

CHAPTER 36

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

In a country like ours, it is very important that the citizens have access to information for proper functioning of the democracy. In the past, the print media shouldered this responsibility of disseminating information/news regarding the happenings within and outside the country. However, with the growth of IT, digital and other technology, television and internet are supplementing this role with instant coverage. It appears that proliferation of audio visual media and internet has not significantly affected the print media as per statistics of growth of print media made available with the RNI.

The print media has responded to the new changes and challenges with its modernization. It has embraced Information Technology, which resulted in better coverage with great speed and affordable price. The readership of newspapers is also growing. Statistics show that people prefer their regional language newspapers and that is why the regional newspapers are venturing out to bring editions from other cities where there is sizeable population of the respective language.

The publishers under Section 19D of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, are required to submit Annual Statements to the Registrar of Newspapers for India. These Annual Statements are the principal source of data. However, all publishers do not submit their Annual Statements. Hence, this report cannot be construed as comprehensive. It can give only a broad overview on the general trend of the Indian Press based on the number and circulation of newspapers. Since, the data is based on the number of annual statements for each year, these can only be termed as claimed circulation figures. After authorization of the Regional Offices of other media units of the Ministry of I&B, the offices of the District Information Officers throughout the country collect the annual statements. And send to the Registrar of Newspapers for India.

Highlights :

- The number of registered newspapers and periodicals increased from 69323 in 2007-08 to 73146 in 2008-09. The daily newspapers and periodicals which are around 11.1% increased from 7710 to 8475, whereas, weeklies, 33.8% of total newspapers and periodicals increased from 23414 in 2007-08 to 24544 in 2008-09. Monthlies increased from 20948 to 22124, annuals increased from 622 to 653 during the same period.
- The Hindi newspapers and periodicals increased from 20589 in 2001 to 29090 in 2008-09 and their claimed circulation figure was 135805315

copies, 28.7 % higher than that of the previous year whereas, newspapers and periodicals of English and Urdu increased from 7596 and 2906 to 10000 and 3315 respectively during the same period. The bilingual and multilingual newspapers and periodicals increased from 3088 and 586 to 4506 and 807 respectively in the same period.

- Out of total registered newspapers and periodicals upto 2007-08, there were 11.6% dailies, 33.5% weeklies, 12.9% fortnightlies, 6.6% quarterlies and 30.2% monthlies. Only, 0.5% and 0.9% newspapers and periodicals were tri/bi-weeklies and annuals respectively. Besides, 3.6% were other newspapers and periodicals.
- During 2008-09, the largest number of newspapers were published from Uttar Pradesh, followed by Delhi, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- The circulation of registered newspapers and periodicals increased from 207.11 million in 2007-08 to 257.9 in 2008-09 (25%). The circulation of daily newspapers and periodicals increased from 105.79 million to 135.8 million, whereas, weeklies increased from 58 million to 69.1 million, monthlies increased from 23.76 million to 30.7 million and annuals increased from 0.9 million to 13.1 million during the same period.
- Orissa had the distinction of publishing newspapers and periodicals in 21 principal languages. Delhi came next with publication in 16 followed by Tamil Nadu 12 and Maharashtra 12 Publications out of 22 principal languages.

This chapter contains the following tables:

Table 36.1: Number of registered newspapers and periodicals by language and periodicity. (2001 to 2008-09)

Table 36.2: Number of registered newspapers and periodicals by states and periodicity. (2001 to 2008-09)

Table 36.3: Number of registered newspapers and periodicals by language (2001 to 2008-09)

Table 36.4: Claimed circulation of registered newspapers. (2001-2002 to 2008-09)