



WELCOME
II M.COM

SUBJECT:MEDIA AND SOCIETY

TOPIC:PUBLIC SPHERE




PUBLIC SPHERE

The public sphere is the arena (A place of debate or conflict or scene of activity) where citizens come together, exchange opinions regarding public affairs, discuss, deliberate, and eventually form public opinion.



DEFINING THE PUBLIC SPHERE


German sociologist Jürgen Habermas,
“The public sphere is situated between private households on the one hand, and the state on the other. It is a space “where free and equal citizens come together to share information, to debate, to discuss, or to deliberate on common concerns.”



ACTORS IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE

1. The public

The traditional understanding of the public refers to an imaginary group of people that are connected through their mutual interest in one or several issues of public concern.



2. Civil society

Civil society is constituted by organizations and activities that have no primary political or commercial character, and are not motivated by profit or power. Under certain circumstances they can become part of the public sphere.

Examples: Labour unions non-profit organizations, churches, other service agencies.

3. Public officials.

The state is not a part of the public sphere, but it has the capacity, and even the obligation, to be an actor in the public sphere. In the democratic public sphere, public authorities listen to the public and determine the public will, communicate their own issues and positions, and provide information about decisions and actions. examples : official authority, who holds a legislative administrative.

4. THE MEDIA

The media— The mass media “have central significance in the creation of an institutional (infra) structure enabling the organization of the general interest both nationally and internationally.”

In addition to providing communication channels, the mass media also introduce and shape topics of public discussion.



5. PRIVATE ACTORS

Private actors—When private citizens or corporations enter the public sphere, they usually do so to promote private or public interests. In the latter case, they become part of the public.



PUBLIC OPINION

Public opinion is a product of the public sphere, and a crucial concept in governance and political decision making.

