

Q8 Is media a curse or blessing? Critically evaluate its role in shaping public opinion and influencing political events in Pakistan in the 21st century.

1. Introduction

Every action, product and thing have both positive and negative sides. Similarly media has pros and cons, for the people. But, when one need to provide weightage, then media has proved more blessings rather than curse; widespread information is available, provides critical thinking and helps in predicting future events. Moreover, it has played great role in shaping public opinion of Pakistan, such as labelled Baloch people as an insurgent instead of right Seeker. Lastly, it has also influence political event like 9 May incident, and disqualification of former Prime Minister.

2. Media as a Blessing

A. Provides Information in a Second

It is a media through an crucial information circulate around the world in a second. It provides and prepare countries and individuals to prepare

For circumstance that a country or a nation would be impacted.

Instant Information Media have

- Arrest of Venezuela's Prime Minister
- Attack on Iran by the USA and Israel
- Flash floods in Islamabad in 2025
- Never-ending attacks on Gaza by Israel

B. Media inculcates critical thinking

Reports and news updates coming from multiple sources prove the validity of the news and it also inculcates critical thinking. Like Arab nations news outlet showed butchery attack on Gaza while western media illustrated just attack on media. Thus, individuals realized the double standards of western countries.

C. Tells story of another side

Palestine supporters showed that Israel has violated ceasefire agreement while western media showed that it was Hamas in Gaza who broke the ceasefire agreement.

D. Helps in Predicting futuristic Events

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After captured of Nicolas Maduro, Venezuela's Prime minister, Trump Administration is in argument with Iran. That seem like if the USA or president that can violate international law and capture prime minister that then same can happen in Iran, if regime change objective ^{would} does not achieve.

"Trump Administration talk over for regime change in Iran."
The Guardian

3. How media has played its role in shaping public opinion in Pakistan

A. Showcased that state institutions are against the populist leader

The trust deficit bet among state institutions and denizen has aggravated. Citizens think that it is state who has kept the Pakistan-Tweet-e-Issaq leader behind the bars.

"64.9% Pakistani against the state for incarceration of PTI leader."
Dawn Editorials

B. Karachi: The only city of crisis

Media has depicted that Karachi is the only city that is full of crisis. That has neglected the focus on the rest of Pakistan. Karachi's problems are overhyped while Lahore's issues are neglected. Hundreds of houses cense under flood water in Ravi River bed that media do not disclose.

“Around 1,468 houses were filled with flood water in Lahore because of ill-legal construction”
The Tribune Express

C. Balochi as an insurgent

Baloch are consider as an insurgent. While, Baloch people claim the basic facilities like medical, clean drinking water and education, when such ~~also~~ necessities are remained unfulfilled. Baloch people protest and considered as insurgent.

“57.1% of Balochistan population are do not access safe drinking water.”
The Guardian

D. Media gave political awareness

Media has no doubt given political awareness. Owing to this, people have right to vote to their desired political leader. Else Punjab was dominated by Pakistan Muslim League and Sindh was dominated by the Pakistan People Party. Due to this, Karachi has become biggest PTI supporter.

Example

"Warm Welcome of PTI leader Sohail Afiridi in Karachi."

4. How Media has played its role in influencing political event in Pakistan

A. Encouraged Supreme court verdict on disqualification on prior Prime Minister

Media showed the Prime Minister disqualification as right ~~discuss~~ decision of Supreme court. On the other hand, it condemn the jail of PTI leader Imran Khan.

B. Clash between Punjab and Sindh province over Cholistan Project

Punjab and Sindh rivalry got

aggravated when media played the narrative that Sindh water distribution would be adversely affected by the Chulistan Project. This led to closure of Sindh borders towards Punjab and logistic suffered drastically.

Over 550+ Logistic Trucks were stuck on the borders of Sindh and Punjab due to unrest on Canal project."

Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI)

C. Targeting particular party for an event.

The 9th May incident showed that it was PTI who caused ~~disturbance~~ destruction, chaos, uproar in the Pakistan. Media completely blame 9th May incident to PTI workers.

5. Conclusion

Media is a double sword edge. Where over time has drastically impacted specific group of society. Media provide information, and help in recognizing the possible future events. While it does also specify

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an political party for an event. It
has also showed the state is against
the populist and ex prime minister.
Hence, media has exaggerated some
of the issues while ~~and~~ sidelining
the major concerns, in Pakistan.