Investigative Journalism And Crime Coverage In Bangladeshi Print Media

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyse the presentation of crime reports by newspapers in Bangladesh, emphasising the patterns, substance, and underlying factors influencing crime coverage. This study is directed by five research questions examining the portrayal of crime news and the calibre of reporting. The research employed a descriptive methodology, examining 42 issues from six leading Bangladeshi newspapers: Prothom Alo, Jugantor, Daily Ittefaq, Bangladesh Pratidin, The Daily Star, and The Daily Observer, published in October 2021. Qualitative and quantitative methods were employed, utilising structured content analysis and interviews to gather data on elements suca7h as diction, gender sensitivity, and image inclusion. The findings reveal inconsistencies in the reporting of crime news, characterised by sensationalism, inadequate follow-up, and stereotypical representations. The majority of respondents comprehended the overarching themes of crime news but expressed apprehensions about accuracy and the necessity for impartial reporting. Historically, newspapers have been essential in distributing information and shaping public opinion. Notwithstanding the proliferation of digital media, newspapers in Bangladesh remain a significant resource for comprehending crime reporting. The study seeks to identify deficiencies in coverage and offer solutions for raising the ethical standards of crime reporting, thus improving public awareness and informing crime prevention strategy.

KEYWORDS

Crime Reporting, Newspapers, Bangladesh, Content Analysis, Journalistic Ethics, Crime Perception, Media Representation, Investigative Journalism, Public Awareness.

INTRODUCTION

This study aims to address inquiries regarding the presentation of crime stories by newspapers in Bangladesh. The analysis of the research questions is conducted based on the data acquired in this study. The initial chapter indicates that this research was undertaken with five specific research issues in focus. The third chapter includes an analysis of the chapter, opinions of newspaper readers, perspectives of journalists, and a discussion of the results analysis. Crime reports in newspapers are examined by examining word selection, gender sensitivity, information deficiency, the use of sexually suggestive language, the use

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of adjectives and complex sentence structures, imagery, and other factors. The investigator employed descriptive methodologies. The data was gathered using a systematic content analysis framework. A comprehensive sample of 42 newspaper editions has been examined. The initial chapter examines the function of research, the circumstances around it, the aims and objectives, and its significance. Research question papers have been organized through the examination of criminal ideas. The research was executed through structural or frame analysis, as described by psychologists and criminologists.

The crime reports from the newspaper included in the study have been examined. Data collecting has utilized content analysis and survey methodologies. Interviews were held with 12 readers and journalists from various professions in Dhaka to gather content for analytical purposes. The questionnaire has been utilized in that instance. This study's content analysis encompasses the following daily newspapers: Prothom Alo, Jugantar, Daily Ittefaq, Bangladesh Pratidin, The Daily Star, and The Daily Observer. The study's findings indicate that the majority of newspapers commenced their articles with a recap of the event. In a span of seven days, 290 criminal news articles were disseminated across 42 newspapers. The findings indicated that 45.62% of respondents read criminal headlines, whereas 36.56% read news headlines. Only 15.71% of respondents read the entire news article. Nonetheless, the majority of responders (82.85%) possess knowledge regarding criminal news. Sixty percent of respondents observed a range of news items and the existence of erroneous information. Readers and journalists from various professions seek accurate and equitable reporting of crime, regardless of race, religion, caste, or gender.

The newspaper is the most influential component of contemporary media. The Chinese were the initial users of the publication. In 1780, Ganguly, Abhijit (30 June 2014) James Augustus Hickey The Bengal Gazette was the inaugural printed newspaper in Calcutta, India. Hickey additionally published newspapers while incarcerated. The Bengal Gazette, published by Hickey, discontinued on March 30, 1782, following the confiscation of newspapers and press by the Supreme Court's directive. The inaugural Bengali newspaper of the subcontinent, 'Samachar Darpan,' was established in 1818. John Clark Marshman served as the editor of Samachar Darpan. In 1847, Anwar (2016) stated that the inaugural newspaper of East Bengal is the Rangpur Bartabah. Kalicharan Roychowdhury, zamindar of Kundi, and Gurucharan Roy, editor of the monthly publication. The printing press in Rangpur is the oldest in the area. Yusuf, Ananta, (February 20, 2015), Gram Barta Prokashika is a Bengali weekly journal established in 1863 by Kangal Harinath Majumdar. It was originally printed by Girish Vidyaratna Press in Calcutta. The publishing was relocated to Kumarkhali Press in Kushtia. During the year 1864.

Daily occurrences throughout society are documented in the pages of the newspaper. Newspapers provide an unparalleled function in disseminating information, shaping public opinion, delivering programs, articulating individual perspectives, and presenting factual content. Newspapers are significant artifacts of social history. One may readily grasp the cultural essence of a whole society.

Our understanding has evolved significantly during the past two centuries. New electronic and web media have emerged as the communication technology of the 21st century has impacted the realm of newspapers. The public in the digital age acquires significant news from various media sources. Consequently, the inclination to obtain same news from the subsequent day's newspaper is significantly less. In contrast to digital news media, traditional newspapers are now acutely aware of their competitive struggle for survival. Currently, online and electronic versions are being released alongside the printed editions in leading newspapers (Ananta, 2016).

This study examines the characteristics of news reporting in Bangladeshi newspapers. In Bangladesh, a variety of daily, weekly, fortnightly, and monthly newspapers in Bengali and English are published and accessible in all parts of the country (DFP, 2022). The Registration Branch of the Bangladesh Film and Publication Department, under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, oversees newspaper registration. The current total of newspapers in Bangladesh is 3,151, with 1,284 produced in Dhaka and 1,867 published outside Dhaka.

Currently, newspaper readers have limited time and significantly increased workloads. Consequently, considering certain specific purposes, the news on crime in newspapers as a conventional media holds significant importance. The researcher selected newspapers as a suitable medium for disseminating crime news for research purposes. The researcher examines various forms of gender discrimination in language, phrases, or visuals. This research serves as a first endeavor to ascertain the reports published in newspapers, the current reception of crime news by readers, and the most often read articles.

STUDY CONTEXT

Mass media serves as a communication channel that disseminates information to a vast audience. The media has a crucial role in fortifying the democratic process, ensuring effective governance, promoting economic advancement, and mitigating corruption. In the battle against corruption, the media depicts governmental, administrative, and economic actions in a manner crucial for holding those in power accountable (Manzur, 2019).

The research examines the portrayal of various crime narratives in newspapers. Individuals utilize several media, such as newspapers, television, film, video, and the Internet, to conceptualize notions of crime and justice. All individuals can get information through reading, viewing, or listening, as media reporters promptly arrive at the location. The reporter acts as an intermediary between the event and the audience.

It is essential to understand the definitions of news, the role of a journalist, and the concept of crime prior to analyzing the research on the coverage of crime news by Bangladeshi media. The researcher has additionally disclosed this issue through the analysis of the explanation.

RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

Individuals seek immediate awareness of societal developments. He consistently seeks solace in the media to acquire this information. A multitude of journalists disseminate diverse report formats, as evidenced in numerous newspapers. The researcher asserts that societal crimes cannot be documented in this manner due to insufficient sources. Moreover, the source is not exhibited as it ought to be. The researcher has demonstrated the extent of criminal news coverage in various newspapers within this study. Furthermore, the utilization of quality sorts, terminology, sentences, and images in crime news is inadequately given. The researcher intends to investigate crime coverage in Bangladeshi newspapers. The researcher aims to examine and evaluate perspectives and offer recommendations. If the researcher presents the study effectively, it will assist other researchers and society at large.

Furthermore, the media's coverage of crime reports is research that is among the first of its kind. We must enhance the quality of language, syntax, imagery, and application in our crime reporting. This research report will aid newspaper authorities in formulating policy decisions regarding the publication of criminal material in newspapers. This research report will elucidate the characteristics and trends of crime news publication in Bangladeshi newspapers and will also assist in the formulation of national crime prevention policies. Furthermore, the examination of law enforcement officials on these advantages will remain

consistent in the future, proving beneficial for subsequent generations. This research will aid in understanding the rationale behind it.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of this study is to analyze the nature of crime news in Bangladeshi newspapers through the examination of news categories and feature analysis. This study investigates the significance of criminal news inside Bangladeshi society. This investigation is undertaken with specific aims in focus. The success of the research is contingent upon the precise alignment with its aims and objectives. This study considered the following objectives:

1. To understand the types and nature of the crimes in Bangladesh through studying newspaper contents
2. To figure out types of newspaper reports and focus on the crime issues
3. To understand the importance of the newspapers given for covering crime news, treatment of the crime reports/contents
4. To assess the quality of the crime reports/contents
5. To identify the gaps in covering the crime issues and incidents and commend for bridging the gaps for improving quality of the coverage.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
Concept Of Media

The news media is an institution grounded in the legal recognition of the validity of data collected and information processed through its presentations, broadcasts, and publications by various news organizations. The role of the press is subordinate to the law, justice, and executive branches of the state. The three pillars are rendered obsolete in the contemporary day without the inclusion of this fourth pillar. Newspapers serve as the third eye of quotidian existence. The entire universe was engulfed through our front. The primary role of the newspaper is to inform society by analyzing numerous faults and omissions. The press serves as the guardian of democracy. The government, society, and numerous observers monitor developments. Newspapers facilitate our acquaintance with the world's peculiar events. Newspapers contain imagery related to political, social, religious, economic, literary, and military themes. Newspapers provide accounts of revolutions, natural calamities, and numerous photos of the nation (Rahman, 2017, pp. 32, 43).

What is news? News is discernible yet challenging to delineate (Rahman, 2017, pp. 43) "News is the manner in which a professional journalist composes and finds contentment in their writing for their intended audience of readers, viewers, and listeners." - Professor Sakhawat Ali Khan. "News is inherently difficult to disclose; it is often something individuals wish to conceal—everything else constitutes advertising." Thomson Foundation (Rahman, 2017, pp. 43). Upon concluding the formal communication process, the information is published, distributed, showcased, and presented through media or news organizations, thereby reaching the public, who exhibit interest and curiosity regarding the news.

Role of a Journalist

The news media is an institution grounded in the legal recognition of the validity of data collected and information processed through its presentations, broadcasts, and publications by various news organizations. The role of the press is subordinate to the law, justice, and executive branches of the state. The three pillars are rendered obsolete in the contemporary day without the inclusion of this fourth pillar. Newspapers serve as the third eye of quotidian existence. The entire universe was engulfed through our front. The primary role of the newspaper is to inform society by analyzing numerous faults and omissions. The press serves as the guardian of democracy. The government, society, and numerous observers

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Journalists are those actively involved in journalism. A journalist is a professional involved in the newspaper industry, responsible for gathering information, writing news, producing content, and presenting, disseminating, and publishing information to the public (Rahman, 2017, pp. 34). Journalism is a laudable career and entails much responsibilities. A journalist acts as a guardian or recorder of human civilization. A mere few individuals observed the incident. The journalist acts as the conduit between the event and the audience. Journalism represents a societal obligation, encompassing accountability, fairness, transparency, humanitarian principles, and patriotism, and is a vocation for those actively involved. They are, concisely, journalists. In criminal journalism, journalists prioritize investigative reporting over superficial reporting. Every narrative has a source. Data is also collected from specified sources or sites. Compiling a crime report necessitates the use of several strategies and an examination of policy dimensions. In criminal investigative reporting, the foremost danger is to personal safety, the subsequent danger is to familial security, and the third danger is to professional stability. Confronting these diverse sorts of attacks represents the primary challenge for investigative journalists. The report is released to the public after an investigation into any incident of public importance. All-encompassing logical evidence and classified information must be revealed. The principal aim of investigative journalism is to expose societal inequalities, criminal conduct, corruption, and embezzlement.

The unprocessed information that is continuously gathered without comprehensive analysis or meticulous planning is termed surface news in journalistic terminology. Comprising road accidents, fires, natural or anthropogenic disasters, inaugurations, seminars, workshops, and press conferences.

Depth news pertains to the foundational information that clarifies the context of contemporary occurrences. Through thorough observation and systematic information gathering and analysis, the true nature of the event or situation, its context, and the consequences for future outcomes are clarified. Alongside the four essential inquiries of "What, who, when, and where," the questions "Why" and "How" hold particular importance (Rahman, 2017, pp. 127).

Concept of Crime

Crime generally indicates any wrongful conduct subject to societal punishment. Mutual tolerance in society can arise from factors such as crime, religion, caste, group identity, ethnicity, regionalism, hegemony, and administrative inadequacy. Intolerance towards any ethnic group, religion, or ethnicity can be fostered both within society and within the state itself. One community may perpetrate the crime of exterminating another community. This is an atrocious offence (Quader, 2014).

WHAT IS CRIME

Crime in general refers to any unjust behavior punishable by society. Mutual intolerance can be created in the wider society due to crime, religion, caste, group, ethnicity, regionalism, hegemony, administrative weakness etc. Intolerance towards any ethnic group, religion or ethnicity can be created not only in the society but also in the state itself. One community may commit the crime of annihilating another community. This is a heinous crime. For example, there were frequent riots between Hindus and Muslims in Bengal in the 1940s. The tendency of different races, religions and communities to annihilate each other. This crime is now a global problem (Quader, 2014).

In 1950 riots broke out in Dhaka, Barisal, Sylhet and Bogra. The annual report of the East Pakistan Police Administration in 1950 shows that there were a total of 3383 riots in Bangladesh during this period, including illegal rallies.

The extent of crime varies by country, time, and individual. Any person, in any country or region, or any other person or society, who does anything to cause problems, commits a crime. Any breach of social norms is regarded as a criminal offense. Working in the criminal justice system is anti-social. Killing, injuring, stealing, robbery, terrorist acts, rape, fraud, Drinking, cocaine, heroin, weed use, and eating the meat of prohibited animals are all crimes against society. Any crime outside the law is a heinous act from the moral or ethical point of view of society. Some humane behaviors are not illegal under the law, but they are socially repugnant or contrary to social customs, traditions, or discipline. As a result, it is socially hateful and punishable (Uddin, 2019, p. 6; Canter & Youngs, 2016).

Legal Definition f Crime

The legal definition of a crime is generally defined as a crime from the legal point of view of a person who intentionally violates the criminal law or penal code and has provisions for punishment by the state. Legal Definition: (a) Crime is a type of behavior and (b) that behavior violates the existing criminal law (Quader, 2014).

Crimes include all of the activities listed in the Criminal Procedure Code and the Penal Code. An offense is defined as one that is punishable under a current Act under Section 4 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Acting against a law enacted to maintain peace and order in a country or region is considered a crime. Crimes can be serious or minor in nature. The maximum penalty for minor offenses, such as a fine or imprisonment, is one year.

In most countries around the world, an effective and well-trained police force has been established to maintain law and order. The main goal of this force is to put an end to the crime, bring the perpetrators to justice, and complete the legal process. There is a provision that allows anyone to be detained on suspicion (*The Role and Impact of Police Forces in Maintaining Law and Order in Society*, n.d.).

Fines, imprisonment, and, in some cases, the death penalty are all options for punishing offenses. The honorable judge of the court determines the appropriate punishment for the criminal based on the severity of the crime. Otherwise, the innocent is found not guilty. It is punishable by life in prison or death if the level of crime is high and serious (Amin, 2019, p. 16).

Types Of Crime

Crimes can be categorized based on various legal criteria. First, there are period-based offenses, which include period-eligible offenses and period-incompetent offenses. Period-eligible offenses refer to crimes that can be prosecuted within a specific timeframe as determined by the statute of limitations, whereas period-incompetent offenses are those that cannot be prosecuted once the limitation period has expired. Second, crimes can be

classified into bail-based offenses, which include bailable and non-bailable offenses. Bailable offenses are those where the accused has the legal right to request bail and be released from custody pending trial, while non-bailable offenses are more serious in nature and require the court's discretion to grant bail. Lastly, there are compromise-based offenses, as outlined by Low & Rules (2020). These include compromise offenses, where the parties involved can resolve the matter through mutual agreement, and non-compromise offenses, which cannot be settled outside the judicial process due to their severity or the public interest at stake.

The details of the crimes mentioned below are briefly given:

Cognizable offenses are those for which the police can arrest the offender without a warrant. The concerned magistrate is notified upon receipt of the crime report, and the officer in charge of the police station is able to investigate the crime. The nature of such crimes is usually serious.

Period incompetent offenses are crimes for which a police officer cannot arrest an offender without a warrant. A non-cognizable crime is recorded in the general diary by the officer-in-charge of the police station.

Bailable offenses are any offenses in which the accused has the right to seek bail. The Criminal Procedure Code's second schedule outlines which offenses are bailable.

Non-bailable offenses are any offenses that are not eligible for bail. The defendant in this case is not eligible for bail. Non-bailable offenses received a slightly harsher treatment from the court. If the defendant is under the age of 18, female, sick, or disabled, he or she may be released on bail.

Compromising offenses are crimes that can be compromised with or without the approval of the court. In this case, the plaintiff has the option of filing an affidavit in court. The court has the authority to issue such an order.

Non-compromising crimes are those that cannot be compromised in any way. The defendant will be forced to accept a compromise by the complainant, which the defendant will reject. This is a heinous crime of the highest order (Avira, 2011).

Theft or robbery: Theft or robbery is taking property owned by another person without permission. Someone who steals is known as a thief. Some crimes of theft are considered synonymous with robbery. Robbery is forcible or intimidating snatching of any property, money, or personal belongings from a person (Scott, 2009).

Criminal offense: When the offender harms the victim and can punish the offender and take civil action or compensation. However, it must be listed by criminal law. The person who commits the crime is active; the person who suffers the crime is inactive. It is a criminal trial (Ward & Brown, 2015).

Cybercrime: A new type of crime that is directly related to the use of electronics or computers in everyday life is modern technological crime, or cybercrime. Internet access via the run is invalid in computer attacks, illegally obstructed networks, a system of illegal access, data loss, deleted, canceled, system under attack, artistic use, copyright infringement, obscene matters, child pornography sales, data theft, fraud, blackmail, government information theft, fund embezzlement, cyber terrorism/crime, viruses, and so on (Rahman, 2017, pp. 27).

Sexual Offence: Sexual harassment or rape is sexual offence against one's will. Human sexual dignity disrupts decency, honesty, family and good customs violations. Rape is a serious crime to be considered to be either.

Juvenile Delinquency: Juvenile delinquency is an act committed by adolescents against the existing values and norms in society. However, social values vary by state, city, village, or area. Juvenile delinquency is a special type of abnormal and anti-social act that is committed by adolescents (Juvenile Crime, 447).

Crimes related to public discipline: Violation of public order is a crime in every society; public values, ethics, and anti-jobs are there, which is legally binding but not. Examples are drinking in public space, prostitution, gambling, illegal drug use, etc. This type of crime is also called a victimless crime because this only harm the perpetrator himself (Siegel, n.d.).

White collar crimes: In general, crimes involving trade and commerce are referred to as "white collar crimes," which are the most well-known. Personal or business benefits are taken in an illegal way by an individual or business organization. For example, funds, credit card and check fraud, policy fraud, loan documents, fraud, bribery, tax evasion, and more (Uddin, 2019, p. 6).

Crime-related news coverage encompasses a wide range of incidents, including murder, bodily injury, and political assassinations such as those carried out on significant dates like August 15 and August 21, as well as attacks on political gatherings and cultural ceremonies. Other types of crime reported include abductions, hostage situations, and snatching incidents, as well as vandalism and arson. Coverage also includes deception cases, such as alienation and fraud, as well as issues related to illegal occupancy and dominance. Additionally, crimes involving the torture of women, child abuse, smuggling, and human trafficking are frequently reported. Sexual crimes such as rape, perverted sex, and sexual harassment, as well as acid attacks, disability, and injury incidents, are also covered. Furthermore, militancy, drug-related crimes, and cybercrime are significant topics in crime news reporting.

THEORETICAL REVIEW
Regarding Crime

The study was conducted by analyzing the structural explanations of crimes presented by psychologists, covering how crime news is covered in Bangladeshi newspapers. Important aspects of this study have been conducted by studying the research of books, newspapers and previous criminal news.

Crime is a crime committed by any person in a country or region, or by any other person or society that causes problems. Crime is anti-social work. Crimes include killing, injuring, stealing, robbery, robbery, terrorism, rape, fraud, money laundering, etc. Also, committing acts against society, including drinking, cocaine, heroin, consuming weed, eating the meat of forbidden animals, any crime outside the law is a heinous act from the moral or ethical point of view of society.

Scientific analysis of the causes of crime requires consideration from a number of perspectives. For example, the biological aspect, the psychological aspect, the economic aspect, the geographical aspect, the sociological aspect, the institutional and versatile contextual perspective to explain the reason for determining that is. Although the biological aspect is ancient, it is the first attempt in terms of scientific importance.

Psychologists, criminologists, and social theorists have long sought to understand why crime occurs. Their efforts have led to the development of various theories that attempt to explain the causes of criminal behavior, which can be broadly categorized into four main perspectives. The Classicalist Theory suggests that crime results from rational choices made by individuals who weigh the costs and benefits of their actions. The Biological Theory attributes criminal behavior to genetic, physiological, or neurological factors, emphasizing

the role of heredity and biological predispositions. A Psychological Viewpoint focuses on individual mental processes, personality traits, and behavioral patterns that may lead to criminal tendencies. Lastly, Sociological Thought examines crime as a product of societal factors such as economic disparity, social structure, cultural influences, and peer relationships. These perspectives collectively provide a comprehensive framework for understanding the multifaceted nature of crime.

Theories exploring the causes of crime have evolved significantly through contributions from psychologists, criminologists, and social theorists. The Classical Theory of Crime, introduced in the late 18th century by Cesare Beccaria, emphasizes rationality and self-interest in human behavior. According to Beccaria, crime arises from a breach of societal laws due to rational motivations, with social discipline being grounded in consensus and agreement. This theory underscores that crime contradicts societal norms and reflects the intentional breaking of legal rules. Moving beyond the classical perspective, Cesare Lombroso, regarded as the progenitor of the Biological Theory of Crime, introduced the "born criminal" thesis in 1876. Lombroso's theory posits that criminals display distinct biological and physical differences from non-criminals, including distortions in appearance. Later, in 1940, Sheldon added a biological explanation for crime trends, although sociologists argue that criminal behavior cannot be solely biologically predetermined, emphasizing the importance of environmental and social influences (Britt, 2018).

The Psychological Theory of Crime views criminal behavior as stemming from deficiencies in personality traits. It is divided into three perspectives: psychogenic, psychological, and psychoanalytical. The psychogenic theory highlights personality flaws, while the psychological view associate's criminal behavior with reduced intelligence or cognitive ability, such as a low Intelligence Quotient (IQ). The psychoanalytical perspective, popularized by Sigmund Freud, links criminal tendencies to the interaction of the id, ego, and superego within the human psyche. Freud, though not specifically developing a crime theory, provided insights into how unresolved internal conflicts lead to criminal behavior. His psychoanalytical theory suggests that the tension between human desires and societal norms often fosters a propensity for criminal behavior (Eysenck, 2014).

The Sociological Theory of Crime emphasizes the relationship between social conformity and deviation. Edwin H. Sutherland's Differential Association Theory highlights that criminal behavior is learned through interactions with others. According to Sutherland, situational factors, such as environments conducive to crime, and genetic predispositions shaped by life experiences influence criminal tendencies. His theory asserts that social influences can lead individuals toward criminal behavior while recognizing shared values between criminals and law-abiding individuals (Cressey, 1952). Sociologist Robert K. Merton further contributed to the sociological explanation of crime, arguing that the absence of clear behavioral norms creates disorientation and fosters criminality. Merton's theory, articulated in 1938, links societal pressure and normlessness to an increased likelihood of deviant behavior. Becker's Labeling Theory is another critical sociological perspective, emphasizing that societal labeling and interactions are significant contributors to criminal behavior. Factors such as jealousy, inferiority, unhappiness, selfishness, ideological conflicts, and a lack of resilience are often the root causes of criminal tendencies (Bernburg, 2009).

Other significant influences on criminal behavior include political motivations and societal challenges. Juvenile delinquency in Bangladesh, for instance, is often exploited for political purposes, with acts such as strikes and unlawful demonstrations being linked to criminal activity (Khuda, 2019). Additionally, frustrations arising from unemployment, societal ridicule, caste inequalities, racial discrimination, and inadequate juvenile correction systems

contribute to criminal tendencies. Psychological turmoil fueled by unmet aspirations and social rejection further exacerbates criminal behavior. Communal tensions, political unrest, and ideological conflicts also play a substantial role in fostering crime. Despite these challenges, Ahuja (1999) argues that effective crime coverage policies, alongside balanced and ethical reporting, are essential for addressing the issue of crime while safeguarding justice.

Regarding Media Responsibility

The present study draws its foundation from two influential ideas in media and communication studies: the social responsibility theory and the agenda-setting function of media. The social responsibility theory of the press emphasizes the need for an independent press that scrutinizes different social institutions and provides objective and accurate news reports as well as impartial interpretations of various issues and affairs. Denis McQuail (1994) summarises the basic principles of social responsibility theory, some of which are relevant to the present study (Finley, 2014).

1. Media should accept and fulfill certain obligations to society.
2. These obligations are mainly to be met by setting high or professional standards of informativeness, truth, accuracy, objectivity, and balance.
3. In accepting and applying these obligations, media should be self-regulating within the framework of law and established institutions.
4. The media as a whole should be pluralist and reflect the diversity of their society, giving access to various points of view and to rights of reply.

'Social Responsibility Theory' of mass media is relatively a new concept which started in the mid-20th century and is used mostly by developing and least developed countries. The theory started from Europe and took a shape with the Commission on the Freedom of Press that happened in the United States in 1949. The model was designed formally by Siebert, Peterson and Schramm in 1956 (Hussain et al., 2021).

Agenda-setting is the process whereby the news media lead the public in assigning relative importance to various public issues. The core idea is that the news media indicate to the public what the main issues of the day are and this is reflected in what the public perceives as the main issues (Valenzuela & McCombs, 2019). The media agenda influences the public agenda not by saying "this issue is important" in an overt way but by giving more space and time to that issue and by giving it more prominent space and time. According to the Kurt Lang & Gladys Engel Lang, the agenda setting of media denotes putting importance on those issues and affairs what they think important and beneficial to people while they similarly ignore those issues which they think less important (Mccombs & Shaw, 1972).

The agenda-setting theory was formally developed by Mac McComs and Donald Shaw in a study on the 1968 American presidential election. Agenda setting is a social science theory; It tries to predict. The theory also suggests that the media should have a tremendous impact on what they have in their audiences. Instead, think about what they should think. That is, if a story is frequently and prominently covered, the audience will consider it more important.

Crime issues in general should be adequately reflected in the media of Bangladesh. In order to properly present crime issues to the public, the media needs to have skilled journalists / reporters who are proficient in the subject matter and can ensure a quality practice in the sector (Noman, 2019, p. 20).

The challenges of the media, the power and influence of the media in changing society are considered to be ubiquitous (Rahman, 2019, p. 27).

However, it is necessary to examine how and in whose interest this power of the media is being used. For this, it is necessary to understand the ideological, policy and political implications of the mass production system. The global media today is controlled by a handful of multinationals (News Corporation, Time Warner, Disney, Viacom). Most of the media organizations have been formed under the umbrella of business organizations and influential politicians. There are allegations that these mainstream media outlets are operating in the interests of their own business, profit, authority and control. The mainstream media is focused on corporate oriented and profit investing without caring about social values, cultural heritage and ethics. What is available as the content of the media, in a subtle way, somehow protects the interests of the ruling class. Therefore, it is alleged that the current media is more business oriented, profit oriented, corporate oriented and commercial oriented. 'Above all, it diverts people's attention from the real problems and inequalities that exist in the society and keeps them busy with shallow entertainment' (Haq, 2010).

Research Questions of this study

The study examined the news coverage in Bangladeshi newspapers by gathering information and data to address the research issues. Readers familiar with the specific requirements of various crimes have utilised descriptive approaches in the research done to address the following five questions.

   a. What are the types and nature of crime in Bangladesh?
   b. What are the focus of crime reporting?
   c. How much importance is given to news and treatment to cover crime report?
   1. How is the quality maintained in crime reporting? What measures are being taken to improve the quality?
   2. What are the challenges faced by investigative journalists in covering crime reports?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data Gathering Method

Secondary Data

The researcher has studied and gathered information from crime related newspapers, journals and internet article. Books related to psychological and social behavior change is also studied and used for gathering information.

Primary Data Gathering Method

   a. **Content Analysis:** The researcher has selected 42 editions from six publications, both Bengali and English, that report on crime news in Bangladesh. Between October 4, 2021, and October 10, 2021, seven daily newspapers (Dainik Prothom Alo, Dainik Ittefaq, Dainik Jugantar, Dainik Bangladesh Pratidin, The Daily Star, and The Daily Observer) disseminated crime-related news across these six publications. The content has undergone both numerical and qualitative analysis.

Sampling

Currently, there are a total of 3,151 newspapers in Bangladesh, with 1,284 published from Dhaka and 1,867 published from regions outside of Dhaka.

Table 1: Regional and Frequency-Wise Distribution of Newspapers in Bangladesh

Types of Newspaper	Number		
	Dhaka	Outside of Dhaka	Total

Types of Newspaper	Number		
	Dhaka	Outside of Dhaka	Total
Daily	484	782	1284
Half Weekly	0	3	3
Weekly	348	850	1198
Fortnightly	144	68	212
Monthly	281	146	427
Bimonthly	5	3	8
Tri-monthly	19	13	32
Quarterly	0	1	1
Half-monthly	1	1	2
Annual	2	0	2

Date-31/01/2022, at present the total number of letters and newspapers in the whole country total 3151 (DFP, 2022)

Out of all the newspapers published in the country, six major daily newspapers have been chosen for this study. They are Prothom Alo, Jugantor, Ittefaq, Bangladesh Pratidin, The Daily Star and the Observer.

Duration of the data gathering: print copies of the aforesaid newspapers has been gathered from 04 October 2021 to 10 October 2021 and thus a number of 42 issues has been collected and analyzed.

Reasons for selection: The daily Prothom Alo is the most widely read newspaper, boasting a substantial readership. The researcher has selected this newspaper for the study for this reason. The newspaper is titled Dainik Bangladesh Patidin. Despite its small size, the journal enjoys considerable popularity among readers. The cost is likewise minimal. The Daily Ittefaq is a venerable newspaper. The researcher selected this publication for that reason. The contemporary daily, Jugantar, is a favored publication among readers. The researcher has selected The Daily Star and The Daily Observer from the English-language dailies for analysis. The chosen newspapers rank in the top 10 in Bangladesh. The researcher aims to analyze the presentation of headlines, the styling of introductory news, and the predominant types of criminal news published in the 42 journals included in the study. The categories and characteristics of the news published have been studied.

Data extraction material: A detailed data gathering format (material) has been developed and used to gather data.

Data Entry and Analysis: The gathered data has been entered into SPSS frame and analyzed using the software.

Scope of Content Analysis: Content analysis scope is focused on a thorough analysis of several components of published materials. It covers an analysis of headlines from news and views sections, editorial and post editorial articles, and other articles. This analysis identifies the messages that were communicated, what the primary focus/theme of this piece of content was, and what type of items were being displayed. The column inches of the topics have also been compared in the analysis to assess the depth of coverage afforded to various matters. A more holistic approach seeks to inform this understanding but also with an aim of clarifying the sort of content that is being examined, the depth, and the emphasis.

Components Analyzed in the Study

In this study, various aspects of crime-related news reports have been analyzed. These include the focus or theme of each item, the types of reports, and the length of the reports. The research also examines who covered the reports, the types of crimes covered, and the locations where the crimes occurred. The treatment of the reports, the language used, and the inclusion of pictures have been analyzed as well. Further, the study looks into the number of sources used, the clarity of those sources, and the clarity of the headlines. Accuracy and adequacy of the information are also important factors assessed. The study evaluates whether the reports are balanced, complete, and equitable. Additionally, the decency of the reports, adherence to journalistic ethics, and whether newspapers follow a proper journalistic structure are considered. The use of quotations in the reports is also part of the analysis.

Data Analysis

Research Methods- Two types of research methods are used to collect data for this study. The methods are:

1) The content analysis (content analysis) method; 2) Journalist and newspaper readers' opinions: method.

a. **Content Analysis Method:** Guidelines for newspapers and journalists have been attempted. Newspaper crime-related information disclosure features and trends of the information being observed for the country from the published newspaper. Media experts use the content analysis method of media research as a popular research method, as the face has. This chapter of this study includes the newspaper in the published crime-related data verification for the newspaper content analysis that has been. The same with the newspapers published in the crime of the information about the first-hand interviews with 10 different occupations, the newspaper readers' opinions and reporters' views were presented and analyzed. From 04-10-2021 to 10-10-2021, a total of seven day periodicals were published in these six journals: Dainik Prothom Alo, Dainik Ittefaq, Dainik Jugantar, Dainik Bangladesh Pratidin, The Daily Star, and The Daily Observer. The content of the crime news has been analyzed. Research data collected during the above-mentioned newspaper crimes of various kinds should be available.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

FREQUENCY OF CRIME REPORTS

The content analysis indicates that all newspapers examined published a cumulative total of 290 reports across the 42 issues during the assessed timeframe.

Graph 01: Crime Reports in Surveyd Dailies
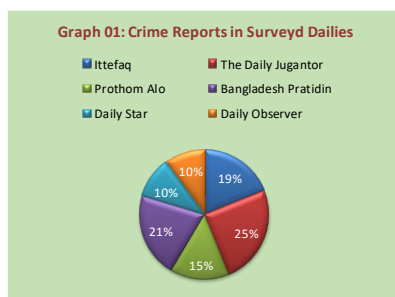
The Daily Jugantor (25%) has reported the majority of crime incidents (N=72) among the surveyed newspapers. The two English newspapers have the lowest percentages (10% each)

in reporting criminal incidents. English newspapers should prioritize the coverage of crime news.

The results from the key informant interviews indicate that, due to personnel shortages, English media publish fewer crime reports than Bengali publications.

Focus of the Crime Reports

The content analysis reveals that most of the reports are incident based (64%) compared to issue-based (36%). So, more focus can be given in the dailies in providing issue based
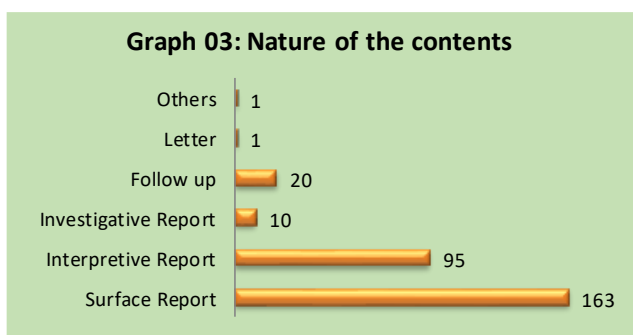
Graph 02: Focus of the Reports

- 0%
- 36%
- 64%
- Issue-based
- Incident-based
- Others
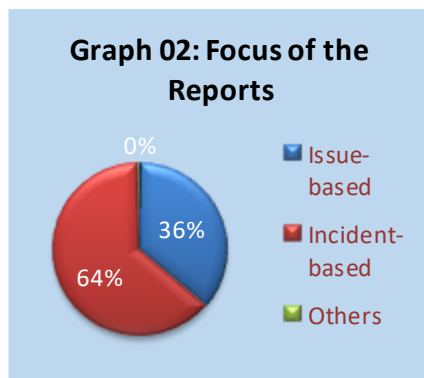
repots. It is to note that the issue-based reports are the detailed and depth reports having focused on a particular issue of the crime. Conversely, the incident-based reports are mostly based on the daily events or happenings.

The findings from the key informant interviews show,

Nature of contents

The content analysis indicates that surface reports (N=163, 56.2%) constitute the biggest

Graph 03: Nature of the contents

- Others: 1
- Letter: 1
- Follow up: 20
- Investigative Report: 10
- Interpretive Report: 95
- Surface Report: 163

proportion compared to interpretive reports (N=95, 32.8%) and investigative reports (N=10, 3.4%). The total number of follow-up reports is 20, representing 6.9%, and the contents included one letter and another item.

The results from the key informant interviews indicate that, owing to numerous constraints, newspapers frequently struggle to deliver impartial news and neglect to generate follow-up reporting.

Distribution of Staff or Agency Items

The content analysis indicates that the majority of things are addressed by the staff (N=246, 85%) of the dailies, which is a highly favorable indication and demonstrates the organizations' robustness. The items provided by the Agency constitute 5.5% (N=16), while those from external sources account for 9.7% (N=16).


Graph 04: Distribution of Staff or Agency Items
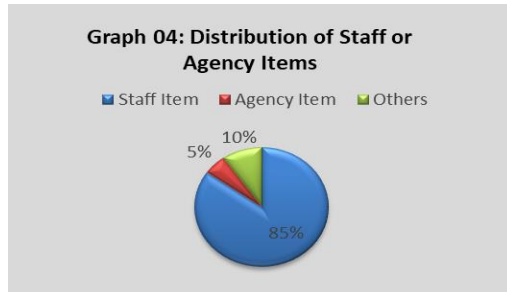
Types of Crimes in Crime Reporting

The content analysis reveals that most frequent type of crime 24.8% (N=72) is Murder. Cheating with 11.4% (N=33) is second in frequency and Rape with 9.4% (N=28) is in third in frequency. Forgery with 8.6% (N=25) & Cyber-crime with 4.5% (13) are the other major crimes. Different types of crime titled others is also high containing 24.8% (N=72).
The findings from the key informant interviews show.

Graph 05: Types of Crimes in Crime Repoting

Placement of the Crime Reports
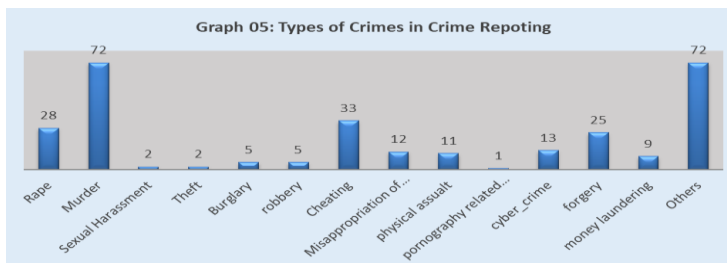
Graph 06: Placement of the Crime Reports
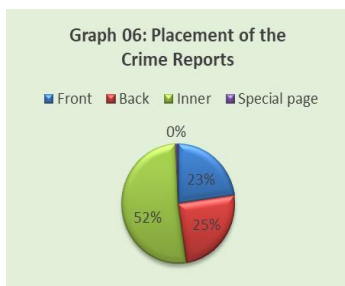
The content analysis reveals that most of the crime news are published in inner section (52%, N=150) of the newspapers compared to front page (23%, N=66) and back page (25%, N=72). The percentage of crime news in special page is 0.7% (N=2). So, tendency of surveyed dailies is to put the crime news in the inner pages

The findings from the key informant interviews show that the most important part of the crime news should be present on the first page and in a nice and interesting way so that the reader can understand easily what the news is telling.

Column Coverage in Crime Reporting
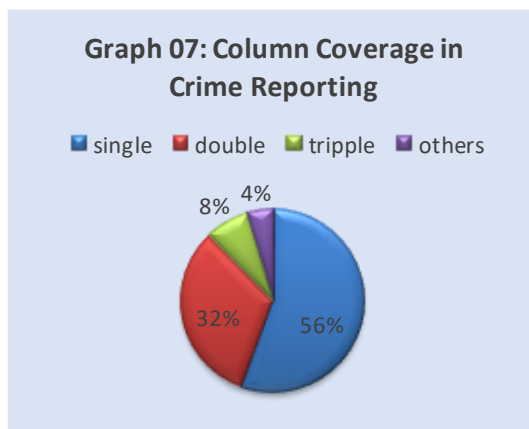
The content analysis reveals that crime news is published mostly in single column (N=161, 56%). Percentages of crime reports in double column is lower (N=94, 32%). Reports in triple column (N=22, 8%) and more than triple column (N=13, 4%) is very low.

Column length in Crime Reporting
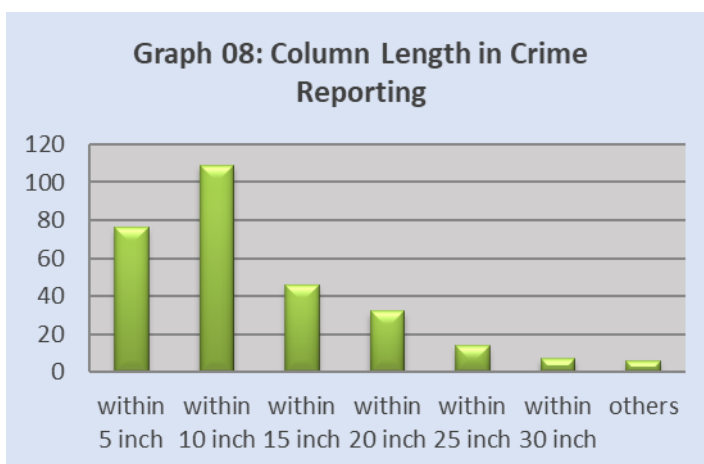
The content analysis reveals that mostly the crime reports are covered within 10 inch column (N=109, 38%). 26% (N=76) of the reports are within 5 inch column. 16% (N=46) of the reports are within 15 inch column and 11% (N=32) is within 20 inch column. Column length exceeding 20 inch is very rare (N=27, 9%). Newspaper should increase their column coverage in crime reporting.

Use of pictures in Crime Reporting

Graph 09: Use of Pictures in Crime Reporting

- having pix
- without pix

17%

83%
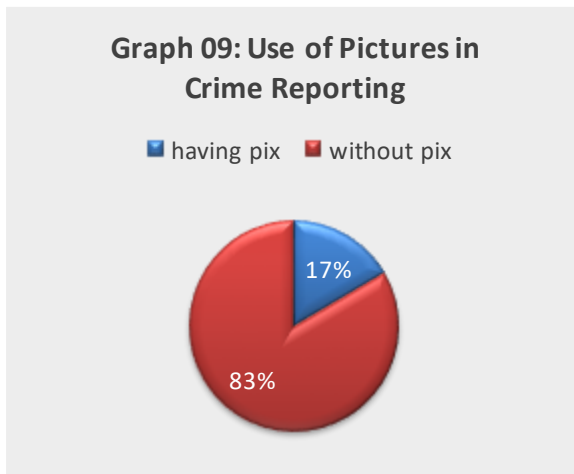
The content analysis reveals that only 17% (N=48) of the crime reports contain pictures compared to a huge number of percentages of 83% (N=242) without any pictures. Newspapers should consider providing more related pictures of the crimes by maintaining journalistic ethics in crime reporting.

The findings from the key informant interviews show that the information and picture of the criminal should be highlighted without publishing the picture of the victim.

Geographic coverage of the Crime Reports

Graph 10: Geographic Coverage of the Crime Reports

- Rural
- Urban
- semi urban
- others

7%

10%

30%

53%
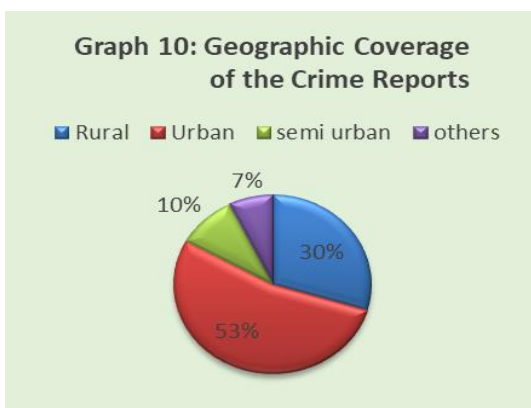
The content analysis reveals that most of the crime reports are from urban (N=155, 53%) and semi-urban (N=10, 28%) areas combining a total percentage of 63% (N=183). 30% (N=86) of the reports are form rural areas and 7% (N=21) are from others. So, more focus should be given in reporting the crime news occurring outside the urban and semi-urban areas.

Number of Sources in a Crime Report

Graph 11: Number of Sources used in a Crime Report
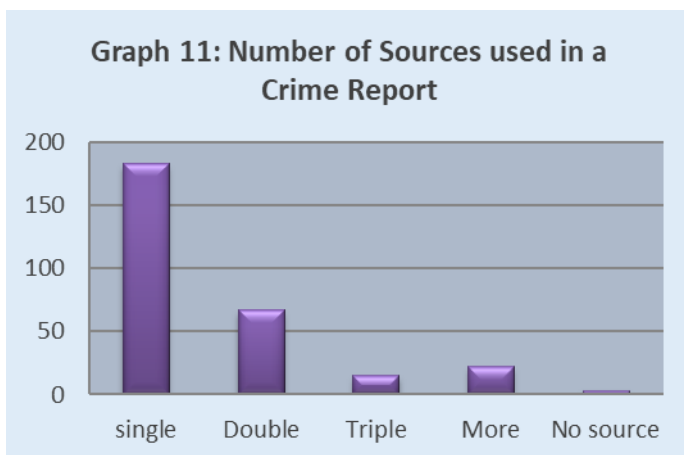
The content analysis reveals that most of the crime news used only single source (N=183, 63.1%). 23% (N=67) of the reports are based on double sources and 5% (N=15) of the reports are based on triple sources. 8% of the reports used more than triple sources. Even 0.7% reports do not contain any reference of sources.

Clarity of Source

Graph 12: Clarity of Sources in Crime Reports
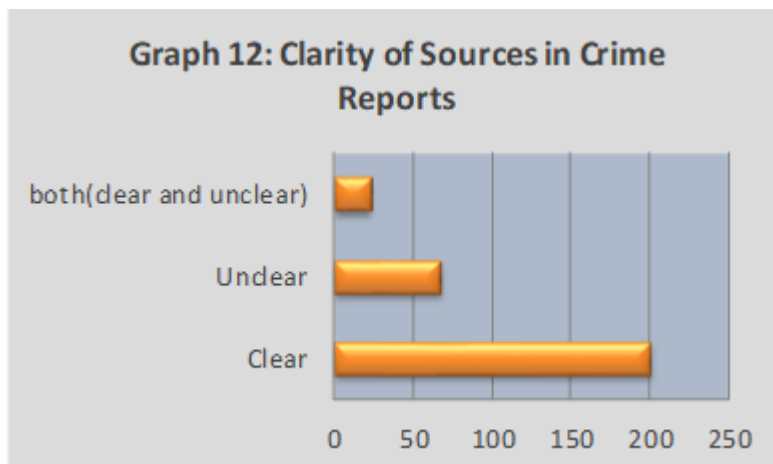
The content analysis reveals that most of the reports, 69% (N=200) have clarity in mentioning the source which is a standard reporting practice. But, 23.1% (N=67) reports do not mention any reference of the source and 7.9% (N=23) reports have both clear and unclear mentioning of sources which are not standard practices, especially for crime reporting.
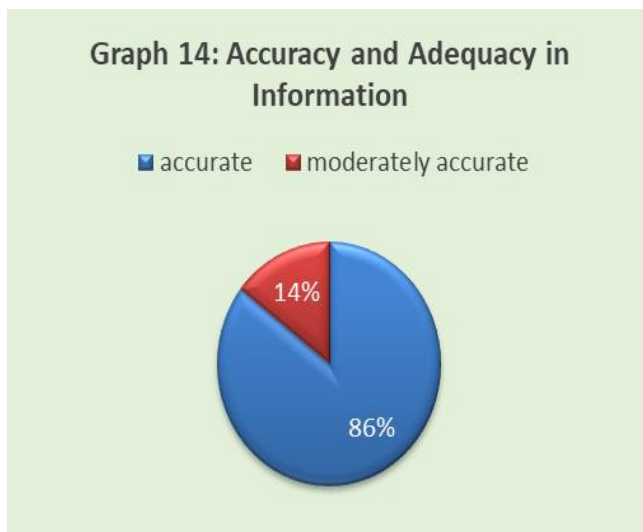
Clarity of Headlines

The content analysis reveals that most of the reports, 94% (N=273) have clarity in headline which is a standard reporting practice. On the other hand, 6% (N=17) of the headlines of the reports are not clear.
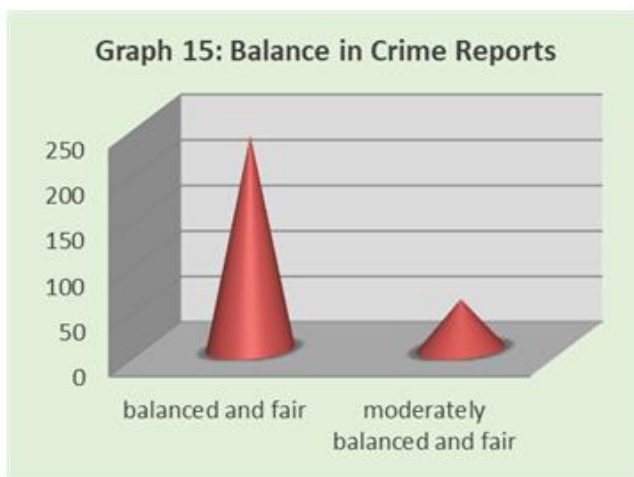

Graph 13: Clarity of Headlines
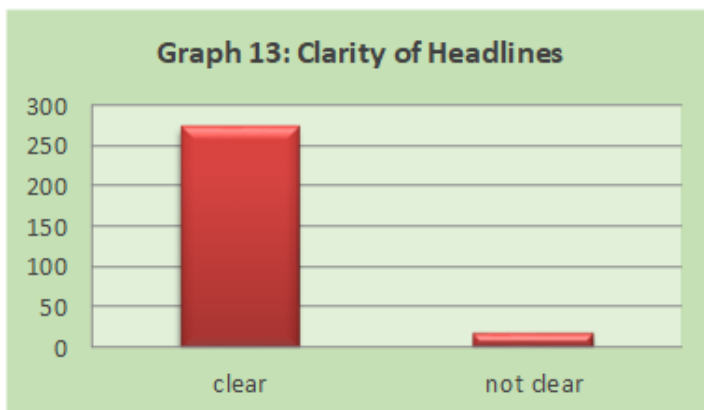
Accuracy and adequacy of information

The content analysis reveals that most of the reports, 85.5% (N=248) have accurate and adequate information which is a standard reporting practice. On the contrary, 16% (N=42) of the reports are moderately accurate.

Graph 14: Accuracy and Adequacy in Information
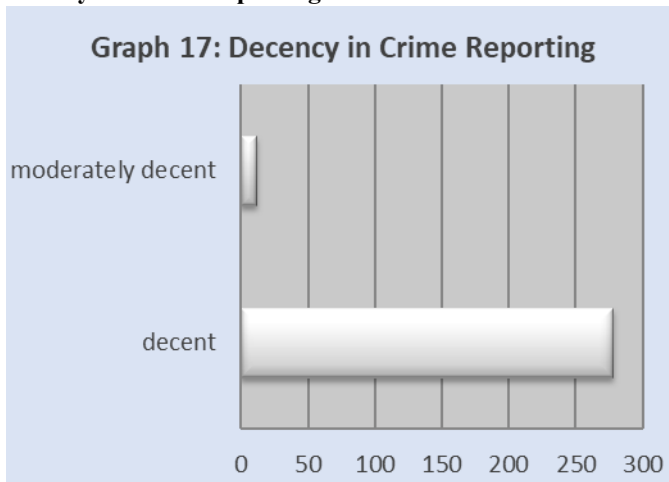
Balance in Crime Reporting

The content analysis reveals that most of the reports, 81% (N=235) have maintained balance and fair reporting (getting interviews of all relevant sources/persons, other views taken, use of neutral words, decent description of facts/happenings) which is a standard reporting practice. On the other hand, 19% (N=55) of the reports are moderately balanced and fair.

Completeness in Crime Repotting

The content analysis reveals that most of the reports (81%, N=235) are complete in nature which is a standard reporting practice. On the other hand, 19% (N=55) reports are moderately complete.

Decency in Crime Reporting

Graph 17: Decency in Crime Reporting

The content analysis reveals that most of the reports, 96% (N=278) are decent in their representation which is good practice. On the other hand, 4% (N=12) of the reports are moderately decent.

Equity in Crime Reporting


Graph 18: Equity in Cime Reporting
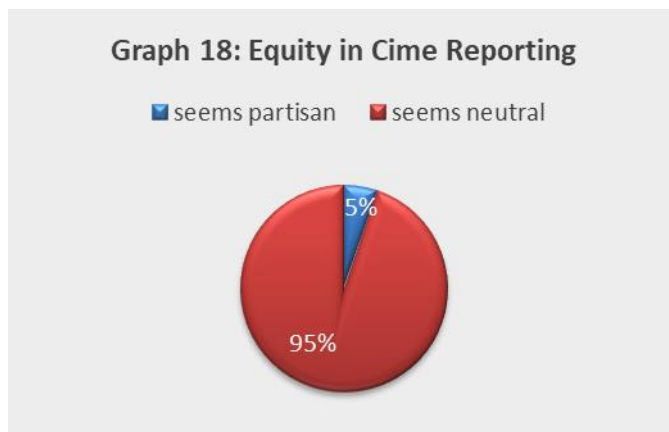
The content analysis reveals that most of the reports, 95% (N=275) seems neutral while other 5% (N=15) seems partisan. Keeping most of the news neutral is sign maintaining the equity.

Maintaining the News Ethics

The content analysis reveals that most of the reports, 93.1% (N=270) followed the news ethics properly which is a very good practice. In 6.6% (N=19) of the reports news ethics was moderately followed and 0.3% (N=1) of the reports news ethics was not followed.

Use of Quotes in Crime Reporting
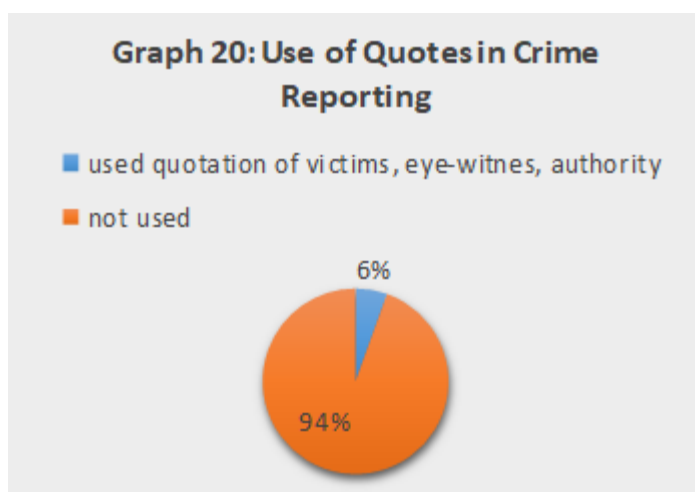
The content analysis reveals that most of the news, 94% (N=274) do not contained any quotation from victims, eye-witness or authority. Only a small number (N=16, 6%) of crime reports have used the quotation from victims, eye-witness or authority

Maintaining Journalistic Structures in Crime Reporting
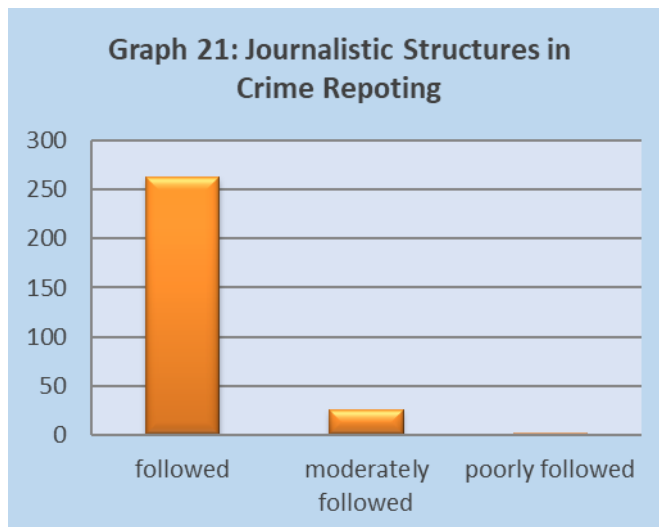
The content analysis reveals that most of the reports, 90.7% (N=263) followed the journalistic structures properly which is a good practice. On the hand, 9% of the reports followed the journalistic structure moderately and 0.3% (N=1) of the reports followed journalistic structures poorly.

Summary of Findings from the content analysis

From October 4 to October 10, 2021, six daily newspapers in Bangladesh—*Prothom Alo*, *Jugantor*, *Daily Ittefaq*, *Bangladesh Pratidin*, *The Daily Star*, and *The Daily Observer*—were analyzed to understand how print media portray crime news. During this period, a total of 290 crime news items were published across these newspapers. *Daily Jugantor* covered the highest percentage of crime news (25%, N=72), while the two English dailies accounted for the least (10% each). Most of the reports were incident-based (64%) rather than issue-based (36%). In terms of reporting depth, surface-level reports were the highest (56.2%, N=163), followed by interpretive (32.8%, N=95) and investigative reports (3.4%, N=10). Follow-up reports constituted 6.9% (N=20), and the content also included a letter and other minor items.

Staff reporters authored the majority of crime reports (85%, N=246), showcasing the strength of the organizations, while 5.5% (N=16) came from agencies and 9.7% (N=28) from other sources. Among the types of crime reported, murder was the most frequent (24.8%, N=72), followed by cheating (11.4%, N=33), rape (9.4%, N=28), forgery (8.6%, N=25), and cybercrime (4.5%, N=13). Other crimes combined also constituted a significant portion (24.8%, N=72). Most crime news appeared in the inner pages (52%, N=150), with fewer on the front (23%, N=66) and back pages (25%, N=72). Only 0.7% (N=2) were published in special sections.

The majority of the reports were presented in single columns (56%, N=161), followed by double (32%, N=94), triple (8%, N=22), and larger columns (4%, N=13). Reports with a column length of 10 inches were the most common (38%, N=109), while 26% (N=76) were within 5 inches, and 16% (N=46) were within 15 inches. Only 9% (N=27) exceeded 20 inches. Notably, only 17% (N=48) of the reports included pictures, while 83% (N=242) lacked visual elements. Geographically, 53% (N=155) of reports originated from urban

areas, 28% (N=81) from semi-urban areas, and 30% (N=86) from rural areas. Reports based on a single source were most common (63.1%, N=183), followed by double-source reports (23%, N=67) and triple-source reports (5%, N=15).

Most reports displayed clarity in mentioning sources (69%, N=200), had clear headlines (94%, N=273), and provided accurate and adequate information (85.5%, N=248). Furthermore, 81% (N=235) of the reports were balanced and fair, with the same percentage maintaining completeness. The representation of crime news was deemed decent in 96% (N=278) of the cases, and 95% (N=275) appeared neutral, reflecting equity. A notable 93.1% (N=270) adhered to news ethics, and 90.7% (N=263) followed proper journalistic structures. However, 94% (N=274) of the reports lacked quotations from victims, eyewitnesses, or authorities. Overall, the analysis highlights both strengths and areas for improvement in the portrayal of crime news in Bangladeshi newspapers.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The study sought to assess the portrayal of crime news in Bangladeshi publications. The study included both content analysis and Key Informant Interviews (KII) to collect data. This study employs content analysis as an efficient way for examining criminal news coverage. Conversely, to comprehend reader expectations and the quality of crime reports, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) have been undertaken. Direct interviews have yielded thoughts and suggestions from 12 experts, including top journalists, media educators, physicians, and other advanced readers. The collected data has been input into the SPSS framework and evaluated utilizing the program. The format of the content analysis, along with the description of codes and data extraction sheets, has been employed as an effective method in this study.

Significant attention is placed on the structure of news content in a newspaper, assessing its efficacy, impact, and capacity to engage the reader. "News formation" refers to the methodology employed by journalists in the composition of news articles. Newspapers typically possess a method of generating news. An analysis of newspapers in Bangladesh revealed that the most frequently published news pertained to murder, assault, and drug trafficking, while criminal news was the least reported. Crucially, the news was supplemented with thematic images, personal photographs, and graphics to capture the reader's attention. The content analysis encompasses the total number of criminal narratives published in the research journal, the classification of news stories, the nature of news coverage, the application of the 5WH framework in the coverage, the presence of the primary subject of the criminal news, the occurrence of misinformation within the criminal reports, the utilization of sexist terminology, racial and religious discrimination, information exaggeration, information deficiency, the use of sexually provocative language, and the employment of adjectives and complex vocabulary have been scrutinized.

Initially, the total quantity of published news stories from the publication was examined. To comprehend the portrayal of crime news in print media in Bangladesh, six daily newspapers were analyzed from October 4, 2021, to October 10, 2021. This study's content analysis encompasses the following daily newspapers: Prothom Alo, Jugantar, Daily Ittefaq, Bangladesh Pratidin, The Daily Star, and The Daily Observer. Furthermore, the content analysis reveals that The content analysis reveals that the majority of newspapers commenced their articles with a recap of the occurrence. In a span of seven days, 290 crime news articles were disseminated across 42 newspapers. The coverage of the crime in the examined newspapers has been favorable.

The majority of published news is simplistic in character. Several assessments or investigation reports have been published. Subsequent news was entirely absent. While reports of torture garnered significant attention in the headlines, the matter of penalizing the

offenders received comparatively less emphasis. The quantity of reports on women and child abuse, along with byline tales, was astonishing. This survey revealed that reports of homicides and sexual assaults against women and children had dominated the news. The analysis encompasses the prevalence of disinformation in criminal news, racial and religious discrimination, information exaggeration, information deficiency, the use of sexually suggestive language, and the utilization of adjectives and sophisticated terminology.

Reports of the murder and sexual assault of women and children have been prevalent in the news. The legal dimension of this narrative was markedly trivial. Newspapers focus on isolated accounts of torture, and there has been less investigation into the underlying narratives. The incident's follow-up may have been released, although the sanction for the culprit remains unaddressed.

Based on a detailed review, the study draws several conclusions regarding the portrayal of crime news in Bangladeshi newspapers. First, crime reports are generally published in less prominent sections of newspapers, occupying very little space. Despite this, the rate of publication of crime-related information has been increasing steadily, with a noticeable rise in 2021 compared to 2008-2009. Second, some newspapers, particularly English-language ones, publish crime reports at a significantly lower rate, primarily due to the limited space allocated for presenting and disclosing such information. Lastly, follow-up reports on crime incidents are rarely published, and there is a noticeable lack of coverage regarding the punishment of perpetrators in crime reports. This indicates a gap in providing comprehensive and outcome-oriented crime reporting in Bangladeshi print media.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proposed to improve the reporting and presentation of crime news in Bangladeshi newspapers. First, greater emphasis should be placed on the presentation of crime news to raise public awareness that crime is a punishable offense, regardless of the perpetrator's gender, occupation, or age. Newspapers should play an active role in reinforcing this message. Second, law enforcement agencies should contribute to awareness and motivation by being visibly proactive against criminals.

Third, increased attention should be given to crime news from remote areas to ensure broader coverage. Fourth, in order to build social resistance against criminals, newspapers should publish not only crime news but also related content such as editorials, features, and follow-up reports. Fifth, crime news should include information that instills fear and deterrence in potential offenders. Sixth, the information disclosed in crime reports should be factual and free from exaggeration to maintain credibility and prevent unnecessary panic.

Seventh, crime reports should include a photograph of the offender along with their personal and family details, ensuring that their misdeeds are publicly known, including to their relatives. Additionally, news about the punishment of offenders should be widely disseminated to underline the consequences of criminal activities. Consistent follow-up reporting on criminal cases should be prioritized to provide updates on justice and accountability. These steps can collectively enhance the impact and effectiveness of crime reporting in building an informed and vigilant society.

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APPENDIXES

Print Media Coverage of Crime issues in Bangladesh

Name of the Daily: ----------------------------- Date: -----------------------------
Total News/items on crime ------------- Total column inch =

Item no.	Headline of News/ item	Key message	Focus / Theme of item	Type of the item	Length (column inch)	Who covered the news	Type of crime	Location of the report	Treatment

Item no.	Geographic coverage	Language of the report	Pix	Description of Pix	No. of Source	Clarity of source	Clarity of headline

Item no.	Accuracy and adequacy of info	Balanced	Complete	Decent	Equity	Following ethics	Following journalistic structure	Use of quote

Description of Codes:
Focus/Theme of item or report: 1= Issue-based, 2= incident-based, 3=editorial/post editorial, 4=others
Types: 1= surface report, 2=interpretative report, 3=investigative report, 4=follow up, 5=feature,
10=others
Length: actual
Who covered? : Staff item=1, Agency item=2, others=3
Type of crime: 1= rape, murder=2, sexual harassment/assault=3, theft=4, burglary=5, robbery=6,
cheating=7, misappropriation of power and gaining benefits=8, physical assault=9, pornography
related crime=10, cyber-crime=11, forgery=12, defamation=13, money laundering=14, others=15
Location: 1=front page, 2=back page, 3=inner page, 4=special page/issue, 5=others----
Treatment: single column=1, double column=2, triple column=3, 4=others
Geographic coverage: 1= rural, 2=urban, 3=semi-urban, others=4
Language: 1=using simple words and sentence, 2= complex words and sentence, 3=mixed
Pix: 1=yes, 2=no
No. of Source: 1=single, 2=double, 3=triple source, 4=more
Clarity of source: 1=clear, 2=unclear, 3= both(clear and unclear)
Clarity of headline: 1=clear, 2=not clear
Accuracy and adequacy of info: 1=having accurate and adequate info gathered from various sources and interviews with victims, eye-witness, authorities; 2=lack of accurate and adequate info
gathered from various sources and interviews with victims, eye-witness, authorities
Balanced: 1=balanced in terms of getting interviews of all relevant sources/persons, 2=not balanced in terms of getting interviews of all relevant sources/persons,
Complete: 1=complete, 2= moderately complete, 3.= incomplete

Equity: 1=reporter's sentiment seems to be attached to a particular person, 2=reporter's sentiment

seems to be neutral.

Decent: 1=decent description of facts/happenings; 2= moderately decent, 3. indecent [i.e. description of crime in objectionable/insensitive/sensational words]

Following ethics: 1=followed, 2= moderately followed, 3=not followed [i.e. showing/presenting

derogatory/perverted pix, etc.]

Following journalistic structure: 1=followed, 2=moderately followed, 3=not followed [Headline-Intro-Major details-minor details-concluding]

Use of quote: 1=used quotation of victims, eye-witness, authorities; 2= not used