# Article information:

Is citizen journalism dead? An examination of recent developments in the field - Bruce Mutsvairo, Susana Salgado, 2022  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1464884920968440>

# Article summary:

1. The reliance on untrained citizen journalists without professional standards has become widespread in less democratic environments, impacting news gathering and reporting.

2. Despite concerns about the conceivability and reliability of citizen journalism, it continues to develop in countries like Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

3. Factors such as improved internet access and changing attitudes toward political dissent have led to a reconceptualization of citizen journalism in Africa.

# Article rating:

Appears strongly imbalanced: The article is written in a biased or one-sided way, and the information it provides is not trustworthy enough to be considered a reliable source. You should consult other sources to find reliable information on the presented issues.

# Article analysis:

The article titled "Is citizen journalism dead? An examination of recent developments in the field" by Bruce Mutsvairo and Susana Salgado explores the current state of citizen journalism, particularly in African countries such as Zimbabwe and Mozambique. While the article provides some valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities of citizen journalism, there are several areas where it exhibits potential biases, one-sided reporting, unsupported claims, missing points of consideration, and unexplored counterarguments.

One potential bias in the article is its focus on less democratic environments and its assumption that citizen journalism is more prevalent in these contexts. The authors argue that reliance on untrained reporters with limited understanding of journalistic standards is widespread in less democratic environments. However, they fail to acknowledge that citizen journalism can also thrive in democratic societies where individuals have access to technology and platforms for self-expression. This narrow focus limits the scope of the analysis and overlooks important developments in citizen journalism globally.

Furthermore, the article makes unsupported claims about the impact of citizen journalism on news gathering and reporting. It states that the lack of professional standards associated with citizen journalists has affected news gathering and reporting without providing concrete evidence or examples to support this claim. Without empirical data or case studies, it is difficult to assess the extent to which citizen journalism has influenced traditional news practices.

The article also lacks a comprehensive exploration of counterarguments or alternative perspectives on citizen journalism. While it acknowledges some debates about the conceivability, capacity, reliability, and acceptability of citizen journalists due to their lack of professional standards, it does not delve deeper into these debates or present opposing viewpoints. This omission undermines the credibility of the analysis and limits readers' ability to critically engage with the topic.

Additionally, there are missing points of consideration in the article. For example, it does not address issues related to ethics and accountability in citizen journalism. The authors briefly mention professional standards but do not explore how these can be upheld or enforced within the realm of citizen journalism. This oversight is significant as it raises questions about the credibility and reliability of citizen-generated content.

The article also exhibits promotional content by suggesting that a reconceptualization of citizen journalism is imperative in Africa due to improved access to the internet and changing attitudes toward political dissent and participation. While these factors may indeed contribute to the evolution of citizen journalism, the authors do not provide sufficient evidence or analysis to support their claim. This promotional tone undermines the objectivity of the article and raises concerns about potential biases.

In terms of risks, the article briefly mentions changing attitudes toward political dissent and participation but does not adequately address potential risks associated with citizen journalism. For example, it does not explore issues such as misinformation, manipulation, or the spread of hate speech through citizen-generated content. These risks are important considerations when discussing the impact and future prospects of citizen journalism.

Overall, while the article provides some valuable insights into citizen journalism in African countries, it exhibits potential biases, one-sided reporting, unsupported claims, missing points of consideration, unexplored counterarguments, promotional content, and a lack of comprehensive analysis on potential risks. A more balanced and rigorous approach would enhance the credibility and depth of the analysis presented in this article.

# Topics for further research:

* Ethical considerations in citizen journalism
* Impact of citizen journalism on traditional news practices
* Risks of misinformation in citizen journalism
* Professional standards in citizen journalism
* Role of technology in citizen journalism
* Global developments in citizen journalism

# Report location:

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