Media’s Role in War Against Terrorism

Media has a vital role in democratic countries. Its role and influence have been so enormous that now it is considered as the forth pillar of the pillar of the state. It is believed that in modern democracy, media keeps an eye on legislature, judiciary and executive and at the same time formulates their policies and their undertakings. Therefore, they have an opportunity to fulfill their responsibilities and try to defend themselves as required.

However, for them to happen, it is necessary that media should be independent and must not be dominated by the government. Apart from scrutinizing the government actions, media has a duty to defend the public opinion and at the same time providing timely information and knowledge. Today’s modernized media has the capacity to reach the people 24 hours and provide them information in real time. There are many instances where the people who are influenced by the bewildering effects of media, TV’s, computers, newspapers and magazines, radios, mobile phones, tablets and many others, all are part of the modernized media and much influence people every day. Hence, understanding the role of media would be a fool’s errand.

Though media’s role in daily life is already significant, its role during the era of instability, conflict, war and different movements becomes paramount. Because of this fact, the different parties to the conflict try to use it for different sorts of propaganda and thus persuade the people to favor their perspectives. The independent and unbiased role of media during such an era will definitely make the whole world see the truth, while its biased role may bring more miseries and injustices.

Considering the influence and role of media in the modern world, it is really important that it should have a very responsible and wise character. Misinformation and too much sensationalized and dramatic versions of the truth may deceive the people away from the path of the truth and they may start believing untrue as true and may even play a role to further dominate the truth. Afghanistan has been one of the countries that have been dominated by instability and conflict. The role of media in Afghanistan has been felt to be very much vital, but unfortunately, it has been developed only in the last decade. Today, it is claimed that Afghan media is independent, yet there are many issues that have to be dealt with in order to make it free and independent in the true sense of the word. At the same time, the international media active in Afghanistan has also played a role that cannot be neglected at all.

The role of media, both national and international, in the last decade, especially in the era of war against terrorism has been very much important. It has disclosed to the people the real nature of the war and the parties to the conflict. It has brought to the people, the events and the incidents with their details and their horrors. Analyzing these incidents and events; it would not be difficult for the people of Afghanistan to understand their true enemies and friends. It is a duty of a media to make people feel about their true enemies and their true friends so that they must be able to choose the better between them.

Though the media reports and analysis have clearly shown to the people of Afghanistan that they have been highly influenced by Taliban and Daesh, and also that they have been the victims of the war, the role and activities of Taliban have proved to be more deadly for them. Reports and media reports about the deeds of some Taliban leaders have been circulated among the people. It is believed that Taliban and Al-Qaeda are the enemies of an extremist nation with no respect for modernization and democracy. However, there is an important aspect of the fact that has not been properly handled by media and it is that the truth as a whole. The truth is that the portrayal promulgated both by national and international media has caused resentment and sporadic violence among the people of Afghanistan. This has happened due to the attacks as well as by the actions of the Taliban and the insurgents against a war against terrorism in true sense. The war against terrorism simply means that there are two parties to the conflict; first party is the moderate Afghan culture and their support in international community and the second is composed of the religious extremists – the Taliban and other extremist religious groups.

It is important for media to see the truth as a whole and try to understand the real situation. The media must not only propagate the policies. It is not the duty of media to pursue the wills of the politicians, but to provide people with unbiased information about the war. It is the duty of the media to make people aware of the events mostly influenced by hardliner extremists, who have no respect for democracy and freedom. It is a duty of media to protect the people against terrorism. It is an important point they are termed as; the important factor is what they do and not what they say.

Pursuing the truth as a whole is the only way through which media can support the people in their efforts to fight with them and their real friends and enemies, which is very important to make better decisions for the country as a whole.