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Disaster Journalism and Witnessing of Pain: Psychosocial Experiences of Journalists Working in Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes*

Afet Haberciliği ve Acının Şahitliği: Kahramanmaraş Depremlerinde Görev Alan Gazetecilerin Psikososyal Deneyimleri

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ABSTRACT

The earthquakes that struck Kahramanmaraş on 6 February 2023 and affected 11 cities not only caused physical destruction but also brought the region into the spotlight of national and international media. Journalists who witnessed the suffering and even lost loved ones in the earthquake, becoming part of the pain themselves, found themselves at the intersection of public service and the need to uphold journalistic standards. The aim of this study is to reveal and thematically examine the psychological and emotional processes underlying journalists' experiences following the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes. In this context, the questions addressed in the study are as follows: How are psychological processes managed in disaster reporting? Is psychological support provided to journalists working in the disaster area? How is disaster reporting shaped according to the gender variable? The study draws on the experiences of professionals working in the earthquake zones and on earthquake-related broadcasts immediately after 6 February. The participant group was selected from commercial (n=5), thematic (n=7) and public (n=1) television stations. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews based on a qualitative research design with a sample group of 27 people consisting of cameramen (n=9), reporters (n=9) and presenters (n=9). Most participants reported being psychologically affected by the earthquake, which manifested itself in anxiety, insomnia, stress, and their minds remaining in the disaster area. The findings reveal that harsh physical conditions and limited access to basic needs in disaster areas negatively affect the working experiences of Journalists -particularly women- and contribute to an increased need for psychological support.

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ÖZ

Kahramanmaraş'ı 6 Şubat 2023'te vuran ve 11 şehri etkileyen depremler, fiziksel bir yıkım yaratmakla kalmamış aynı zamanda bölgeyi ulusal ve uluslararası medyanın ilgi odağı haline getirmiştir. Acıya tanıklık eden ve hatta depremde yakınlarını kaybederek acının birer parçası olan gazeteciler, kendilerini kamu hizmeti ile gazetecilik standartlarını koruma ihtiyacının kesiştiği noktada bulmuştur. Bu araştırmanın amacı, Kahramanmaraş depremleri sonrasında gazetecilerin yaşadığı deneyimlerin psikolojik ve duygusal süreçlerini ortaya çıkarmak ve bu süreçleri tematik açıdan incelemektir. Bu kapsamda çalışmada yanıtı aranan sorular şunlardır: Afet haberciliğinde psikolojik süreç nasıl yönetilmektedir? Afet bölgesinde görev yapan habercilere psikolojik destek verilmekte midir? Afet haberciliği cinsiyet değişkenine göre nasıl şekillenmektedir? Çalışma kapsamında 6 Şubat'ın hemen ardından deprem bölgelerinde ve deprem ile ilgili yayınlarda görev yapan profesyonellerin deneyimlerine başvurulmuştur. Katılımcı grup, ticari (n=5), tematik (n=7) ve kamu (n=1) televizyonlarından seçilmiştir. Veriler, kameraman (n=9), muhabir (n=9) ve spikerlerden (n=9) oluşan 27 kişilik örneklem grubuyla nitel araştırma desenine dayalı olarak yarı yapılandırılmış görüşmeler yoluyla toplanmıştır. Katılımcıların çoğu depremden psikolojik olarak etkilendiğini ve bu durumun endişe, uykusuzluk, stres, zihnin afet sahasında kalması durumlar ile açığa çıktığını bildirmiştir. Bulgular, afet bölgelerindeki zorlu fiziksel koşullar ve temel ihtiyaçlara erişim sorunlarının özellikle kadın habercilerin çalışma deneyimlerini olumsuz etkilediğini; bu durumun aynı zamanda gazetecilerde psikolojik destek ihtiyacını artırdığını ortaya koymaktadır.

* Araştırmaya katkı sunan muhabir, kameraman ve spikerlere teşekkür ederiz. ATV/A HABER: Betül Bilsel, Aytekin Polatel, Cem Öğretir CNN TÜRK/KANAL D: Fulya Öztürk, Halil Kahraman, Göksu Öngören Özgür FOX TV: Kemal Aktaş, Berkcan Tuğu, İlker Karagöz HABER GLOBAL: Hasan Uylaş, Aydın Korkmaz, Gözde Şeker HABER TÜRK/SHOW TV: Tuğba Södekoğlu, Adem Gümüş, Mehmet Akif Ersoy KRT TV: Mevsim Altay, Furkan Erdem, Seçil Özer NTV/STAR TV: Yağız Şenkal, İbrahim Ateşoğlu, Seda Öğretir TRT HABER: Emre Yüncü, Mikail Sevinç, Mustafa Ustanil TV 100: Gülnur Saydam, Yetkin Torlak, Ece Üner.

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Introduction

Disaster journalism -variously framed as crisis journalism (Sancı, 2023; Yıldırım, 2019), communication in extraordinary situations (Koç Akgül, 2017) and disaster reporting (Disaster Journalism Guide, 2023; Earthquake Journalism Guide, 2023; Maden, 2023)- constitutes a specialised field positioned at the intersection of risk communication, public service and ethical responsibility (Kütükoğlu, 2021; Koç, 2006). In moments of large-scale disruption, journalists act as a vital conduit between unfolding events and public understanding, shaping not only how information circulates but also how societies navigate uncertainty and loss (Ewart, 2020, p. 68; Norris, 2008, p. 127). This role places heightened emphasis on accuracy, integrity and the protection of human dignity, as the consequences of misinformation or unethical reporting practices may directly influence public safety.

Although objectivity remains a contested notion in journalism studies, its functional relevance becomes more pronounced during disasters, where editorial decisions can affect risk perception and trust (Erdoğan, 2006; Koç Akgül, 2017, pp. 34-37). Expert commentary is similarly central to crisis interpretation; yet sensationalising such statements can unintentionally intensify fear, panic or misperception among audiences. The broader media ecosystem further complicates this landscape, as disaster periods often amplify tendencies toward tabloidisation—emotionalised visuals, dramatic narratives and sensational framings that may overshadow factual accuracy (Yılmaz, 2019). Research highlights that such practices increase exposure to disinformation, rumours and outdated or misleading claims, weakening the collective ability to respond effectively to emergencies (Communication Directorate, 2023; Earthquake Journalism Guide, 2023; Maden, 2023; Usta & Yükseler, 2021; Houston et al., 2019, pp. 591–611; Aker, 2022).

The ethical tensions embedded in disaster journalism became particularly visible following the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes of 6 February 2023. A widely debated example involved the circulation of audio recordings of a child trapped under rubble—broadcast verbatim by some media outlets, yet withheld by others based on ethical concerns (NTV, 13.03.2023). This incident reignited global discussions on the balance between freedom of communication and the right to be forgotten (Usta & Yükseler, 2021, p. 259), reflecting divergent approaches in international contexts: while the United States foregrounds freedom of expression, the European Union advocates a contextual, case-specific evaluation (Nalbantoğlu, 2018, p. 587). Scholars caution that while suffering can be newsworthy, ethical limits must guide its representation (Temiztürk, 2012), and practices such as extending a microphone toward rubble "to capture sound" offer little journalistic or humanitarian value (İrvan, 2022).

In response to these challenges, recent literature emphasises the need for strengthened ethical guidelines (Anis, 2022; Serçelik & Kasımoğlu, 2022), improved training programmes (Maden, 2023), enhanced psychosocial and technical support for journalists (Englund et al., 2023; Sreedharan et al., 2019), more robust disaster communication infrastructures (Sreedharan et al., 2019), the adoption of preventive journalism (İrvan, 2020; Vural et al., 2022) and increased media literacy among the public (Serçelik & Kasımoğlu, 2022). Collectively, these discussions underline that disaster journalism is not merely a process of relaying information; it represents an ethical, emotional and civic responsibility requiring preparedness, sensitivity and interdisciplinary competence.

The Kahramanmaraş earthquakes created one of the most challenging environments for journalists in Türkiye's recent history. The immense geographical spread of destruction, the urgency of the search and rescue operations and the emotional intensity of witnessing large-scale suffering placed journalists in a dual role: maintaining public service obligations while navigating the limits of their own psychological endurance. Many found themselves reporting

from environments where basic needs were unmet, communication channels were disrupted and human distress was omnipresent. For some, the disaster was not only a professional assignment but also a personal tragedy, as several journalists lost relatives while continuing to work in the field.

Despite the extensive scholarship on disaster communication and the growing body of work analysing media representation of the 6 February earthquakes, research addressing the emotional, psychological and gendered experiences of journalists remains limited. The professional demands imposed on reporters, cameramen and presenters-combined with exposure to traumatic scenes, ethical dilemmas and institutional pressures-create complex psychosocial challenges that are still insufficiently theorised. Against this background, the aim of this study is to gain an in-depth understanding of the experiences and challenges encountered by journalists following the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, with particular attention to their psychosocial responses, emotional labour, gendered dynamics and the broader ethical environment in which disaster reporting takes place.

Conceptual Framework

Disaster Journalism and Reporting Practices During Crises

Journalists play a critical role in disaster planning, emergency response and public communication, regardless of whether the disaster is natural or human-made (Ewart, 2020; Norris, 2008). They are expected to uphold accuracy and integrity while also considering the safety, dignity and resilience of affected individuals and communities. For this reason, disaster journalism requires adequate training and preparedness, as emphasised by national and international reporting guidelines (Disaster Reporting Guide, 2023). Objectivity is another key principle that becomes particularly significant during disasters (Erdoğan, 2006). While neutrality remains a debated concept in journalism, crisis conditions heighten its importance as editorial decisions influence public perception, trust and safety. Media organisations often rely on multiple sources-government agencies, local authorities, universities, international organisations and civil society actors-to construct a comprehensive understanding of the evolving crisis (Koç Akgül, 2017, pp. 34-37).

Expert opinions also play an important role in interpreting crises; however, sensationalising these opinions may unintentionally amplify public fear, anxiety or panic. Beyond this, disaster journalism contends with long-standing challenges such as tabloidisation, which becomes particularly visible during crises. Sensational reporting relies heavily on dramatic imagery and emotional impact, often at the expense of factual depth (Yılmaz, 2019). This tendency can mislead the public and expose audiences to misinformation, unverified claims, rumours and outdated or distorted information (Communication Directorate, 2023; Earthquake Reporting Guide, 2023; Maden, 2023; Usta & Yükseler, 2021; Houston et al., 2019, pp. 591–611; Aker, 2022).

These ethical tensions are clearly illustrated in post-disaster media practices. For example, during the 6 February 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, the audio messages of a 10-year-old girl trapped under rubble were circulated in different ways by various media outlets-some transmitted the recordings verbatim, whereas others refrained due to ethical concerns (NTV, 13 March 2023). Such examples foreground the conflict between press freedom and the right to be forgotten, a tension widely recognised in both national and international debates (Usta & Yükseler, 2021, p. 259). While the United States tends to interpret content removal as a restriction on freedom of expression, the European Union advocates a contextual evaluation balancing competing rights (Nalbantoğlu, 2018, p. 587). Scholars further emphasise the need for ethical boundaries in reporting suffering (Temiztürk, 2012) and criticise practices such as directing a microphone toward rubble in search of dramatic sound bites, which do not contribute

to rescue efforts (İrvan, 2022; see also Maden, 2023, p. 410). In line with these concerns, researchers argue for updated legal regulations, strengthened ethical guidelines, increased awareness programmes involving all stakeholders (Usta & Yükseler, 2021), higher ethical standards for print media (Anis, 2022; Serçelik & Kasımoğlu, 2022), comprehensive training programmes for journalists (Maden, 2023), improved technical and psychological preparedness (Englund et al., 2023; Sreedharan et al., 2019), enhanced disaster communication infrastructures (Sreedharan et al., 2019), the adoption of preventive journalism approaches (İrvan, 2020; Vural et al., 2022) and the promotion of media literacy in society (Serçelik & Kasımoğlu, 2022, pp. 128-141). Taken together, these discussions position disaster journalism as an ethical, technical and civic responsibility requiring accuracy, sensitivity and preparedness in order to strengthen public resilience and ensure responsible communication in times of crisis.

Social Science Studies on the Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes

The earthquakes of 6 February 2023, with magnitudes of 7.7 and 7.6, have generated extensive research across a wide range of social science disciplines. Scholars have examined the disaster through institutional, cultural, demographic and psychosocial dimensions. Studies have addressed institutional impacts (Dündar, 2023), journalists' experiences (Torlak & Aker, 2024), intergovernmental responses (Korkmaz, 2023), the experiences of Syrian refugees (Duruel, 2023), social responsibility initiatives (Çerçi et al., 2023), crisis management processes (Salik Ata, 2023), and mourning practices shaped by religious-cultural dynamics (Doğanay, 2023). Research has also explored local governance practices (Ün, 2023), the needs of elderly populations (Taşçı & Gökçe, 2023), spiritual counselling services (İnce et al., 2023), the experiences of marginalised women (Çetin Aydın & Aytaç, 2023) and the psychosocial conditions of children and families (Darga, 2023). Together, these studies highlight the multidimensional social impact of the earthquakes.

Media and Journalism Analyses of the Earthquakes

A second body of literature focuses on how the earthquakes were represented in the media and how newsroom practices shaped disaster communication. Researchers have analysed newspaper framing and discourse (Özdemir & Maral, 2023; Demir, 2023), ideological orientations influenced by ownership structures (Erdoğan & Kaya, 2023), and political differences in news narratives (Sine Nazlı & Soylu, 2023). Additional studies have examined depictions of victims in digital news portals (Asa & Doğan, 2023), the role of social media in information dissemination (Ata, 2023), self-regulation in disaster journalism (Bolat, 2023), platform-specific media–society interactions (Aslantaş, 2023), polarising editorial strategies (Budak, 2023) and structural obstacles to disaster reporting (Ayan & Keten, 2023). Research has also explored dramatisation in television news (Duygu, 2023), misinformation during the disaster period (Coşkun, 2023), and ethical violations related to victim representation (Basmacı, 2023; Atalay & Pehlivan, 2023). This corpus collectively illustrates the complexity of media practices, editorial choices and representational ethics in disaster contexts.

Disaster Communication, Ethics and Regulatory Approaches

A third cluster of studies examines disaster communication frameworks, ethical responsibilities and regulatory interventions. Avşar et al. (2023) discuss the implementation of broadcast bans as a crisis-management measure and highlight the need for coordinated institutional strategies in social media use. Disaster communication guidelines emphasise journalists' role in informing the public about risks, preventing misinformation, and ensuring responsible reporting during both pre-disaster and post-disaster phases (Disaster Reporting Guide, 2023; Earthquake Reporting Guide, 2023; Houston et al., 2019). This perspective is closely aligned with the concept of preventive journalism (İrvan, 2020), which positions

journalists not only as observers but also as actors in public risk reduction and ethical communication.

Psychological Risks and Emotional Burden in Disaster Journalism

International literature consistently demonstrates that working in disaster environments exposes journalists to significant psychological and emotional risks. Research across disaster, conflict and epidemic contexts shows that journalists may experience secondary traumatic stress, anxiety, depression, emotional exhaustion and burnout due to persistent exposure to traumatic events and ethically challenging situations (Aoki et al., 2013; Osmann et al., 2020; Lee et al., 2018; Seely, 2019). The act of witnessing-encountering scenes of destruction, grief and uncertainty-has been identified as a key mechanism intensifying psychosocial strain (Englund et al., 2023; Backholm & Björkqvist, 2010).

Studies further indicate that organisational expectations, such as maintaining emotional composure or suppressing visible distress, can heighten the psychological burden. Evidence from conflict and pandemic reporting suggests that the combination of editorial pressure, unclear task boundaries and prolonged trauma exposure may amplify risks of PTSD and emotional exhaustion, whereas institutional support systems, training and resilience-oriented practices can mitigate these impacts (Hoak, 2023; Obermaier et al., 2023; Frey, 2023).

Although disaster communication guidelines in Turkey address ethical and psychological sensitivity, empirical research on the emotional labour, guilt, trauma exposure and mental health of journalists working in disaster zones remains limited, dispersed and under-theorised.

Despite the growing body of work on the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes and extensive scholarship on media coverage, there is a clear lack of research addressing the psychological experiences of journalists who report from disaster sites. No existing study examines whether journalists receive psychological support, how they cope with the emotional demands of disaster reporting or how these experiences vary across gender, newsroom roles and organisational structures. This gap underscores the need for qualitative research that explores the psychosocial burden, emotional labour, guilt, secondary trauma and resilience strategies of journalists working in crisis contexts. The present study aims to fill this gap by focusing on the mental health, psychosocial experiences and gendered dynamics of journalists who covered the 6 February 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes.

Method

Research Questions

This study was guided by three central research questions focusing on the psychological, professional and gender-related dynamics of disaster journalism. The first question examined how psychological processes are managed by journalists working under extreme conditions. The second explored whether journalists reporting from the disaster area receive any form of psychological support, either institutional or informal. The third question investigated how gender shapes journalistic practices, work distribution, emotional labour and coping strategies in disaster environments. These research questions formed the conceptual framework of the study and directed both the interview design and the analytical orientation.

Research Design

The study employed a qualitative research design, which is well suited for revealing the emotional depth, contextual complexities and subjective interpretations experienced by journalists covering disasters. A qualitative approach allowed for a detailed exploration of the nuances, ethical dilemmas and internal tensions inherent in disaster reporting, enabling the

researcher to capture meanings that cannot be quantified or reduced to numerical indicators. Through this design, the study aimed to portray the multidimensional experiences of journalists and to understand how they make sense of their roles and responsibilities in crisis contexts.

Sample

The population of the study consisted of reporters, cameramen and presenters who actively took part in disaster-related broadcasts on national television channels after the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes of 6 February 2023. Participants were selected through purposive sampling in order to include individuals with direct, relevant and diverse experiences of disaster reporting. The inclusion criteria were defined as follows: being between the ages of 20 and 60, having worked for at least one week in earthquake-related broadcasting and being affiliated with national channels operating from Istanbul or Ankara. The sample represented three types of broadcasting organisations-commercial, thematic and public-which allowed the study to capture institutional differences in newsroom practices, resource access and editorial expectations. In total, twenty-seven participants were interviewed, ensuring both diversity and depth in professional perspectives.

Data Collection

Data were collected using semi-structured interviews, a method chosen for its balance between flexibility and consistency. This technique enabled participants to articulate their experiences freely while keeping the discussions aligned with the central themes of the research. The interview protocol included questions related to preparedness for disaster reporting, challenges encountered in the field, age and gender dynamics, emotional and psychological effects, information-gathering routines and adherence to ethical principles. Prior to the main data collection, pilot interviews were conducted to refine the protocol and ensure that the questions effectively captured the multidimensional nature of the participants' experiences. Interviews were carried out either face-to-face or through virtual communication tools depending on participants' preferences and logistical constraints. All interviews were audio-recorded with participants' consent to ensure accuracy, reliability and completeness during transcription and analysis.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the relevant institutional authorities before data collection began. All participants were informed about the purpose of the research and the procedures involved, and they were assured that their participation was entirely voluntary. Their confidentiality was guaranteed, and they were informed that they could withdraw from the study at any stage without negative consequences. Informed consent was obtained from each participant, ensuring that the study complied with ethical standards for studies involving human subjects.

Data Analysis

The qualitative data obtained through the interviews were analysed using thematic analysis. The analysis began with repeated readings of the transcripts in order to gain full familiarity with the participants' narratives. Through careful examination, meaningful expressions, recurring issues and emotionally significant experiences were identified and coded. These codes were gradually organised into broader thematic categories that reflected shared patterns and notable differences across participants' accounts. The themes were then interpreted and synthesised to construct a coherent understanding of journalists' psychological processes, coping strategies and gendered experiences in disaster environments. For clarity and coherence in presenting the findings, the results were structured around the professional groups

of cameramen, reporters and presenters, each supported by a contextual profile that highlighted the demographic and professional backgrounds of the individuals represented in the themes

Findings

Cameraman

Within the scope of the research, all the participants who worked as cameramen in disaster areas for at least one week were male. The journalism experience of the participants, whose ages range between 27 and 59, varies between 5 and 37 years.

Table 1: *Profile of cameraman participants*

Name Surname	Institution	Gender	Age	Experience
Adem Gümüş	Haber Türk	Male	51	37 years
Aydın Korkmaz	Haber Global	Male	35	18 years
Aytekin Polatel	ATV	Male	50	30 years
Berkcan Tuğu	Fox TV	Male	31	13 years
Furkan Erdem	KRT	Male	27	5 years
Halil Kahraman	CNN Türk	Male	32	8 years
Mikail Sevinç	TRT Haber	Male	36	20 years
İbrahim Ateşoğlu	NTV	Male	59	28 years
Yetkin Torlak	TV 100	Male	44	25 years

Witness to the law

The reporters who mobilised in the first minutes of the earthquake and went to the earthquake zone are among the first witnesses of the pain. Among the reporters who were in the region to report the news, there were also some who lost their own relatives beyond being witnesses of the event. Is it possible to fulfil the duty of journalism knowing that a relative is under the rubble in the disaster zone?

> While I was on duty in Kahramanmaraş, my uncle's children, 7 of them and the whole family were under the rubble in Diyarbakır. They called me but I was on duty. I lost my uncle's children; we had a loss of 7 people. On the one hand, you experience that pain, on the other hand, you know that you must do your job. You need to have a steel psychology (Ateşoğlu, interview dated 28 September 2023).

> My teammate Hasan lost his father and nephews. I shared his grief, the first days were especially difficult, but Hasan remained resilient and stoic. His resilience and fortitude also gave me strength. It was a process in which we took strength from each other, think of the wreckage where he lost his father, he broadcasted there. In such a process, regardless of my psychology, I saw myself as a part of that process and I never thought of returning (Korkmaz, interview dated 10 March 2023).

Korkmaz, who shared the pain of his teammate, believed the duty of journalism could be fulfilled despite the pain experienced, while Torlak stated that the duty could be fulfilled in such situations, but the feeling at that moment was too difficult to describe.

> I did not lose any of my relatives in the earthquake, but like the rest of Turkey, we felt the pain deeply, and without a television window between us and the earthquake victims. I have worked in war zones in the Middle East, so I have recorded pain, tears, death, conflict, bombs, explosions, everything, but I felt like I was recording helplessness for the first time (Torlak, interview dated 18 April 2023).

Polatel draws the framework for recording in such cases as "moral, humanitarian and professional values".

> Of course, it is difficult to capture images during pain, but it is a necessity of the job to convey that image within the framework of moral, humanitarian and professional values. It is a requirement of our professional responsibility. You press the record button with this awareness (Polatel, interview dated 13 March 2023).

> I lost my friend, but I learnt about it on the 4th day of the earthquake due to communication problems. Even if you did not lose a relative, the pain was very great. It was impossible not to be psychologically affected by all this, but I tried to suppress it while reporting there (Tuğu, interview dated 30 July 2023).

> I can say that the period I spent in the earthquake zone was the most challenging period of my career (mentally and physically). The first 3 days in the disaster environment were quite difficult, but from the 4th day onwards I was able to comprehend the situation we were in (Erdem, interview dated 24 July 2023).

Gender regime

Did it make a difference whether you were a female or a male cameraman in the disaster area? Even though the answers were "no", the cameramen working in the disaster zone of the national channels within the scope of the research are male. According to the data obtained from the number of registered members of the News Cameramen Association of Turkey, there are 400 news cameramen in Turkey and the number of women among these cameramen is limited to 3. It is concluded that 2 of the female cameramen work in public broadcasting institutions in Ankara, TRT and 1 in TBMM TV, while there are no female news cameramen in private channels (Polatel, interview dated 13 March 2023).

NTV cameraman İbrahim Ateşoğlu, one of the most experienced of the participants, shares the view that due to the weight of the video recorders and related equipment, physical strength is needed to carry and use them, which leads to the perception that camerawork is a job that can be done mostly by men.

> In other words, it is not direct news transfer, but when we look at it in terms of needs, the toilet is a simple example of this, in such situations, it is preferred to send male journalists to the field. As reporters, female reporters worked in the earthquake zone, but all of the cameramen were already male. The preference for male reporters in such assignments is entirely related to physical conditions. Again, the fact that cameraman work is mostly done by men is also related to physical strength. There is a prevailing opinion that the resilience in the nature of men and the work of using the camera is more suitable for the nature of men (Ateşoğlu, interview dated 28 September 2023).

According to one of the participants, CNN Türk cameraman Kahraman, the presence of female journalists in the field creates a barrier to reactive situations.

> ...Sometimes citizens who get angry and react, if there is a female reporter, only verbally argue, but if there is a male reporter, we have witnessed situations up to beating. Because people generally avoid showing physical reaction to women. When they are men, they can get involved in fights and noise more easily (Kahraman, interview dated 20 June 2023).

Based on his observations, Torlak, who worked in the disaster zone with both female and male reporters, states that personal character, not gender, is decisive.

> I cannot say that gender is decisive with a clear line, but some differences in the creation and nature of men and women are inevitably reflected in the process. I have worked with male and female reporter colleagues and I have observed that women can display a more maternal approach towards earthquake victims. However, this example is very insufficient for gender to be determinative because a man can also have a fatherly attitude or it is a separate virtue to be able to fulfil his duty in that emotionality. It is very important to convey the news by avoiding an approach that will upset the viewer on the screen and damage the process. Sometimes a man may not be able to show that resilience, but we see that our female colleagues working under the same conditions fulfil their duties very easily. Again, women's personal needs may be slightly different. We can sleep in a car with 3 men, a cameraman, a driver and a reporter, but a woman may not be as comfortable in that car as we are. It is not gender, but I think your personal character and temperament shows itself there (Torlak, interview dated 18 April 2023).

Psychological resistance

Psychological support is accepted as a part of the disaster preparedness process. In this context, it is recommended to support professional groups such as police, firefighters, search

and rescue teams working in disasters in this direction (Özkan & Çetinkaya Kutun, 2021, p. 255). It is concluded that journalists who undertake the task of reporting, conveying information and forming public opinion in disaster areas are also psychologically affected by disaster processes. While many of them share what they have experienced in this process and choose the self-treatment method, the need for psychological support emerges for journalists.

> Every news that journalists go to in general is a trauma. If you don't tell what you see, if you don't share it, it will manifest itself in a bad way in the future. I was in the Baghdad War in 2003 for three and a half months and there was a very bad scene. When I stayed in Baghdad, there were foreign journalists in the hotel, their organisations called them and asked them where they would like to spend their holidays with their families. For 3 and a half months you have been in a war environment, and your institution sends you on holiday with your family. In Turkey, they give you 3-5 days off in return for the weekly leave you do not use, but no one is interested in the psychology you experience there. Then you come and start work (Ateşoğlu, interview dated 28 September 2023).

According to Torlak, in the current crisis environment, journalists are part of the process, but when they leave the environment, they also carry the psychological burden of that environment. He interprets the smell of corpses that he smelled on his camera for a long time after leaving the earthquake zone as the heaviest part of the burden.

> In order not to be psychologically affected, I think you have to have all your human emotions removed. After I returned from the region, I smelled the smell of corpses on the leather on the cover of my camera for a long time. The first week I returned from there, I kept to myself, I didn't want to talk to anyone, I couldn't stop myself from questioning "what have we been through?". Maybe with the reflex of journalism, when you are there, you become a part of the conditions you are in and focus on what you need to do, but when you move away from that environment, then you feel the burden of what you have witnessed (Torlak, interview dated 18 April 2023).

The reporters reported that after leaving the earthquake zone, when they returned to the city they lived in and to their previous routines, they encountered emotional reactions such as insomnia, sudden startle from sleep, crying in the face of minor events, which could negatively affect daily life.

> Psychologically, of course, we are affected, but I think we are not very conscious of it there. But when you leave there and return to the city where you live, of course, some problems arise; such as insomnia or sudden startles from sleep... For example, when I returned to Istanbul after being in the earthquake zone for about two months, I saw a house being demolished in the morning across from our house due to urban transformation and I felt very bad at that moment. I had the feeling that I was still there and houses were still being demolished. I was able to return to normal after five or ten seconds. Similarly, when I saw people carrying their household goods with the lift transport method, I got scared as if I saw earthquake victims carrying houses from risky buildings in the earthquake zone and I wanted to warn them. Therefore, in the earthquake zone, we suppress such things a little more and focus on doing business. When we return, we experience some psychological problems (Kahraman, interview dated 20 June 2023).

> I am sure that the personnel who have been working in the earthquake zone since the first day need to talk to a professional. I could not sleep for a long time. I am trying to get over it somehow, but in this sense, I think media institutions should provide psychological support to their personnel (Sevinç, interview dated 18 May 2023).

> When we leave the disaster area, we try to overcome the psychology of that area by sharing some things with our family and loved ones. In my opinion, this is a way of treating ourselves. In fact, in this sense, journalists of course need psychological support, although we save the day after the disaster, what we witness or experience can manifest itself even years later (Polatel, interview dated 13 March 2023).

> Then I realised that I cry at the smallest event. When you are in a disaster zone, you focus on what you have to do. Then I think from time to time, did that man make it out, did the other girl survive, were the wire cutters found? Your memory of what happened there challenges you, the thoughts wear you out. It is not possible to erase what you witnessed from your mind at once (Gümüş, interview dated 13 March 2023).

Reporter

In this part of the research, the data obtained from 9 participants, 5 female and 4 males, working as reporters in disaster areas will be evaluated.

Table 2: *Profile of reporter participants*

Name Surname	Institution	Gender	Age	Experience
Betül Bilsel	ATV	Woman	34	15 years
Emre Yüncü	TRT Haber	Male	38	17 years
Fulya Öztürk	CNN Türk	Woman	34	17 years
Gülnur Saydam	TV 100	Woman	36	17 years
Hasan Uylaş	Haber Global	Male	38	17 years
Kemal Aktaş	Fox TV	Male	54	27 years
Mevsim Altay	KRT	Woman	34	5 years
Tuğba Södekoğlu	Show TV	Woman	32	11 years
Yağız Şenkal	NTV	Male	47	27 years

Witnessing the law

Considering the access of the interviewed reporters to the disaster zone, it is seen that the reporters were among the first witnesses of the pain experienced in the minutes when the search and rescue teams could not even reach the region. Among these reporters, one of the reporters who not only witnessed the pain but also experienced the pain personally by losing her relatives in the earthquake is TV 100 reporter Gülnur Saydam. Saydam considers that day as the most difficult day of her professional life.

> I lost my cousin, who was as close to me as my brother, whom I loved very much and grew up with, his children and his wife, my brother-in-law and second cousins. We took the bodies of 18 of our close relatives out of a single building with our own hands. In one of those moments, I was on live broadcast, the only moment I could not be professional was that moment. That moment when I could not control my tears on the screen. And while many moments like this moment pierced my heart, it was not easy to control my emotions, to remain objective, to convey the events without crying or reproaching. The only motivation that kept me upright in front of the screen was the necessity of making those live broadcasts so that more lives could be saved from the rubble. The hope of your neighbour becomes your hope. Not only for your own relatives but also for your fellow countrymen whom you don't know at all, you feel obliged to stand up and keep a cool head. It was the most difficult task of my life in professional terms (Saydam, interview dated 17 May 2023).

Like Saydam, Haber Global reporter Hasan Uylaş, who waited for days in Hatay for his father and nephews to be rescued, emphasised that the broadcast he made after the loss of his relatives was the heaviest broadcast for him, but that journalism sustained him in the following days.

> ...All we wanted was for Mustafa to hold on to life. He said, "Uncle, save me, don't let me die," but I couldn't. I cried for the first time in so much pain. We had only one prayer now, to reach our father's body. I was trying to survive with 1-2 hours of sleep. I had the same clothes on for 10 days, I had not taken a bath for 10 days. From the 10th day onwards, it was announced that debris removal works would start in the city. The teams worked as if they were digging a well with a needle in order not to damage the bodies. On the 10th day, we reached my father's body around 14.00 p.m. As we thought, he was caught in his bedroom. He went down from the bed and prostrated himself. At noon on the 11th day, it was time to talk about the city where I was born and raised. I took the microphone in my hand and started to talk about the streets with Aydın Korkmaz. I have seen many wars and witnessed many devastations, but that day I made the heaviest broadcast of my professional life. I told about the street where I lived, I told about the search and rescue teams who spent days trying to reach my father. The work I did helped me to survive in that pain to some extent (Uylaş, interview dated 15 June 2023).

The fact that the reporters working in the earthquake area spent time in the same region in the past and have memories shows that it is an important bit factor for them to feel the pain

deeply. Şenkal stated that the spatial erasure of his memories in the region caused damage to him, but that he experienced the spiritual pleasure of fulfilling his duty as a journalist in that region.

> Hatay was a place where I spent a lot of time, and the destruction of the places I spent time in and knew creates a destruction in people because of the experience. Aa, I stayed here, the hotel I stayed in was destroyed, I had dinner here and now it has been destroyed, but in the end, I am doing my job, if we can make the voices of those who cannot be heard there heard, if more aid can be delivered thanks to us, or if search and rescue teams can go there, there is such a spiritual pleasure. If you do your job properly, there is a real benefit there, and you can also make a difference. Because there is such a situation, those who are in front of the television at that time feel more helpless, but at least I am there at that time and I am doing my best (Şenkal, interview dated 29 June 2023).

CNN Türk reporter Fulya Öztürk, whose family lives in Adana, an earthquake zone, describes the anxiety she felt during her assignment.

> For example, there is an earthquake during the broadcast, on the one hand I am broadcasting, on the other hand I am sending messages to my family; I am trying to get news from my family, 'is everything okay, let me know'. What goes through my mind at that time; what if they are in front of a risky building, what if the building has collapsed... On the one hand, you feel that your responsibility increases every moment of every day you stay in the area, but what you see has a traumatising effect on you, you have a great concern from your own safety to the safety of your family, but on the other hand, millions of people are watching you, even a word you utter is very important and you are aware that you need to stay strong. You keep your emotions under control as much as possible and think about the benefit of society (Öztürk, interview dated 20 June 2023).

Yüncü expresses the definition of witnessing pain with a moment he could not forget in the earthquake zone.

> Even if you have not lost a relative, everyone there is like a relative, so it is a very difficult feeling to stand in front of the screen and explain what is happening. For example, one and a half days after the earthquake, a father pulled his 17-year-old daughter out of the rubble. It was like she was alive, we were very happy, but after she was taken out, I saw that half of her face was missing. She was a young and beautiful girl, but the picture was very painful, I hugged the father and cried, then you sit in front of the screen and tell the story somehow (Yüncü, interview dated 18 May 2023).

Gender regime

While the difficulty of the conditions in disaster and crisis areas makes the working conditions difficult for journalists, does gender influence managing the process? In terms of cameramen, since all the participants working in the disaster area were men, data on the opposite sex were obtained only from male participants. In terms of reporters, the fact that both male and female reporters are working in the disaster area provides the opportunity to evaluate the gender regime in terms of both sexes. In this context, Södekoğlu describes the difficulties she experienced as a woman.

> The biggest difficulty of being a female reporter was the need for a toilet. I had my period during my assignment, and it was almost impossible to find hygiene products. I was very much affected by the freezing cold. Although one could not see such impossibilities, when combined with insomnia and other difficulties, it was inevitable that it would negatively affect concentration (Södekoğlu, interview dated 18 July 2023).

Bilsel, who worked in the region as a female journalist, also stated that the physical conditions for female journalists were difficult in terms of needs, and she thinks that the society has a kinder attitude towards female journalists.

> People can be more polite because we are women, whereas normally they would react more. The toilet was a big problem in terms of basic needs. Also, we are of course more emotional than men, and every sight I saw caused deep wounds in my soul and mind. For example, walking over corpses, past body bags

> and going to the emergency toilet of a hospital hurt me a lot. During the search and rescue operations, when a father came up to me, grabbed my arm and said, "I can hear my son's voice, if you come, the teams will come too, please help me", I wanted to sit on the ground and cry out loud (Bilsel, interview dated 21 May 2023).

Aktaş, on the other hand, deepens his view of 'the environment's approach to women journalists' and argues that the event experienced, the institution where one works, and even the region in which one is located from the point of view of political sociology have an effect on the attitude towards journalists, rather than being a woman or a man in people's approach to journalists.

> In the face of an event, we can all react differently as human beings, our female friend may react differently in the face of an event that I freeze, or vice versa. Sometimes the region you are in, the event you have experienced, the attitude of the other party are all effective. For example, Fox teams in Kahramanmaraş worked under very difficult conditions. Because when we expressed the need for a deficiency there, there were reactions from citizens, especially from citizens who support the government, saying "opposition channel, they criticise the government". They chased and harassed our female reporter friends working in that region (Aktaş, interview dated 7 July 2023).

TV 100 reporter Gülnur Saydam believes that there is a misperception in the sector that women journalists cannot work in areas such as war and disaster zones.

> Being a woman has never affected my work. On the contrary, on the contrary, I worked at a more intense pace than many of my colleagues of the opposite sex. Because I carried the ropes for the rubble where my relatives were found, and when the time came, I left the ropes and just picked up my microphone. Unfortunately, there is such a misperception in the sector for the field, disaster and war zones (Saydam, interview dated 17 May 2023).

According to Altay, the media sector has the perception that "male journalists are preferred in crisis areas". The fact that a small number of female journalists work in the earthquake zone is a consequence of this perception.

> Generally speaking for Hatay, there were few female reporters in the first 15-day period I was there. Perhaps due to the conditions and the difficulty of the conditions, many institutions preferred male reporters (Altay, interview dated 24 July 2023).

Öztürk, on the other hand, is of the opinion that character, not gender, is decisive in the process in the disaster zone.

> I think it is not so much about gender, but a little bit about character and temperament. My temperament and structure are a little more maternal; I was born as a big sister. My temperament is like this, I attach importance to conscience and compassion at every moment of my life. Maybe because I reflected this, it had a strong effect on people. We also have male journalist friends who act with the same feelings, for example Mehmet Akif Ersoy approached people with the same sincerity (Öztürk, interview dated 20 June 2023).

It is seen that reporters evaluate the gender effect on the news production process in the disaster area in terms of emotional state, the approach of the environment and the difficulty of working conditions. While all participants have a similar opinion that the disaster zone is a little more difficult for female reporters in terms of needs, it is concluded that the reporters have a difference of opinion in terms of the emotional effect of gender in managing the process.

Psychological resistance

Psychological resistance of reporters is important during their duties while witnessing the pain experienced. A reporter's inability to control his/her emotions, whether joy or sadness, due to the impact of the event he/she experienced as a human being while broadcasting live broadcasts causes the situation to be reflected on the audience. In this sense, Södekoğlu explains that he could not control his emotions from time to time.

> It was very difficult to keep our psychology alive. Wherever you turned your head, there was a wailing, desperation. People crying, voices rising from the wreckage... Even now I am out of breath. It was a very painful experience that we had never seen or heard before. Insomnia, hunger, freezing cold and this psychology disrupted our concentration, which inevitably reflected on my broadcasts. It was not easy to do my job perfectly in those impossibilities. I was a human being before a news reporter. There were moments when I acted emotionally (Södekoglu, interview dated 18 July 2023).

So, when journalists leave the disaster area and return to their comfort zone, are they able to continue their lives where they left off? Bilsel, who met his accommodation needs in his car during his tenure in Hatay, stated that he still thought he was in a disaster zone even though he had returned home.

> After I returned, I went to sleep and woke up for two weeks thinking that I was there. After a while I started to deny that I had been there and what I had seen. It felt good to deny it. But I don't know what it will cost in the future (Bilsel, interview dated 21 May 2023).

Öztürk states that she prefers not to be alone in order to manage her emotional state.

> ...It is very important to cope with this feeling afterwards. First, I tried to hold on by staying in the area, and then when I left, I tried not to be alone at all. I knew that if I stayed alone, I would be alone with those feelings. For example, I enter a different building and immediately think about whether this place could collapse, if it collapses, I always think about how many floors I would be on in the rubble. The building collapsed right next to us, and these things always make you feel that you are very close to death. From this point of view, journalists may need psychological support after such missions. This support is provided in foreign news channels and international channels. War correspondents and reporters who go to difficult geographies receive therapy. There is no such thing in Turkey, but of course there are some individuals (Öztürk, interview dated 20 June 2023).

According to the data obtained from the interviews with the reporters, some differences are observed between female and male participants in terms of psychological resistance. Şenkal states that the purpose of being in the disaster zone is to be a protective shield for herself.

> It is one of the biggest professional flaws for someone who appears on the screen to go into an emotional delirium, to cry, to lose himself/herself... Yes, it is a very human thing, but it is not right for you to reveal your emotions on the screen, to convey exactly what is happening on the screen to the audience in this way, far from objectivity, and at the same time to convey it by mixing your emotions. The situation is already grave enough, and I think there is no point in making the people on television cry by being too emotional. You need to restrain yourself emotionally in every way. If I went there as an earthquake victim looking for his/her relatives, I might have a different feeling, but I am going there on a mission, the company is making an expense on my behalf and sending me there. I am expected to describe the events as objectively, accurately and without delusions as possible. Since I go with this awareness, this becomes my protective shield, and I do not suffer from psychological wear and tear. If the employee needs psychological support afterwards and makes a request, media organisations should fulfil it. There was no such demand in the institution I work for (Şenkal, interview dated 29 June 2023).

Among the participants of the study, it was determined that only Fox TV news teams were provided psychological support by their organisations.

> When I left Ankara, I motivated myself and said that I need to overcome this process with the least psychological impact. I know I will experience a trauma there and it is not possible to escape from it. During those moments when we were sleeping, there were severe aftershocks, for example, I didn't feel it, but my cameraman, a young friend Berkcan, and my driver friend had never experienced such an earthquake before. They were very affected, they dreamt about it, and then our workplace provided psychological support to all personnel, primarily those working in the earthquake zone. It was something that happened for the first time in our organisation. While I was working here, I also saw the Van and Elazığ earthquakes, but the impact of those earthquakes was not so great socially, and the organisation I worked for provided psychological support for the first time after this earthquake. I think this is absolutely necessary (Aktaş, interview dated 7 July 2023).

Presenters

Within the scope of the research, 9 presenters, 5 female and 4 male, with professional experience ranging from 15 to 33 years, were interviewed. 4 of the presenters worked both in the disaster area and in the studio as the newscaster.

Table 3. Profile of presenter participants

Name Surname	Institution	Gender	Age	Experience
Cem Öğretir	ATV	Male	49	33 years
Ece Üner	TV 100	Woman	42	20 years
Göksu Öngören Özgür	CNN Türk	Woman	36	17 years
Gözde Şeker	Haber Global	Woman	36	20 years
İlker Karagöz	Fox TV	Male	43	22 years
Mehmet Akif Ersoy	Haber Türk	Male	38	15 years
Mustafa Ustanıl	TRT Haber	Male	52	27 years
Seçil Özer	KRT	Woman	41	24 years
Seda Öğretir	NTV	Woman	43	22 years

Witnessing the law

TV 100 presenter Üner, who also worked in the disaster zone, thinks that the sufferings witnessed did not allow for a cold-blooded broadcasting.

> I went to the cemetery, and it is impossible to forget the smell there. What the imams there told us was that a mother had to bury her child without separating them because there is such a thing as rigor mortis. Now, it is impossible for a person who hears this to come on the air and say, 'you know, there was an earthquake disaster, we have so many casualties' and present this as a statistic... It is not easy to encounter such horrible scenes and broadcast in a very cold-blooded manner (Üner, interview dated 29 September 2023).

Üner thinks that it is not possible not to include emotions in the picture, while NTV presenter Seda Öğretir and ATV presenter Cem Öğretir emphasise that reflecting the emotions of the newscaster on the screen would damage the news transmission process.

> Being a journalist or a transmitter of news in the region requires some sensitivities to be taken into consideration. The most important thing is not to involve emotions in the tragic picture there. In this process, it is never journalism to make the earthquake victims' wounds bleed (S. Öğretir, interview dated 9 October 2023).

> Emotions get involved, but at times like these, emotions should not be mixed too much. Because man is an emotional creature and when you mix those emotions, there is always a risk of getting away from the right information (C. Öğretir, interview dated 5 September 2023).

Gender regime

TRT News anchor Ustanıl thinks that the approach of the people in the neighbourhood to female and male newscasters differs from each other.

> I am not only talking about the disaster area, but I think that our female colleagues have a bit more advantage when obtaining news from news sources. In general, citizens can speak in a more street language when talking to us, they can use expressions such as "What are you doing here, why did you come? No, you filmed this, but you wouldn't say it, you wouldn't publish it", etc. They can use such expressions more easily to male journalists. However, I think they are not as rude to our female colleagues (Ustanıl, interview dated 18 May 2023).

Ersoy, while she believes that gender cannot be the only determinant factor in the environmental approach to journalists, states that women's emotional states are different from men's due to their nature and physical conditions in disaster areas affect gender.

> The situation of women and men differs in terms of emotional state and physical conditions in crisis zones. This is also the case for the earthquake zone. When I evaluate the approach of the female journalist

> to the male journalist in crisis areas, it may vary according to the event and place, conditions and human culture. The extent of the crisis, the sociology of the people there, loss of life, loss of property, the emotional state of the people (Ersoy, interview dated 26 June 2023).

According to Şeker, although the physical difficulty of the disaster area affects women journalists more, women's emotional approach can be an advantage in terms of disaster journalism.

> The only difficulty of gender in disaster journalism in terms of managing the process arises in living conditions, but this is not insurmountable. For example, when we first went to Hatay, there was no toilet. It is not a problem for male journalists, they can meet their needs anywhere, but I could not go to the toilet for three days. Apart from these, I think that the female perspective is a much bigger advantage in disaster reporting with its emotional approach and insight (Şeker, interview dated 21 November 2023).

Psychological resistance

Presenters are professionally aware that they are close witnesses of the pain. Although they act with the endeavour to fulfil their professional duties during the disaster, they convey that they carry indelible traces in their minds and this affects their lives from time to time.

> Witnessing that pain permeates your whole life. The audience sat and watched those images for maybe a few hours a day, but we see much more, we even witness images that we cannot reflect on the screen, that we cannot show to the audience in terms of ethics, so I think the earthquake left a lot of traces on journalists (Özer, interview dated 29 September 2023).

> The viewer can sometimes say that they are overwhelmed, that they are worn out, change the channel, switch off the television. This is not the case for us, you cannot get out of it, you cannot escape and it is undoubtedly much more exhausting. And it is not easy to get rid of this psychology; I was in the process of accustoming my daughter to sleep in her own room during the earthquake. My daughter has already adapted to this, but I cannot let her sleep alone anymore because of the earthquake. Although months have passed since the earthquake, this effect continues (Öngören Özgür, interview dated 8 October 2023).

> Pushing emotion to the background, presenting things as they are, numbs us in the news production process, and we work overtime in emotional labour. We are aware of the labour and its results, but we often do not ask ourselves how we are left behind emotionally. And again, most of the time we do not receive support. What we felt in those days has settled in a corner of our hearts and minds. Who knows what kind of emotion or a stone will come to the surface. Of course, psychological support is needed for this (Karagöz, interview dated 10 October 2023).

Conclusion

The fact that journalists, who reach the disaster area even before the search and rescue teams, are the first witnesses of the pain and some of them even lose their relatives and try to fulfil their duties while experiencing the pain one-on-one is psychologically reflected on the news production processes. Even if the journalists are not in the disaster area, the fact that they watch the images that cannot be projected on the screen or that they stay in the process for longer hours professionally may cause psychological wear and tear in journalists. The fact that the disaster victims who lost their relatives react to the reporters in the field with sadness and anger or see the reporters as saviors to pull their relatives out from under the rubble is another burden brought by the process to the journalist in the disaster field. It has been determined that not all journalists have the same resilience in psychological management of the process and that journalists cannot get rid of the psychological impact of the region even after leaving the disaster area.

Journalists evaluate the gender effect on the news production process in the disaster zone in terms of emotional state, the approach of the environment and the difficulty of working conditions. All participants have a similar opinion that the disaster area is more difficult for female journalists in terms of needs. Female journalists, on the other hand, are uncomfortable with the perception that female journalists cannot work in such disaster areas in terms of the difficulty of physical conditions in the sector. In this direction, it is noteworthy that all the

cameramen working in the disaster area are men and even the number of female cameramen working in the news centres of national channels in Turkey is limited to 3. It is concluded that the environment's approach to female journalists is more gentle than that of male journalists, but personal temperament rather than gender is determinative in managing the process.

At the end of all processes, considering that journalists may be affected by disasters, providing necessary psychological support is recommended to be emphasised in terms of journalism and the future of journalists in disaster periods.

Although the study aims for an in-depth analysis, some limitations should be acknowledged. The geographical and temporal scope of the study is limited to the aftermath of the Kahramanmaraş earthquake, which limits the potential generalisability of the findings to other disaster contexts. On the other hand, the fact that the research is based on self-reported experiences raises the possibility of participant bias. Nevertheless, this study is important in many aspects. Firstly, the study has the potential to contribute to the academic understanding of disaster journalism by shedding light on the experiences of journalists operating after natural disasters. Secondly, the findings of the study have practical implications for journalism education programmes, which may enable the development of curricula that better prepare journalists for the unique challenges of disaster journalism. Furthermore, the exploration of ethical considerations in disaster journalism contributes to the ongoing debate on media ethics and responsible reporting during crises. This study, which aims to increase the effectiveness and ethical standards of disaster journalism by promoting a more aware and resilient society, is expected to contribute to the literature in this respect.

Ethics Committee Approval

Ethical approval was granted for this article by the Selçuk University Faculty of Communication Scientific Ethics Review Board, dated 31.05.2023 and numbered 2023/14.

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