

# Biased Media is a Real Threat to Democracy

## Outline

### A. Introduction

1. Media is shaping narratives in 21<sup>st</sup> century
2. Biased media is a form of a new threat towards to democracy
3. Thesis statement

### B. Prerequisite of a Democracy

1. Democracy by Albert Camus
2. Essentials of a democracy: Protection of human rights, educated mass and free fair elections

### C. Biased Media is a form of real threat to democracy

1. Disinformation through media leads to ill-informed decisions of the individuals

a. Pew Research Center, 70% of disinformation is caused through media

b. Election Campaigns: Joe Biden Vs Kamla Harris

2. Biased media serve the purpose of few individuals

a. Democracy gives equal representation

to each and every individual

b. Passing of Quota system bill in Bangladesh

3. Fake news causes mayhem to the democratic ideals.

a. Transparency and efficiency is an essential of a democratic state

b. Sensationalism of news for TRP

4. Rights of individuals are compromised through biasness in media

a. Democracy protects both majority and minority

b. Favouritism kindle biasness in religious affiliation - Jaranwale Incident

5. Hampers the transparent and free elections

a. Democracy flourishes on the ground of free and fair elections.

b. Media used as a political tool to influence people, PTT vs PLMN

Trump Vs Joe Biden

6. Misinformation and Disinformation on media weakens the state institutions

a. Rule of law and separate power for the institutions of the

## State in democracy

b. Example of Pakistan's mistrust among state institutions - Parliament, Executive and Judiciary.

7. Biased media fractures the society

a. Democracy ensures unity irrespective of colour gender

b. Example of India's Kolkata rape case.

D. Recommendations to counter this biased media as a threat to democracy

1. Educate people against misinformation and disinformation

2. legislations and effective execution against fake news

3. Censorboard, not fire-walling is a solution to counter fake news.

E. Conclusion

## Essay

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Ali, a nineteen years old teenager who lives in Pakistan reaches for his phone even before stepping out of the bed. The tap he does on the screen launches him into the world of numbers. All those numbers form together to make apps, today known as social media apps. As he read through his feed, it is forming a narrative for him of the world around him. Either it maybe of an upcoming political rally or a political discord in a party. This allows him to shape the narrative understand and comprehend any the ongoing situations around him. However, this flood of content contains different types of information. This information can be providing an insight into a true information based on fact, misinformation and disinformation based on its intention to cause trouble. An information based on true facts, misinformation based on a mistake and disinformation based on a intention to cause harm. Furthermore, all these

Content on media does not label it as fake or true. It is the duty of an individual to distinguish between fake news and true news. Moreover, through the wrong use of media, it can be detrimental to the democracy.

A democracy which states government of the people, by the people, for the people. Misinformed through media campaigns leads individuals to make elect ~~wrong~~ <sup>corrupt</sup> leaders. In return, these corrupt leaders favours the elite which negate the equality principle of democracy. Influence of <sup>these</sup> political ~~these~~ leaders on media is used as a tool of narrative making. Moreover, it fractions the society on the basis of political and religious affiliation. Hence, this essay delves into the depth of biasness <sup>in</sup> media and the mayhem it causes to the democratic ideals of the state.

There are number of prerequisite for a state to be called as a democratic nation.

As the Albert Camus mentioned, "Democracy is not the law of the majority but the protection of majority". This nation system ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> long practised in Greece which ~~was~~ is adopted by America.

This democratic nation system was formed in Greece which was adopted today with its amendments. This democratic system provides certain rules for the better functioning of institution.

Foremost is individual's, they are the most important figure of a democratic state. The rights of individual, their education and right to vote. It gives them power to make individual accountable for government's efficiency. Power of voter to question <sup>to</sup> answer their political rights. <sup>Along with</sup> Liberty, freedom and separation of power for better functioning of state institutions. Hence, democracy ~~does~~ promises equality and just system but adds responsibility on individual for its efficiency.

The above mentioned paragraphs gives a detail overview of democracy and its prerequisite while next paragraphs will focus on ways in which biased media is a form of threat to real democracy.

Firstly, Disinformation has the power to influence individual through media which results in misinformed decision. Individuals consume content through media now a days, as it is more efficient and quick. This allows media to engage their content in a way to attract massive audience. These catchy taglines, sensationalisation of a smaller incident to favour a group of individual states its biasness. This misinformation with an intent to harm, called as disinformation, forms biased narrative of individuals. For example, in election campaigns, media houses pick sides and fabricate facts to influence people. The election campaign of Kamla Harris against Joe Biden is

an example of it. On the other hand, democracy favours transparency of facts and events for people to make an informed decision.

This biasness of media is compromising this the efficiency of democracy. Hence, the biased media through its influence is a real threat to democracy.

In addition to this, Biased media serves the purpose of few elite class <sup>people</sup> which threatens the <sup>notion of</sup> equality in democracy. By Albert Camus, it is the protection of minority not rule of majority, it can be stated that biasness in media is a threat toward it. The media creates biasness of individuals by favouring to a particular group of class. For example, Bangladesh passed a quota bill for the appointment of jobs. Due to censorship of media and its biasness, it was stated as a positive move towards job allocation. However, people stood against its biasness and demanded their right. Hence, Biased media serve the



Purpose of fulfilling the desire of elite class, however democracy grants equal ~~to~~ representation of individuals.

Furthermore, Fake news is a huge threat to the transparency of democratic system. Democracy allows individuals to be aware of their rights which makes them accountable for any unjust. This biased media <sup>mis</sup>disinforms individuals by sensatizing any news for the sake of TRP or any political gain. For example, in Pakistan to demoralize the party worker of Imran Khan, ~~fake news~~ ~~is~~ ~~used~~. For example, India uses the Pakistan as a political tool to influence their hindu ideals.

Often the disinformation of fake surgical strike in Pakistan has been announced by India. This act allows them to gain more votes against the name of anti-Pakistan. Hence, fake news hampers the democratic relation among neighbours through biased media.

In addition to this, human rights are the fundamental principles of democracy but media forms narrative to against religion and Gender. Democracy, after the rule of dictatorship, was is the one which protects individual's right to Speech, religion and opportunity. However, the anti-democratic nations as well as proxy warfare use media as a tool to influence people to create hatred among each other. This form of media influence do not all create a separta sepratist movement against minorities. For example in Pakistan, Shia-Sunni riots on the basis of religion. Also, the incident of Jarnwala against Christian was an act of extremist preaching through media. Hence, the biasness of media in religion endagers the democratic ideals.

Furthermor, the separation of power among power institution in democracy is weakened by biasness of media. Media acts as a

fourth pillar of society. Hence its importance can make or break the working institution of state. The media turns out to be binding force for state institution. The DeepAudio Fake leaks in Pakistan and the mayhem it caused through media has threatened the democracy. The Audio leaks of Justice Fair Esa in Pakistan has caused individuals to question the judicial system. Hence, it is a form of threat to democracy.

In addition to this, the fractions of society has been made by media on the basis of gender, class and race. This biasness of media to be more patriarchal and high class favoured snatches away the individual right of an individual. For example, the Kolkata case in India. ~~The rape of a doctor~~ Media itself is gendered. The

recent hit and run case in Karachi was a witness of favoured biased media. As woman was labelled as mentally unstable because of her prestigious background. Even the media fractions it the opinion of a society. Hence, due to influence of media on individual life, it fractions society and divide people.

The before mentioned paragraphs focused on the how biased media is a threat to democracy. Hence the next paragraphs will recommend solutions to counter this threat.

There are number of ways to counter this ongoing real threat to democracy. Firstly, the educated mass, an individual should be capable enough to distinguish between fake and true information. A way to re-evaluate any piece of information by checking it on an official website. Secondly, the legislation

formation to counter these threats.

Bills of rights against fake news and fabrication of content. However, formation of bill is not the only solution but its execution is mandatory.

Along with censorship, a model way to filter out the fabricated content against true facts. The taking down of websites which Turkey did, is not a solution.

As tweeter was taken down by turkey government to stop spreading of fake news. The fire wall method used by Pakistan also limits the freedom of speech. A balanced approach with an open mindset must be adopted to counter the biasness of media.

To sum this up, it can be stated that biased media is the biggest threat of the time to the efficiency of democracy. It is the demand it is consumed by millions of

people around the world hence, it has the power to influence individuals. This power is used by media for its own benefit rather than for people's good. The rights of individuals are compromised because of biasness of media to elite class. This bifurcation creates factions in society, like political affiliation, religious fanaticism and upper class mayhem. Also, it compromises the power of an individual to act as an accountable figure in the state system as he is misinformed by the media. Pakistan, as a hybrid democratic state, suffers from the doldrums of biased media, like DeepAudio leaks, cyber crime and political factions. However, there is a hope for Pakistan to overcome its fear and work for the However, there is still hope for Pakistan but it has a long way ahead.