues,	Fellowship in the family of journalism has legal rights based on defending the honor and dignity of the profession. Article (15). Note:(Scored partially due to not mentioning the meaning of solidarity)	0.5
	Fairness in dissemination and commentary of news and	Not to resort to exaggerating coverage of news and writing reports, distort the data they receive, or make changes in the documents that reach them. To increase their credibility, they must use official	1

Audience Engagement	information	documents and publications, resort to multiple sources, hold meetings with the persons concerned directly, and use the registration if necessary. Article (10/D)	
	Accuracy and error correction	They are obligated to correct what has been previously published if it appears an error is found. Article (9/B)	1
Contextual Reporting	Fact reporting	<p>The mission of journalism requires accuracy and objectivity, and its practice requires ensuring that information and news are correct before publication. In this context, journalists take into account the following:</p> <p>A- Not to publish unsubstantiated, deceptive, or inaccurate information or focus advertising purposes, including pictures, articles, and comments. A clear line must be drawn between the truth, comment, opinion, and news. Article (9/A)</p>	1
	Refraining from acting as an ancillary of the security services or police.	NA	0
	Conflict of interest avoidance	The press message is sacred and not subject to opportunism, personal exploitation, slander, intentional defamation, or criminal charges. It is not based on evidence or fabrication of statements and attributing them to others. Article (12)	1
	Keeping independence	The press message is sacred and not subject to opportunism, personal exploitation, slander, intentional defamation, or criminal charges. It is not based on evidence or fabrication of statements and attributing	0.5

		them to others. Article (12) Note: (Scored partial due to not mentioning the meaning of being independent).	
Solutions & Future Reporting	N/A	N/A	0
Enforcement Body	Reinforced by self-regulatory bodies with no government Interference	All workers in the various means of press, media, and mass communication are guided by it and abide by what was stated. This charter is considered part of the public order, and any violation of it is considered a behavioral violation and behavior that undermines the honor of the profession. (Introduction) The editor-in-chief of any newspaper publication shall assume his professional duties and duties stipulated by law, and he must fully supervise the newspaper in which he works; otherwise, he shall have failed to perform his professional duties. Article (16) Note: (Scored with no match due to inciting government interference to enforce).	0
IFJ Score			16
Country's Codes scores			12.5
Matching %			%78.12

Note. A full match with IFJ code is given 1 point; a partial match is given 0.5 points; no matching is given 0

Table A 2 . Jordan Additional Terms and Values

IFJ Code of Ethics	Jordan			
	Additional terms by The Jordanian Regulations	Cultural term	Professional	Political Terms
Truth Telling	To consider the boundaries set by laws in reporting. Any breach of this will be liability and misconduct. JPA (Article 2).	0	0	1
	Criticizing The King or the Crown prince, as well as the guardian of the throne, causes imprisonment up to 3 years. Penal Code (article 195)	0	0	1
	Degrading nationalism or causing any rationalism or sectarianism faces imprisonment with hard work—Penal Code (article 130).	1	0	1
	Not to publish any report on an ongoing court case without court authorization, except for the corruption cases. JPA (Article 3)	1	0	1
	Not publishing any news could cause damage to society's principles or incite disobeying the authorities or the constitution. JPA (Article 4)	1	0	1
	Not to publish news on a case still under trial by a court unless the court authorizes it. Press & Publishing Law (Article 38)	1	0	1
Impartiality in commentary and	Balance, objectivity, and keeping the society united in reporting. Press & Publishing Law (Article 7)	1	1	0

dissemination of information and news.	To avoid reporting on crimes and scandals and not using foul language and sensational reporting. Adding to that is not to encourage and publish news of charlatan's myths JPA (Article 10)	1	1	0
Accuracy and error correction	The right and duty to correct inaccurate reporting and ban the non-Jordanian media for two weeks if not complying. Press & Publishing Law (Articles 27,28,29)	1	1	0
Hate speech and bias avoidance	To give special consideration to fair reporting on children and women. JPA (Articles 13, 14)	1	1	0
	An exception is allowed to discriminate reporting when this is in favor of the national interest. JPA (Article 5)	1	0	1
Defamation, Libel, and slander avoidance	Imprisonment for not less than three months or a fine of 5,000 to 20,000 dinars (about US\$7,052 to \$28,209), or both penalties. Cybersecurity law (Article 15).	1	1	1
	The charges should be dropped if the libel and slander are proven true. Penal Code (Article 198)	0	1	0

Reinforced by self-regulatory bodies with no government Interference.	JPA Enforced by the Law.	0	0	1
Total Terms Added in Each Category		10	6	9
Total Terms	Jordan	25		

LEBANON

Table B 1. Lebanese Codes of Ethics against the IFJs Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists.

CJ Principles	IFJ Codes	Lebanon	
		Journalists' Pact for Strengthening Civil Peace in Lebanon (Ministry of Information and UNDP)	Matching score
Truth Telling	Truth Telling	Telling the truth to the public is the actual goal. Guiding Principles (C/4).	1
Inclusiveness and Diversity	Freedom to collect Information	Journalists have the right to receive information from multiple sources. Article (6)	1
	Plagiarism avoidance	Journalists shall act professionally in "associating" already published content to their origin and referring to the origin of every tiny fragment of information. "Associating" information with unknown origin shall not be published unless the information source is inaccessible. Article (9)	1
	Fair methods to obtain information and photos	Journalists shall not use illegal means to gather documents, pictures, news, or other information. Article (7)	1

	Privacy respect	Respect personal privacy. Guiding Principles (B/3)	1
	Hate speech and bias avoidance.	The media shall not encourage ethnic bias and abstain from directly or indirectly affronting people's dignity, intruding in personal or private affairs, or damaging them. Article (3)	1
Empowerment	Defamation libel, and slander avoidance	Media outlets shall minimize errors or avoid expressions of discrimination, defamation, libel, slander, or bias (except for content related to the Arab-Israeli dispute). Article (13) Note: (Scored partially due to the exception of the Arab-Israeli conflict).	0.5
	Sources secrecy	Protect information sources. Guiding Principles (B/4)	1
	Solidarity with colleagues,	NA	0
Audience Engagement	Fairness in dissemination and commentary of news and information	Journalists shall work very sincerely while “associating” already printed content to their sources and mentioning the origin of every fragment of information. Article (7)	1
	Accuracy and error correction	Ensure accuracy, response, and readjusting. Guiding Principles (B/1)	1

Contextual Reporting	Fact reporting	Discern facts, comments, and opinions. Guiding Principles (B/2)	1
	Refraining from acting as an ancillary of the security services or police.	NA	0
	Conflict of interest avoidance	Avoid bribery and conflicts of interest. Guiding Principles (B/7)	1
	Keeping independence	A journalist shall not support any political ideology or use their influence to publicize or help any idea that directly or indirectly promotes any political ideology. Article (17)	1
Solutions & Future Reporting	N/A	N/A	0
Enforcement Body	Reinforced by self-regulatory bodies with no government Interference	The media houses shall practice self-commitments with the help of the Press Syndicate, the National Council for Audiovisual Media, the Ministry of Information, and the Editors' Syndicate To the implementation efforts. Through a disciplinary body. (Implementation)	1
IFJ Score			16
Country's Codes scores			13.5
Matching %			84.37%

Note. A full match with IFJ code is given 1 point; a partial match is given 0.5 points; no matching is given 0

Table B 2. Lebanon Additional Terms and Values

IFJ Code of Ethics	Lebanon			
	Additional terms by Lebanese Regulations	Cultural term	Professional	Political Terms
Truth Telling	Prohibit publishing any unauthorized information from court cases and parliamentary debates. Inhibit broadcasting any unauthorized corruption cases without the directorate response. Adding to these is not to publish any information or photos against the public ethics or norms; any violations would cause the imprisonment of up to two months or up to a 2000 LL fine. Press & Publishing Law (Article 56).	1	0	1
	Newspapers not licensed in political coverage shall not criticize any political party or person nor promote anyone or face a penalty of up to 1000 LL and suspend the licenses for up to three years. Press & Publishing Law (Article 58)	0	0	1
Fact reporting	False reporting with bad intentions will be published with up to one-month imprisonment and up to a 2000 LL fine. Press & Publishing Law (Article 60)	0	1	0
Accuracy and error correction	Correcting false reporting is mandatory; otherwise will be fined by Article (64) will be fined to pay 100 LL. Press & Publishing Law (Article 51)	1	1	0

Hate speech and bias avoidance.	Harming public unity, inciting the sectarian conflict, insulting religion, or insulting another country's head of state Will cause a penalty of up to 5000 LL. and up to one-year imprisonment. Press & Publishing Law (Article 62)	1	0	1
	Imprisonment between 6 months to two years and a 400 thousand LL. Fine for contempt toward another country's officials. Penal Code (Article 292)	0	0	1
Defamation, Libel, and slander avoidance	A slander's punishment is between 2 months to two years in prison if committed against the head of the state—one year in prison if against military officials, court judges, government offices, and employees. Penal Code (Article 386)	0	0	1
	Slander and libel against any individual will be punished by up to 3 months imprisonment or a penalty of up to 400 thousand LL. Penal Code (Article 584)	1	0	1
	In the case of slander against the head of the state, any other slander against a government staff can be dropped if it relates to their job and is proved correct. Penal Code (Article 387)	0	1	0
Reinforced by self-regulatory bodies with no government interference.	The press syndicate heads the disciplinary council with legal and professional members. Punishments start from "blame, suspension for two years or write off from the syndicate." Press & Publishing Law (Article 99)	0	1	1
Total		4	4	7

Terms Added in Each Category				
Total Terms	Lebanon	15		

THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)

Table C 1. UAE Codes of Ethics against the IFJs Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists.

CJ Principles	IFJ Codes	UAE	
		The UAE Journalists Association (JA) code	Matching score
Truth Telling	Truth Telling	Honor the fact and the privilege of the citizens to have an approach to truthful and accurate information. Article (1)	1
Inclusiveness and Diversity	Freedom to collect Information	Liberty and honesty in gathering and distributing stories. Article (2)	1
	Plagiarism avoidance	Critical professional violations include plagiarism and ill-intended elucidation of information. Article (20)	1
	Fair methods to obtain information and photos	A journalist should only lawfully obtain documents, photos, and information from the sources. Article (4)	1
	Privacy respect	The fundamental principle in the profession is respecting privacy. Article (8)	1

	Hate speech and bias avoidance.	Journalists shall be watchful to discern traps and inhibit linking themselves in media content related to ethnic discrimination, gender, linguistic, belief, or national and social backgrounds. Article (12)	1
Empowerment	Defamation libel, and slander avoidance	Denigration, insult, criticism, vilification, accusation, and taking bribes for publishing or concealing information are all treacherous professional infringements. Article (20)	1
	Sources secrecy	If needed, the journalist must preserve the anonymity of the source. If circumstances dictate, journalists name his/her source without the source's approval. Article (9)	1
	Solidarity with colleagues,	A journalist should always acknowledge an opponent while publishing his printed content. Article (21)	0.5
Audience Engagement	Fairness in dissemination and commentary of news and information	Broadcasting data and news regarding pictures must be analyzed for authenticity, and the essential information must not be changed by editing. Article (5)	1
	Accuracy and error correction	Journalists accept to correct any published content that has proven erroneous and damaging to others. Article (6)	1
Contextual Reporting	Fact reporting	A journalist should print facts from his known informers and not twist the truth, disguise any genuine and basic information or fake documents. Article (3)	1

	Refraining from acting as an ancillary of the security services or police.	NA	0
	Conflict of interest avoidance	The content of edited content should remain free from any personal bias of journalists or business interests, as well as from the interest of any external third parties. Article (11)	1
	Keeping independence	A journalist should not make himself a part of the story while covering news. In sourcing information, a journalist should only work as a journalist. Article (23)	1
Solutions & Future Reporting	N/A	N/A	0
Enforcement Body	Reinforced by self-regulatory bodies with no government Interference	Self-regulated and Editors in Chief. Articles (2-11).	1
IFJ Score			16
Country's Codes scores			14.5
Matching %			90.06%

Table C 2. UAE Additional Terms and Values.

IFJ Code of Ethics	UAE			
	Additional Terms by UAE Regulation	Social	Professional	Political
Truth Telling	Not to criticize the state's president and the emirates' rulers. UAE Press & Publishing Law. Article (70)	0	0	1
	Not to incite against or harm Islam, the political system, the state interests, and social foundations. UAE Press & Publishing Law. Article (71)	1	0	1
	Prohibit journalism from reporting any issues that could harm the public manners, minors, and spreading destructive principles in society. UAE Press & Publishing Law. Article (72)	1	0	1
	It is banned from reporting crime incitement, causing societal trouble and division. UAE Press & Publishing Law. Article (73)	1	0	1
	Not to publish any report that can harm Arab states, friend Islamic countries, and other friend states. UAE Press & Publishing Law. Article (76)	0	0	1
	Prohibit reports of injustice on Arab culture and history. UAE Press & Publishing Law. Article (77)	1	0	1
Fairness in dissemination and	Fine and imprisonment for applauding any program or ideas that could incite disgust, riot, sectarianism, racism, prejudice the public order and morals or	1	1	1

commentary of news and information	damage the social peace or national unity. UAE Cyber Crimes Decree, Article (24)			
	Not publishing any report could harm the local currency and the economy. UAE Press & Publishing Law. Article (81)	0	0	1
	Not to publish without considering all parties of the subject's opinions. UAE Press & Publishing Law. Article (85)	1	1	0
Fact reporting	Whoever uses an internet webpage or any computer network or information technology gadgets to publish data, news, statements, or rumors with resolve to harm the position, status, or stature of the government or any of its organization or its president or vice-president or make sarcasm. UAE Cyber Crimes Decree Article (29)	1	0	1
Accuracy and error correction	Correcting any published error, a punishment of 1 year in prison and a fine if not complying is mandatory. UAE Press & Publishing Law (Article 42).	1	1	0
Privacy respect	Not to publish private information that can cause harm to any person's business, reputation, or fortune, even if it is true. UAE Press & Publishing Law. Article (79)	1	0	1
	Fine and imprisonment for any invasion of another person's privacy in the following ways: snooping, interruption, recording, transferring, transmitting, or revelation of discussion, interaction, or audiovisual content. In addition, taking photos of others or making, communicating, revealing, reproducing, or backing up digital images. Broadcasting information, digital images or photographs, footage, opinions, testimonials, or data, even if genuine. UAE Cyber Crimes Decree. Article (21)	1	0	1

Hate speech and bias avoidance.	Imprisonment and fine for upholding or admiring any content or views that incite disgust, riot, bigotry, sectarianism, damage societal harmony or national unanimity, or prejudice the public order and values. UAE Cyber Crimes Decree. Article (24)	1	1	0
Defamation, Libel, and slander avoidance	Imprisonment and a fine of these two punishments for anyone who abuses or accuses another person of a matter of which he shall be subject to a sentence or being held in disdain by others. If defamation or insult is perpetrated against a public officer or servant while serving or due to his work, this shall be considered an igniting factor of the offense. UAE Cyber Crimes Decree. Article (20)	1	1	1
	Prison plus a fine for those who commit slander or defamation will be maximized for publishing in journalism. The UAE Penal Code. Article (372)	0	0	1
	If slander toward a government employee, the charges may be dropped if the case is proven correct and relevant to his/her job. The UAE Penal Code. Article (375)	0	1	1
Total Terms Added in Each Category		12	6	14
Total Terms	32			

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA (KSA)

Table D 1. KSA Codes of Ethics against the IFJs Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists.

CJ Principles	IFJ Codes	KSA	
		Saudi Journalists Association's Code Of Honor For Saudi Journalists (CHSJ).	Matching score
Truth Telling	Truth Telling	Ensure the society's and its members' right to know and discover the facts and journalists' privilege to access information. Rights (1).	1
Inclusiveness and Diversity	Freedom to collect Information	To elevate media freedom and reinforce the transparency principle and the right to freedom of expression such that it does not conflict with the fundamental religious and national principles, influence the country's security or public order, or serve the interest of a foreign country in conflict with the national interest. General Principles (1). Note: (Scored partially due to the exceptions made)	0.5
	Plagiarism avoidance	A journalist shall not transmit any text from another source unless the source is indicated and approved following the provisions of the intellectual property laws. Duties and Obligations (7)	1
	Fair methods to obtain information and photos	To ensure honesty and integrity are observed in obtaining the media materials, and refrain from disclosing the facts or exchanged communication unless prior permission is obtained from the competent authorities, being aware of how important it is for the public interest and the confidentiality and related arrangements it entails. General Principles (4).	1

	Privacy respect	A journalist shall not intrude into people's personal lives, show respect for privacy and people's choices as long as it does not conflict with the public interest, deny a right, or harm others. Duties and Obligations (4)	1
	Hate speech and bias avoidance.	Not to publish content that leads to hatred, sectarian, racial, or regional discrimination, undermines national unity, provokes strife, spreads discord among citizens, or violates public morality. General Principles (2).	1
Empowerment	Defamation libel, and slander avoidance	Not to violate public morality. General Principles (2).	1
	Sources secrecy	Protect the identity of the sources providing information, respect the confidentiality of a journalist's sources as long as they are accurate, and refrain from forcing him/her to disclose them. Rights (2)	1
	Solidarity with colleagues,	NA	0
Audience Engagement	Fairness in dissemination and commentary of news and information	Not to publish materials that incite violence, extremism, or terrorism. General Principles (3). Fair and objective standards in transmitting information in any media or presenting facts from all parties. Duties and Obligations (1)	1
	Accuracy and error correction	A journalist shall observe honesty and accurate, fair, and objective standards in transmitting information in any media or presenting facts from all parties, ensuring their accuracy. Whenever a journalist cannot ascertain the information or its source, he/she must indicate that. A journalist shall clearly admit and apologize for any mistake and correct it	1

		professionally, transparently, and honestly. Duties and Obligations (1-2)	
Contextual Reporting	Fact reporting	In his work, a journalist shall clearly distinguish between news and opinion. Duties and Obligations (3)	1
	Refraining from acting as an ancillary of the security services or police.	NA	0
	Conflict of interest avoidance	To avoid any risk of a conflict of interests. General Principles (5).	1
	Keeping independence	To ensure journalists are independent voices, it is made clear to the public whether the journalist represents an official or private entity or any affiliation to avoid any risk of a conflict of interests. General Principles (5)	1
Solutions & Future Reporting	N/A	N/A	0
Enforcement Body	Reinforced by self-regulatory bodies with no government Interference	Self-commitment. Introduction.	1
IFJ Score			16
Country's Codes scores			13.5

Matching %		84.37%
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Table D 2. KSA Additional Terms and Values.

IFJ Code of Ethics	KSA			
	Additional Terms by KSA Regulations	Social	Professional	Political
Truth Telling	Prohibit from publishing anything against Islamic rules and government laws. Refrain from dividing the unity of people or harming national security matters. Not to publish court cases without authorization. Regulation for Publication, Article (9)	1	0	1
	Not to publish anything could harm the national currency, hurt the kingdom's economic reputation, or disturb the markets. The executive order of the regulation for publication, Article (73)	0	0	1
	Not publishing any material that misleads or deceives consumers. The executive order of the regulation for publication, Article (73)	1	0	0
	Up to five years of imprisonment and up to 3,000,000 SAR fine for the organization, creation, broadcasting, or storage of materials disturbing religious values, public order, public morals, or privacy using information network or computer. Anti-Cyber Crime Law, Article (6).	1	0	1
	Publishing any content that could harm Islam or state laws is prohibited, and any content against the national interstate and security could incite hatred or dissent in society. The Executive Order for Electronic	1	0	1

	Publishing, Article (15)			
	Media content should obey public policies. Not to contempt Islamic symbols. Not to contempt the King and the crown prince, nor abuse the relations with other state friends. The Regulation for Audio Visual Media, Article (5)	1	0	1
Accuracy and error correction	Correct false news, you may face a fine of up to 500 SAR, plus shutting the publication down, and the journalist may face suspension from work. The Regulation for Publication, Article (35-38)	1	1	0
Privacy respect	Not to publish news or photos of people's private lives except to apply a court decision. The executive order for the regulation for publication, Article (73)	1	0	1
	Up to one-year imprisonment and up to 500,000 SAR fine for intruding into privacy through the misuse of camera-equipped mobile phones and the Like. Anti-Cyber Crime Law, Article (3).	1	0	1
Hate speech and bias avoidance	Not to use hate speech or incite sectarianism or threaten the stability of society. The Regulation for Audio Visual Media, Article (5)	1	1	1
Plagiarism avoidance	Protect the copyrights. The Regulation for Audio Visual Media, Article (5)	1	1	0
Defamation, Libel, and slander avoidance	Abstain from damaging the status and self-respect of Islamic scholars and public servants. Regulation for Publication, Article (9)	1	0	1
	Defamation and infliction of damage	1	1	0

	upon others through various Information technology devices are not allowed. Anti-Cyber Crime Law, Article (3).			
Keeping independence	Not accepting gifts or donations from anyone internally or externally before having the Ministry of Information consent. Regulation for Publication, Article (30)	1	1	0
Reinforced by self-regulatory bodies with no government Interference.	By Law	0	0	1
Total Terms Added in Each Category		13	5	10
Total Terms	28			

QATAR

Table E 1. Qatar Codes of Ethics against the IFJs Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists.

CJ Principles	IFJ Codes	Qatar	
		Code of Ethics of Al Jazeera Media Network	Matching score
Truth Telling	Truth Telling	Attempt to access the truth and present it in our dispatches, news bulletins, and programs plainly in a manner that leaves no doubt about its rationality and correctness.	1

		Article (2)	
Inclusiveness and Diversity	Freedom to collect Information	NA	0
	Plagiarism avoidance	NA	0
	Fair methods to obtain information and photos	NA	0
	Privacy respect	Respectably deal with our audiences..., and to individual privacies and public decorum. Article (3)	1
	Hate speech and bias avoidance.	Respectably deal with our audiences and attentively present every story or issue to broadcast a perfect, genuine, and flawless account while fully considering the feelings of crimes' affectees, persecution, battle, and disaster, their relatives, and our viewers, and individual privacies and public decorum. Article (3) Accept the variety in human civilization with all their cultures, races, beliefs, values, and intrinsic individualities to present impartial and accurate reflections of them. Article (6)	1
Empowerment	Defamation libel, and slander avoidance	NA	0

	Sources secrecy	Practice honesty in presenting the information and its origin while following the globally recognized norms regarding the rights of these information origin/sources. Article (8)	1
	Solidarity with colleagues,	Demonstrate solidarity with coworkers and support them when needed, especially during hostility and harassment faced frequently by journalists. Collaborate with Arab and international unions and associations of journalism to protect press liberty. Article (10)	1
Audience Engagement	Fairness in dissemination and commentary of news and information	Follow the journalistic norms of credibility, bravery, honesty, balance, fairness, freedom, and diversity, not showing bias to political or commercial interests above professional duties. Article (1) Present various sentiments and opinions without prejudice and preference. Article (5)	1
	Accuracy and error correction	Accept an error, quickly rectify it and certify it does not repeat. Article (7)	1
Contextual Reporting	Fact reporting	Adhere to the journalistic values of honesty, courage, fairness, balance, independence, credibility and diversity, giving no priority to commercial or political over professional consideration. Article (1) Endeavour to get to the truth and declare it in our dispatches, programmes and news bulletins unequivocally in a manner that leaves no doubt about its validity and accuracy. Article (2)	1

	Refraining from acting as an ancillary of the security services or police.	NA	0
	Conflict of interest avoidance	NA	0
	Keeping independence	Stick to the journalistic standards of credibility, truthfulness, balance, bravery, equality, freedom, and diversity, giving no bias to political or commercial interests above professional duties. Appreciate fair and honest media races without admitting it to influence our values of functioning adversely, and thereby having a “scoop” would not become an end in itself. Article (1)	1
Solutions & Future Reporting	N/A	N/A	0
Enforcement Body	Reinforced by self-regulatory bodies with no government Interference	Self-commitment. Introduction.	1
IFJ Score			16
Country’s Codes scores			10
Matching %			62.5%

Table E 2. Qatar Additional Terms and Values.

IFJ Code of Ethics	Qatar			
	Additional Terms by Qatari Regulations	Social	Professional	Political
Truth Telling	If any newspaper published false news or mistakes that could harm the public interest, the authority would ask the newspaper to correct it or face a ban on publication and distribution. The Publications and Publishing Law, Article (17)	0	0	1
	It is not allowed to broadcast any news reports that could incite to topple the political system, endanger national security, or any news about the national army. The Publications and Publishing Law, Article (47)	0	0	1
	It is not permitted to publish any content detrimental to the head of state or troublesome to the mutual relations with the neighboring Arab and aligned countries. The Publications and Publishing Law, Article (47)	0	0	1
	No one is allowed to publish content that may mock or disrespect any religion or its teachings, including any motivation of sectarian, racial, or religious trends. The Publications and Publishing Law, Article (47)	1	1	0
	Inhibit to publish any material that may harm the national currency or incite misperception about the state's economic conditions. The Publications and	0	0	1

	Publishing Law, Article (47)			
	Shall not publish; any content detrimental to ethics, individual self-respect, or personal freedom. The Publications and Publishing Law, Article (47)	1	1	0
	Shall not publish; Records of inquiries or court proceedings related to any person or their status unless allowed by a court. The Publications and Publishing Law, Article (47)	1	0	1
Fair methods to obtain information and photos	Getting illegal information or secretly recording people's private lives shall bring fines and imprisonment. The Penal Code, Article (333)	1	1	1
Fairness in dissemination and commentary of news and information	Violating social values or principles through an information network or information technology technique shall bring a fine of up to QR100,000 or imprisonment of up to three years or either of these penalties. Cybercrime Prevention Law, Article (8).	1	0	1
Fact reporting	Broadcasting fake information to compromise the state's safety, public order, or security domestically or harm the security of a foreign country by using information technology techniques set up or an internet webpage or any information network shall bring the person a sentence of up to three years and a fine up to QR500,000, or either of these penalties. Cybercrime Prevention Law, Article (6).	0	0	1
Accuracy and error correction	If any newspaper published false news or mistakes that could harm the public interest, the authority would ask the newspaper to correct it or face a ban on	0	1	1

	publication and distribution. The Publications and Publishing Law, Article (17)			
Privacy respect	An imprisonment and fine for publishing any information or photos about people's private lives, even if they were true. The Penal Code, Article (331)	1	0	1
	No one shall publish any content deleterious or bringing harm to a person's reputation, affluence, or brand name, either by slur or by blackmail, or otherwise taking away his work. Without authorization from the court, one shall not publish information about the default of businessmen, financial organizations, or banks. The Publications and Publishing Law, Article (47)	1	0	1
	An imprisonment and fine for publishing news about court cases, victims, or plaintiffs without authorization from the court. The Penal Code, Article (203)	1	0	1
	Broadcasting photos, audio, videos, or information about one's family or private life shall bring imprisonment or fine to the publisher, even if the same is true, or insults or slanders others. Cybercrime Prevention Law, Article (8).	1	0	1
Hate speech and bias avoidance	An imprisonment and fine for producing materials against the Islamic religion or any other religion that Islam recognizes. The Penal Code, Article (263)	1	0	1
Plagiarism avoidance	An imprisonment of up to three years for any plagiarism act for non-official documents and up to ten years for committing it on official documents. The Penal Code, Article (206)	0	1	1
Defamation, Libel, and	If any newspaper published any news that included defamation or slander to any person, the authority would ask the	1	1	0

slander avoidance	newspaper to correct it or face a ban on publication and distribution. The Media Law of Qatar, Article (18)			
	Publishing any content disparaging a public servant's performance in official duties is inhibited except written with good intentions and based on a justifiable persuasion in the public interest. Cybercrime Prevention Law, Article (8).	0	1	1
	An imprisonment and fine for publishing news, photos or video or audio recordings related to the sanctity of people's private or family life, even if the same is true, or insults or slanders others. Cybercrime Prevention Law, Article (8).	1	1	0
Total Terms Added in Each Category		12	8	16
Total Terms	36			

SYRIA

Table F 1. SYRIAN Codes of Ethics against the IFJs Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists.

CJ Principles	IFJ Codes	SYRIA	
		Syrian Journalists Union Code of Ethics	Matching score

Truth Telling	Truth Telling	<p>I pledge to objectivity in reporting and disseminating news and making the truth a respected right for the citizen to know as the primary duty of a journalist. Article (1)</p> <p>I pledge to uncover all kinds of corruption without any nepotism or discrimination. Article (5)</p>	1
Inclusiveness and Diversity	Freedom to collect Information	NA	0
	Plagiarism avoidance	NA	0
	Fair methods to obtain information and photos	<p>I pledge to objectivity in reporting and disseminating news. Article (1)</p> <p>I promise to adhere to the rules of good interview manners to objectively deliver a comprehensive overview of the case to the receiver. Article (4)</p>	1
	Privacy respect	I pledge to commit to our society's morals, traditions, and family bonds. Note: (Scored partially because it does not mention the privacy respect directly)	0.5
	Hate speech and bias avoidance.	<p>I pledge to deepen tolerance and unity and reject all forms of discrimination, biases, and fanaticism. Article (2)</p> <p>I pledge to protect children and minors from the risks of some media content that is against our society's values. Article (7)</p>	1
Empowerment	Defamation libel, and slander avoidance	I promise to adhere to the rules of good interview manners to objectively deliver a comprehensive overview of the case to the receiver. Article (4) Note: (Scored partial because it does not mention the defamation, slander, and libel directly)	0.5

	Sources secrecy	NA	0
	Solidarity with colleagues.	I pledge solidarity to defend my colleagues' legitimate professional rights. Article (9)	1
Audience Engagement	Fairness in dissemination and commentary of news and information	I pledge to objectivity in reporting and disseminating news. Article (1)	1
	Accuracy and error correction	I pledge to introduce reality objectively. Article (8). Note: (Scored partial because it does not mention the error correction)	0.5
Contextual Reporting	Fact reporting	I pledge to introduce reality objectively. Article (8)	1
	Refraining from acting as an ancillary of the security services or police.	NA	0
	Conflict of interest avoidance	NA	0
	Keeping independence	I pledge to uncover all kinds of corruption without any nepotism or discrimination. Article (5). Note: (Scored partially because it does not mention being independent directly)	0.5

Solutions & Future Reporting	N/A	N/A	0
Enforcement Body	Reinforced by self-regulatory bodies with no government Interference	Reinforced by The Journalists' Union, by the Media Law. Article (4)	0
IFJ Score			16
Country's Codes scores			8
Matching %			50%

Table F 2. SYRIA Additional Terms and Values.

IFJ Code of Ethics	SYRIA			
	Additional Terms by Syrian Regulations	Social	Professional	Political
Truth Telling	Not to publish anything that can harm national security, the army, and secret intelligence services. The Media Law, Article (12)	0	0	1
Freedom to collect Information	Journalists can search for information, analyze, comment, and disseminate without interference or bias. The Media Law Article (9)	0	1	0
Fact reporting	Providing false news without the provider's knowledge of the falseness will cause a fine between 200 thousand Syrian Pound to one million). Law for	0	1	0

	the Regulation of Network Communication against Cyber Crime, Article (12, C)			
Accuracy and error correction	It is the right of people to ask for error correction in the news, and the media's duty to commit to publishing and broadcasting. The Media Law, Article (28)	1	1	0
	Refusing to correct error reporting will cause a fine between 200 thousand Syrian Pound to one million). Law for the Regulation of Network Communication against Cyber Crime, Article (12, A)	1	1	0
Privacy respect	An imprisonment for breaking someone's privacy on the network without consent, even if the information is accurate. Regulation of Network Communication against Cyber Crime, Article (23)	1	0	1
Hate speech and bias avoidance	Not to publish anything that can harm public unity, hatred content, religious beliefs, national security, the army, and secret intelligence services. The Media Law, Article (9)	1	0	1
Plagiarism avoidance	Plagiarism is prohibited and will cause fines and imprisonment. The Penal Code, Article (712).	1	1	0
Defamation, Libel, and slander avoidance	Slander to any person using direct or indirect language, such as raising a question to suspect someone's dignity, is prohibited and causes imprisonment (escalating from three months to three years depending on the level of officials that are subjected to). The Penal Code, Articles (375-376).	1	0	1
	Except for the slander targeting the head of the state, any other slander will be relieved if it turns out to be accurate and	0	0	1

	related to the subject's public job. The Penal Code, Article (377).			
Reinforced by self-regulatory bodies with no government Interference.	Reinforced by The Journalists' Union, by the Media Law. The Media Law, Article (4)	0	0	1
Total Terms Added in Each Category		6	5	6
Total Terms	17			

IRAQ

Table G 1. Iraq Codes of Ethics against the IFJs Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists.

CJ Principles	IFJ Codes	Iraq	
		Codes Of Ethics	Matching score
Truth Telling	Truth Telling	Report facts as they are, and avoid any attempts to steer the public beliefs. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, Article (4)	1
Inclusiveness	Freedom to collect Information	Media organizations commit to the right to access information for the sake of people. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, Article (32)	1

and Diversity	Plagiarism avoidance	Accuracy in information. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, Article (53). Note: scored partial due to not mentioning plagiarism avoidance explicitly.	0.5
	Fair methods to obtain information and photos	The baseline to gather information is the national interest and professionalism. Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics, Article (11) Use only the right and ethical ways to gather information and photos. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, Article (25)	1
	Privacy respect	Avoid defamation and privacy violations and commit to balance. Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics, Article (6). People have a right to privacy despite the search for truth, except for corruption uncovering. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, Articles from (54-61)	1
	Hate speech and bias avoidance.	The media should push for peace, unity, and dialogue to avoid using the media for hate speech, sectarianism, dividing the public unity, and avoiding any language that could incite these sensitive issues. Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics, Articles (1,2,3,4). We respect all Iraq ethnicities, races, and religions and avoid discrimination or bias. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, Article (53)	1
Empowerment	Defamation libel, and slander avoidance	Avoid defamation and privacy violations and commit to balance. Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics, Article (6).	1
	Sources secrecy	Do not disclose sources who want themselves to be discreet. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, Article (26)	1

	Solidarity with colleagues.	<p>The Media commits to refuse and stand against government pressures on media people. Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics, Section (Prohibit from).</p> <p>We stand in solidarity in a just way with our colleagues. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, Article (38)</p>	1
Audience Engagement	Fairness in dissemination and commentary of news and information	<p>Commit to honesty and objectivity in reporting and disseminating news. Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics, Article (5)</p> <p>The role of the media is to educate and teach law abidance. Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics, Article (12)</p> <p>Balance reporting and giving all the topic parties equal rights to express their points of view without any distortion of facts or information. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, Articles (1,2,3)</p>	1
	Accuracy and error correction	<p>Accuracy is the key to responsible journalism. Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics, Article (6).</p> <p>Error correction is a necessary right of people and a strong point for good journalism. Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics, Articles (17,18,19,20,21).</p>	1
Contextual Reporting	Fact reporting	<p>Report facts as they are, avoiding any attempts to steer the public beliefs. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, Article (4)</p>	1
	Refraining from acting as an ancillary of the security services or police.	<p>The government accepts no pressure or influence on the media. Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics, Section (Prohibit from).</p> <p>Our responsibility is to hold those in power accountable so we realize that our acts are above the law. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, Article (27)</p>	0.5

		Note: scored partial due to the notion of being above the law.	
	Conflict of interest avoidance	Integrity is a key to professional journalism. Avoid personal interests. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, Articles (22, 23, 24) The media outlets commit not to be a tool to defame any individuals or groups except after a court decision allows it. Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics, Section (Prohibit from).	1
	Keeping independence	Preserving integrity in reporting both officials and ordinary people by showing both sides' opinions in the correct context. Code of Honor of Iraqi Media, Article (6) Integrity is a key to professional journalism. Avoid personal interests. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media, Articles (22, 23, 24)	1
Solutions & Future Reporting	N/A	N/A	0
Enforcement Body	Reinforced by self-regulatory bodies with no government Interference	Self-commitment. Iraqi Media Network Code of Ethics, Introduction. Self-commitment. Code of Honor for Profession of Iraqi Media (Closing article)	1
IFJ Score			16
Country's Codes scores			15
Matching %			%93.75

Table G 2. Iraq Additional Terms and Values.

IFJ Code of Ethics	Iraq			
	Additional Terms by Regulation	Cul-tural term	Pro-fession-al	Politic-al Terms
Truth Telling	The journalist has a right to collect official documents and information, except if revealing them could harm public order and break the law. The law of Journalist's Rights, Article (6)	1	1	1
	An imprisonment and fine to anyone who publishes any court deliberation, documents, or verdicts without legal authorization. The Iraqi Penal Code, Article (236).	0	0	1
Freedom to collect Information	The journalist has the right to collect and access information that is not prohibited by law. The law of Journalist's Rights, Article (4)	0	0	1
	An imprisonment and fine to those who collect information or fabricate documents and statements that could lead to false news, rumors, and public disorder. The Iraqi Penal Code, Articles (210-211).	0	0	1
Fact reporting	Imprisonment and fine for disseminating false news and rumors and causing a public disorder. The Iraqi Penal Code, Article (210).	1	0	1
Accuracy and error correction	The journalist has the right to comment on the error corrections in the limits of the law. The law of Journalist's Rights, Article (5)	0	1	0

Sources Secrecy	The journalist has a right to keep his sources secret. The law of Journalist's Rights, Article (4)	0	1	0
Privacy respect	An imprisonment and fine to anyone who publishes news, photos, or commits related to the individuals or families' private lives, even if they are true. The Iraqi Penal Code, Article (238).	1	0	1
Defamation, Libel, and slander avoidance	Imprisonment and fine for public slander and a curse to anyone. This punishment will be maximized for publishing in journalism. No justification accepted. The Iraqi Penal Code, Articles (233, 234,235).	1	0	1
Abstaining from serving as an adjutant of the security agencies or police.	The journalist has a right to refrain from any reports or content against his beliefs and professional conscience. The law of Journalist's Rights, Article (5)	0	1	0
	No effect of any other law that contradicts this law. The Law of Journalist's Rights, Article (18)	0	1	0
Keeping independence	It is the right of the journalists not to be questioned for any information they published, except if they broke the law. The law of Journalist's Rights, Article (8)	0	1	0
Total Terms Added in Each Category		5	6	7
Total Terms	17			

Table H, The Business Journalists Participants Backgrounds- Chapter -3.

Participant No.	Years of Experience	Gender	Country	Media Type
Participant-1	8	M	Saudi Arabia	TV
Participant- 2	15	M	Syria	Online
Participant- 3	9	F	Qatar	Onnline
Participant- 4	14	M	Iraq	Newspaper
Participant- 5	10	F	Lebanon	Magazine
Participant- 6	10	F	United Arab Emirates	TV and Podcast
Participant- 7	16	M	Jordan	Newspaper

(Own Source)

Table I, The Business Journalists Interview questions- Chapter -3.

Topic	Questions
Constructive/ Solutions Journalism Concept	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you know about Constructive or solutions-based journalism? <p>Do you believe it is applicable in the Arab Region? Why?</p>
Ethical & public orientation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Because the Constructive/ Solutions Journalism Concept is driven by an ethical incentive: What ethics should a business news journalist in the Arab region abide by? And how do you apply your ethics in business news to society?
Solutions orientation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. How strongly do you believe in constructive or solutions-based journalism in business news? Do you believe journalists should not only report on problems but also on solutions? 4. What are the challenges of applying constructive or solutions journalism in business reporting in the Arab Region?

Future orientation	5. Do you believe that business journalists should only mirror events, or can they play a role in moving society forward? If so, how?

Table J, The questions For The In-depth Interviews With The Academic Researchers Applying CJ- Chapter -4.

Themes	Questions
Public Orientation	How much do you think there is a gap between academic business researchers and business practitioners?
	How much do you think the academic writing style causes obstacles for business practitioners to read or understand academic Knowledge?
	Do you think academic researchers should rewrite their output to make it available in mainstream media in order to reach out to the business community? how?
	Do you believe that Academic business researchers have an ethical obligation to present their research outcome to the business community?
Solutions Orientation	How much do you think that academic business research should introduce solutions to the business problems in order to be relevant and impactful?
	What are the approaches that academic researchers can use to provide

	solutions to the business community?
Future Orientation	Do you think academic researchers should guide the businesses toward the future trends of opportunities and trends? How?
	Do you think that academic researchers should have a positive attitude while conducting research? how?

Table K, The participants’s Backgrounds- Chapter 4.

Participant No.	Education	Gender	Nationality	Works
Participant-1	PhD	M	Lebanon	GCC
Participant-2	PhD	M	Palestine	GCC
Participant-3	PhD	M	Saudi Arabia	GCC
Participant-4	PhD	M	United States	GCC
Participant-5	PhD	F	Kuwait	GCC

Participant No.	Education	Gender	Nationality	Works
Participant-6	PhD	F	Lebanon	GCC
Participant-7	PhD	M	Poland	United States /GCC
Participant-8	PhD	M	Jordan	GCC
Participant-9	PhD	M	Netherland	GCC
Participant-10	PhD	M	Italy	GCC
Participant-11	PhD	M	Egypt	GCC
Participant-12	MBA	M	Kuwait	GCC
Participant-13	DBA	M	Syria	GCC
Participant-14	DBA	M	UAE	GCC
Participant-15	MBA	M	Kuwait	GCC
Participant-16	MD	F	Bahrain	GCC

(PhD; Doctor of Philosophy. MBA; Master of Business Administration. MD; Medical Doctor, DBA; Doctor Of Business Administration, (Source; The author).

