

The end of print media?

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Several print media end their edition at the end of 2022. Republika became one of the newspapers that ended its print edition. The newspaper, which was first published on January 4, 1993, has completely switched to an online edition. For 30 years, Republika has been an essential part of the media education process.

The mass media initiated by the Association of Indonesian Muslim Scholars (ICMI) carries the Islamic spirit in its journalism work. This spirit of Islamic journalism brings a new trend in the media landscape in Indonesia. Republika is noted to be a pioneer of online media publication. Also, Republika became a pioneer for long-distance printing, in which all print media were still centralized in Jakarta at that time. However, the pioneer of the Republika did not last long. As print media, it must end its publication.

The number of print media which end their edition seems to be a sign that society has changed. More precisely, society has changed in the way it reads the media. Print newspapers are no longer popular. Even, keeping print media alive seems difficult.

Critical problems

One year ago precisely, the editorial of *Informasi* 51 (2) 2021 encouraged people to set aside some money to buy the print media edition (Setiawan, 2021). Also, the editorial encouraged the government to make regulations on paper tax. However, it was not easy. One by one, the print media end their publication and leave memories for the readers.

The publication end of print media certainly remains some serious problems. First, the termination of employment for media workers. The layoff may target the workers who operate machines and or workers at the circulation section. The publication end of Republika print media has caused more than 200 people out of work. Of course, this is not a small number. In fact, the laid-off workers should hold and fulfill their family life needs. This means that there will be an extraordinary upheaval for media workers when the print newspaper edition closes.

Second, the end of newspaper print editions causes many newspaper peddlers/sellers to be unemployed. This is a very sorry situation as they belong to low-income people who must lose their job. Their income is highly dependent on how many copies of the newspaper are sold. The sales of print newspapers are not profitable. When fewer print newspapers are in circulation and the people purchasing power is small, the more painful the life of newspaper sellers will be.

Print media has a long chain of employees. When the print media closes its operation, it is bad news for newspaper sellers. Newspaper stalls are getting quieter due to the limited items to sell.

Therefore, this editorial still encourages the public to set aside their income to buy a print edition newspaper. It is also necessary to buy it at stalls and or newspaper sellers at various traffic lights sides on the road. That's the only way for print media to survive in an increasingly unpredictable age.

Curriculum design

Encouraging the millennial and Z generation to love print newspapers is very essential. Literacy about the importance of reading print edition newspapers needs to be included in the learning design—not to mention the curriculum. Thus, the print edition of the newspaper can continue to survive amid the abundant flow of information.

Why is it essential to include reading literacy in print media editions in schools/universities? The reason is that print newspapers guarantee the accuracy of a news story. The limited number of pages is a strength for the print media to be selective for the published news. The selection was based on a long editorial work process. A strict verification process makes the news of the print media have more value.

The existence of print mass media keeps the quality of journalism. In this case, journalism is not just pursuing new/actual news but presenting deep information that can be accounted for intelligently. The moral responsibility of the print mass media in this context makes the nation enlightened. Society is not easily dragged into the fast-paced news, instant information, and first-to-appear information hunting. Print media journalism presents meaningful journalism.

The work of print media journalism encourages the professionalism of a journalist. News reporters need to do a step-by-step verification process. Thus, the news presented in the print media really becomes selective information.

The various advantages of this print media should enter the subconscious domain of the community. Through this academic work, the future of the nation can be enlightened because the public can easily distinguish between true news and hoaxes. The community's ability to distinguish information can guarantee the unity of the nation.

Uniqueness

When the public has a good understanding of news (reading news from trusted sources/print media), the end of print media can be prevented. Print media will continue to exist during disruption. Media workers, both journalists and newspaper reporters, can “live” amid uncertainty.

Print media doesn't face this disruption alone. The ability of print media to survive with its uniqueness needs to be supported by all elements of society. Hopefully, there will be no more print newspapers that end its edition next year. Also, there will be many print media that will continue to be published and become an inspiration for the life of the nation and the country.

References

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