



MONITORING REPORT

**THE UNPRECEDENTED COLLAPSE OF THE AFGHAN MEDIA AND THE
RESTRICTION OF THE GLOBAL MEDIA OPERATION BY THE TALIBAN RULE**

Introduction

This report presents the findings from a national survey about, “the unprecedented collapse of the Afghan media and the restriction of the global media operations by the Taliban rule” conducted by Afghanistan’s National Journalists Union ANJU and the International Journalists Federation IFJ on March 2022. Over 610 validated participants from 32 provinces completed the survey in both languages Dari and Pashto. The findings shared here reflect the input of the 512 respondents identifying as a journalists and the Afghan citizens. In this survey we selected two types of participants one journalists and media professionals and the other research participants were the common people of Afghan society such as university lecturers, students and civil society activists.

The reason beyond this survey is to identify the significant role of both national and international media outlets for broadcasting and delivering information to the public. Since the Taliban came to power 318 national media outlets shutdown not only for the security issues but also lack of access to information and shortage of financial resources. The Afghan people were seeking alternatives in which the international media broadcasting agencies filling the gap to access to information. But unfortunately, this week the Taliban rule blocked the international broadcasting. That’s why ANJU has conducted a national survey to find out the needs of the society and the Taliban restrictions to reflect the media and freedom of expression in Afghanistan.

The aim of this report is to highlight key findings at the national level to guide action designed to improve response to national and international media operations. The monitoring findings are therefore shared here to illuminate not only the challenges faced by Afghan media dealing but also obstacles encountered to the international media outlets. In addition to that, attempting to address the problem, along with civil society organizations seeking to advocate and support to develop policies and regulatory frameworks guarantee the freedom of expression and to protect the two decades achievements in media sector.

Research Survey Summery Findings

Do you trust on your local media in broadcasting and disseminating information?

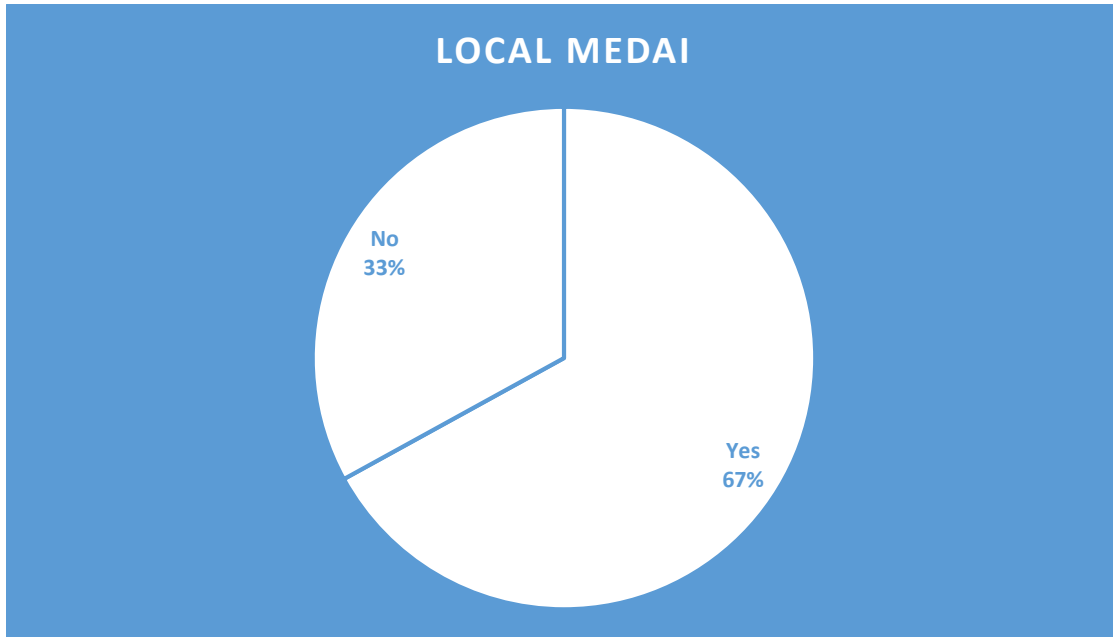


Figure 1. This figure indicated that local media had a great role in broadcasting and disseminating information to the public but after the collapsed of Afghan government and its important to take into account that if the international community don't put pressure on the Taliban rule all the local media will shut down.

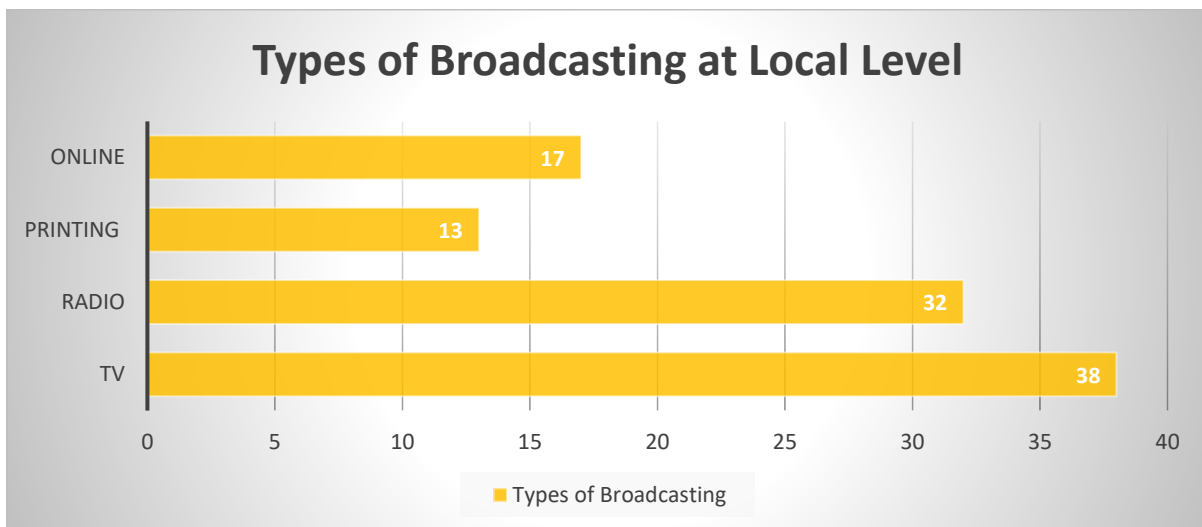


Figure 2. It reflects the people attitude and availability to types of broadcasting agencies to the provincial level if the media operations stop and couldn't support financially then the people will not aware form the happenings and news in the society.

Do you trust on your national media in broadcasting and disseminating information?

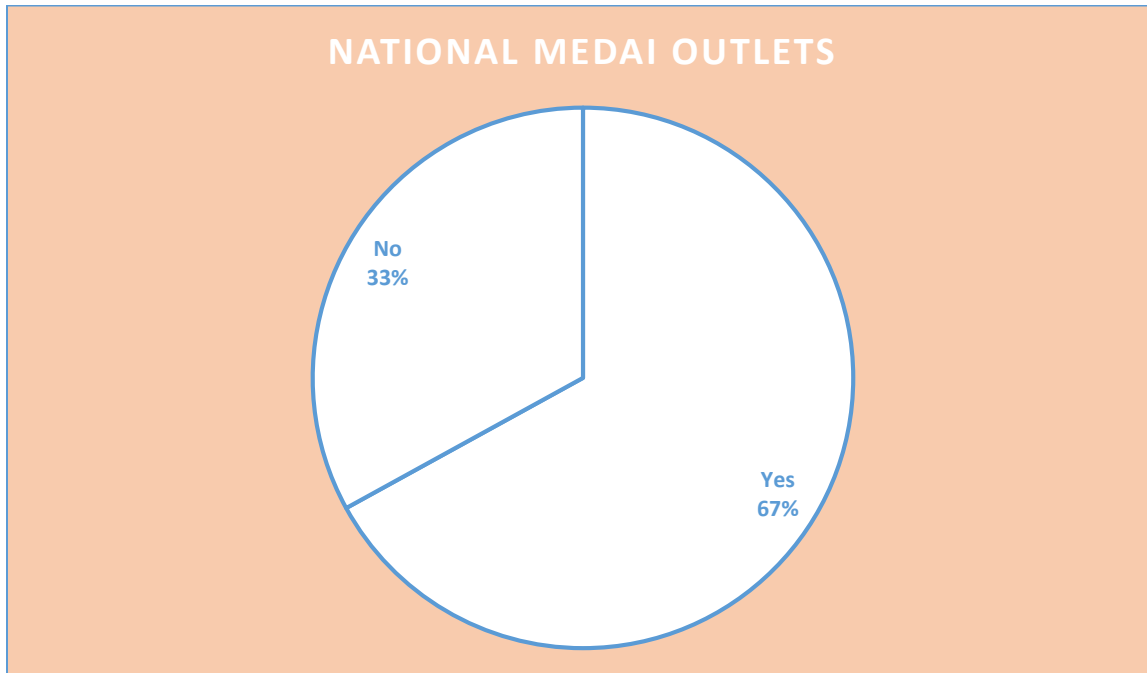


Figure 3. Still the Afghan people trust on their national broadcasting agency despite all the constraints and restrictions from the de facto authorities. It is worth mention to invest on the national media to avoid from the collapse.

Which type of broadcasting do you prefer at the national level?

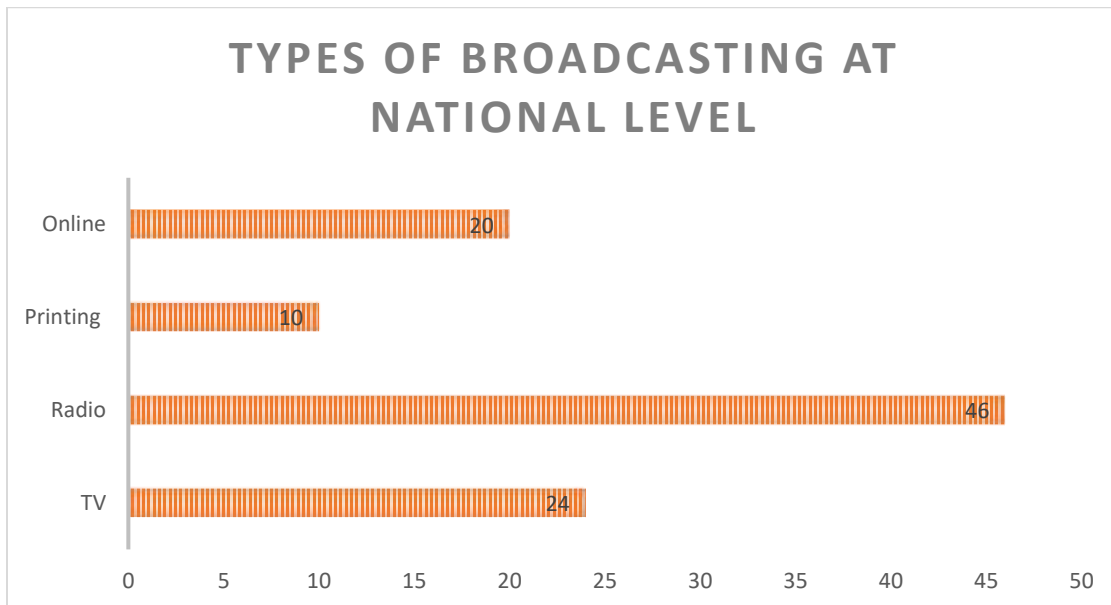


Figure 4. It indicated that how much Afghan people access to the information through radio stations while 132 radio stations were shutdown during the Taliban regime and only on March 2022 four radio stations were closed by the de facto authorities.

Do you trust on international media outlets operating in Afghanistan?

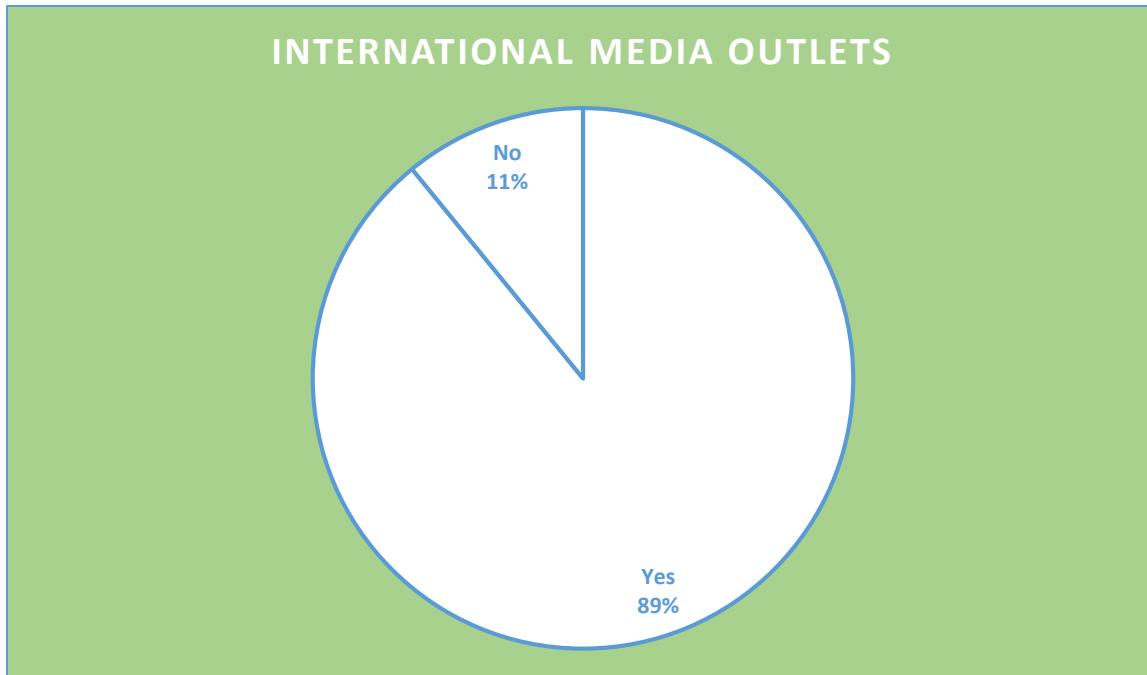


Figure 5. As the Taliban imposed more restrictions on the national media and implemented self-censorship strategy the Afghan people seeking alternatives to be aware from the situation and to practices their basic human rights but the Taliban imposing restrictions on them which only six international media operations in Afghanistan blocked.

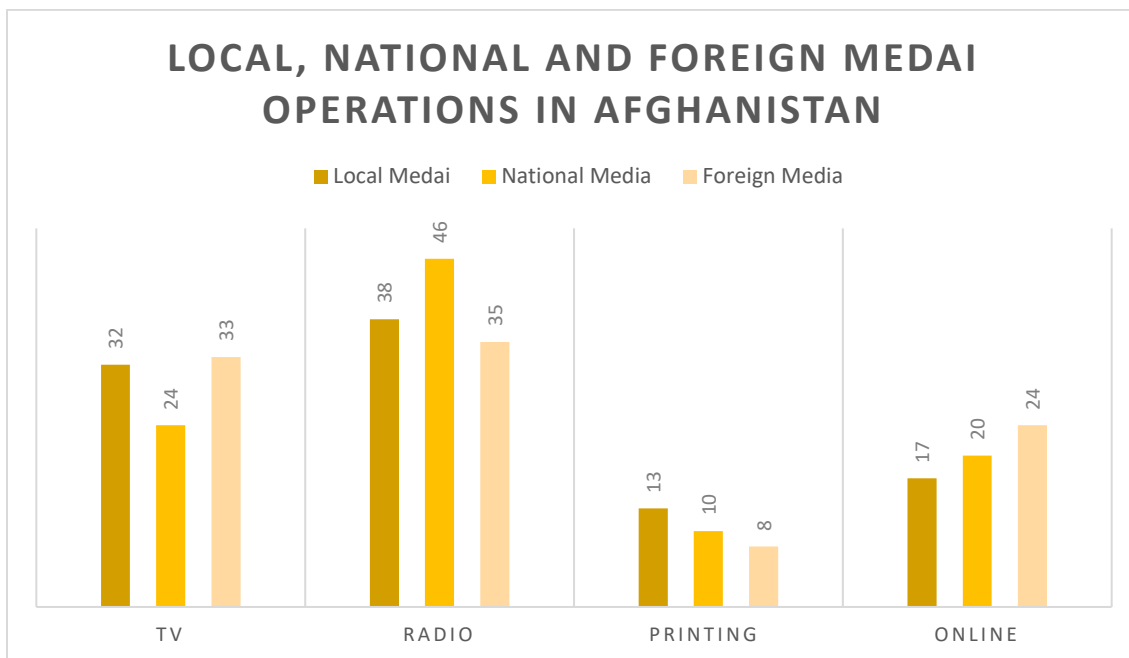


Figure 6. It pointed out the comparison on local, national and international media outlets operations in Afghanistan with the classifications. It also indicated that how media operations were parallel and the public got benefit from them.

In the last six months, what kind of media have you been most interested in Afghanistan?

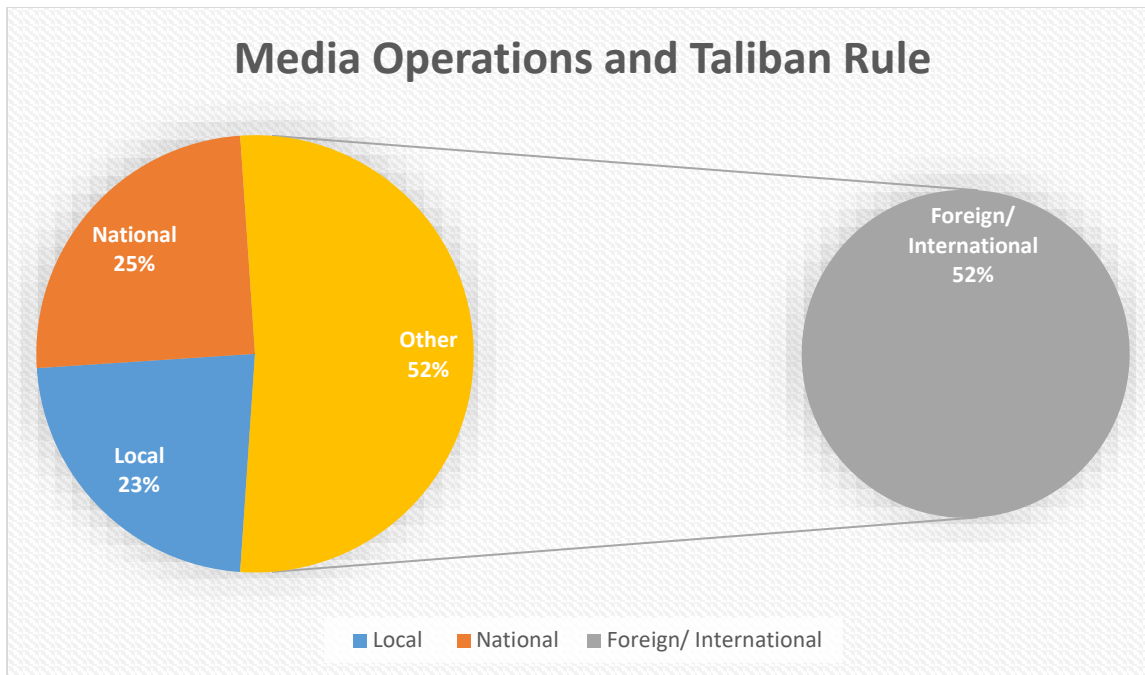


Figure 7. In this figure we understand that how much the public lost their interest toward national media because most the media outlets couldn't reflect the reality that's why international played a key role despite the availability challenges.

If you were mostly and audience of foreign media, what were the reasons?

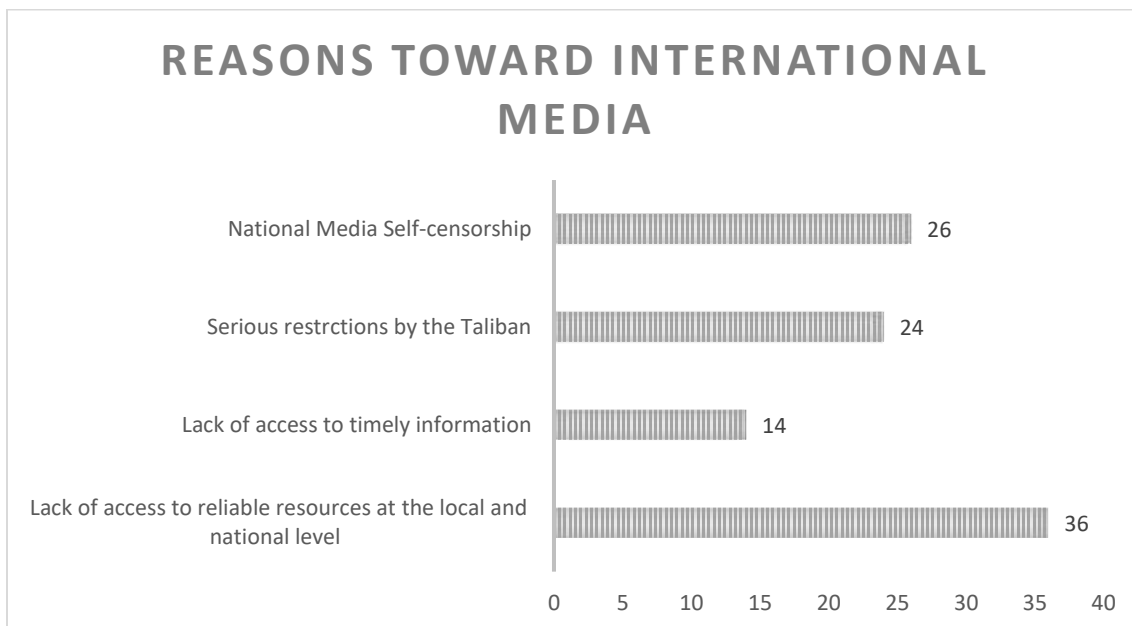


Figure 8. Lack of access to reliable recourse and limited rights for access to information, self-censorship and lack of financial resources didn't allow the national media to operate as it should be.

What type of broadcasting programs most needed in the Afghan society right now?

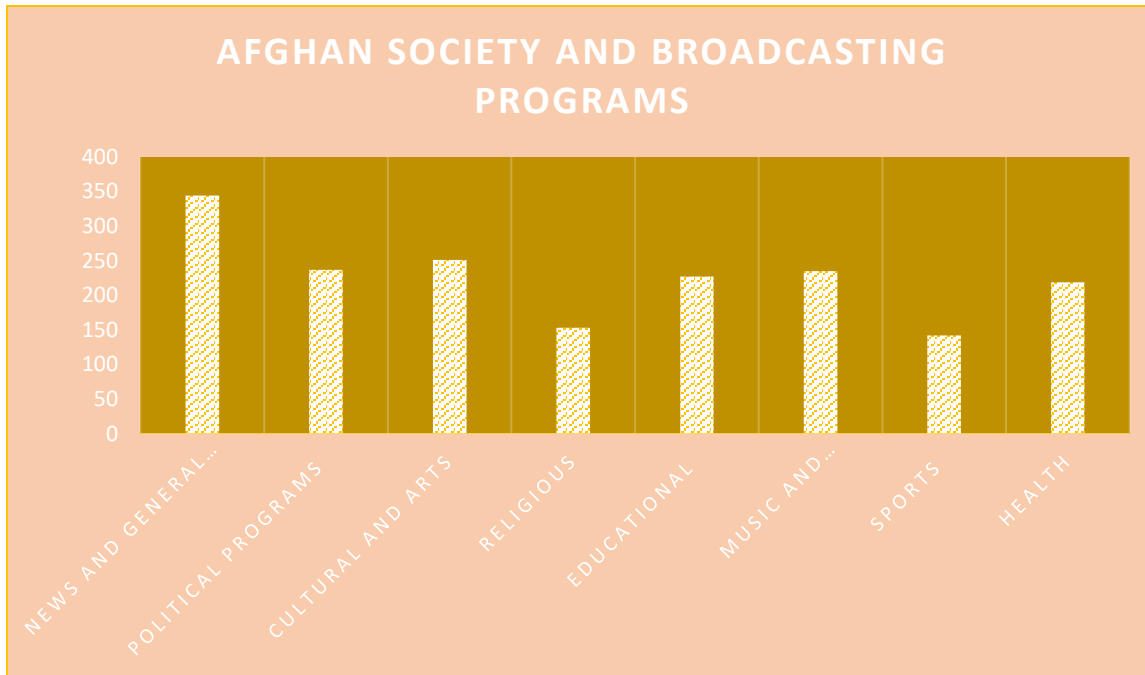


Figure 9. The society didn't have access to the most important programs all the above categories explain that what is going to the media operations. There is entertainment, music, sports and other necessity programs for education and learnings.

Has the national media audience decreased compared to the previous regime?

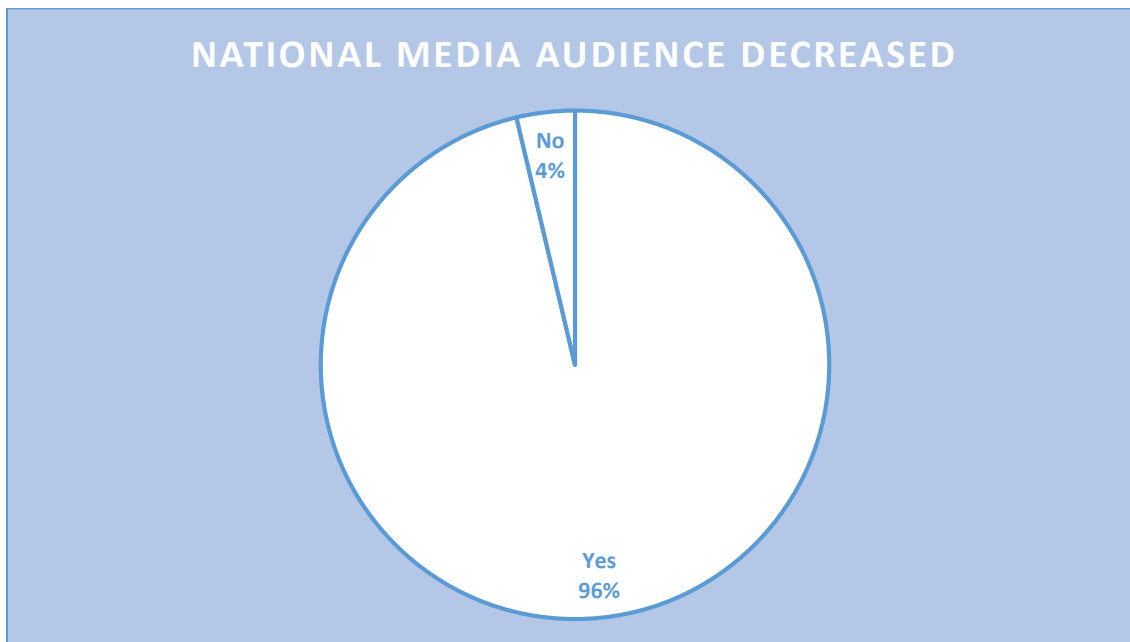


Figure 10. It is catastrophic that how the society lost their hope in terms of national media operations and hugely the number of audience decreased.

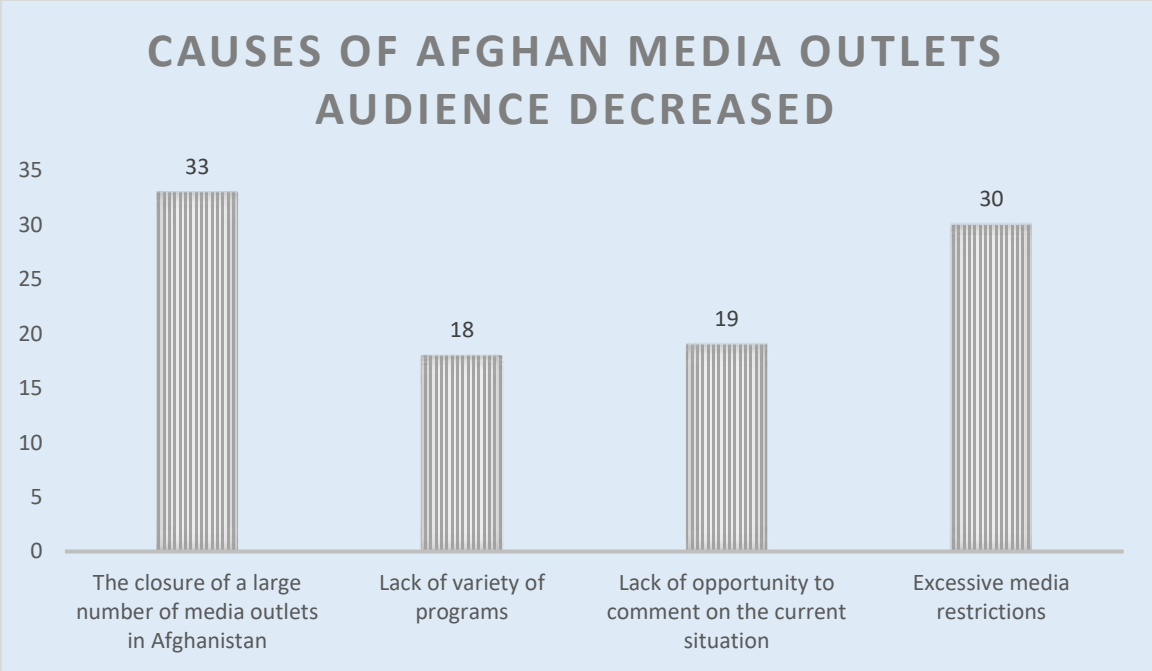


Figure 11. This diagram reflects the causes for Afghan media outlets audience decreased.

Which of the factors damaged the national media outlets the most under the Taliban rule?

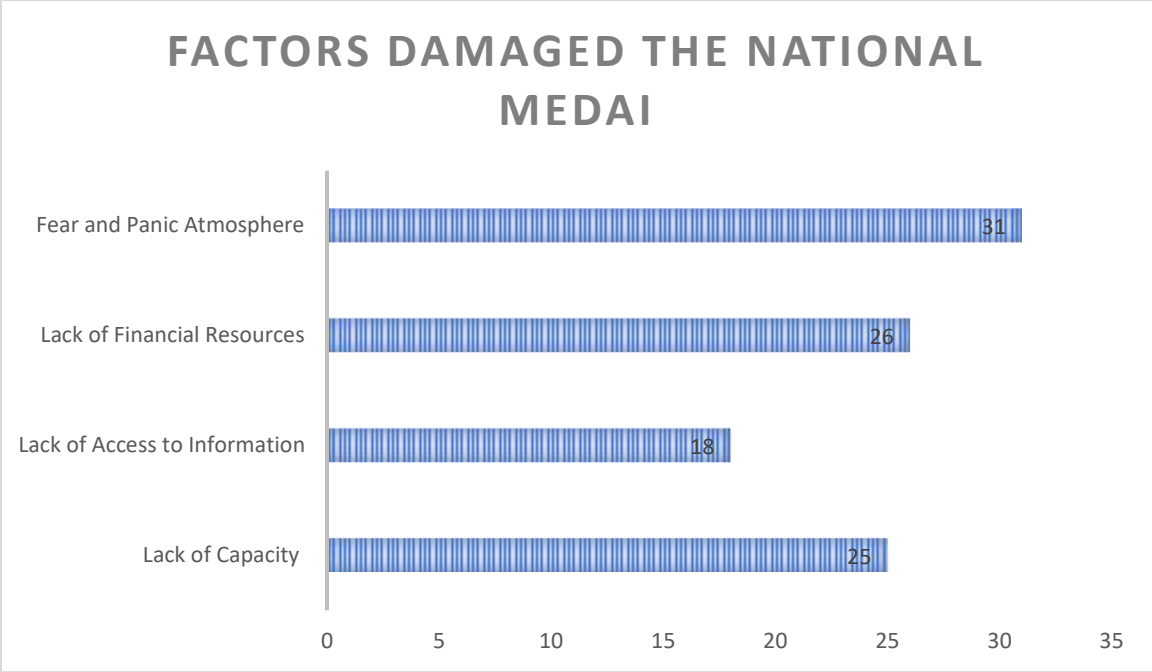


Figure 12. It indicated the four factors beyond the national media outlets which created problems fear and panic atmosphere is the biggest concern in Afghanistan there is no day without any security issues either the de facto authorities closing the media or detaining the journalists.