

ROLL NO: 34504

BATCH: 065 (6 pm - 9 pm)

SIR: ALI SHAHAB

MOCK-1

ENGLISH ESSAY

Outline

1. Introduction

(1.1) Attention Grabber:

(1.2) Background Information:

(1.3) Thesis Statement: This essay will elaborate the democratic process, the role of media, consequences of biased media and how biased media has put the future of Pakistan's already fragile democracy at stake.

2. Main body

2.1. Democracy

(2.1.1) Understanding democracy

(2.1.2) Prerequisites of democracy.

(2.1.3) State of democracy in Pakistan.

(2.1.4) Democracy and illiteracy.

→ (2.1.4.1) Education. the backbone of democracy.

(2.1.4.2) Literate nation provide stable democratic environment.

(2.1.4.3) Illiteracy fuels chaos, extremism

2.2. Role of media in the democratic process

(2.2.1) Media as a source of information

(2.2.2) Pluralism, Participation and inclusivity.

(2.2.3) A tool for social cohesion.

(2.2.4) Media as an agenda setter

(2.2.5) Media in Pakistan as a civil forum.

2.3. Biased media and its impact on the democratic process

(2.3.1) What happens when media is allowed to play its role unchecked?

(2.3.2) Spread of misinformation and disinformation.

(2.3.3) Propaganda.

(2.3.4) Malign influence

(2.3.5) Boost polarization

2.4. Social media and political discourse

(2.4.1) Political polarization and lack of censorship.

(2.4.2) Fanaticism and viral nature of social media.

(2.4.3) Social media, politics and propaganda.

2.5: Conclusion

BIASED MEDIA IS A REAL THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

The importance of a truly free press is vital for the establishment and preservation of a democratic nation. Long before modern objections to the political bias of news reports and commentaries became common fare, it was the Muslim Press that proliferated the ideology of Pakistan to the Muslims of the subcontinent and provided an opposing viewpoint to the fallacious propaganda otherwise being disseminated to the citizens through opposing media outlets controlled by the government. The Muslim press was

Something new. They did not mislead or distort the news.

The idea that media has been delivering misleading messages that are twisted to fit a specific agenda is nothing new. It is also fair to say that the level of distrust, doubt and suspicion in the media has never been greater. Anyone with a fraction of independent and impartial intellectual consideration accepts that media is the life blood of an election and that elections ^{can be} ~~are~~ easily harmfully manipulated and influenced by powerful lobbies with political objectives. To understand how biased media is a threat to democracy, this essay will elucidate the democratic process, the role of media, consequences of biased media and how biased media is a ~~threat~~ has put the future of Pakistan's already fragile democracy at stake.

~~Democracy in its most basic form is a government of the people~~

The concept of democracy has been introduced since ancient time when Aristotle classified proposed his classification of a government. Democracy, as we know now, was called "a government of the people, by the people for the people," by Abraham Lincoln. This concept of democracy suits those societies where the pre-requisites of democracy are fulfilled in an effective manner. Merely casting a vote in general elections, on the basis of adult franchise, is not democracy, even though this aspect is also not frankly carried out.

Democracy grows and flourishes in those societies where there is an educated and sensible electorate, sincere and capable leadership, sound economy, middle-class representation, a tolerant society, free media,

social justice, tolerance in political parties, freedom of expression, strong opposition, and a non-discriminatory society. The list may go on but any society with the above mentioned fundamentals are followed can be called a truly democratic society.

There is no doubt that Pakistan has not been able to strengthen its democratic roots in its history. Frequent martial laws, poor performance of democratic government, non-participation of middle class in politics, incapable and corrupt leadership, oppressive policies of different governments against media, feudal culture, mass scale illiteracy are only some of the reasons due to which democracy has not strengthened its roots in Pakistan.

Pakistan's democracy is the perfect example of tyranny of the masses and the only solution to their problem is education. An educated person understands the need for norms of tolerance, education can restrain a person

from adhering to extremist doctrines and increases one's capacity to make rational choices. Education levels out extremist ideology which in Pakistan's case threatens its sovereignty and existence.

Media is ~~the~~ central to democratic participation.

It creates an arena for the exchange of opinion, discussion and deliberation. It provides a channel of communication between politicians and the public, allowing politicians to communicate their beliefs and proposals. Giving the public the information they need in order to participate and allowing the voices of the public to be heard. Media's role ^(in Pakistan) as a source of information in creating awareness among citizens regarding their rights and how they are violated, is a positive step towards democracy. Although a contrasting view emerges stating that there is too much information but no understanding -

This highlighting the grim reality of illiteracy in Pakistan.

Media also plays a key role ~~is~~ as an agenda setter in enhancing governance and promoting human development, both of which are key elements of a strong democracy.

Media's role as a civic forum in promoting participation has a positive feedback ^(in Pakistan)

Taking into account the women Protection Bill in which media openly debated on the issue and help the legislature.

Anwar ul Hassan's talk show "Souch tou yeh hai" which is one of the longest talk show on media, ~~so~~ has brought the perspective of common man and is a reflective of the people's voice.

Media in Pakistan is increasing ~~its~~ its diversity and social cohesion; since ~~the~~ the Pakistani society is deeply fragmented, promotion of social cohesion on part of media is more required than ever to act as a glue.

~~Since~~ Media is such an integral part of the democratic entity. It is the engine that drives democracy forward through its quest for justice, truth and equality. ~~Despite its~~ Media is continuously faced with a range of challenges and threats including intimidation from government, politicians, and non-state ~~actors~~-actors.

Media bias can distort information that is presented ~~to~~ to the public leading to a lack of objectivity and an imbalance of information that is available. This can ~~not~~ result in a polarized public ~~and~~ opinion and a lack of trust in the media. When ~~when~~ media is allowed to continue its ~~when~~ role unchecked it can lead to ~~the~~ spreading of false news, propaganda or even conspiracy theories. This can have significant social impacts as false narratives can shape public opinion and undermine trust in institutions. Misinformation

is the spread of false information unknowingly, whereas, disinformation is the spread of false information knowingly; and both are a negative effect of ~~to~~ biased media. False information is not a new phenomenon - Technology however, magnifies its power and it spreads at warp speed.

The same media that is used as a tool for social cohesion and promoting communication can be ~~used~~^{exploited} by unscrupulous actors to manipulate public opinion, sway elections or promote specific agendas. This can be achieved through biased reporting, selective coverage or the use of misinformation. An unchecked media can undermine democratic processes by disseminating propaganda, suppressing opposition or stifling critical journalism. It is ~~the~~ essential for a functioning democracy to have a diverse and independent media landscape that holds

those in power accountable. Unchecked media can contribute to increased polarization within societies by amplifying extreme viewpoints and fostering an "us versus them" mentality. Sensationalism and biased reporting can reinforce existing divisions and hinder constructive dialogue. Prioritization of sensationalism and ~~entertainment~~ can lead to neglect of critical issues that require media attention. This can result in a lack of public awareness and engagement on significant social, political, and environmental matters.

The political democratic landscape has drastically changed after the emergence of social media. It has become a great opportunity for common man to voice their message, or spread their political agendas. The nature of social media can be conceptualized in the context of democracy. As democracy ^{implies} #

the idea ~~that~~ of human's involvement in decision making; and the role of public in rational evaluations of pros and cons of an issue. Thus, with the introduction of social media, people can voice their ~~op~~ opinions even though ~~if~~ they are not engaged in the democratic process.

Social media has offered a direct connected to people without ~~and~~ censorship; thus political groups can spread their fragmented ideologies directly to their audience. They may be political strategies or even extremist ideologies. Social media remains a fertile ground for fake news and propaganda.

Twitter for example has increasingly been used in political elections in the spread of ideologies. Social media bots are designed to manipulate the passage, transfer and volume of the social narrative, which makes them ideal to spread homogeneity as opposed to diversity in their message. This

inherent functionality is why bots are frequently used to spread beliefs and propaganda. Furthermore, Fake news and bots attract traffic and engagement; by this they aim to influence and demobilized opposition through false support.

From the above discussion we can say that media is an extremely powerful tool of communication. It has many forms that makes it easy to gain access to it. Media institutes have to be more democratic in order for them to promote democracy. Media should be ready to hold the authorities accountable, and it should be ready to be held accountable as well. Media should be free from the reins of malicious authorities but there should be some mechanism to regulate it. Rules and regulations are not necessarily meant to curb the power of media but they help build code of ethics and serve ~~as~~ ^{to make} the role of media more sophisticated and refine.