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1st Year, Journalism Hons.

Unit V
Role of Media in a Democracy

15/12/21
Lecture #6
(missed, ncc)

Double edged weapon: media
Protect or destroy democracy

Legislature, executive, judiciary, media. Media keeps watch on all the instructions whether they're acting within their defined boundaries
And makes public aware

Majority rule. Individual rights: equality and liberty. Representative democracy, direct democracy.

Multi-opposition parties is democracy.

Rule of law: equality of law for everybody.

Autocracy and democracy

Democracy: freedom of choice. Media has to protect this freedom

Constitution is supreme in India

Girl's facebook post

Role of media has been diluted with the advent of social media.
Watch dog. Speak truth to power.

A student is as good as their answers are. A journalist is as good as their questions are.
Democracy is when the ruling party lets you ask questions. China has one party rule.

"NEWS" ---- 3 p's of media: public impact (govt. policies), public interest (omicron info.), interesting to the public (celebrity weddings)

Media creates public opinion, and reflects that opinion to the government (messenger) ---- empowers people to enable them to get informed decisions.

Elections portray democracy. Informed decisions and individuals strengthen democracy.

* Jessica Lal murder case*

Public participates in the public domain through social media.
Media is supposed to be impartial. Judge issues on merit. It's not of any party.

Ownership: Durdarshan is a government influenced channel. Advertisements also influence the nature of information.

On the contrary, crowd funding and subscription is done to stay independent.

News is networked due to digital platforms these days.

Social media is a threat to democracy as it's biased. Fake news spreads 6x faster than the truth. Chicken masala and boiled potato.

Media is supposed to give u perspective, but these days they're giving u prejudices.

Newark: triumph of the trivial.

!People who use, tend to misuse!

Be skeptical and question anything that comes to you.

Media literacy

Fake news becomes instant news, e.g., 2000 rs note having chip.

Understand and analyse the bias behind a news

News literacy

Judging the reliability of the information or news. Difference between news and propaganda.

Separate fact from fiction #faction

[Jasleen, 15/12]

16/12/21
Tutorial #3

[Tutorial III](#)

18/12/21
Readings

Gandhian Ethics

- Self regulated "social responsibility" v external control
- Unchecked journalism as a destructive force
- SR theory
- General journalistic integrity principles* (manipulation of facts: X, distortion: X, sensationalism: X, accuracy & credibility: _/)
- Media as a service

*[ETHICS IN JOURNALISMpages.pdf/ETHICS IN JOURNALISMkey.pdf]

'Vibrance' of Democracy: legacy media + new media, diversity (vibrancy) of media as a measure of its health

Manipulation of TRP(Target Rating Points)s: Rigging (BARC(Broadcast Audience Research Council)), unethical, divisive

In the US:

- > World v Journal, Yellow epidemic
- > ASNE '22, Canons (renamed Statement of Principles in '75)
- > Hutchins Commission

Institutional Reform:

PCI: Nominal, Statutory

NBSA: Code of Ethics

Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, '95: Ministry of I&B

[GANDHIAN ETHICS IN JOURNALISM (1).pdf]

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Lecture #7

(sting)/blatant journalism: frowned upon, typically unethical & illegal (defamation & privacy laws). Exception: armed forces

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Lecture #8

Responsibility of Media to Society

General Consensus:

- Democratic behaviour
- Spreading awareness
- Transparency
- Watchdog of democracy (Keeping the govt in check)

I.e. working in the interest of public welfare

Textbook consensus:

- Watchdog
- Immediacy
- Exposés
 - Stings, media trials, PILs
 - Harshad Mehta, 2G, Commonwealth, Adarsh Housing Society, Cash for vote, Bouffours(?), Fodder Scam, Nirav, Mallya, Piyush Jain
- > just narration of events, I.e. an educational responsibility in a country like India.
 - Formation of public opinion not only happens to be influenced by media here but arguably directly controlled thus the media bears a dual & non negotiable responsibility (both to ppl & to polity)
 - case: IGNOU & AIR/Prasar Bharti
 - Doordarshan UP online school

Personal consensus:

[A Shared Delusion](#)

Apparent failure of media in fulfilling this responsibility:

- Nonsensical news items distracting from important subjects (case: Lake fashion week vs developmental stories), agenda setting theory
- Fake news
 - "Jama masjid 4cr bill electricity bill" debunked by alt news article
 - "Fatwa in Saudi Arabia says that men can eat their wives if hungry" Aaj Tak

People's participation: citizen journalism (social media?)

Internet: "proved to be more democratic" agreed
has the power to change govts, case1: Husni Mubarak, Egypt, case2: tunisia fruit vendor
(vanya), arab springs (meenakshi)

Media needs to be self regulated, etc (social responsibility theory)

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Readings

[Textbook](#)

Issues:

- Tendency to brand
- Bias & prejudice
- Social media darkside
- Paid news/non-issues/uncredibility/fact manipulation

[See: Lectures 7 & 8]