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The profile of Algerian local press correspondents: perfect representative of specialized journalism

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Abstract :

The main objective of this study is to examine the profile of Algerian local press correspondents and to understand their social and professional situations.

Our research focuses on this question: What is the profile of the Algerian local press correspondent?

To answer our question, we adopted a quantitative study of Algerian local press correspondents.

The results show that Algerian local press correspondents live in a difficult socio-professional situation, but they ensure the citizen's right to information.

Keywords: Profile; press correspondent; local press; socio-Professional; characteristics; social characteristics.

1/Introduction

Press correspondents are responsible for reporting information in geographical areas far from the press organs to which they belong. Each press organ has its own way of doing things. These professionals ensure that the information is transmitted to the public. Each press organ has press correspondents, as mentioned above.

According to PHILIPPE GAILLARD, the local or regional correspondent of a provincial daily newspaper with multiple editions is responsible for transmitting mainly daily news that is of interest, for the most part, only to readers in his area, and which will only be broadcast in that area. In localities of a certain size, these correspondents are journalists on permanent assignment. Elsewhere, they are people for whom this activity is only incidental, town hall secretaries, schoolteachers, and who are generally paid on a freelance basis according to a rate per article or even per line published (GAILLARD, 1971, p. 79). These latter are journalists in geographical areas far from the press organs, to which they belong. Or they are people who occupy positions other than those of a journalist, such as a schoolteacher based on an agreement concluded between the organ and the correspondent.

News correspondents play a key role in news production and the variety of voices and perspectives available to readers. Traditional media outlets such as newspapers face increasing financial challenges as competition from online media can impact the quality and variety of information available to readers. News correspondents can use new technologies and social media to improve their work and efficiency, but they are also exposed to new risks and challenges.

In Algeria, press correspondents play a key role within the Algerian community, contributing directly to social development by transmitting information, entertaining, and educating. According to Article 33 of the 1982 Information Code, which defines the status of press correspondents as professionals, in reality, these correspondents face various difficulties; they now detest their profession in critical situations that depend on the nature of their employment contracts.

This work attempts to demonstrate the socio-pressured situation of Algerian press correspondents. To properly conduct this study, we posed the following main question:

What is the profile of the local correspondent for the Algerian press?

To clarify our main question, we ask the following secondary questions:

- 1- What is the socio-professional status of the Algerian press correspondent?
- 2- How does the press correspondent ensure the Algerian citizen's right to information?

2/Hypotheses of the study

Our study includes the following operational hypotheses:

H1: The socio-professional situation of the Algerian press correspondent is criticized given his difficult living conditions;

H2: The Algerian press correspondent ensures the citizen's right to information by adopting a responsible professional approach to his work.

3/Objectives of the study

We summarized the purpose of our research in the following points:

- To understand the social and professional situation of Algerian press correspondents, given their difficult living conditions ;
- To determine whether Algerian press correspondents ensure the citizen's right to information;
- To determine the constraints experienced by press correspondents in the exercise of their profession.

4/Research indicators

According to (ANGERS, 1997, p. 145) "Indicators are defined as an element of a given dimension observable in reality; they constitute the trace and sign of a phenomenon."

Our two hypotheses: "The Algerian press correspondent ensures the citizen's right to information by adopting a professional method in data collection." And "The socio-professional situation of the Algerian press correspondent is critical given that they live in difficult conditions."

All scientific research requires a method to better analyze and understand the phenomenon.

According to Maurice Angers, the Method: "it is an organized set of operations aimed at achieving an objective."

Our research topic is based on the profile of the local correspondent for the Algerian press. We used a quantitative approach to conduct our study and, after measuring, understand our research phenomenon and address our problem.

The Quantitative Method: "A set of procedures for measuring a phenomenon." It first aims to measure the phenomenon under study. Measurements can be ordinal, such as "greater or smaller than," or numerical, using calculations.

Table No. 01: The indicators under the following table

Concepts	Dimensions	Indicators
The press	Means of disseminating information	-Newspapers -Television -Radio
Press correspondents	Local correspondent	Permanent correspondent Freelancer
Profile	Personal characteristics	Professional status Social situation - Employment - Career - Financial compensation

Source: table produced by the researcher

In our research we used 3 concepts: The Press, Press Correspondent and Profile, in order to examine these concepts we distributed them according to table N° 01.

5/The study method

All scientific research requires a method to better analyze and understand the phenomenon. According to Maurice Angers, the Method: "it is an organized set of operations aimed at achieving an objective."

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The Quantitative Method: "A set of procedures for measuring a phenomenon." It first aims to measure the phenomenon under study. Measurements can be ordinal, such as "greater or smaller than," or numerical, using calculations.

6/ Study technique

In every scientific research project, the researcher must choose techniques whose primary objective is to collect relevant information and data that correspond to their research theme. According to Maurice Angers, technique is a set of investigative processes and instruments used methodologically.

The technique used is the questionnaire, to collect data and information that will be classified and analyzed, with the aim of examining our hypotheses.

The questionnaire is "A direct technique of scientific investigation used with individuals, which allows them to be questioned in a directive manner, and to take quantitative samples in order to find mathematical relationships and make numerical comparisons." (ANGERS, 1997, p. 146).

We developed 32 questions divided into three categories:

- Area 1: personal questions ;
- Area 2: questions related to the socio-professional work situation of press correspondents ;
- Area 3: questions related to the data collection method used by press correspondents, as well as their primary mission, which is to inform the public.

7/Theoretical Approach, Social Responsibility

In every scientific research project conducted, the researcher must define and align their research with a theoretical approach in order to situate it within a specific theoretical framework.

Indeed, in our case, we chose the social responsibility approach, and according to Jean-Claude Bernard: "This new doctrine was born from a more realistic perception of human nature and economic mechanisms. As conceived by academics and press professionals, it does not repudiate the previous doctrine: it extends it, striving to combine freedom and media quality."

The term was coined by the Commission on Freedom of the Press, created in the United States in December 1942, at the initiative of the founder of Time and Life magazines under the chairmanship of R.M. Hutchins, Rector of the University of Chicago. It brought together figures from outside the press world (including the Frenchman Jacques Maritain). The media greeted the analyses and conclusions of his report, published in 1947, with either icy indifference or fury. But since then, these ideas have been cited and commented on continuously.

According to this doctrine, it is preferable for the media not to be state-owned, or even controlled, because the state is often indistinguishable from the government in power. On the other hand, the media are not ordinary private enterprises whose success can be measured by profits. It is normal for them to seek profit, of course, but in return, they must be accountable to the various groups that make up society: in other words, the media must respond to their diverse needs and desires.

If citizens are dissatisfied with the service provided to them and express this dissatisfaction, the media must respond. It is preferable for them to amend their own policies, according to a code of ethics established by them. But if they do not do so, then it would be necessary and legitimate for parliament to intervene through laws (BERTRAND, 1995, p. 29).

The logical link between the social responsibility approach and our theme, which is the profile of Algerian local press correspondents: perfect representative of specialized journalism.

The social responsibility approach in the media sector consists of responding to societal needs, thus contributing to the development of societies, and ensuring the information provided. The responsibility of Algerian local press correspondents in general encompasses the responsibility of journalists towards society as well.

We want to understand the role of press correspondents and their contributions to the development of Algerian society. To this end, we want to explain how they transmit the information that society needs. The impact of the work of press correspondents on improving the region's way of life means how correspondents play a role through their coverage of local issues occurring in the four corners of Algeria, all of which contribute to the development of society. The press correspondent must take all aspects into consideration, trying to examine press correspondents' respect for the norms and work ethics of their audience, for example, respect for people's lives and objectivity.

But knowing or measuring the responsibility of the press correspondent in their mission, the need to know them closely, to understand their working conditions, their social and professional situation, and this point stems from our first hypothesis.

8/Sample and Type of Study Sampling

8.1Study Population:

According to Maurice Angers: the study population is "the set of elements having one or more characteristics in common that distinguish them from other elements and on which the investigation focuses." (ANGERS, 1997, p. 150)

Our study focuses on the population of press correspondents in the province of Batna, including local correspondents for newspapers, television stations, and the radio station.

8.2Study Sample:

During our research, we distributed 25 questionnaires to all press correspondents in the province of Batna, namely radio, television, and newspaper correspondents, whom we were able to contact directly, either face-to-face or through other correspondents. However, after collecting the questionnaires, our sample was limited to only 16 respondents.

We chose targeted sorting sampling, which is a "non-probability sampling process guided by a certain similarity with the target population." (ANGERS, 1997, p. 239).

The second type of sampling is snowball sampling. We used this type of sampling to contact correspondents, who in turn shared the questionnaire with other correspondents.

After finalizing our questionnaire, we began distributing it to all press correspondents in the province of Batna from March 22, 2025 to April 4, 2025.

We distributed the questionnaire online (Google Form) and in print. We forwarded the questionnaire to the head of local correspondents at the newspaper Echourouk, in the province of Algiers, where he also forwarded it to the correspondents in the province of Batna.

In addition, we visited the regional press offices in the province of Batna and also forwarded the questionnaire to journalists from the newspapers Le Soir, El Watan, El Khabar, Nouvelle République, and El Moudjahid. We then forwarded it to the editor-in-chief of the regional radio station in the province of Batna, who then distributed it to the radio correspondents.

We also contacted a correspondent who, in turn, distributed it to other correspondents at the radio and television stations. In conclusion, after distributing the 25 questionnaires, we received only 16 in paper and online format.

9/ Data analysis and interpretation:

Table No. 02: Presentation of the study population according to gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Feminine	1	6 %
Masculine	15	94 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Of the 16 questionnaire participants, only one person, representing 6%, identified as female, while the majority, 15 people, representing 94%, were male. According to the following table, we observed that the results indicate a male predominance, as well as a low female representation.

We concluded that the profession of press correspondent in the wilaya of Batna is dominated by men and does not yet attract women. This can be explained by the nature of the profession, which requires travel to gather information. Also, the social norms of the local society, such as the belief system and traditions, do not encourage women to pursue this profession.

Table No. 03: The distribution of the study population according to the different age categories.

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Under 25 years old	0	0 %
[26-35 years old[	3	19 %
[36-45 years[	8	50 %
[46-55years[	5	31 %
[56-65years[	0	0 %
Over 66 years old	0	0 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Based on the collected data, the table shows that the 36-45 age group is the highest age group in the local press correspondent profession, with a percentage of 50% and a frequency of 8. The 46-55 age group comes in second place, with a percentage of 31% and a frequency of 5. Moreover, the 25-35 age group is somewhat underrepresented, with a percentage of 19% and a frequency of 5. However, in the remaining categories, there is an absence of press correspondents.

We found that the majority of press correspondents in the wilaya of Batna are between 35 and 55 years old. A minority of correspondents are young, between 25 and 35 years old. Therefore, we conclude that the press correspondent profession is practiced by people of average age. This can be explained by the fact that the majority of them have primary professions and the profession of correspondent is a secondary profession.

Table No. 04: Distribution of the study population according to family situation.

Family situation	Frequency	Percentage
Single	2	12 %
Marry	14	88 %
Divorce	0	0 %
Widower	0	0 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

From these statistics, we deduced that the married category is the majority, with a percentage of 88% and a frequency of 14, while the single category is modest, with a percentage of 12%, representing the second highest frequency in our study population.

We noted that the majority of press correspondents in the province of Batna are married, reflecting social stability among the respondents.

Table No. 05: The distribution of the study population according to their number of children.

Number of children	Frequency	Percentage
A child	4	30 %
Two children	3	21%
Three children	2	14%
Four children	3	21%
Childless	2	14%
Total	14	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Note: 14 respondents instead of 16 because two respondents in our study population are single.

From the table above, we found that the category of press correspondents in the province of Batna who are married and have only one child is the majority, with a percentage of 30% and a frequency of 4. In second place are those with 2 or 4 children, with a percentage of 21% and a frequency of 3.

The last categories are those with 3 children and those without children, with a low percentage of 14% and a frequency of 2.

We concluded that married press correspondents with one child are the dominant category. This is due to their social situation and their insufficient salary, which means they are forced to have one child to better meet their needs.

Table No. 06: The distribution of the study population according to their seniority in the field of journalism.

Seniority	Frequency	Percentage
[1 – 5 years[	2	12 %
[6- 10 years[	6	38 %
[11-15 years[	5	32 %
[16-20 years[	2	12 %
[21-25 years]	1	6 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Based on the distribution of respondents, we observed that the category of press correspondents in the province of Batna with a seniority of 6-10 years is the dominant category, with a percentage of 38% and a frequency of 6, followed by those with a seniority of 11-15 years, with a percentage of 32% and a frequency of 5. However, it is interesting to note that there is a balanced distribution of durations of 1-5 years and 16-20 years, with a percentage of 12% and a frequency of 2, and a narrow distribution of those with seniority at work, which is between 21-25 years, with a percentage of 6%.

We note that the majority of press correspondents in the province of Batna have seniority in the field of journalism ranging from 6 to 10 years. In this regard, we conclude that the oldest press correspondents between 21 and 25 years old are represented with a percentage of 06%, we note that the majority have left their field, since it does not suit them, according to their responses to the questionnaire.

Table No. 07: The distribution of the population according to the work of their spouses

Spouse's work	Frequency	Percentage
Oui	4	29 %
Non	10	71 %
Total	14	100

Source: Study questionnaire

Note: 14 respondents instead of 16 respondents due to two single people in our study population.

From this table, we noted that the distribution of press correspondents in the province of Batna indicates that their spouse does not work, with a percentage of 71% and a frequency of 10, while the remainder mention that their spouse works, with a percentage of 29% and a frequency of 4.

Based on Table 8, according to the nature of the press correspondent's job, which shows that 75% work as a press correspondent as a secondary occupation. Due to their insufficient salary, their spouse not working, and their critical family situation, they are forced to practice this profession as an additional occupation.

Table No. 08: The distribution of the population according to their level of education

Educational level	Frequency	Percentage
Secondary	5	31 %
University	11	69 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Based on the data collected, the table above illustrates that the university education level of press correspondents in the province of Batna dominates with a percentage of 69% and a frequency of 11%, while secondary education is in second place with a percentage of 31% and a frequency of 5%.

We noted that the majority of press correspondents in the province of Bejaïa have a university degree, which is at a higher level. This may be due to the nature of the profession, which requires a high level of knowledge and language proficiency.

Table No. 09: The distribution of the population according to the nature of the press correspondent's profession.

Nature	Frequency	Percentage
A full-time job	4	25 %
A secondary job	12	75 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

The questionnaire statistics showed that the majority of press correspondents in the province of Batna work as a secondary occupation, with a percentage of 75% and a frequency of 12. A minority (25%) considered it a full-time job, with a frequency of 25% and a frequency of 4.

We conclude that press correspondents are a supplementary profession for correspondents, and the majority of our respondents have a primary source of income besides journalism.

Due to the high cost of living in Algeria, they are forced to have an additional source of income to meet their needs.

Table No. 10: The relationship between the spouse's work and the nature of the press correspondent's job.

Nature of the correspondents' profession Spouse's professional situation	Spouse works		Unemployed spouse		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Permanent work	1	8%	3	21%	4	29
Secondary work	3	21%	7	50%	10	71
Total	4	29%	10	71%	14	100

Source: Study questionnaire

From the table above, we note that press correspondents in the province of Batna who work as a secondary occupation and whose spouses are unemployed are the most common category, with a percentage of 50% and a frequency of 10%.

The sociological explanation that can be attributed to this statistical analysis is that most press correspondents in the province of Batna work as a secondary occupation, while their spouses are unemployed, thus they are forced to work an additional job to support themselves.

Table No.11: Population distribution according to the year of entry into the press correspondent profession

Years	Frequency	Percentage
[1995-2000]	1	6 %
[2001-2006]	2	13 %
[2007-2012]	4	25 %
[2013-2018]	8	50 %
[2019-2022]	1	6 %

Total	16	100 %
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Source: Study questionnaire

According to the following table, we found that during the years 2013-2018, the majority of press correspondents integrated their profession; from a percentage of 50% with a frequency of 8, followed by the period 2007-2012, during which the integration of the press correspondent profession reached a percentage of 25% with a frequency of 4, then a drop in the integration of the press correspondent profession with a percentage of 13% with a frequency of 2 is noted during the period 2001-2006. And a low integration of the press correspondent profession with a percentage of 6% and a frequency of 1 marked the periods 1995-2000 and 2019-2022. For the period 1995-2000, the low level of questioning of the press correspondent profession can be explained by the security crisis that Algeria experienced, which was characterized by terrorism and the assassination of journalists.

Table No.12: The media for which the press correspondent work

Media type	Frequency	Percentage
For a single newspaper	9	56 %
For several newspapers	4	25 %
For television	1	6%
For the radio channel	2	13%
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

According to this table, we notice that the category of press correspondents who work for a single newspaper is dominant; of a percentage of 56% either with a frequency of 9, followed by the category of correspondents who work for several newspapers with a percentage of 25% or with a frequency of 4, then the category of correspondents who work for the radio channel in third position with a percentage of 13% or with a frequency of 2, and in last place we find that the television channels have marked a low percentage of 6% or with a frequency 1.

This can be explained by the ease of recruitment of press correspondents to newspapers, compared to television and radio.

Table N ° 13: The type of employment contract

Contract types	Frequency	Percentage
CDD	10	62 %
CDI	6	38 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Through the data collected from the study population, we observed that the majority of press correspondents in the province of Batna have a fixed-term employment contract (CDD), with a percentage of 62% and a frequency of 10. Then, 38% of correspondents work on a CDI (permanent employment contract).

We concluded that most press correspondents in the province of Batna work on fixed-term contracts. This may be due to the working conditions, which may certainly be a contributing factor to the predominance of fixed-term contracts for press correspondents. The economic crisis that Algeria has experienced, the adoption of a market economy, and privatization may also be factors in media companies' choice of this type of contract.

Table No. 14: the situation of press correspondent

Situation	Frequency	Percentage
Active	15	94 %
Retired	1	6 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

This table shows that press correspondents in the province of Batna are active, with a percentage of 94% and a frequency of 15/16. However, a retired person category accounts for 6% and a frequency of 1/16.

We conclude that the majority of press correspondents in the province of Bejaïa are active.

Table No. 15: The geographical work area

Situation	Frequency	Percentage
Rural area	10	62 %
Urban area	6	38 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Based on the data in this table, we observed that the majority of respondents working in rural areas represent a sample with a frequency of 10 and a percentage of 62%, while correspondents working in urban areas represent a percentage of 38% and a frequency of 6%.

We observed that respondents working in rural areas dominate those working in urban areas with a frequency of 24% (62%-38%), because press correspondents are close to their place of residence, making access to information easy.

Table No. 16: The press correspondent's work region

The region	Frequency	Percentage
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From the work area	9	56 %
Outside the work region	7	44 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

According to the statistics in the "Correspondent Work" table, we observed an almost complete balance in terms of frequencies and percentages. In first place, we have press correspondents from the wilaya of Batna who work in their regions, represented by a percentage of 56% and a frequency of 9%. Those who work outside their home region represent 44% and a frequency of 7%.

We concluded that the majority of correspondents work in their work region and their home region, since coverage of events would be easier from their work region than from outside their work region, thus being close to their home region.

However, this is not really significant, as there is a slight difference in the statistics regarding the relationship between place of residence and place of work.

Table No. 17: difficulties encountered in working as a press correspondent

Type of Difficulty	Frequency	Percentage
Travel and transportation	5	31 %
Information collection	10	63 %
Adaptation to work	1	6 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

The previous table shows that the rate of press correspondents experiencing difficulties gathering information is higher than the other difficulties combined, with a rate of 63% and a frequency of 10%, accounting for the majority of the sample studied during the exercise of their profession. Travel and transportation issues are also cited as a constraint by 31%. Correspondents face transportation problems because the organization they belong to does not provide service vehicles or transportation for correspondents to gather information. Indeed, information gathering problems are linked to the conditions and resources made available, and to the type of information the correspondent is attempting to obtain.

Table No. 18: Correspondent's access to certain rights

Law	Frequency	Percentage
Insurance	2	12 %

Travel Expenses	14	88 %
Paid Leave	0	0
Family Allowance	0	0
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

The statistics collected after the questionnaire distribution reveal that the majority of press correspondents have their travel expenses covered by the media outlets they work for, with a percentage of 88% and a frequency of 14%. However, those who have access to insurance are present with a percentage of 12% and a frequency of 2% of the population studied.

We conclude that the majority of press correspondents have access to travel expenses covered by the media outlets they work for, since they have another job, so they only have access to travel expenses. However, the minority have access to insurance because they are permanent correspondents.

Table No. 19: Press correspondents' opinion of their salary

The salary	Frequency	Percentage
Suffisant	15	94 %
Insuffisant	1	1 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

According to the table above, statistics reveal that 94% of correspondents are dissatisfied with their salary, which represents an overwhelming majority. However, 6% are satisfied with their salary.

So, the salary issue is not only a problem in the public sector, but also in the press.

This is also due to the nature of journalists' remuneration, which is freelance (see Table 17), so it is not a fixed or reassuring salary, and the freelance payment rates are not really encouraging. This is due to the financial situation of the organization, which comes from advertising. Currently, advertising is in decline due to social media, particularly internally, as well as the economic crisis Algeria is currently experiencing.

Table No. 20: The relationship between the correspondent's salary and the way the press correspondent is paid.

	Paid per item	Paid monthly	Total
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How the correspondent is paid The correspondent's salary	F	%	F	%	F	%
Insufficient salary	13	81%	2	13 %	15	94 %
Sufficient salary	0	00%	1	6%	1	6 %
Total	13	81%	3	19%	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

The statistics collected after cross-referencing the two variables: the satisfaction rate of press correspondents with their salaries and the way they are paid.

We reveal that the majority of press correspondents who are paid freelance consider their salaries insufficient, with a percentage of 81% and a frequency of 13. However, those who are paid monthly report a percentage of 13% and a frequency of 2.

We only conclude that the salaries of freelance press correspondents in the province of Batna are insufficient. This is due to the nature of the employment contracts signed with the media outlets they work for, as well as the critical financial situation of the media outlets, which does not allow them to pay their correspondents a very high salary.

Table No. 21: How the correspondent is paid

Maner	Frequency	Percentage
Per article	13	81 %
Per month	3	19 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Based on data collected from the sample studied, it was observed that 81% of press correspondents are paid per article and only 19% are paid monthly.

Summary of statistics:

Percentage of correspondents paid per article: 81% and 13% frequency.

Percentage of correspondents paid monthly: 19% and 3% frequency.

This is entirely logical and is due to the nature of the employment contracts imposed by media outlets, the majority of which are fixed-term contracts (see Table 11).

Table No. 22: The means of transport used when traveling

Means of transport	Frequency	Percentage
Public transport	7	44%
Personal vehicle	9	56 %
Service vehicle	0	0 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

According to the data collected, 44% of people used public transportation as their means of transportation, with a frequency of 7 people.

On the other hand, 56% of people used their own vehicle as their means of transportation, with a frequency of 9 people, while no one used a company vehicle.

It is concluded that the company vehicle may not be available to news correspondents, which would explain why none of them indicated its use. This could be due to specific policies of the media company they work for or budgetary limitations that restrict access to company vehicles.

It is also possible that news correspondents prefer to use their own transportation for personal reasons. They may prefer the flexibility and independence offered by their own vehicle, as well as the ability to travel according to their own schedule.

Table No. 23: The socio-professional situation of press correspondents

Situation	Frequency	Percentage
Bad situation	16	100 %
Good situation	0	0 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

In light of the data presented in the previous table, we observed that all the press correspondents in our study population face a poor socio-professional situation. This means that 100% of respondents fall into this category, with a frequency of 16 out of 16 respondents. None of the correspondents work in a good socio-professional situation, which represents 0%.

From this statistical study, we found that the entire study population of press correspondents encounters difficulties in their socio-professional situation. This may include problems such as insufficient wages, precarious working conditions, a lack of job stability, or other challenges related to their professional status.

Table No. 24: The method used for collecting information by press correspondents

The method	Frequency	Percentage
Be there	2	13 %
Investigation	1	6 %
Personal contact	12	75 %
Internet	1	6 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

All press correspondents in the province of Batna found that the best method for gathering information was their personal contacts, which ranked first with a percentage of 75% and a frequency of 12/16. Those who preferred the on-site method ranked first with a percentage of 13% and a frequency of 2/16. There is a minority category that prefers to use the internet and investigation with a rate of 12% and a frequency of 2/16.

We conclude that the majority prefers personal contact more than other methods. This can be explained by the press correspondents' trust in their personal contacts.

Press correspondents obtain their sources through their personal contacts. This correspondent's job consists of having reliable and reliable sources. Therefore, correspondents must have their own personal sources to obtain information about current events; it is part of their reputation and professionalism towards their audience.

Table No. 25: The method used for verifying the reliability of the information

The method	Frequency	Percentage
Through sources	4	25 %
Through appearing	1	6 %
Personal method	6	38 %
Be sure to stay there	5	31 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

This table shows that 38% of press correspondents in the province of Batna use their own methods to verify the reliability of the information they collect, while 31% of the rest prefer to be on-site to cover and monitor the news closely. Third, they use their own sources to verify the accuracy of the information, and finally, the use of comparison, represented by a percentage of 6%, representing a frequency of 1/16.

It is noted that the majority of press correspondents in the province of Batna use their own methods to verify the reliability of information.

We conclude that correspondents prefer to use their own methods to verify the reliability of sources. Therefore, they must be careful about the sources from which they obtain information; otherwise, they will be prosecuted for false information. The work of a correspondent is focused on investigation, in order to obtain reliable information and verify its veracity using their own methods.

Table No. 26: How correspondents handle sensitive and confidential information while respecting journalistic ethics

The way	Frequency	Percentage
With professional techniques	2	13 %
Caution	6	37 %
On-site travel	5	31 %
Objectivity	2	13 %
Seniority in the profession	1	6 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Through the data in this table, we note that 37% of press correspondents in the province of Batna handle confidential information with caution, with a frequency of 6 out of 16. This is followed by categories that handle this type of information based on field visits, with a percentage of 31% and a frequency of 5 out of 16. Third, a balance of those who handle it objectively and with professional techniques, with a percentage of 13%, and finally, those who handle it according to their seniority, with a low percentage of 6%.

In Algeria, confidential information is very dangerous; they risk legal prosecution if they provide confidential and false information. Therefore, correspondents are able to exercise caution and work with caution and respect, and avoid undermining the security and sovereignty of the state.

Table No. 27: Press correspondents and how they respond to obstacles when gathering information

The obstacles	Frequency	Percentage
As best as possible	5	31 %
Objectivity	3	19 %
To survive	4	25 %
Surpassed	4	25 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Based on the collected data, and through the table above, press correspondents do their best to face the obstacles they encounter, which is represented by a percentage of 31% and a frequency of 5/16, followed by survival and overcoming, which are represented by a percentage of 25% each, or a frequency of 4/16, and lastly, objectivity, with a percentage of 19%, or a frequency of 3/16.

We note that the majority of press correspondents do their best to face obstacles while carrying out their work.

We conclude that press correspondents must do their best despite the difficulties they encounter; they must accumulate their work, which consists of informing citizens.

Table No. 28: Sources of information

Sources	Frequency	Percentage
Personal networks	10	62 %
Official source	6	38 %
Internet networks	0	0 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Through the table above and based on the collected data, we observed that the majority of press correspondents use their own personal networks, represented by a percentage of 62%, or a frequency of 10/16. On the other hand, 6 individuals from the remaining part of our study population prefer to use official information sources, with a percentage of 38%, or a frequency of 6/16. Furthermore, the use of the internet network is represented by 0%.

We note that the majority of press correspondents use their own personal networks to gather information.

We conclude that the personal network is the most reliable source compared to other parameters; correspondents must always be cautious in their information gathering; otherwise, they will be prosecuted for false information.

Table No. 29: Correspondents' confidence in the information provided by their sources

The information provided	Frequency	Percentage
Confident	13	81%
Not confident	3	19 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Based on this table and the data collected from our study sample, we note that the category of correspondents who trust the information provided by their sources dominates, with a percentage of 81%, or a frequency of 13/16. However, the category who do not trust their sources ranks second, with a low rate of 19%.

In conclusion, we note that the majority of press correspondents trust the information provided by their sources.

And here we can see the importance of personal relationships, even at work; they inspire trust.

Of course, correspondents trust their sources; otherwise, they would be less able to continue their work as press correspondents. Generally, this profession is based on the veracity of information; the correspondent must inform their audience through sources they trust.

Table No. 30: The relationship between the responsibility of the press correspondent and the information provided by their sources.

Correspondent's responsibility The confidence of correspondents in their source	confident		Not confident		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
The transmission of information	12	75 %	3	19 %	15	94 %

Be professional	1	6 %	0	0 %	1	6 %
Total	13	81%	3	19 %	16	1 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Through the table above, which is a cross-tabulation of two variables: correspondents' trust in the information provided by their sources and the responsibility of the press correspondent?

We reveal that the most prevalent category is press correspondents who trust their sources and are responsible for transmitting information, with a percentage of 75% and a frequency of 12/16. In the second category, we have press correspondents whose goal is to transmit information, and they do not trust their sources, with a percentage of 19% and a frequency of 3.

Our sociological explanation that can be attributed to this statistical analysis is that a press correspondent obtains reliable information from their sources, automatically gaining the trust of readers. Otherwise, their reputation would be called into question and they would also be exposed to legal action.

Table No. 31: Criteria used by press correspondents to assess the reliability of the information collected

Criteria	Frequency	Percentage
Moving on the ground	6	37 %
Investigation	3	19 %
Reliability of the source	3	19 %
From personal verification	4	25 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Based on the data collected, the majority used the field visit method to assess the reliability of the information collected, with a percentage of 37%, representing a total of 6 individuals. However, two of them preferred to use their own personal verification, represented by a percentage of 25%. This was equally true for the use of investigation and the reliability of sources, which was represented by a percentage of 25%.

We conclude that the majority of press correspondents in Batna prefer to verify the reliability of the information collected through field visits.

Of course, each correspondent has their own perspective; for some, they prefer to be on-site to better observe an event or other event. However, if the correspondent is not at the location of the event, the reporting will be different.

Table No. 32: Responsibility of the press correspondent

Responsibility	Frequency	Percentage
Transmission of information	15	94 %
Be professional	1	6 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

Based on the data collected, the majority of correspondents take responsibility for transmitting information, with a percentage of 94%, representing a total of 15 individuals. However, one of them prefers the responsibility of being professional.

Of course, the correspondent's responsibility is to ensure the transmission of information to citizens.

Table No. 33: Satisfaction rate with the way correspondents ensure the citizen's right to information

Satisfaction	Frequency	Percentage
Satisfied	15	94 %
Not satisfied	1	6 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

In light of the data presented in the table, it is observed that the majority of respondents in our study sample express satisfaction with the way they ensure the citizen's right to information, with a percentage of 94% and a frequency of 15/16. However, 6% of the remaining respondents state that they are not satisfied, with a frequency of 1/16.

We conclude that the vast majority of press correspondents in the province of Batna are satisfied with the way they ensure the citizen's right to information.

Of course, correspondents ensure the citizen's right to information; this is what defines a journalist. Otherwise, they will not continue to practice their profession if their audience is not satisfied with the work they do. Their essential task is to inform the public, entertain them, and educate them; therefore, their profession depends on their audience.

Table No. 34: Organization of local information coverage by the media body

Local coverage	Frequency	Percentage
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Organized	14	87 %
Unorganized	2	13 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

In this table, the majority of press correspondents state that the host organization for which they work organizes local news coverage, with a percentage of 87% and a frequency of 14/16, while 13% of the remaining respondents state the opposite, with a frequency of 2/16.

We conclude that local news coverage by the organization is organized; the media organization has a hierarchy and an organization, and a distribution of tasks. Otherwise, the information will be the same and there will be no diversification of information.

Table No. 35: Breakdown of geographical coverage areas

Divisions of geographical areas	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	9	56 %
No	7	44 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

The collected data shows that 56% of press correspondents in the province of Batna report that the media outlet they work for divides their coverage areas, with a frequency of 9 out of 16. The remaining press correspondents state the opposite, with a percentage of 44%, or a frequency of 7 out of 16.

We conclude that the press outlet divides the geographic coverage areas of press correspondents in Batna.

Table No. 36: The existence of professionalization of the activity of press correspondent

Professionalization	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	4	25 %
No	12	75 %
Total	16	100 %

Source: Study questionnaire

This table shows that the majority of correspondents in Batna believe that there is no professionalization in the work of press correspondents, with a percentage of 75%, or a frequency of 12/16. Among the remaining respondents, only 25% believe that there is professionalization in the work of press correspondents, or a frequency of 4/16.

This can be explained by precarious working conditions: Press correspondents may face difficult working conditions, such as irregular hours, low or nonexistent wages, precarious contracts, etc. This precariousness may contribute to their feeling of a lack of professionalization.

While correspondents believe that there is no professionalization in the work of press correspondents, this is due to various constraints, as well as the lack of a legal text defining their status, which is why they consider leaving the field of journalism one day.

Discussion and verification of hypotheses:

The objective of our research was to study the profile of press correspondents in the province of Batna. We then established two hypotheses on which we based our questionnaire:

- 1- The socio-professional situation of the Algerian press correspondent is criticized given that they live in difficult conditions;
- 2- The Algerian press correspondent ensures the citizen's right to information by adopting a professional approach to their work.

After analyzing the results of the tables and interpreting the data, we arrived at results that allowed us to confirm both hypotheses:

- *Regarding our first hypothesis, which is the socio-professional situation of the Algerian press correspondent is criticized given that they live in difficult conditions.*

Summarize the tables that support our first hypothesis:

- The press correspondent's profession and an additional profession to support their needs; - The majority of press correspondents in Batna joined their profession between 2013 and 2018, which is explained by the establishment of the communications and public relations specialty.

- The majority of press correspondents work for a single newspaper, as they have other professions;
- Most press correspondents in the province of Batna work on fixed-term contracts, due to the nature of their employment contract.
- Press correspondents in the province of Batna are in active employment.
- Press correspondents work in a rural geographic area, since it is close to their place of residence.
- The majority of correspondents work in their region of residence since it is easy to cover events.

Correspondents face a transportation problem because the media outlets they work for do not provide service vehicles or provide transportation.

- The majority of press correspondents have their travel expenses covered by the media outlets they work for, with a percentage of 88% and 14% of frequency;
- Press correspondents are dissatisfied with their salaries;
- Most press correspondents are paid per article. Only 19% are paid monthly;
- The majority of press correspondents use public transportation as a means of transportation, while no one uses a service vehicle;
- The entire population of press correspondents studied faces difficulties in their social and professional situations. "Through a review of the laws of 1982, 1990, and the Organic Law of 2012, on the identity of press correspondents and their rights. This implies that the rights and responsibilities of the journalists in question are similar to those of other journalists, but these laws have neglected a category of journalists who are freelancers and contract workers, the independents, to this effect no text defines their status and their rights and duties, the determination is to leave it to the press institution to decide in relation to its internal regulations and its collective agreements.

Furthermore, according to the article by Dr. Mustapha Tabet and Dr. Ismail Hamani, published in the journal Studies and Sociological Research of the University of Kasdi Merbah Ouaregla-Algeria.¹

Entitled: The Algerian Press Correspondent in Media Charters and Legislation, which also confirms that the press correspondent is in a difficult situation, "Media laws in Algeria have been affected by the political and ideological changes that Algeria has undergone, the absence of professional dimensions for journalists and press correspondents in all charters and official speeches."

We noted that the press correspondent in the province of Batna is living in a difficult situation, as well as the absence of laws and legislation that define their status. According to Tables No. (16), (18), (21), (22), the data presented in these four tables suggest that press correspondents are in an unfavorable socio-professional situation, which confirms the first hypothesis.

From this, we conclude that our first hypothesis is confirmed.

- ***These concerns the second hypothesis which is the Algerian press correspondent ensures the right of the citizen to information by the adoption of a professional method at work.***

Summarize tables that defend our second hypothesis:

- All the press correspondents of the wilaya of Batna find that the best method for the collection of information is their personal contact which took first place under a percentage of 75% and a frequency of 12;
- The majority of press correspondents in the wilaya of Batna use their personal methods for verifying the reliability of information;
- Batna's press correspondents manage confidential information with caution and pay attention;
- Press correspondents do their best in the face of the obstacles they encounter during the exercise of their professions;
- The majority of press correspondents use their own personal networks for information collection;
- The majority of Batna's press correspondent prefer to check the reliability of the information collected through the move to the field;
- The responsibility of press correspondents of the wilaya of Batna is to be like a mediator between the media and the citizen in order to ensure feedback between the expectations of informational citizens and the visited of the labor body;
- The majority of press correspondents of the wilaya of Batna are satisfied with the way in which they ensure the right of citizens to information;
- Local information coverage on the part of the body is organized, the media body has a hierarchy, and an organization, the distribution of the stains, if not if the information will be the same and there will not be a diversification of information;
- There is a division of geographic areas of covering press correspondents in Batna;
- The correspondents judge that there is not a professionalization of the profession of the press correspondent, this is due to the different constraints, as there is no legal text which define their status, for that they think of one day leaving the field of journalism ;

In the light of exploratory studies on our theme, we were able to have confirmation of the author Philip Gaillard, in his work entitled: Journalism technique "The local or regional correspondent of a Multiple Edition provincial daily is responsible for essentially transmitting the news daily which, for the most part, only interests the readers of its sector", "the good local correspondent is above all the one who has a sense of information, who can interest what". "... is of particular interest in readers".

According to tables n ° = (30) (31) (32) The data presented in these three tables, have effectively confirmed that the majority of press correspondents of the studied sample exercise their profession with a responsibility for transmitting information.

Through the data collected from our respondents, and based on author Philippe Gaillard, we note that the local Willaya of Batna's correspondent ensures the right of the citizen to information.

We conclude that our second hypothesis is confirmed.

Conclusion:

The object of our study in this research work is focused on the profile of the correspondents which is the set of socio -professional traits of an individual.

Our first interest is to study the social and professional situation of the correspondents. However, we conducted a quantitative survey intended for around twenty correspondents in the various media bodies, (newspapers, radio and television) who work in the wilaya of Batna.

In light of the analysis of the results obtained during this study, we can say that the data obtained during our research work, confirm the two hypotheses that we stated at the start of our research, the results obtained confirm that the press correspondent in Batna ensures the right of the citizen to information by the adoption of a professional method responsible for work which is our second hypothesis even if they come in a critical situation on the social plant assumption.

In conclusion, the press correspondent plays an essential role in the field of journalism by covering events and by reporting information in a specific geographic area. His work involves in -depth research, interviews, data collection and editorial skills to produce precise and relevant information. They must be objective, and respect the journalistic ethical principles, press correspondents are the eyes and ears of the media, by providing reports, articles and news to their work media. While being ready to work in sometimes difficult conditions.

The profile of the press correspondent at the wilaya of Batna is mainly summed up according to our study in the following lines:

- ☐ The work of the press correspondent is an additional profession;
- ☐ Press correspondents work for a single newspaper;
- ☐ Press correspondents are paid to the freelance, they worked with a determined contract;
- ☐ The salary of the correspondent is insufficient comparing the task they accomplish;
- ☐ The press correspondent does not have access to insurance and social security.

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