**INTERPRETATIVE REPORTING I**

Interpretative reporting means a kind of reporting in which reporter finds out the details of the event. It is done normally after the breaking news has gone on air and people are waiting for other details of the same news item.

**Origin of Interpretative Reporting**

Before, during and even after the 1st world war newspaper reporters were restricted to factual reporting only. While reporting, they concentrated mostly on the following questions:

1. Who attacked whom?
2. Where the war was going on?
3. When the attack was carried out?
4. The loss of a country.
5. The gain of a country.
6. The new advancement in war.

In this kind of reporting the neglected questions to be answered were why & how? Why the world got into war, how a country got defeated? The reasons and causes of the war were not reported. People were unaware of the reasons of the war. Associated Press of America was held responsible for keeping people unaware of expected war and the reasons of war. In 1920s and 1930s reporters were trained to make **Interpretative Reporting** out of factual reporting.

**Growth of Interpretative Reporting**

By late 1920s newspaper readers had grown more demanding and they started expecting something more than what was used to be given in newspapers in the name of reporting. After the stock market crash in Europe in 1929 and the depression years of 30s the reporting got a turn. Till then radio had been not invented but had had popularity as well being a ***speaking newspaper.*** News was, the stock market is crashed to death and in the name of interpretative reporting radio stations started putting on air the discussions trying to reach the causes and reasons of this tremendous economic collapse, history had ever witnessed. Economists sat in those discussions and they tried to find out the solutions to this collapse. Likewise newspapers published articles based on interpretative reporting.

Till the 2nd world war, interpretative reporting got currency in news papers, magazines and on radio, so much so, the interpretative reporting had grown to this extent that the war was not unexpected for most of the Americans and after it broke out they did not get surprised as they had been in case of 1st world war. Now people knew the reasons as well.

It was only because of the interpretative reporting that severe kind of hatred against the war developed among the people and the peace loving nations sat together, come up with the sublime objective that was to save the nations from the devastating repercussions of wars, and these discussions lead the world to the formation of United Nations.

In the present age of media explosion no news channel is expected without interpretative reporting and discussions; and news commentaries are heard and watched with eagerness and interest.

Reporting is not merely the reporting of facts of any event but it is more about the reasons and purposes of the happenings, the causes of accidents, the aftereffects of natural calamities and the future prospects of the on going talks between two leaders as well.

**Essentials of Interpretative Reporting**

**1. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

The interpretative reporting builds up structure on the foundations of factual background of any news story.

Most important 4 Ws in factual background are as under:

What---?

When---?

Where---?

Who----?

Sometimes ‘What’ is more important than other question words.

For instance, what happened---?

The happening may be as follows:

1. Train got off the rails.
2. Earthquake played havoc with people.
3. Pakistan and India signed an agreement of bilateral trade.

Sometimes, who is more important.

Who won the match?

West Indies or Australia?

Who played first?

Pakistan or India?

In some stories where is equally important.

Where did two busses collide?

Where did torrential rainfall come?

Sometimes when is more important.

When is the first match between India and Pakistan?

When are the presidents of two countries meeting?

**Most important questions in Interpretative Reporting**

***Why and How***

Why a country attacked on the other one?

There is a raise in salaries so that employees may cope with the price hike. (What & why)

In order to reduce expenditure the organization will go under down sizing.

***‘How’*** means ***details*** to explain ***how something occurred***.

**2. EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS**

Eye witness account is the statement of the person who was present at the spot when any accident or event took place. Eye witness’ statement is more important when the news is about accidents, fire stories, earthquake, floods, etc.

The expressions of eyewitnesses must be recorded with their names and identifications.

**3. INTERVIEWS**

Interviews of concerned people such as Police officials, fire brigade, social workers, injured ones, relatives of dead ones, etc. are very important to build an interpretative report.

**INTERPRETATIVE REPORTING II**

**Essentials of Interpretative Reporting**

The following are the essential elements of an interpretative report.

* Factual background
* Eyewitness accounts
* Interviews

**Factual Background**

Every interpretative report takes a start with the factual background of the event without which the report will not be called a complete, comprehensive and compact report and will leave a feeling of vagueness. It is, therefore, becomes necessary to make the factual background a part of interpretative report. The factual background of an event is the same that has been gone on air in a result of factual reporting.

As it has already been discussed that in factual reporting the answer to **four Ws (What--? When-?** **Where---? Who----? )** is most important.

Why we need interpretative report of the same event of which news has already gone on air?

It is simply because when an important incidence occurs; because of the minute details of the story and lack of time in the news bulletin the first news goes on air in a short, crisp form highlighting the gist of the story. The rest of the things which demand interpretation are left for the next bulletin or for a special commentary covering the other important aspects of the event.

**Eyewitness Accounts**

The account of eye witnesses is very important to be recorded for an interpretative report. Amongst eye witnesses are the direct affectees of the incidents like Accidents, Fire Stories, Earthquake, Floods, etc., the people though were not the affectees but were present at the spot when the incident occurred.

The expressions of eyewitnesses must be recorded with their names and identifications.

**Interviews**

Interviews of concerned people such as police officials, fire brigade, social workers, etc. are important to be recorded to win the confidence of the listeners and to add credibility to the report.

**Interpretative Reporting Of Different News Stories**

The points of interpretation present in different story types are as follows:

**SPEECH STORY**

**Factual reporting**

Who---name(s) of the speaker(s)

Where----venue (place where the speech is delivered)

What------ the most significant point in the speech

When-------time of the activity.

**Interpretative Reporting**

Speaker – present position

Background of speaker, or / and the function

Main points of the speech

Background of any point if it relates to something already existing

Purpose of the speech (background)

Number of audience

Reaction of different people and audience to the speech

Important persons present

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Factual background**

What?

The name of the book

Genre – novel, biography, research

The topic of the book

Who?

Writer’s name, the publisher

**Interpretative reporting**

The author's introduction

Author’s previous works

Present book’s topic in detail

**MEETINGS**

**Factual reporting**

Who---the active participants of the meeting

When-----time and date when the meeting took place or is to be taken place

Where------the venue

What------the topic of the meeting, the result of the meeting

Why------the purpose of the meeting

**Interpretative reporting**

The background of the issue

Previous meetings in the same context

Previous meetings’ results

**EVENTS =>FAIRS, EXHIBITIONS, FESTIVALS**

**Factual Reporting**

What---the name of the event, the nature of the event

Where---the venue

When--- date and timing

**Interpretative Reporting**

The historical background

The details of festival

The details of exhibition

Introduction of exhibitionist

**ILLNESS STORIES**

**Factual Reporting**

Who– the name & identification of person who is ill

What—the nature of the illness

Where—home, hospital

**Interpretative Reporting**

Cause of illness

Condition—serious or critical

Doctor’s comments

Duration of illness

Family members at bed side

Visitors

Effect of illness on person’s public position

**INTERPRETATIVE REPORTING III**

**DEATH STORIES**

**Factual Reporting**

* Who—name and identification of deceased person
* When—time and date

Age at the time of death

* Where—place of death
* Why—cause of death i.e. natural or accident

**Interpretative Reporting**

* Date of birth of the deceased
* Parents of the person, their status in society
* Survivors
* Previous residence if any, neighbors
* Education of the person, institutions where he had been studying
* Occupation
* Present status
* Social activities
* Achievements
* Special interests & hobbies
* Survivors
* Spouse’s information
* Government’s promises to the survivors

**FIRES & ACCIDENTS**

**Factual Reporting**

**What:**

* A building is set on fire
* Vehicle/ s met an accident
* Train got off the rails
* Plane had a crash fire

**Where:** -----------Place—Location

**When:** -----------Time & Date

**How many:** ----Number of causalities

**Interpretative Reporting**

* Name and identification of persons killed
* Injured------name and identification
* The reasons of the event
* Eyewitness account
* Police interview
* Minister’s statement
* Rescues
* Legal action (investigations, arrests, suits)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CRIME STORIES** |  |  |
| **Factual**-----------------**Reporting** | Nature of Crime |  |
| **What:** |  |
| **Who:** ------------------ | The Doer and the Victim |  |
| **How:** ----------------- | The Way the Crime Is Carried Out |  |
| **How much:** --------- | Loss Estimated. |  |
| **Why:** ------------------ | The Reason of the Crime—Motive |  |

Enmity, Mental disorder, Psychological problem, Poverty, Need, Habit

**Interpretative Reporting**

* Background of the criminal
* Police action—statement of police officials

• Social Reaction ---- People’s interview

* The interview of accused’s relatives
* The interviews of victims’ relatives
* Legal Action, Investigation, Clues, Evidence, Arrests
* Follow-ups

**COURTS, TRIALS**

**Factual Reporting**

**What:** -----------The Nature of the Case, the Charge.

**Where:** ---------- The Session Court, High Court, Supreme Court, and other Special Tribunals

**When:** ----------- The date on which the case is filed

The date of the hearing

**Who:** -------------The Plaintiff, the Defendant

The lawyers from both sides

**Interpretative Reporting**

* The factual background of the case
* The progress so far by police while investigation
* The possible outcome - the range of the punishment court can pronounce for the crime
* Preliminary hearing
* Further hearings
* The arguments of the lawyers
* Cross argumentation of judges
* Post decision reaction - expressions of both parties, advocates

**PARLIAMENTARY REPORTING**

**Factual Reporting**

**When:** The date, the session is summoned to be held.

**Why:** The session is called for special reasons or it is a routine session

**Interpretative Reporting**

**Terms needed in Parliamentary Reporting**

**The Quorum:** It is a situation when at least 1/4th of total members are present in the parliament at thetime of the session.

**Business:** Every formal activity within the parliament hall pertaining to the functioning of the parliament.

It may be the launching of a bill or a resolution or an amendment.

**Order of the day:** The order of the business of a particular day.

**Question hour:** It is the fixed time in which members put different questions to the ministers.The names of question raisers

The questions

The action of the speaker

**Privilege Motions:** If the privileges of a member given to him by the parliament are challenged, he maybring it in the knowledge of the house. This is called privilege motion.

**Adjournment Motion:** In case there is a matter that needs to be discussed urgently on emergency grounds,the motion launched is called Adjournment Motion.

Following details are to be noted:

The nature of the motion

The name of the mover

The answer of the concerned minister

**SPORTS REPORTING**

**Factual Reporting**

**What:** The name of the game. The name of the series. The name of the competition

**When:** Time And Date

**Where:** The Place, Stadium

**Who:** The Teams

**Interpretative Reporting**

History of the tournaments like: SAF games, Olympics, World cup, Champion’s Trophy Previous Winners

Records & Record Holders

Current teams with players’ introductions

Fresh progress is to be sent to the studios every five to ten minute

Round up dispatch is the final report from the stadium that is to be dispatched to the studios as early as ends the match.

Weather condition during match

Crowd’s participation and reaction is must