

Editorial



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The presence of relatively free media has changed lives mostly for the better. Media has played an important role in connecting the world even before internet. Today information travels faster due to the availability of numerous independent television channels. Due to its reach and real time information sharing, the electronic media has the major piece of the pie when it comes to impacting people. At PIDE, we try to understand and look at different perspectives of different phenomenon and bring new perspectives for our readers. We have devoted this issue to the political economy of news media.

In the main, this P&R talks about the influence of news media on our lives through its power to drive the narrative on the issues of public concern. We focus on the evolution of news media in Pakistan, analyze the way news programs are conducted, the ethics of media professionals individually and news media in general, the role of the government and state institutions in nurturing or suppressing freedom of expression while also assessing whether media hides behind this fundamental right to feed fake news. In other pages, senior anchorperson and journalists are, for a change, on the other side of the table, facing probing questions without any shouting match. Business models of media houses are assessed by trained economic analysts. Last, but not the least, the future of media in the wake of the rise and rise of digital journalism and the likely response of electronic and print media.

Although it has given an advantage of keeping the information alive and keeping people up to date, do you think it has also misused its capacity to play with the minds of people? Is the recent legislation proposed by the government aims to do just that – more? We hope you have fun reading this informative (literally) issue on news media and give us your feedback at policy@pide.org.pk.

Happy Reading