

# Exploring the Strategy of Mass Media to Prevent Violence Against Women in Bangladesh



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National Institute of Mass Communication  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

# **Exploring the Strategy of Mass Media to Prevent Violence Against Women in Bangladesh**

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## Declaration

I, undersigned, declare that this is an original report of my research work and it has been written by me and has not been submitted for any previous degree or project. Due references have been provided on all supporting literature and resources.



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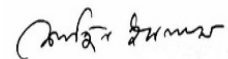
## Preface

The country is fast progressing towards achieving its goal of building a 'Digital Bangladesh' under the able leadership of honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Information Communication Technology (ICT) based communication has reached unprecedented levels. In particular, mass media has become an integral part of life. Therefore, the mass media is playing a vital role in creating awareness about various issues in the country.

The sacred duty of NIMC is to create a work-force of knowledge based, skilled media journalists, capable of rising up to the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It provides training on relevant social issues to promote awareness, disseminate knowledge and bring about national unity and cohesion in society. With this view in mind, the topic 'Exploring the Strategy of Mass Media to Prevent Violence Against Women in Bangladesh' has been selected for research.

I firmly believe, this research document would help in pursuing NIMC's goals of preparing a team of skilled journalists who would play the vital role in creating awareness to prevent violence against women and contribute towards creating an enlightened society and foster national unity.

My sincere appreciation for the researcher, Professor Dr. Md. Shafiul Islam for his diligence. I also appreciate all the relevant NIMC members for their untiring endeavor to make this research a success.



Shahin Islam, ndc  
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I would also like to extend my gratitude to the participants and respondents who took part in this study in different capacities for different activities such as key informant interviews, questionnaire surveys and focus group discussions. Their generous cooperation in providing valuable information has well contributed to making this report a worthy piece.

I acknowledge the authors whose works have been cited in preparing this report.

Finally,I am grateful to the authority of NIMC for accepting my research proposal and providing funds to accomplish this worthy research work.

I am not above error. So, I beg pardon for any error that may be happened unconsciously in this report.

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## Acronym

4IR	Fourth Industrial Revolution
BNNRC	Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication
BTV	Bangladesh Television
CU	Chittagong University
DG	Director-General
DU	Dhaka University
FB	Facebook
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
KII	Key Informant Interview
NGOs	Non-government organization
NIMC	National Institute of Mass Communication
PIB	Press Institute of Bangladesh
PID	Press Information Department
QS	Questionnaire survey
RU	Rajshahi University
SKPA	Skills, Knowledge, Attitudes, and Perception
SM	Social Media
TV	Television

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## Abstract

Violence against women is a global issue experienced by societies in developed and developing countries alike. Many women are anxious about their safety and suffering, not only from the immediate harms of violence, but also their rights for access to financial and other resources, and to make decisions about their own lives. So, it has been an issue of concern all over the world. It is also an issue of concern in Bangladesh. Despite taking many initiatives, the incidents related to VAW is increasing day by day rather than decreasing in the country. Even, the VAW related incidents have alarmingly increased during the Covid-19 in the country.

Keeping in mind the issue as an important, the National Institute of Mass Communication has rightly selected the issue for research study this year.

However, this study has been conducted to explore the strategy of mass media to prevent violence against women in Bangladesh. In the nature of the methodological inquiry, it is qualitative research work. But quantitative data were also collected for this study. As a result, a mixed method research approach was followed to conduct the study. Both primary and secondary sources have been used for data collection. A questionnaire survey, key informant interview, and focus group discussion were the tools of primary data collection. A total of 392 respondents were brought under this study for questionnaire survey. Among them, 347 respondents were selected from Dhaka and the rest respondents were from Rajshahi, Khulna and Chittogram cities. A total of 15 respondents were interviewed as the key informants for this study. On the other hand, three focus group discussion sessions were conducted—one in Dhaka, another in Rajshahi and the rest in Chittogram. Seven individuals were invited for each focus group discussion session.

The study reveals that despite many challenges and limitations, the mass media are playing very positive role with regard to prevent VAW in the country. However, the study reveals some reasons for increasing the incidents related to VAW in the country. Among the reasons, top five reasons were identified by the respondents. About 88 percent of the respondents' assert that delayed in judgement or red tappism in judgement procedure is the top reason for increasing the incidents

related to VAW in the country. It is followed by increasing use of drug and its availability (77%). About 72 percent of the respondents think that the incidents related to VAW are increasing due to degradation of social values while about 49 percent of the respondents observe that indecent lifestyle is one of the causes of increasing such types of violence in the country. About 36 percent of the respondents think that misuse of political power is also cause of increasing VAW incidents in the country.

On the other hand, about 71 percent of the respondents observe that free flow of internet and social media has an influence for occurring of such kind of violence in the country. As many as 62 percent of the respondents' identity the lack of religious

knowledge/education and its practice in individual, family and social life for such incidents in the



country. About 45 percent of the respondents also identify the lack of moral education and its practice for such VAW in the country.

The mass media face a lot of challenges with regard to publish and broadcast the incidents related to VAW in the country. The study reveals that political factors and a section of influential quarters are identified as the major challenges in this regard. About 74 percent of the respondents' assert that they faced political barriers in terms of publishing news related to VAW. Apart from political factor, 79 percent of the respondents also assert that they faced barriers from a section of the influential quarters of the society. The respondents especially the KIs considered the Digital Security Act 2018 as another challenge in this regard.

About practising strategies, the study reveals, according to 86 percent of the respondents, there is a common strategy in the mass media 'not to disclose the victim's identity' initially. About 58 percent of the respondents assert the mass media publish/broadcast VAW related news considering the degree of violence.

However, the study puts some policy implications, grouping into two categories—own initiative strategies and government intervention strategies. Among the own initiative strategies, some major are (i) follow up the incidents till to end (ii) publishing/broadcasting more awareness related news/views and events (iii) focus investigative news (iv) promote domestic values and culture (v) promote religious values (vi) development of professionalism (vii) decent presentation of women in the mass media (viii) development of perception, and (ix) publishing more VAW related laws and punishment. Among the government side strategies, some are: (i) asking all media to publish/broadcast more VAW related awareness news/views and events (ii) ensuring safe feeling about digital security act (iii) introducing national media award for media personnel (iv) incorporating provision in the license rules of all media for compulsory training certificate from the NIMC or competent authority and (v) empower the NIMC through more capacity building.

# Chapter I

## Introduction

### Background of the Study

Violence against women (VAW) is a global issue experienced by societies in developed and developing countries alike. Many women are anxious about their safety and suffering, not only from the immediate harms of violence, but also their rights for access to financial and other resources, and to make decisions about their own lives. So, it has been an issue of concern all over the world. It is also an issue of concern in Bangladesh. The heinous acts of crime are mainly perpetrated against women in the form of physical, sexual, psychological or social abuse. These violent acts are so alarmingly prevalent. Bangladesh has a high rate of VAW that continues to create barriers to bring quality among man and woman as well as development of the country (Rahman, 2019). According to World Health Organization (WHO), 1 out of 3 or approximately 35 percent of women have experienced some sort of physical or sexual abuse from intimate or non-partner violence at some point of their life (WHO, 2017). In many cases, husbands or other family members are the perpetrators of VAW, and the effects are not only on the women themselves, but also their children, family and society as a whole.

Violence against women is happened openly in public transports in the country. Oishi states that 94 percent women who avail public transports are the victims of verbal, physical or other sexual harassment in Bangladesh (Oishi, 2022). In November 2021, female students of Badrunnessa College, Dhaka, and Chottogram are harassed by the helpers of bus drivers. Referring to a survey report, Akhtar reports that about 82 percent women are sexually harassed at the public gathering places in the country. The survey report identifies five areas—family surrounding, workplace, educational institution, online platform and public gathering place—where women are harassed frequently in the country. It is revealed that about 56 percent women are sexually harassed at the workplaces (Akhtar, 2021). According to another report of the Police Cyber Support for Women Service (PCSWS), as many as 17280 women victims lodged complaints between November 2020 and October 2021 to get police support for their different types of harassments in the country (Correspondent, 2021). The report reveals that 58 percent of the victims are belonged to 18 to 24-year age-group while it is 20 percent of the age-group of 25 to 30 years. It is also revealed that 64 percent of the victims are from Dhaka. Anika, referring to a report, reveals that about 94 percent women are harassed verbally,

physically or sexually during moving in public transportation in the country (Anika, 2021).

However, violence against women has also been on the rise in Bangladesh amidst the pandemic COVID-19 situation. According to Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), rape incidents against women and case of violence against women and children rose by about 32 percent in only six months amid the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. Between April and September 2020, as many as 718 women were raped and 872 incidents of VAW and children took place in the country. In addition, from January to June 2020, there were 601 cases of rape (increasing from 76 in April to 94 in May and 174 in June), 107 deaths of women due to domestic abuse, and 103 sexual abuse cases leading to 9 suicides. It is also very likely that the number of cases are actually much higher owing to women's restricted mobility in the lockdown, which means many women may not be able to report such cases of violence. (ASK, 2020). Another study by Bangladesh Peace Observatory in Dhaka University showed a 10 percent increase in dowry and domestic-related violence between March 26 and May 31 (72 days) compared to the previous 72 days. According to data from BRAC's 408 legal aid clinics, the number of violent incidents against women has increased by 69 percent. The following table 1 shows the percentage changes in different types of violence (including against women).

**Table 1 Types of Violence Against Women (2019 and 2020 Comparison)**

Type of Violence	2019			2020			Change (%)	
	March	April	Total	March	April	Total		
<b>Human Right Violations</b>	111	228	339	215	363	578	71%	↑
<b>Violence against Women and Children</b>	97	198	295	178	268	446	51%	↑
<b>Violence Against Women and Girls</b>	93	162	259	172	259	431	69%	↑

Source: BRAC

The foregoing discussions make it clear that It is a matter of great concern in Bangladesh, and there is an urgent need to address the issue, which impacts on public health and creates stress on the society and economy. Therefore, it is very important area of research and the National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMC) has rightly identified the issue for conducting research work.



## **Problem Statement**

Development of a country depends on many factors. Among many others, equal development of both men and women is very essential. Our National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam has rightly uttered that women have contributed half of all development. So, ignoring women or suppressing them, development cannot be achieved. Contribution of women should rightly be acknowledged and they should be given due honor and status in the society for their contribution. But what do we see? Women are the victims of various types of violence rather than becoming the development partners in the society. The phenomenon prevails all over the world. In developing countries like Bangladesh, the phenomenon is acute and is increasing in many contexts. They are kept in suppressed in many forms, abusing physical and sexual harassment, mental and emotional tortures and so forth.

According to the ASK's statistics, during the six months of the pandemic COVID-19, 156 women fell victim to rape attempts, 31 were killed after rape, 141 were murdered by their husbands and 115 other were sexually harassed (ASK, 2020). Police Cyber Support for Women Service (PCSWS) also observes increase of different types of violence against women in the country (Correspondent, 2021). However, experts identified some factors that are responsible for such VAW. The factors include: joblessness, a long homestay, loan, economic uncertainties, lack of recreation. Moreover, it is a sign of moral degradation against rise of VAW in the pandemic COVID-19 situation. The incidents of Dhaka University female student, Sylhet MC College, Begumganj of Noakhali and other parts of the country appeared serious issue, among many others, in the national development agenda. Despite many initiatives undertaken by the government, why such types of incidents or violence against women are on rise? Why criminals or the accused are so crazy of doing such heinous acts? The Government has already enacted 'Women and Children Repression Prevention Act (Amendment) 2020 in a bid to ensure death penalty for rape case (BSS, 2020).

Therefore, it is evident that efforts from the government side is not enough to contain violence against women in the country. It is needed concerted efforts from different groups and agencies. Among many others, the mass media can play a vital role and influence to prevent VAW in Bangladesh

## **The rationale of the study**

Women can play vital role along with their maternal responsibilities if they are given due space in the society. We all know about Begum Rokeya Shakhawat, Nurjahan Begum, Editor of Begum, Poet Sufia Kamal for their great contribution in different sectors. Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib behind the scene contributed a lot and inspired our father of the

Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to lead every movement for the greater interest of the country that ultimately brings an independent nation in the global map. The present Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Speaker of the national parliament, ministers and members of parliament (MPs) are also playing very active role to lead the country towards development. So, no one can ignore their contribution to build a nation like Bangladesh. In Public Administration, a number of women are leading ministries as full-fledge secretary and some others are also leading as head of the Institutions such as National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMC). So, women should not be ignored in the society. They should be treated as human being as well as member like a man in the society. They should be given due space to play their roles in building the country.

But the gloomy scenario against women often creates barrier to national development. According to a report of the United Nations Population Fund, a 20 percent rise in domestic and sexual violence during the pandemic (UNFPA, 2020). Rapes and sexual assaults continue even during the pandemic, both inside and outside the home in Bangladesh. According to a survey conducted by a human rights organization, as many as 4,622 women were mentally tortured, 1,839 women were physically abused, 203 sexually abused in the pandemic COVID-19 in the country. The survey brought 38,125 women under investigation in 53 out of 64 districts in Bangladesh (Manusher Jonno Foundation, 2020). So, violence against women should be stopped.

The present Government has undertaken various steps to ensure women and children development in Bangladesh. Moreover, the global agenda-2030 known as Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework highlights the importance of tracking and eliminating VAW. The Government is also committed to attaining the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of gender equality and empowering women as well as implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action. Moreover, the government has already taken many initiatives, including Acts and policies for women development for the sake of national development. To implement these, efforts from the government side are not enough. Along with the efforts from other groups, attitude of men should also be changed towards women. Women should be treated as members of the society and given due honor and space to play their creative role in building the nation.

Among many other actors and groups, the mass media can play a leading role in the society to fight against violence against women. As media is considered as the eye, ear and limbs of the society, they could help a great deal in mitigating violence against women. Now questions arise: is the mass media of Bangladesh playing its due role to prevent violence against women in the country? What types of role can they play to prevent violence against

women? What kinds of actions can they take to stop violence against women in the country? What is the strategy of mass media to prevent violence against women in the country? To get answers of these queries, therefore, it is justified that it is very imperative to conduct research on the role and influence of mass media to prevent violence against women in the context of Bangladesh.

### Literature Review

Violence against women is a common phenomenon all over the world. It happens in different forms in different places globally. Bangladesh is not out of this purview. Violence against women also happens in Bangladesh and it is on rise even in the pandemic COVID-19 situation. Academics, researchers, policy makers, development activists are very concern about it. Therefore, a huge numbers of literatures are found in this field. Among them, some are stated below.

Human Rights Watch published a report titled “I Sleep in My Won Deathbed” Violence against Women and Girls in Bangladesh: Barriers to Legal Recourse and Support’ in October 2020. (Human Rights Watch, 2020). The report discusses about governance responses to VAW and girls, social pressure, lack of services for survivors of gender-based violence, how the country’s justice system falls women, international law and so forth. The report also describes poor enforcement of laws, VAW and girls in the COVID-19 pandemic, failure in accountability and institutional barriers. However, *‘the report reveals that over 70 percent of married women or girls in Bangladesh have faces some form of intimate partners abuse; about half of whom say their partners have physically assaulted them. Referring to ASK report, it also reveals that at least 235 women were murdered by their husband or his family in just the first nine months of 2020.’*

Ain O Shalish Kendra also published a report on violence against women in the pandemic COVID-19 period. Referring to the previous records and a comparison of different period regarding VAW issues, the report states that rape incident against women and cases of violence against women and children rose by 32 percent in only six months (April to September) during the COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country (ASK, 2020).

Action Aid Bangladesh and Jatiyo Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Forum jointly conducted a research on ‘Spotlight on Violence Against Women in Bangladesh: Trends and Solution’ (2020). The research report reveals that around 66 percent women have been victims of domestic violence and about 73 percent of them have never disclosed their experience to others. The researchers also put some ways out to prevent VAW in the country.

In its report, a human rights organization named ‘Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) estimated that around 11323 women and 2171 children have experienced domestic violence in the country during the COVID-19 situation (Manusher Jonno Foundation, 2020).

Sifat reveals the sexual violence scenario during the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Bangladesh. The researcher discusses the impacts of sexual violence on women. The author also puts some recommendations to prevent this rising pattern of sexual violence against women in Bangladesh (Sifat, 2020).

Arif and her associates observe that the COVID-19 pandemic not only affects the physical health of people but also other aspects of their social life—ultimately resulting in mental health issue and domestic violence. They observe that the role of electronic media is very significant in increasing public awareness about domestic violence. Social media could also be used as a platform to disseminate domestic violence related information to the masses(Arif, Islam, & Mia, 2020).

Khandaker Farzana Rahman in her study focuses on domestic violence in Bangladesh. She studied it in the context of criminological perspective(Rahman, 2019). Referring to the different statistics related to domestic violence in Bangladesh, she sees that a significant number of laws and regulations have been implemented in the country to address domestic abuse and inequality. Despite these legal and regulatory protections violence against women is still continuing in the country, she observes.

According to an Australia based newspaper reports titled 'Media's Powerful Role in Ending Violence Against Women', the media has a powerful role in exposing violence against women, shaping national conversation and shifting policy. The report state, *"By the media portraying violence against women in a different way, going past the statistics, and really looking at the drivers... it's certainly going to influence policy, it's going to influence behaviour and it's going to influence how we see violence against women. The media are a very, very powerful player in really getting this message across and leading that conversation (Cooper, 2016)"*

After reviewing of the abovementioned literatures, it is revealed that there has been much work done on the causes and impacts of violence against women from different perspectives and also most of the literatures are related to different types of violence against women. No significant work in Bangladesh has been done on the role and influence of mass media to prevent violence against women. So, it motivates the researcher to conduct a research on exploring the strategy of mass media to prevent violence against women in Bangladesh.

### **Research objectives**

The general objective of this proposed study is to know the role and influence of the mass media to prevent violence against women in Bangladesh. The general objective is supported by some specific objectives that include:

- ❖ To explore the strategy of mass media to prevent violence against women in Bangladesh;
- ❖ To evaluate the role of mass media of Bangladesh to prevent violence against women in the country; and
- ❖ To understand the influences that can be taken by the mass media to reduce violence against women in the country.

### **Research questions**

The proposed study puts some research questions to understand the role and influence of the mass media to prevent violence against women in Bangladesh. The research questions include:

- Is the mass media of Bangladesh playing its due role to prevent violence against women in the country?
- To what extent the existing activities of mass media are effective to reduce violence against women?
- What types of role can they play to prevent violence against women?
- What is the strategy of mass media to prevent violence against women in Bangladesh?

### **Ethical issues**

Some common ethical principles are followed in research works. These include: (a) obtain consent from potential research participants; (b) minimize the risk of harm to participants; (c) protect participants' anonymity and confidentiality; (d) avoid using deceptive practices; and (e) give participants the right to refrain any time from participation. These common principles have been followed in this study.

### **Limitations of the study**

To conduct this type of research it would be needed more time, but it was not possible in this research. So, time-bound was one of the major limitations of this research. Selecting the sample size was another issue of limitations. Due to time and resource constraints, it was not possible to cover wide range of respondents. The collection of data during the pandemic COVID-19 was another challenge to conduct this study. However, it is a matter of fact that the representative parts of the sample from the vast population might be considered as not representative, but it is believed that it would provide opportunities new horizon for future research.

### **Chapter plan**

The background of the study of role of the mass media has been included in the introductory chapter. In addition, literature review, objectives and research questions have also been included in this chapter. In chapter two, methodology is presented here. In

chapter three, conceptual issues and conceptual framework is discussed. In chapter four, data have been presented and analysis has also been placed here. In chapter five, the conclusion and recommendations are put here. Moreover, references and appendixes have been added in the last part of the study report.

### **Conclusion**

In the present context, mass media is playing a very important role all over the world to promote awareness among mass people. It also makes influence to take policy decisions for the betterment of society.

However, the next chapter will cover the methodology part of this report.

## Chapter II

### Methodology

This section presents the methodology issues adopted in this study. Details have been discussed in the following sections.

#### Research Methodology

##### *Study method*

Basically it is a qualitative nature of research. The proposed study would explore the role and influence of the mass media to prevent violence against women in the context of Bangladesh. Therefore, the study was an exploratory and explanatory one. Despite following the qualitative nature of inquiry, the study also touched the quantitative phenomenon in collecting data from the field level to make it more reliable and validated one. So, a mixed method research approach was followed and it is deemed very rationale to conduct this proposed study. The mixed method research approach is more likely to add value by increasing validity in the findings and assisting with knowledge creation (McKim, 2017).

##### *Study area*

Since the study investigated the strategy of the mass media to prevent violence against women in Bangladesh, it was considered very logically to select Dhaka city as the study area. Dhaka is the capital city and most of the media is published or operated from here. Besides, Chottogram, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions were also selected to know and understand the local perception regarding the role of media to prevent violence against women in the country. The selection of other divisions makes it a representative as well.

##### *Study population*

As the study explores the strategy of mass media regarding to end violence against women, the media houses were brought under investigation. So, the media houses were considered as the unit of analysis. On the other hand, the media houses itself cannot speak and hence, journalists were considered as population of this research work.

##### *Sampling*

Sampling is very important for doing research work. So, selection of sampling method is also important. As this study explored the strategy of mass media to prevent violence against women, the simple random sampling technique was followed to select the respondents and also to meet the requirements of the study.

It is well known that journalists working with different media houses are the members of either the National Press Club (NPC) or the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU). It is learnt that there are as many as 830 journalists as members of the National Press Club and about 1800

journalists as members of the Dhaka Reporters' Unity respectively. So, the sample size was determined using the following statistical formula:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Nd^2}$$

Here, n= required sample size

N= Population size

d= margin of error (95% confidence level)

So, the sample size would be 347 from Dhaka city. However, as many as 45 journalists (15 from each division) from Rajshahi, Khulna and Chottogram divisions were also selected following the simple random sampling technique. In addition, 15 individuals were interviewed as the key informant interviewee (KII). Moreover, three focus group discussions (FGD) sessions were conducted for this study. As many as seven persons were included in each FGD. Therefore, the total sample size was 428. The following table-2 shows the sample size and its technique at a glance.

**Table 2 Sample size & sampling technique**

	Dhaka	Rajshahi	Khulna	Chottogram	Sampling technique
Questionnaire survey	347	15	15	15	Simple Random
KII	15				Purposive
FGD (Newspaper readers or TV & Radio Fans)	7	7		7	Purposive
Total respondents				428	

However, the list of respondents of different categories and data collection tools has been shown in the Appendix-I.

#### **Data collection method and data sources**

As data were collected from different sources, a number of data collection methods which were suitable with qualitative research approach, i.e. Key Informant Interview (KII), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), structured and non-structured questionnaire survey were followed to conduct the study.

Both primary and secondary sources were considered for data collection. Journalists are considered as the main source of data. Primary data from the journalists was collected by administering questionnaires from the field levels. A structured and non-structured questionnaire with scale variables measurement items were designed and administered among the respondents for primary data collection. Besides, KII and FGD sessions were conducted for collecting data from primary sources. Secondary data were gathered from different sources such as books, reports, national and international documents, journal

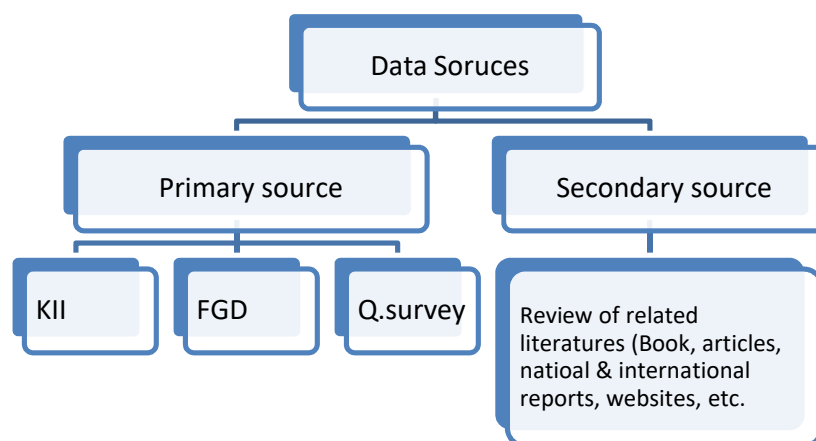


articles, newspaper reports, website reports, and so forth. Policies of the Government of Bangladesh were also reviewed for this purpose.

As this study is an explanatory and confirmatory in nature, a major portion of primary data was collected through the questionnaire survey. According to the study conceptual framework and literature review, a number of questionnaire items were used.

The following figure provides the data collection methods and sources at a glance.

Figure 1 At a glance: Data collection methods and sources



### Data analysis plan

As a means of thematic analysis, questionnaire survey, interviews and FGD data were categorized into different sub-themes under the main theme and then it was analyzed for meaning. For data processing and analyzing, thematic and conversational analysis techniques were adopted. Themes are abstract constructs identified by researchers before, during and after data collection. Many themes were identified during the literature review, as well as while conducting the fieldwork and collecting the field data. Themes were constructed with general themes arising from reading the literature and sub-themes arising through the progression of the study (Lincoln & Denzin 2005).

However, different types of computer software such as MS Word, MS Excel, SPSS were used for processing and analyzing data and where applicable, these were presented in different forms like a pie chart, bar chart, table, figure and so on in the report.

### Conclusion

The number of mass media is increasing day by day in the country. For this, mass media-related different institutions and organizations are also following different techniques to meet their needs in the changing scenario, upholding social, economic, and cultural phenomenon of the country.

However, the following chapter three discusses theoretical issues.

## Chapter III

### Theoretical Framework: Conceptual Issues and Conceptual Framework

#### Violence against women (VAW)

Violence against women (VAW) is a global phenomenon in both developed and developing countries. Many women suffer from controlling behaviors, physical, economic, emotional and sexual violence, causing physical and mental harm. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) called upon member countries to establish systems for data collection and analysis of national VAW indicators and other methodological standards.

Violence against women has many forms including physical aggression or threats, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, controlling or domineering, intimidation, stalking, passive or covert abuse, and economic deprivations(Khan, et al., 2017). However, some major forms VAW are discussed below.

**Domestic violence:** Awareness, perception and documentation of domestic violence differ from country to country and from area to area. Estimates are that only about third of cases of domestic violence are actually reported in the United States and United Kingdom(Dutton, 1994). According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), domestic violence is a serious, preventable public health problem affecting more than 32 million Americans or over 10% of the U.S population(Tjaden & Theonmes, 2000). Beating wives by husband has been common in all culture perhaps in all times. Bangladesh seems to be no exception(Kritof & WuDunn, 2009). Newspaper reports in the country clearly indicate that the prevalence of Violence against Women is very high. National data on the general population do not exist. As of now, the estimate of the prevalence of physical Violence against Women by husbands in Bangladesh varies between 30% and 50%. Despite the seriousness of the problem in terms of violation of human rights and public health consequences, there is a lack of depth of knowledge on the extent, nature and the context of Violence against Women in Bangladesh(Khan, et al., 2017).

Domestic violence has many forms including physical aggression that include: hitting, kicking, beating, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects and so on. Sexual abuse and emotional abuse are also treated as domestic violence.

However, the United Nations (UN, 2014) and World Health Organization (WHO) have defined and categorized violence using some guidelines (Ellsberg & Heise, 2005). The international organizations have categorized violence as (i) Physical violence (ii) Sexual violence (iii) Economic violence (iv) Controlling behaviour (v) Emotional violence (GoB, 2016).

- **Physical violence:** *physical violence characterized by slapped, punched or threw something, pushed, shoved or pulled hair, kicked, dragged, beat up, burnt, threatened with a gun, knife or any other weapon.*
- **Sexual violence:** *it is characterized by sexual intercourse with husband against wife's will, sexual intercourse with husband against will in fear of future torture and any unusual sexual behaviour which seems degrading or humiliating.*
- **Economic violence:** *it is characterized by refusal to give enough money for husband expenses, even though he has money for other things; refusal to provide regular pocket money.*
- **Controlling behaviour:** *It is characterized by trying to restrict from the company of friends, restricting from going parental house, ignoring feelings and opinions without caring or thinking priorities, bearing always suspicious mind, and so on.*
- **Emotional violence:** *it is characterized by insulting in a manner by which one felt humiliation or bad, humiliating in front of other people, doing anything by husband to scare or intimidate.*

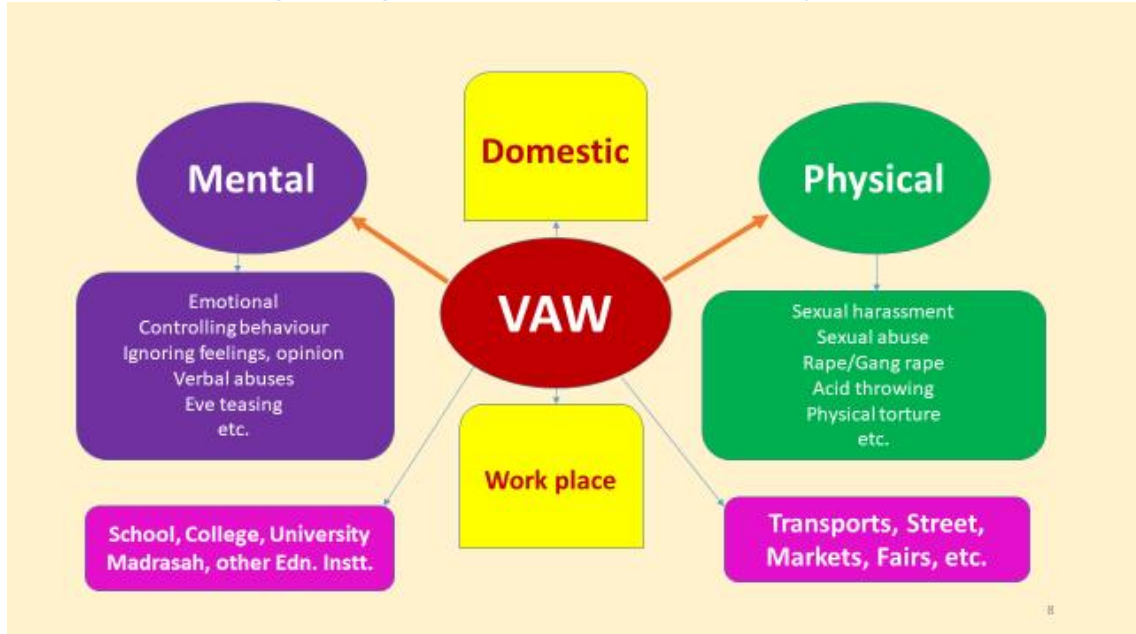
**Violence at workplace:** it is also a common phenomenon all over the world. In Bangladesh, working women are abused by their male colleagues at their workplace. Few women disclose it, fearing further physical, sexual and mental harassment in her workplace. They also kept it hidden fearing social criticism.

**Rape:** In recent time, the incidents of rape have been on rise in the country. Several reports already mentioned in different parts of this report reveal that it is also increasing even in the pandemic COVID-19 in the country. However, the matter of great alarming is the 'gang rape'. The incident of Sylhet MC college is one of the examples in the country.

**Eve-teasing:** although it is a recent phenomenon in the country, it is increasing day by day. Newspaper reports often reveal that father, mother, brother and relatives are beaten openly and even beaten to death by the eve-teaser. Even, the elected union parishad (UP) chairman was under attack by the eve-teasers. The newspaper report unveils it on May 11, 2022 (Prothom Alo, 2022).

However, the following figure-2 shows the places where the violence against women are occurred frequently. It also presents the types of violence against women.

Figure 2 At a glance VAW: different forms and in different places



Source: Author

Therefore, it is appeared that there is an increasing trend of different forms of violence against women in the country. It should be stopped. Mass media can play a vital role to prevent the VAW in the country.

### Mass Media

Basically, there are two types of mass media such as print media and electronic media. The print media covers daily newspaper, weekly magazine, fortnightly magazine, and monthly magazine. On the other hand, electronic media covers television and radio. In recent trend, online media such as social media, online news portal, online version of print and electronic media has also appeared as popular mass media in Bangladesh.

### Mass Media in Bangladesh

After 1990, a rapid changed is appeared all over the world due to the phenomenon of globalization. Globalization demands market liberalization along with the liberalization of media as well. In that process, though the government of Bangladesh always heavily controlled the state owned radio and TV channels, in the early 90s, they gave permission to broadcast the satellite channels commercially (Haq, 2007).

However, as per the disclosure of the Information Minister at the National Parliament in January 2018, there are 3,025 registered print media in Bangladesh and 1,191 of them are daily newspapers. Of the dailies, 470 are based in the capital city, Dhaka.

A key feature in this developing country is that newspapers are brought out in every administrative district. According to the statistics of the Information Ministry, it shows there are 267 local dailies that bring out from outside of the capital. There are some popular and reputed ones, being published regularly. For example, *Dainik Karatoa*, *Dainik Purbokone* and *Dainik Puranchal* are popular in the respective areas.

Another astonishing revelation is the number of English-language dailies—as many as 32 English-speaking newspapers are printed, and few of them from outside of the capital. The truth is, except few, English dailies are not in demand in Bangladesh and have a minor circulation.

The number of weeklies is equally high. As many as 1,175 registered weeklies are being published from different places of the country. There are also several fortnightly and monthly print media. Nobody can say how many of them are actually bringing out today. Newspapers don't disclose the actual circulation number and there is a tendency to inflate the number to get the benefit of becoming a subsidized newsprint and obtaining the government's advertisements. So, it is very difficult to know the actual circulation of most of the newspapers in Bangladesh.

According to various estimations, the total Bengali newspaper circulation is around 1.5 million copies. Ten leading national newspapers have over 90 percent of the circulation. English circulation is also low, around 70,000. Like the Bengali circulation, residents of the capital are the buyers of English newspapers. *The Daily Star* is grabbing 77 percent of the total English circulation, according to the newspaper (Azad, 2022a).

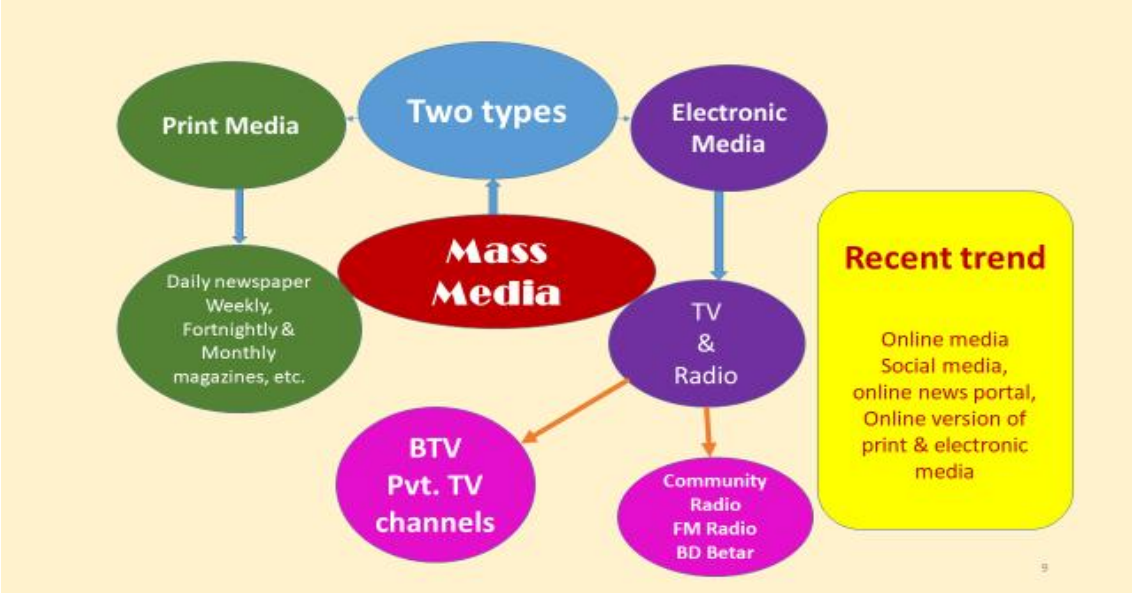
Around 45 television channels were permitted by the Government of Bangladesh as of 2019, of which thirty-seven are currently on air. Five television channels, namely CSB News, Channel 1, Diganta Television, Islamic TV, and Channel 16, have been taken off air.

Radio is not lagging behind and is making its presence felt in the media landscape with the introduction of both commercial FM and community radio stations. A country that had only one state-run radio station before 1999 now boasts 35 radio stations. The commercial radio stations are popular among youths in the major cities. These stations are airing more entertainment programmes than news, considering the fact that the listeners are interested in enjoying music and the stories related to celebrities. According to government sources, as of 2020, Bangladesh has 45 private television channels, 28 FM and 32 community radio stations, 1,248 daily newspapers, and more than a hundred online news portals (Ali Riaz & Rahman, 2021).

However, the prominent media outlets run by each of these publishing companies or companies are described here.

East West Media Group Limited controls *KalerKantha* and *Bangladesh Protidin* (both Bengali dailies), *Daily Sun* (English), *Banglanews24.com* (news portal) and *News24* (TV station), Mediastar Limited controls *ProthomAlo* (leading Bengali national daily) and *ABC Radio* (24-hours news and entertainment FM radio station), Media world Limited controls *the Daily Star* (leading English national daily), Beximco Media Limited controls *the Independent* (English daily now closed) and *Independent Television* (24-hour news and current affairs TV station), Jamuna Group Limited controls *Jugantor* (Bengali daily) and *Jamuna TV* (24-hours news and views channel), Times Media Limited controls *Daily Samokal* (Bengali daily) and *Chhanel24* (24-hour television news station), Ittefaq Group of Publications Limited controls *Daily Ittefaq* (the oldest Bengali daily) in the country and Mediascene Limited controls *BhorerKagoj* (Bengali newspaper), *Daily Dinersheshe* (evening newspaper) and *Desh TV* (news and entertainment TV). However, East West Media Group, Mediastar Limited, Mediaworld Limited, Times Media Limited and Jamuna Group are leading in print media publication in the country. In addition to newspapers, East West Media Group, Jamuna Group and Times Media Limited have their own satellite news-based television stations(Azad, 2022b). A recent study sponsored by the Center for Governance Studies (CGS) in Dhaka, reveals that 48 major news outlets are owned by 32 business entities. The study examined patterns of media ownership, including ties to various political and economic interest groups in the country(Ali Riaz & Rahman, 2021). However, the following figure-3 presents an overview of mass media in Bangladesh.

Figure 3 At a glance: Mass media in Bangladesh



Source: author

## Social media

The term social media means the collection of applications (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, LinkedIn, or YouTube, etc.) and websites that link people to share information and aware people about any event through social networking. People belonging to different age groups use social media. These tools provide several ways of interaction and different opportunities. Users can connect with other people within seconds and share their ideas in different ways.

### Types of Social Media

Social Media can be broadly divided into the following categories (Kaplan & Haenlein, 2010):

#### 1. Social networking

Social networking is an online service that enables its users to create virtual networks with likeminded people. It offers facilities such as chat, instant messaging, photo sharing, video sharing, updates, etc. The most popular are Facebook and LinkedIn.

#### 2. Blogs

Blogs are descriptive content created and maintained by individual users and may contain text, photos, and links to other websites. The interactive feature of blogs is the ability of readers to leave comments and the comment trail can be followed.

#### 3. Microblogs

Microblogs are similar to blogs with a typical restriction of 140 characters or less, which allows users to write and share content. Twitter is a microblogging site that enables its users to send and read 'tweets'.

#### 4. Vlogs and Video Sharing sites

Video blogs (Vlogs) are blogging sites that mainly use video as the main form of content supported by the text. YouTube is the world's largest video sharing site. YouTube is a video live casting and video sharing site where users can view, upload, share videos, and even leave comments.

#### 5. Wikis

Wiki is a collaborative website that allows multiple users to create and update pages on or interlinked subjects. While a single page is referred to as 'wiki page', the entire related content on that topic is called a 'Wiki'. These multiple pages are linked through hyperlinks and allow users to interact in a complex and non-linear manner.

#### 6. Social Bookmarking

These services allow one to save, organize, and manage links to various websites and resources around the internet. Interaction is by tagging websites and searching through websites bookmarked by other people. The most popular are Delicious and Stumble Upon.

## **7. Social News**

These services allow one to post various news items or links to outside articles. Interaction takes place by voting for the items and commenting on them. Voting is the core aspect as the items that get the most votes are prominently displayed. The most popular are Digg, Reddit, and Propeller.

## **8. Media Sharing**

These services allow one to upload and share photos or videos. Interaction is by sharing and commenting on user submissions. The most popular are YouTube and Flickr.

### **Social Media Communication in Bangladesh**

With the slogan of 'Digital Bangladesh' under the present Awami League Government, a massive online community has been established in Bangladesh where everyone is concerned about socio-political and economic affairs. The digital platform has also created contemporary and progressive thoughts regarding democratizing society for equal rights. Thus, social media is playing a vital role in the daily life of people in the country. Social media has been used in different purposes in Bangladesh those can be stated as follows:

- a) Students of universities and colleges can communicate regarding their class schedules and allowed them to transfer course materials. They can also discuss their learning issues;
- b) Teachers can also use the social media platform to inform the student and share documents and study material. They can also take classes through using social media platform like Skype, Zoom, MS Team and so on;
- c) Social media can involve almost everyone for communication who are connected by region, school, college, university, profession or even by a common mutual friend;
- d) Free access to huge information and ideas can open the visionary mind of the social media users although it has a vastly negative impact on the addicted users;
- e) Social media has become one of the popular sites of advertisement and marketing for business groups and companies. Entrepreneurship is developing based on social media websites in Bangladesh and they are choosing social media for advertising;
- f) Special days and events are also celebrated based on the social media platform by creating polls, events, and chatting groups;
- g) Rumors, gossips, and misinformation also spread so quickly in Bangladesh which creates dissonance among the mass people; and
- h) Harassments, traps, nudity, and other crimes are also incidental and accidental phenomena of social media nowadays. These types of activities have been occurred due to greedy and immoral people.



The Government of Bangladesh has already laws and rules regarding information and communication technologies (ICT) and the use of social media. On October 8, 2018, the Bangladesh Parliament passed the ‘Digital Security Act 2018’ where guidelines have been incorporated to use the digital platform in Bangladesh(GoB, 2018). However, this Act has widely been criticized by several scholars and journalist community as it might suppress the mass people(Accessnow, 2018). Some articles of the Digital Security Act-2018 especially articles 25, 26, 29 & 31, are described as barriers of freedom of speech(Alam, 2020). Mamun and Iqbal are also of the opinion of the amendment of the Digital Security Act-2018 (Iqbal, 2020)(Mamun, 2020). Journalist Rashidul Hasan said that “the Digital Security Act will create insecurity for the citizen of the country”(Hasan, 2018). The government has issued a social media guideline for the employees also for ensuring transparency and accountability in the governance system through using ICT(Dhakatribune, 2016). The guideline has been modified in 2020 (GoB, 2020). But this kind of Act is necessary for stopping propaganda and misinformation over the social media platform.

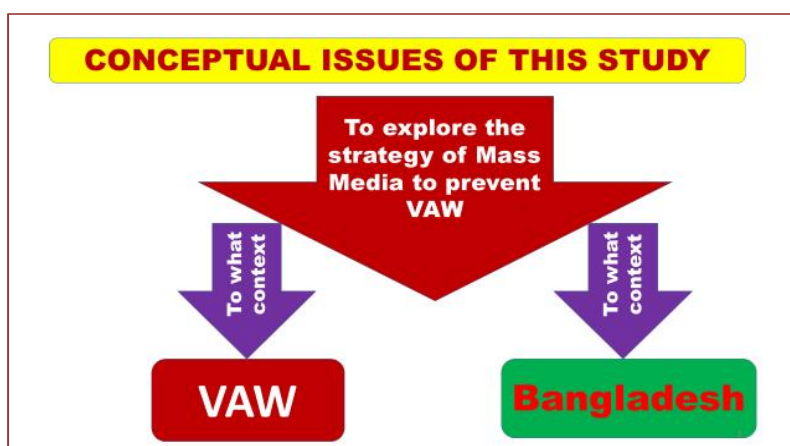
However, as this study explored the strategy of mass media to prevent violence against women in the context of Bangladesh, itobserved and investigated the issues which are covered by the mass media in the country. The primary respondents—journalists—a wide range from different mass media were brought under investigation to know and understand the strategy and influence of the mass media to end violence against women in the country.

### Conceptual Framework

It is thought that research without a conceptual framework makes it complicated for readers in discovering the scholastic point and the underlying aspects to the researcher's proposition. So, a conceptual framework is a configuration which the

investigator believes can explain the natural progression of the occurrence to be studied(Camp, 2001). However, the conceptual framework of this study is presented in the following figure-4. The study is guided by these conceptual issues.

Figure 4 Conceptual framework of the study



## Conclusion

Mass media can play a vital role to prevent violence against women. It can create a massive mass awareness against any anti-social activities in one hand and it can also put pressures on the policy makers to take policy decisions on the other hand.

However, the next chapter presents the data and makes discussion on it.

## Chapter IV

### Data Presentation, Analysis, Findings and Discussion

This chapter presents the data collected from different sources and also made analysis accordingly. Along with data presentation and analysis, a discussion and findings have further made in this chapter.

The study explored the strategies so far taken by the mass media in the country to prevent violence against women in the context of the country. The study areas and methods of the study have been presented at the methodology chapter of this report. For this, here, data collected from different sources are presented.

#### Data presentation and analysis

A total of 428 respondents were brought under this study. Among them, 392 were journalists who were the primary source of the study. They were selected using simple random sampling method. Most of them were selected from Dhaka city. They are either members of the National Press Club or Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU). Some respondents have dual membership both the National Press Club and the DRU. As many as 45 journalists were selected following the same technique from three divisions—Rajshahi, Khulna and Chottogram—for this study as well. Three focus group discussion (FGD) sessions were conducted, incorporating seven members of the each FGD. In addition, 15 respondents, ranging from different categories including editors, experts and

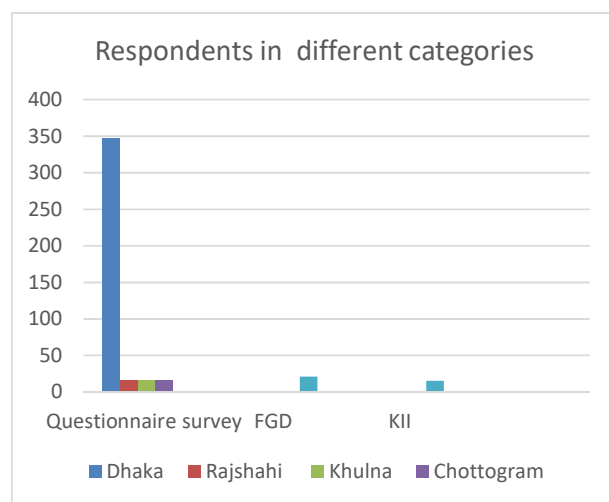


Figure 5 Respondents of different categories

concerned with VAW were interviewed as the key informants. For the journalists, a questionnaire survey was conducted with structured and semi-structured questions. A set of checklists was followed to conduct the KII and FGD for this study. Figure-5 shows the numbers of respondents of different categories. However, the details of the respondents can be seen in the Appendix-I.

#### Survey Data Presentation

The forthcoming section presents the survey data collected from the field level for this study.

### Sex ration of the respondents

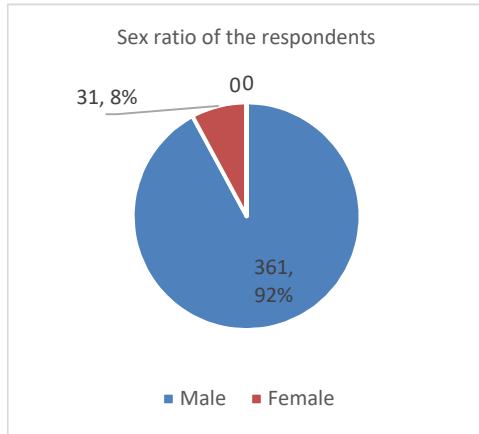


Figure 6 Sex ratio of the respondents

Figure-6 presents the sex ratio of the respondents. It shows that among the respondents, 8 percent of the respondents were female while the rest of the respondents were male. However, a simple random technique was followed to select the respondents from the study areas. It is revealed in the figure-06.

On the other hand, most of the respondents represents print media followed by the electronic media. Representation of online

media and news agency was also revealed. It is shown in the figure-7.

### Types of Media and membership of the respondents

In terms of membership of the respondents, the figure-08 reveals that as many as 61 percent of the respondents belong to Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) while 9 percent

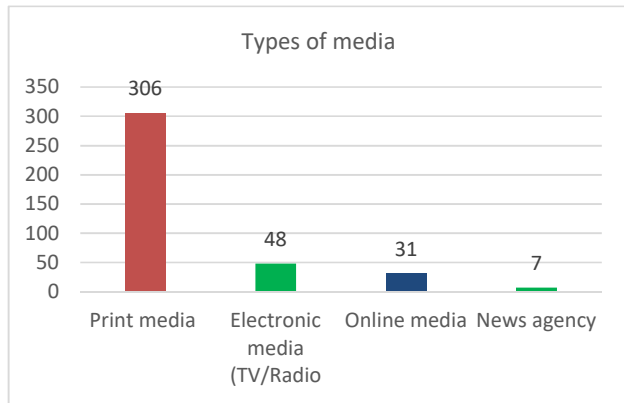


Figure 7 Types of mass media

belongs to National Press Club (NPC). As many as many as 18 percent of the respondents belongs to both National Press Club and Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU). The rest of the respondents belongs to Rajshahi Press Club (RPC), Khulna Press Club (KPC) and Chottogram Press Club (CPC).

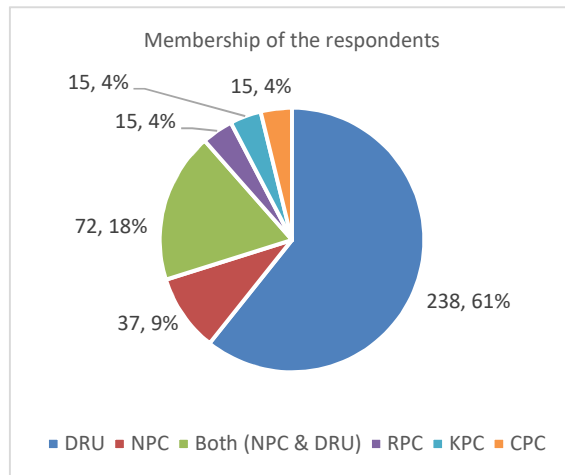


Figure 8 Membership status of the respondents

However, the respondents were informed that they were free to put tick as answer

or make comments in written where applicable. They were also informed that they can refrain from putting answer of any one or more questions if they wish. But they were encouraged to answer all questions for data

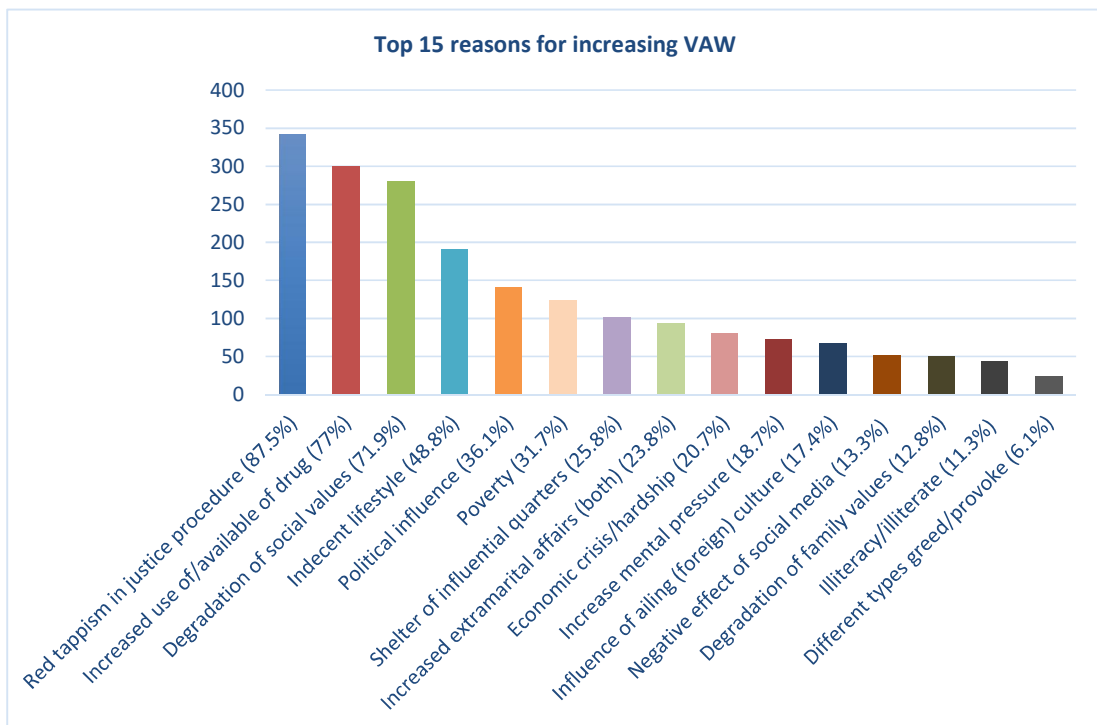
reliability. Multiple responses were gathered where applicable and data have been presented accordingly.

The respondents were selected following the simple random sampling method. The sample size was determined following a statistical formula. It is described in the methodology section of this report.

### Reasons for increasing VAW

There are a number of reasons for increasing the violence against women in the country. Many previous studies identify many reasons for increasing the VAW in the country. However, among the reasons, a total of 20 reasons were presented in the survey form and the respondents were asked to select the reasons from the list for increasing the VAW in the country. However, top 15 reasons are presented here. To see the list, please

Figure 9 Top 15 reasons for increasing the VAW in Bangladesh



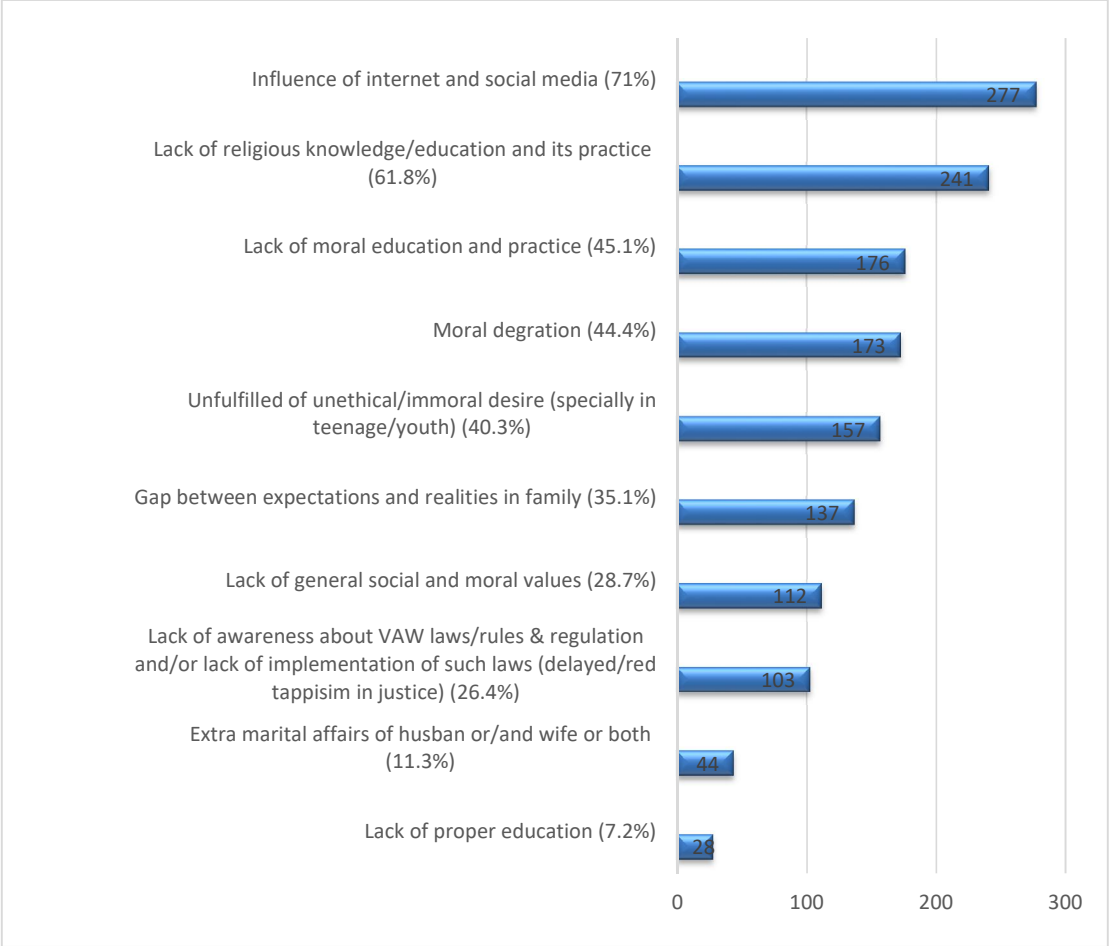
go to the annexure-II. However, according to the respondents, delayed in the settlement of cases (justice) or red tappism in the judgement procedure has been identified as one of the top reasons for increasing the VAW in the country. The figure-9 reveals that about 88 percent of the respondents observe that the incidents related to VAW in the country is increasing day by day for the long procedure of judgement after filing a case. On the other hand, 77 percent of the respondents think that increasing use of drug and its availability or drug addiction is another reason for increasing VAW in the country. Again, about 72 percent of the respondents think that the incidents related to VAW are increasing due to

degradation of social values while about 49 percent of the respondents observe that indecent lifestyle is one of the causes of increasing such types of violence in the country. About 36 percent of the respondents think that misuse of political power is also cause of increasing VAW incidents in the country. Multiple responses were collected for this query. So, it is revealed that red tappism in the judgment procedure takes a long time, even years after years, to reach a final verdict in the country. Consequently, the impact of punishment becomes less visible in the society. Therefore, the purpose of punishment, preventing from committing crime or wrongdoing is not functioning effectively or the preventive theory of punishment is not effective in the society.

**Causes of occurring violence against women in the country**

Women are experiencing violence at different places (home, outside, street, fairs, public

**Figure 10 Causes of occurring VAW in the country**



places, public transports, schools, colleges, universities). Why are they experiencing violence? In reply to share their opinion in this regard, about 71 percent of the respondents observe that free flow of internet and social media has an influence for

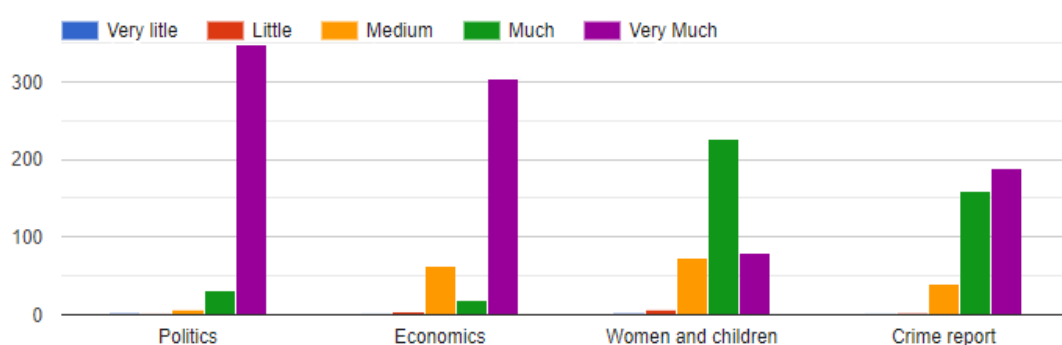
occurring of such kind of violence in the country (figure-10). On the other hand, about 62 percent of the respondents' identify the lack of religious knowledge/education and its practice for such incidents in the country. Again, about 45 percent of the respondents also identify the lack of moral education and its practice for such VAW in the country. Moral degradation of people is also one of the reasons for such VAW. About 44 percent of the respondents are of opinion of this factor. About 40 percent of the respondents identify the 'not fulfilling' of unethical desire/immoral desire especially among the teenage/youth, for the incident of VAW in the country. On the other hand, about 35 percent of the respondents observe that the incidents of VAW are occurred due to the gap between expectations and realities in the family life. But about 29 percent of the respondents observe that the incidents of VAW is occurred due to lack of general social and moral values in the country. About 26 percent of the respondents observe that lack of awareness about women safety laws/rules and regulation and its slow and/or lack of implementation of such laws, delayed in justice and/or red-tapism in justice can be identified as causes of VAW incidents in the country.

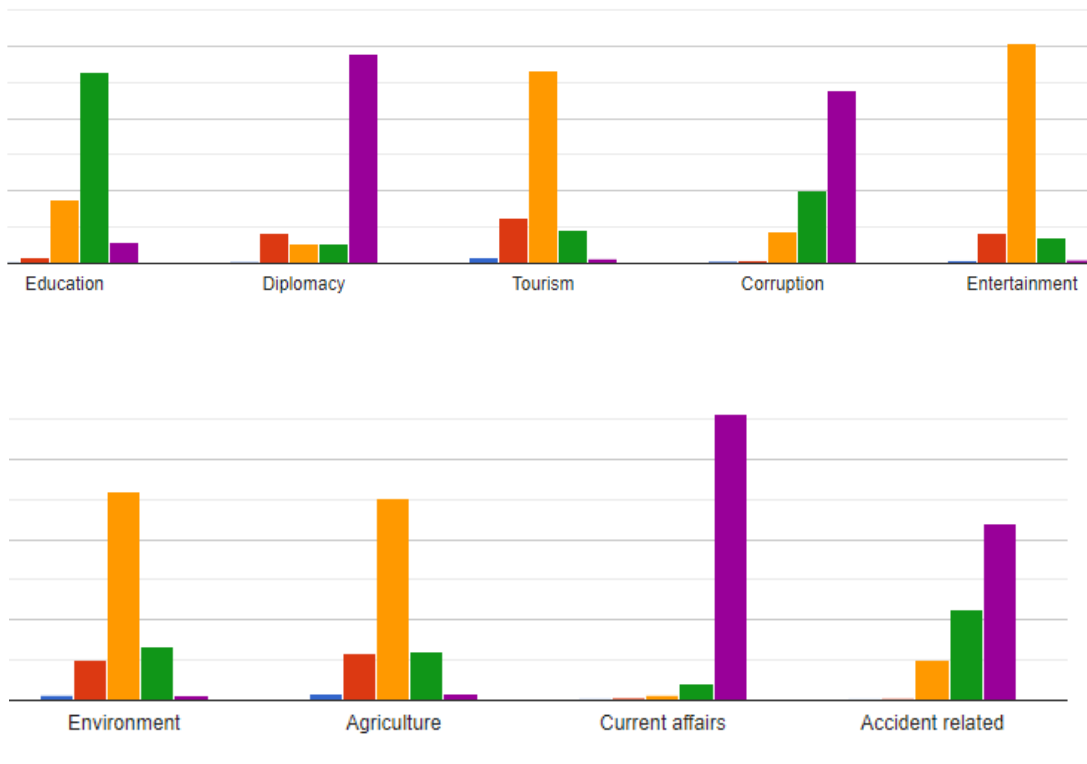
So, it is revealed that there are a number of factors that are identified as causes of VAW incidents in the country. Among the factors, degradation of social, moral and religious values is dominant factor. It is also observed that practice of moral values, social values and religious education can contribute to prevent the incidents of VAW in the country.

### News items important in mass media

The study tried to understand the importance of news items and its coverage on the mass media in the country. For this, a total of 13 news items were presented in the questionnaire

Figure 11 News items important in mass media





survey form and the respondents were asked to rate as 'very little', 'little', 'medium', 'much' and 'very much' on each type of news items. They were asked to do it in items of coverage of the news items in the mass media. The news items include: (1) political (2) economic (3) children and women affairs (VAW) (4) crime news (5) education (6) diplomatic (7) tourism (8) corruption (9) recreation (10) environment (11) agriculture (12) current affairs, and (13) accident related news. However, the above three graphs reveal a mixed result (figure-11). Most of the respondents are of opinion that all media focus on political news 'very much' in terms of coverage in the mass media. Most of the respondents also describe that along with political news items, economic news, diplomatic news, corruption related news, current affairs and accidents related news are also given importance in terms of coverage. The graph also reveals that children and women affairs (VAW) news, crime news and education related news items are given as 'much' importance in terms of coverage in the mass media. On the other hand, news items related to tourism, recreation, environment and agriculture are given 'medium' importance in terms of coverage in the mass media in the country.

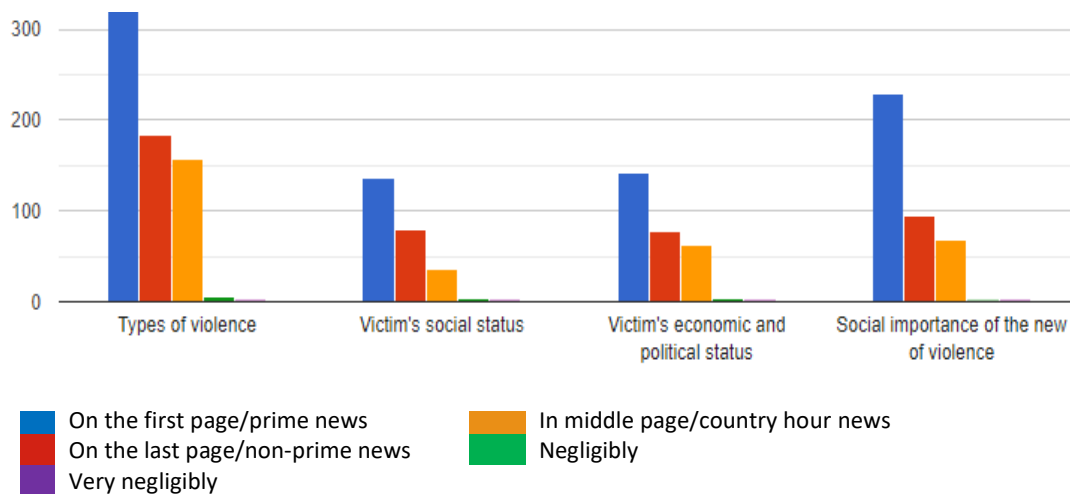
So, the study reveals that VAW related news items are considered as next to the highest important news item in the mass media in the country. It denotes that such kind of news items are considered with due importance and it gets due coverage in the mass media.



### Coverage status of VAW related news in mass media

As it is revealed earlier that the news item related to VAW is given due importance, such kind

Figure 12 Coverage of VAW related news in mass media



of news items are published accordingly, appearing at the front page, last page or middle page or broadcast in prime news hour, non-prime news hour or in country news hour. However, publishing VAW related news items in the front page, last page and middle page depends on the types of violence, victim’s social, economic and political status, and social importance of the news items. The figure- 12 shows it. It is also revealed that such kind of news items are not published negligibly.

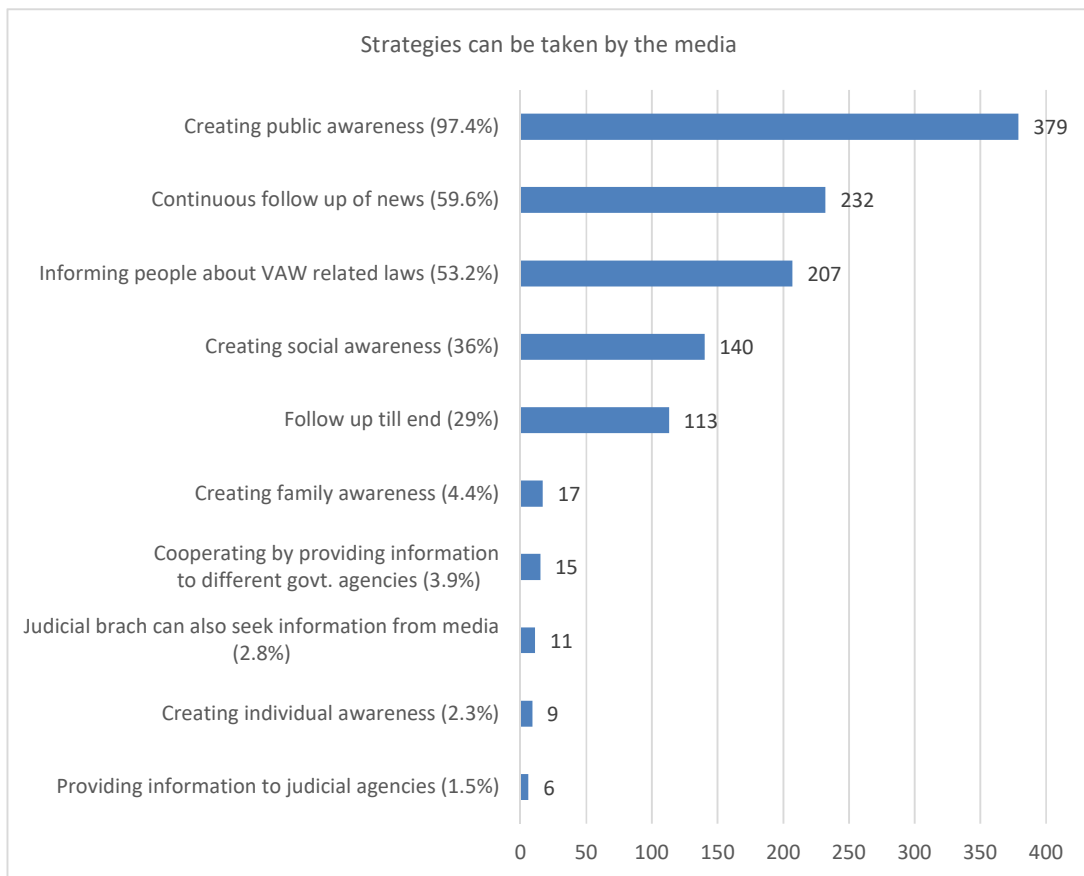
So, it is revealed that VAW related news items are given due coverage based on the degree of violence and status of the victims. It is also revealed that if the status of victim is not belonged to well-off society, such kind of news is appeared in the last page and middle page in the mass media. In case of electronic media, it is aired in the non-prime news hour or country news hour.

### Strategies can take mass media

What types of strategies the mass media can take to prevent VAW in Bangladesh? In reply to this query, the respondents describe that a numbers of strategies the mass media can play in the country. Among the strategies, creating public awareness/opinion, continuous follow-up, informing people about laws and its punishment related to VAW incidents, creating social awareness and follow-up till the final judgement/verdict are identified as major strategies. In addition, creating family awareness, helping government agencies through information sharing, providing information to judicial branch are also identified as strategies that can be followed by the mass media. However, almost 100 percent

respondents assert that mass media can create public awareness/public opinion to prevent VAW in the country. Again, about 60 percent respondents observe that the mass media can

**Figure 13 Strategies can be taken by the mass media to prevent VAW**

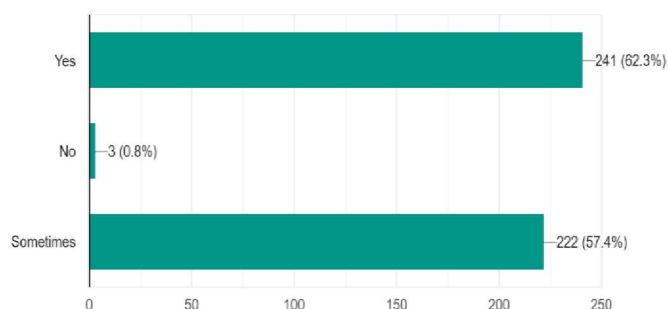


publish/broadcast follow-up news continuously about the VAW related news items while about 53 percent respondents observe that the mass media can inform mass people about the existing VAW related laws through publishing the laws. On the other hand, the mass media can also adopt strategy for creating social awareness to prevent VAW in the country. As many as 36 percent of the respondents are of opinion of this statement. Figure-13 represents the opinions of the respondents.

So, it is revealed that the mass media can take strategy to make mass people aware about the causes of VAW, its impacts on individual, family and society, about laws and punishment related to VAW incidents and so on. It is observed that the policy makers were compelled to take policy and amend existing laws to ensure punishment of the culprits in the country. It was happened due to the pressure from mass people and here the mass media played a positive role to uphold the public opinion. This is why, as creating awareness or campaign to create awareness is very important issue to uphold the spirit of public opinion, the mass media can adopt this strategy easily to contribute to prevent VAW incidents in the country.

### Follow up status of the strategies

The respondents think that they follow such strategies. The study reveals that about 62



percent of the respondents assert they perform such strategy while about 57 percent of the respondents describe they do it sometimes. The figure-14 shows it. Multiple responses were

Figure 14 Strategies followed by mass media

counted during collection of data from the respondents.

### Difficulty to follow the strategies

Is it difficult to play such role or to adopt such strategy? In reply to this query, a mixed

result is revealed. The study reveals that about 38 percent of the respondents observe that it is difficult to adopt such strategy whereas about 92 percent of the respondents observe that sometimes it becomes difficult when there is a

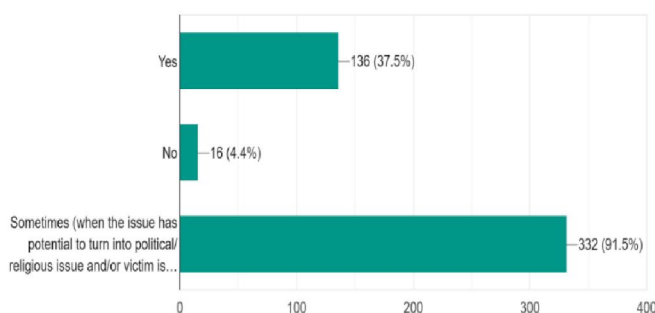


Figure 15 Whether it is difficult to adopt strategy

potential threat to turn the campaign into a political movement or religious issue or involved the influential quarter. Multiple responses were counted for getting answer of this query. Multiple responses were counted for this findings (figure-15).

### Status of application of the strategies

Despite some limitations, the mass media play such role and adopt such strategies to prevent VAW incidents in the country. The figure-16 shows that most of the strategies such as creating public opinion or awareness, social awareness, continuous follow-up and so on are applied. About 73 percent of the respondents are of opinion of this statement. On the other hand, if not possible regularly to do so, most of the mass media publish special page/issue on subject or issued-based at a certain day of the week or month. The electronic

media also broadcast such events such as talk show and discussion on related issues in a certain period of time of a week or month. In case of follow-up, about 36 percent of the respondents observe that over the time the news value of VAW related incidents is decreased, if not so brutal or influential cases. In that cases, coverage or final follow-up has not got importance. The findings of the multiple responses are shown in the figure-16. Multiple responses are counted here.

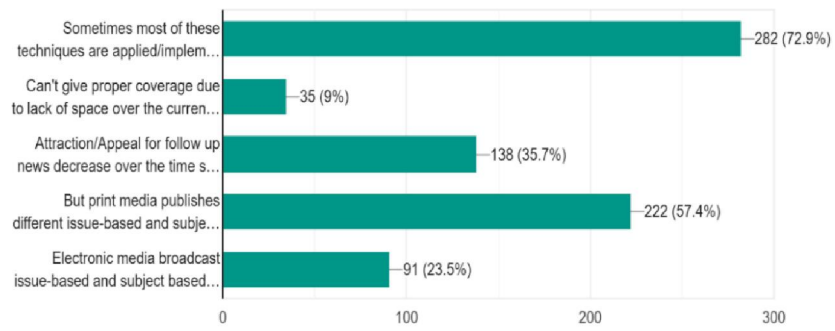


Figure 16 Status of application of strategies

### Strategies should be adopted by mass media

The study Figure-17 shows that the mass media can adapt different techniques or strategies in publishing or broadcasting news items related to VAW in the country. Almost all the respondents (98%) describe that the mass media should play neutral role and right information avoiding bias role. Along with the neutral role, about 64 percent of the respondents' assert that the mass media can identify

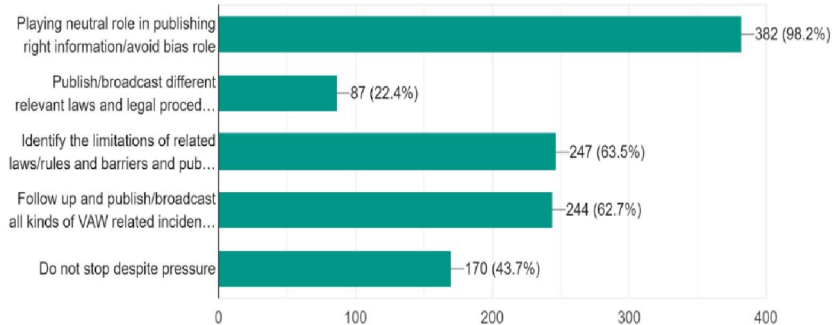


Figure 17 Strategies should be adopted by mass media

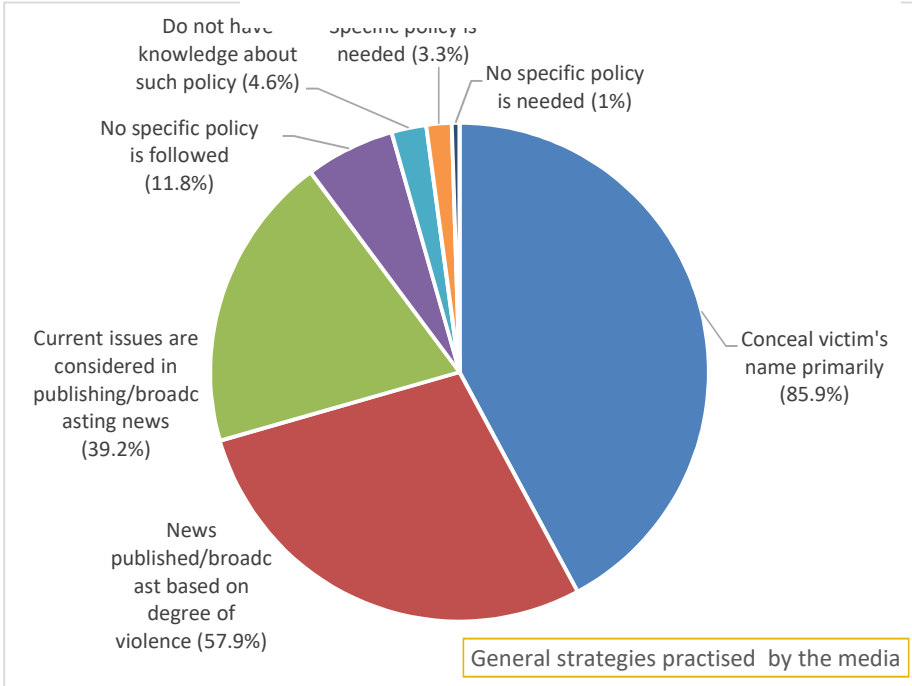
the limitations/barriers of the VAW related laws and publish it. On the other hand, about 63 percent of the respondents think that follow-up with the final judgement/verdict of all kinds of news items related VAW should be published in the mass media. Again, about 44 percent of the respondents observe that the mass media should not bow down their position under any pressure to publish news items related to VAW. However, about 22 percent of the respondents think that the mass media can publish/broadcast different laws and rules related to VAW.

So, it is revealed that playing neutral role, identifying barriers/limitations of VAW related laws and following-up VAW related news till final judgement can contribute to preventing VAW incidents in the country.

**General strategies practices in mass media**

In reply to a query about 'what kinds of strategies or policies are practising in the mass media', the study finds a mixed result. It is revealed that about 86 percent of the respondents observe that there is a common policy or strategy that is presently practised in the mass media 'not to disclose the victim's identity' initially (figure-18). Then, the other strategy that is also practised in the mass media is that the news items related to VAW is published or broadcast based on the degree of violence. About 58 percent of the respondents think

**Figure 18 General strategies practised in the mass media**



it. However, about 39 percent of the respondents observe that such news items get treatment considering the current

phenomenon or current context. On the other hand, about 12 percent of the respondents observe that there is no specific rule or specific rule is practised with regard to publishing news items related to VAW in the mass media in the country while about only five percent of the respondent assert that they do not have knowledge or information about such specific policy of their media. Only about three percent of the respondent think that there is a need of specific policy in the mass media.

So, it is revealed that despite not having hard and fast rules and policies, the mass media primarily conceals the victim's identity. Then, it follows the degree of violence to provide or make coverage in the mass media. It also considers the current context to publish/broadcast and make coverage of the news items related to VAW. However, it is

observed that although the name of the victim is concealed primarily, other identity such as name of village, school or college and other features that denote the identity indirectly of the victims. So, it is suggested that identity of the victims should be remained 'hidden' by any means.

### Role of electronic media related to VAW issues

In providing information about the role of electronic media with regard to broadcasting VAW related news items, the study finds that the private channels play a very positive role.

Figure 19 Role of electronic media in broadcasting VAW related news

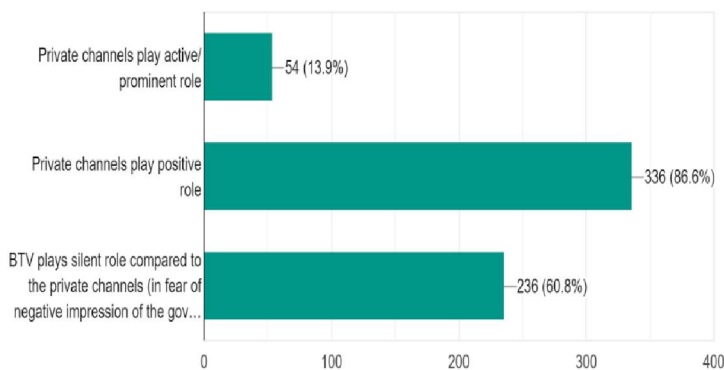


Figure-19 shows that about 87 percent of the respondents think that the private channels play a positive role to broadcast VAW related news while about 61 percent of the respondents observe that the state-owned electronic channel BTV

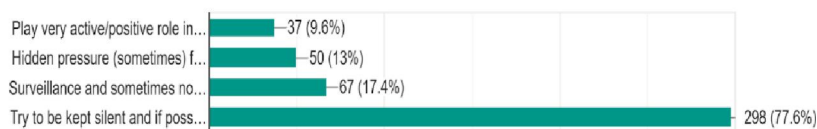
plays a silent role compared to the private TV channels. They observe that the management of the BTV may have considered it, airing the VAW related news items, as criticism of government or creating a negative image of the government. However, about 14 percent of the respondents see the role of private TV channels as active and prominent in broadcasting the news items related to VAW.

Therefore, it is revealed that the private electronic media play a very positive role compared to the government-owned electronic media in the country.

### Role of private electronic media related to VAW issues

However, in providing data about the techniques/strategies adopted by the private channels to broadcast the news items related to VAW, the study reveals mixed findings.

Figure 20 Role of private electronic media in broadcasting VAW related news



The highest number of the respondents observe that although the private electronic

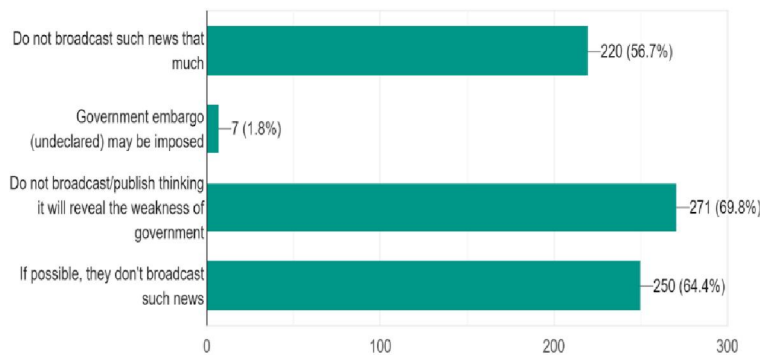
media play a very active role/positive role, the TV channels aligned with the government closely try to be kept silent primarily in this regard or they try to broadcast such news softly

and if possible, they avoid to broadcast such news items. It is shown in the figure-20. On the other hand, about 17 percent of the respondents think that there may be hidden surveillance and non-document instruction 'not to broadcast' massively that can create or contribute to mobilizing an anti-government movement. Only 13 percent of the respondents think that there may also be a hidden pressure to air such news considering the government image. And, about 10 percent respondents observe that the private channels play a very active and positive role in this regard. However, multiple responses were counted for gathering this data.

### Role of state-owned electronic media related to VAW issues

Apart from the private TV channels, the respondents' observation was also investigated about the role of the BTV and Bangladesh Betar with regard to broadcasting/airing the news items related to VAW. The respondents observe that the state-owned mass media play a

Figure 22 Role of BTV/Bangladesh Betar in broadcasting VAW related news



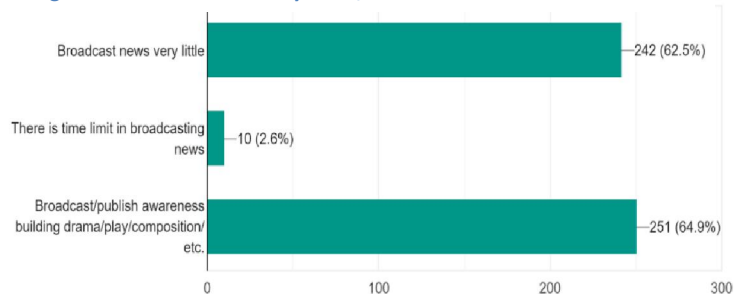
soft role compared to their counterpart private media. The study reveals that about 70 percent of the respondents observe that the state-owned media do not broadcast such news items thinking

that it would reveal the weakness of the government in terms of controlling the incidents in the country (figure-21). On the other hand, about 64 percent of the respondents think that the state-owned channels do not broadcast such news if possible. Again, about 57 percent of the respondents observe that they do not broadcast such news as much as private channels.

### Role of Community radio/FM radio related to VAW issues

Therefore, it is revealed that the state-owned electronic media is very much aware of the pulse of the government in terms of

Figure 21 Role of community radio/FM radio towards VAW related issue



broadcasting news and views related to VAW in the country.

However, the study investigated the role of community radio/FM radio in terms of broadcasting news related to VAW. The study finds that the mass media focuses broadcasting awareness building programmes such as drama/play or composition rather than airing news related to VAW. The figure-22 presents that about 65 percent of the respondents observe that the community radio or FM radio prefers broadcasting awareness related programmes to news. The study also reveals that almost same number of the respondents (63%) observes that such types of mass media maintain less focus on news. Multiple responses were counted in collecting data in this regard.

So, it is revealed that the community radio and FM radio plays vital role in creating awareness among mass people through their different awareness creating programmes in the country.

However, the study explored to get the answer about a query such as *what types of role should the community radio and FM radio play in terms of VAW in the country?* In reply to this query, the

respondents (56%) think that they should broadcast more such news as it covers wide as well as

Figure 23 Role of community radio/FM radio should play



local communities. The respondents (54%) also think that it should be done considering the importance of the incidents related to VAW. Multiple responses were also gathered here. It is shown in the figure-23.

So, it is revealed that such kinds of mass media have an impact on society. It has a scope of wide coverage of mass people. And, it can contribute to prevent VAW in the country through creating awareness among mass people.

### Role of online media related VAW issue

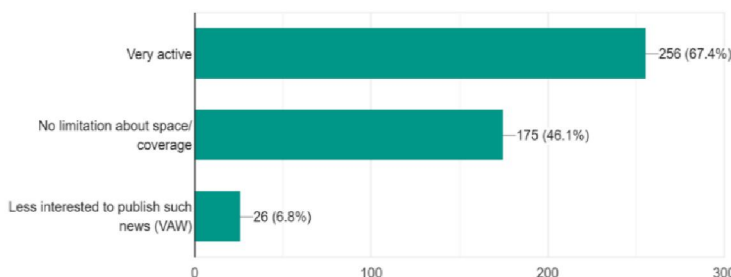


Figure 24 Role of online media

The study also investigated the role of online media excepting social media. Online media refers here online news portal and

online news agency. However, the majority of the respondents observes that the online mass media play active role in terms of publishing news related to VAW. About 67 percent



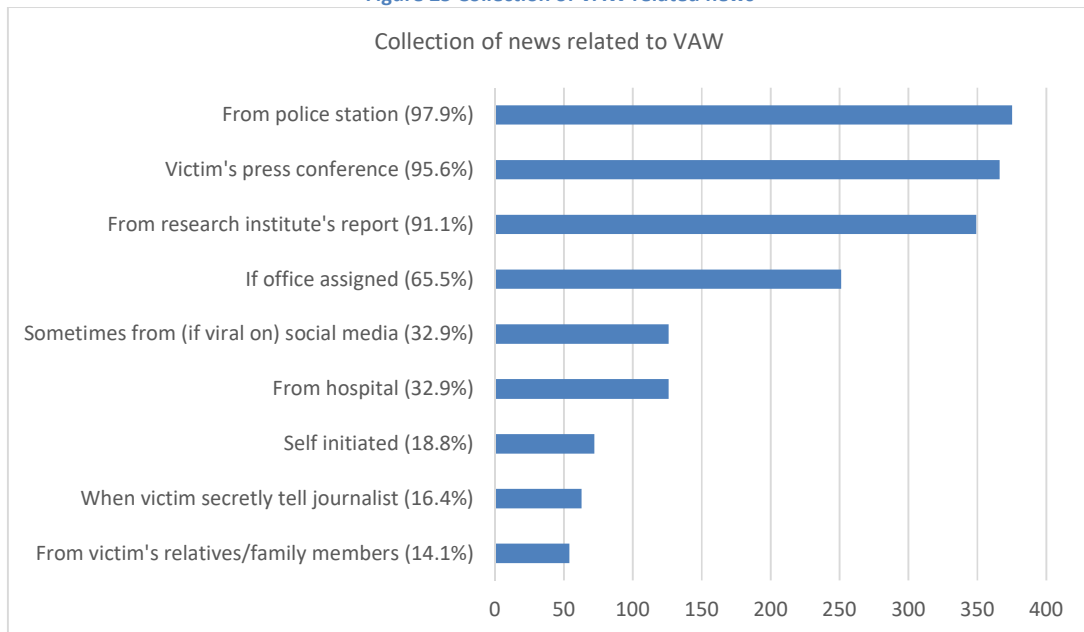
of the respondents observe it (figure-24). About 46 percent of the respondents think that the online mass media has no limitation in terms of space/coverage. The study finds only about 7 percent of the respondents think that the online mass media is less interested in publishing such news items.

So, it is revealed that the online mass media play a positive role in publishing news items related to VAW in the country. Their role is considered as active.

### Collection of VAW related news

In terms of collecting news related to VAW, the respondents assert that they collect such types of news items from different sources. The major sources are police station, press conference by victims, research report of research institutions, office assignment, hospitals and so on. The figure-25 reveals that about 98 percent of the respondents' assert that they collect news related to VAW from the police station followed by the press conference (96%) held by the victims. Again, they assert that they (91%) collect news from the research institutions. However, about 66 percent of the respondents' assert that they collect such news when their office assigns them for it. about 33 percent of the respondents describe that they collect such news from hospitals. The same number of the respondents also assert that they cover such news when it becomes viral in the social media. About 19 percent of the respondents collect such news by their own initiatives.

Figure 25 Collection of VAW related news

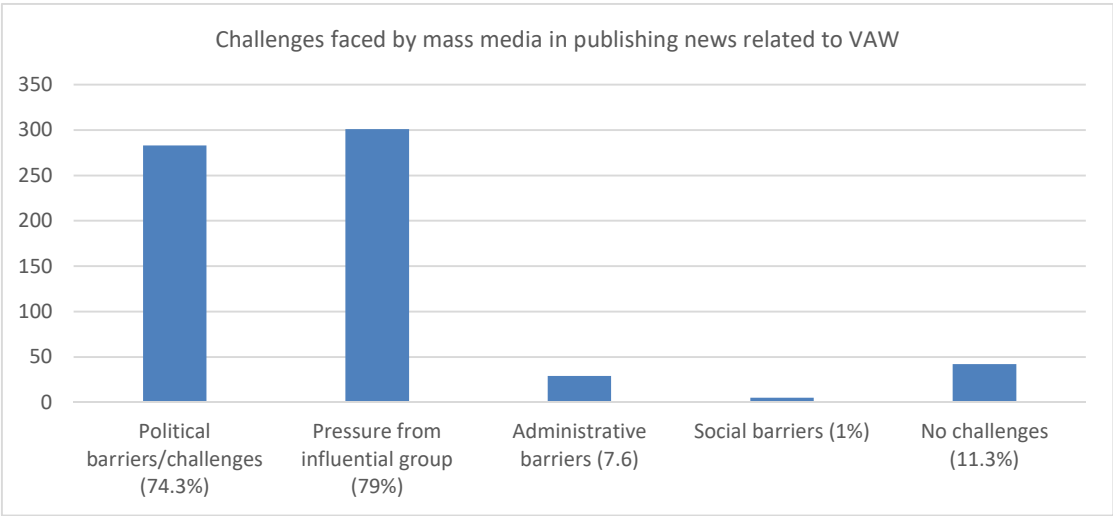


### Challenges faced by mass media

Challenges faced by the mass media in publishing or broadcasting news/views related to VAW were investigated in the study. It is revealed that political factors and a section of

influential quarters are identified as the major challenges in this regard. The study finds that about 74 percent of the respondents' assert that they faced political barriers in terms of publishing news related to VAW (figure-26). It is already mentioned earlier that use or

Figure 26 Challenges faced by mass media

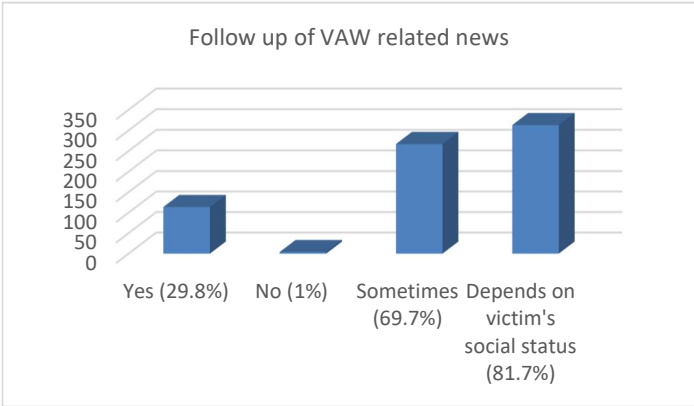


misuse of political power is identified as one of the reasons for increasing the incidents related to VAW in the country. Apart from political factors, 79 percent of the respondents also assert that they faced barriers from a section of the influential quarters of the society. In some cases, there were administrative barriers in this regard whereas about 11 percent of the respondents describe that there is no challenges or barriers in publishing such kinds of news in the mass media in the country.

**Follow up of news related to VAW**

After publishing the news related to VAW, often follow up is considered important. This study investigated this issue. Figure 27 Status of follow up of news related to VAW

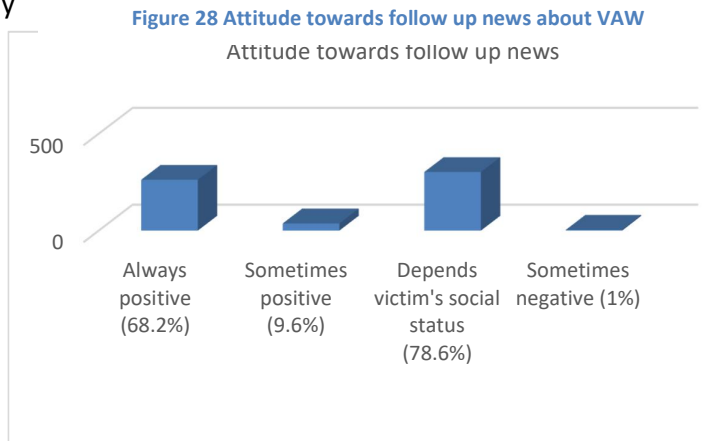
However, the multiple responses reveal that about 30 percent of the respondents' assert that follow up of such news is done whereas about 70 percent of the respondents observe that it is done sometimes. On the other hand, about 82 percent of the respondents observe that follow up of such news depends on the victim's social status. The figure-27 reveals it.



So, it is revealed that social status is considered as very important factor for covering follow up news. It is also revealed that without news value, the mass media does not give importance of any news either it is VAW related or others such as economic, politics, environment, education, tourism, crime, current affairs and so on.

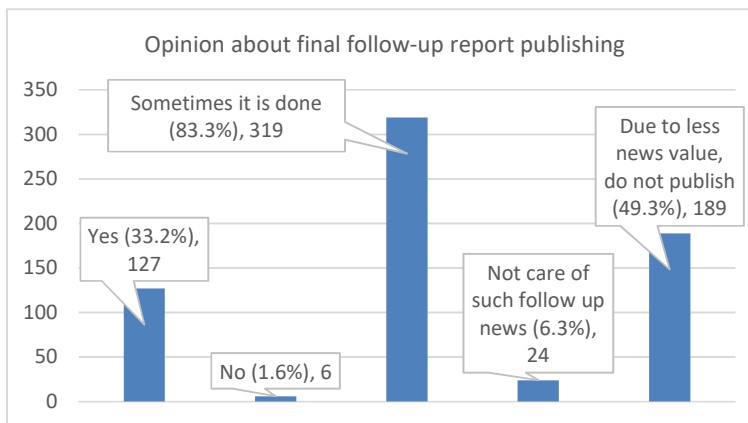
However, about publishing/broadcasting such follow up news, the attitude of mass media is very positive. The study

reveals that about 68 percent of the respondents observe that mass media is very positive towards publishing/broadcasting follow up news related to VAW. But, again, it depends on the victim's social status. About 79 percent of the respondents think it (figure-28).



So, it is again revealed that social status is very important issue in the mass media to cover the issue and its coverage on the media. Because, there are limitations in terms of space in the print media and time on the electronic media. This is why, they consider news value for its coverage.

**Figure 29 Opinion about final follow-up report publishing**



Despite different limitations and factors with regard to follow up news, the study investigated the notion of mass media in this regard. The study explores whether mass media publish the final follow-up news related

to VAW. It is revealed that as many as 83 percent respondents assert that it is done sometimes (figure-29). On the other hand, about 49 percent respondents describe that they do not publish the final news related to VAW incidents due to less news value. However, about 33 percent respondents claim that they publish the final follow-up news about VAW. About six percent respondents said they do not look after the follow-up of such news. Only about one percent of the respondents claim they do not publish such follow-up

news. So, it is revealed that publishing of the follow-up news depends on the news value. If it has news value, they take it accordingly and publish the follow-up news with due importance.

So, it is revealed that news value carries the weight of follow up in the mass media.

But, replying to a query whether the final follow up news related to VAW should be published, almost all the respondents are of opinion that the final follow-up news should be published in all mass media in the country (figure-30). The respondents said the mass people except the victims forget the incidents related to VAW if it is not followed up continuously. So, such kind of news with final judgement and/or verdict should be published so that it can make awareness among mass people, contributing to prevent VAW in the country.

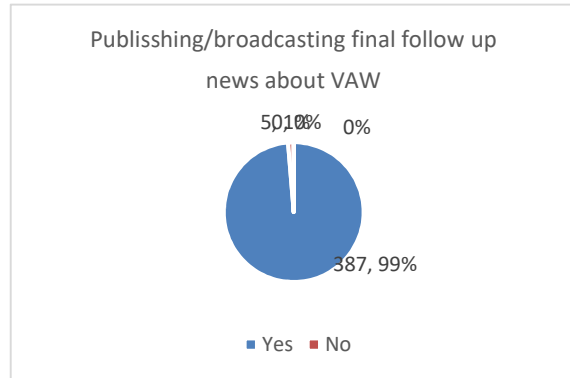


Figure 30 Opinion about publishing final follow up news

### Qualitative Data Presentation

The forthcoming section presents the qualitative data which were collected by conducting key informant interviews and focus group discussions.

#### Key Informant Interview (KII)

As many as 15 key informant interviews were conducted for this study. Most of them were media personalities whereas some were from the categories of expert and representative of law enforcing agency.

However, most of the KIIs observed that the mass media can play a vital role to prevent violence against women in the country. For this, it is needed combine efforts from all corners such as government side, non-government sectors, civil society group, law enforcing agencies and so on and so forth. Here, the mass media can play a catalyst role to promote the combine efforts to stop VAW in the country.

#### Increase incidents about VAW

In reply to the query, 'why the incidents related to VAW are increasing day by day in the country,' most of the KIIs observe that there are many factors for increasing the incidents related to VAW in the country. Among the factors, the major factors include: degradation of moral values, social values, poverty, unethical behaviour, political phenomenon, availability of various kinds of drugs, delayed in justice, influence of social media and so on.

Some of the KIs observe that in many cases some mass media present women as 'commercial commodity' which later leads to unexpected incidents like VAW. On the other hand, some of the KIs observe that lack of religious practice in personal life and social life is another reason for increasing VAW incident in the country. 'Practice of religious values in individual and social life can prevent VAW in the country', the KI observe.

Another KI observe that

*'we do not study religious and moral education in practical life when it is needed. Students are compelled to study religion and moral education up to secondary school level. At this time, students study it for getting marks only not for practice in their real life. After secondary level, there is no formal moral education system at the educational institutions in the country. So, due to a lack of such moral education, the incidents related to VAW are increasing day by day with different forms in the country. Formal moral and religious education and its practice is very important to prevent VAW in the country.'*

Another KI think that

*'a section of girls in the name of freedom visit some so called 'star hotels' and it is caused for such incidents related to VAW in the country'.*

Some other KIs observe that

*'the social position of women and girls has deviated in the name of so called freedom which later in many cases appears causes of VAW and girls in the country. On the other hand, delayed in justice related to VAW can be considered as another reason for such unpleasant incidents in the country.'*

The survey data also support the qualitative data.

### ***Role of mass media***

Role of media to prevent VAW is always positive in the country. The KIs observe that all types of media such as print media, electronic media (TV/Radio), online media (online version of print media/online news portal/news agency) and social media has its special importance in their respective areas to promote the campaign to stop VAW in the country. For example, print media can continue follow up for a particular incident for long time even for the last judgement of the incident. Electronic media such as TV can promote rapid mass awareness among the general people about a particular incident whereas the online and social media can pick a very sensitive issue into the front line which was out of reach of the mainstream media houses. The mass media can put pressure on the policy makers to take necessary policy decisions. For example, the government has made amendment in the 'Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, incorporating death penalty in the case of rape.

Almost all the KIs observe that

*'it is the mass media that can now make influence very much to the policy makers to take new policy decisions, revise previous decisions and so on. Despite many limitations, the mass media still is playing a vital role in the country.'*

They also observe that the mass media can create awareness very much about different issues in the country. Awareness is very important factor to prevent violence against women in the country.

### **Electronic media**

In this study, electronic media refers to both government-owned BTV and private TV channels in the country. As it is revealed in the survey data that the private channels are playing very positive role to prevent VAW in the country. On the other hand, most of the KIs observe that the state-owned TV channel focuses on broadcasting development news of the government. The state-owned TV channel can also play very positive role as the private channels play. One of the KIs observe that

*'The government has introduced many 'hot numbers' such as '999'. People are getting very positive services by calling the '999'. After calling this number, police personnel and related government high officials rushed to the spots instantly and stopped many early child marriage incidents. There are many evidences of such kinds actions. BTV can broadcast such type of positive news and arrange other programmes. This will uphold the image of the government, not negative image of the government. Consequently, the bad image of BTV will disappear. Bangladesh Betar can also broadcast such news and can arrange other programmes as well.'*

Most of the KIs observe that the private TV channels face a tough competition. They try to focus the news which has much news value to mass people. Consequently, they also underscore on professionalism. In private channels, there is no job security. On the other hand, there is a lack of professionalism and skilled journalists in the state-owned TV channels. One of the KIs observe that

*'there is a lack of good reporters in BTV. There is also a lack of skills to make an investigative news item. In many cases, many are recruited in the BTV by recommending ministers or such other influential individuals. Consequently, they do job like other government offices'.*

### **Challenges of media**

About challenges, some of the KIs think that there is no challenge in publishing and broadcasting news related to prevent VAW in the country. Again some other KIs observe that there is a hidden censorship on publishing and broadcasting news related to the VAW. Because, it is a very sensitive issue. If the issues are published massively, it can create a social movement which can be turned into a political movement, leading to an anti-

government movement. For example, a Dhaka University student was raped in Kurmitola, Dhaka that led the university students all over the country and other organizations to burst in protests. Some of the KIs observe that

*'If such protest continues and the mass media also support continuously, covering massively and airing on the TV prime news and arrange talk show and other programmes, it may lead to anti-government movement in the country. Under such circumstances, mass media face various challenges such as hidden pressure from the government side, censorship on publishing news and views, and so on.'*

One of the KIs observe that there is no big challenge to publish such news. Just 'we have to careful about the issues so that it cannot turn into anti-government movement'. He observes that

*'mass media now enjoy very freedom in terms of using 'words, language, pictures, cartoons and so on. During the Ershad regime, the media workers/journalists cannot write the word 'cocktail, bomb' in the print media. Consequently, they follow different techniques to refers the cocktail and bomb. Nowadays, the mass media are free from such embargo from the government side.'*

On the other hand, almost all the media related KIs think that they fear about some Acts, especially the Digital Security Act 2018. They observe that most of the journalists who went to jail-custody faced cases under this Act. This Act often prevents them to go forward, they assert.

#### ***Role of community radio/FM radio***

Most of the KIs observe that community radio and FM radio has a wider audience in the country. Such type of mass media can play very positive role to create awareness among the mass people across the country. A community radio covers a specific area. It broadcasts many programmes in local language which cannot Bangladesh Betar. Bangladesh Betar is a national institution. There is an obligation to maintain national standard. But the regional stations can broadcast programmes in local language. However, community radio and FM radio prefers different programmes and other events rather than news. One of the KIs think that

*'such type of mass media can contribute a lot to prevent violence against women incidents in the country through creating awareness, airing different punishment related news and views, as well as laws related to VAW in the country.'*

### ***Role of online media and social media***

Nowadays, online media is getting popularity in the country. News published on the online mass media spreads rapidly through different social media in the country. Some of the KIs observe that

*'most of the online news portals and news agencies depend on social media to spread their news to the mass people. As most of the mobile phone users have account of Facebook and other social media, they get latest news instantly. For this, the mainstream print media have also launched their online version. The electronic media have also social media account. The mass media are in completion to reach their news first to mass people.'*

In many cases, social media alongside the mainstream mass media can play very positive role to prevent violence against women. But in some cases, it misleads and spreads misinformation in the country which creates panic among mass people, most of the KIs observe.

### ***Lack of effectiveness of government agencies***

Some of the KIs think that the mass media related government agencies such PIB, PID, Press council cannot play their effective role. One of the KIs observe that

*'they do not have any communication with these government institutions. But there should be a close contact between the government agencies and mass media. The government agencies can sit sometimes with the media houses and journalists. They can provide suggestions on different issues, including VAW issue. They can ask the media house to publish/broadcast news and views as well as awareness related programmes that can contribute to prevent the incidents related to VAW in the country. They can even impose to do so. All impose is not always negative, it may be positive as well.'*

### ***Presentation of women***

Most of the KIs observe that in many cases women are presented as commercial commodity in the mass media. Misuse of technology and social media can be held responsible for such presentation. So, the presentation of women and girls should be more decent. For this, right persons should be placed in the right place. Most of the KIs think that the media personnel should care of the dignity of women and girls during presentation in the mass media. Always commercial attitudes should be avoided. One of the KIs observe that

*'for some activities of some so called women leaders and models, a negative image is creating and it brings impacts on other women and girls in the society. So, the women leaders and models should be more careful about their activities. Their lifestyle, their behaviour, their activities should be decent so that these can be followed. It would contribute to prevent the incidents related to VAW in the country.'*



### ***Ownership of mass media***

Ownership of mass media is a very important issue in terms of following editorial policy. Almost all the KIs observe there is a deviation in terms of ownership of mass media in the recent past time. Now most of the influential media are controlled by a group of corporate houses. Consequently, it brings impacts on editorial policies. The recent phenomenon is to become editors of the mass media by the owners, despite not being a professional journalist. In some cases, family members of the corporate houses also become editors of the mass media in the country. However, almost all the KIs observe that the media houses protect the interest of the financing corporate house. One of the KIs describes that

*'There are many reasons to be alarmed by the intersection of business, politics, and media in Bangladesh. Media owners' significant presence in banks and financial institutions, the insurance industry, energy, and real estate, is especially worrying. They use their influence on the outlets they own to promote their business interests, advance their political interests, and make favor with powerful politicians rather than protecting the interest of mass people in the country.'*

Some of the KIs observe that some politicians are also owners of some mass media houses. Such types of ownership will protect the interest of the owners not for the general people's interest.

### ***Nexus between politicians and influential***

Some of the KIs observe that there is a nexus between different groups such as politicians and influential individuals. It is already mentioned in the survey part that misuse of political power is one of the top reasons for VAW in the country. After committing such VAW incidents, the political factors and actors as well as influential individuals become active to blame the victim as 'bad women/girls' instead of fair judgement. Sometimes, the victims are compelled to withdraw cases if filed. One of the KIs observes that

*'we have nothing to do except publishing news related to VAW in the country. we cannot publish news related to VAW if any case is filed with a police station. We cannot publish such news if the victims make a press conference. Sometimes, it is observed that some members of law enforcing agencies, in many cases, involved in such incidents and make influence over the victims to sit with the accused individuals and settle the issues, instead of bringing the accused under trial.'*

### ***Overall observation***

The KIs observe that the number of mass media is increasing day by day but the quality has not increased accordingly. The online media is getting popularity along with the electronic media in the country. Competition among the mass media has also increased. But professionalism has decreased. The investigative news items have decreased in the mass media. Commitment of mass media to mass people has also dwindled. The mass media is

now controlled by business corporate houses. Consequently, non-professional individuals become editors of the mass media. As a result, editorial policy is devoted to protect the interest of the financing authority rather than common people's interest. The KIs also observe that although the mass media is enjoying freedom, they are under threat of the Digital Security Act. Because, most of the cases after enacting the law were against the journalists in the country. And, the cases were filed by the individuals aligned with the ruling political party, they claimed.

Despite such limitations, the mass media is playing a vital role to prevent violence against women in the country. They are contributing to create awareness among the mass people across the country. They are putting pressure continuously on the government and policy makers to take policy decisions in favour of protecting the interest of women and girls in the country. Mal practice done by the members of law enforcing agencies is published. The mass media is putting pressure on the law enforcing agencies to bring the accused under trial through publishing follow up of the incidents related to VAW and other cases. But it is not enough, they observe.

They think there will be challenges and these will be overcome following own strategies. The mass media should have own policy to prevent VAW in the country along with other areas. News will be treated as news. Biasness should be avoided for the greater interest of the community and country. Provoking news items should be avoided. Continuous follow up should be ensured especially the incidents related to VAW. Social awareness among mass people about the impacts of VAW will be enhanced across the country. Limitations of VAW related laws and procedures will be brought in light to remove it. Professional integrity among the media personnel should be maintained. The mass media should develop policy and maintain it for the sake of national greater interest. For this, professional integrity should be maintained.

However, the following section presents FGD data and discussion.

### **Focus Group Discussion**

To explore the strategy of mass media to prevent VAW in Bangladesh, three FGD sessions as one of the part data collections were conducted in three divisions of the study areas. One session was conducted in Dhaka, another was conducted in Rajshahi and the rest was conducted in Chottogram (figure-31). The media fans (TV viewer/radio listeners/newspaper readers) were invited to participate in the FGD sessions. However, the participants were

mostly young individuals who are studying in Dhaka University, Rajshahi University and Chittagong University. They were purposively invited. Because, they were considered very conscious people about VAW incidents in the country.

A total of 21 students participated in the FGD sessions. Seven students participated in each FGD session. However, the FGD sessions were conducted by the trained research personnel with the presence of the researcher. For conducting a FGD session, a friendly environment was surrounded and everybody enjoyed it.

The participants were invited to attend the FGD session willingly. First, they were informed about the

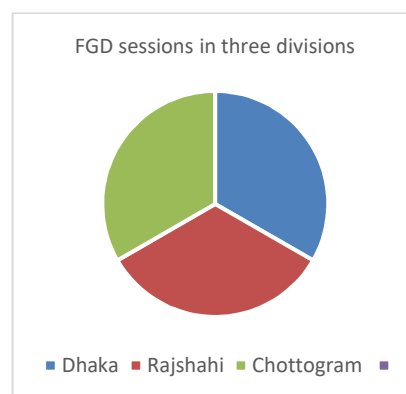


Figure 31 FGD sessions in three divisions

purpose of the FGD session. Second, they were informed that if anybody wish, she/he can leave the session and withdraw his/her speech already made in the session. There was no compulsion of participation in the FGD session. Maintaining all ethical standards of a research work, the FGD sessions were conducted with spontaneous participation of the invited young individuals in the three different locations of the study areas.

However, when asked, how the role of mass media should be to prevent VAW in the country? In reply to this query, all the participants state that the role of mass media, of course, should be positive. Mass media can portray the incidents related to VAW as one of the problems in the society, rather than presenting it as negative image of the society. They can describe the incidents as limitations of the society and they can make aware how these limitations can be removed. When asked about strategies that should be adopted by the mass media, one of the participants observes that

*'media can play a vital role to prevent VAW in the country. For this, follow up of an incident is very important. Media can follow an incident from first to last. Then, mass people can know the real scenario of the incident with legal procedures, its limitations, if any, time for getting judgement or final results and so on. And, also punishment of the culprits.'*

Another participants observes that,

*'media should play neutral role to uncover the incidents related to VAW in the country. Because, in many cases, the victims, especially women and girls are blamed for violence. But, in many cases, women and girls are not really guilty for such incidents. It is true especially in the cases of domestic violence. For example, wife is beaten by her husband due to delay of cooking. For many logical reasons, it may be delayed. Again, referring some incidents, he observes, media played a 'bias role' and took position in favour of a particular group or an influential quarter of the*

*society. Consequently, after 'killed herself' but he was not guilty'. So, in these cases, media can play neutral role to unearth the real pictures.'*

However, most of the participants observe that in many cases media is playing a very positive role with regard to VAW incidents in the country. They think that due to the positive role of mass media, many influential individuals involved in VAW were brought under trial. Due to the positive role of mass media, the government has made amendment in the Act of Women and Children Repression Prevention Act. On the other hand, some of the participants further observe that,

*'in some cases, there may be hidden pressures or embargo on the mass media for 'not to publish/broadcast' VAW news and views massively so that it turns into an anti-government movement in the country.'*

Some other participants think that,

*'despite such limitations, mass media can play a positive role, portraying the VAW incidents neutrally, avoiding propaganda such as 'failure of government', provoking mass people 'against government', and so on.'*

After all, mass media should play role positive to prevent the VAW incidents in the country. It should not be played role against the government. It should play role to make aware mass people how to prevent VAW incidents in the country, they all observe.

Almost all the participants observe that most of the people of the country do not know more or do not have clear idea about Acts and rules related to prevention of VAW and punishment. Mass media can do much here. The participants observe that,

*'Mass media can publish/broadcast the Acts, rules and legal procedures to prevent VAW related incidents regularly. Through this initiative, mass people will make aware about it. Mass people can be known about the punishment of such incidents. Mass media can also publish/broadcast the judgement 'already done' of an incident related to VAW. It will create awareness in one hand, and it will also discourage people 'to be involved in VAW incident' on the other hand.'*

However, it is informed that most the participants took part in different movements sparked by violence in different times in the country. And, they also shared their experiences of these movement. Some of the participants observe that,

*'this is mass media that supported their movement and they were encouraged to continue it till to get assurance from the competent authorities for punishment of the accused culprits. So, mass media can play a very positive role to prevent VAW and ensure punishment of the culprits in the country.'*

Referring to local experiences, some of the participants observe that in some cases there are some allegations against some local mass media that the local media play a hidden and unfair nexus between the accused individuals and the personnel of the law enforcing agencies. In these cases, they observe that some media play role against the victims (oppressed female/women) and try to brand her/them as 'bad women/girls'. And, also they are blamed for such violence. As a result, the accused manage to escape themselves from allegations of violence.

Some participants observe that the media houses are now controlled by some corporate bodies. Consequently, these media protect their own interest. Referring to a suicidal incident occurred at Gulshan area in Dhaka, some of the participants think that some mass media covered the incident, protecting the interest of a corporate house. Some participants describe that:

*'Control over mass media by the corporate houses will always protect their corporate interest. It is considered as one of the barriers to ensure its proper role to prevent VAW in the country. Because, they play their role to protect the interest of their financing corporate houses. In many cases, they play bias role to serve their financing authority. They are not committed to serve the mass people.'*

However, it is revealed that mass media has an influential role to make aware mass people as well as to put pressure on the policy makers for undertaking necessary policy decisions. It is also revealed that control by corporate houses on mass media may lead to bias role instead of neutral position. It is further revealed that neutral position of mass media can contribute very much to prevent violence against women in the country.

### **Case study**

Two case studies were conducted for this study to understand the phenomenon of VAW in the country. There are lots of phenomenon with regard to VAW in the country. Incidents related to VAW are committed for different reasons which have already been presented in the survey data presentation section as well as in the qualitative data presentation section. It is also revealed that there are many challenges faced by the mass media. The mass media try to overcome these challenges as well. But due to various limitations, the victims are to wait for longtime to get proper justice. Sometimes, the victims are compelled to settle the issue with the accused individuals. A section of influential quarters of the society or in many cases, political influence is appeared as the settler. It is observed that there is a nexus between the accused individuals and the influential quarter. It is made by political affiliation, influential social position, administrative position and power or other reasons such as bribery. Consequently, the victims do not get justice properly in one hand and the incidents related to VAW are increasing rather than decreasing day by day in the country. The following two case studies present such phenomenon.

### **Case-1: VAW: Example of influential quarter**

A second year student of Arts Faculty of a renowned public university submitted a written complaint against her teacher for sexual harassment. She submitted the written complaint to the Chairman of her department in March 2022. The accused teacher once acted as the Vice Chancellor of another public university in the country. However, the issue was discussed at the departmental academic committee held on March 29, 2022. At that meeting, the committee unanimously took some decisions against the accused teacher. The issue was widely published in different mass media at that time in the country. Referring to the proceedings of the academic committee meeting, one of the leading national Bangla newspapers published a report on April 13, 2022. The report revealed that the accused professor was released from academic activities due to complaint lodged by a female student for sexual harassment.

The decisions of the academic committee include: the accused professor will be kept refrained from taking all kinds of classes, invigilation in the examination halls, evaluation of answer scripts, supervision of M. Phil, Ph. D, involvement in examination related activities. The meeting also decided 'not to invite' him in C & D and academic committee meeting, cancellation of the allocated departmental office room (allocated for the teacher) and sending the issue upon the opinion of the 'victim' to the 'higher authority' of the university for greater action against him.

Later, on April 18, 2022, an emergency meeting was held at the department. At that meeting, the committee decided 'not to send the issue' to higher authority but the other decisions taken against the teacher will remain valid. According to the newspaper report, after receiving the decisions taken at the academic committee meeting held on March 29, 2022 and C & D meeting held on March 30, 2022 respectively, the accused professor handed over the key of his allocated departmental office room and sent the answer scripts of a mid-term examination back to departmental office, chairman of the department asserted.

Referring to the proceedings of the meeting, the newspaper revealed a report, describing that the accused professor contacted to chairman of the Department over phone on April 16, 2022 and 'seek apology' for the incident and offered a 3-point proposals to 'safe' him'. Then, the chairman asked the professor to send the proposals in written. Chairman of the department informed that the professor submitted/sent three letters with own signature in the letters to chairman on April 17, 2022.

One letter was written to the chairman for 'seeking apology', another letter was written 'seeking apology' to the victim and the rest letter (application) was written 'seeking self-retirement' to the Vice-chancellor through chairmen of the department. After receiving these letters, the chairman of the department called an emergency meeting on April 18, 2022. According to the newspaper report, the academic committee recorded the letters at the proceedings and all faculty members of the academic committee unanimously believed that the professor has 'confessed' his offence 'committing sexual harassment to the female student' through submitting these letters. However, the emergency meeting decided 'not to send the issue' to higher authority for further action against the accused professor.

After the incidents, demand has raised from different corners to expel the professor from the university permanently.

### **Case-2: VAW: Example of red tappism**

It was 2010. Ten year have passed since the violence happened. The victim was 12 years old when she experienced the unexpected situation by her teacher who taught her song at her residence. Mentally threating his daughter, the teacher raped her more than one time, father of the victim claims.

According to a newspaper report published on April 13, 2022, father of the victim filed a case on September 14, 2020 with a Police Station in Rajshahi, under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, against the accused teacher who is an official of a public university. One month prior to file the case with the police station, parents of the victim submitted a written complaint against the accused individual to the university authority to take action in this regard.

They also submitted the same complaint against him to a National Cultural Organization. On receiving the complaint, the Organization excluded him from their event on August 31, 2021. The council also formed a 5-member investigation committee to investigate the issue.

However, on receiving the written complaint of sexual harassment, the Vice-chancellor office of the university sent the issue to the university's 'Sexual Harassment Prevention Cell.' According to the newspaper report, head of the Cell asserts that they talked to different stakeholders related to this issue as part of their investigation. They find and believe that 'the allegation is true'. They have also submitted a report accordingly. The university authority placed the issue at the syndicate meeting, the highest decision making body in the university. The syndicate meeting formed a 'review committee' to review the issue and asked the review committee to submit a report within a month. After receiving the report, it will be placed again at the syndicate meeting and further action will be taken accordingly.

However, the victim claims that not only she but many others also faced the same experiences, raped by the accused individual in different times. The issue came into light when she made a post on Facebook about it. She has been passing through a mental trauma for years. Before posting the issue at the Facebook, she deeply thought about its consequences, considered the social phenomenon and other issues may be appeared after the Facebook post. She describes the issue details at the post what happened with her at that time by her teacher. After appearing the post at the Facebook, some other victims knocked her and claimed that they also faced the same sexual harassment by the same person.

On the other hand, after the Facebook post, the accused individual has filed a general diary (GD) with the police station, and, according to the newspaper report, stated in the GD, that only for organizational conflict, father of the student (victim) is defaming him through making different conspiracy and publishing scandal against him.

However, according to the newspaper report, the Police Inspector of the Police Station, the investigative officer of the incident, submitted a charge sheet against the accused after investigation on January 21, 2021. Then, the accused was granted bail from the court.

## **Findings of the study**

After the presentation of data in the above section, this section presents the findings based on the study. The major findings are stated below.

### ***Awareness***

Mass media has a great role to make mass people aware of their rights. It can also make aware of fulfilling demands of people. It can further make aware of the policy makers to take new policy decisions and revise the adopted decisions. The finds that the government was compelled to amend the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, incorporating death penalty provision in the case of rape. Mass media played a very positive role in this regard, covering and broadcasting follow up news related to VAW in the country. It put pressure on the policy makers to do so.

### ***Increase number of mass media***

The study finds that the number of mass media is increasing day by day in the country. The positive side of such increase is that mass media covers all the communities all over the country. If any mass media wants to avoid something or news related to VAW, another media can cover it. That means, every event/incident can be covered. If mainstream media wants to avoid local news related to VAW and other important issue, the local media cover it and sometimes it becomes the news items of the mainstream mass media.

### ***Lack of professionalism***

The study reveals that although the number of mass media is increasing day by day, the professionalism has not developed accordingly in the country. There is a huge lack of professionalism among the media personnel. It is observed that it is happened due to involvement of non-professional individuals in the mass media sector. Due to lack of professionalism, ethical issues are not maintained accordingly.

### ***Lack of policy***

The study finds that there is a lack of policy. In terms of VAW related issue, primarily they conceal the identity of the victims. It is not enough. Publishing a news can damage images of individuals or organizations. So, a good editorial policy is needed for the greater interest of the country.

### ***Lack of investigative news***

The study finds there is a lack of investigative news items in the mass media nowadays. It is widely believed that what we see in the open eye is not always true. There may be different issue behind the scene. So, investigative news is considered as very important matter in the mass media. Through this initiatives, the real picture can be published and mass people will be aware of it.



### *Lack of programmes by the government agencies*

There are some dedicated government agencies related to mass media in the country. The government agencies include: Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), Press Information Department (PID) and Press Council. The study reveals that the government agencies have a lots of scope to work together with the mass media. They can guide the mass media in line with the national interest. But it is not happening.

### *Lack of commitment to society*

The study reveals that there is a lack of commitment of the mass media to mass people. They are very much aware of and serve the interest of the well-off community in the society. In terms of the incidents related to the VAW, news coverage and follow up depends on the victim's social, political, economic and other status. Although the degree of violence is taken into consideration during news treatment, in most cases, social status is very important to follow up issue until a final judgement or results.

### *Digital Security Act: considered a threat*

The study reveals that the journalists work under the threat of Digital Security Act 2018 in the country. They fear of harassment under the Act. From the very beginning of the Act, the media personnel demanded to repeal the Act, describing it as the barrier of freedom of expression and opinion in the country. Most of the cases filed under the Act were against the media personnel across the country.

### *Interest group*

The recent phenomenon in the mass media is the appearance of business corporate in this sector. In many cases, the owners of such media become active to protect and promote their own interest instead of common good interest of the society. The interest group bags the benefits of the government, keeping aside the interest of the mass people.

### *Low credibility*

Prior to the expansion of television stations and the Internet, people used to rely on newspapers to access authentic news. Now the country has numerous newspapers, TV stations and online news portals. Unfortunately, the standard of journalism is very low. Media is seen to be less credible, mainly because of the political affiliation of the owners, editors and journalists. Some owners are not directly involved in politics or inclined towards the government, but they don't go against the establishment in order to protect their business interests. Some corporate houses have introduced both print and broadcast media that safeguard corporate houses and their proprietors. Journalists are sharply divided into two camps—one group supporting the government and the other group against it. All of these are damaging professionalism and the dignity of the journalist community, leading to low credibility of mass media.

### *Censorship*

There is a growing concern among journalists about the government's attempt to dictate many media outlets. Nowadays owners and editors, particularly the television stations, are complaining about receiving phone calls from the authorities, asking them "not to telecast certain issues" that may hurt the government image or help its political rivals. Wiretapping and digital interception have also been increased alarmingly in the name of security while more and more journalists are facing defamation and criminal cases. The freedom of the press, guaranteed in the country's constitution, is shaken and journalists now work in a more hostile climate.

### *Less motivation*

Journalism has become a job industry with more and more young people choosing the job but it hasn't really developed as a profession. Once there were few newspapers and weeklies but journalism was regarded as a noble profession for maintaining dignity, professionalism and ethics. Today there are numerous media but with fast-declining professionalism, commitment and ethical standard. A big reason is journalists have no or little job security, get less pay, hardly offered training and work under many obstacles, including that of pressure and censorship from within and outside of the media houses.

Journalistic ethics and professional practices are now in question due to motivated presentation of news. There is a growing perception that media no longer holds the value of serving public and provides news with certain interests or intentions. Such type of motivation does not lead to the journalists to do investigative news. They do not feel interest to serve mass people with commitment.

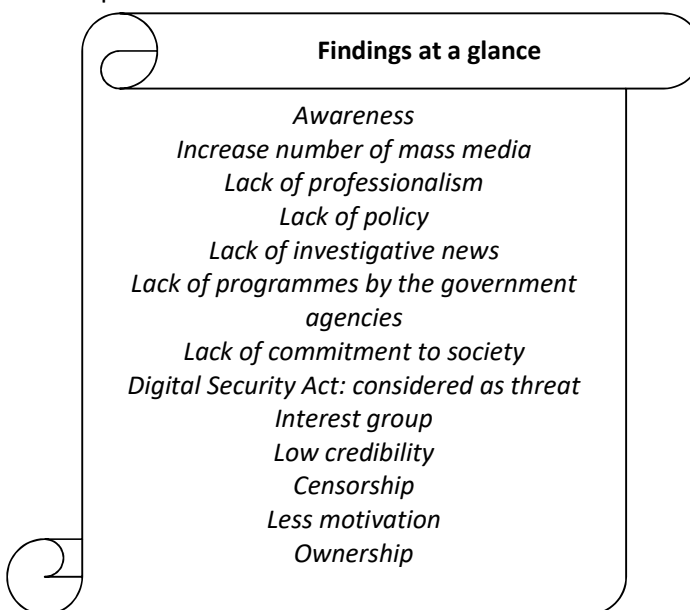


Figure 32 Findings: at a glance

Consequently, follow up of news get less importance to them.

### *Ownership*

The study finds that there is a growing control by business corporate houses on mass media. It is revealed that the country's majority media houses are controlled by a group of business

enterprises. Consequently, the media will be serious more to serve the interest of their funding authority rather than the interest of the community or society.

### **Conclusion**

After presenting data and discussion, it can be said that there are a lot of phenomenon in the mass media in the country. Despite many challenges and limitations, mass media is still playing a very effective and vital role to prevent violence against women in the country. However, the next chapter presents the conclusion and recommendations.

## Chapter V

### Conclusion and Recommendations

The study explores the strategy of mass media to prevent violence against women in the country. For this, the study conducted a questionnaire survey with structured and semi-structured questions. The media personnel were the main respondents of this study. Apart from Dhaka, three other divisions—Rajshahi, Khulna and Chottogram were selected purposively for this study. Through this, it was tried to understand the local phenomenon of mass media in terms of contributing to prevent VAW in the country. The study reveals mass media faces many challenges. Despite challenges and limitations, mass media is playing very positive role to prevent VAW in the country.

However, the study puts some policy implications based on the literature reviews, research data and findings. If the recommendations are taken into consideration, it is believed that it would contribute to prevent VAW in the country. The mass media can adopt these strategies and can develop own strategies to prevent VAW in the country.

#### **Strategies identified to prevent VAW in Bangladesh**

Several studies reveal and it is also observed that nobody wants VAW and girls even anybody involved in such activities. However, as mentioned above that combine efforts from all corners are needed to prevent VAW in the country. Therefore, it cannot be said that the mass media can prevent VAW in the country alone. It can play a vital role as catalyst to prevent VAW in the country. To play role as catalyst, mass media can follow some strategies by their own initiatives in one hand and on the other hand, some strategies can be imposed by the government to the mass media with regard to prevent the VAW in the country. Therefore, the strategies can be grouped into (i) own initiative strategy, and (ii) Government imposed strategy.

#### ***Own initiative strategies***

The mass media can adopt some own strategies with regard to prevent the VAW incidents in the country. Among many others, some major strategies are stated below:

#### **Putting pressure on policy makers**

Mass media is considered as one of the vital pressure groups in the society. It can put pressure on the policy makers or influence the policy makers to take policy in response to an incident. It is happened in the country as well. The Government of Bangladesh was compelled to amend the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000. After a series of rape cases happened throughout the country in recent times, people from all walks of life demand to amend the Act. Here the mass media played a vital role to motivate and make influence the policy makers in this regard. Finally, in October 2020, the cabinet

approved the 'Prevention of Violence against Women (Amendment) Act 2020' incorporating 'death penalty in rape case' provision. Later, it was passed the parliament.

### **Creating awareness**

The mass media can promote public awareness against VAW in the country. For this, it can take many strategies such as social campaign on specific issue, continuous follow up of specific incident, publishing different laws, rules and procedures related to VAW and so on. Individual, family and social awareness will contribute to prevent VAW in the country. It is considered that mass media is one of the strong weapons to make public awareness that brings very effective results in the society.

### **Investigative news**

The study reveals that there is a lack of investigative news in the mass media in recent time. The investigative news should be promoted. Through this, many hidden issues come into light. It is needed for the sake of peaceful and prosperous society. Investigative news related to VAW would contribute to prevent such violence in the country. The editorial policy should promote this strategy.

### **Promote domestic values**

The mass media has many roles to play in the society. Among many others, the mass media should promote domestic values. Every country has its own some values that have been developed over time. Domestic values uphold the spirit of mass people. Deviation from such values creates social anarchy leading to violence. The newspaper report reveals that the recent VAW incident occurred at the Narsingdi Rail Station is erupted for dishonouring domestic values. If the dress up of the young girl was not so, it is believed that the incident may have not been happened. So, the mass media can promote such domestic values to prevent VAW in the country.

### **Promote domestic culture**

Every nation has its own culture. The cultural history of Bangladesh is also very rich. Mass media can promote this cultural values to mass people, instead of promoting ailing culture and foreign culture. Mass media can promote to practise such domestic culture in daily life. In many cases, it would contribute to prevent VAW in the country.

### **Promote religious values**

Practice of religious values refrains people from wrongdoing. So, mass media can promote to practise religious values among mass people. The mass media can arrange different religious programmes over the year apart from the programmes held in the Holy Ramadan month. It would make aware people of the religious values and encourage to practise these in individual life, family life and also in social life. Ultimately, it would contribute to prevent VAW in the country.

### **Continuous follow up till end**

Follow up of an event is a very important issues to unearth the real scenario. It is also important for the cases of VAW incidents in the country. It is observed that in many cases, except a few, the incidents of VAW are not followed properly by the mass media. Consequently, many incidents regarding VAW are disappeared from the memory of the mass people. But the victim cannot forget it. On the other hand, the accused individuals get bail from the court or they can manage 'not to go police custody or court.' So, continuous follow up is a very important issue to prevent the VAW in the country. It is observed that mass people can know the latest status of an incidents about VAW through the continuous follow up. Many can argue that all VAW incidents do not carry same news value and it is not possible to follow every incident. In response to this argument, it can be said that the mass media especially the print media can publish a special page with a certain time interval. It may be weekly or fortnightly, or even monthly. On the other hand, the electronic media can air special bulletin on VAW incidents as follow up on a specific day in a week or month, considering its time value. Again, the community radio/FM radio can also arrange such special follow up event on VAW. The online media has also opportunity to follow up VAW incidents regularly. They can connect all events through the hyperlink of a particular VAW incident easily. If it is done one can get all information from starting to end/judgement (if verdict) of an incident related to VAW.

It is observed that irregularities or malpractice, if happened, can be published through continuous follow up. It would help to ensure justice in on one hand, and it would also help to make awareness among the mass people that would ultimately contribute to prevent VAW in the country. So, mass media can follow up till end of the incidents related to VAW in the country.

### **Development of professionalism**

Professionalism develops sense of responsibility. The study reveals that there is a lack of professionalism in the mass media. So, it should be developed through different training programmes. It is believed that it would contribute to develop sense of responsibility to do more to prevent VAW in the country.

### **Decent presentation of women not as commodity**

Mass media should portray women and girls with decent manner not as commodity. Presentation of women and girls on the mass media especially on the electronic media has a great impact on society. People follow the models and leaders. So, their presentation on the mass media should be decent, upholding with the country's own values and culture. It will bring a positive impact on society that ultimately contribute to prevent VAW in the country.

### **Development of perception**

Mass media can promote development of people's perception. In many cases, people's perception may be wrong in different issues. The mass media can unveil the real facts, upholding right or wrong and ethical and unethical. Freedom is not freedom which hurts others. Freedom is that which does not hurt others, being practised in individual, family and social life. This should be promoted by the mass media that ultimately would contribute to prevent VAW in the country.

### **Publish laws and rules related to VAW and its punishment**

Mass media can take strategy to publish regularly on women and children related different laws, rules and procedures related to VAW in the country. There are a number of laws such as the women and children repression prevention (amendment) act 2020, the dowry prohibition act 1980, the family court's ordinance 1985, the Muslim family law's ordinance 1961, etc. The government provides legal supports to such victim of violence at free of cost. Some non-government organizations also provide such supports to the victims. These should be published regularly. On the other hand, the judgement of such crime should also be published widely with due coverage in the mass media. It would create fear among the miscreants that ultimately contribute to prevent VAW in the country.

### **Neutral position of mass media**

According to an Australia based newspaper reports titled 'Media's Powerful Role in Ending Violence Against Women', the media has a powerful role in exposing violence against women, shaping national conversation and shifting policy. The report state, *"By the media portraying violence against women in a different way, going past the statistics, and really looking at the drivers... it's certainly going to influence policy, it's going to influence behaviour and it's going to influence how we see violence against women. The media are a very, very powerful player in really getting this message across and leading that conversation (Cooper, 2016)."* Therefore, neutral position of mass media with regard to VAW incidents is very important. Country's mass media can follow this strategy to end VAW in the country.

### **Conceal of the victim's identity**

Although the mass media primarily does not disclose the identity of the victims, the media describe other features such as name of the school, college, village of the victims. Through these descriptions, the identity of the victims is disclosed indirectly. So, the media can take initiatives so that the identity of the victims is not disclosed by any means.

However, in the following section, strategies from the government side are stated.

## ***Government imposed strategies***

As earlier mentioned, it needs a combine effort to end VAW in the country. Apart from the mass media, the initiatives undertaken by the government are the key to end VAW in the country. The government is the main actor to end VAW in the country. So, the government can take many strategies and ask the mass media to follow these to end VAW in the country. Among many of these, some major are stated below:

### **For electronic and online media**

The government can ask all private TV channels to broadcast VAW related awareness creating talk show for a particular day/time. It should be compulsory for them. However, the talk show should be broadcast neutrally. Here it should not be attempted to portray the failure of the government only. Constructive criticism of the government should be welcomed. Limitations of the government should also be taken into consideration. Activities and role of law enforcing agencies should also be discussed neutrally. The malpractice if happened by the member of law enforcing agencies should also be discussed. Role of other actors such civil society organizations, educational institutions, elite people of the society, political party, human rights organizations and so on should also be discussed and criticized neutrally at the talk show and other programmes. As mentioned earlier, it needs combine efforts to end VAW in the country, positive and negative role of the different actors should be presented neutrally at the mass media.

The media should also take it positively as their social responsibility. On the other hand, the government should also receive the criticism positively and take necessary actions accordingly.

### **Community radio and FM radio**

The government can also ask the community radio and FM radio to arrange programmes like the private TV channels in addition to their regular programmes. It would create a wider awareness among the mass people as the media covers locally in the country. It is believed that it would contribute to end VAW in the country. The radio authorities should take it positively as per their social responsibility.

### **BTV and BD Betar**

The state-owned mass media can also arrange such type of special programmes. The government can ask the media to promote the positive role of law enforcing agencies and different services such as 999 for emergency service, 109 for prevention repression of women and children, 106 for anti-corruption service and so on.

### **Print media**

Print media can play a vital role to prevent VAW in the country. The government can ask the print media authorities to play neutral role with regard to VAW incidents along with



others to end it. The government can also ask to publish special page on VAW related issue regularly with a certain time interval. The government agency concerned can monitor it. The government can introduce award for the investigative news that would contribute to prevent VAW in the country.

### **Online media**

Online media can also play vital role to prevent VAW in the country. Nowadays, it is getting popular. Considering the popularity and wide and prompt access to it, the mainstream mass media have also introduced online version of the news and other events. There are some special advantages of online mass media. The special news items can be displayed on the top. The related news and views can also be linked here. Therefore, the government can ask the media to display the news items related to VAW on the top. The final judgement or verdict of the incidents related to VAW should also be displayed widely.

Through these initiatives, a wider mass awareness would be created that ultimately would contribute to prevent VAW in the country.

### **Ensuring safe feeling under the Digital Security Act**

Digital Security Act 2018 is widely criticized by the journalist community and human rights groups. They criticize that the Digital Security Act has become the government's and ruling party activists' preferred weapon to muzzle critics and stymie their freedom of expression, freedom of opinion and free of press. According to study, as many as 173 journalists have already been prosecuted under the Digital Security Act in the country (Riaz, 2021). So, under such feeling of threat, nobody shows dare to publish news related to VAW which has involvement of the political party men in the country. Therefore, an environment of ensuring safe feeling under the Act should be established by the government side so that the mass media can play a very positive role to prevent VAW in the country. However, the Act is misused by the interest group in the country. This tendency should be curtailed to ensure safe feeling of the journalist.

### **Introducing national award**

The government can introduce mass media national award like national film award. The award should be in different categories. The important issues like corruption, VAW, crime and so on should be given high importance. The award should be selected by a neutral independent jury board. Political consideration should be avoided in selecting candidate for award. However, the news items that would be selected for award should be widely published in the mass media with its implications and impacts on society, preventing role related to VAW, curbing role to reduce corruption and so on.

### **Effectiveness of the government agencies**

The mass media dedicated government agencies such as Press Institute of Bangladesh, Press Information Department, Press Council, should be strengthened to guide the country's mass media to uphold the spirit of the country. The government agencies can arrange different programmes such as workshops, professional development training, seminar, symposium especially related to women and children issues for media personnel that would contribute to prevent the VAW related incidents in the country.

### **Empowerment of NIMC**

As the national dedicated training institute, the National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMC) can undertake more events apart from its regular programmes that would contribute to prevent VAW related incidents in the country. For this, more initiatives for capacity building of the NIMC should be taken. More skilled manpower is needed. For this, more foreign and domestic training programmes for the NIMC personnel should be undertaken. Further, the NIMC should be empowered more to conduct time befitting different training and other related programmes.

On the other hand, the NIMC can provide suggestions to the Ministry to take some regulatory decisions. Among the suggestions, one is that the Ministry can put a provision in the license related rules that every journalist both of electronic and print media should have a compulsory training certificate obtained from the NIMC or other competent authority in the country.

### **Further research**

All research work certainly leads to additional research questions. It arises, especially when, it is undertaken with limited financial resources and under a limited timeframe. It is indeed true for this study. It does not develop to be exhaustive or to offer conclusive findings on all questions. It does, however, contribute to fresh realistic suggestion that should notify policy debate at the national level in the country. The researchers can get insight from this study for further research on different specific issues related to VAW in the country.

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## Appendix-I

### Categories of respondents, number of respondents and sampling technique

Methods used	Categories	Numbers	Sampling technique
Survey questionnaire	Journalists (Dhaka based)	347	Simple random
	Rajshahi	15	
	Khulna	15	
	Chottogram	15	
		392	
KII	Gender expert	1	Purposive
	Police representative	1	
	Electronic media		
	BTV	1	
	Private TV channel	3	
	Bangladesh Betar	1	
	FM radio	2	
	Community radi	3	
	Online media	1	
	Print media	2	
		15	
FGD	Dhaka	7	Purposive
	Rajshahi	7	
	Chottogram	7	
		21	
	Grand total	428	
Case study-2			

## Appendix-II

### Questionnaire schedule

#### Exploring the strategy of Mass Media to Prevent Violence Against Women in Bangladesh

(তথ্য প্রদানকারীর পরিচয়/পরিচিতির ক্ষেত্রে গোপনীয়তা রক্ষা করা হবে এবং কোন অবস্থাতেই তথ্য প্রদানকারীর পরিচয় প্রকাশ করা হবে না। সংগৃহীত তথ্য শুধু গবেষণা কাজে ব্যবহৃত হবে।)

কোড নং

#### প্রাথমিক তথ্য:

নাম (প্রীচ্ছিক) :

লিঙ্গ: (১) পুরুষ (২) মহিলা

মিডিয়ার ধরণ: (১) প্রিন্ট মিডিয়া (২) ইলেকট্রনিক মিডিয়া (রেডিও/টিভি) (৩) অনলাইন মিডিয়া (৪) নিউজ এজেন্সী

মিডিয়ার অবস্থান: (১) জাতীয় (ঢাকা কেন্দ্রিক) (২) আঞ্চলিক (বিভাগীয়/জেলা পর্যায়)

সদস্য: (১) জাতীয় প্রেস ক্লাব (২) ঢাকা রিপোর্টার্স ইউনিটি (৩) রাজশাহী প্রেস ক্লাব (৪) চট্টগ্রাম প্রেসক্লাব (৫) খুলনা প্রেসক্লাব

#### নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা/নারী নির্যাতন বৃদ্ধি সংক্রান্ত তথ্য

১. বিভিন্ন গবেষণা পত্র পত্রিকার খবর থেকে আমরা জানতে পারছি যে, নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা দিন দিন বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে। কেন? আপনার অভিমত ব্যক্ত করুন। (নিচের তালিকা থেকে ৫টি প্রধান কারণ নির্দিষ্ট করুন)

১. দারিদ্র্য
২. অশিক্ষা/অশিক্ষিত
৩. নারী-পুরুষ উভয়ের বিবাহ বহির্ভূত সম্পর্ক বৃদ্ধি
৪. সামাজিক মূল্যবোধসমূহের অবক্ষয় (সামাজিক শাসনের অভাব)
৫. সামাজিক বন্ধনের অভাব/বন্ধন আলগা হওয়া
৬. পারিবারিক মূল্যবোধসমূহের অবক্ষয় (পারিবারিক শাসনের অভাব)
৭. পারিবারিক বন্ধন আলগা হওয়া
৮. অর্থনৈতিক কারণ/টানা পোড়েন
৯. সোশ্যাল মিডিয়ার (টিকটক ইত্যাদি) অপপ্রচার/অপব্যবহার
১০. অশালীন আচরণ/ চলাফেরা
১১. বিভিন্ন ধরনের লোভ/প্রলোভন
১২. অনৈতিক চাওয়া-পাওয়া পূরণ না হওয়া
১৩. বিচার না হওয়া/ বিচারের দীর্ঘসূত্রিতা
১৪. প্রভাবশালীদের আশ্রয়-প্রশ্রয়
১৫. ক্ষমতার অপব্যবহার/অপপ্রয়োগ
১৬. অনৈতিকভাবে প্রতিপক্ষকে ঘায়েল করার উদ্দেশ্যে
১৭. বিদেশী অপসংস্কৃতির প্রভাব
১৮. মাদকাসক্তি/অবাধ মাদকের ব্যবহার বৃদ্ধি
১৯. রাজনৈতিক প্রভাব (রাজনৈতিক ক্ষমতার অপব্যবহার)
২০. মানসিক চাপ ও অস্থিরতা, অসহিষ্ণুতা বৃদ্ধি

২. বিভিন্ন স্থানে (ঘরে-বাইরে--কর্মস্থল/রাস্তাঘাট/মেলা/পাবলিক প্লেস/পরিবহণ/স্কুল/কলেজ/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়েও (ইংরেজি মাধ্যম/জেনারেল শিক্ষাপ্রতিষ্ঠান) নারীরা নানা ধরনের সহিংসতা/নির্যাতনের শিকার হচ্ছে। কেন? আপনার মতামত বলুন।

১. পারিবারিক চাওয়া-পাওয়ার মধ্যে অপূর্ণতা থাকলে
২. স্বামী বা স্ত্রী বা উভয়ে অনৈতিক (পরকীয়া) সম্পর্কে জড়িয়ে পড়লে
৩. নানা ধরণের প্রলোভন/চাওয়া-পাওয়া পূরণ না হওয়া
৪. নৈতিক মূল্যবোধের অবক্ষয়
৫. সুশিক্ষার অভাব
৬. নৈতিক শিক্ষা এবং এর চর্চার অভাব

৭. ধর্মীয় শিক্ষার অভাবের পাশাপাশি এসবের বাস্তব জীবনে প্রয়োগের অভাব
৮. সাধারণ ও সামাজিক মূল্যবোধসমূহের চর্চার অভাব
৯. ইন্টারনেট ও সোশ্যাল মিডিয়ায় প্রভাব
১০. নারীদের নিরাপত্তামূলক আইন সম্পর্কে সচেতনতা এবং আইনের যথাযথ প্রয়োগের অভাব

**নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতারোধে গণমাধ্যমের কৌশল/ভূমিকা সংক্রান্ত তথ্য**

৩. কোন ধরনের নিউজ/খবর আপনার মিডিয়ায় (যে মিডিয়াতে আপনি যুক্ত আছেন) বেশি গুরুত্ব দেয়া হয়?

(১=খুবই কম ২=কম ৩=মাঝামাঝি ৪=বেশি ৫= খুব বেশি)

(ক) রাজনীতি (টিক দিন)

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(খ) অর্থনীতি

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(গ) শিশু ও মহিলা (ইতিবাচক/সহিংসতামূলক/নির্যাতনমূলক)

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(ঘ) ক্রাইম রিপোর্ট/নিউজ

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(ঙ) শিক্ষা সংক্রান্ত নিউজ

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(চ) কুটনীতি বিষয়ক নিউজ

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(ছ) ট্যুরিজম সংক্রান্ত নিউজ

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(জ) দুর্নীতি বিষয়ক নিউজ

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(ঝ) বিনোদনমূলক নিউজ

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(ঞ) পরিবেশ সংক্রান্ত

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(ট) কৃষক/কৃষি বিষয়ক

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(ঠ) সমসাময়িক বিষয়

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(ড) দুর্ঘটনা বিষয়ক নিউজ

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
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৪. আপনার মিডিয়ায় নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা/নির্যাতনমূলক নিউজ/খবর কোন বিষয়ের উপর বিবেচনা করে কভারেজ দেয়া হয়?

(১=প্রথম পাতা (বড় করে ২/৩/৪ কলাম); ২=শেষ পাতা (বড় করে ২/৩/৪ কলাম); ৩=ভিতরের পাতা; ৪=গুরুত্বহীনভাবে; ৫=খুবই গুরুত্বহীনভাবে)

টিভির ক্ষেত্রে (১=প্রাইম নিউজ; ২=প্রাইজ নিউজ বাদে অন্য সময় ৩=দেশের খবর)

সহিংসতা/নির্যাতনের ধরন দেখে (টিক দিন)

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
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নির্যাতিতার সামাজিক অবস্থান দেখে

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
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নির্যাতিতার রাজনৈতিক/অর্থনৈতিক অবস্থান/পরিচয় দেখে

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
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নির্যাতনের খবরের সামাজিক গুরুত্ব বিবেচনা করে

(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
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৫. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে গণমাধ্যম কী ধরনের কৌশল অবলম্বন করতে পারে/ ভূমিকা রাখতে পারে? আপনার মতামত বলুন।

১. জনমত সৃষ্টি করতে পারে
  ২. ধারাবাহিক প্রচার-প্রচারণা করতে পারে
  ৩. ঘটনার ফলো-আপ ও শেষ পরিণতি বিষয়ক প্রচারণা/ প্রচার করতে পারে
  ৪. ব্যক্তিগত সচেতনতা সৃষ্টি করতে পারে
  ৫. পারিবারিক সচেতনতা সৃষ্টি করতে পারে
  ৬. সামাজিক সচেতনতা সৃষ্টি করতে পারে
  ৭. সহিংসতা রোধকারী বিভিন্ন সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানকে (পুলিশ/প্রশাসন/ তথ্য মন্ত্রণালয়/নারী ও শিশু মন্ত্রণালয়) তথ্য দিয়ে সহযোগিতা করা
  ৮. বিচার বিভাগকে তথ্য দিয়ে
  ৯. আবার বিচার বিভাগও তথ্য নিতে পারে মিডিয়ার কাছ থেকে
  ১০. বিদ্যমান নারী নির্যাতন প্রতিরোধ আইনসমূহ সম্পর্কে জনগণকে জানানো
৬. আপনার (যে মিডিয়ায় আপনি যুক্ত আছেন) প্রতিষ্ঠান কি এসব ভূমিকা পালন করে?
- (১) হ্যাঁ (২) না (৩) মাঝে মাঝে
৭. (যদি এসব ভূমিকা পালন না করে থাকে) এসব ভূমিকা পালন করা কি খুব কঠিন বলে আপনি মনে করেন?
- (১) হ্যাঁ (২) না (৩) কখনও কখনও কঠিন হয় (যদি রাজনৈতিক/ধর্মীয় ইস্যুতে পরিণত হওয়ার আশঙ্কা থাকে/প্রভাবশালী (রাজনৈতিক/প্রশাসনিক)/বিভ্রাংশালী হয়)
৮. এসব ভূমিকা পালন করা কঠিন না হলে, আপনার প্রতিষ্ঠান/মিডিয়া এসব কৌশল/ভূমিকা কতখানি পালন করতে পারছে? আপনার অভিমত ব্যক্ত করুন।
১. মাঝে মাঝে এসবের বেশির ভাগই কৌশল/ভূমিকা পালন করে
  ২. সমসাময়িক বিষয়কে গুরুত্ব দিতে গিয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় স্পেস (জায়গা/কভারেজ) দেয়া সম্ভব হয় না
  ৩. ফলো-আপ নিউজের আবেদন/গুরুত্ব অনেক সময় কম থাকে/কমে যায়; ফলে সেরকম কভারেজ দেয়া সম্ভব হয় না
  ৪. তবে বিভিন্ন ধরনের ইস্যুভিত্তিক/বিষয়ভিত্তিক প্রিন্ট মিডিয়ায় নির্দিষ্ট সংখ্যা/পাতা বের করা হয়
  ৫. ইস্যুভিত্তিক/বিষয়ভিত্তিক ইলেকট্রনিক মিডিয়াতে অনুষ্ঠান প্রচার করা হয়
৯. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে গণমাধ্যমের কৌশল কেমন হওয়া উচিত বলে আপনি মনে করেন?
১. সঠিক তথ্য তুলে ধরা ও নিরপেক্ষ/পক্ষপাতহীন ভূমিকা পালন করা উচিত
  ২. আইনের বিভিন্ন বিষয়গুলো প্রচার করা উচিত
  ৩. আইন প্রয়োগে বাধাগুলি চিহ্নিত করা ও প্রচার করা উচিত
  ৪. যে কোন ঘটনাই (নারী নির্যাতনমূলক) হোক না কেন, শেষ পর্যন্ত ফলো-আপ করা /চূড়ান্ত নিস্পত্তি পর্যন্ত প্রচার করা উচিত
  ৫. কোন ধরনের চাপের মুখে থেমে না যাওয়া
১০. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে/ নারী বিষয়ক নিউজ প্রচারের/প্রকাশের ক্ষেত্রে আপনার মিডিয়াতে কী ধরনের নীতিমালা অনুসরণ করা হয়?
১. সে রকম নির্দিষ্ট কোন নীতিমালা নেই/অনুসরণ করা হয় না
  ২. নির্দিষ্ট নীতিমালার প্রয়োজন নেই
  ৩. নির্দিষ্ট নীতিমালার (মোটামুঠা) প্রয়োজন আছে
  ৪. নির্দিষ্ট নীতিমালা আছে কি না তা জানা নেই
  ৫. নারী ভিকটিমের পরিচয় প্রাথমিকভাবে গোপন রাখা হয়
  ৬. নারী নির্যাতনের মাত্রা অনুযায়ী নিউজ প্রকাশ/প্রচার করা হয়
  ৭. সমসাময়িক বিষয় বিবেচনায় নিয়ে নিউজ প্রকাশ/ প্রচার করা হয়
  ৮. অন্যান্য (নির্দিষ্ট করে লিখুন)
১১. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে নিউজ প্রচার করা/নিউজ প্রকাশ করার ক্ষেত্রে ইলেকট্রনিক মিডিয়ার (সরকারি/বেসরকারি টেলিভিশনগুলোর) কৌশল/ভূমিকা আপনি কেমন দেখতে পান?
১. বেসরকারি চ্যানেলগুলো বেশি সরব দেখা যায়
  ২. বেসরকারি চ্যানেলগুলো বেশি ইতিবাচক ভূমিকা পালন করে



৩. বেসরকারি চ্যানেলগুলোর তুলনায় সরকারি/বিটিভি একেবারে নীরব ভূমিকা (নেতিবাচক প্রচার হবে/সরকারের সমালোচনা হবে এই ভয়ে) পালন করে
১২. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে নিউজ করা/নিউজ প্রকাশ করার ক্ষেত্রে বেসরকারি টেলিভিশনগুলোর কৌশল/ভূমিকা আপনি কেমন দেখতে পান?
- (১) বেশি ফলাও করে প্রকাশ/প্রচার না করার জন্য অনেক সময় সরকারি (অঘোষিত) চাপ থাকে
  - (২) কখনও কখনও আইন-শৃঙ্খলা বাহিনী/ অন্য কোন বাহিনীর নজরদারি/ বেশি প্রচার না করার মৌখিক (নন-ডকুমেন্টেড) নির্দেশনা থাকে
  - (৩) সরকারপন্থী চ্যানেল হলে প্রচার/প্রকাশের ক্ষেত্রে দেখে-শুনে (রয়েসয়ে) প্রচার করে/ সম্ভব হলে প্রচার করে না
  - (৪) অন্যান্য
১৩. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে নিউজ করা/নিউজ প্রকাশ করার ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশ বেতার /বিটিভি/ সরকারি টেলিভিশনের কৌশল/ভূমিকা আপনি কেমন দেখতে পান?
- (১) এ ধরনের নিউজ খুব বেশি প্রচার করে না
  - (২) সরকারি নিষেধাজ্ঞা থাকতে পারে (অঘোষিত)
  - (৩) সরকারের দুর্বলতা প্রকাশ পাবে, এ ভেবে বেশি প্রচার করে না
  - (৪) সম্ভব হলে, এ ধরনের নিউজ প্রচারই করে না
১৪. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে নিউজ করা/নিউজ প্রকাশ করার ক্ষেত্রে কমিউনিটি রেডিও/এফ এম রেডিও'র কৌশল/ভূমিকা আপনি কেমন দেখতে পান?
১. নিউজ প্রচার কম করে
  ২. নিউজ প্রচারের সময়ের সীমাবদ্ধতা আছে/থাকে
  ৩. নাটিকা বা এ ধরনের জনসচেতনতামূলক অনুষ্ঠান প্রচার করে
  ৪. অন্যান্য (নির্দিষ্ট করে লিখুন)
১৫. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে কমিউনিটি রেডিও/এফ এম রেডিও'র কৌশল/ভূমিকা কেমন হওয়া উচিত বলে আপনি মনে করেন?
১. বেশি বেশি ফলাও করে প্রচার করা উচিত
  ২. ঘটনার গুরুত্ব বিবেচনা করে খবর প্রচার করা উচিত
১৬. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে নিউজ করা/নিউজ প্রকাশ করার ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশে অনলাইন মিডিয়ার (বিভিন্ন ইন্টারনেটভিত্তিক নিউজ পোর্টাল/নিউজ চ্যানেল/) ভূমিকা আপনি কেমন দেখতে পান?
১. বেশি সোচ্চার বলে মনে হয়
  ২. স্পেস/ বা কভারেজের সীমাবদ্ধতা কম/নাই
  ৩. এই ধরনের নিউজ করার বিষয়ে মনোযোগ কম
১৭. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে নিউজ করা/নিউজ প্রকাশ করার ক্ষেত্রে কী কী চ্যালেঞ্জের মুখোমুখি হতে হয়?
১. সামাজিক বাধা
  ২. রাজনৈতিক বাধা
  ৩. প্রশাসনিক বাধা
  ৪. প্রভাবশালীদের চাপ
  ৫. অন্যান্য (নির্দিষ্ট করে লিখুন)
১৮. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে নিউজ করা/নিউজ প্রকাশ করার ক্ষেত্রে এসব চ্যালেঞ্জ কীভাবে মোকাবেলা (ওভারকাম) যায় যাবে বলে আপনি মনে করেন?
- ১.
  - ২.
  - ৩.
১৯. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা বা নারী নির্যাতনমূলক নিউজ/খবর কীভাবে সংগ্রহ এবং প্রকাশ করেন?
- (১) ভিকটিম থানায় অভিযোগ করলে, সেই অভিযোগের ওপর ভিত্তি করে তথ্য সংগ্রহ করে নিউজ করা হয়
  - (২) হাসপাতাল থেকে তথ্য সংগ্রহ করে
  - (৩) ভিকটিম গোপনে সংবাদ কর্মীকে জানালে
  - (৪) ভিকটিম প্রকাশ্য সাংবাদিক সম্মেলন (প্রেস কনফারেন্স) করলে

- (৫) ভিকটিমের নির্যাতনের খবর স্যোসাল মিডিয়ায় প্রকাশ পেলে  
 (৬) ভিকটিমের বন্ধু/বান্ধব/আত্মীয়-স্বজন এর মাধ্যমে এ ধরনের/নির্যাতনের খবর দিলে/অভিযোগ করলে  
 (৭) গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠানের গবেষণা রিপোর্ট থেকে/উক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠান এ সংক্রান্ত প্রেস কনফারেন্স করলে  
 (৮) নিজ অফিস/ প্রতিষ্ঠান এ বিষয়ে অ্যাসাইনমেন্ট দিলে  
 (৯) নিজ উদ্যোগে এ ধরনের তথ্য সংগ্রহের মাধ্যমে  
 (১০) অন্যান্য (নির্দিষ্ট করে লিখুন)
২০. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা বা নারী নির্যাতনমূলক নিউজ/খবর প্রকাশ করার পর সেই রিপোর্ট/ঘটনার ফলোআপ করা হয় কি?  
 (১) হ্যাঁ (২) না (৩) কখনও কখনও করা হয়  
 (৪) ভিকটিমের সামাজিক মর্যাদা/ অবস্থানের ওপর ভিত্তি করে ফলোআপের বিষয়টি নির্ধারিত হয়
২১. এ ধরনের নিউজের ফলোআপের ক্ষেত্রে অফিসের (আপনার মিডিয়ার) ভূমিকা কেমন?  
 ১. সব সময় ইতিবাচক (২) মাঝে মাঝে ইতিবাচক (৩) ভিকটিমের সামাজিক অবস্থান/অন্যান্য অবস্থার ওপর নির্ভরশীল  
 (৪) মাঝে মাঝে নেতিবাচক (৫) নেতিবাচক
২২. এ ধরনের (নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা) ঘটনার নিউজ করা/প্রকাশ করার পর উক্ত ঘটনার শেষ পরিণতি (ঘটনার চূড়ান্ত) সম্পর্কে কোন নিউজ প্রকাশ করা হয় কি?  
 (১) হ্যাঁ (২) না (৩) কখনও কখনও করা হয় (৪) খোঁজ খবর রাখা হয় না  
 (৫) এ ধরনের ঘটনার শেষ পরিণতির নিউজ আবেদন (নিউজ ভ্যালু) থাকে না, তাই গুরুত্ব দেয়া হয় না/প্রকাশ করা হয় না।
২৩. আপনার কি মনে হয়, চূড়ান্ত পরিণতির নিউজ প্রকাশ করা দরকার/উচিত?  
 (১) হ্যাঁ (২) না
২৪. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে নিউজ করা/নিউজ প্রকাশ করার ক্ষেত্রে গণমাধ্যমের (প্রিন্ট/ ইলেকট্রনিক/অনলাইন) কৌশল/ভূমিকা কেমন হওয়া উচিত বলে আপনি মনে করেন?  
 ১.  
 ২.

## KII Checklist

### Exploring the strategy of Mass Media to Prevent Violence Against Women in Bangladesh

(তথ্য প্রদানকারীর পরিচয়/পরিচিতির ক্ষেত্রে গোপনীয়তা রক্ষা করা হবে এবং কোন অবস্থাতেই তথ্য প্রদানকারীর পরিচয় প্রকাশ করা হবে না। সংগৃহীত তথ্য শুধু গবেষণা কাজে ব্যবহৃত হবে।)

নাম (ঐচ্ছিক):

মিডিয়ার নাম:

পদবী: (১) সম্পাদক/নিউজ এডিটর

বিশেষজ্ঞ ব্যক্তিত্ব

নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে গণমাধ্যমের কৌশল/ভূমিকা:

- বিভিন্ন গবেষণা/পত্র পত্রিকার খবর থেকে আমরা জানতে পারছি যে, নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা দিন দিন বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে। কেন? আপনার অভিমত ব্যক্ত করুন।
- বিভিন্ন স্কুল/কলেজ/ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়েও (ইংরেজি মাধ্যম/জেনারেল শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান) নারী শিক্ষার্থীরা নানা ধরনের সহিংসতা/নির্যাতনের শিকার হচ্ছে। কেন? আপনার মতামত বলুন।
- এসব শিক্ষাপ্রতিষ্ঠানে/সাধারণ শিক্ষা ব্যবস্থায় নৈতিক শিক্ষা/ধর্মীয় শিক্ষার/মূল্যবোধের অবক্ষয়ের কারণে কি নারীর প্রতি এমন সহিংসতা ঘটছে? আপনার কী মনে হয়? বলুন।

৪. ঘরে-বাইরে (কর্মস্থলে/বাড়িতে/ রাস্তাঘাট/যানবাহন/বাজার/মেলা/বিভিন্ন জনসমাগম/স্কুল/কলেজ/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/মাদ্রাসায়) নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে। এমন সহিংসতা রোধে সার্বিকভাবে মিডিয়ার বর্তমান ভূমিকা কী রকম? আপনার অভিমত ব্যক্ত করুন।
৫. এক্ষেত্রে প্রিন্ট মিডিয়ার বর্তমান ভূমিকা কেমন? আর কী ভূমিকা পালন/কৌশল অবলম্বন করতে পারে?
৬. ইলেকট্রনিক মিডিয়ার বর্তমান ভূমিকা কেমন? আর কী ভূমিকা পালন/কৌশল অবলম্বন করতে পারে?
৭. বেসরকারি ইলেকট্রনিক মিডিয়ার বর্তমান ভূমিকা কেমন? আর কী ভূমিকা পালন/কৌশল অবলম্বন করতে পারে?
৮. বিটিভির বর্তমান ভূমিকা কেমন? আর কী ভূমিকা পালন/কৌশল অবলম্বন করতে পারে?
৯. বাংলাদেশে বেতারের বর্তমান ভূমিকা কেমন? আর কী ভূমিকা পালন/কৌশল অবলম্বন করতে পারে?
১০. কমিউনিটি রেডিও/এফ এম রেডিও'র বর্তমান ভূমিকা কেমন? আর কী ভূমিকা পালন/কৌশল অবলম্বন করতে পারে?
১১. অনলাইন মিডিয়ার (ইন্টারনেট ভিত্তিক নিউজ পোর্টাল/চ্যানেল) বর্তমান ভূমিকা কেমন? আর কী ভূমিকা/কৌশল অবলম্বন পালন করতে পারে?
১২. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে নিউজ করা/নিউজ প্রকাশ করার ক্ষেত্রে কী কী চ্যালেঞ্জের মুখোমুখি হতে হয়?
১৩. এসব কাজ করতে কোন চ্যালেঞ্জের মুখোমুখি হলে সেগুলো কিভাবে মোকাবিলা (ওভারকাম) করেন/করা যাবে?
১৪. এসব কাজ করতে কোন কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানের কী ধরনের ভূমিকা পালন করা উচিত বলে আপনি মনে করেন?

## FGD Checklist

### Exploring the strategy of Mass Media to Prevent Violence Against Women in Bangladesh

(তথ্য প্রদানকারীর পরিচয়/পরিচিতির ক্ষেত্রে গোপনীয়তা রক্ষা করা হবে এবং কোন অবস্থাতেই তথ্য প্রদানকারীর পরিচয় প্রকাশ করা হবে না। সংগৃহীত তথ্য শুধু গবেষণা কাজে ব্যবহৃত হবে।)

স্থান:

তারিখ:

সময়:

১. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে গণমাধ্যমের ভূমিকা কেমন হওয়া উচিত?
২. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে গণমাধ্যমের কী ধরনের কৌশল থাকা দরকার বলে আপনি মনে করেন?
৩. এসব ভূমিকা পালন না করে থাকলে; কেন এসব করছে না/ করতে পারছে না? আপনার/আপনাদের মতামত তুলে ধরুন
৪. আপনার/আপনাদের কী মনে হয় এসব ভূমিকা পালন করতে সরকারের পক্ষ (বিশেষ বাহিনী/গোয়েন্দা সংস্থা) থেকে কোন ধরনের বিধি-নিষেধ আছে?
৫. নারীর প্রতি সহিংসতা রোধে গণমাধ্যমকে কোন ধরনের চ্যালেঞ্জের মুখোমুখি হতে হয় কি না? হলে কী ধরনের চ্যালেঞ্জ এবং এসব চ্যালেঞ্জ কীভাবে মোকাবিলা করা হয়?



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