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QUESTIONS: 1. How is the portrayal of the Global South by the Global North news organization/ media. (10).

2. what are the challenges a foreign correspondent is likely to face in these times, especially with Coronavirus, Racism and all other Fears in view? Proffer the solutions you think will overcome the challenges you raise. (10).

ANSWERS

1. B**efore we go mainly into the issue, it is necessary to know some basic terms. Let us start with the definition or an explanation of what the exactly the Global South and North is.**

**The Global South, emerged in the 1950s but Carl Oglesby became the first person to give it a contemporary political use when he commented on the US’s dominance over the global south. The Global South, includes countries in Africa, Latin America, and developing parts of Asia and the Middle East. Alternative terms for the Global South are the Less Developed World,** [**Developing Countries**](https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-is-a-developing-country.html)**, Majority World, Non-Western World, Poor World, the South,** [**Third World**](https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-does-the-third-world-mean.html)**, the Undeveloped World, and so much more. Countries of the Global South are usually seen as newly** [**industrialized**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Industrialization) **or in the process of industrializing, and they are largely considered by** [**freedom indices**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_indices) **to have lower-quality** [**democracies**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracies)**, and frequently have a history of** [**colonialism**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonialism) **by the Northern are, often the** [**European**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europe) **states. Another definition of the Global south, is by Eugene Staley, he said that it is, “A country characterized by (I) mass poverty which is chronic and not the result of temporary misfortune and (ii) obsolete methods of production and social organization, which means that the poverty is not due to poor natural resources and hence could presumably be lessened by methods already proved in other countries”. Also, the Planning Commission of India offered a definition of underdeveloped country as one, “which is characterized by the co-existence, in greater or lesser degree, of unutilized or under-utilized manpower on the one hand and of the unexploited natural resources on the other”.**

**The North could be defined as** [**Europe**](https://www.encyclopedia.com/places/oceans-continents-and-polar-regions/oceans-and-continents/europe) **and its offshoots (such as** [**Canada**](https://www.encyclopedia.com/places/united-states-and-canada/canadian-political-geography/canada)**, the** [**United States**](https://www.encyclopedia.com/places/united-states-and-canada/us-political-geography/united-states)**,** [**Australia**](https://www.encyclopedia.com/places/australia-and-oceania/australian-and-new-zealand-political-geography/australia)**, and** [**New Zealand**](https://www.encyclopedia.com/places/australia-and-oceania/australian-and-new-zealand-political-geography/new-zealand)**),** [**Japan**](https://www.encyclopedia.com/places/asia/japanese-political-geography/japan) **has also, clearly, been a developed country for many years. The Global North can also be referred to as the First World, they are known to be wealthier, less unequal and considered more democratic and** [**developed countries**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developed_countries) **who export technologically advanced** [**manufactured products**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Final_good)**.**

**Now, the mass media performs certain basic functions for the society in which it has found itself and relates with its society in very dynamic ways. The mass media cannot function in isolation and that is why it is in a symbiotic relationship with the society. The mass media are the powerful means that do not only influence today’s world, but also shape the globe of tomorrow. They perform essential tasks in order to cast its effect to the audience and maintain the society. In developed countries, the media is focused on the implementation of various political, economic needs of their audience but in developing countries, the media has its focus on serious economic, political, infrastructural concerns and so many other disturbing factors.**

**It is good to know that there are certain ways the mass media in the Global North portray underdeveloped countries/ the Global South. It is not so positive or satisfactory in nature and that could be a problem. First of all, it is seemed to be in quote, a ‘shithole’, and this is the fault of the media making the countries look bad and these people have been met with indignation around the world and sparked a discussion on issues of race and racism. Let us take a very underdeveloped country for example, ( Africa). Africa is the world’s second-largest continent, one covered in a wide range of landscapes, from grassy highlands, jungles, savannahs and deserts, to vast lakes and rivers, snow-topped mountains, lush valleys and canyons. It is also the second-most populous continent, being home to more than 1.2 billion people living in a variety of urban, semi-rural and rural settings. It is indeed true that much of the continent suffers from poverty, but there is also a large middle class and pockets of opulence. There is agriculture, and there is industry. Africa is host to a number of deadly armed conflicts, but violence is largely confined within limited regions, and many of its countries have not experienced armed conflict since their independence more than half a century ago. To call Africa diverse is a vast understatement. People from the continent occupy all walks of life, they are farmers, builders, office workers, computer programmers, fashion designers, doctors. Regardless of their circumstances, people from Africa, just like people from any continent and just like Donald Trump, tend to devote their energies to the pursuit of a better life for themselves and their families. The fact that it seems at all necessary to have to make a point of spelling out the diversity of the continent and the basic nature of human existence speaks volumes about the degree to which the entire continent of Africa and its billion inhabitants seem to be all too often reduced to a simple single crude stereotype. The media in the Global North, are also known for** **the transmission of western values and for the perpetuation of cultural imperialism. Foreign programs dominate our television screens.**

**Programs that have little or no redeeming values as far as our culture is concerned consistently feature on our media channels. Considering how Africa as a whole is being portrayed by the western mass media, it shouldn’t be much of a surprise that it is perceived in such a stereotypical manner. Let us look into some of them; first of all, the Africa portrayed by the media, is not actually legit. The news outlets also procure a higher percent of western news, not leaving any room to portray Africa in its diversity. It is not a surprise that the little coverage that Africa itself gets, tends to be entirely negative, even more negative than any other continent. Even within news about conflicts, the more positive aspect of peacemaking is less likely to be covered for conflicts in Africa than it is for conflicts in the Middle East. In another aspect, a Western victim of a kidnapping or killing by an armed group in Africa is far more likely to be covered than an African victim. One cannot help but come to the conclusion that race and socioeconomic status is also playing a very big role in the determination of newsworthiness. It is entirely frustrating how the** **coverage of Africa remains largely fixated on the problems the continent faces, for example, news stories of poverty and humanitarian tragedies in Africa are full of benevolent Westerners coming to the aid of their victims with medicine, food and blankets and so much more. With this sad focus on the negative aspects of Africa in the news coverage, there is an absence of the positive aspects as well as the failure to highlight the endeavors and innovation made by the people in Africa in overcoming the challenges they face.**

1. **CHALLENGES OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN TERMS OF RACISM AND THE NOVEL- CORONAVIRUS**

**Before we look into the challenges of these group of media individuals that is the foreign correspondents, it is best to first of all understand what exactly and who exactly a foreign correspondent is. So, who is a foreign correspondent? A foreign correspondent, is simply an individual who is involved with the exchange of news, information etc., amongst nations and nationals of different countries and facilitated by international (journalists) correspondents who represent their various media organizations in those nations. In another definition,** **a foreign correspondent may be an on-the-scene reporter, working for a television station and filing news stories live as the events occur. Usually, war reporting or/and disaster reporting are often on-the-scene stories, so it is important for this type of journalist to function well under pressure. Also, a journalist working in a dangerous area should be experienced and understand the risks of the job, as well as what he or she needs to do in an emergency. Now that we understand the role and the definition of who a foreign correspondent is, lets get to the challenges they are facing at these trying times. It is not a new thing for foreign correspondents to face challenges and risks while carrying out their duties. They go through quite a lot as individuals, facing death in the eye and so much more including racism. Here are some of the challenges they are all facing:**

1. **The foreign correspondents, is quite largely dependent on public opinion in the countries they are assigned to and due to the rules pertaining the coronavirus which is based mostly of social distancing, and total lockdown, they are finding it difficult to be able to source out vital and useful information.**
2. **The issue of limited staffing. i.e. they are having less individuals to carry out the role of foreign correspondents due to the pandemic and due to the permanent restrictions.**
3. **In terms of racism, correspondents especially the colored or not just accepted, that are posted to highly racist areas like Germany for example, face ill treatments not only from the people around them but even from sources of information that is when trying to collect information from individuals. They might be refused information just because of thier color.**
4. **Restriction from travels: due to the coronavirus pandemic, the airports have been closed and with this, it will be difficult for the operations of the correspondents.**
5. **The foreign correspondents have to go to various dangerous places, during this period in order to get news stories and they are at risk of getting infected with the disease, some have and that scares others.**
6. **Due to the economic downfall in most countries because of the virus, the foreign correspondents are going to be affected too due to down payment even after so much work.**

**WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THESE ISSUES?**

1. **Since they are not able to be in personal contact with some individuals to get news information, they can instead depend on the internet, i.e. via facetime, skype, or any other application in other to reach these people and more at a fast rate even. And they will be able to be in contact with more people at a little time.**
2. **In terms of limited staffing, the director should be able in this period source out other local correspondents in those countries to take over the work this would be safer and more efficient until the pandemic is over.**
3. **In the issue of racism, it is a very difficult battle to solve or fight and so the best is to train the correspondents on how to overcome the oppressions, especially in this time of crisis on the George Floyd killing. or if its too bad, then a change of correspondents is necessary.**
4. **I believe that the foreign correspondents should be in some extent giving a free pass in terms of travelling in order to spread and report information especially at these trying times.**
5. **In the case of the risk of getting infected while getting news information, I think that the foreign correspondents should seriously, adopt the use of the right protective gears like face mask or shield, gloves, sanitizers, etc.**
6. **In this situation with the economic downfall and down payment of the foreign correspondents, I may not have a suggesting solution to this but to advice the correspondents to be patient and hope for the end of the deadly virus.**