



Media DIGEST

October - December 2019
Volume - IV



Women
are working
from dawn
to dusk which
has never been
exposed through media
Dr. Kaberi Gayen



Media and
Information
Literacy is bound to
become a societal goal
Dr. Jude

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FEW WORDS

New Year greetings! Here comes the Volume-IV of Media Digest, media literacy bulletin which is an initiative by South Asia Center for Media in Development (SACMID) to promote media literacy among the people of all ages in Bangladesh. SACMID has entered into 2020 with specific mission and vision. In this era of digitalization, media has got new dimensions and shape. The transitional period of media has enabled people to get introduced with social media and internet.

People of Bangladesh are now exploring social media like Facebook, YouTube, Viber, WhatsApp and numerous new media frequently. But, they don't have enough understanding regarding the security and other issues of social media and internet. So, netizens are getting manipulated easily by fake news, misinformation, disinformation and propaganda while surfing internet. It is on this context, media and information literacy has become the most pertinent issue that is related to the process of digitalization. Though, the issue is introduced very recently to the world, experts are showing their concern to make people media literate. The penetration of social media and internet is rapid and unstoppable. So, all should have at least some elementary knowledge regarding media and information literacy before entering into the world of internet so that they can save themselves from cyber bullying, fake news, harassments and other security problems.

This volume is enriched with Expert's opinion regarding issues around media and media literacy, young netizen's write ups and other interesting thoughts that will certainly draw the attention of the readers and add some ideas about media and information literacy.

Media Digest- a quarterly publication on media literacy is an initiative of SACMID's project entitled "Promoting Media Literacy in Bangladesh" which aims to engage Bangladeshi people in the world of media and information literacy. This volume is jointly published by South Asia Center for Media in Development (SACMID) and University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). We convey our gratitude to our interviewees, writers, our young netizens, teachers, academics and others who have contributed to publish this issue of Media Digest. We also acknowledge the continuous support of Free Press Unlimited (FPU). We will appreciate any suggestion and critical inputs from our readers. Your support is our inspiration.

Media Digest - a media literacy bulletin
(for internal distribution among the stakeholders)
Volume 4, October - December 2019

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Editorial Team

“Media and Information Literacy is bound to become a societal goal”

Dr. Jude William Genilo

Media Digest: You are aware that SACMID is working on Media and Information Literacy through a few interventions, targeting only the secondary level students, and only a very small portion of the community is being addressed through this way. How can it be widened and who can be the important players to collaborate in the process of media literacy wider interventions in Bangladesh?

Dr. Jude: Media and Information Literacy is bound to become a societal goal. We need to do this in Bangladesh. Otherwise, we will suffer the consequences of widespread illiteracy, which can make our society unproductive, dysfunctional and chaotic. In light of this,

the important players in MIL would definitely include schools, colleges and universities as we would like to have media literate graduates who possess the necessary skills to evaluate and create media content. However, adults should also become media literate. Hence, the other players must include the government, private sector and non-government organizations. Media and Information Literacy (MIL) workshops should be conducted in business establishments and government offices. One the mainstream media. It needs to secure and maintain its integrity and credibility in news making. It has a large stake in making citizens media literate.

Media Digest: Do you feel that at the moment combating fake news and rumor should be the priority area of media literacy competency area that we need to address first? Pl give your opinion.

Dr. Jude: Some incidents in the country's recent past has shown that combating fake news and rumors should be a priority concern. We are aware of what happened in Bhola last October 2019. A protest rally went out of control; resulting in the death of four people and 100 injured. Of those injured, 42 were sent to the hospital for treatment. The rally was organized to protest hateful comments on Islam, Allah, and the Prophet Muhammad spread from a hacked Facebook account of a Hindu youth. This is just the latest of a string of events resulting in religious violence in the country. It will not be the last. It will continue if we cannot successfully combat fake news and rumors. We really need to make our populace media literate.



“ we need to examine first what is the existing curriculum of secondary schools relating to ICT. Is the content covering MIL and MIL skills? If not, we would need to add to what is in the curriculum.”

If you take a look at how many organizations are engaged in MIL education, you would find only a few. ULAB and SACMID collaborating together is a very unique initiative

Media Digest: One of the important strategic area of SACMID’s work for media literacy is to address the loopholes of existing ICT content and curriculum for the students and that demands a thorough revision, which SACMID describes it as a structural intervention. What is your idea about that? Would you please describe your role as an Academics?

Dr. Jude: Based on the UNESCO curriculum, MIL should use three approaches - explore, engage and empower. In exploring, the learners should be able to identify, access and retrieve information and media content skillfully. In engaging, the students analyze and evaluate media and information critically. In empowering, the students create, produce, share or communicate as well as use information and media content safely, ethically and responsibly for decision-making and taking action. Our role as academics is to construct learning modules that will attain these MIL outcomes. In light of this, we need to examine first what is the existing curriculum of secondary schools relating to ICT. Is the content covering MIL and MIL skills? If not, we would need to add to what is in the curriculum. Once we have the content sorted out, we move towards teaching methodology. Lastly, we assess the learning of the students. What is their level of MIL?

Media Digest: We would like to congratulate you that SACMID has signed an MoU with ULAB to work on partnership with your MSJ Department on different issues of media development, including media literacy. How do you see its prospect?

Dr. Jude: The prospect is tremendous. If you take a look at how many organizations are engaged in MIL education, you would find only a few. ULAB and SACMID collaborating together is a very unique initiative. A unique initiative that addresses a very critical need at a very crucial time in the country's development. My hope is for more organizations to collaborate with. The aim of MIL for all Bangladeshis is an enormous challenge. ULAB and SACMID are simply planting the seeds. We should help each other sustain our initiative - help it grow. In the end, my aspiration is for our mission to be accomplished.

Dr. Jude William Genilo

Professor and Head
Media Studies and Journalism Department
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

Interview taken on December 04, 2019
by SACMID team

Women are working from dawn to dusk which has never been exposed through media

Dr. Kaberi Gayen



Media Digest: Would you please mention any recent significant research around the topic- "Portrayal and presentation of women in media and their positions in media houses of Bangladesh."

Dr. Kaberi: There are number of researches on women portrayal in media. I can recall Mr. Rubayat Ferdous and Sharmin Madam's research work on this topic. Geeti Ara Nasrin has also done a research on women portrayal in media. A few students of our (Journalism & Mass Communication) department are still working on this. Recently a number of researches have been done specially on women participation and their position in media.

Media Digest: What are the reasons behind the discrimination of portrayal & positioning of women in media?
Once Journalism was a male dominated sector. Few masculine words were used in Journalism literature. For example: camera-man, production boy and so on. Nowadays, women are entering the world of media. But, the participation is not that much rapid due to motion inertia. People are still having the typical mindset

regarding journalism as this discipline is particularly visible for male. However, the scenario of women journalism is becoming better compared to last 10 years. Globally only 3- 4% women are in the position of a decision maker which we call cloud position. Women are now taking journalism as profession in Bangladesh as well. They are working efficiently and sincerely. But unfortunately they are not portrayed properly.

The first challenge comes to a female journalist when she gets married and becomes a mother. Because, journalism is a pretty much challenging profession which demands shifting duty. In this situation, she highly needs support from family, society and the media house where she works. Depressingly, neither her family nor the society is supportive to her. Therefore, a female journalist has to compromise her career and becomes a mother. When she comes back to her work, she finds her male colleagues much more advanced in career than her. Moreover, we are still having the traditional mindset that males are the bread earner, not the females. The country can play important role by establishing day care center with good facilities for working women. But, our country did not come forward to take this responsibility.

Another important thing is that the women journalists are specifically assigned to work either women bit, children bit or cultural bit. They have never been assigned to work in the area of defense, business or budget. It is quite unlikely to find any investigative report by women journalists.

Media Digest: Media landscape is now facing a transitional period. Traditional media is going to be transformed into digital media. Are the female media workers ready to cope up with this change?

I believe, women media workers are obviously ready to work in this transitional period of media. But, there are some issues as well. While transforming from one technology to another technology every media worker (male, female or transgender) requires training. But women are left behind from many capacity enhancement activities which may upgrade their skills and knowledge. So it depends mostly on particular training and capacity building programs which can prepare the female journalists to adopt new technologies.

Media Digest: What measures can be taken by media houses to ensure gender equality in media?

Dr. Kaberi: Every media house should have specific policy on women presentation on media. We find only a few news where women are mentioned as the source of news apart from any rape case or any accident. Female participation is mostly absent in the news which are related to defense or budget and so on. Women of different ages are working from dawn to dusk which has never been exposed through media. Rather media has still a tendency to show that women are doing nothing. Media houses should also be aware of choosing the words during the presentation of women. News related to women are not getting priority in media. I think, Positive discrimination for women workers can be addressed by media institutions to ensure gender parity.

Media Digest: What measures can be taken at policy level to represent women in media with dignity and honor?

Dr. Kaberi: Government can play a vital role to ensure gender equality in journalism sector. Government can adopt gender sensitive policy to eliminate disparity. Information Ministry can take initiative to make media institutions adopt appropriate gender guideline in their institutions. According to Citizen Charter 2008, one third female should participate at decision making level in media houses. Before adopting western model in terms of women participation in job market, we have to prepare the gender sensitive infrastructure, policy and so on.

Dr. Kaberi Gayen

Professor & Chairman
Department of Mass Communication and Journalism
Dhaka University

Interview taken on December 23, 2019
by Urmila Sarker

Promoting media literacy in Bangladesh

In recent years the media landscape in Bangladesh is quickly developing. As in other parts of South Asia, electronic and online media are increasing at a fast pace in Bangladesh. As such, these developments combined with the rise of social media create an abundance of information, causing confusion as to which information to trust. In this developing landscape, the importance of media literacy is increasing rapidly.

Young people today are growing up in a digital world of social media. They experience it as a 'natural' extension of (offline) society. This digital content both helps them form their opinions and influences their decisions. News reports circulated via social media platforms are not necessarily complete and reliable. It is therefore important that young social media users learn to judge the reliability of various sources of information. We know very little about how youth relate to the news they consume and how they differentiate between reliable and less reliable information. Furthermore the existing research is primarily or exclusively focused on youth living in Western countries. They do point to the fact that young people do not develop these skills automatically. Regarding disinformation for instance, a study found that "[a]mong children who have shared a news story online in the last six months, 31 percent say they shared a story that they later found out was wrong or inaccurate". Youth often lack the tools to effectively assess the completeness and reliability of this news coverage: one study found that less than half (44 percent) of participating children agreed that they know how to differentiate between fake and real news stories. These studies illustrate why it is important

that young social media users learn to judge the reliability of various sources of information.

In 2014, 2015 and 2016 unverified and in many cases even outright false information provoked hundreds of cases of social unrest and even killings in Bangladesh in at religious minorities, bloggers, free thinkers, academics and foreign citizens. Ever since it has become a serious concern both for media and educators, as well as for government and authorities, as it gets increasingly difficult and requires a lot of efforts on the part of the receiving audiences (especially for children and youth) to sort out the truth from mis- and disinformation. It is on this backdrop Free Press Unlimited has intervened and undertook a pioneering initiative — "Promoting Media Literacy in Bangladesh" through a joint collaboration with its strategic partner — South Asia Centre for Media in Development (SACMID).

In 2018 SACMID successfully conducted a media literacy survey on students in Dhaka and Tongi. Encouraged by the interesting findings of the study from last year, the present study was expanded so that it gives a more accurate representation of the entire country. In the present study, a total of 2,400 students were included in the survey, spread out over 24 different schools, each in a different district. On top of this, Focus Group Discussions were organized for parents and teachers, and 5 Key Informant Interviews were conducted with various experts on media literacy in Bangladesh. As such, this report provides a complete and accurate overview of the status of media literacy in Bangladesh, as seen from different perspectives.

The survey has explored interesting findings with regard to media access, media use, social media use, media competencies, and knowledge on media laws. They found that the percentage of students who have access to each medium is above 85% for books, TV, and smartphones. Interesting to note is that 73% of students depend on their parents for using a phone. The most important medium to get current news is still television and the second is from interpersonal network. 61.4% of the surveyed students use social media, out of which 82.5% use social media to read and share news. The students also indicated that they find news from TV and newspapers more trustworthy than news found in online media, but that 80% of them still sometimes verify the news that they consume. Lastly, the study found that only about one third have sufficient knowledge about cyber-crimes to take action if they become victims.

Although the survey indicates that students increasingly become more media literate and verify and cross-check information, still a lot of progress can be made when it comes to media literacy of secondary schools and madrasah students. Furthermore, it is possible that adolescents are already ahead of other age groups when it comes to media literacy, which is something that could be included in a future study. Therefore, SACMID recommends that educational programs should be implemented on media literacy. To aid with this, SACMID is already developing a curriculum on media literacy for secondary school students.

Media literacy in Bangladesh is, in part because of the efforts of SACMID, increasingly emerging as an important topic on the political agenda. More people are aware of the negative consequences that a lack of knowledge on media and information can have, and the ways through which media literacy can be improved. Still, there is a lot of work that needs to be done. Media literacy continues to be a relatively new concept in Bangladesh and the only way to make significant changes is through a structural intervention strategy with multiple partners.

For FPU, this (media literacy) is one of the focus area to work on. Lack of media literacy is a growing concern in other parts of the world too and FPU addresses it as a global agenda. Our youth is our future and making them resilient for misinformation as well as making them aware of the risks will provide a well informed and responsible citizenship able to make a great contribution to both their own world as well as the world around them. We wish SACMID all the best in their efforts to promote media literacy in Bangladesh.

“Media literacy continues to be a relatively new concept in Bangladesh and the only way to make significant changes is through a structural intervention strategy with multiple partners. For FPU, this (media literacy) is one of the focus area to work on.”



Annelies Langelaar

Programme Coordinator
South and South East Asia
Free Press Unlimited
The Netherlands
People deserve to know

Online hate speech

can media information literacy be a tool to counter?

Md. Aminul Islam

Faculty, Department of Media Studies and Journalism
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)

Introduction

Communication is at the heart of what it means to be human. With the help of varieties of communication modes, people get connected to each other. The connection and the sense of being connected is a fundamental instinct of human being. With this connection, an individual make sense of his/her human existence in the world, multiple identities, belongings to, association with and sense of security. Various communication technologies had made possible to get more connected than ever in history of human being. Today we live in a hyper connected society. Communication scholars define it as network society. This hyper-connectivity and network are mainly based upon the fundamentals of human instinct—the desire for contact, relations and bonding with others. New communication technologies and interaction platforms are renewing, reshaping and reconstructing our worldviews, sense of realities and perceptions. The technologies, especially social media platforms, have greatly helped to establish contact between people eliminating the barrier of time and

space, and blurred the line between personal/impersonal and public/private. It also has created a new avenue for spread and propagation of hate speech, dominance, superiority and social conflict. A critical look in the online posts, shares, likes, tweets, comments and product reviews reveals that there is a high prevalence of toxic, inflammatory and dangerous speeches targeting individuals, groups, communities and companies. Online hate speech has become an issue of global concern today. In many parts of the world, the prevalence and spread of hate speeches on online platforms have fuelled horrific real-world hate-crimes. Bangladesh is no exception to this phenomenon. This article outlines the interplay between hate speech, online social interaction platforms and conflict in the society from the context of Bangladesh. It argues that Media Information Literacy (MIL) can be a tool to counter hate speech. It also explores the root cause and impact of hate speech and presents definitions given by various online technology companies and social media platforms.



There are multiple challenges in countering hate speech. The challenges include: linguistic diversity, contextuality of hate speech and freedom of speech. Language is a tool to express and perceive the reality, at the same time is a barrier to express the reality.

Hate speech

There is no unanimous and universal definition, characterization, and taxonomy of hate speech. The definitions of the phenomenon vary depending on society, community, nation, law and platform. In a simpler form, hate speech can be understood as any form of content communicated in real or virtual world that directly attacks individual, group, community and nation as whole based on: race,

ethnicity, nationality, religious faith and belief and non-belief, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, serious illness, language, skin color, political beliefs, social status, property, birth, age, mental health, disability and disease. The attacks may be in the form of violent or dehumanising speech, statements of inferiority, or calls for exclusion or segregation.

Facebook defines hate speech as: "...a direct attack on people based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, caste, sex, gender, gender identity and serious disease or disability..."

YouTube defines hate speech as: "...content promote violence or hatred against individuals or groups based on any of the following attributes: age, caste, disability, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, nationality, race, immigration status, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, victims of a major violent event and their kin, veteran status..."

LinkedIn defines hate speech as: "...attacking people because of their race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, political or religious affiliations, or medical or physical condition..."

Google define hate speech as: "...content that promotes or condones violence against individuals or groups based on race or ethnic origin, religion, disability, gender, age, nationality, veteran status, or sexual orientation/-gender identity, or whose primary purpose is inciting hatred on the basis of these core characteristics..."

Yahoo defines hate speech as: "...any content that is unlawful, harmful, threatening, abusive, harassing, tortious, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, libelous, invasive of another's privacy, hateful, or racially, ethnically, or otherwise objectionable..."

The roots of hate speech
Hate speech is an extreme form of prejudice, nationalism, racism, intolerance, bigotry, evangelism and chauvinism. In a broader perspective, the roots of hate speech can be categorized as follows: social, political, cultural, religious, and ethnic. Most often hate speeches originate from the followings: fear, intolerance, illiberalism, decreasing social trust and social capital, supremacist attitude, ignorance or anger and lack of meaningful communication between/among members of communities and groups.

Impact of hate speech

Hate speech is can be jeopardy to democratic values, social stability and peace. It can affect the fundamental aspects of the society by destroying social relationships, cohesion, harmony and stability upon which a society is built. It can have an upsetting impact on the way it shapes the victim's views and attitudes toward life, sense of identity, relationships and trusts. The victims, either individual or groups, may experience psychological distress, traumatic stress, lower self-esteem, decreasing feeling of safety and security, depression, anxiety, anger, feeling of unwelcome and unsafe in the community.

Online hate speech

Online hate speech can happen in multiple ways—publicly and privately. It spread through public social media posts, comments, likes, shares, tweets, websites and forums. Meanwhile, social media, messaging apps, dating apps and emails are vehicle of spreading hate speech privately. It can be expressed through use of use hateful images or symbols in profile image or profile header, username, display name, or profile bio. Hate speech can spread online through words, images and images that call glorifying violence against an individual, a group or community; humiliate, hurt and offend any identity, faith, belief, belonging to and association with any group or community; violence of privacy, stalking harassment. Online hate speech occurs when offensive, upsetting or inflammatory posts and comments are made, and trolling to hurt and provoke a response. Moreover, it can happen: damaging personal

image by making false comments; accusing of things an individual did not actually do; misleading other people into threatening someone; stealing identity, setting up profiles of an individual without his/her consent; publishing personal information which include photos, videos, blackmail; and encouraging other people to be abusive or violent towards groups of people

Several studies indicate that online social interaction platforms may encourage groupthink, communities of belief and aggression. The very structure and design of the platforms influence the dimensions of social interaction, patterns of behavior, attitudes and phenomena. Groupthink is a pattern of thought when people involved in a cohesive group do not critically evaluate all the information available to them, and reach any firm decision without seeking realistically alternative to their beliefs, faith, knowledge and course of action. The groupthink lead toward posting, sharing, commenting, liking, tweeting, retweeting and uploading of any content that might be either fake or true. So, groupthink may be a root cause of being viral fake news, misinformation, disinformation and mal-information. Hence, the platforms become tool for fueling the spread of hatred.

Social media platforms are becoming a space for dumping emotional garbage. The platforms allow the spread and share of messages in ways that was never possible before. Interactions on virtual environment can have real impact, and often its leads to more crimes against minorities. For example, the recent of Bholra and Barisal in 2019. Fake message on Facebook claiming that it insulted Prophet Mohammad from a Hindu man's messenger triggered violence resulting death of four people and destruction of Hindu homes and temples. In 2012, a photoshoped image of burned Quran on Buddhist boy's Facebook page triggered violence which resulted in destruction of 50 Buddhist homes and 12 temples. In several other incidents online social media platform Facebook was used to spread hatred which led to escalating violence, killing and damages of properties. The most damaging thing was the diminishing of relationship of trust, respect and cohabitation for years. Empirical evidences show that hateful content diffuse farther, wider and faster and have a greater outreach than those of non-hateful.

Countering hate speech

There are multiple challenges in countering hate speech. The challenges include: linguistic diversity, contextuality of hate speech and freedom of speech. Language is a tool to express and perceive the reality, at the same time is a barrier to express the reality. Some words and expressions may be hateful apparently. But the communicator might not intend to express hatred rather those words and expression might be sarcasm and humor. The contextuality is another problem to combat hate speech as it is embedded in contexts and cultures. Some words and expressions may be perceived offensive in one community, but other community may not perceive as hateful. On the other hand, misclassification can result in curtail of individuals' freedom of expression.

Media information literacy can be one of the weapons to combat hate speech and its consequences as it enhances critical thinking and prevent being trapped into groupthink. It raises awareness about hate speech and its impact. A media information literate person can identify and assess hate speech by analyzing common causes and deciphering embedded meaning, underlying assumptions and prejudices; recognizing biased behaviours and reporting and exposing hate speech. The person can respond to hate speech by writing against and changing the discourse of hate speech.

A media literate person can report the message to the social media platform requesting removal hate content; can ask the page administrator or the moderator to remove the message and react to the hate speech; decipher the content of the statement; refute false claims with facts and reliable sources; express his/her disbelief and displeasure; does not get provoked to response in an emotional and hateful outburst.

Conclusion

Hate speech is a complex, complicated and multi-dimensional phenomenon to deal with. The line between hate speech and freedom of speech is very thin. Media information literacy can be a tool to combat hate speech and its consequences. Moreover, researches are required to measure the prevalence of hate crimes and evaluating the impact of crime from the context of the country.



MoU signed between SACMID and ULAB

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between South Asia Center for Media in Development (SACMID) and University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) to contribute jointly in promoting media and information literacy in Bangladesh. In the MoU signing ceremony was held at ULAB on 8 December 2019 where Professor H. M. Jahirul Huq, Vice Chancellor, ULAB and Syed Kamrul Hasan, Deputy Director, SACMID has signed on behalf of ULAB and SACMID respectively. Dr. Jude William Jenilo, Professor, Media Studies and Journalism Department, ULAB and Afia Pina, Program Coordinator, SACMID has signed as witness.

Monitoring Findings Newspaper's Content Analysis

Prothom Alo, Daily Ittefaq From 1 April to 15 April 2019

Media (newspaper, radio, television) and social media (facebook, twitter) are a part of culture and society. It is widely accepted that media are transmitters of culture and engines behind globalizing cultures and reshaping relationship. In countries of high media density, there is no aspect of society on which media have not had an impact, albeit to varying degrees. Media can also be framed as social actors in and of themselves, with the power to give impetus to social development.

In the light of gender parity in line with SDG-5, gender monitoring in media is now one of the time demanding concerns across the globe. Considering it's importance, South Asia Center for Media in Development (SACMID) has started media monitoring of gender contents as an on-going research under its current project titled "Promoting Media Literacy in Bangladesh" supported by Free Press Unlimited.

Online Portals: Between the two

online portals, a total of 60 stories from Banglanews24 and 60 stories from Bangla Tribune were taken to monitor. So, a total of 120 stories were monitored in the light of gender parity from the respective online portals.

Between the two print newspapers, 90 stories from Prothom Alo and 90 stories from Ittefaq newspaper were taken to monitor in light of gender parity. So, a total of 180 stories were monitored in the light of gender parity from the respective online portals.

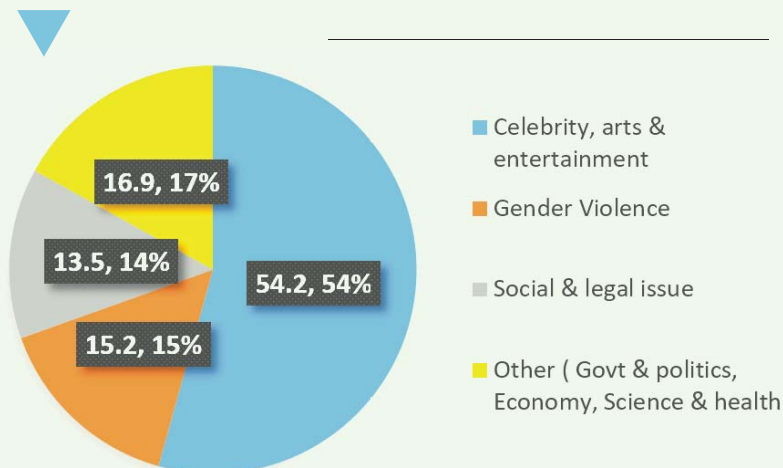
Topic/Women Picture

Media has a tendency to portray men as either from the head up or fully clothed, the comparative frequency with which women's bodies are pictured in various states of slightly dressed is much higher.

Among the total (180 stories), 59 stories added female pictures, 56 stories added male picture, 12 stories attached graphics and 45 stories did not attach any picture.

The study of gender monitoring of media exposed that a large amount of women pictures are encompassed in celebrity, art and entertainment news which is 54.2% stories. 15.2% stories added female pictures those are classified under gender violence. It indicates that media has a tendency to illustrate women as vulnerable, fragile, victim of an accident. 13.5% stories also attached female photo which are based social & legal issue. 16.9% stories included women picture which are based on Government & politics, economy, science & health related issue.

Women Picture's Percentage



Quotation/ Sex

This study also discovered that 155 stories mentioned a specific person's speech or quotation. Among them 68 stories mentioned women speech directly whereas male are directly quoted in 87 news which is higher than those of women. This ratio certainly breaks gender parity.

Function (First leading character) / Person's Sex

There are several people in a story, some of them may have the same function. But the story could be about two people, in which case both of these people have marked as subject.

Furthermore, if two people of a particular news played the most dominant role then first person has been considered as first leading character. However, second person has been considered as second leading character.

According to the study findings, total 148 stories portrayed a person as most prominent character of respective stories. Among them female character has been marked as major character or subject within 66 stories. 72 stories highlighted a male as the most prevailing character of the news.

A total of 6 stories portrayed a person as an expert considering his/her expertise. Among them 3 stories marked a female as an expert. Equal number of stories also described a male character as an expert.

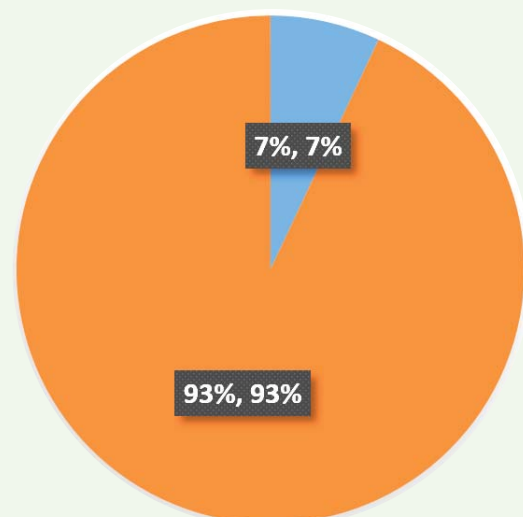
Function (Second leading character)/ Person's Sex

Findings showed that total 67 stories portrayed a person as most prominent character of respective stories. Among them female character has been marked as major character or subject within 20 stories. 47 stories highlighted a male as the most prevailing character of the news. A clear gender disparity was noticed considering the second leading character of particular news.

A total of 42 stories portrayed the second leading person as an expert considering his/her expertise. Among them 7% stories marked a female as an expert although 93% stories also described a male character as an expert. Therefore, it can be said media has tendency to portray a male personality as an skilled & proficient rather than women.

Percentage of Story

■ Female Expert
■ Male Expert





Thank you Youtube

Hello friends! Firstly, I want to say that I am a great cricket lover. I am a member of Clemon Academy which is located in Indira Road. One evening I got surprise to know that I have been included into a short boundary match. Before that I was not habituated to play short boundary match. But it was really difficult for me to learn about short boundary within such a short time. Meanwhile, I shared this situation with one of my senior cousins. He suggested me to take help from YouTube. I started watching all sorts of video regarding short boundary match. From those videos I could learn how to play short boundary matches. During the match, I applied all techniques which I have learnt from the videos. So I can say Youtube is one of learning sources which can be used anytime.

Md. Fiayaz Hossain
Class: 9, Faizur Rahman
Ideal School

Keep Away from Fake ID

Fake ID has created lots of problems in recent time. Once I had a friend, her name was Shanta. She was soft and sober. One day someone sent her friend request on facebook with a fake picture. Unfortunately she was unable to identify the fabricated picture. So she has accepted the friend request. A few days later they became virtual friends. They did chat very often. She has also shared some information about her. After a few months that girl asked for some money to my friend. Shanta managed the money and gave it to her. Meanwhile, the virtual friend left facebook and remained beyond communication. My friend tried her best to get her virtual friend back but she failed. Thus my friend has been victimized through social media.

Nusrat Jahan Nadia
Class: 10
School: Civil Aviation High School

Man and Animal

I started using the social media to set myself introduced to the reality of the world. I was dreaming to be a veterinary doctor since my childhood as I am an animal lover. I could not stop my tears when I see animals get tortured by others. I decided to fight till my last breath to save animals. So I started watching video to discover overall situation of animals. I noticed a large number of animals are being disappeared for lack of proper care, human torture. Still nobody cares for that while bio diversity is a pre requisite to maintain the ecosystem of environment. Recently I watched a video on you tube that a women cut of a dog's leg without any hesitation. I got so upset after watching this video. I was searching an animal lover group for long where I can add myself. Fortunately, I found a virtual/online group which works for animals. Instantly I added myself on that group. We tried to build a network to save animals from all possible hazards. For instance, if we have been informed that any animal is being tortured by people anywhere, our group members instantly informed respective representative to save that animal. Gradually our work has been expanded. Thus our network is becoming strong. Eventually our group has been connected with international network. Now our activities are spread out across the country. Sometime we post our activities in youtube. Some people informed us that they are benefitted after watching our post. Some experts are supporting us by giving us suggestions, opinions and so on. Till today our voluntary group is working amazingly.

Sabira Hossain Mim
Saint Francis Xeviers School
Class:9

Your concern, your duty!

Internet safety is a sensitive issue in recent world that we may all answer unintentionally that child safety from internet is need, but how much safe they are? Question has remaining. Even in recent times, children and teenagers are addicted in PUBG game, and various harmful site. Even they get addiction in porn site also. Good parenting is very much concern matter. Parents should concern for their children and that concern should not enough in Bangladesh. The system of parenting which may analog, and after invention of technology parent's responsibility has grown. It is huge success to invent technology, but it has also harmful side for children and teenagers. Parents should block the harmful site for their children. They should keep their children to whom they are contact by the social media. Before 18 years, no mobile phone, no internet and no technology. Most of the parents are ignored this things, but if your child come up with mobile phone before 18 years, then they might destroy their life. They might go harmful site subconsciously. Teen-age life is the age of emotion. This time is mostly sensitive and this age grow a child to grower to grower. In this time they might go to the wrong way for instance religious extremism, porn addiction, drug addiction and indeed they might touch to the harmful site in the internet. It causes many danger and you should concern before happening any accident. Internet safety is commonly talked and it creates concern and helps to grow our concern to build a nation safely. Some people thought that instead internet parents should give books to them, but how much parents believe on that and how much parents do that. Most of the parents under-

stand when nothing to do and their children remained already addicted in social media, so it should decide that which way you choose for your children. Now it is time to care children safety in internet. It is time to build a nation without addiction of internet. Something has been taken means not addiction. Addiction is totally harmful for our mind, body and indeed our life. The risk of addiction to the internet has remain in Bangladesh. Internet is such kind of place where has no safety, but if we want we can take attempts for safety especially for the children because they might tolerate a few times in a day. In a day that has 24 hours, and among 24 hours, children should use internet for 30 minutes. And for changing their attitudes, we those elder, need to concern more and taking attempts to change our attitudes with internet and also our children's internet. It is globally allowed that before 18 years, no mobile phone and internet facilities given to the children, but there has no attempts to saving the children from internet in Bangladesh. We should more concern for internet safety. Now it is individual's responsibility to keep attention and inhibit them from the harmful site of internet. I am only speaker that which is right and which is wrong, but if our society do not change, then we can not create concern to save children from harmful site of internet. We obviously use internet, but not internet use us. This is unwanted, and instead internet, we should read books, read books, and read books.

Hasnat Asif Kushal
Student, ULAB



Screen Dependency Disorder Can Damage Your Child's Brain

Psychologist warns

Parents take note, if you are the type who has the tendency to handover a tablet or smartphone every time your child is bored or throws a tantrum, you might want to listen to what experts have to say about it.

According to a new research, prolonged use of mobile devices can actually lead to screen dependency disorder (SDD) which brings a myriad of symptoms, including insomnia, backache, weight gain or loss, eyesight problems, headache, and poor nutrition as physical symptoms " reported smart parenting.

In addition to the physical, SDD also has emotional symptoms such as anxiety, dishonesty, feelings of guilt and loneliness.

Dr. Aric Sigman, Psychologist and author of the research paper, said that the condition is very similar with Internet Addiction Disorder.

According to Sigman's research, screen addicts exhibit dependent, problematic behavior, including withdrawal symptoms, increasing tolerance (for screen use), failure to reduce or stop screen activi-

ties, lying about the extent of use, loss of outside interests and continuation of screen use despite adverse consequences.

Although further research about the disorder is currently ongoing past studies point out that those who suffer from SDD have microstructural and volumetric differences in, or abnormalities of both grey and white matter" in their brains, said Dr. Sigman.

Simply said, SDD can possibly lead to brain damage. As Claudette Avelino-Tandoc, a family life and child development specialist Early Childhood Education consultant, pointed out-

- Parents should be alarmed when regular family routine or tasks cannot be performed by the child anymore because he or she can not be taken out from screen time.
- The parents or caregivers should supply the doctor with their child's behavior as they have observed at home. He may also have his own set of tests and questions for both parents and child.

Source: Elite Readers

[https://www.elitereaders.com/screen-dependency-](https://www.elitereaders.com/screen-dependency-disorder-brain-damage/?fbclid=IwAR37bFv02qrFLwQLcex_MpHnMpWboGegYNG6D14nyca9oY0tlvQYC_QMAms)

[disorder-brain-damage/?fbclid=IwAR37bFv02qrFLwQLcex_MpHnMpWboGegYNG6D14nyca9oY0tlvQYC_QMAms](https://www.elitereaders.com/screen-dependency-disorder-brain-damage/?fbclid=IwAR37bFv02qrFLwQLcex_MpHnMpWboGegYNG6D14nyca9oY0tlvQYC_QMAms)

Revenge porn: a new dimension of Gender Based Violence

Urmila Sarker

The increased use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the past decade has led to the rise of a new form of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Due to the escalating use of technology and the internet, women are more vulnerable than ever to abuse and violence. Women face multiple forms of technology-related violence including non-consensual intimate images commonly known as “revenge pornography” doxxing, blackmail, bullying, stalking, and sexual harassment.

Revenge porn is when someone shows a private sexual photograph or film of any person to another person or people, without the person’s consent and with the

intention of causing his/her distress, defamation. It is an offence if they show someone, share it with others via social media, email or any other

form of communication. It can also be an offence for another person to then re-share or re-post the private sexual image or film with others. Revenge porn is not the legal name for this offence but it is a term which is commonly used and understood (Source: Internet).

Most of the time revenge porn has been fabricated and spread by former partner or close friend of the victim. It has been observed that few celebrities are also the victim of revenge porn in Bangladesh.

A photograph or film is private if it shows something of a kind that is not ordinarily seen in public. A photograph or film is sexual if it shows all or part of a person’s exposed body in public area, or if a reasonable person would consider the photograph or video to be sexual because of its nature.

According to Digital Security Act 2018 of Bangladesh, section 25- Publishing, sending of offensive, false or fear inducing data-information, etc.

1. If any person in any website or through any digital medium- (a) Intentionally or knowingly sends such information which is offensive or fear inducing, or which despite knowing it as false is sent, published or propagated with the intention to annoy, insult, humiliate or denigrate a person or (b) Publishes or propagates or assists in publishing or propagating any information with the intention of tarnishing the image of the nation or spread confusion or



despite knowing it as false, publishes or propagates or assists in publishing or propagates information in its full or in a distorted form for the same intentions, Then, the activity of that person will be an offense under the Act.

2. If any person commits any offense mentioned within sub-section (1), the person will be penalized with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3(three) years or fine not exceeding 3(three) lac taka or with both.

3. If any person commits the offense mentioned in sub-section (1) for the second time or recurrently commits it then, he will be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5(five) years or with fine not exceeding 10 (ten) lac taka or with both.

According to Pornography Control Bill 2012 of Bangladesh, if a person harms another person's social or personal dignity through pornography or receives money through fear or other benefits, or mentally tortures the person through any pornography that is held in the knowledge or anonymity of a person. The guilt up to five (five) years of labor imprisonment and a fine of up to 2 (two) lac taka.

Revenge porn has often been bundled with other forms of "sexting". However, there are significant distinctions between consensual sexting and revenge porn. While sexting has been discussed extensively in legal literature and been the object of several law reform reports, revenge porn is now emerging as a distinct issue.

Research titled "Intimate image abuse in adults and under 18s"- A comparative analysis of cases dealt with by the Revenge Porn Helpline and Professionals Online Safety Helpline, prepared by: Elena Sharratt, in partnership with University of Exeter & Economic and Social Research Council, has revealed a striking gender disparity in intimate image abuse crimes and calls for policy "to acknowledge this crime as a gendered, sexual offence". According to research findings of a study by University of Exeter (UK) shows:

- almost 3 in 4 victims are female
- 9 out of 10 female victims suffer intimate image abuse
- 9 out of 10 male victims suffer sextortion

Based on data of the mentioned study, from the helplines, the research explores the differing experience of men and women, and adults and young people, as victims of intimate image abuse. The main finding of the study shows that a disproportionate number of victims are female and that the crime is perpetrated in different ways according to the victim's gender. 73% of callers to the Revenge Porn Helpline were female, 97% of whom reported intimate image abuse. Conversely, out of the 27% of male callers, 90% were the victims of sextortion.

It was not just in perpetration and victimization that a gender imbalance was evident. Male victims of sextortion reported feeling little shame and self-blame and were able to move on quickly from their experiences. Female victims of intimate image abuse, on the other hand, reported much longer-lasting social and emotional impacts, describing their experiences as sexually violating.

Revenge porn is fundamentally used to shame, extort and harm women. Perpetrators of domestic violence and trafficking employ it to control women, to keep them captive, to keep them quiet. Gendered hate speech online actively restricts the free speech of women.

It is infamously difficult to contact existing victims of revenge porn. Even if one is able to identify victims, it takes a lot of effort and time to build trust with them. In order to find useful information for advocacy of the issue, one must get them to open up about their experiences which is often difficult.

Research funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), as part of a collaboration between the University of Exeter (UK), the revenge porn helpline and professionals online safety helpline



What is SACMID?

South Asia Center for Media in Development (SACMID) is a Media Development Organization (MDO) fostering development of media in Bangladesh and South Asia region as an indispensable part of tackling poverty and enabling Bangladesh attain its sustainable development vision. SACMID has been registered as an independent trust and established in January 22, 2017. The media have always been entwined with public attitudes to Bangladesh. The media have a critical role to play in nation building and strengthening the cultural, political, social, economic and environmental fabric. A pluralistic and free media sector has always been needed to ensure that all voices in society are heard. Since Bangladesh is going to be the middle-income country and the space and scope of media sector is ever-widening, therefore it remains as an area of surveillance that whether the media landscape is constituted a diverse and professional landscape for making media as change catalysts. As a part of its activities a project 'PROMOTING MEDIA LITERACY IN BANGLADESH' is being implemented by South Asia Center for Media in Development in collaboration with Free Press Unlimited.

Vision

A just and peaceful society through socially constructive application of knowledge

Mission

Foster an inclusive society by creating enabling environment for freedom of expression that promotes pluralism and dialogue within the government, media and civil society towards nation-building.

Objectives

Reduce the gap between the consumers of media contents and media institutions by systematic works on Information and news literacy

Promote Gender-sensitive policies and strategies in media (particularly government media, private, community media & online) to strengthen female voice in the public and media domain in line with UNESCO Gender Sensitive Indicators for the Media (GSIM)

Conduct independent and collaborative research about media literacy, media development indicators and indicators for media viability.

To establish SACMID as a sustainable organization to effectively play the role of advocator of media and Gender literacy in the country.

Today it is possible to consider that the new technologies can offer many possibilities to be explored. There is no doubt about the changes in society when it is adequately supported by the new technologies. SACMID has initiated to promote media literacy among people for building a diversified society ensuring to bring up untold and unheard voices from the ground.

For more details please visit our website

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