



“बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ” JAYOTI VIDYAPEETH WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY, JAIPUR

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NAAC Accredited University

Faculty of Law and Governance

Faculty Name- Ms. Tripti Negi

Program- BA LLB, BCom LLB, BBA LLB, LLB, Semester 8th

Course Name- Media Law

Session No.& Name – 2023-2024

Academic Day starts with –

Greeting with saying ‘Namaste’ by joining Hands together following by 2-3 Minutes Happy session, Celebrating birthday of any student of respective class and National Anthem.

Lecture Starts with-

Review of previous Session

National song’ VandeMataram’

Subject Name – Media Law

Topic – Press Council Act, 1978

Introduction

The Press Council Act of 1978 is an Indian legislation aimed at promoting responsible journalism and maintaining high standards of ethical conduct in the Indian press. The Act established the Press Council of India, which serves as a regulatory body overseeing the conduct of print media in the country.

Key objectives of the Press Council Act, 1978 include:

1. Upholding freedom of the press while also ensuring responsible journalism.
2. Maintaining and improving standards of newspapers and news agencies.
3. Ensuring compliance with journalistic ethics and principles.
4. Investigating complaints of violation of journalistic ethics and principles.
5. Promoting and encouraging the growth of a free and responsible press in India.

The Press Council of India consists of members representing various stakeholders, including journalists, publishers, and the general public. It has the authority to inquire into complaints received against newspapers or journalists regarding violation of journalistic norms and to adjudicate on such matters.

The Act empowers the Press Council to warn, censure, admonish, or even direct the newspaper to publish apologies or corrections if it finds a violation of journalistic ethics. However, it does not have the power to impose fines or penalties.

Overall, the Press Council Act, 1978, aims to strike a balance between preserving press freedom and ensuring accountability and ethical standards within the Indian media industry.

The Press Council Act of 1978 is a significant legislation in India aimed at promoting responsible journalism and maintaining ethical standards within the press. Let's delve into its key aspects regarding composition, powers, and functions:

Composition:

The Press Council of India, established under the Press Council Act of 1978, is composed of members representing various stakeholders in the media industry. The composition typically includes:

1. **Chairman:** The Press Council is typically headed by a Chairman who is appointed by the President of India. The Chairman is often a distinguished individual with extensive experience in journalism or public service.

2. **Members:** The Council consists of members representing journalists, publishers, and the general public. These members are appointed by the Chairman or nominated by various organizations affiliated with the media industry.

3. **Representation:** The Press Council aims for balanced representation, ensuring that the interests of journalists, publishers, and the public are adequately represented in its decision-making processes.

Powers:

The Press Council of India is vested with several powers to regulate and oversee the conduct of the print media. Some of its key powers include:

1. **Inquiry into Complaints:** The Council has the authority to inquire into complaints received against newspapers or journalists regarding violations of journalistic ethics and principles. These complaints may relate to inaccurate reporting, defamation, invasion of privacy, or other ethical breaches.

2. **Summoning Witnesses:** The Press Council can summon witnesses and gather evidence during inquiries into complaints. This power enables the Council to conduct thorough investigations and make informed decisions based on evidence.

3. Adjudication: After conducting inquiries, the Council has the power to adjudicate on matters related to violations of journalistic ethics. It can issue warnings, censure or admonish the erring party, or direct the publication of apologies or corrections.

4. Guidelines: The Council can issue guidelines and recommendations to newspapers and journalists to promote ethical standards and best practices in journalism. These guidelines serve as a reference point for media professionals to uphold professional standards.

Functions:

The Press Council of India performs various functions aimed at promoting responsible journalism and maintaining ethical standards within the press. Some of its key functions include:

1. Ensuring Compliance: The Council works to ensure compliance with the guidelines and code of conduct prescribed for journalists and newspapers. By monitoring the conduct of the press, the Council aims to uphold ethical standards and maintain public trust in the media.

2. Investigating Complaints: One of the primary functions of the Press Council is to investigate complaints of violations of journalistic ethics. It conducts inquiries into these complaints and takes appropriate action based on its findings.

3. Promoting Press Freedom: While regulating the press, the Council also aims to uphold the freedom of the press enshrined in the Constitution of India. It works to strike a balance between press freedom and ethical journalism, ensuring that journalists can operate without undue interference while adhering to professional standards.

4. Educating and Training: The Press Council organizes workshops, seminars, and training programs for journalists and media professionals to promote ethical journalism and media literacy. These initiatives aim to enhance the skills and knowledge of media professionals and raise awareness about ethical standards in journalism.

The Press Council Act of 1978 establishes the Press Council of India as a regulatory body tasked with overseeing the conduct of the print media. With its composition, powers, and

functions, the Council plays a crucial role in promoting responsible journalism, maintaining ethical standards, and upholding press freedom in India.