



Media Bias- Law, Politics & Crime

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ABSTRACT

Does media bias affect voting? We analyze the entry of fox news in cable markets and its impact on voting. Between 1996 and 2000, Republicans (America) gained 0.4 to 0.7 percentage points in the towns that broadcast fox news. The fox news effect could be a temporary learning effect for rational voters, or a permanent effect for nonrational voters subject to persuasion. The commentary provides an insight into the favourism of specific media organisation toward a political party that maybe due to a relation eith the party member or other financial or economic reason. This study will systematically analyse the impact of media bias on voters and politics and further linking it to criminology. The project will focus on the global issue giving it a brief insight of Indian scenario.

KEYWORDS : Fox News, Politics, Bias, Criminology

INTRODUCTION

In a country with a representative form of government, the political preferences and the beliefs of the voters largely affect the policy outcomes. The media plays a vital role in moulding these preferences and beliefs by collecting, summarizing, and framing the information that they have, which affect the voting decisions of people.

The political environment in a democracy is dynamic and uncertain thereby leading to confusion among voters who wonder as to whom to vote. Voters tend to interact with scholars and other sources of information to gather inputs about the candidates contesting for the elections and place their decision based on this. Media is one such critical potential source for such data. It has been traditionally seen as a key fixing in enhancing a well-working majority rule government. While the media reaches out to most of the voters with this potential part of giving data, there is a likewise significant concern among voters and political observers alike that the data provided may not be sufficiently dependable. Media inclination, in such state of affairs, may lead to poor choices because of going by biased reviews

Hence, a major consideration, thereby, is if the voters can reduce their reliance on biased reporting by identifying and differentiating biased opinions from genuine ones and hence choose a candidate or the corresponding political party wisely. In particular, according to recent survey data, approximately 40 percent of people ate indifferent to media.

These statistics do suggest that people do filter out bias while watching media report. Yet it is difficult to totally neglect the influence of bias in voting, the final outcome. The results do suggest that voters get practically influenced while choosing the candidate, at the same time discounting information from sources that are perceived to be politically biased.

Finally, it all depends on however the views method the knowledge and the way abundant are they aware so as to differentiate the bias, distortions in media coverage are unlikely to own massive effects on elector beliefs. During this rational world, media bias doesn't persuade voters. Alternative theories hold that, instead, media bias persuades voters. This might occur as a result of voters don't sufficiently account for bias within the media. This, in turn, may be a direct effect of the framing of news.

THE FOX NEWS EFFECT

The issue can be analysed empirically by considering the timing of the entry of the Fox News Channel in media coverage and its henceforth impact on voting. The 24 hours Fox News Channel ("Fox News" from here on) was introduced in Oct. 1996 by Rupert Murdoch. It saw a rapid growth expanding beyond 20 percent of U.S., reaching upto 17 percent of U.S. by June 2000 (Scar-borough Research data).

"The introduction of Fox News had a small but statistically significant effect on the vote share in Presidential elections between 1996

and 2000."

Does media bias affect voting? Over 70 percent of Americans believe that there is either a great deal or a fair amount of media bias in news coverage. Evidence of bias ranges from the topic choices of the New York Times to the choice of think tanks to which the media refer in their broadcasts.

In *The Fox News Effect: Media Bias and Voting*, authors Stefano DellaVigna and Ethan Kaplan addressed this issue. Between October 1996 and November 2000, the conservative Fox News Channel was introduced into the cable programming of 20 percent of American towns. The authors investigated the receipt of number of votes to the Republicans in those specific 9,256 towns where Fox News entered the cable market by the year 2000.

Statistically small, but Republicans gained a significant estimate of between 0.4 and 0.7 percentage points in the towns that broadcast Fox News including a significant effect on Senate vote share. 3 to 8 percent of its viewers were convinced to vote Republican according to a first audience measure, and 11 to 28 percent according to a second, more restrictive audience measure.

The authors moreover dissected whether Fox News influenced vote in those races wherever it neglected to cover the applicants specifically, similar to the case in most Senate races. In that approach, they're prepared to gauge whether the impact of Fox News is hopeful particular or whether it stretches out to general political perspectives. The scientists perceive that Fox News significantly amassed the Republican vote offer for Senate, by 0.8 extent focuses to boot, the effect wasn't bigger for the one official race that Fox News did cover vigorously, New York state race between Clinton and Rick Latium. Fox News appears to have evoked a summed up philosophical shift.

The way of the link business prompts generous topographical variety in access to Fox News. Link markets are characteristic syndications with ability imperatives on the amount of channels they give the procurement of Fox News in an exceedingly city relies on upon whether the local link organization chooses to highlight it to the programming, likely to the detriment of another channel. Link firms in neighbouring urban areas commonly manufacture totally distinctive decisions, making individual variety in access. this allows the creators to weigh tally designs in neighbouring urban communities that ar comparative separated from the procurement of Fox News. Their dataset covered twenty eight states.

Since Fox News was possible in regards to 35 percent of families in 2000, its effect on the national two-gathering vote impart that year is measurable to be 0.15 to 0.2 extent focuses, or 200,000 votes across the country. though this vote movement is minor contrasted with the specific 3.5 scientific documentation move inside the creators example somewhere around 1996 and 2000, its still conceivable to have

been definitive inside the close 2000 presidential races.

The creators furthermore delineate that their outcomes have suggestions for approach, as for the regulation of media focus. On the off chance that media inclination changes tally conduct, then liberating of media markets may have an outsized effect on political results.

FAVORISM TO SPECIFIC POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIA

"Indian media is highly politicized and politicized... a dangerous thing in a democracy..."

This truth got to be evident once the Radia tapes controversy came into the media spotlight in Nov 2010. Nira Radia, a political and business persuader, was discovered to be a piece of a huge nexus among government officials, specialists and columnists through that news was controlled. Names of senior and commended writers Barkha Dutt, Prabhu Chawla and Vir Sanghvi did crop up in this contestation however with media morals of keeping up high media guidelines lying in shreds, every one of despite everything them hold high positions even as the public trust in a partisan media erodes fast.

It is clear that the business of news has totally taken the welfare work a piece of news. Paid news isn't a disengaged occasion that happens right now along these lines, however rather it's turned into the standard. Once political news is essentially paid publicizing, its no entirely unexpected in business, film industry and games news comparatively. Since it is most news channels, daily papers, media homes and business endeavour homes square measure under control or controlled by government officials of different gatherings.

Following are few top newspapers of India that are prevalent to favour specific political parties in India.

The Hindu: The Hindu too has been open about its ideologies and doesn't shy away from being declared an organized left newspaper. It is controlled by the Kasturi family which has been sympathetic to the CPM.N Ram, the editor in chief of The Hindu till January 2012, is known to be a card carrying communist. The newspaper has attempted to hold a high level of journalism and maintained its cerebral nature, but it has not stopped readerships in recent years falling dramatically.

Indian Express: An extremely apparent case of political bias, Ramnath Goenka, founder of Indian Express Group being a RSS member was always right wing in its nature. His death lead to split of his company either of it following opposite loyalties. While The Indian Express supported congress, The New Indian Express continued to support NDA.

Hindustan Times: A reader can confidently say that he is reading a congress written newspaper. It has been publishing since freedom and since then it has been a speaker/ publisher for the Congress party. It has a great impact in the Capital. It is managed by Shobhana Bhartiya who is the daughter of industrialist KK Birla and was a Rajya Sabha member of the Congress Party till 2012.

Times of India: is one of the leading newspaper in India and has been trying to maintain a Nationalish approach but has not been able to shed its bias towards the UPA government. It acted as a voice of middle class during the protest by Anna Hazare against the congress led Government, a strategic move for business gains. However, any thoughtful reader can differentiate the voice of people and biasness.

History will judge the recently-concluded elections as republican India's first intensively televised elections. Never have close to four hundred news networks (they equal the number of entertainment networks, such is the saleability of "news" in our culture) in a bewildering variety of languages and dialects communicated political messages from an equally bewildering array of politicians and political actors across the country. But, equally, never have so many news networks dished out the same fare: Narendra Modi. The Narendra Modi persona, for good or for bad has been largely a television media construction, amplified by saturation-point coverage of the leader, spread out over more than six months—staggering and almost unprecedented, even by global standards. Only Barack Obama's campaign, which officially began in April 2011, for a second term in 2012, eclipses it.

POLITICS- CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Criminology's relation with politics should be looked at in a reconstructive manner, fulfilling the promises of modern democracy. This entails seeking to a better politics of crime and its regulation which means researching and experimenting with various types of social and political institutions, to influence to a great extent, inclusive and deliberative democratic politics

This requires a close and fruitful encounter between criminology and political sciences' analysis and theory. Such an encounter would inculcate and enhance the relation between theories and problems relating to criminology. This much needed step shall renew the institutional arrangements that govern the conduct of crime and criminal justice

There is a very important role of social science knowledge in politics and corresponding policy making. The correlation between knowledge and policy, which precisely hints to politics and evidence, is inevitable and essential. There's a deep connection between crime and politics, which has not been pointed out much but gets apparent when criminology is practiced at the crossing point between them.

As Parsons remarks, Democratic Professionalism: Citizen Participation and the Reconstruction of Professional Ethics, Identity, and Practice, University Park, PA: Penn State Press.), contrasting the version of evidence for policy promoted in Britain by New Labour with the earlier, and grander, aspirations of Lasswell's 'sciences of democracy', the latter:

focused on the fact that policy making took place in conditions of power inequalities and recognised that knowledge is utterly embedded in power and value contexts and relationships. The task of policy analysis was not to produce 'evidence' to drive policy, but to facilitate the clarification of values and contexts. This involved democratization, rather than simply modernization.

Customarily, criminological research and work accords significance to terms like justice, law and order, rights, authority, legitimacy etc. It sometimes takes control on the powers and limits of the state and other governing authorities dealing in crime control. By such and other means criminology mobilizes the concept of a better society, if not an ideal one.

Various criminologists are becoming engaged in promoting various experiments relating to security and justice. In the past few years, in response to the intolerant raising of the crime question, some researchers have supported institutions that can envelope crime and punishment from politics.

This sceptical, problem raising disposition should not be demeaned and devalued as it's an important part of what criminology can offer to a democratic polity. A forward-looking and imaginative 'criminology of possibilities' can usefully supplement the capability of thinking about how to approach the democratic politics of crime and its regulation in a better manner. Equipped with the range of intellectual resources needed to comprehend the shifting scenarios of crime and its regulation and control in a globalized world, there is a need to think creatively about the promise, risks, and limits of democratizing crime control.

Criminology, today, is facing with changing conditions of possibility and utilization. To live in a democracy, what we need is to attend to matters of crime and assess its regulation in these terms, that politics is seen as a site not only of competing interests, but also of conflict resolution and and like measures over the terms of collective existence.

CONCLUSION

The political content of a media source influences and mobilizes citizens who would cast vote in an election. This can be supported by the study on the impact of Fox News which has been overviewed in this article. The study provides evidence on the extent to which media can persuade potential voters.

But there are still a number of vital questions which have been not been answered completely, by the study enumerated above and oth-

er studies on the impact of the media.

First, do the media, by spreading their news and other information about political parties and candidates influence the already convinced or does it convince people to switch to another party? There is evidence that the effect of Fox News, at least to a degree, was due to the increased turnout of the already convinced latent Republicans. But the extent of the same can't be gauged.

Second, does media bias affect decisions of others beyond potential voters, and influence or govern other behaviour beyond voting? If noticed carefully, an observation can be made, with respect to other politically charged decisions like, the degree of political activism, the predisposition to contribute money to various political causes, etc. The reason as to this could be the pressure that the media puts on all parties during elections and the ruling party otherwise, which may also affect the quality of decisions made at the time.

Third, who, in most likelihood, can be influenced and persuaded by the media? An extensive literature and study of the political science tries to determine when political preferences are formed. This includes whether the younger generation of today is most affected by political messages given by the media.

Fourth, does media exposure change policies? The impact of media on policy-making has not been examined directly; hence the question remains partially answered.

Fifth, what are the reasons for the media to have an impact on voting? Evidence has been provided so as to differentiate rational updating from irrational persuasion, firm conclusions cannot be drawn. Understanding the exact channels through which the media influences potential voters is important from a policy perspective as well as a research one.

The irony here is that the media, on one hand, seldom permits the creation of news content potential of reflecting a country's unfolding diversity, which is chiefly visible during elections while talking about "deepening democracy" within the confines of the studio.

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