

## **Radio For Civic Education: A Case Study of Private FM Radio Stations in Nangarhar, Afghanistan**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This study investigates the role of FM radio stations in promoting civic awareness in Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan. It examines the historical development of radio in the region, the impact of the Civil War era on broadcasting, and the subsequent shift towards decentralization and independent media after 2001. The study has outlined the current state of radio broadcasting in Afghanistan, including notable FM radio stations and accessibility through digital platforms. The research paper explores the impact of FM radios in spreading education and social awareness, with a special focus on Nargis Radio's role in empowering Afghan women. The data has been collected through structured questionnaires and focused group discussions with the theoretical perspective on media's role in civic education. The results reveal respondents' perceptions and experiences, highlighting FM radios' significant contributions to civic education and community engagement.*

**Keywords:** Afghanistan, Broadcasting, Civic Education, FM Radios, Nangarhar

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### **1. Introduction**

Radio has played a pivotal role as a medium of instruction and communication, particularly in developing countries facing challenges such as low literacy rates, poverty, and limited access to formal education. In Afghanistan, a country with a tumultuous history marked by 43 years of internecine conflict, radio has emerged as a powerful instrument for educating the masses and disseminating information and entertainment. Given the prevailing developmental needs and the significance of reaching remote areas, radio has proven to be an accessible and effective tool for communication across the provinces of Afghanistan, with Nangarhar Province being no exception.

Established in the aftermath of the Bonn Agreement in December 2001, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan formed an interim government to rebuild the nation ravaged by decades of civil strife, instability, and violence. In the years following, the government introduced several FM radio channels alongside AM (amplitude modulation) stations to promote education, information dissemination, and entertainment. These radio stations served as a means to counter rival tribes' propaganda and non-state actors, providing a platform to promote the government's perspective on national, regional, and provincial issues.

The FM radio landscape in Afghanistan witnessed dynamic growth, driven primarily by its economic nature and ease of operation, attracting a massive audience and serving various commercial, political, and propaganda purposes (Nelson, 2023). Notably, FM radios gained prominence in Nangarhar Province, capturing the attention of the local population with their straightforward connectivity, inexpensive installation, and wide-ranging impact. Religious scholars in the province utilized FM radios to deliver sermons that resonated immensely with the general public, further solidifying the medium's popularity.

However, it is essential to recognize that FM radios in Nangarhar Province did not merely serve official purposes. During periods of militancy, militant groups skilfully harnessed the power of FM radios to spread their messages, make announcements, and issue threats to instil fear among the populace. Thus, this study takes a comprehensive and innovative approach by examining the efficacy of FM radios for both official and unofficial purposes within Nangarhar Province.

Nangarhar Province, with its unique social and demographic characteristics, presents an interesting case study for understanding the role of FM radios in disseminating civic education. The province's educational landscape comprises 357 primary schools, six universities, and a 27.6% adult literacy rate as of 2012. FM radios have emerged as a significant source of spreading education and information among the local population, filling critical gaps in formal educational opportunities and contributing to civic awareness.

In light of the above context, this research aims to investigate the role of FM radio stations in promoting civic awareness in the education system of Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. By exploring the effectiveness of educational FM radio programs in raising civic awareness among the province's residents, this study seeks to provide valuable insights into the impact of FM radios on informal education and societal advancement.

## **2. Statement of the Problem**

The tumultuous history of Afghanistan, characterized by 43 years of war, has significantly eroded state institutions and educational systems. The devastating impact of prolonged conflict has left the Afghan society and its people grappling with the erosion of foundational societal building institutions, particularly evident in the education sector. Rebuilding confidence in both the masses and state institutions is crucial for establishing a functional democracy.

Education, encompassing formal and informal aspects, is pivotal in driving long-term societal advancement and short-term employment opportunities. Formal education includes schooling, universities, and vocational training, while informal education comprises societal values such as the *Pakhtunwali* Code and traditional institutions like *Jargas* and *Hujra* systems. These informal educational elements, along with civic education focusing on civil liberties, constitutional awareness, national building, humanitarianism, and the role of non-governmental institutions in a functional society, form a dyadic relationship.

Amidst the reconstruction phase in Afghanistan, it is essential to acknowledge the significant role of formal, informal, and civic education, alongside the indispensable contribution of the fourth estate of the state, i.e., the media, in a society characterized by division, fragmentation, and

ideological differences. Therefore, understanding and examining the role of FM radio stations and state electronic media institutions established by the Afghanistan Interim set-up hold paramount importance for mass communication scholars.

There has been an unprecedented increase in radio stations across Afghanistan in recent years. Given its significance and the large population residing in the eastern part of Afghanistan, this study focuses on effectively utilizing private FM radio stations in Nangarhar Province to foster civic awareness and informal education among its residents. The research aims to investigate the educational broadcasts of 12 private FM radio stations in Nangarhar, examining their level of involvement in this domain and their challenges. This study considers these issues as essential needs and inquiries for understanding and social development.

### **3.1. Research Questions**

1. How do FM radios promote civic awareness in the Nangarhar Province of Afghanistan?
2. To what extent are educational FM radio programs effective in enhancing civic awareness among the residents of Nangarhar Province?

### **3.2. Objectives of the Study**

- To investigate the role of FM radios in promoting civic education in the Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan.
- To analyze the effectiveness of educational FM radio programs in raising civic awareness among the residents of Nangarhar Province.

### **3.3. Significance of the study**

Independent media in Afghanistan has seen tremendous growth from 2008-2021 (Fraenkel et al., 2019). Consequently, Afghan society has significantly reduced many barriers to education, use of the internet, participation in sports, and social activities. *Nargis Radio* has contributed significantly to independent media in arousing the public, facing challenges, and improving the societal scenario. FM Radio stations have addressed many features of Afghan life and pointed out flaws that need to be addressed. It highlighted the problems of the nation as well as the international community. Currently, 12 different radio and TV stations are operating in Nangarhar Province. This shows that the people of this province follow FM Radio for their awareness and gratification. This context increases the significance of the study and has unveiled many facets of the role of FM Radio in educating citizens of Nangarhar province of Afghanistan.

### **4. Theoretical Framework**

The study is based on the "Uses and Gratification theory," which explains the use of media to meet the audience's needs; the main needs in the context of this study include "knowledge, communication, relaxation, responsiveness, escape, and entertainment," are met through media used by them in their real-time communication and interactive relations. The theory presented by Bulmer and Katz (1974) highlights the active role of users in using media. This takes on the user's centered approach to get the audience's role instead of the media's effects on the public. This theory stresses the need for self-sufficiency of the audience as they show a dynamic and deterministic spirit while using media in their peculiar interests for varied purposes. It undertakes that nothing is real and final. By its free will, the audience can select and evaluate the media effects on what they are interested in watching.

This approach touches human psychology based on "needs, motives, and influence." The theory divides 'needs' into five wide categories: effective needs (emotional), cognitive needs (intellectual), social integrative needs (socialization), personal integrative needs (self-esteem and respect), and tense-free needs (release stress). The audience listens to F.M. Radio to carry out gratification of their needs, including learning something new (cognitive), getting entertainment through Radio listening (to exhaust tension), and watching a comic (affective) or any other thing. The theory of uses and gratification explains how to interpret the message aerated by radio or television for the audience to learn the skills required to get tremendous return effects.

Their audience doesn't trust their respective inner knowledge or the voices coming from other sources; instead, they believe in the voices relayed by radio from the broadcaster of their choice. However, contemporary experts in communication do not consider this theory appropriate enough to be applied to the use of FM radio in a country where uncertainty has prevailed in the last two decades. Every FM radio station operating within the jurisdiction of Nangarhar had an explicit audience to address, and they got strong effects from this communication tool.

## **5. Literature Review**

The broadcast environment in Afghanistan has been shaped by a complex set of challenges and limitations, particularly due to the country's turbulent history marked by decades of internal conflicts and civil war. These challenges have significantly impacted the media landscape, including radio broadcasting. One of the key challenges is the difficult and often hostile terrain, which poses logistical hurdles in establishing communication infrastructure and reaching remote areas.

Moreover, the divisive political climate in Afghanistan, characterized by various factions, warlords, and political rivals, has profoundly impacted the independence and freedom of media outlets. Independent broadcasting has faced considerable constraints due to the influence and control exerted by different political entities over the years. World Economic Forum 2017 report tells "traditional media's trust among the public is touching its bottom even throughout the world. Further, it reports that people prefer to interact interpersonally or on the Internet to discuss matters (Raza et al., 2022). This has restricted the dissemination of unbiased and objective information, hindering the development of a free and diverse media landscape.

However, despite these shortcomings, Afghan media content has shown resilience and adaptability in transmitting popular and civic education-based content to the target audience. This adaptability has been facilitated by the emergence of new communication technologies and social media platforms alongside traditional radio broadcasting. In particular, FM radios have played a significant role in overcoming some of the challenges in the broadcast environment. FM radios offer a cost-effective and accessible means of communication, making them an ideal choice for reaching the masses, especially in remote and underserved regions. Their ability to broadcast in local languages, such as Dari and Pashto, allows them to connect with diverse communities and cater to their specific information needs.

In previous works, scholars have highlighted the significance of FM radios in Afghanistan's broadcast landscape. Hermansky (2022) emphasized the role of FM radios in facilitating decentralized and region/province-based media structures, empowering local voices to have a say in media representation and content. Furthermore, Saleem (2021) provided an overview of radio broadcasting in Afghanistan, identifying notable FM radio stations at national and regional levels. The study shed light on the diversity of radio offerings and their accessibility through digital platforms like Google Play, contributing to the Afghan populace's increased availability of information and education.

In summary, the broadcast environment in Afghanistan has faced numerous challenges, including political rivalries and limited infrastructure. However, the adaptability and resilience of Afghan media, particularly FM radios, have played a crucial role in overcoming these challenges. The use of new communication technologies and social media has further enhanced the reach and impact of radio broadcasting, promoting civic awareness and education among the Afghan population. Previous works have acknowledged the significance of FM radios in fostering independent and decentralized media structures while targeting specific audience segments to promote education and social awareness.

## **6. Historical Development of Radio in Afghanistan**

Radio emerged as a significant communication medium in Afghanistan following its independence in the 1920s. During this period, the country saw a rise in the popularity of radio broadcasting, making it one of the primary sources of information, entertainment, and education. The appeal of radio was attributed to its ability to reach a vast audience, irrespective of their literacy level, making it an accessible tool for communication in a nation with diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

Afghan radio broadcasters recognized the importance of catering to the linguistic diversity of the population, leading to the establishment of radio broadcasts in both Dari (Persian) and Pashto languages. Dari became the official language of the government and administration, while Pashto was widely spoken in the southern regions of Afghanistan (Pillalamarri, 2017). Broadcasting in these languages allowed radio stations to effectively communicate with a broader section of the Afghan population, ensuring their programs resonated with listeners from different ethnic and linguistic backgrounds.

The centralized control of broadcasting was a defining feature of the early radio landscape in Afghanistan. The Kabul Radio station was pivotal in shaping the national psyche and disseminating information to the entire country. As the sole radio station, it became Afghan citizens' primary news source and entertainment, influencing public opinion and perceptions. This centralization of control allowed the government to effectively convey its messages and policies to the masses, consolidating its authority over the airwaves.

However, the situation changed dramatically during the civil war era in Afghanistan, particularly in the 1990s. The outbreak of the civil war led to a breakdown of centralized control, with different warlords operating their radio stations to promote their agendas and ideologies. These radio stations became propaganda tools, serving specific factions' interests and perpetuating the fragmentation of information and communication (Puddephatt, 2019). The civil war significantly impacted the media landscape, leading to a loss of trust in the credibility and objectivity of radio broadcasting. The diverse range of radio stations, each with its own bias, further exacerbated divisions within Afghan society. It also highlighted the urgent need for independent and impartial media outlets that could provide reliable information and education to the populace.

Since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, Afghanistan has seen a significant transformation in its media landscape. Reconstruction efforts and establishing a democratic government paved the way for a more diverse and independent media environment. FM radios, in particular, have emerged as a powerful medium for decentralizing media structures and allowing regional and province-based radio stations to have a voice in shaping media content.

The popularity of radio, broadcasting in Dari and Pashto languages, contributed to its widespread appeal among the diverse Afghan population. The centralized control of Kabul Radio played a crucial role in shaping the national psyche, while the civil war era brought about a fragmented media landscape. The post-2001 period witnessed efforts to decentralize media structures,



providing opportunities for FM radios to empower local voices and foster a more diverse and independent media environment.

The significance of FM radios in post-2001 Afghanistan extended beyond broadcasting. These radio stations actively engaged with their audience through community outreach programs, public service announcements, and interactive discussions. By facilitating direct communication with the public, FM radios encouraged citizen participation and created a sense of ownership and belonging to the larger Afghan society (Rashid, 2018).

The post-2001 period marked a transformative phase for media in Afghanistan, with a shift towards decentralization and independent media outlets. FM radios played a crucial role in this process, empowering local voices, reflecting community interests, and contributing to the rebuilding and reconnecting of Afghan society. As platforms for civic education and public engagement, FM radios have been instrumental in fostering a more informed, aware, and united Afghan population.

### **7. Current State of Radio Broadcasting in Afghanistan**

As of the present day, radio broadcasting in Afghanistan has seen significant growth and development. Numerous radio stations operate nationwide, providing diverse content to the Afghan population. Several notable FM radio stations have established a prominent presence at the national level. Radio Afghanistan (Public) remains a key broadcaster with a wide reach, serving as the official state-run radio station. Arman FM 98.1 and Ariana FM 93.5, both commercial stations, have also gained popularity among listeners (Durrani, 2017).

Beyond the national level, numerous regional FM radio stations cater to specific audiences in various provinces. Some popular FM radio stations at the regional level include Radio Srood, Saba Radio, and Radio Nawa FM 103.1. These stations have created a loyal listenership within their respective regions (Saikal et al., 2019). One significant factor contributing to the accessibility of Afghan radio stations is the digital revolution. With the advent of new communication technologies, radio broadcasts have become more readily accessible to the Afghan public. The availability of Afghan radio stations on digital platforms, such as Google Play, has facilitated easy and convenient access to radio broadcasts (Smith & Cookman, 2019).

In summary, the current state of radio broadcasting in Afghanistan is characterized by a diverse array of FM radio stations operating at national and regional levels. Radio Afghanistan (Public), Arman FM, and Ariana FM are prominent players at the national level. At the same time, regional radio stations like Radio Srood, Saba Radio, and Radio Nawa have established themselves within their respective regions. The advent of digital platforms like Google Play has significantly contributed to the accessibility of Afghan radio stations, enabling a broader audience to tune in and engage with diverse radio programs.

### **8. The Role of FM Radios in Spreading Education and Social Awareness**

FM radios have emerged as powerful tools for spreading education and social awareness in Afghanistan, especially in areas where traditional educational resources may be limited or inaccessible. These radio stations are crucial in providing civic education and promoting informal learning among the Afghan population.

The impact of FM radios on civic education and informal learning has been significant. Through educational programs and discussions, these radio stations have raised awareness about democratic values, human rights, and civil liberties. Listeners are provided with opportunities to engage with informative content that helps them better understand their rights, responsibilities, and the role they play in shaping their communities (Gezari, 2011).

*Nargis Radio* is a notable case study that exemplifies the role of FM radio in promoting education and social awareness. This radio station has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing the

needs of an essential segment of Afghan society - women. Nargis Radio has been a trailblazer in spreading education and awareness among women, empowering them with information and knowledge about their rights, health, and social issues. The radio's focus on women's issues has been instrumental in bridging gender gaps and fostering a more informed and empowered female population in Afghanistan (Köroğlu, 2011).

## **9. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The study aims to investigate the impact of FM radios on education and thematic areas related to civic awareness, encompassing both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon. This study has adapted a survey-type design to gather insights from producers and listeners of FM radios in Nangarhar Province. The data has been collected through a pre-developed structured questionnaire for listeners and a focus group discussion for staff working in FM radio stations. This mixed-methods approach to data collection has allowed a thorough examination of the impact of FM radios on civic awareness, capturing various perspectives and experiences related to education and social themes.

### **9.1. Population of the Study**

The study population consists of two primary groups: staff working in FM radio stations and individuals affiliated with educational institutions in Nangarhar Province. This includes all personnel working in FM radio stations and all principals, teachers, and students from the region's primary to higher secondary schools. These groups represent key stakeholders involved in the dissemination and reception of FM radio content, making their perspectives vital in understanding the role of FM radio in promoting civic awareness.

### **9.2. Sampling Technique**

Given the challenging situation in Afghanistan, the Convenience Sampling Method, also known as accidental sampling or non-probability sampling, has been employed for this study. Convenience sampling is a pragmatic approach, considering the accessibility and willingness of potential respondents. It allows for data collection in a timely and efficient manner, particularly in areas with logistical constraints.

### **9.3. Sample Size**

For this study, 20 personnel working in different FM radio stations, 20 teachers, and 20 students from various educational levels were selected through convenience sampling.

### **9.4. Data Collection Tool**

A structured questionnaire based on the (three-point Likert Scale) has been developed to collect data from the listeners. The questionnaire was designed to assess various aspects of FM radio's impact on civic awareness, including education, social themes, and audience engagement. Additionally, focus group discussions have been conducted with staff working in FM radio stations to gain deeper insights into their perspectives on content creation and dissemination.

### **9.5. Data Analysis**

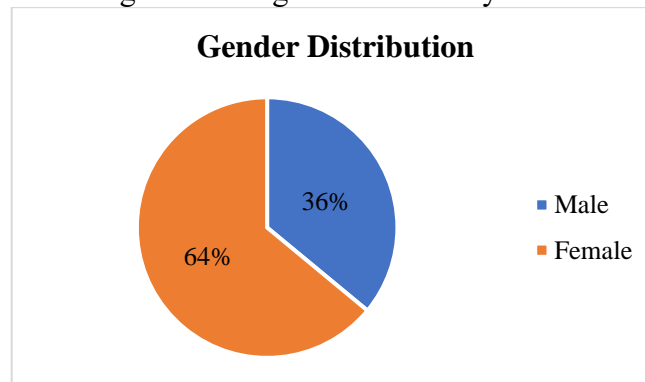
After collecting all the questionnaires, proper scrutiny was conducted to ensure data accuracy and completeness. The collected data was entered into the SPSS version 23 for analysis. Descriptive statistics and chi-square tests were performed to present the data in tabular form and examine any potential relationships or associations between variables. The major findings are presented comprehensively to facilitate a better understanding of the study's outcomes. Based on the findings, conclusions have been drawn, and necessary recommendations have been extended to enhance the impact of FM radios on civic awareness and education in Afghanistan.

## **10. Analysis and Discussion**

The data collected from 60 respondents represents diverse perspectives from both female and male, comprising students, teachers, and staff working in various radio stations. The analysis aims to explore the role of FM radios in promoting civic awareness, education, and social themes within the region.

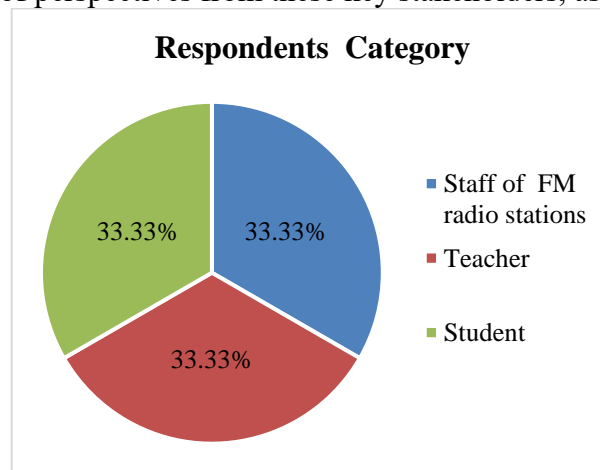
### 10.1. Demographic Distribution

The data was collected from 60 participants, with female respondents accounting for 36% of the sample, while male respondents constituted 64%, as shown in Figure 4.1. The representation of both genders allows for a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of the impact of FM radios on civic awareness among various segments of society.



**Figure 4.1: Gender Distribution**

Additionally, the respondents were categorized into three groups: students, teachers, and staff working in different radio stations. Each group consisted of 20 participants, ensuring a balanced representation of perspectives from these key stakeholders, as shown in Figure 4.2.



**Figure 4.2: Respondents Category**

### 10.2. Frequency of FM radio program listeners

Figure 4.3 shows the frequency of FM radio program listeners among the respondents. The survey indicates that a significant portion of the participants, constituting 27%, listen to FM radio programs daily. This highlights FM radio's popularity and regular engagement as a source of information, entertainment, and education for a considerable segment of the population.

Moreover, 35% of the respondents stated that they listen to FM radio programs several times a week, indicating a consistent interest in tuning in to their favorite shows and content. This suggests that FM radios have a consistent and engaged audience who frequently access their broadcasts. On the other hand, 15% of the participants mentioned listening to FM radio programs once a week,



showing that a smaller yet notable portion of the population tunes in periodically. This implies that FM radios cater to the needs of diverse audiences with varying levels of engagement. Additionally, 23% of the respondents reported rarely listening to FM radio programs. This segment represents individuals who do not actively engage with FM radios due to other preferred sources of information or limited access to radio broadcasts.

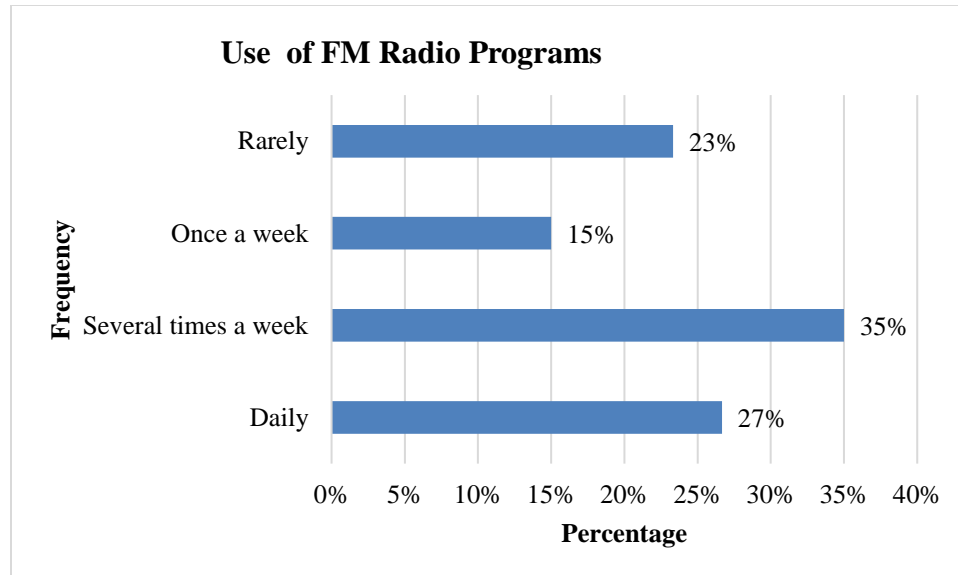


Figure 4.3: Use of FM Radio Programs

### 10.3. Preferred FM radio stations

Figure 4.4 indicates the preferred FM radio stations among the respondents in Nangarhar Province. The survey allows participants to select multiple options, providing insights into the region's popularity and reach of different radio stations. Among the options provided, Radio Hamisha Bahar FM 90.6 garnered 15% of the responses, indicating a moderate listenership for this station. Radio Sharq FM 91.30 received 24% of the responses, suggesting it is a relatively more popular choice among the respondents. Radio Safa 89.7 obtained 6% of the responses, indicating a smaller but still notable listenership for this station. Nangarhar National Radio (RTA) 92.4 FM secured 19% of the responses, suggesting a considerable number of respondents tune in to this station. Nangarhar Killid Radio received the highest response rate, with 29% of the participants mentioning it as their preferred FM radio station. This indicates a significant popularity for Nangarhar Killid Radio among the survey respondents. Nargis Radio FM 92.40 obtained 6% of the responses, indicating a smaller but present listenership for this station.

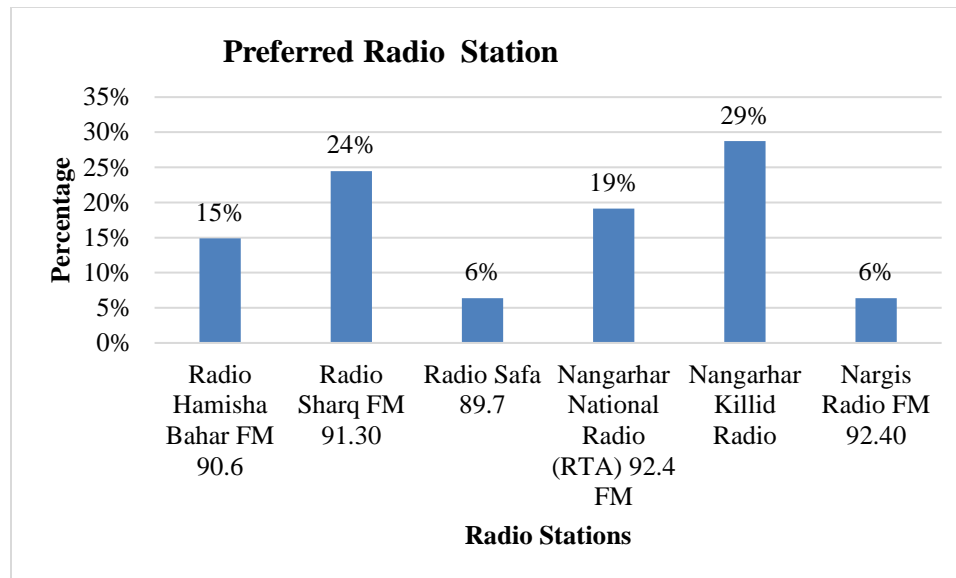


Figure 4.4: Preferred Radio Station

#### 10.4. Type of programs people listen to on FM radio

Table 4.1 reveals the types of programs respondents in Nangarhar Province usually listen to on FM radio. The survey allowed participants to select more than one option, providing insights into the variety of program preferences among the audience. News and Current Affairs emerge as the most popular choice, with 45% of respondents indicating they regularly listen to news and current affairs programs. This is the second most preferred category, with 16% of respondents indicating an interest in educational content. Music is chosen by 12% of the participants, reflecting the popularity of music-based content on FM radio stations. Religious Programs are preferred by 14% of the respondents, indicating a significant audience for religious content and sermons on FM radio.

Table 4.1: Type of Program People Listen to

S.No	Type of Program People Listen to	Proportion
1	News and Current Affairs	45%
2	Educational Programs	16%
3	Entertainment Shows	5%
4	Music	12%
5	Religious Programs	14%
6	Talk Shows/Discussions	8%

#### 10.5. Perceptions regarding the effectiveness of educational FM radio programs in raising civic awareness.

According to the responses, a significant portion of the participants, comprising 35.7%, believe that educational FM radio programs are highly effective in raising civic awareness. This indicates a strong belief in the power of radio as a medium for disseminating information, promoting civic values, and fostering a sense of awareness and responsibility among the listeners. A substantial number of respondents, representing 41.8%, consider educational FM radio programs moderately effective in raising civic awareness. This suggests that while these programs are making an impact,

there may be room for further improvement and enhancements to reach a broader audience and have a more profound influence.

A smaller percentage of respondents, comprising 17.9%, view educational FM radio programs as effective in raising civic awareness. This group acknowledges the efforts made by radio programs but believes that there is still scope for more impactful content and approaches.

#### **10.6. Chi Square test Between Effectiveness of Educational FM Radio programs and its Role in Promoting Civic Awareness:**

The Chi-square test was conducted to examine the relationship between two variables: "Effectiveness of the Educational FM Radio Programs in Raising Civic Awareness" and "Role of FM Radios in Promoting Civic Awareness in the Education System." The results of the test are presented in the tables above.

#### **10.7. Effectiveness of the Educational FM Radio Programs in Raising Civic Awareness:**

In table 4.2, the researchers have five categories representing the level of effectiveness of the educational FM radio programs in raising civic awareness: "0.00," "1.00," "2.00," "3.00," and "4.00." Each category corresponds to a specific level of effectiveness, with "0.00" indicating respondents who perceived the programs as not effective at all and "4.00" representing respondents who perceived the programs as highly effective.

The "Observed N" column indicates the number of respondents falling into each effectiveness level category. For example, 2 respondents perceived the programs as not effective at all (0.00), 1 respondent perceived them as having minimal effectiveness (1.00), 11 respondents found them somewhat effective (2.00), 26 respondents considered them moderately effective (3.00), and 20 respondents perceived the programs as highly effective (4.00).

The "Expected N" column displays the expected number of respondents in each category based on the assumption of no association between the two variables. In this case, the expected number of respondents in each category is 12, assuming no relationship between the perceived effectiveness of educational FM radio programs and the role of FM radio in promoting civic awareness in the education system.

The "Residual" column represents the difference between each category's observed and expected frequencies. A positive residual value indicates that the observed frequency is higher than expected, while a negative residual value suggests that the observed frequency is lower than expected.

Table 4.2: Frequency of Effectiveness of the Educational FM Radio Programs in Raising Civic Awareness

Response	Effectiveness of the Educational FM Radio Programs in Raising Civic Awareness			
		Observed N	Expected N	Residual
Not sure	0	2	12.0	-10.0
Not effective at all	1	1	12.0	-11.0
Somewhat effective	2	11	12.0	-1.0
Moderately effective	3	26	12.0	14.0

Highly effective	4	20	12.0	8.0
	Total	60		

### **Role of FM Radios in Promoting Civic Awareness in the Education System:**

In Table 4.3, we have five categories representing respondents' perceptions of the role of FM radios in promoting civic awareness in the education system: "0.00," "1.00," "2.00," "3.00," and "4.00." Each category corresponds to a specific level of importance, with "0.00" indicating respondents who do not perceive FM radios as important in promoting civic awareness and "4.00" representing respondents who perceive FM radios as very important.

The "Observed N" column indicates the number of respondents falling into each role perception category. For example, 2 respondents do not perceive FM radios as important in promoting civic awareness (0.00), 1 respondent perceives them as somewhat important (1.00), 12 respondents perceive them as moderately important (2.00), 24 respondents perceive them as very important (3.00), and 21 respondents perceive them as extremely important (4.00).

The "Expected N" column displays the expected number of respondents in each category based on the assumption of no association between the two variables. In this case, the expected number of respondents in each category is 12, assuming no relationship between the perceived role of FM radios and the effectiveness of educational FM radio programs in raising civic awareness.

The "Residual" column represents the difference between each category's observed and expected frequencies. A positive residual value indicates that the observed frequency is higher than expected, while a negative residual value suggests that the observed frequency is lower than expected.

Table 4.3: Frequency of Role of FM Radios in Promoting Civic Awareness in the Education System

<b>Response</b>	<b>Role of FM Radios in Promoting Civic Awareness in the Education System</b>			
		Observed N	Expected N	Residual
Not sure	0	2	12.0	-10.0
Not important	1	1	12.0	-11.0
Somewhat important	2	12	12.0	.0
Very important	3	24	12.0	12.0
Highly important	4	21	12.0	9.0
	Total	60		

### **Test Statistics:**

The Chi-square values for both variables are significant, indicating a statistically significant relationship between the perceived effectiveness of educational FM radio programs and the perceived role of FM radios in promoting civic awareness in the education system as shown in table 4.4. The p-values (Asymp. Sig. and Monte Carlo Sig.) are both less than the conventional

significance level of 0.05, providing strong evidence to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant association between these two variables.

Table 4.4: Test Statistics

Test Statistics				
			Effectiveness of the Educational FM Radio Programs in Raising Civic Awareness	Role of FM Radios in Promoting Civic Awareness in the Education System
Chi-Square			40.167 <sup>a</sup>	37.167 <sup>a</sup>
Df			4	4
Asymp. Sig.			.000	.000
Monte Carlo Sig.	Sig.		.000 <sup>b</sup>	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	95% Confidence Interval	Lower Bound	.000	.000
		Upper Bound	.049	.049
a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 12.0.				
b. Based on 60 sampled tables with starting seed 624387341.				

#### **Opinions of respondents regarding the main challenges faced by FM radio stations in promoting civic awareness**

The figure 4.5 presents the opinions of respondents regarding the main challenges faced by FM radio stations in promoting civic awareness in Nangarhar Province. The survey allowed participants to select multiple options to indicate the challenges they perceive as significant hurdles for FM radio stations in their mission to promote civic awareness.

The most commonly selected challenge, identified by 39.3% of respondents, is limited resources and funding. The second most chosen challenge, as indicated by 32.1% of respondents, is political interference. A smaller percentage of respondents, comprising 7.1%, identified the lack of audience engagement as a challenge faced by FM radio stations. This highlights the importance of actively involving the audience in civic awareness programs and tailoring content to better resonate with the listeners' interests and concerns. Lastly, 17.9% of respondents pointed to security threats and risks as a significant challenge for FM radio stations.



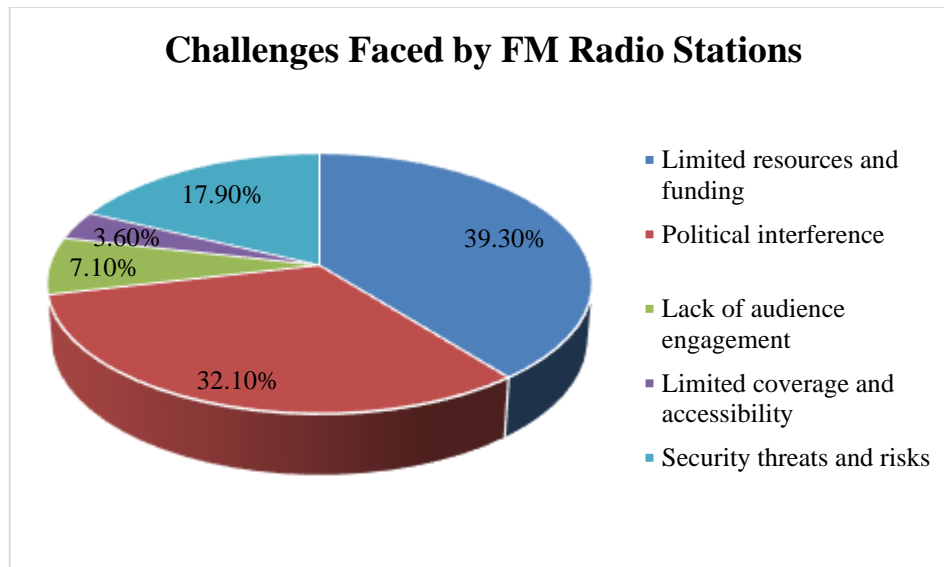


Figure 4.5: Challenges Faced by FM Radio Stations

### Conclusion and Recommendations

The study aimed to investigate the role of FM radio in promoting civic awareness in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. Through an in-depth analysis of data collected from 60 respondents, including students, teachers, and staff working in different radio stations, valuable insights were gained into the impact and significance of FM radios in the civic education landscape. To conclude, it is evident that FM radio stations play a crucial role in raising civic awareness in Nangarhar Province. Most respondents reported listening to FM radio programs daily or several times a week, indicating the widespread popularity of this medium. Furthermore, the data revealed that FM radios considerably influence civic awareness, particularly in disseminating educational content and fostering a sense of civic responsibility among listeners. The study also shed light on the challenges FM radio stations face in their endeavour to promote civic awareness. Limited resources and funding, coupled with political interference, emerged as major obstacles that need to be addressed to ensure the sustained effectiveness of FM radios in this regard. The study concluded with the following recommendations.

It is recommended to relevant authorities and stakeholders to allocate adequate funding and resources to FM radio stations. By doing so, stations can enhance the quality and variety of their educational programs, ensuring a more substantial impact on civic awareness. It is recommended that FM radio stations should be given independence from political interference and that contents be designed in accordance with the needs of the audience.

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