

Hyrja

Pwr tw pasur njw ide sa mw tw mirw pwr mwnyrwn se si media pasqyron dhe paraqet fwmijwt, njw raport monitorues pwr gjashtw gazetata kryesore u krye pwr tw gjithw muajin tetor. Gazetat e pwrtditshme pwrfaqwsonin median kryesore dhe u pwrzgjedhwn ato qw mendohen se kanw edhe numrin mw tw madh tw kopjeve tw shitura. Meqw nuk ekzistojnw tw dhwna zyrtare pwr shitjet e gazetave dhe tirazhin e tyre nw pwrzgjithwsi, pwrzgjedhja e gazetave pwr monitorim u krye sipas konsultimeve me kryeredaktorwt e tw pwrtditshmeve. Botimet e pwrtditshme tw pwrfskira nw raportin monitorues ishin: *Shekulli*, *Panorama*, *Standard*, *Gazeta Shqiptare*, *Korrieri*, *Shqip*. Gjatw kwsaj kohe u monitoruan tw gjitha artikujt qw kishin tw bwnin me ose pwrfshtin apo preknin fwmijwt. Fwmijwt nw kwtw rast upwrkufizuan si personat nwn 18 vjeç. Pwr tw pasur njw pamje sa mw tw plotw sa tw jetw e mundur, artikujt qw nuk pwrqendroheshin posaqwrisht te fwmijwt por kishin tw bwnin me ta, u morwn gjithashtu parasysht.

Analiza e artikujve tw monitoruar ishte si sasiore, ashtu edhe cilwsore. Temat kryesore qw dolwn nga kwtw artikuj tw monitoruar ishin kryesisht trafikimi i fwmijwve, dhuna nw familje, arsimi, krimi dhe drejtwsia pwr tw miturit, etc. Numri i pwrzgjithshwm i artikujve tw monitoruar ishte 99 artikuj pwr tw gjashtw gazetata. Artikujt e monitoruara nuk pwrfshtin vetwm lajmet, por edhe editorialet, reportazhet, lajmet e shkurtra, etj. Gjatwsia e artikujve varionte nga dy paragrafw nw njw faqe tw twrw gazete, nw varwsi tw lajmit qw paraqiste. Megjithatw, nw pwrzgjithwsi artikujt mbi fwmijwt nuk zinin ndonjw vend tw spikatur nw hapwsirwn e gazetave tw monitoruara dhe pwrzgjithwsisht ishin tw lidhura me ndonjw ngjarje qw ishte zhvilluar atw ditw. Numri i artikujve pwr gazetw wshtw si mw poshtw:

Gazeta e pwrtditshme	Numri i artikujve pwr fwmijwt
Shekulli	28
Shqip	18
Panorama	13
Korrieri	17
Standard	9
Gazeta Shqiptare	14

Kwtw artikuj u monitoruan duke pasur parasysht Konventwn e OKB pwr tw Drejtat e Fwmijwve, Sfidwn e Oslos, si dhe Kodin e Etikws sw Gazetarwve Shqiptarw. Nw pwrzgjithwsi u pwrdorwn parimet dhe korniza kryesore e kwtyre dokumenteve, por vwmendje e posaqme iu kushtua atyre paragrafwve qw trajtojnw drejtpwrdrejt median dhe tw drejtat, pwrjegjwsitw dhe sfidat e medias gjatw pasqyrimin tw fwmijwve.

Nw pwrzgjithwsi, vwrehej njw lloj njwtrajtshmwria pwrta i pwrket larmisw sw temave mbi fwmijwt tw pasqyruara nw gazetata e pwrtditshme tw monitoruara. Nw fakt, si do tw tregohet dhe mw pas, arsyeja kryesore pwr pasqyrimin e fwmijwve nw faqet e gazetave zakonisht ishte ndonjw konferencw pwr shtyp ose raport i botuar nga ndonjw organizatw vendase ose ndwrkombwtare. Nw kwtw drejtim, kishte njw mungesw tw theksuar tw

nismave spontane pwr tw pasqyruar fwmijwt nw gazetata e pwr dritshme, me disa pwrjashtime tw pakta. Po kwshtu, kwto gazeta nuk tregonin ndonjw pwrpjekje pwr tw ndjekur kwto çwshtje mw vonw, pas botimit tw raporteve.

Nwse pwrpiqemi tw grupojmw temat kryesore nw lidhje me pasqyrimin e fwmijwve, disa parime kryesore mund tw vwrehen nw pasqyrimin e fwmijwve. Pwrsa i pwrket pwrmbajtjes, temat mund tw grupohen nw kategoritw e mwposhtme tw gjera: krimi dhe viktimat te tw miturit, arsimit dhe shwmdetwsia, si dhe dhuna nw familje. Me pak pwrjashtime, nuk kishte reportazhe ose artikuj investigativw pwr aspekte tw veçanta tw jetws sw fwmijwve. Nw fakt, numri i ulwt i artikujve pwr fwmijwt wshtw tregues pwr pwrparwsinw e ulwt pwr pasqyrimin e kwtij grupi nw gazetata e pwr dritshme. Njw tipar tjetwr qw duhet parw nw kwttw aspekt wshtw edhe motivimi pwr artikujt e botuar, domethwnw komunikatat pwr shtyp, ngjarjet, ose raportet e nxjerra nga qeveria, nga organizata joqeveritare, apo nga ato ndwrkombwtare. Po kwshtu, raportimet pwr fwmijwt e humbur, pwr dorimi i intervistave dhe citateve tw fwmijwve, si dhe fotot dhe faqosja, kanw rolin e tyre nw krijimin e njw pamjeje mw tw plotw tw llojit tw pasqyrimin mediatik pwr fwmijwt nw gazetata e pwr dritshme. Meqw kwto janw disa nga tiparet mbizotwruese nw pasqyrimin e pwr gjithshwm tw fwmijwve nw gazetata e pwr dritshme, do tw ishte e dobishme studimi mw i thellw i tyre, nw mwnyrw qw tw kemi njw pamje sa mw tw plotw tw raportimit tw fwmijwve nw pwr gjithwsi.

Problemet e fwmijwve dhe personat publikw

Siç pritej, fwmijwt rrallw janw nw qendwr tw artikujve tw monitoruar. Nw vend tw tyre, janw tw rriturit gjithnjw ata qw flasin nw emwr tw fwmijwve, qofshin kwta prinwrit, pwrfaqwsuesit e qeverisw, aktivistw tw drejtave tw njeriut, ekspertw tw ndryshwm, etj. Si e vw nw dukje dhe Mike Jempson: “Pasqyrimi i fwmijwve rrallw wshtw pjesw e trajnimit profesionist tw gazetarwve, pasi nw pwr gjithwsi gazetarwt merren me tema pwr tw rritur, nw njw botw tw rriturish, pwr njw publik tw rriturish.”¹ Nw njw mwnyrw pak tw pazakontw, fwmijwt nw kwta artikuj zakonisht citohen nw ato raste kur kanw qenw dwshtmitarw tw ndonjw krimi dhe jo pwr tw qenw zwdhwnws tw vetw jetws dhe pwrvojws sw tyre.

Nw fakt, pwr jetwt e fwmijwve tw zakonshwm rrallw pwrshkruhet apo hetohet nw faqet e kwtyre gazetave. Njw arsye pwr kwttw mund tw jetw vetw natyra e kwtyre botimeve, tw cilat rrallw pwr fshijnw reportazhe, por nw pwr gjithwsi kanw vetwm lajmet e ditws. Njw pwrjashtim qw vlen tw pwr mendet nw kwttw kontekst wshtw artikulli i zgjeruar mbi arsimin e fwmijwve nw njw fshat tw vendit. Artikulli, i titulluar “Fwmijwve tw Qeparosw nuk ka kush t’u mwsojw,” i botuar te *Shekulli* nw 4 tetor, shtrihet nw dy faqe tw plota gazeta dhe citon jo vetwm prinwrit, por edhe fwmijwt. Artikulli trajton problemin e mungesws sw arsimimit nw gjuhew tw huaj nw kwttw shkollw dhe dhe cilwsinw nw pwr gjithwsi tw ulwt tw arsimin. Nw fakt, artikujt pwr arsimin janw tw shpesh tw numrin jo aq tw lartw tw artikujve pwr fwmijwt. Ajo qw e bwn kwttw artikull mw tw veçantw wshtw vetw citimi i fwmijwve. Edhe pse wshtw vetwm njw

¹ Jempson, Mike. “Slander, sentimentality or silence? What young people have to put up with from the media,” p.2, quoted in http://www.mediawise.org.uk/display_page.php?id=896

fwmijw qw flet, tw paktwn ekziston njw pwrpjekje pwr t'u dhwnw njw zw atyre qw preken mw shumw nga kjo gjendje por nuk u jepet gjithsesi mundwsia pwr tw thwnw fjalwn e tyre.

Si u vu nw dukje dhe mw sipwr, wshtw njw sfidw e vwrтетw tw gjenden artikuj ku fwmijwt citohen dhe artikulli i mwsipwrm wshtw njw nga pwrjashtimet e pakta. Ajo me tw cilwn lexuesi ndeshet shumw kollaj wshtw prania ose prononcimet e qeveritarwve ose aktivistwve tw tw drejtave tw njeriut, tw cilwt flasin pwr fwmijwt; nwse e bwjnw diçka tw tillw nw emwr tw tyre apo jo, kjo lw vend pwr diskutim. Nw mwnyrw mw specifike, ngjarje tw tilla si dalja e njw raporti pwr fwmijwt, festimi i njw pwrvjeteri tw fshatit pwr fwmijwt nw nevojw, ose ndonjw ngjarje tjetwr si kwto, pwrbwjnw gjithnjw lajm, tw shoqwrwara me prononcimet pwrkatwse tw politikanwve tw pwrfskira nw to, duke nisur nga Presidenti, Kryetarja e Parlamentit, Ministri i Arsimit, Ministri i Drejtwsisw, etj.

Nw kwtw kwndvshtrim, tetori ka qenw njw muaj i mbushur me ngjarje mbi fwmijwt, duke sjellw pjeswmarrjen si tw qeverisw, ashtu dhe tw aktivistwve pwr tw drejtat e njeriut. Pwr pasojw, pasqyrimi i fwmijwve binte nw sy, edhe pse nw tw vwrтетw fwmijwt e zakonshwm mungonin nw faqet e gazetave. Kwshtu, ngjarje tw rwndwsishme gjatw kwtij muaji ishin dalja e dy raporteve mbi gjendjen e fwmijwve: njw nga UNICEF pwr gjendjen e fwmijwve dhe dhunwn nw familje dhe tjetri mbi pwrqindjen alarmante tw lwnies sw shkollws nga fwmijwt. Nw kwtw aspekt, pwrfaqwsuesit e lartw tw shtetit ishin tw cituar shpesh dhe pa pwrjashtime nga tw gjitha gazetata nwn shqyrtim, ndwrsa zwrat dhe mendimet e fwmijwve mungonin krejtwsisht. Pwr shembull, me rastin e organizimit tw njw tryeze tw rrumbullakwt pwr tw paraqitur dhe diskutuar rezultatet e njw raporti pwr UNICEF, tw gjitha gazetata cituan si rezultatet e raportit, ashtu edhe komentet e Kryetares sw Parlamentit, Ministrit tw Arsimit, si dhe Ministrit tw Drejtwsisw nw lidhje me kwtw raport. Njw artikull i tillw ishte ai i titulluar "Dhuna: Njw nw shtatw fwmijw ka menduar pwr vetvrasjen," e botuar nw *Standard*, nw 13 tetor, f.9. Ky titull dramatik i pwrket artikullit qw shtjellon rezultatet e raportit tw UNICEF, si dhe pasqyron rekomandimet e pwrfskira nw kwtw raport. Mw tej, artikulli ka paraqitur dhe prononcimet e gjata tw bwra nga politikanwt e lartpwrmdur nw kwtw tryezw, tw cilat dwshmojnw pwr pwrkushtimin qw kwto figura pretendojnw se kanw ndaj kauzws sw fwmijwve nw nevojw si dhe pwr hapat e mwtejshwm qw qeveria ka ndwrmarrw nw kwtw aspekt. Shumw shpesh nw kwto raste gazetata pwrfskinw dhe foto tw politikanwve, duke rritur kwshtu praninw dhe vizibilitetin e tyre nw kwtw kauzw.

Ndwrsa prania e kwtyre politikanwve nw artikuj nuk mund tw gjykohet dhe wshtw padyshim njw shenjw e mirw qw zyrtarw tw rangut tw lartw janw tw pwrfshirw nw kwtw kauzw tw rwndwsishme, prania e tyre wshtw pa dyshim e shpwrpjestuar nw krahasim me atw tw vetw fwmijwve, tw cilwt pwrbwjnw edhe fokusin e kwtij raporti. Asnjw nga artikujt e botuar atw ditw pwr raportin nw fjalw nuk pwrfshinte ndonjw fwmijw apo reagimin a pwrvojwn e tyre nw lidhje me problemet e paraqitura. Ajo qw wshtw mw e rwndwsishme, nuk kishte artikuj qw tw ndiqnin çwshtjet mw nw brendwsi, as tw neswrmen, as nw pjeswn tjetwr tw muajit.

Ky fakt dwshmon pwr rwndwsinw e vogwl qw i vihët artikujve pwr fwmijwt, ose akoma mw keq, pwr mwnyrwn se si fwmijwt mund tw jenw njw mundwsi pwr tw pwrmirwsuar imazhin e politikanwve ose aktivistwve nw media. Nw fakt, studime ndwrkombwtare pwr pasqyrimin e fwmijwve kanw treguar: “marrwdhwnien e veçantw tw medias me fwmijwt: nwse nuk janw viktima, tw kwpusin shpirtin, apo ushtarw tw vegjwl, ata janw tw padukshwm.”²

Nw fakt, e gjithw gama e artikujve tw monitoruara e vwrтетon kwtw prirje. Megjithwse duket se po bwhet njw punw e madhe pwr tw pwrmirwsuar gjendjen e fwmijwve, pwrswri fwmijwt mungojnw pothuajse twrwsisht nw artikuj. Aktivistw e tw drejtave tw njeriut dhe OJQ tw ndryshme janw gjithnjw tw pranishme dhe pasqyrojnw punwn qw ata bwjnw; e njwta gjw vlen dhe pwr gazetartw qw tregojnw mbwshtetjen e tyre. Megjithatw, zwrat e fwmijwve, problemet e tyre dhe pwrfitimet qw ata kanw nga puna e madhe qw po bwhet, nuk gjejnw pasqyrim nw media.

Pwr shembull, njw artikull qw wshtw pjesw e kwsaj kategorie wshtw ai me titull “Fondacioni i Fwmijwve Shqiptarw: Njw mundwsi mw shumw pwr fwmijwt e swmurw,” i botuar nw *Standard* nw 31 tetor, f.11. Artikulli nis duke treguar rwndwsinw e trajtimit tw fwmijwve nw vwshtirwsi:

“Pwrkujdesja pwr fwmijwt kwrkon njw vwmendje tw veçantw jo vetwm nga institucionet shtetwrore, por edhe nga individw e ekspertw, qw kontribuojnw nw kwtw fushw. ...Obligimet e institucioneve shtetwrore nw kwtw drejtim mjaft herw janw paraprirw nga mbwshtetja dhe ndihma e organizatave tw huaja, qw prej vitesh japin kontributin e tyre nw vendin tonw.”

Mw pas artikulli pwrqendrohet te njw organizatw nw veçanti, duke pwrmendur edhe emrat e themeluesve dhe disa prej anwtarwve, e mw pas duke kaluar te kryetarja e nderit e fondacionit, gruaja e kryeministrit. Pwr shkak tw profilit tw lartw tw kwtij personi nw vend dhe pwr profesionin e saj, zgjedhja e saj si kryetare e kwtij fondacioni duket mwse e pwrshatshme dhe veprimtaritw e organizatws si shumw fisnike. Megjithatw, ndwrkohw qw artikulli vazhdon, lexuesi informohet pwr vizitwn e anwtarwve tw Fondacionit nw Itali si dhe pwr itinerarin e tyre:

“Qwllimi i kwsaj vizite ishte vendosja e lidhjeve dhe bashkwpunimit nw ndihmw tw fwmijwve tw swmurw shqiptarw. Delegacioni zhvilloi njw takim nw Bashkinw e Taorminws, ku u prit nga kryebashkiaku, z. Carmelantonio D’Agostino dhe autoritetet e tjera vendase. Mw tej vizita vazhdoi nw spitalin “San Vincenzo” tw Sirinws, i mirwnjohur pwr shwrbimet e tij.”

Detaje tw mwtejshe pasojnw pwr vizitwn e delegacionit me personazhe tw njohura nw Itali dhe lexuesi pwrfton njw pwrshkrim tw mundwsive tw spitaleve atje si dhe tw pwrpjekjeve pwr tw bashkwpunuar nw kwtw fushw me Shqipwrinw. Nga ana tjetwr, lexuesi nuk informohet fare pwr ndonjw pwrfitim tw mundshwm nga ana e fwmijwve ose tw punws sw bwrw me fwmijwt nw Shqipwri dhe mwnyrwn se si kjo vizitw mund tw pwrmirwsojw jetwn e tyre.

² Ibid, p. 4.

Ajo qw tw twrheq mw shumw vwmendjen pwr tw monitoruar mw nga afwr kwtw artikull wshtw edhe stili i shkrimt tw tij. Mw konkretisht, mwnyra se si ai wshtw ndwrtuar wshtw mjaft i ngjashwm me njw komunikatw pwr shtyp. Ai nuk lw pa pwrmyndur ndihmwn e madhe tw kwsaj organizate pwr fwmijwt shqiptarw nw terma tw pwrngjithshme; rendit anwtarwt e shquar tw fondacionit; si dhe pwrshkruan itinerarin e detajuar tw kwsaj ngjarjeje, domethwnw tw vizitws nw Italinw e Jugut. Pwr mw tepwr, artikulli ka dhe njw foto tw anwtarwve kryesorw tw Fondacionit. Nw kwtw rast nuk ka ndonjw ndryshim tw dukshwm midis kwtij artikulli dhe njw komunikate pwr shtyp qw do tw lwshonte njw organizatw, duke bwrw qw informacioni tw mos jetw dhe aq twrheqws pwr lexuesin si dhe tw paraqitet nw njw kwndwshtrim qw favorizon organizatwn.

Nw njw mwnyrw tw ngjashme, nw pwrngjithwsi veprimtaritw e organizatave tw ndryshme qw punojnw nw kwtw fushw gjithashtu paraqitej si lajme, por mwnyra se si ato janw shkruar wshtw mw e ngjashme me njw komunikatw pwr shtyp sesa me njw lajm apo reportazh pwr fwmijwt dhe pwrpjekjet pwr tw pwrmirwsuar gjendjen e tyre. Pwr shembull, njw ngjarje e tillw ishte hapja e njw linje kwshillimi pwr fwmijwt nw vwshtirwsi nw Tiranw. Kwtw shwr bim tw ri e siguroi Qendra pwr Mbrojtjen e tw Drejtave tw Fwmijwve dhe u shwrben fwmijwve qw kwrkojnw kwshilla pwr mwnyrwn se si duhet tw pwrballen me problemet qw ata hasin. Ndwrkohw qw nw vetvete ky wshtw njw shwr bim shumw i mirw, mwnyra se si lajmi i ofrohet lexuesit rrwfen qartw se ky veprim do ta kishte tw vwshtirw tw dilte nw gazetw, nwse vetw organizata nuk do ta kishte nxitur kwtw gjw. Nw fakt, atribuimi pwr organizatwn i kwtij shwr bimi wshtw i dukshwm qw nw titull: “Dhuna nw familje, CRCA linjw kwshillimi pwr fwmijwt,” (*Gazeta Shqiptare*, 4 tetor, f.14.)

Artikuj tw tjerw qw janw pjesw e kwsaj kategorie janw ato mbi njw projekt pwr fwmijwt me vwshtirwsi fizike, tw sapopwrfunduar nga World Vision, ai i njw zyre tw krijuar nw Bashkinw e Gjirokastrws pwr tw ndihmuar fwmijwt me mbwshtetjen e Terre Des Hommes, hapja e njw Sekretariati pwr fwmijwt nw nevojw nw Ministrinw e Punws dhe Mundwsive tw Barabarta, e kwshtu me rradhw. Kwto lloje artikujsh janw mjaft tw shpeshita nw faqet e kwtyre gazetave tw pwr dritshme; si ndosh shpesh nw kwto raste, fwmijwt e zakonshwm mungojnw swrish.

Pwr tw qenw tw drejtw kur flitet pwr mbulimin e pwrngjithshwm tw fwmijwve nw kwto gazeta tw pwr dritshme, duhet pwrmyndur qw disa gazeta bwjnw pwrpjekje pwr tw mbuluar problemet e fwmijwve, sidomos kur bwhet fjalw pwr arsimimin dhe problemet e shwndetwsisw. Nw kwtw aspekt, gazetata kishin vendosur t'i kushtojnw vwmendje sidomos problemeve nw infrastrukturw nw shkolla dhe mwnyrwn se si kjo ndikon nw procesin mwsimor. Artikuj tw tillw pwr fshijnw: “Janw oborret e shkollave tona tw sigurta?”³ pwr sigurinw e fwmijwve qw mwsojnw nw kwto institucione, “Me librat nw dysheme nw shkollat pa tavolina,”⁴ i cili u mor me nevojwn pwr tw pwrmirwsuar infrastrukturwn e shkollave, “Tridhjetw fwmijw bwjnw mwsim nw shtwpi,”⁵ i cili pwrqendrohej te fwmijwt tw cilwve u ishte prishur shkolla, “Ngrohja me gaz duhet hequr

³ *Shekulli*, October 7, 2006, p. 18.

⁴ *Shekulli*, October 12, 2006, p.10.

⁵ *Gazeta Shqiptare*, October 13, 2006, p.23.

nga kopshtet,”⁶ “Tiranw, fwmijwt mwsojnw me karrige tw sjella nga shtwpia,”⁷ “Drejtorwt e shkollave nw Dibwr japin alarmin: Nuk kemi ngrohje,”⁸ “Dentistwt nw shkolla qw nga kohwt e komunizmit,”⁹ “Devoll, fwmijwt nga pakica maqedonase mbeten pa shkollw,”¹⁰ etj.

Nw kwtw mwnyrw, pasqyrimi i kwytre temave pwrbyn njw pwrpjekje serioze tw medias pwr tw zgjeruar gamwn e problemeve tw fwmijwve qw ato mbulojnw, si dhe temat qw prekin mw shumw fwmijwt dhe media ka bwrw hapa pwrpara nw kwtw aspekt. Megjithatw, kwta artikuj, megjithw vullnetin e mirw pwr tw sjellw mw pranw lexuesit problemet e fwmijwve, nuk arrijnw tw rrisin pwrfsirjen e fwmijwve nw pamjen e pwr gjithshme qw ato ofrojnw. Pwr shembull, artikulli me titull “Devoll, fwmijwt e pakicws maqedonase mbeten pa shkollw,” i botuar te *Shqip*, merret me temwn problematike tw mungesws sw mwsuesve qw mund tw vazhdojnw procesin e arsimimit nw maqedonisht. Megjithatw, artikulli nuk citon asnjw fwmijw, apo prind; edhe pse ai bie nw sy nga grupi i artikujve tw tjerw qw janw mw tw pwr gjithshwm dhe me tema mw tw zakonshme, vlera e kwtij informacioni patjetwr qw do tw rritej nwse fwmijwt do tw citoheshin pwr atw se si ndihen pwrballw kwsaj pamundwsie pwr tw vajtur nw shkollw, ndryshe nga fwmijwt e tjerw tw moshws sw vet.

Po kwshtu, nw njw artikull tw botuar te *Shqip* nw 7 tetor, tw titulluar “Dentistwt nw shkolla qw nga koha e komunizmit,” trajtohet problemi i shwr bimit shwndetwsor nw shkolla, duke vwnw nw dukje situatwn e rwndw nw kwtw fushw. Ndwrkohw qw nw artikull jepen tw dhwna tw detajuara pwr gjendjen, artikulli pwr mend vetwm mendimet e fwmijwve dhe mwnyrwn se si ndihen ata shkurtimisht dhe nw njw mwnyrw tw pwr gjithshme: “Nxwnwsit e pyetur nw kryeqytet nwse kujdesen pwr dhwbwt e tyre nw shkollw tw shohin me habi.”¹¹ Megjithatw, artikulli nuk shkon mw tej dhe nuk pwrfsin citime tw personave qw janw intervistuar, gjw qw do e bwnte artikullin mw tw besueshwm si dhe do tw jepte njw pamje mw tw plotw.

Missing children

Another category of articles that seems to benefit the children and their media coverage is the one involving missing persons, more specifically missing children. These kinds of articles appear only in a limited number of newspapers. In fact, this is an interesting trend that needs more attention, since it reveals the mechanism working behind the priorities of selecting what to cover from children and what not. The cases of missing persons and children are still a problem in Albanian society. In this regard, there are a couple of TV shows that deal with the cases of these missing children and their fate. It is precisely these stories that make it to the pages of the newspapers, which is in fact indicative of the selection mechanism of issues that affect children that need to be covered in these papers.

⁶ *Gazeta Shqiptare*, October 10, 2006, p.16.

⁷ *Shqip*, October 26, 2006, p.22.

⁸ *Shqip*, October 14, 2006, p.34.

⁹ *Shqip*, October 7, 2006, p.34.

¹⁰ *Shqip*, October 14, 2006, p.30.

¹¹ *Shqip*, “Dentist in schools since Communist times,” October 7, 2006, p.34.

This element becomes even more telling when considering that the papers that publish these articles belong to the same media groups that own the televisions that produce these shows, like *AITV* and *Shekulli* newspaper, or *News24 TV* and *Gazeta Shqiptare* newspaper, or *Top Channel* and *Shqip* daily newspaper. True, the papers do devote space to this worrying problem, but in a way this is not an independent investigation and reporting trend; it is something they get ready from the TV they are affiliated to and that in a way increases the visibility of the television show, apart from addressing the problem¹².

Other stories

Apart from the above-mentioned topics, there is another category of stories that involves children but does not fall into any of the above categories. These stories are mainly published in a weekly supplement that daily *Panorama* devotes to psychology, and cover such topics as divorce and children, parents facing the sicknesses of their children, working mothers and children, etc. They usually include surveys or research data from foreign sources. For example: "According to one of the latest psychological surveys, employed wives do not affect negatively their children. This finding derives from interviews with 12,600 persons aged 14-22."¹³

In a way, these articles are a kind of guide or counsel for parents and what they should have in mind when finding themselves in these situations. So, their assistance or attention to children is certainly arguable, since these are often phrased in psychological or scientific terms, certainly targeted at grown-ups. In this way, coverage of children in the country or their presence and participation in daily newspaper is certainly not improved.

Children's voices

As mentioned above, the voices of the children are rarely present in the stories on children and oddly enough, the media do include them when children have happened to witness some crime. During October one child was a witness in crime and another one found a corpse. Although most of the newspapers mentioned these facts, only one of them actively pursued the track of interviewing children on these traumatic experiences and covering them on their pages. This paper published interviews with these two children and also pixelated photos of these children¹⁴. Although these children's voices add to the almost absent voices of children in the pages of the paper, they also raise ethical questions on whether it is appropriate to interview children on this and make them relive the trauma they experienced. With regard to identification of the minors, one of them is fully identified, name and surname, whereas the witness of the crime is identified as Enea Z. Hence, the decision to identify these persons certainly poses serious ethical

¹² Such stories include "Xhevahir Gezdari was kidnapped for trafficking purposes," *Gazeta Shqiptare*, October 3, 2006, p.12, "The Prosecution Office reopens the investigation for the missing 12-year old," *Gazeta Shqiptare*, October 17, 2006, p.14, "'Juliana's kidnapping about to be revealed," *Shekulli*, October 8, 2006, p.21, "Mystery and anxiety for Juliana Hoxha," *Shekulli*, October 15, 2006, p.12.

¹³ "Working mothers do not affect negatively their children," *Panorama*, October 15, 2006, p.15.

¹⁴ These stories are "I thought it was a doll, I freaked out when I saw the body," *Shekulli*, October 22, 2006, p.9 and "The masked killer shot Dritan behind his head and left calmly," *Shekulli*, October 21, 2006, p.8.

questions, especially with regard to the witness of crime, since it could even endanger the child. In this case the newspaper certainly has given higher priority to the ability to provide a fuller picture on the crimes than to the need to protect children and witnesses, and this definition of public interest test is certainly arguable.

Photos and layout

Photos and layout are also important in the overall monitoring of children coverage in the daily newspapers. Images can be very helpful or harmful to the overall coverage, depending on the choices the editors make in this regard. In general, the newspapers have respected the rule of not identifying minors with photos, or at least of covering their eyes in case pictures are present. One flagrant case when this rule was not respected was that of the abandoned baby in Pogradec, whose picture was shown by almost every newspaper, but one. True, it was a two-day baby, who does not understand anything now; yet, the ethical question of what she will feel like if she sees old papers and her photo in the future remains. Even more so when doing a public interest test: it is unclear what is the real public interest in viewing this photo, since the photo shows just another baby, with nothing different compared to others.

Most of the papers seem to use archive photos when covering children, due to different reasons, economic, professional, etc. In most cases, but by no means in all of them, these photos showed pictures of children with hidden or blurred eyes. Exceptions were made for the stories of missing children, which, in a way, make sense, given the hope that somebody might identify the missing persons and notify the paper or authorities. However, only daily *Korrieri* put a caption saying that the photos used in general were from the archive and served for purposes of illustration only.

With regard to layout, in general the newspapers have now established their own layout styles. In general the newspapers use a lot of boxes, tables, or side stories, which help organize the information in a reader-friendly manner. This is especially visible when considering the stories on the releases of UNICEF reports, which contained a lot of data and was difficult to read in the text. Instead, all newspapers used boxes and sidebars to help explain the situation.

Conclusion

In general, it cannot be concluded that media coverage of children in the daily newspapers is a serious, in-depth, and completely ethical one. The efforts to cover children and give them a real voice and the place they deserve are very limited, for different reasons. Instead, state bodies, politicians, and NGOs do the talking for the children.

In addition, even when children make it to the pages of the newspapers, their coverage often poses serious ethical questions with regard to the topics covered, their identification, the manner of interviewing, and other conditions journalists should have in mind when dealing with minors. Overall, it can be said that the sensational, patronizing,

and insufficient coverage prevail, rather than a correct and coverage of children, free of stereotypes.

Recommendations