

"Biased media is a real threat to democracy"

1) Introduction:

2) Decoding the terms "democracy" and "biased media."

3. Why biased media is a real threat to democracy?

(i) Altering electoral process outcomes by changing the perception of public.  
(2016 US Presidential elections).

(ii) Hampering informed decision making by public regarding policies  
(Brexit Referendum in UK)

(iii) Promoting partisan divide by aligning themselves with political parties.  
(Fox News, MSNBC News channel)

(iv) Undermining trust in institutions by airing disinformation regarding institutions.

(Propaganda against Army in Pak).

- v) Censoring the viewpoint of opposition parties which are critical to government policies  
(Parliament Session in Pak)
- vi) Weakening public accountability of government by projecting only the good policies.
- vii) Promoting sectarianism and extremism by dividing people on religious grounds  
[Glorification of the killer of Salman Taseer - accused of blasphemy].
- viii) Encouraging Sensationalism over substance to divert public debate from real issues.  
[Study of International Journal of Politics].
- ~~ix~~ ix) Spreading misinformation without prior fact checking  
[Vaccine hesitancy] → Polio.

## 4) Measures for the Reformation of media to strengthen democracy:

- (i) Strengthening Press Freedom by legal protection to journalists.  
(Norway, Finland case studies).
- (ii) Encouraging independent public broadcasting that is free from influence of government and corporate control.  
(BBC in UK).
- (iii) Promoting ethical journalism standards to uphold transparency and accuracy in reporting.  
(Press Council in Denmark)
- (iv) Promoting media literacy to distinguish credible news from fake news.  
(Finland case study).

## 5) Conclusion: