**E-CONTENT**

 **MJMC,  SEM-II, PAPER : CC-7

Topic : The Camera as a Tool** (CONTINUE…)

 **Date : 8-02-2020, TIME : 12.00 P.M.-1.00 P.M.**

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**The Camera as a Tool** (CONTINUE…)

A keen study of these parameters will enable a photojournalist to plan his camera work appropriately. Let us discuss a few technical terms used frequently in photojournalism. A good understanding of these terms is necessary to bring the desired results. The exposure or exposure value is the amount of light received by the camera. If more light goes inside the camera the image becomes overexposed and if the amount of light is less it is underexposed. Inappropriate levels of exposure is seen as noise and affects the message. Many newsrooms reject these images as they are not fit for publication.

Three values are considered important when looking at the amount of light entering a camera.

a) Shutter Speed,

b) Aperture and

c) Sensitivity. Shutter speed refers to the time the sensor is exposed to the light and is measured in fraction of seconds.

A shutter speed of 1/30 exposes the sensor to light for 1/ 30th of a second. For most cameras successive shutter speed roughly halves the exposure time (i.e. 1/30s, 1/60s, 1/120s.) Faster shutter speed is required to capture fast motion like a cycling race or 100 meter sprint. Shutter speed of 1/ 250s freezes the frame. Higher shutter speed also reduces the amount of light entering the camera. Doubling the shutter speed reduces the amount of light entering the camera by half. Shutter speed is the duration, i.e. how long light will take to go through the sensor, while the aperture or the iris is the adjustable opening in a camera lens that determines how much light reaches the sensor in a unit time. Aperture settings are given in f-stops and are written as f/1.2, f/2.8, f/4. F-stop is designated in fractions of focal length. Higher values of aperture represent smaller aperture opening which means higher values of aperture allows less amount of light to enter the camera. Lenses with large aperture which allow more light to enter through are called fast lenses. The third key factor which determines the exposure of a picture is the sensor’s sensitivity. The sensitivity of a sensor is denoted by ISO. ISO measures the sensitivity of the image sensor. 100 ISO is accepted as a ‘normal’ or ‘standard’ ISO and will give fine shots with little noise. The photojournalist has to check the ISO settings when covering different assignments with different light conditions.