

ABSTRACT

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION

***NIRALI DEEPAK PAREKH**

Freedom of Speech and Expression is a fundamental right guaranteed to all the citizens residing within the territory of India under article 19 (1) (a) of the constitution of India. It gives the ability to each and every citizen to take a step forward and voice their opinion, from every nook and corner of the country. This right enables the people to think and also gives them the privilege of making their views and opinions acknowledged by everyone in the society. Thus, encouraging different ideas and perceptions to be heard which motivates in boosting the growth and development of the country.

Media today undoubtedly plays a very crucial role, when we talk about the right to freedom of speech and expression. Media, be it print or digital serves as a tool in keeping the citizens updated about the various current affairs.

Media helps in broadcasting different news all over, but sometimes it becomes necessary for the media based people to realize that there is a specific manner in which they are expected to proceed. Whether it is publishing an article in the newspaper or a reporter on the television, they need to verify and confirm the information they are putting forth in the public domain. It is necessary for them to be cautious and also equally important to research and analyze the information, before it is brought in the public eye whether it is associated to a person or a particular circumstance which has taken place. The information has to be devoid of any kind of loopholes or ambiguities, which, if not, will give rise to defamation or libel.

The different aspects of media including the internet and the television especially in this era, have become the major sources of information for the people. As it ensures that the people are aware and are also updated time to time of the various happenings taking place all over the world. So, the importance of media cannot be denied as it plays a major role in keeping everyone interconnected.

The right to freedom of speech and expression is undoubtedly of great significance today but the repercussions are to be taken care of. This right, if taken away, will hamper the growth and development of the country but if on the other hand taken for granted, will create chaos and confusion everywhere.