

An Analytical Study of the Program "Legal Issues" on AlIraqiya Satellite Channel

Haider Ali Abd AlSahib Muhsen
University of Baghdad, Iraq



DOI : <https://doi.org/10.61796/ijss.v2i4.59>



Sections Info

Article history:

Submitted: June 30, 2025

Final Revised: July 09, 2025

Accepted: July 31, 2025

Published: August 20, 2025

Keywords:

Legal content

Television talk shows

Legal issues program

AlIraqiya satellite channel

ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aims to answer a set of research questions, which can be stated as follows: What proportion of airtime does the program Legal Issues occupy compared to the total airtime of other programs on AlIraqiya Satellite Channel? What are the prominent legal topics that the program seeks to present and emphasize within the episodes aired? What are the main goals and functions the program aims to achieve through its presented topics, ideas, and legal issues? **Method:** This research is classified as a descriptive study, aiming to determine the scope of topics and functions performed by the Legal Issues television program. The study covers the period from June 1, 2024, to August 30, 2024, during which the recorded episodes of Legal Issues were aired, constituting one complete programming cycle. The researcher selected this period because it coincided with the study timeline, which allowed close monitoring of the Legal Issues program broadcast on AlIraqiya Satellite Channel. **Results:** Legal topics hold particular significance for the public as they contribute to building the audience's knowledge base after becoming familiar with the enacted laws and regulations. By presenting legal topics through mass media, public awareness is enhanced, and individuals are provided with the skill of logical legal thinking, considering that such topics are important and complementary to social, political, and literary subjects. **Novelty:** The scientific problem addressed in this research lies in the fact that television seeks to perform and fulfil several functions, with the legal function being one of its key aspects. Therefore, television professionals strive to leverage its ability to influence, guide, and educate in order to achieve culturally and socially beneficial objectives in general, and legal objectives in particular, aimed at raising legal awareness and informing the public of their rights and obligations within the framework of prevailing legal systems.

INTRODUCTION

Television seeks to fulfil multiple functions, including informing, entertaining, and educating [1], [2], [3], [4], [5]. These functions cannot be confined to a specific time frame; rather, they constitute a continuous and ongoing process as long as television and the audience remain in a state of active and evolving interaction. These functions take shape in light of television's role in presenting information, ideas, behavioural patterns, and expressions of societal values, as well as in preserving heritage [6], [7], [8]. Moreover, television assists in guiding the audience through conscious engagement with sound principles and advanced forms of human civilisation.

Other functions relate to guidance and counselling, as modern approaches to defining the functions of mass media including television indicate that guidance and counselling fall within the scope of its educational function.

The legal function, which this study seeks to explore in terms of its dimensions, elements, and mechanisms particularly through the use of television as a communication medium, represents one level of the broader educational process. Accordingly, there is a

pressing need to enter this field and examine the potential for leveraging television's communicative and technical characteristics, as well as its mass appeal resulting from the vast exposure it enjoys. This makes it possible to achieve the objectives of the legal function by crafting a media discourse grounded in legal concepts aimed at addressing the public at large, informing them about laws, and making them aware of their rights and obligations. This falls within the broader process of spreading legal culture and creating legal awareness through legal discourse, whether presented on television in general or, more specifically, through the *Legal Issues* program broadcast by Allraqiya Satellite Channel.

RESEARCH METHOD

Sound scientific principles dictate that a research idea should not emerge from a void, lest it ultimately led to one. Accordingly, the defining feature of scientific research is that it addresses a clearly defined problem that warrants examination and analysis from multiple perspectives. In this light, the starting point for this study was the researcher's awareness of a particular problem selected from among several possible issues [9].

This study aims to answer a set of research questions, which can be outlined as follows:

1. What is the proportion of airtime occupied by the program *Legal Issues* compared to the total airtime of other programs on Allraqiya Satellite Channel?
2. What are the prominent legal topics the program seeks to present and focus on within the context of its broadcast episodes?
3. What are the main objectives and functions the program aims to achieve through the legal topics, ideas, and issues it presents?
4. Who are the key figures the program focuses on hosting and involving in its episodes, and what is the nature of these individuals' participation in the ongoing discussions?

The significance of this research lies in the title itself, as it defines a new field that has not been the subject of academic study before. It seeks to address the functions that television aims to fulfil but narrows the scope to a specific field – namely, the legal field.

In this context, the study examines, in general, the impact of television in the processes of guidance and counselling on the one hand, and in creating legal awareness on the other. Its importance lies in the scientific value of exploring the ways television professionals can strengthen legal culture.

In light of the above, this study can offer scientific insights into the reality reflected by the broadcast of the program *Legal Issues* on Allraqiya Satellite Channel, along with the positive and negative aspects related to that reality. Furthermore, it provides general scientific visions for the optimal approach to utilizing legal television programs to promote legal awareness.

A researcher in any study cannot reach facts and conclusions without first clearly defining the objectives to be achieved [10].

In addressing the phenomenon under analysis, the research aims to achieve a set of general objectives as follows:

1. To define the main dimensions of the legal function that the program *Legal Issues*, aired on AllIraqiya Satellite Channel, seeks to accomplish.
2. To identify the extent of focus on specific legal topics and to attempt to deduce the reasons for that focus.
3. To examine the objective (legal) and technical methods used by the program in the context of praise, criticism, or comparison with global and local laws, in order to promote legal culture and awareness.
4. To determine the extent of the program's interest in featuring both legal and public figures, and the reasons for such interest, within the framework of the program's overall goal.

This study is classified as descriptive research, aiming to determine the scope of topics and functions performed by the television program *Legal Issues*. Descriptive research seeks to record facts objectively and accurately using the scientific method, presenting the characteristics of a specific subject in a factual and precise manner.

The use of the survey method allows for the examination of the media phenomenon. In this study, it focuses on the media outlet represented by AllIraqiya Satellite Channel, as well as the related plans, practices, programs, and staff. Their activities and efforts related to television work in general, and the program *Law and Society* in particular, were surveyed. In addition, the legal programs broadcast by the channel – specifically *Law and Society* – were examined.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Defining the scope of the study is a necessary step toward carrying out research in an integrated and coordinated manner. Scientific research requires that its general scope be clearly determined from the outset. This study adopts three main dimensions, as follows:

- **Time scope:** From June 1, 2024, to August 30, 2024, the period during which episodes of *Legal Issues* were recorded and broadcast, constituting one complete programming cycle. This period was chosen because it coincided with the study period, allowing the researcher to monitor the program as presented on AllIraqiya Satellite Channel.
- **Place scope:** AllIraqiya Satellite Channel.
- **Population:** The program *Legal Issues* broadcast by AllIraqiya Satellite Channel, which included 10 episodes aired during the study period. All episodes were analysed using a comprehensive survey method due to the limited number of episodes, in order to achieve more accurate and objective results.

Definition of Concepts and Terms

1. **Legal Content:** Refers to material intended to meet the needs of the public by presenting legal facts in an accurate and objective manner.
2. **Television Talk Shows:** Programs that present opinions and address issues related

to society and its problems by hosting specialists to share their knowledge and insights regarding those issues.

3. Legal Media in Television Talk Shows:

First – Legal Media

The term *legal media* has emerged in recent years and has gained a significant position among various forms of specialized media. Defining this new term requires reviewing existing concepts of media, from which the concept of legal media can be derived.

The remnants of ancient civilizations, including their monuments, temples, and inscriptions, provide valuable indicators of the early forms of specialized legal media, which developed over time [11]. Although legal media in its current form did not exist in ancient times, early Iraqi legislation—dating back to the early second millennium BCE during the reign of King Hammurabi (1792–1750 BCE)—demonstrated clear legal features. The *Code of Hammurabi* contained 282 legal articles covering numerous aspects of social, economic, professional, and military life in the unified Babylonian society.

Media, in general, has been defined as “providing people with accurate information, truthful facts, and reliable news in order to assist them in forming a sound opinion on a given problem or public matter” [12].

Another definition describes it as “all forms of communication activities aimed at providing the public with accurate facts, truthful news, and reliable information on issues, topics, problems, and current events in an objective manner, without distortion, in order to foster the highest possible level of knowledge, awareness, comprehension, and understanding among recipients. This contributes to enlightening public opinion and enabling the public to form sound views on the discussed events, topics, and problems” [13].

Based on the above definitions, *legal media* can be defined as: all planned and continuous communication activities carried out by specialized media professionals with the purpose of providing the public with accurate facts, truthful news, and reliable information about legal issues and topics in an objective and distortionfree manner, through various communication channels and forms, using all persuasive and influential technical methods to enhance public legal awareness.

In light of this comprehensive concept of legal media, several key observations can be made as follows:

- a. Legal media is an urgent necessity for informing the public about the laws and regulations in force within society.
- b. It is a communication activity with its own characteristics, features, and tools, utilizing all functions of informing, explaining, persuading, directing, and raising awareness.
- c. It is characterized by truthfulness and accuracy, presenting established facts and correct news on various legal topics in a style aimed at explanation, simplification, and clarification.
- d. It aims to educate the public and increase their legal awareness.

- e. It is a creative activity that requires intelligence and flexibility in planning and implementation.

Legal media is considered a social necessity, as it enables the media to fulfil its role in meeting the needs of the public by presenting legal facts with accuracy and objectivity. In many cases, ignoring certain negative social phenomena has led to their spread and transformation into social epidemics that are difficult to control [14]. Therefore, the media can do much to address problems in society, particularly legal issues.

Based on the above, it can be said that the distinctive nature of legal media goes beyond directive goals, reflecting a civilizational approach that seeks to elevate the public socially and connect them to society. Other factors have also contributed to defining the identity and independence of legal media, including the transformation of the modern era into one of specialization in sciences, culture, arts, media, and law. This has made the need for specialization a higher priority than ever before.

Media and Legal Awareness

Legal awareness is defined as "the public's recognition of the importance of applying the law to achieve the safety, security, and stability of society, thereby ensuring its development and progress" [15]. One of the most important strategies of law is that it cannot be enacted or applied without a foundation of knowledge and awareness.

Legal awareness is considered a branch and result of social awareness. Therefore, it is correct to say that the more legal awareness spreads in society, the more it reflects the society's advancement, refinement, and development [15]. Legal awareness plays an important role in educating the public about the meaning and importance of laws, the need to comply with them, and the necessity of working within their framework and adhering to the rights and duties they prescribe toward society.

From the above, it can be said that there is value in explaining legal texts and establishing channels for awareness of them. The impact of this can be seen in societies, as confirmed by psychological studies conducted by researchers in various parts of the world, which have yielded several important results:

- a. The greater the public's legal knowledge, the easier it becomes for them to understand and comply with legal texts.
- b. Primitive societies that lacked the opportunity for cultural awareness were more vulnerable to deviant behaviours.
- c. Awareness of general familiarity and social responsibility serves as an additional deterrent, alongside spiritual deterrence, in preventing further deviant phenomena.
- d. Legal awareness forms the cornerstone for the work required to generalize and enforce the law, and to transform it into a social norm. For a custom to become a behavioural pattern in social and legal life, familiarity with it must come first.

4. Analytical study of the program "Legal Issues" on AllIraqiya Satellite Channel**Table 1.** Shows the number and duration of news items in the channels.

AllIraqiya Channel	Program Duration	Percentage	Rank
Program Topics			
Threats and blackmail	48.4	25.71%	6
Lawsuits in employee cases	51	71.69%	1
Recognition of employees' certificates	46.37	6.99%	7
Law of the Iraqi Media Network	43.58	6.54%	8
Legal ways to add years of civil and military service	49.20	7.43%	3
Defamation and insult crime	36.31	5.44%	10
Corporate tax evasion	50.35	7.59%	2
Penalty for fraud	48.56	7.34%	5
Administrative responsibility	39.43	5.94%	9
Judicial Institute	49.9	7.52%	4

The research revealed that lawsuits in employee cases ranked first, with a duration of 51 minutes and a percentage of 71.99%. In second place was corporate tax evasion, with 50.35 minutes and 7.59%. In third place came legal ways to add years of civil and military service, with 49.20 minutes and 7.43%. Fourth place was the Judicial Institute, with 49.9 minutes and 7.52%. The penalty for fraud ranked fifth, with 48.56 minutes and 7.34%. Threats and blackmail came sixth, with 48.4 minutes and 25.71%. Recognition of employees' certificates ranked seventh, with 46.37 minutes and 6.99%. The Law of the Iraqi Media Network ranked eighth, with 43.58 minutes and 6.54%. Administrative responsibility ranked ninth, with 39.43 minutes and 5.94%, while defamation and insult came tenth, with 36.31 minutes and 5.44%.

The main reason for these results is that the majority of the audience consists of employees, which attracted the largest share of viewers.

Topics**Table 2.** The technical format for presenting legal topics.

Channel	Legal Topics	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Image only	2	1.86%	4	
External report	25	23.36%	2	
Interview via satellite	2	1.86%	4	
Telephone call	76	71.02%	1	
Instudio interview	6	5.60%	3	
Field interview	0	0%	5	
Total		100%		

The research revealed that telephone calls ranked first, with 76 occurrences and a percentage of 71.02%. This was followed by external reports with 25 repetitions and

23.36%. Instudio interviews came next, with 6 repetitions and 5.60%. Both "image only" and interviews via satellite ranked equally, with 2 occurrences each and 1.86%. Field interviews did not appear in the program.

Since the channel focuses on telephone calls as a primary source in the program, this ranking is natural, as it is easier to conduct phone calls than to arrange for guests to attend in the studio.

Table 3. Shows the use of technical means accompanying legal topics.

Technique	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Footage of the event (live material)	0	0%	-
Archival material	0	0%	-
Still image	3	23.07%	2
Graphics	0	0%	-
Presenter speaking without visual counterpart	0	0%	-
Appearance of C.G.	10	76.92%	1
Total	13	100%	

The research showed that the appearance of C.G. ranked first, with 10 occurrences and 76.92%. Still images followed, with 3 occurrences and 23.07%. There was no use of live event footage, archival material, graphics, or presenteronly speech in the program.

The channel's emphasis on C.G. is intended to remind viewers of the episode title and encourage engagement with the content.

Table 4. Shows the time of imagetotext correspondence with the displayed footage.

Imagetotext correspondence	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Matching	10	100%	1
Not matching	0	0%	2
Total	10	100%	

The research showed that matching between the image and the text ranked first, with 10 occurrences and 100%. There were no cases of nonmatching images in the program.

Table 5. Shows the values presented by the satellite channels.

Value	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Importance	10	100%	1
Proximity	5	-	-
Personalities	7	-	-
Magnitude	4	-	-
Continuity	4	-	-
Total	30	99.9%	

The study revealed that "importance" ranked first, with a frequency of 10 and a percentage of (100%), followed by "characters," then "proximity" with a frequency of five, and finally "magnitude" and "continuity" in fourth place with a frequency of four. This reflects the channel's aim to address the largest possible audience in order to present and explain the law to viewers.

Table 6. Presents the guests hosted in the program.

Channel	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Allraqiya	Official legal figures	4	57.14%	1
Allraqiya	Nonofficial legal figures	3	43.85%	2
Total		7	100%	

The findings show that official legal figures ranked first with a frequency of 4 (57.14%), followed by nonofficial legal figures with a frequency of 3 (43.85%). This is attributed to the channel's focus on hosting official legal figures to engage the audience with the program and clarify legal matters, as official figures are more involved in legal decisionmaking than their nonofficial counterparts.

Table 7. Presents the airtime devoted to different types of sound.

Type of sound	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Natural sound	10	100%	1
Without sound	-	-	-
Music	-	-	-
Total	10	100%	

The study found that natural sound ranked first with a frequency of 10 (100%) in the programs, while "without sound" and "music" did not appear.

Statistical methods used:

1. **Percentage calculation**

For Table 8, regarding program topics, the calculated Chisquare value was 9.119, compared to the tabulated value of 15.51 at 8 degrees of freedom and a significance level of 0.05. Since the calculated value was lower than the tabulated value, the result is statistically nonsignificant, indicating that the channel does not focus on employee-related cases more than other topics.

Table 8. Program topic result.

Program topics	Calculated Chisquare	Tabulated Chisquare	Significance
	9.119	15.51	Not significant

2. To examine the technical forms used by the channel, see Table 9, the calculated Chisquare value was 179.313, compared to the tabulated value of 9.49 at 4 degrees of freedom and a significance level of 0.05. Since the calculated value exceeded the

tabulated value, the result is statistically significant in favour of telephone communication, indicating the channel's emphasis on this form over others.

Table 9. Technical form result.

Technical form	Calculated Chisquare	Tabulated Chisquare	Significance
	179.313	9.49	Significant

- Regarding the airtime of values presented by the channel, the calculated Chisquare value was 14.66, compared to the tabulated value of 7.82 at 3 degrees of freedom and a significance level of 0.05. Since the calculated value exceeded the tabulated value, the result is statistically significant in favour of "characters," suggesting that the channel focuses on characters more than other values in its programs.

Table 10. Chi-square results on values.

Values	Mean score	Calculated Chisquare	Tabulated Chisquare	Significance
	6	14.66	7.82	Significant

Correlation relationships:

- There is a statistically significant correlation between the technical means accompanying legal topics and the type of guests hosted. The Pearson correlation coefficient was 0.467, indicating a moderate positive relationship, with the channel favouring the use of accompanying technical means with nonofficial legal figures more than with official figures.
- There is a statistically significant correlation between the values presented by the channel and the technical forms used for legal topics. The Pearson correlation coefficient was 0.6628, indicating a moderate positive relationship, suggesting that the channel emphasizes characters through telephone communication more than other values and technical forms.

Results:

- Employee-related legal cases ranked first, with an airtime of 51 minutes and a percentage of (71.99%).
- Telephone communication ranked first, with a frequency of 76 (71.02%).
- C.G. appearance ranked first, with a frequency of 10 (76.92%).
- Image-text matching achieved a rate of 100%, with a frequency of 10.
- "Importance" ranked first, with a frequency of 10 (100%).
- Official legal figures ranked first, with a frequency of 4 (57.14%).
- Natural sound ranked first, with a frequency of 10 (100%).

CONCLUSION

Fundamental Finding : The program Legal Issues attracts the largest audience mainly because most viewers are employees. The channel relies heavily on telephone communication for easier guest participation and uses C.G. technology to continuously

display the episode title, encouraging interaction. It seeks to maximize reach by clarifying legally beneficial content, while emphasizing the presence of well-known legal figures who enhance credibility. Legal experts play a central role in decision-making and public legal understanding. Audience interaction is a primary goal, supported by reminders and expert involvement. **Implication** : Recommendations highlight the need for stronger coordination between the Ministry of Justice and media institutions to create a framework for legal awareness. Establishing a dedicated department for legal awareness at Allraqiya, expanding airtime, diversifying program segments, and paying attention to major legal events are crucial. Research centres should also monitor exposure and viewing intensity to evaluate program impact. **Limitation** : The channel's reliance on telephone communication, though practical, may limit diversity in participation and reduce dynamic discussions. Dependence on legal experts could restrict content if availability decreases, while repeated use of C.G. reminders may reduce innovation in engagement strategies. **Future Research** : Further studies could examine the long-term effects of C.G. reminders on engagement, compare telephone and in-studio participation, and assess the role of legal experts in shaping public perception. Research centres could systematically measure viewing intensity and exposure to determine the overall impact of Legal Issues.

REFERENCES

- [1] P. Norris, J. Curtice, D. Sanders, M. Scammell, and H. A. Semetko, "To Entertain, Inform, and Educate: Still the Role of Public Television," *Polit. Commun.*, vol. 17, no. 1, pp. 1-24, 2000.
- [2] M. Jaakkola and M. Mykkänen, "Public Service Television as Education: Factual Programmes and the Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Policy Discourse," *VIEWJ. Eur. Telev. Hist. Cult.*, vol. 11, no. 21, pp. 102-119, 2022.
- [3] G. M. J. Editors, "Research of Infotainment in the Children's Segment of Television," *Glob. Media J.*, vol. 17, no. 32, pp. 1-8, 2019.
- [4] A.-L. Parsemain, "To Educate and Entertain: The Pedagogy of Television," *Contin. J. Media Cult. Stud.*, vol. 29, no. 2, pp. 220-233, 2015.
- [5] M. H. Saei, A. Fattahi, Z. Shaghaghgi, L. Amini, and R. Tabrizi, "The Role of Mass Media Communication in Public Health," *J. Educ. Health Promot.*, vol. 10, no. 211, pp. 1-6, 2021.
- [6] J. Meyrowitz, "We Liked to Watch: Television as Progenitor of the Surveillance Society," *Ann. Am. Acad. Pol. Soc. Sci.*, vol. 625, no. 1, pp. 32-48, 2009.
- [7] R. M. Caropeboka, R. A. Nugroho, and D. R. Latifa, "The Role of the Media in Preserving Local Culture: A Phenomenographic Study of Rentak Ulu Melayu in TVRI Programs in the Era of Transformation and Globalization," *Proc. Int. Conf. Commun. Sci.*, pp. 90-98, 2022.
- [8] Ç. Zort, R. Ertu\ugrul, and A. Akbaba, "Sharing of Cultural Values and Heritage through Storytelling in the Digital Age," *Front. Psychol.*, vol. 14, p. 1132459, 2023.
- [9] S. M. Hussein, *Media Research: Studies in Scientific Research Methods*. Cairo: Alam AlKutub, 1999.
- [10] M. Mandoub, *Television and Its Educational Role in the Life of the Iraqi Child*. Baghdad: Dar AlHurriya for Printing, 1983.
- [11] B. A. AlSouf, "A Reading in Legal Content: A Historical Overview," *Leg. Stud. J.*, no. 2, p. 5, 2000.
- [12] A. Badr, *Communication with Audiences between Media, Propaganda, and Development*. Kuwait: Printing Agency, 1982.
- [13] S. M. Hussein, *Media and Communication with Audiences and Public Opinion*. Cairo: Alam

- AlKutub, 1984.
- [14] F. A. Zaid, *Specialized Journalism*. Cairo: Alam AlKutub for Printing, Publishing, and Distribution, 2004.
- [15] O. B. M. Saleh, "Methods and Trends in Spreading Awareness Against Crime in Iraqi Journalism," University of Baghdad, College of Arts, Department of Media, 1990.

***Haider Ali Abd AlSahib Muhsen (Corresponding Author)**

University of Baghdad, Iraq

Email: haider.ali@coart.uobaghdad.edu.iq
