



# SUPPLEMENT

Name of Examination: SSC / HSC Part I - II 20  
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## Biased media is a Real Threat to Democracy

### Outline

#### 1- Introduction

**Thesis statement:** Prevalance of biased media is seriously posing a risk to democracy. It is due to the growing socio-economic and political conundrum. However, some proactive strategies can mitigate implications of biased media for sustainable democracy.

#### 2-

### Relationship between Biased Media and Democracy

#### 3-

### Factors behind prevalence of Biased Media

- a) Political influence on media-anchors
- b) Seek of information publicity at peak
- c) Corruption factor due to economic need





- d) Lack of free press in the country
- e) Fear of dictator behavior of political powers

#### 4- Implications of Biased Media on Democracy

- a) Threat to freedom of speech
- b) Bad governance dilemma throughout country
- c) Prohibition of peaceful right to public protest
- d) Manipulation of public mindsets against democracy
- e) Risk of plausible journalism to diminish democratic norms
- f) Dual face of media hides democratic reality
- g) Crackdown of civilian rights and freedoms
- h) Challenges to the national integration

#### 5- Methodologies to curb implications of Biased Media for sustainable democracy

- a) Ensure right to free press in the country
- b) Encourage public awareness on democracy
- c) Promote role of media in fair digital democracy
- d) Engage youth in democratic norms on media

#### 6- Conclusion





"No matter, how long the situations are prevailing, likewise were prevailing; democracy ever rises; thereby, democracy was, is, will grow forever." (Fukuyama, End of History and the Last Man, 1991). Undeniably, the world is ever-evolving, what is new today, will be old tomorrow, but democracy will exist forever. Unfortunately, several factors are challenging to democracy in the twenty-first century. Among them, biased media is a real threat to democracy. It is due to several reasons, including growing political influence, demanding information publicly, and prevailing corruption in media platform. Consequently, democracy has caught in a vicious cycle of threats, such as threat to freedom of speech, rise of bad governance dilemma, and prohibition of peaceful protest. Apart from these, manipulation of public mindsets is top-listed. Other threats include breakdown of democratic norms and challenge to national integration. In fact, these challenges demand strong measures to mitigate implications. Right to free press in the country is the first need of sustainable democracy. Along with free press, encouragement of public awareness on media with respect to democracy, and



Promotion of fair digital democracy are other rational steps. Prevalence of biased media is seriously posing risk to democracy. It is due to the growing socio-economic and political conundrum. However, some proactive strategies can mitigate implications of biased media for sustainable democracy.

Undoubtedly, biased media has a direct effect on democracy. In fact, media has a power to mould democratic principles in relation to public involvement. People are widely attracted with information prevailing on media platform. According to a report, "About 96 cases of democratic failure due to public mindsets manipulation via ethnicity, biased news, and disintegrations are reported by Geo News in 2022." (Geo News, Democracy at risk, 2022). This shows that biased media has a direct relation with democracy.

Among the evidence that prove prevalence of biased media, political influence on media anchors is top-listed. Unfortunately, growing political influence has kept media original away from reality. Simply,





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political influence has caught media in trouble vanishing democratic features. According to political analyst, Toqueer Hussain, "Today, failure of media has a growing risk, and it is due to its biased role revolving around political cycle." (Toqueer Hussain, A Political Analyst, 2023). This indicates that political influence on media anchors is responsible for its biased role.

Further, seek of information publicity at peak is also leading to biased media. Media, today, is seeking publicity to earn maximum without caring of reality-based information. This has promoted fake and risky knowledge among people. "India has approximately 165 fake channels in 65 countries in order to enhance media publicity crumbling democracy among nations." (European Disinformation Task Force, Dis and Mis-information, 2020). This stark reality highlights





that seek of information publicity causing biased media.

Furthermore, corruption factor due to economic need is also leading to biased media. Unfortunately, corruption is an increasing disease in media-sector, too. This corruption has made media completely biased due to economic, material, and political demands. According to Transparency International, "Corruption in media is like cancer in humans, pushing it towards decline gradually" (Transparency International Organization, Denial to Corrupt Activities, 2008). Thereby, corruption is responsible for biased media due to economic needs.

Moreover, biased media is also due to lack of freedom of press in the country. No doubt, Pakistan suffers from lack of free-press in its state, promoting bias role of media. Freedom of press is decreasing in the country due to various factors including political factor. According to a report, "Pakistan ranks at in free-press index." (Press Freedom Index





Transparency in media, 2023). Hence, lack of free press in the country causing biased media.

Besides above, fear of dictator behavior in politics causing biased media. Due to the growing political conundrum in the country, political dictatorship has encircled role of media. Rising political unwanted role has curbed a real image of media enhancing its biasness. As per report of the Diplomat, "About 266 cases are reported from 2020 to 2021 in which political fear has diminished media role." (The Diplomat, Politics in Journalism, 2021). Thus, biased media is also due to fear of political dictatorship prevailing in media platform.

Consequently, democracy has reached at stake in which threat to freedom of speech is a clear evidence. In fact, biased media has curbed public voice in democratic participation, threatening freedom of speech. In Islam, public will has a great admiration because of the importance of 'Shoorarah' - democracy. "Democracy



has pillars based on people's consent; their speeches, and their free-participation" (Hazrat Omar Farooque (R.A), Political System of Islam). This stark reality highlights that biased media has diminished freedom of speech.

Similarly, bad governance dilemma throughout the country is another real threat to democracy. Biased media has encouraged one's political performance, and has discouraged others' political performance, too. This biasness has promoted bad governance concept throughout the country. According to a report, "Approximately 1.5 millions of families in Pakistan need emergency nutrition support." (The World Food Programme, Mal-nutrition at peak, 2023). Thereby, biased media is also promoting bad governance dilemma, weakening democracy.

In addition to the above, prohibition of peaceful public protest is another negative consequence of biased media. Undeniably, contribution of biased media in one-sided image sharing threatens democracy via



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prohibition of public protest. Ban on public protest, undoubtedly, is a real threat to democracy to bury public rights. "The government of Punjab has imposed Article-144 to avoid crowd of public protest on roads and streets." (Al-Jazeera, Democratic Correspondent, 2024). This shows that prohibition of peaceful public protest is a major threat to democracy due to biased media role.

Along with prohibition of public protest, biased media has also threatened another democratic norm, manipulation of public mindsets. Biased media has manipulated public mindsets against democracy, which is a serious risk. The youth are assets of the nation, and manipulation of their minds weakens political culture of the country. According to poetry of Allama Iqbal, Poet of





East, "Patriotism is everything, nothing is in loneliness -

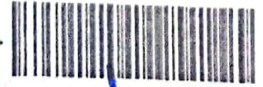
Everything is in homeland, nothing is in abroad."

These verses highlights importance of the unity among the nation, which has been threatened by biased media.

Further, risk of plausible journalism to diminish real democratic norms is also due to biased media. Unfortunately, journalism lacks true essence of knowledge due to unwanted role of media. People are readily moving and attracting towards imaginary knowledge, leaving behind true democracy. According to a report, "Technological advancement has tilted view of real journalism to plausible information, which has misquided people." (Amnesty International, Advanced Chat-GPT Immorality, 2023). Therefore, biased media has increased risk of plausible journalism to diminish democratic norms.

Furthermore, dual face of media also hides democratic reality. The continuous unawareness about democratic





principles becomes a rigid risk to democracy. Duality of media has become a cause of failure of democracy in the country. "The dilemma of media coverage regarding political participation expresses its duality." (Hinda Saleem, Democracy in conundrum, 2022). This statement indicates that biased media in its dual images threatens democracy.

Likewise, crackdown of civilian rights are major risks to democracy due to biased media. Undoubtedly, media is responsible to break people's constitutional rights through its massive biasness. Public rights, including freedom, liberty, equality, and participation have been threatened. "More than 14 millions of people are living in European countries possessing Pakistani Nationality due to the better life standards." (The United Nations, Civilian's Rights in Danger, 2020). Therefore, biased media has also cracked-down civilian rights posing a real threat to democracy.

Moreover, biased media has challenged to the national integration - a real threat to democracy. The prevalence of the



continuous misinformation breaks unity among people. This, as a result, promotes disintegration throughout the country, causing decline of democracy. "Period of manipulation leads to decline of the democracy because of break-down of Ashlah-unity." (Ibn-e-Khaldun, Rise and Fall of Civilization, 1400AD). Hence, biased media is challenging to the national integration - a major threat to democracy.

However, some rational steps mitigate impacts of biased media, and right to free press and fair press is one among them. Free and fair press is a tool to encourage democratic principles, hence, to encourage future of democracy. For this sake, the government's initiative to bound media platform is admirable. "The Government of Punjab has passed a notion to curb mis and dis-information by imposing fine of 3million PKR." (The Strategic Vision Institution, Fair Information among Public, 2024). Thus, encouragement of right to free and fair press leads to sustainable democracy.

Secondly, public awareness on





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democracy will also promote sustainable future of democracy. Democracy is based on public awareness and knowledge. Without role of public knowledge regarding democracy can not ensure stability. "Democracy is for people, of people, and by people." (Abraham Lincoln, The US-16th President). Therefore, public awareness on democracy promotes sustainable future of democracy.

Not only this, but promotion of fair digital democracy is also a soul of sustainable democracy. Public and political participation on media ensures strong mechanism of democracy. Fair digital media encourages and strengthens democratic principles by providing digital platform. "Launch of e-governance vision of 2019 by PTI-government paved a way to collaborate public and political participation and via Citizen Portal."





(Faisal Bari, E-Governance - Digital Democracy, 2010). This highlights that fair digital democracy is one of roots of sustainable future of democracy.

Last but not the least, engaging youth in democratic norms on media can also encourage sustainable democracy. Fortunately, engagement of people in the country's democracy is necessary for its future.

The youth need motivation to play their role in political system. According to Allama. Iqbal, Poet of East,

"Read a lesson of sincerity, morality,  
honesty, and unity  
You will be served as head of  
the state."

Thereby, these poetical verses highlight the importance of people in the country's democracy ensuring security of future.

In conclusion, prevalence of biased media is posing a serious risk to democracy. Undeniably, biased role of media has a direct affect on the democratic norms. Among evidence, political influence





on media is greatly responsible for biased role. Secondly, seek of information publicly also causes biased role of media. Not only this, but growing corruption factor is also paving a way for biased media. As a consequence, democracy has reached at stake. Threat to freedom of speech is a chief threat of biased media. Other consequences include bad governance dilemma, prohibition of peaceful public protest, and manipulation of public mindsets. These implications are threatening survival of democracy of the country. Undoubtedly, these challenges need very strict methodologies to mitigate impacts of biased media. Among them, ensuring free and fair press in the country, encouraging public awareness on democracy, and promoting fair digital democracy are top-listed. These fortunately, can ensure sustainable future of democracy. "I have come to free you from the servitude of god, and being you to the servitude of Lord." (Prophet Mehemmad P.B.U.H).