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**ONLINE NEWSPAPERS FIGHTING AGAINST  
CORRUPTION IN VIETNAM TODAY**

Field of study: Journalism

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**SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS  
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- National Library of Vietnam**
- Center for Scientific Information, Academy of Journalism and Communication**

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Reasons for choosing the topic

Alongside the strong socio-economic development, corruption has become increasingly complex, with numerous major corruption cases brought to public attention, recovering large amounts of assets, such as the cases involving the rescue flight, FLC Group, AIC, Van Thinh Phat, Phuc Son, Viet A, etc. Recognizing that corruption is "one of the threats to the survival of our regime," the Vietnamese Party and State have always identified the fight against corruption ("anti-corruption") as a top priority, even though it is an extremely difficult and protracted battle requiring perseverance and unity from the entire political system and society, including the press. Despite being the newest form of journalism, online journalism has fought corruption through various content groups and diverse methods, true to the mission of revolutionary journalism, and has initially achieved many successes. However, the rapid development of the digital media environment is fundamentally changing the way corruption is detected, reported, and monitored, with the deep involvement of social networks, digital platforms, and artificial intelligence tools.

Given the context of a rapidly changing media environment and the lack of a comprehensive analytical framework on the content, form, and methods of online media in the fight against corruption, the author has chosen the research topic: **"Online media in the fight against corruption in Vietnam today"** for this doctoral dissertation. The research results will contribute to supplementing and developing the theoretical and practical foundations of online media in the fight against corruption; survey, analyze, and comprehensively evaluate the content, form, and methods of online media in the fight against corruption; highlight the achievements and limitations of online media; and propose recommendations and solutions to enhance the role of online media in the fight against corruption in Vietnam in the future.

### 2. Research Objectives and Tasks

#### 2.1. Research Objectives

Based on the systematization of the theoretical and practical foundations of e-government in the fight against corruption, this thesis aims to build an analytical framework for the anti-corruption activities of e-government. From this, it surveys and evaluates the current state of e-government in the fight against corruption in Vietnam from January 2021 to June 2025, draws conclusions about successes and limitations, and proposes solutions and

recommendations to enhance the role of e-government in the fight against corruption in the future.

## *2.2. Research Objectives*

- An overview of domestic and international research related to the fight against corruption to identify the research problem and research methodology;

- Develop a theoretical framework for analyzing the role of the National Assembly in the fight against corruption.

- This study surveys the current state of online media outlets involved in the fight against corruption in Vietnam, based on surveys of several nationwide online media outlets such as VnExpress, People's Daily Online, and BVPL Online, combined with qualitative research data to describe the current situation, analyze and draw conclusions about achievements, limitations, and causes;

- Propose solutions and recommendations to enhance the role of e-government in the fight against corruption in Vietnam in the future.

## **3. Research Subjects and Scope**

### *3.1. Research Subjects*

The subject of this thesis is the current state of the fight against corruption in Vietnam (specifically during the period from January 2021 to June 2025) .

### *3.2. Scope of the study*

- This study approaches the anti-corruption activities of the Ministry of Public Security through information reflected in journalistic products . Because the anti-corruption activities of the Ministry of Public Security, such as observing to identify manifestations of corruption, monitoring, investigating, social critique, or creating public forums in the fight against corruption, do not exist independently but are all realized through journalistic information in published journalistic works. The thesis did not directly survey the public to measure changes in public awareness, attitudes, beliefs, or behavior after receiving anti-corruption information from the online media.

- Spatial scope: This study examines the Party's guiding documents and the State's legal documents on the fight against corruption in Vietnam today, focusing on surveying, analyzing, and evaluating the anti-corruption activities of online media outlets through content analysis of articles from three surveyed online media outlets . Within the scope of resources and research design, the thesis has not included local online media outlets in the survey sample. However, the survey data from the three selected e-

government publications still includes many works reflecting corruption cases occurring at the local level, allowing for the identification of some anti-corruption issues at the local level from the perspective of the information provided by the surveyed e-government publications. Expanding the research to include local e-government publications is a direction that can be pursued in subsequent studies.

- Timeframe: During the period from January 2021 to June 2025 .

#### **4. Theoretical basis and research methods**

##### *4.1. Theoretical basis*

Based on Marxism - Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought on the role, function, and tasks of the press in the fight against corruption; the Party's guidelines and policies, and the State's laws and regulations on anti-corruption and the press's role in combating corruption; and several theories of journalism and communication, this study analyzes and explains the process of selecting, prioritizing, organizing, and disseminating anti-corruption information by online media, thereby clarifying how online media plays its role in combating corruption.

##### *4.2. Research Methodology*

- *Document analysis research method* : searching, collecting, researching, synthesizing, classifying, systematizing, and analyzing domestic and foreign documents related to the fight against corruption in order to form a foundational theoretical knowledge base to guide and develop research content.

- *Method of analyzing journalistic content*: to analyze the information and messages expressed through articles on corruption on the three e-commerce platforms surveyed within the survey timeframe. The analysis techniques include: Quantitative content analysis (building an analysis code table and encoding according to the multiple-choice principle ) and qualitative content analysis (selecting several major and typical corruption cases during the research period, such as the Viet A Company case, the rescue flight case, the "Post-Artillery" case , and some comments under journalistic works as supplementary data for further explanation).

- *In-depth interview method*: developing questionnaires for each group of interviewees (including leaders, journalists and experts in the field of anti-corruption, and media management officials) to gain a multi-faceted perspective , especially on issues that quantitative data cannot reveal.

## 5. Research Questions and Hypotheses

### 5.1. Research Question

Question 1: To what extent is the Ministry of Education and Training interested in the topic of anti-corruption?

Question 2: How does the online movement combat corruption through information content, forms of expression, and methods of struggle?

Question 3: What are the advantages, limitations, and causes of the current state of e-government in the fight against corruption in Vietnam?

Question 4: What solutions and recommendations are needed to enhance the role of e-government in the fight against corruption in Vietnam in the future?

Question 4 arises from the fact that the current state of e-government in the fight against corruption in Vietnam still has limitations that need to be addressed promptly.

### 5.2. Research Hypothesis

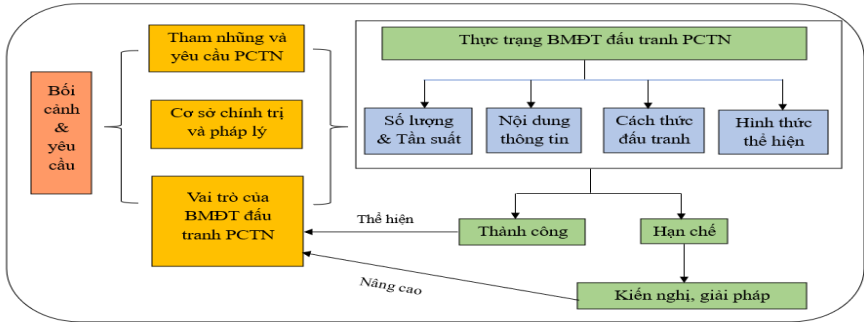
Hypothesis 1: PCTN (Political and Social Crime Prevention) is a socio-political topic that is of interest to and frequently reflected upon by the Ministry of Information and Communications during the survey period.

Hypothesis 2: Electronic media combats corruption through various information content groups, employing diverse methods of struggle and exploiting the distinctive forms of expression of electronic media.

Hypothesis 3: Electronic information dissemination has played multiple roles in the fight against corruption, but still has limitations in terms of information content, methods of combating corruption, and forms of expression due to both objective and subjective reasons.

Hypothesis 4: The limitations of digital media in the fight against corruption today can be overcome through synchronized solutions regarding mechanisms, policies, human resources, operating conditions, and digital transformation of journalism.

### 5.3. Analytical Framework



## 6. Theoretical and practical significance of the topic

- *Theoretical significance:* The research results contribute to systematizing and clarifying the theoretical basis of information dissemination in the fight against corruption; operationalizing the concept of information dissemination in the fight against corruption and building a system of criteria for analyzing this activity based on: the quantity and frequency of information, the content of information, the methods of struggle, and the forms of expression. Applying the system of criteria to survey the three selected information disseminations contributes to testing the usability of the analytical framework in the practical study of information dissemination in the fight against corruption.

- *Practical significance :* Through surveying the current situation, the dissertation points out the successes, limitations, causes, and issues facing the anti-corruption campaign. From there, the dissertation offers recommendations and solutions with high applicability. In practice , this serves as a valuable reference for enhancing the role of e-government in the fight against corruption in Vietnam in the future.

## 7. Novel aspects of the thesis

- Contributing to the operationalization of the concept of online media in the fight against corruption; approaching the anti-corruption activities of online media through published journalistic products.

- Develop an analytical framework for the anti-corruption activities of online news organizations across four dimensions: quantity and frequency of information, information content, methods of combating corruption, and forms of expression; thereby creating a basis for surveying, analyzing, and evaluating the current state of online news organizations' anti-corruption efforts.

- Provide a system of empirical data comprising 1,726 anti-corruption works published on three surveyed e-commerce platforms during the period from January 2021 to June 2025; based on this, identify the characteristics, successes, limitations, and causes in the anti-corruption activities of the surveyed e-commerce platforms, and propose solutions and recommendations to enhance the role of e-commerce platforms in the fight against corruption.

## **8. Structure of the thesis**

Besides the Introduction, Conclusion, References, and Appendix, the thesis is structured into four chapters.

# **CHAPTER 1. OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH SITUATION**

## **1. Research status in Vietnam and abroad related to the topic**

The Overview section analyzed and evaluated important domestic and international studies related to the research topic according to three main research directions. *Firstly*, studies on the role of the press in the fight against corruption, focusing on aspects such as providing information on corruption and anti-corruption efforts; reflecting the opinions and aspirations of the people; monitoring, detecting, and providing social critique; creating a public forum, shaping public opinion, and participating in policy making. *Secondly*, studies on the conditions ensuring the press's role in the fight against corruption, including access to information, mechanisms for protecting journalists and whistleblowers, the professional capacity of journalists, and the application of technology in journalistic activities. *Thirdly*, studies on online newspapers and online newspapers in the fight against corruption.

## **2. Evaluation of the content and research methods used, and future research directions for the topic.**

Overall, research studies have shown that a considerable amount of work related to journalism, online media, and the fight against corruption has been carried out. However, three main research gaps remain. Firstly, in-depth studies approaching online media as a direct subject in the fight against corruption are limited; issues concerning the concept, role, political, legal, and theoretical basis of online media in the fight against corruption have not been fully systematized. Secondly, there is a lack of systematic research surveying the anti-corruption activities of online media based on large databases and over a sufficiently long period, especially in terms of information content, methods of combating corruption, and forms of expression. Thirdly, solutions to enhance the role of online media in the

fight against corruption, linked to the context of digital transformation in journalism, have not been fully studied.

Based on this, the thesis approaches online media as a subject in the fight against corruption, studying both theoretical and practical aspects. The thesis surveys anti-corruption activities on the online editions of Nhan Dan Newspaper, BVPL Newspaper, and VnExpress Newspaper from January 2021 to June 2025 through criteria such as the quantity and frequency of information, information content, methods of combating corruption, and forms of expression. By combining quantitative and qualitative research methods, the thesis assesses the successes, limitations, causes, and proposes solutions and recommendations to enhance the role of online media in the fight against corruption in Vietnam in the future.

## **CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL FOUNDATIONS OF ONLINE JOURNALISM IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION**

### **2.1. Theoretical basis of online newspapers in the fight against corruption.**

#### ***2.1.1. Some concepts related to the topic***

- *Online newspapers* are a type of journalism built in the form of a website, published on the Internet, with the advantage of transmitting information quickly, instantly, multimedia, and with high interactivity. Online newspapers have basic characteristics such as: multimedia capabilities, the ability to store and search information, immediacy and non-periodicity, and high interactivity. Online newspapers possess all the important functions of journalism such as: Information and communication; ideology; social management, supervision, and criticism; enlightenment, entertainment, and the economy - services.

- *Corruption* is the act of a person holding a position of power or authority who abuses their assigned position or authority to commit illegal or unethical acts in order to obtain unjust benefits for themselves and satisfy their greed.

- *The fight against corruption* is understood as a purposeful activity of the entire society under the unified leadership of the ruling organization to implement practical measures to prevent, detect, and handle corruption and remedy the consequences caused by corruption, aiming to build a strong and clean society.

- *The fight against corruption by the media* is a purposeful activity of the media, together with the entire society under the unified leadership of the

ruling organization, aimed at preventing, detecting, and handling corruption and mitigating its consequences, towards building a strong and clean society. The anti-corruption efforts of the media are realized through the content, form of information, methods of struggle, and all are realized through journalistic products.

### ***2.1.2. The role of online newspapers in the fight against corruption.***

Based on inheriting theoretical approaches to the function of journalism, synthesizing research results from both domestic and international sources, and stemming from the characteristics of online journalism and the practical requirements of the fight against corruption in Vietnam today, this thesis identifies five roles of online journalism in the fight against corruption, including:

- *The Ministry of Information and Communications provides information on the Party's guidelines and policies, and the State's laws and regulations on anti-corruption:* E-government helps to foster awareness and a culture of integrity throughout society, forming the basis for building a civil society that relentlessly fights corruption, where citizens are informed, understand, and voluntarily take concrete actions.

- *The online portal serves as a bridge for information sharing, conveying proposals, solutions, thoughts, and aspirations of the people to the Party and the State regarding the fight against corruption:* People can report to the online portal cases showing signs of corruption or express their views on the Party's guidelines and policies, and the State's laws and regulations on anti-corruption, so that the online portal can represent the people in conveying their thoughts and aspirations to the Party and the State.

- *The online press monitors the implementation of the Party's guidelines and policies, and the State's laws and regulations on combating corruption, and directly fights against "the enemy of corruption":* Through the process of fighting corruption using investigative journalism and receiving information from the public, the online press verifies information and publicly discloses, or directly sends to relevant agencies, acts showing signs of corruption for handling according to the law, increasing social deterrence. The online press contributes to honoring exemplary individuals to spread good deeds.

- *E-government creates a public forum and guides public opinion in the fight against corruption:* E-government makes corruption a matter of special concern, attracting the public, experts, and social organizations to express their opinions on E-government's online public forums so that the public can exercise their right to self-governance and promote accountability of relevant agencies.

- *E-government supports policy planning and institutional reform related to the fight against corruption:* Investigative reports, in-depth features, and series of articles reflecting loopholes in management mechanisms, legal gaps, or inadequacies in policy implementation are valuable practical data sources for policymakers. Publishing the opinions of experts, scientists, and managers on e-commerce platforms also contributes to creating broader, more democratic, transparent, and practical forums for policy critique.

From a holistic perspective, the aforementioned roles of e-government in the fight against corruption are closely linked and mutually supportive to achieve the ultimate goal of combating corruption, strongly promoting socio-economic development, and improving people's lives. Therefore, studying the role of e-government should be considered within a comprehensive, interconnected, and interwoven context, rather than being examined and analyzed in isolation.

### ***2.1.3. Some basic theories for research on online journalism in the fight against corruption.***

- *Gatekeeper Theory:* The fight against corruption is a complex topic, so editors play an extremely important role as gatekeepers. From a broader perspective, the theory also considers the flow of information about corruption in mainstream media, which the study has chosen as the main information flow, acting as the information gatekeeper capable of influencing or referencing other information flows (on social media, local newspapers).

- *Theory of agenda setting:* Applying theory is an effective way to prioritize corruption in public awareness and provides a scientific basis for analyzing how the Ministry of Information and Communications updates information on anti-corruption efforts.

- *Communication framing theory:* The theory is applied to explain the ability of e-government to shape public understanding of the nature, causes, consequences, and solutions to corruption. This provides a scientific basis for analyzing how to strengthen understanding of anti-corruption.

- *The theory of journalistic surveillance:* The theory is applied to explain the mechanism of power oversight by the Secretariat of the Communist Party of Vietnam in the fight against corruption and serves as a scientific basis for determining how the Secretariat of the Communist Party of Vietnam investigates corruption.

- *Theory of public space:* The press provides a forum for public opinion, connecting the state with society and facilitating open debate between different viewpoints. Within the framework of this thesis, theory is applied

to explain the role and serve as a scientific basis for analyzing how the state creates, initiates, and directs public opinion on anti-corruption by the Ministry of Information and Communications.

- *Policy cycle theory*: The theory will be applied to explain the role and provide a scientific basis for analyzing how solutions, recommendations, and policy suggestions regarding anti-corruption efforts by the Ministry of Information and Communications are proposed.

## **2.2. Practical basis of online newspapers in the fight against corruption.**

### ***2.2.1. Political and legal basis***

- *Political basis*:

In Vietnam, the political basis of the anti-corruption press is the Party's policies and guidelines as expressed in the Party Congress documents, resolutions, and directives of the Party Secretariat and the Central Steering Committee on Anti-Corruption and Corruption (now the Central Steering Committee on Anti-Corruption and Corruption) corresponding to each historical period.

The role of mass media (including the press) in the fight against corruption began to be clearly addressed in the Eighth Party Congress Document, which required: "Promoting the role of mass media in this struggle" (i.e., the fight against corruption). In the spirit of inheriting the guiding values of the Eighth Party Congress Document, the Ninth Party Congress Document provided more specific guidance such as monitoring, inspecting, detecting, denouncing, and condemning corrupt individuals.

By the time of the 10th National Party Congress, the media had been included in the list of agencies and organizations that needed to be given special attention and their role enhanced in the fight against corruption. Resolution No. 3 of the 10th Central Committee in 2006 outlined 10 policies and solutions for the fight against corruption, including effectively carrying out communication work on anti-corruption. The spirit of the 10th National Party Congress documents continued to inherit and acknowledge the role of mass media (including newspapers) as in the documents of the 11th and 12th National Party Congresses. Resolution No. 04/NQ-TW dated October 30, 2016, of the 12th Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam requires: "Promoting the role and raising the responsibility of press agencies and their governing bodies in the fight against degradation, bureaucracy, corruption, waste, negative phenomena, 'self-evolution,' and 'self-transformation'." Specifically, Guidance Document No. 27-HD/BTGTW issued by the Propaganda Department on February 20, 2017, also instructs: it is necessary to open dedicated pages and sections,

allocating adequate time and space for information work on anti-corruption; proactively participate in detecting manifestations and acts of corruption; provide timely and accurate information to relevant agencies; condemn and relentlessly fight against manifestations and acts of corruption; perform the function of supervision and create public opinion to fight against corruption; ....

In the documents of the 13th National Party Congress, the role of the press underwent a clear change. The documents distinguished between "media agencies" and "the press," specifically emphasizing the role of the press alongside other media outlets such as television, news agencies, and radio stations. This was the first and only time the press was recognized in a Party Congress document as having an independent role, serving as an important political foundation for the press to fight corruption more vigorously. Instead of specifically naming certain agencies and organizations (including the press) that needed greater responsibility, as in previous Party Congress documents, the 14th Party Congress documents called for the combined strength of "the entire political system and the whole people." And the role of the press (especially online media) is indispensable in this.

*- Legal basis:*

The legal basis for the anti-corruption press is the system of legal documents issued in each period that regulate the role, tasks, and powers of the press in the fight against corruption (including online media).

On November 27, 1946, President Ho Chi Minh signed a decree clearly stipulating the forms of punishment for the crime of bribing public officials, the crime of public officials receiving bribes, or embezzlement of public funds or citizens' money - this is considered Vietnam's first anti-corruption law.

Although the Constitution (2013) does not directly stipulate the role of the press in combating corruption. However, it cannot be denied that the press is an important means of helping the people "take control of the country" and fight corruption through ensuring the right to access information and freedom of the press.

Law No. 104/2016/QH13 on access to information also stipulates that citizens have the right to freely access information, the right to request information from state agencies, and that the press is one of the most common forms of information disclosure (including information on anti-corruption).

Law No. 103/2016/QH13 on the Press stipulates that the press has the task of disseminating and publicizing the Party's guidelines and policies, and the State's laws and regulations; reflecting and guiding public opinion; serving as a forum for the people to exercise their right to freedom of speech; discovering and highlighting good people, good deeds, new factors, and advanced models; and combating violations of the law and negative phenomena in society (including corruption). Building on this foundation, Law No. 126/2025/QH15 on the Press (effective from July 1, 2026) continues to fully recognize these roles of the press in the fight against corruption.

The foundation for the specialized legal system on anti-corruption is the Ordinance No. 03/1998/PL-UBTVQH of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly. The 2005 Law on Anti-Corruption, amended and supplemented in 2007 and 2012, replaced the 1998 Ordinance on Anti-Corruption, followed by the 2018 Law on Anti-Corruption, which will be amended and supplemented in 2025. Besides stipulating the responsibilities of the press in combating corruption in a guiding manner, the Law on Anti-Corruption clarifies the tasks and powers of the press in anti-corruption work, such as: cooperating with competent agencies, organizations, and individuals in anti-corruption; reporting on corruption cases and anti-corruption activities; commending the spirit and positive actions in anti-corruption work; condemning and fighting against those who commit acts of corruption; participating in the dissemination and popularization of laws on anti-corruption;...

### ***2.2.2. Overview of the current fight against corruption in Vietnam and the participation of the press.***

- *Successes in the fight against corruption:* The work of building and perfecting institutions has been decisively directed; the detection and handling of corruption continues to be intensified; and asset recovery continues to show positive progress.

- *Limitations of the fight against corruption:* The regulatory system has not kept pace with the sophistication of corruption crimes. Some of the Party's policies on combating corruption have been slow to be institutionalized. The total amount of money and assets recovered remains relatively low; the effectiveness of propaganda and education is not high;...

- *Media involvement:* The press has actively participated in the fight against corruption and achieved remarkable results. Many media outlets have created dedicated sections on anti-corruption or organized seminars to exchange and research on this topic. In particular, the press plays a crucial

role in detecting corrupt practices and "monitoring and generating public opinion" to enable authorities to strictly handle cases according to regulations. In practice, many corruption cases have been discovered, verified, and forwarded to relevant authorities for processing by the press.

### ***2.2.3. Other conditions ensuring that online newspapers can effectively combat corruption.***

- *Professional competence and qualities of journalists in the field of anti-corruption:* Professional expertise, professional integrity, political acumen, and journalistic ethics are not separate but are decisive factors in determining the quality of journalistic products, the way sources are accessed, and the ability to pursue them to the end.

- *Technological conditions and technical infrastructure to support anti-corruption activities:* In the context of digital media, technology platforms, data systems, information analysis tools, artificial intelligence, and technical means serving journalistic work have become crucial supporting factors for journalistic activities. The level of technology application not only impacts the ability to exploit and process information but also affects the way content is presented, the ability to reach the public, and the effectiveness of disseminating digital media products on anti-corruption.

- *Organizational capacity and resource allocation of anti-corruption agencies:* The way anti-corruption agencies allocate and utilize resources significantly impacts the scope, depth, and continuity of anti-corruption efforts.

- *The level of coordination and information sharing between e-government agencies and stakeholders involved in anti-corruption efforts:* Access to information sources, willingness to provide data, and mechanisms for receiving feedback from society all impact the formation of a favorable information environment for e-government agencies' anti-corruption efforts.

## **2.3. Criteria for evaluating the performance of online news outlets in the fight against corruption.**

### ***2.3.1. Criteria for the quantity and frequency of information on combating corruption published in online newspapers.***

- *Quantity of information:* This is reflected in the total number of news articles and reports on anti-corruption published during the survey period. This indicator allows for the identification of the scale of anti-corruption information in the online community as well as the priority level for this topic.

- *Frequency of information:* This reflects the frequency and continuity of news articles about the fight against corruption over time, helping to assess whether the reporting of corruption issues is maintained regularly or is concentrated only at certain times when prominent cases arise .

**2.3.2. Criteria for the content of online news articles on combating corruption.**

- *The comprehensiveness of information content on anti-corruption on the e-government platform is assessed* through six content groups, including: (i) information on the Party's directives, policies, and guidelines, and the State's laws and regulations on anti-corruption; (ii) information on corruption cases; (iii) information on the involvement of functional agencies in the fight against corruption; (iv) information on public feedback on anti-corruption work; (v) information on the trial process; and (vi) information on post-corruption handling and lessons learned.

- *The balance of information content in the fight against corruption:* allows for the identification of prioritized content and areas that are less frequently addressed, thereby enabling a more comprehensive assessment of the characteristics of the anti-corruption efforts of the Party's Secretariat.

**2.3.3. Criteria for the methods used by online news outlets in the fight against corruption.**

- *The diversity of methods in the fight against corruption* is assessed through five approaches: updating information on anti-corruption; strengthening understanding of anti-corruption; directly investigating corrupt acts; creating forums, inspiring and guiding public opinion on the fight against corruption; and proposing solutions and suggesting policies on anti-corruption.

- *The level of consistency in the use of anti-corruption methods:* helps identify the methods prioritized by the Ministry of Public Security, those that are limited or not adequately exploited, in order to promptly develop appropriate solutions.

**2.3.4. Criteria for the form of online news information in the fight against corruption.**

- *The diversity and appropriateness of using journalistic genres:* Each journalistic genre has the ability to reflect reality and convey information differently, so a variety of genres should be used. The appropriateness between journalistic genres and information content is also the basis for evaluating the form of information presentation, ensuring the content is expressed and the impact is effective.

- *The level of application of multimedia language in information transmission*: This is an important basis for identifying the ability to exploit the technological advantages of digital media in the fight against corruption. Digital media can use many illustrative methods to convey the content of the fight against corruption to the public, typically including: photos, clips, graphics, statistical data, etc. In the digital media environment, journalistic products on the fight against corruption can also be organized into in-depth products with modern presentation structures such as longform, e-magazine, megastory, or multi-part series, reflecting the depth and professionalism in the dissemination of information on the fight against corruption by the online media.

### **Chapter 3. THE CURRENT STATE OF ONLINE JOURNALISM IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN VIETNAM**

#### **3.1. General introduction to the online newspapers included in the survey.**

- *Nhan Dan Newspaper (Electronic)*: Nhan Dan Newspaper was founded on March 11, 1951, as the central mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the voice of the Party, the State, and the people. A key mission of Nhan Dan Newspaper is to "resolutely, focused, accurate, and lawfully combat negativity, corruption, smuggling, bureaucracy, waste, and other social evils." Nhan Dan Newspaper launched its online version in Vietnamese on June 21, 1998. This was followed by online versions in English (March 11, 1999), Chinese (August 30, 2012), and so on. The online version of Nhan Dan Newspaper belongs to the multimedia division of Nhan Dan Newspaper and does not have an independent department dedicated solely to covering anti-corruption issues; instead, it depends on the abilities, courage, and passion of each journalist.

- *BVPL Online Newspaper*: Established in 2002, BVPL Newspaper is the official publication of the Procuracy sector. One of its key tasks is "combating negative manifestations in society" (including combating corruption). In 2012, the BVPL Newspaper officially launched its online version. The organizational structure of the BVPL Newspaper includes an editorial board and specialized departments. The online version of the BVPL Newspaper is directly operated by the online news department under the unified direction of the editorial board. It does not have a dedicated team for anti-corruption work, but requires reporters to be able to work in a wide range of areas.

- *VnExpress Newspaper*: On February 26, 2001, VnExpress (or Vietnam News) officially launched in Vietnam, established by FPT Group and licensed by the Ministry of Culture and Information No. 511/GP-BVHTT on November 25, 2002. In 2022, VnExpress and the Science and Development Newspaper merged to form VnExpress Newspaper - under the Ministry of Science and Technology. VnExpress is a typical online newspaper with a long history, widely accessible to the public, and was the first newspaper in Vietnam to have only an electronic version, providing a wide range of information, including the fight against corruption. VnExpress operates on a converged newsroom model and does not have a single department dedicated to the fight against corruption; instead, it is divided among many departments responsible according to their respective areas of authority.

### **3.2. Survey of online newspapers on the fight against corruption from January 2021 to June 2025 on Nhan Dan Online Newspaper, Bao Ve Phap Luat Online Newspaper and VnExpress Newspaper**

#### **3.2.1. Quantity and frequency of information on preventing and combating corruption**

*Table 3.1: Statistics on the number and frequency of articles used in the analysis during the period from January 2021 to June 2025*

*(Source: Author's processing of survey data)*

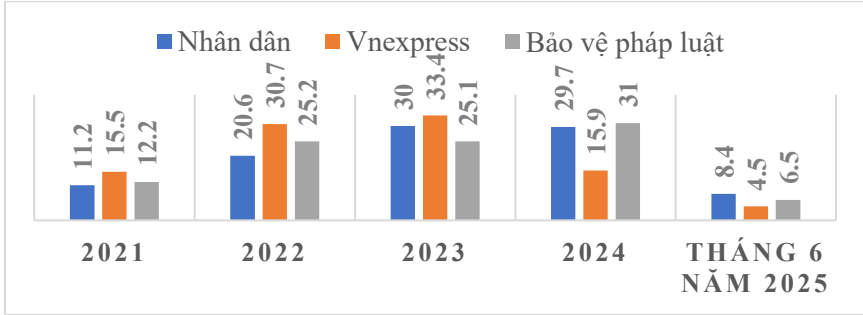
| <b>Newspaper</b>      | <b>Number of articles</b> | <b>Percentage</b> | <b>Average number of articles per month</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| People's Daily Online | 640                       | 37.1              | 11.85                                       |
| Vnexpress Newspaper   | 440                       | 25.5              | 8.15                                        |
| BVPL online newspaper | 646                       | 37.4              | 11.96                                       |
| Total                 | 1,726                     | 100.0             | 31.96                                       |

The survey and research process collected 1,726 articles related to anti-corruption from the three surveyed newspapers during the research period. The research results show the interest in the topic of anti-corruption among the three surveyed newspapers (an average of approximately 32 articles per month). The number of articles published on the online editions of Nhan Dan Newspaper and BVPL Newspaper showed insignificant differences (both accounting for approximately 37%, averaging about 12 articles per month). VnExpress published fewer articles than the other two newspapers,

with about 200 articles (only accounting for about 25.5% of the total sample, averaging about 8 articles per month).

*Chart 3.1: Percentage of articles published on e-commerce platforms about anti-corruption over the years (%)*

*(Source: Author's processing of survey data)*



The proportion of articles on anti-corruption on the online versions of Nhan Dan Newspaper and BVPL Newspaper has shown a steady upward trend over the years. VnExpress Newspaper, in particular, saw the most significant increase during the 2021-2023 period (leading in terms of proportion), but from 2024 to June 2025, it decreased sharply, and its proportion is now only about half that of the other two newspapers.

Survey results on the quantity and frequency of information posted about anti-corruption efforts show that online news agencies have maintained consistent interest in the topic, ensuring a continuous and timely flow of information on corruption cases as well as the direction and handling activities of relevant agencies. The frequency of information tends to increase significantly during periods when major cases arise or when the fight against corruption is intensified, reflecting close monitoring of practical developments and the public's information needs.

### **3.2.2. Content of online news articles on combating corruption.**

*Table 3.2: Content of online news articles on combating corruption.*

*(Source: Author's processing of survey data)*

| TT | Content                                                    | Total sample |      | Electronic data (%) |            |      |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|---------------------|------------|------|
|    |                                                            | SL           | %    | ND                  | Vn Express | BVPL |
| 1. | This group of information concerns the Party's directives, | 640          | 37.1 | 47.7                | 34.8       | 28.2 |

|    |                                                                                           |     |      |      |      |      |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------|------|------|------|
|    | guidelines, and policies, as well as the State's laws and regulations on anti-corruption. |     |      |      |      |      |
| 2. | Corruption case reporting team                                                            | 912 | 52.9 | 48.9 | 73   | 43   |
| 3. | Information group on the involvement of authorities in the fight against corruption.      | 962 | 55.7 | 55.0 | 71.1 | 46.0 |
| 4. | Information group on public feedback regarding anti-corruption efforts.                   | 44  | 2.5  | 3.0  | 4.1  | 1.1  |
| 5. | Information group on the trial process                                                    | 967 | 56.0 | 58.0 | 69.8 | 44.7 |
| 6. | Information group on post-corruption handling and lessons learned.                        | 444 | 25.7 | 32.8 | 30.9 | 15.2 |
| 7. | Other                                                                                     | 37  | 2.1  | 2.7  | 1.4  | 2.2  |

The four most commonly disseminated contents regarding anti-corruption efforts are: information about the trial process (56%); the involvement of relevant agencies (55.7%); information about corruption cases ( 52.9 %); and information about the Party's directives, policies, and guidelines, and the State's laws and regulations (37.1%). These contents help people understand the overall picture of corruption and the decisive actions taken by relevant agencies. The distribution of content is uneven, with some contents appearing relatively limitedly, such as: post-corruption handling and lessons learned (25.7%), and public feedback on anti-corruption work (2.5%). This shows that online communication has not yet clearly demonstrated its role in directly combating corruption and has not yet attracted active public participation in the fight against corruption. However, the above results also need to be considered within the context of the 2021-2025 period, a peak time for handling many major corruption cases, leading to a significant increase in information on detection, investigation, prosecution, and trial provided to the press by relevant

authorities. Therefore, content reflecting corruption cases, the involvement of authorities, and the trial process have the opportunity to appear more frequently than other content. This shows that the structure of information content on anti-corruption on online news sites not only reflects the editorial direction of newsrooms but is also influenced by the socio-political context of the research period.

On each electronic bulletin board, the content of information on combating corruption has covered all seven areas and maintained its political mission and unique identity, specifically:

*Regarding the People's Daily Online:* As the official mouthpiece of the Party, the People's Daily Online focuses on conveying content about the Party's guidelines and policies, and the State's laws and regulations on anti-corruption (accounting for 47.7%, the highest among the three newspapers). The People's Daily Online also prioritizes publishing content on post-corruption handling and lessons learned (accounting for 32.8%, even double that of the Law and Order Protection Online Newspaper).

*Regarding VnExpress Newspaper:* This newspaper is very active in disseminating informative and multi-faceted articles about corruption. VnExpress tends to focus on content of public interest, for example: information about corruption cases (69.1% compared to 46.1% for Nhan Dan Online and 40.2% for BVPL Online); information about the involvement of authorities (71.1%); and information about the trial process (69.8%). The published information helps people see the overall picture of corruption cases (especially major cases) and the role of law enforcement agencies.

*Regarding BVPL Online Newspaper:* Although it has the highest number of articles related to anti-corruption among the three newspapers, the proportion of content on BVPL Online Newspaper is generally lower than the other two newspapers and compared to the overall sample. This is because, based on practical surveys and the nature of a specialized newspaper, articles tend to convey a single main topic rather than multiple topics like VnExpress, focusing heavily on the involvement of authorities (46%) and the trial process (44.7%). However, despite expectations that this newspaper would have many investigative articles on corruption and public feedback, it has the lowest proportion of articles on this topic.

### 3.2.3. Methods used by online news outlets to combat corruption.

Table 3.3: How online newspapers fight against corruption.

(Source: Author's processing of survey data)

| T<br>T | Method                                                                                     | Total sample |      | Electronic data (%) |            |      |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|---------------------|------------|------|
|        |                                                                                            | SL           | %    | ND                  | Vn Express | BVPL |
| 1.     | Update on PCTN information                                                                 | 1497         | 86.7 | 84.7                | 91.4       | 85.6 |
| 2.     | Strengthening understanding of PCTN (Prevention and Control of Corruption)                 | 629          | 36.4 | 37.5                | 55.7       | 22.3 |
| 3.     | Investigation into corruption                                                              | 189          | 11   | 11.9                | 16.1       | 6.5  |
| 4.     | Establishing forums, inspiring and guiding public opinion on the fight against corruption. | 689          | 39.9 | 42.7                | 67.0       | 18.7 |
| 5.     | Proposing solutions and suggesting policies.                                               | 970          | 56.2 | 54.8                | 75.0       | 44.7 |

The most common approach is updating information on anti-corruption efforts (86.7%) to help people recognize corruption as a prominent issue that needs to be addressed. However, the high percentage of those updating information on anti-corruption efforts is also influenced by the context of the 2021-2025 period, when many major corruption cases were handled and authorities proactively provided information to the press on a large scale. The second most common approach is proposing solutions and suggesting policies (56.2%) based on the results of creating forums, initiating and guiding public opinion on anti-corruption (39.9%) and strengthening understanding of anti-corruption (36.4%). Investigations into corruption – the spearhead demonstrating the highest level of oversight and combating function of the Ministry of Public Security – have not yet fully played their role, accounting for only 11%.

A comparison of the data shows that: VnExpress newspaper uses more interactive methods such as creating forums, initiating and guiding public opinion on the fight against corruption (67%, 3.5 times higher than BVPL

online newspaper) and proposing solutions and policy suggestions (75%). It is also the newspaper that uses the most effective methods for investigating corruption (with 16.1%), although this rate is still very low compared to other methods. ND online newspaper promotes educational and guiding methods such as proposing solutions and policy suggestions (54.8%), and strengthening understanding of anti-corruption (37.5%). The indicators are quite similar to the overall rate, showing the modernization efforts of a Party newspaper. Compared to the other two newspapers, BVPL online newspaper focuses more on updating information on anti-corruption (85.6%). Regardless of the newspaper, the methods for investigating corruption are still very low, indicating that online newspapers are not yet truly proactive in engaging with this topic.

### **3.2.4. Forms of online news and information in the fight against corruption.**

#### **3.2.4.1. Types of journalism**

*Table 3.35: Categories of news articles on anti-corruption content published on surveyed online newspapers.*

*(Source: Author's processing of survey data)*

| TT | Category                   | Total sample |      | Electronic data (%) |            |      |
|----|----------------------------|--------------|------|---------------------|------------|------|
|    |                            | SL           | %    | ND                  | Vn Express | BVPL |
| 1. | Believe                    | 918          | 53.2 | 43.9                | 49.1       | 64.5 |
| 2. | Account                    | 221          | 12.8 | 13.6                | 13.0       | 11.9 |
| 3. | Reflection                 | 261          | 15.1 | 17                  | 19.1       | 9.9  |
| 4. | Interview                  | 17           | 1.0  | 1.7                 | 1.4        | 0.7  |
| 5. | Comment                    | 238          | 13.8 | 16.7                | 16.4       | 9.1  |
| 6. | Investigative report       | 13           | 0.8  | 0.8                 | 0.7        | 0.8  |
| 7. | Satirical journalism genre | 9            | 0.5  | 0.6                 | 0          | 0.8  |
| 8. | Other                      | 49           | 2.8  | 5.0                 | 0.5        | 2.3  |
|    | Total                      | 1726         | 100  | 100                 | 100        | 100  |

The online newspaper BVPL has diversified its article genres, with news being the most popular (accounting for 53.2% of the total). BVPL's online newspaper tends to use this genre more (64.5%) than the other two newspapers (both below 50%). Other popular genres following news are feature articles (15.1%), commentary (13.8%), and narratives (12.8%). Other genres account for a very limited percentage, ranging from only 1%

to 2%. News is generally the genre that provides information to the public most quickly.

### 3.2.4.2. Multimedia Language

Table 3.36: Level of use of methods to enhance the message of written articles.

(Source: Author's processing of survey data)

| TT | Content                              | Total sample |      | Electronic data (%) |            |      |
|----|--------------------------------------|--------------|------|---------------------|------------|------|
|    |                                      | SL           | %    | ND                  | Vn Express | BVPL |
| 1. | There are illustrative photos.       | 1603         | 92.9 | 94.7                | 85.7       | 96   |
| 2. | There is a video clip to illustrate. | 34           | 2    | 0.8                 | 5.2        | 0.9  |
| 3. | It has illustrations.                | 56           | 3.2  | 0.9                 | 5.9        | 3.7  |
| 4. | There is statistical data.           | 568          | 32.9 | 26.9                | 50.7       | 26.8 |

To effectively convey messages, the use of illustrative images remains a popular trend (92.9%). Furthermore, nearly 33% of the total articles included statistical data on corruption to increase credibility. In addition, while multimedia (clips, graphics, etc.) is not yet widespread, it has become more prevalent in Party newspapers – the People's Newspaper (online) and specialized newspapers – the Law and Order Newspaper (online), demonstrating efforts to modernize information formats. Electronic publications have begun to apply some modern forms of presentation such as longform, e-magazine, megastory, and multi-part thematic articles on major corruption cases of public interest. Notably, VnExpress has developed a Longform section with many works using multimedia storytelling techniques. However, the use of these forms is still not frequent, mainly focusing on a few major events or cases.

## 3.3. Successes, limitations, and causes

### 3.3.1. Success and its causes

#### 3.3.1.1. Success

*Firstly, online news outlets provide timely and continuous updates on anti-corruption to the public:* Anti-corruption is a topic that online news outlets pay close attention to, updating continuously, with almost a few articles on this topic every week, averaging around 8-12 articles per month,

and even up to 3 articles per day on the day of a major trial (for VnExpress newspaper).

*Secondly, the content of anti-corruption information is relatively diverse, covering many groups of issues and closely adhering to the Party's guidelines and policies, and the State's laws and regulations:* Articles on the topic of anti-corruption have very diverse content, and almost no content group has not been addressed by newspapers. Among the six main contents, information on the Party's directives, guidelines, and policies, and the State's laws and regulations in anti-corruption is one of the two most common. In this context, the online version of the People's Newspaper (ND Online) stands out. This is an important prerequisite for people to access information, trust the Party's leadership, and "crush" fabricated information from reactionary forces on social media or other unofficial sources.

*Thirdly, the anti-corruption movement employs various methods of struggle and demonstrates diverse roles in the fight against corruption:* the anti-corruption movement uses a variety of methods of struggle. This has enabled the development of many important roles in the fight against corruption. Most notably, it has contributed to the dissemination of information and the strengthening of understanding about anti-corruption efforts. The online journal has gradually played a role as a public forum; many online journal articles have addressed shortcomings in management mechanisms, proposed solutions, and recommended improvements to policies, thereby clearly demonstrating its role in providing feedback and suggesting policy changes in the field of anti-corruption.

*Fourth, the digital media sector has initially diversified and modernized the forms of presenting anti-corruption information :* Several modern digital journalistic formats such as longform, e-magazine, megastory, and multimedia products have begun to be used in anti-corruption information dissemination. Of the three newspapers surveyed, the online version of People's Newspaper (ND) showed notable innovations in the presentation and organization of its digital journalistic products.

#### 3.1.1.2. Causes

*Firstly, the Party and State's attention to the anti-corruption press :* The Party and State have created a political and legal basis, affirming the legitimacy of the press in the fight against corruption. The Party launched the annual "National Anti-Corruption Journalism Award" (now called the "National Anti-Corruption Journalism Award"), attracting the attention of society.

*Secondly, the focus of media agencies on the mission of combating corruption:* Media agencies are increasingly enhancing their responsibility in combating corruption and giving priority to anti-corruption topics such as building dedicated sections, applying new journalistic trends (such as data journalism, citizen journalism, multimedia journalism, multi-platform journalism, etc.), and investing in infrastructure and equipment.

*Thirdly, the strengthening of the online media team in the fight against corruption:* the online media journalists have improved their capabilities every day and have not succumbed to threatening forces.

*Fourth, the attention of the entire society to the anti-corruption efforts of the press in general and online media in particular:* The people are responsible supervisors and reliable "sources" of information for the press.

### **3.1.2. Limitations and Causes**

#### **3.1.2.1. Limitations**

*Firstly, the content structure of information on anti-corruption published by the online news portal is unbalanced:* The majority of the information reflects the Party's guidelines and policies, the State's laws and regulations, and the reality of corruption. Some information is also very important but still very limited, such as: post-corruption handling and lessons learned, or the results of independent corruption investigations by the press and public feedback (accounting for 25.7%, 3.1% and 2.5% respectively of the total sample of the three surveyed newspapers).

*Secondly, the online media has not yet comprehensively exploited various methods of combating corruption:* the methods of detecting and investigating corruption proactively carried out by the press still account for a low percentage, with 46 out of 1,726 works in the survey sample; it has not created many multi-faceted and direct forums with diverse participation from guests and experts; and there is a lack of synthesis and selection to convey the opinions of citizens to relevant authorities. Multimedia communication has not been fully utilized in forum creation.

*Thirdly, the structure of journalistic genres still leans towards informational genres, while specialized genres have not been exploited adequately:* news accounts for the highest percentage, while genres capable of delving into the essence of issues and promoting the role of social monitoring and criticism by online media appear at a relatively low rate, such as feature articles accounting for only 15.1% of the total works surveyed, and investigative reports reaching only 0.8%.

*Fourth, multimedia language has not been fully utilized to convey PCTN information:* Still images remain the dominant language, while the

proportion of articles using video (clips) only reached 2% and articles with graphics only reached 3.2% of the total sample from the three newspapers. Statistical data appeared in 32.9% of articles in the total sample from the three newspapers, meaning that about two-thirds of the articles have not yet exploited the power of data-driven journalism language to increase persuasiveness. These figures show that the multimedia and data visualization strengths of e-commerce are not being exploited regularly.

### 3.1.2.2. Causes

*Firstly, the resources and support mechanisms of investigative agencies for anti-corruption activities are limited :* in some investigative agencies, the resources allocated to long-term investigative series, the mechanisms for remuneration, allowances, rewards, and investment in technology to support operations do not fully meet the requirements. In reality, the current salaries, bonuses, and welfare benefits of journalists are still not sufficient to ensure they can dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to the profession.

*Secondly, the professional competence, experience, and integrity of the team of investigative journalists in the fight against corruption still have limitations:* Investigative journalism always requires a lot of time, resources, expertise, and professional experience; while investigative reporting is not easy, especially for many young reporters. This leads to a tendency to rely on files, conclusions, or information published by competent authorities, while the ability to proactively detect, verify, and pursue corruption cases from an early stage is limited. Many journalists are "wavering in the face of money, unstable in their political stance, leading to moral decay and selling their conscience to evil forces . "

*Thirdly, the mechanisms for protecting and supporting journalists while conducting investigative work on anti-corruption still face difficulties in implementation:* very few cases of infringement of journalists' rights are prosecuted and investigated; most only result in administrative penalties.

*Fourth, the process of editing, verifying, and handling sensitive content can affect the progress or feasibility of certain investigative series:* in some cases, multi-level review, requests for additional evidence, or considerations related to the sensitivity of the case may affect the progress or feasibility of certain investigative series .

*Fifth, economic pressures on journalism and the demand for traffic can affect the resources and independence of anti-corruption investigations:* Economic pressures on journalism lead to a preference for content that can quickly attract views, while anti-corruption investigative works often require long periods of time, high costs, and high professional risks, but the

direct economic benefits are not commensurate. Some opinions referenced in the thesis and the PVS results show that journalistic practice raises concerns about the potential impact of media partnerships on the selection, continuation, or cessation of coverage related to partners.

*Sixth, the enforcement of legal regulations on protecting whistleblowers against corruption and the coordination responsibilities of agencies, organizations, and individuals with the online reporting system remain ineffective:* the online reporting system still seems to receive little active cooperation from competent authorities and the public, and there are even instances of delays or avoidance. This mentality is also present among those who want to report corruption because "by the time justice is served, the damage has already been done."

*Seventh, the development of the digital media environment and new technologies is posing new challenges to e-government in the fight against corruption:* Information competition on digital platforms, algorithm-based content distribution mechanisms, and the development of AI generation and Deepfake technology increase the demands for speed, verifiability, and accuracy assurance in anti-corruption information.

## **Chapter 4. Issues Raised, Solutions, and Recommendations for Enhancing the Role of Online Newspapers in the Fight Against Corruption in Vietnam in the Coming Period**

### **4.1 Issues facing online newspapers fighting corruption in Vietnam today**

*Firstly, the* anti-corruption efforts of the Ministry of Public Security have not met the practical requirements and the complex developments of corruption.

*Secondly, the* capacity and resources of online news agencies and journalists are still insufficient to meet the requirements of the fight against corruption in the new situation.

*Thirdly, the* conditions for ensuring the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts, such as guaranteeing access to information, legal protection during operations, and effective coordination mechanisms with relevant agencies, organizations, and individuals, have not yet met practical requirements.

### **4.2. Some solutions to enhance the role of online newspapers in the fight against corruption in Vietnam in the coming time.**

*4.2.1. Group of solutions to improve the quality of online news products on combating corruption.*

*Firstly, develop a comprehensive, balanced, and in-depth information content strategy on anti-corruption.*

*Secondly, to comprehensively utilize and improve the quality of the anti-corruption methods employed by the Ministry of Public Security .*

*Thirdly, innovate the way information about anti-corruption is presented on e-commerce platforms.*

*Fourth, accelerate the digital transformation of newsrooms by applying digital technology and artificial intelligence in the production of online news articles on anti-corruption.*

#### *4.2.2. Solutions to enhance the capacity of online news agencies and journalists.*

*Firstly, enhance the accountability of heads of agencies responsible for combating corruption in order to effectively address and invest in this topic.*

*Secondly, enhance the capacity, political sensitivity, and professional ethics of the existing journalistic workforce through professional courses, training programs, conferences, and seminars. Journalists must proactively improve their skills and keep up-to-date with new knowledge. In the trend of "streamlining the apparatus" and building "multipurpose journalists," instead of maintaining cumbersome investigative departments, newsrooms should establish mobile task forces, enjoying special protection and benefits.*

*Thirdly, identify and recruit a new generation of journalists with strong capabilities, political sensitivity, and professional ethics to supplement the existing journalistic workforce. This can be done in coordination with journalism training institutions to find qualified personnel, and then organize training and apprenticeship programs to ensure that graduates can immediately adapt to practical work.*

#### *4.2.3. Group of solutions to improve the conditions for online newspapers to combat corruption.*

*Firstly, strengthen the Party's leadership and the State's management of the anti-corruption campaign to ensure that the campaign is on the right track and that all efforts are made to dismantle distorted narratives.*

*Secondly, to improve access to information and protect journalists in the fight against corruption: It is necessary to clearly define the responsibilities of agencies and individuals in providing information to the press; to establish mechanisms for detecting, preventing, and promptly handling acts that obstruct, threaten, assault, or infringe upon the legitimate rights and interests of journalists; to strengthen coordination mechanisms between press agencies, press management agencies, and relevant authorities to*

ensure the safety of journalists and sources ; online news agencies should proactively apply legal support measures for reporters and editors involved in anti-corruption work, such as signing framework contracts with law firms and establishing legal departments; the Vietnam Journalists Association and press agencies should research appropriate legal support models based on international experience; and to research and improve the legal mechanism for protecting journalists conducting investigative anti-corruption work for the public interest.

*Thirdly*, strengthen coordination between online news agencies and state management agencies and information sources in the fight against corruption. Online news agencies need close coordination with state management agencies to provide or receive information about corruption cases or suspected corruption and disseminate this information to the public. Online news agencies need to establish diverse methods to receive and process information and feedback from readers about corruption. In particular, information security agencies need to develop procedures for protecting information sources in the digital environment .

*Fourth*, developing the economics of journalism and improving salary, bonus, and other welfare policies to ensure journalists can dedicate themselves to their work with peace of mind: news agencies need to research and develop appropriate incentive mechanisms such as financial support for investigative reporting, rewarding works with high social value, and paying attention to welfare benefits such as insurance and healthcare for journalists; diversifying financial resources and reducing dependence on media contracts; expanding the mechanism for commissioning journalistic work on content serving the public interest in the field of anti-corruption; in the long term, it is necessary to research mechanisms to support resources for in-depth investigative journalism projects on anti-corruption and issues of great social significance, drawing on international experience.

*Fifth*, continuously update advanced technology and invest in modern technological equipment to support journalists working on topics related to the fight against corruption. **4.3. Some recommendations to enhance the role of online newspapers in the fight against corruption in Vietnam in the future.**

***4.3.1. Some recommendations for the National Assembly, state management agencies on the press, and the Vietnam Journalists Association.***

*Firstly*, we propose that the National Assembly consider and add to the current Penal Code several offenses related to acts of infringing upon

journalistic activities, such as: the crime of threatening violence against journalists, the crime of intentionally destroying or damaging the property of journalists, the crime of attacking the life of journalists, the crime of taking journalists hostage, etc., so that those intending to infringe upon journalistic activities will be deterred or there will be a deterrent effect when dealing with such cases.

*Secondly*, it is recommended that the Propaganda and Mass Mobilization Departments at all levels, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, and the People's Committees at all levels should strengthen inspection and handling activities, and take decisive action against a few cases of serious violations of the rights of journalists. The handling of these cases should be carried out within the prescribed timeframe, with penalties commensurate with the severity of the violation (if there are sufficient grounds to constitute a crime, criminal liability should be pursued according to the Penal Code).

*Thirdly*, it is recommended that the Ministry of Public Security, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the Supreme People's Court, and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism coordinate in developing and promulgating regulations on information sharing between prosecuting agencies and the press during the investigation, prosecution, and trial of corruption crimes. In addition to stipulating the responsibility to provide information to the press, the regulations should establish a rapid coordination mechanism to protect journalists during corruption investigations.

*Fourth*, we propose that the Vietnam Journalists Association and the Journalists Associations of provinces and cities coordinate with the Vietnam Bar Association, the Bar Associations of provinces and cities, and relevant agencies to organize short-term training courses (approximately 1-2 months) on investigative journalism (including corruption investigations) combined with supplementary legal knowledge to enhance professional capacity and provide additional legal knowledge for journalists.

#### ***4.3.2. Some recommendations for online news agencies in general.***

Investigative agencies need to develop and issue procedures for conducting investigations (including investigations into corruption) and procedures for receiving and handling public feedback (including feedback on corruption). The procedures for conducting investigations should be issued for internal use, while the procedures for receiving and handling public feedback should be developed and made public so that the public can access information and monitor implementation.

#### 4.3.3 *Some specific recommendations for the media organizations included in the survey.*

- *People's Daily Online*: expedite the review and publication of articles; move towards enabling comments on articles; continue to promote innovation and creativity in presentation style towards data-driven, multi-platform, and multimedia journalism.

- *The online newspaper "Protecting the Law "*: will strengthen its investigative journalism articles on corruption to maximize the advantages of its personnel; increase articles that reinforce public understanding of corruption and anti-corruption; *move* towards opening comments on articles; and innovate and make breakthroughs in article presentation methods towards "multi-platform" and "multi-media" approaches.

- *VnExpress newspaper*: strengthening its in-depth analytical articles on corruption.

## CONCLUDE

Recognizing the crucial role of the press in the fight against corruption, numerous scientific research projects clarifying the relationship between the press and the fight against corruption have been conducted, forming a relatively rich system of reference materials. However, research projects specifically on online media in the fight against corruption are still very limited, while online media is gradually asserting its superior role in the fight against corruption with its unique advantages. Therefore, this dissertation has chosen to conduct in-depth research on the topic of online media in the fight against corruption in Vietnam during the period from January 2021 to June 2025 through a survey of three online media outlets: Nhan Dan Newspaper online, BVPL Newspaper online, and VnExpress Newspaper.

The dissertation provides an overview of domestic and international research related to the topic to create a source of research materials, thereby building and developing a theoretical and practical foundation for the subject. Through practical surveys, diverse information content, methods of combating corruption, and modern forms of expression, online journalism is increasingly demonstrating its important role in providing information, monitoring and providing social critique, exposing corruption, and contributing to policy suggestions. However, the research results also show

many limitations that need to be overcome to live up to the "pioneering" role of journalism in the fight against corruption.

With the perspective of "facing limitations, obstacles, and shortcomings head-on," corresponding to each limitation, its causes, and the issues raised, the dissertation also boldly proposes feasible and immediately applicable solutions and recommendations to enhance the role of e-government in the fight against corruption.

Adhering closely to the research objectives and tasks of the dissertation, the research results have provided a theoretical and practical basis for answering the research questions posed; at the same time, they have verified hypotheses about the level of concern, information content, methods of struggle, forms of expression, as well as the advantages, limitations, and causes in the anti-corruption activities of the online community. With all the effort and dedication, the dissertation hopes to become a valuable scientific reference document, contributing to enriching the theoretical and practical system on the topic of online communities in the fight against corruption.

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