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Editorial

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Contents

Troll Culture in Bangladesh: A Study on Social Media

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Abstract: Bangladesh's rapid proliferation of online communication platforms has given rise to a pervasive and impactful phenomenon, troll culture. This paper is written on the characteristics of troll culture in our country as online trolling become a new trend in our country, especially on social networking sites. It aims to explore the characteristics of troll culture in the country, shedding light on its various manifestations, the underlying behavioral patterns, and the consequential societal impact. Troll culture has become an integral part of online communication in Bangladesh. This study aims to explore the different types of trolls in Bangladesh, their behavior, and the impact of troll culture on society. Social Media has revolutionized the way people communicate, behave, and interact within this virtual landscape people connect with others. These days online trolling gains momentum, particularly on social networking sites, and its nuances become imperative for both academic discourse and societal well-being. The researcher adopted a mixed-methods design incorporating both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis techniques. The quantitative aspect involves the use of surveys and data analytics to quantify the prevalence of trolling and its various forms. On the qualitative part content analysis is utilized to gain a nuanced understanding of troll behavior. Utilized some random sampling techniques to ensure a representative dataset and conducted frequency analysis to quantify the prevalence of trolling and identify patterns. The findings reveal that there are various types of trolls in Bangladesh, including political trolls, social media trolls, and cyberbullies. The study also found that troll behavior is mainly driven by group identity, anonymity, and the desire for attention and validation. This paper aims to provide a comprehensive overview of troll culture by examining both overt and covert scenarios and their implications for the cultural fabric of Bangladesh.

Keywords: troll, virtuality, degradation, degeneration, modernity, sterility.

Introduction

With the rise of social networking sites and new media, the concept of "trolling" has emerged. In internet slang, a troll refers to a person who disrupts online communities by posting inflammatory, off-topic messages to provoke an emotional response from viewers. In the context of Bangladesh, the prevalence of online trolling has become a noteworthy aspect of this digital transformation. This study identifies the need to dissect the different types of trolls, focusing on political trolls, social media trolls,

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and cyberbullies. It aims to uncover the driving forces behind troll behavior, including group identity, anonymity, and the pursuit of attention and validation

Troll culture refers to a form of online communication characterized by the deliberate posting of provocative or offensive content to incite emotional responses from others. Trolling has become a popular online activity in Bangladesh, particularly on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. Trolls in Bangladesh engage in various forms of behavior, including spreading rumors, engaging in cyberbullying and posting hate speech. The prevalence of troll culture in Bangladesh raises concerns about its impact on society, particularly in terms of free speech, democracy, and social cohesion. While trolling is not a new phenomenon, it has evolved with the changing technology. This paper views trolling as a part of culture because it has become ingrained in people's online behavior. Although trolling is often seen as a negative practice, it can also be used as a means of critiquing ongoing issues. Moreover, the research shows that troll culture has a significant impact on society, leading to the spread of hate speech, cyberbullying, and misinformation. This paper examines the positive and negative aspects of trolling in Bangladesh and its impact on culture. The focus is on the common characteristics and features of trolling, as well as its potential consequences.

Background

Nowadays people become digital natives in cyberspace and spontaneously use the internet the way they want. Trolls became very popular within the cyber culture in Bangladesh. Troll is a noise on the internet, that makes users and viewers excited to some extent. Social media like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc. also in comment sections. Troll is becoming much more prevalent within communities. It invokes public interest in different issues. In our country youths are much accustomed to trolling. Online trolls evoke public interest. It can be funny, insulting, off-topic, nonsensical, etc. and in the comment section, trolls can be deliberately trying to entertain, disrupt, criticize, attack, offend, or cause trouble within the community. Given the growing importance of social media in Bangladesh and the significant impact of trolling online discourse, there is a need for a deeper understanding of the phenomenon. This research paper aims to explore the nature of troll culture in Bangladesh, its characteristics and features, and its potential consequences for society. The study will draw on a range of methods, including qualitative analysis of online content, and surveys of social media users. The findings of this research will contribute to a broader understanding of the impact of social media on society and inform strategies for addressing the negative effects of troll culture in Bangladesh.

Rationale

This research endeavors to contribute valuable insights into the characteristics of troll culture in Bangladesh, its behavioral drivers, and the far-reaching consequences it imposes on society. It will help to pave the way for informed discussions and potential interventions to mitigate its adverse effects on the cultural landscape. By conducting this research, I hope to contribute to a broader understanding of the impact of social media on society and inform strategies for addressing the negative effects of troll culture in Bangladesh. This study will be valuable for policymakers, social media platforms, and individuals seeking to promote healthy and productive online discourse. I aim to develop a better understanding of the complex relationship between technology, culture, and society in the context of Bangladeshi trolling. By mapping and analyzing trolls and their behaviors, it is possible to point out ongoing trends in mainstream culture.

Objectives

- To explain the casual observation of trolls in Bangladesh.
- To explore the types and contents of trolls such as - text-based, visual, photographic, video, funny, insulting, ideological or non-ideological, etc.
- To identify the different types of trolling behaviour with their prevalence on social media platforms.

- To examine the motivations behind trolling, including its use as a form of activism or personal expression.
- To investigate the potential consequences of troll culture in Bangladesh.

Research questions:

1. What are the common characteristics of troll culture in Bangladesh?
2. What are the most prevalent types of trolling behaviour on social media platforms in Bangladesh?
3. How do individuals get engaged in trolling behaviour in Bangladesh, and how do these motivations vary across different contexts?
4. What are the potential consequences of troll culture?
5. How are these consequences manifested in online and offline contexts in Bangladesh?

Methodology

The researcher used a mixed method for this research. All these will be explained according to the academic way. The discipline of Cultural Study can include the topic and the explanation as well. As it is related to Cultural Studies, several ideas of various critics will be discussed to make the paper significant.

Research Design: This study will use a qualitative research design to explore troll culture in Bangladesh. The purpose of the study is to understand the popular traits and typical features of trolling behaviour in Bangladesh and its eventual consequences on the country's culture. To achieve this goal, the study will employ in-depth interviews and content analysis.

Sample: The sample will be drawn from social media platforms in Bangladesh, including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. As the research work is connected with the area of social media, there are no particular books or papers which can elaborate on the contents, I have to follow the internet and social networking sites such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc. Besides, image analysis will be there to elaborate the discussion. Most of the elements are collected from the internet and social networking sites. Some selected sites are to be followed. Contextual images and facts are found on the sites. Some photos are used for better analysis which are also taken from the Internet.

Data Collection: The researcher has conducted a content analysis of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to identify examples of trolling behavior in Bangladesh. The content analysis will involve collecting data on trolling behavior from social media platforms by examining posts, comments, and other online interactions. We use social networking sites to categorize and analyze the data based on the research questions and objectives of the study.

Data analysis: The data collected through online posts and comments will be analyzed using a thematic analytical approach. By analyzing some graphic photos and comic strips from Facebook and videos from youtube. This involves identifying recurring patterns, themes, and concepts in the data and organizing them into categories.

Theoretical Framework

As this paper is written on pop culture, John Storey (2009) defined popular culture that goes with troll culture such as troll is well-liked by people, it originated from common people as popular culture. According to Pramod K. Nayar's (2009) contemporary culture, studies take everyday life seriously and trolls are simultaneously local as well as global. He says that popular culture is the culture of the masses; it is the culture of the everyday life of a larger number of people. Popular culture is the set of practices, artefacts, and beliefs shared by the masses and constituted by every day of the masses[1].

The ongoing popularity of trolls is related to Jean Baudrillard's "Hyperreal" and "imaginary" worlds, which are created by virtual networking sites. Nowadays people are getting attached to virtual reality and it is becoming a part of their lives. Cyberculture is a hyperreal and imaginary world with social

networking sites and social media sites. Baudrillard's concept of "hyperreality" is closely linked to his idea of "Simulacrum", which he defines as something which replaces reality with its representations. Baudrillard observes that the contemporary world is a simulacrum as social media represents.[2]

In the practical context of literature, the era is defined as the postmodern period. In this particular period, postmodern virtuality is a significant part of most of the study. The positive effect of postmodern virtuality as well as the curse of it is discussed here. Different Social networking sites like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube bring virtualization among the present generation. Social Networking sites are used all over the world. That is why virtuality and its characteristics are spread all over the world.

This Paper is related to Fredric Jameson's "Postmodernism and Consumer Society" in which Jameson clarified the concept of postmodernism. A key feature of postmodernism is the lines between high and popular culture. The contents of the troll are according to Fredric Jameson's definition of 'Parody' and 'Pastiche'. Both pastiche and parody, are intertextual. Several videos are based on parody, pastiche, mimicking, copying, etc. Some videos are made for fun by remaking a new version of an existing video.[3]

Literature review

In a book titled *Online Trolling and its Perpetrators: Under the Cyber Bridge* Pnina Fichman and Madelyn Sanfilippo (2006) described several aspects of online trolling. The book delves into the motivations, characteristics, and patterns of behaviour of online trolls, shedding light on this pervasive and often harmful online phenomenon. Fichman and Sanfilippo provide a comprehensive analysis of trolling, which refers to the act of deliberately provoking or harassing others online, often intending to incite emotional responses or disrupt online communities. The book examines the social, psychological, and cultural factors that contribute to trolling behaviour, and delves into the different forms of trolling, including cyberbullying, hate speech, and harassment.

The authors also investigate the various types of individuals who engage in trolling, ranging from individuals who troll for fun or attention-seeking purposes to those who troll for ideological or malicious reasons. They explore the demographics, personality traits, and online environments that may be conducive to trolling, and examine the impact of trolling on victims, online communities, and society at large.

A book Named *Reading the Comments* by Joseph M. Reagle Jr. provides some ideas about online comment sections. He continuously asked the question, "Who gets to be the critic?" he pointed out that commenting is nothing new in the web sphere. Comments have always been around before the internet. It is like Habermas' notion of the public sphere.

Overall Observation of Trolls

Troll is made for fun. But as it becomes widespread, several issues act with it. A popular thing for newbies on social networking sites.

Advancing popularity

Trolls are designed for openness. There are no ethical rules or limitations to it. That's why people don't consider their role and use it deliberately as they want. As trolling gained immense popularity among youths and teenagers they are actively engaging in such activities. They are continuously liking and following Facebook, and Twitter troll pages and also subscribing to YouTube channels as a part of their online activities. A culture of mentioning, tagging, and sharing become available on several networking sites. People use trolling mainly for fun and laughter. Mischievous, funny, poking jokes are more popular. When one watches a troll, he wants to share the merriment with online friends by mentioning, sharing, and tagging them. It increases the visibility of that post. It also gets feedback and

appreciation from likes, followers, and comments. There is also a tendency to go viral among young generations. This is another cause of uploading videos on troll pages. Some users want publicity in the internet realm. This is also a reason for following the troll pages. Troll content remains prevalent for a little time. Its limitation is that it becomes obsolete rapidly. It survives for a few times in the virtual realm then everyone forgets about it and comprehends a new one. From the viewpoint of popularity, it is related to popular culture. According to Pramod K. Nayar's theory of "Popular Culture" - contemporary cultural studies take everyday life very seriously, especially in metropolitan cultures.

Types
There are several types of trolls written text, text-based images, video, etc. Text-based applications are more popular. Sometimes written text uses '@' or '#' etc. to tag on public posts. Some bloggers and vloggers are highly manipulated to seek the attention of people. Others are visual images with something written on it. The image is sometimes an archetypal meme face that's are widely used everywhere. It also uses celebrity faces to

attract the viewers' attention. Those memes are used to make jokes for fun, argue on some points, and also to connect with friends together.

There are also troll videos of celebrities and famous persons. By criticizing, mimicking, or making fun of their acts. The videos are mainly based on parodies or pastiches. Some videos are on off-topic issues merely for fun.

Fredric Jameson claimed that "the general effect of parody is, whether in sympathy or with malice, to cast ridicule." For Jameson, "pastiche means to combine multiple elements. It can be seen as a representation of the chaotic, pluralistic, or information-drenched aspects of postmodern society."

As Mark Poster wrote, Boiler understands the new media entirely within the framework of modern social institutions. An information superhighway is a transparent tool that brings new efficiencies but itself changes nothing. (Poster M. Postmodern Virtualities 1995) The media merely redound from familiar institutions, such as- the family, the community, the state, etc. so, the videos that went viral mostly are nonsense and some insane activities by people. It is also a hint that people who share, tag, and comment are fickle-minded too, as this generation goes on these issues regularly.

Contents
The vital content of trolls is current popular issues which are currently hitting on. The matter of content is sometimes funny, insulting, and jokes, etc. that cover public interests. It deals with off-topic issues too. Sometimes the subject matters include sexiest, racism, and pornography. Adult jokes on some pages are inappropriate for some users. Sometimes jokes are given by porn actors' pictures. The content of trolls is promoting porn too. These types of posts are tempting for teenagers. Leaked, irrelevant, uncut videos are sometimes can be seen as scandalous news on troll pages. Racist contents are predominant nowadays on many trolls, such as an image of a black person and making fun of their appearance. Mainly those people are targeted who are black-skinned, fat, transgender, etc. For example, a photo of a black girl written that "Mention your cute friend, who wants to marry her". Some are based on political or religious ideology to criticize or undermine the opposition. Many YouTubers make troll videos on popular issue and controversial issues that gets much attention and more views rapidly.

Effects and motivation behind trolling

Trolling behavior is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that can be motivated by a variety of factors. In Bangladesh, several factors may motivate individuals to engage in trolling behavior, including social and political tensions, anonymity online, and a desire for attention or entertainment.

One of the main motivations for trolling in Bangladesh is the high degree of social and political tension in the country. Bangladesh has a long history of political unrest, and tensions between different religious and ethnic groups are common. These tensions can spill over into online spaces, where individuals may use trolling as a way to vent their frustrations or promote their political or social views.

Another factor that may motivate trolling in Bangladesh is the anonymity afforded by online spaces. Many individuals who engage in trolling behaviour may feel emboldened by the fact that they can hide behind a screen name or avatar, allowing them to express opinions and engage in behaviours that they might not feel comfortable doing in real-life interactions.

Additionally, some individuals may engage in trolling behaviour in Bangladesh simply for attention or entertainment. In some cases, trolling may be seen as a way to gain recognition or notoriety within online communities, while in other cases, it may be viewed as a form of harmless fun.

It is important to note that the motivations for trolling behaviour can vary widely depending on the context in which it occurs. For example, trolling behaviour in the context of a political debate may be motivated by a desire to push a particular agenda or to discredit opponents, while trolling behaviour in the context of a gaming community may be motivated by a desire for social interaction and entertainment.

Overall, the motivations for trolling behaviour in Bangladesh are complex and multifaceted and can be influenced by a wide range of factors. Understanding these motivations is important for developing effective strategies for combating trolling and promoting healthy online communities. Everyone is allegedly equal in cyberspace and users are free to flow. They never ponder over their activities on networking sites. The entrance of slang has become popular; the slang words are presented as a part of a representation of the psychology of some particular people who exercise this largely. In electronic media, the over-exposure of the public reaction can be found and uncontrolled behaviour is exercised through the comment section. Trolls are made just for fun while it is personally hurting individuals. Online harassment and cyberbullying are caused by trolling. As the real identity is blurred, the troll persona possesses pseudonymity. Some bloggers also face bullying in the comment section. Troll aims to frustrate, insult or degrade one's image as tagging and targeting a user online is much easier. Sometimes people can spread fake news for their enjoyment. On the other hand, a troll's positive aspect is that it's a source of entertainment. Sometimes your tubers can be earned by trolls if the subscribers hit the channel. Online troll videos can be profitable in many ways. If a video is watched by millions, that channel gets feedback. Some YouTubers can earn money by making troll videos. Even nowadays many Youtubers tend to make troll videos for profit. It is a kind of leisure activity for them. People like to share funny videos rather than informative educational videos. By sharing more and more those videos got more views.

Analyzing troll culture

Overview of the several types of trolls in Bangladesh in this section. Based on the limited research available, several types of trolls can be found in Bangladesh. These include:

  a. Political trolls: These trolls are often motivated by political affiliations and use trolling as a means to express their views and attack those who oppose their beliefs. This category is common in all countries.

b. Ideological trolls: These trolls use trolling to promote their ideological views and attack those who have different beliefs. This can range from religious ideologies to cultural and social beliefs. These trolls are motivated by specific ideologies, such as nationalism or feminism, and use social media to promote their ideologies and attack those who do not agree with them.

c. Attention-seeking trolls: These trolls use trolling as a means to gain attention and provoke reactions from others online. They may post inflammatory comments or content to elicit a response and feed off the attention they receive. These types crave attention and use social media to gain attention and recognition, often by making controversial statements or engaging in provocative behaviour.

d. Socio-psychopathic trolls: These trolls exhibit behaviour consistent with psychopathy, including a lack of empathy, impulsivity, and callousness. They may engage in trolling behaviour as a means to satisfy their sadistic tendencies and derive pleasure from causing harm to others.

e. Religious trolls: These trolls are motivated by religious beliefs and use social media to attack individuals or groups who they perceive as a threat to their religion.

f. Cyberbullying trolls: These trolls engage in cyberbullying and use social media to harass and intimidate their victims, often for personal or sadistic reasons.

Gender and Trolling

"Gendertrolling" is a phrase coined by Karla Mantilla. She criticized the cultural phenomenon of internet trolling and how women are harassed by a new idiosyncratic practice that started with the internet. She talks about gender-based insult trolls that attack verbal abuse on some posts using slang language. Sometimes a woman gets rape threats online. Women feel nowhere safe and sound in the comment section

When a girl is talking about herself or her viewpoint regarding some issues, any male person will comment on that issue which is verbally abusive. Women are harassed online as they are teased outside. The phenomena are the same, nothing has changed at all. For example, if any woman talks about online harassment or any other female issue, some men will negate her view by judging her character, her physiognomy, her position, etc. to degrade her voice. But no men go through these gender-based justifications.[7]

Racism and Trolling

Racism is an ideology of practising aversion to other people and their culture. In several troll pages, racism is an important issue, because many types of fun videos are made by portraying racism. Posting pictures of black people in people in some troll pages is a matter of joke. In our country, these photos are widely liked, shared, and tagged by many people on social networking sites. The representation of the black community is seen here as degraded and valueless. People are looking at those pictures and belittling them unfairly. It's a reflection of the cultural traits, that in this post-modern era, we are still stereotyped about race.

In Stuart Hall's critical essay, The Spectacle of The 'Other' a 'racialized regime of representation' we can see now a day too, where black skin is a matter of shame. Clumsy people are called Rohingya, but we know Rohingya or stateless people are not a topic of laughter. These can be considered as a direct attack on subcultures, that are detached from mainstream culture. According to Stuart Hall's theory "Spectacle of the Others" we get the notion of "race" and "representation" which that how a particular person is represented, ideologically.[8]

Psychology Behind Trolling

Intentions behind trolling: "Trolling was differentiated from other antisocial behaviours because it was associated with a lack of goals or intentions. Trolling was perceived as acting while having no purpose. (Krappitz, 2012)

There are four reasons called 'The Dark Tetrad' Narcissism, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy, and everyday Sadism. Troll is unplanned, it is situational. Sometimes trolling depends on a person's mood.[11] When an individual sees a post, he/she gets a feeling most probably in a negative mood they like to troll someone else. A provocative comment acts as a troll in a discussion and it can influence others to troll on that topic. Anti-social people are accustomed to trolling much more. They try to seek attention badly. By commenting on heated debates they get readers' attention, and sometimes they get approval too. These symptoms are found in the narcissist's behaviour. Narcissistic people have no connection with reality and they cannot connect the real self with the imagery self.[10] There are also other reasons behind trolls like invisibility and anonymity. As the identity is blurred, it is easy for a user to ride on the networking sites. [9]

Conclusion

By combining quantitative surveys with in-depth interviews and content analysis, this research explores the intricate layers of online trolling and its impact on Bangladeshi society. The quantitative findings analyzed the prevalence of trolling in its various forms across social networking sites. several frequencies of trolling incidents and identified distinct types of trolls, including political trolls, social media trolls, and cyberbullies are explained. This quantitative dimension provided a statistical overview and allowed an understanding of the scope and patterns associated with troll culture. It can invoke public interest in different issues. It is a popular medium for newbies. Several issues arise with it such as mischievous fun, insulting criticism, verbal bullying, etc. By analyzing trolls and their behaviors, some ongoing trends of the mainstream culture are marked such as gender and trolling, racism and trolling. In this postmodern arena, people are still prejudiced about some serious issues, this point must be noted. Future research could delve into the psychological profiling of trolls, assess the long-term societal impact of trolling, and evaluate technological solutions. By addressing these issues, scholars and policymakers can explain a more comprehensive understanding of online communication, digital culture, and effective strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of trolling within the unique context of Bangladesh's digital society.

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Socio-Economic and Health Challenges Among Female Garment Workers: An Investigation of the Kanchpur Region in Narayanganj

Md. Touhiduzzaman[1], Jamsedur Rahman[2]

Abstract: This research examines the multifaceted challenges confronting female garment workers in the Kanchpur area of Narayanganj, Bangladesh, encompassing both social and economic dimensions. Drawing from a survey involving 180 female workers across three garment industrial units, the study unveils the adverse living conditions these individuals endure, ensnared in a cycle of impoverishment. Through a comprehensive exploration, the paper workplace hardships, job contentment, societal constraints, and health apprehensions experienced by these workers. It further elucidates the influence of demanding workloads on familial life and delves into the maternal health predicaments encountered. Given the substantial contribution of the Ready Made Garment (RMG) sector to Bangladesh's economy, this inquiry enriches comprehension of the predicaments faced by female workers and offers prospects for ameliorating their labor and living conditions. The outcomes accentuate the urgency for extensive reforms aimed at augmenting the well-being and agency of female garment workers in Kanchpur and beyond, fostering a more equitable and supportive environment.

Key Words: RMG, Work Environment, Gender Inequality, Empowerment, Maternal Health

Introduction

The Ready Made Garment (RMG) industry plays a pivotal role in Bangladesh's economic landscape, having rapidly grown since its inception in 1976. Over the past three and a half decades, it has emerged as a crucial cornerstone of the nation's economy, capturing attention for several compelling reasons. Notably, the RMG sector stands as the foremost contributor to Bangladesh's foreign exchange earnings, accounting for a substantial 77% of the annual influx. Its exponential growth trajectory positions it among the swiftest expanding industries in recent times. Employment figures further underscore its significance, with approximately 3.6 million individuals finding occupation within its folds. The sector's export rate has surged by over 20% in the preceding two decades (BGMEA, Members' Directory 2010-2011). The establishment of the RMG industry in Bangladesh was underpinned by the abundant availability of labor, particularly from the female workforce. It accommodates a significant portion of female workers, with women constituting more than 85% of the production workforce (Islam and Zahid, 2012). These women, primarily from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, have often faced limited alternatives and scarce improved employment prospects. Employers favor female employees not only for their cost-effectiveness and ample availability but also due to their perceived vulnerability, docility, and adaptability compared to their male counterparts. Their willingness to accept flexible employment terms, coupled with a perceived reduced inclination to organize or respond to external "anti-management propaganda," underscores their value in employers' eyes (Khan 2001). Against this backdrop, this research embarks on an

exploration of the socio-economic conditions experienced by female garment workers within Dhaka City's environs. The prominence of Bangladeshi garments has surged in developed markets, exemplified by the shift from a 9th to a leading 1st supplier position to the USA, European community, and Canada markets (BGMEA Bulletin, June 12, 2013). The sector comprises around 3000 garment factories, providing employment opportunities for about 2.2 million individuals. This research aims to bridge the understanding gap between workers and owners within the readymade garment sector, analyzing current dynamics, prevalent challenges, and potential avenues for enhancement. This research endeavors to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic and historical underpinnings of the RMG sector, paving the way for a more nuanced exploration of the conditions faced by female garment workers in Narayanganj's Kanchpur area.

Objectives of the study: The study on Socio-Economic and Health Challenges Among Female Garment Workers conducted with following the specific objectives:

1. To assess the socio-economic status of female garment workers, focusing on their income, living conditions, and access to basic needs.
2. To investigate the maternal health challenges faced by female garment workers.
3. To explore the impact of heavy workloads on the family dynamics of female garment workers, including their roles within the household and the well-being of their children.

Rationale of the study: In the context of Bangladesh's deeply entrenched male-dominated societal structure, gender inequality permeates from the family unit to sectors like the garment industry, subjecting women to multifaceted challenges. Pervasive gender-based wage disparities, limited access to higher positions, and a challenging work environment persist, exacerbating health risks and underscoring vulnerability. This study focuses on the socio-economic and health dimensions of these challenges within the Kanchpur region, aiming to illuminate experiences and drive improvements. The Ready Made Garment (RMG) industry significantly contributes to Bangladesh's economy, employing over 3.6 million. However, female garment workers confront complex issues stemming from societal norms, economic vulnerabilities, and health risks. This research delves into their experiences, aiming to comprehend and address these challenges comprehensively.

Ethical Consideration: Ethical considerations are an integral and indispensable component of any research endeavor. As Baker (1999) aptly acknowledges, researchers are bound to navigate the intricate landscape of ethical concerns when conducting studies. In alignment with these principles, the present study meticulously upholds ethical standards throughout its various phases. A paramount priority was extended to establishing a welcoming and respectful rapport with the participants. All participants were assured that any information provided would be treated with the utmost confidentiality, safeguarding their privacy and identity. To this end, respondents were approached with utmost warmth, and a cordial invitation was extended to partake in the study.

Literature Review

Numerous studies have explored various facets of the lives, work environments, and empowerment of female garment workers, highlighting both achievements and persisting disparities. Md. Mehedi Hasan Shikder's study (2014) underscored the substantial contribution of the Ready-Made Garment (RMG) sector to the nation's economy. A staggering 85% of the workforce within this sector are women, leading to enhanced life and status improvements for many. The changing livelihood patterns of women garment workers transitioning from rural to urban areas, specifically Dhaka city, were investigated by R.N Ali, F. Begum, M.M Salehin, and K.S Farid (2008). Their study illuminated the multifaceted factors influencing women's entry into the garment industry. Notably, financial support for family emerged as a prime motive for 71.1% of participants. Urbanization and its effects on

marginalized women in the workforce were examined by Hurley (2009), emphasizing the intersection of gender, economic opportunities, and labor roles. Poor urban women were found to possess limited control over capital and skills. Kabeer (1997, 2005) explored the intricate power dynamics and conditions faced by female garment workers in urban Bangladesh. Her work highlighted how male control over household income impacted women's wages and the broader power dynamics within households. Kibria's study (1998) provided insights into the motivations driving women's involvement in the garment sector. Absar's investigations (2001, 2002) drew attention to critical aspects of female garment workers' experiences. Absar's findings highlighted the lack of job contract papers during recruitment, challenges in securing suitable housing, insufficient earnings, and gender-based wage and opportunity disparities within factories. Paul-Majumder and Begum (2000) assessed the working conditions in garment factories using data from the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies' surveys.

Theoretical Explanation

The theoretical framework of this study is anchored in Karl Marx's theory of alienation, which provides a comprehensive lens to examine the socio-economic and health challenges faced by female garment workers in the Kanchpur region of Narayanganj. Karl Marx articulated a profound understanding of how capitalist modes of production engender various forms of alienation among workers. This framework is particularly pertinent for investigating the multi-dimensional aspects of the lives of female garment workers, including their income, health, and familial roles. This theory, which unveils the intricate layers of estrangement that the capitalist system can impose upon workers, encompassing disconnection from their labor, produced commodities, self-identity, and fellow workers, offers a profound lens to dissect the multifaceted dimensions of these workers' lives. By harnessing Marx's theoretical paradigm, the study aspires to unveil the profound impact of various factors ranging from meager wages and adverse working conditions to limited healthcare accessibility on shaping the sense of alienation experienced by female garment workers. This overarching framework facilitates a comprehensive understanding of how the tenets of capitalism intertwine with the socio-economic fabric and well-being of these workers, contributing to a nuanced comprehension of the intricate interplay between labor, society, and health within this specific context.

Research Methodology

The study's focus on Kachpur in Narayangonj, a sub-city with a concentration of garment industries, was strategic due to its potential for capturing evolving urban dynamics. The purposive sampling method, a form of non-probability sampling, was employed to select 180 female garment workers as participants, ensuring a relevant and representative sample. Utilizing a quantitative survey method, an interview schedule containing a mix of open-ended and close-ended questions was administered to collect data. Both primary and secondary data sources were harnessed, with primary data collected through surveys and keen observations, and secondary data drawn from journals, books, research publications, reports, and documents. The interview sessions aimed to foster an open and candid atmosphere, facilitating in-depth exploration of respondents' perspectives on the impact of workload on health and family dynamics. In summation, the research methodology is a comprehensive roadmap that underpins the study's pursuit to uncover multifaceted socio-economic and health challenges among female garment workers in the Kanchpur region.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Section A: Socio-Demographic information

This section focuses upon the demographic characteristics of the respondents. The demographic characteristics refers to a group of people that has a particular set of quality such as age, gender, religion education, types of family, monthly family income and so on. However, following are the data presentation and analysis of the socio-demographic information of the respondents.

Table-1: Age and religion

Age	Frequency	Percent	Religion	Frequency	Percent
15-25	57	31.67%	Islam	162	90%
26-35	72	40%	Hindu	18	10%
36-45	42	23.33%	Christian	0	0%
45-above	9	5%	Others	0	0%
Total	180	100%	Total	180	100%

Source: Field Survey-2019

The table-1 illustrates that the largest proportion of respondents falls within the 26-35 age bracket, representing 40% of the total sample, indicating a significant presence of mid-career workers. The 15-25 age group constitutes 31.67%, revealing a substantial representation of younger employees. Respondents aged 36-45 comprise 23.33%, suggesting a noteworthy presence of more experienced individuals in mid-career stages. Those aged 45 and above constitute the smallest subset at 5%. The table also depicts the proportional breakdown of respondents' religious affiliations. A significant majority of participants (90%) identify as followers of Islam, while a minority (10%) adhere to Hinduism. Notably, no respondents in the study identify with Christianity or Buddhism.

Table-2: Educational qualifications and marital status

Educational qualification	Frequency	Percent	Marital status	Frequency	Percent
Primary	51	28.33%	Married	102	56.67%
Secondary	42	23.33%	Unmarried	57	31.67%
Higher secondary	12	6.67%	Divorcee	21	11.67%
Illiterate	75	41.67%	Total	180	100%
Total	180	100%			

Source: Field Survey-2019

The data presented in table-2, encompasses the educational qualifications and marital statuses where the majority of participants (41.67%) are categorized as illiterate, signaling a significant proportion with limited formal education. Furthermore, 28.33% have completed primary education, 23.33% possess a secondary education, and a smaller subset (6.67%) have attained a higher secondary level. Turning to marital status, the analysis reveals a diverse range: a substantial portion (56.67%) are married, followed by 31.67% who are unmarried, and 11.67% who identify as divorcees.

Figure-1: This data can be shown following by the figure.
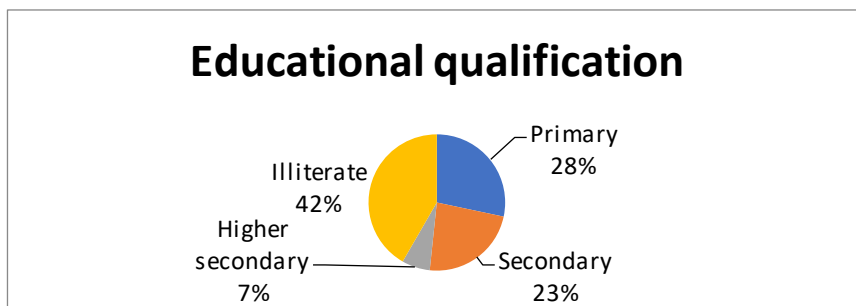
Table-3: Household owners' occupation and types of resident

Occupation	Frequency	Percent	Types of resident	Frequency	Percent
Day labor	69	38.33%	Slum	66	36.67%
Garments worker	84	46.67%	Tenement	81	45%
Unemployed	27	15%	Own house	12	6.67%
Businessman	0	0%	Other	21	11.67%
Total	180	100%	Total	180	100%

Source: Field Survey-2019

The data in table-3 reveals that among the household owners' occupations of the respondents, garments workers constitute the largest group at 46.67%, highlighting the industry's prominence. Day laborers follow closely, accounting for 38.33%, underscoring their significant presence in the workforce. Additionally, 15% are unemployed, reflecting prevailing challenges in securing consistent employment. Notably, no respondents are classified as businessmen in this sample. Shifting to residential types, 36.67% of respondents inhabit slum areas, indicating socio-economic challenges. Tenement housing accommodates 45% of respondents, illustrating prevalent urban living arrangements. In contrast, only 6.67% own their own houses, while 11.67% reside in other types of residences.

Section B: Working environment and challenges of the female garment workers

Table-4: Name of the garments and types of work

Garment's name	Frequency	Percent	Type of work	Frequency	Percent
Ananto garments	75	41.67%	Quality	45	25%
Sinha garments	54	30%	Operator	51	28.33%
Squaire garments	51	28.33%	Helper	84	46.67%
Total	180	100	Total	180	100%

Source: Field Survey-2019

This scholarly paper's table-4 represents that, Ananto garments engage 41.67% of respondents, followed by Sinha garments at 30%, and Squaire garments contributing 28.33%. TWithin this framework, respondents undertake roles as quality inspectors (25%), operators (28.33%), and prominently, helpers (46.67%). The prevalence of helper roles may stem from limited educational and skill attainments, underlining the intricate interplay of factors shaping role allocation within the garment sector, including skill diversity, gender-based dynamics, and educational limitations.

Table-5: Reason behind joining as a garment worker

Reason of work	Frequency	Percent
Illness of husband	48	26.67%
Death of husband	15	8.33%
Inability of husband	24	13.33%
Economic solvency	81	45%
Other	12	6.67%
Total	180	100%

Source: Field Survey-2019

The table-5 unveils the pursuit of economic solvency emerges as the most prominent factor, with 45% of respondents identifying it as their primary reason for work. Moreover, the data reveals the impact of familial circumstances on work decisions, with 26.67% of respondents citing the illness of their

husbands as a motivating factor, and 8.33% attributing their work engagement to the unfortunate death of their husbands. Additionally, 13.33% of respondents state the inability of their husbands to work as a driving factor. The presence of 6.67% identifying other reasons underscores the complexity of individual motivations.

Figure-2: This data can be shown following by the figure.
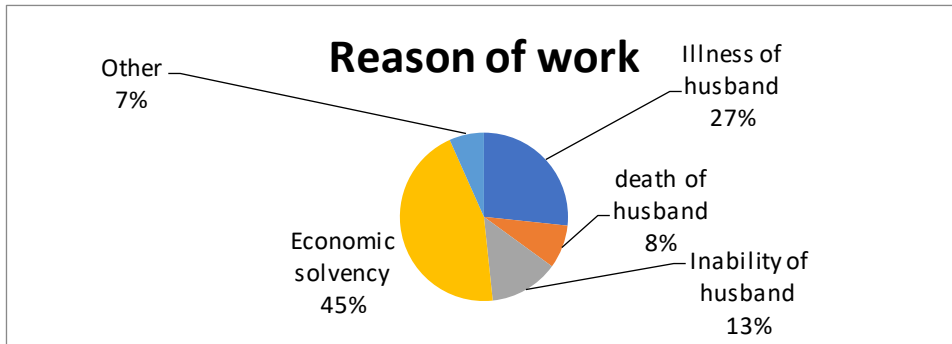
Table 6: Duration of work and Monthly income

Duration of work	Frequency	Percent	Monthly income	Frequency	Percent
8-10 hours	36	20%	3500-4500	15	8.33%
10-12 hours	78	43.33%	41800-5500	126	70%
12-above hours	66	36.67%	51800-above	39	21.67%
Total	180	100%	Total	180	100%

Source: Field Survey-2019

The table-6 provides a comprehensive analysis of the duration of work and corresponding monthly income among the surveyed respondents. Regarding the duration of work, the data indicates a distribution where 20% of respondents work 8-10 hours, 43.33% work 10-12 hours, and 36.67% work 12 hours or more per day. Moving to monthly income, the majority of respondents (70%) fall within the 41800-5500 range, while 21.67% earn 51800 and above. A smaller proportion (8.33%) earns between 3500-4500.

Table-7: Salary satisfaction, Workplace condition and its harmfulness

Satisfaction	Percent	Workplace	Percent	Harmfulness	Percent
Yes	11.67%	Good	25%	Yes	180%
No	88.33%	Very good	6.67%	No	21.67%
Average	0%	Fairly	68.33%	No idea	18.33%
Total	100%	Total	100%	Total	100%

Source: Field Survey-2019

Table-7 shows that, most of the respondents seem the workplace is fairly for their work, here fairly means not so good. 25% think the workplace as good and 6.67% think the workplace as very good. Furthermore, the table shows the respondents opinion about the work is or isn't harmful for health. Most of the respondents think that the workplace is harmful for their health but they work in search of food. A significant number 180% think that the workplace is very harmful for their health and 18.33% have no idea where 21.67% respondent seem the workplace is not harmful for them.

Table-8: Social restriction faced by the respondents

Types of social restriction	Frequency	Percent
Socially neglected	69	38.33%
Insecure for women	54	30%
Problem during marriage	48	26.67%
Other	9	5%
Total	180	100%

Source: Field Survey-2019

The table shows that 76.67% respondent seem, they are socially neglected as they work in garment factories but they think they work for their survival so they don't worry about the comment of society. The table-9 presents a succinct analysis of the various types of social restrictions encountered by the surveyed respondents. The data highlights prevalent societal challenges, indicating that 38.33% of respondents' experience social neglect, revealing the complexities of their social interactions. Moreover, 30% perceive feelings of insecurity as women, reflecting the broader gender dynamics shaping their lives. A significant portion (26.67%) identifies problems during marriage, suggesting the multifaceted nature of marital dynamics within their social context. An additional 5% mention other types of restrictions.

Figure-3: This data can be shown following by the figure.
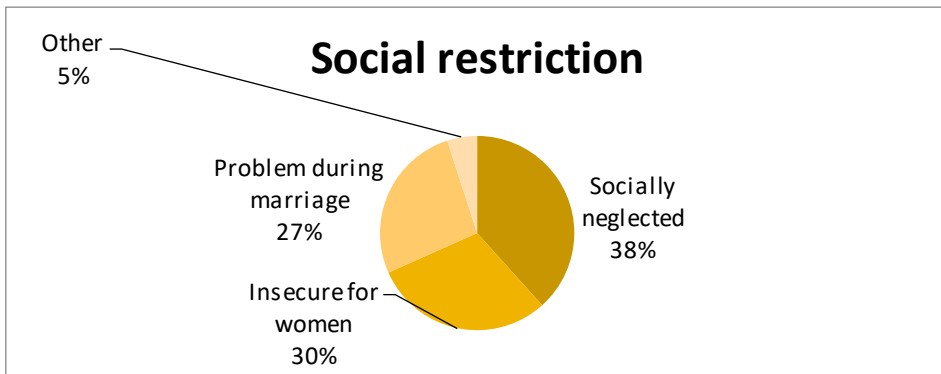
Table-9: Harassment of the respondent in workplace

Harassed	Frequency	Percent
Yes	54	30%
No	126	70%
Total	180	100%
Types of harassment	**Frequency**	**Percent**
Eve teasing	63	35%
Sexual	18	10%
Physical	30	16.67%
Economic	69	38.33%
Total	180	100%

Harasser	Frequency	Percent
Boss	6	3.33%
Manager	54	30%
Supervisor	24	13.33%
Colleague	96	53.33%
Total	180	100%

Source: Field Survey-2019

Table-9 shows that the garment workers who are women are not secure in their workplace. 70% respondent responses that they are harassed during work in their workplace. The diverse challenges they face encompass eve-teasing, sexual, physical, and economic forms of harassment. The data reveals that respondents report instances of eve-teasing at a rate of 35%, sexual harassment at 10%, physical harassment at 16.67%, and the most prevalent form, economic harassment, at 38.33%. These female garment workers contend with diverse forms of workplace harassment, attributing these challenges to various individuals within their professional environment, including bosses, managers, supervisors, and colleagues. The data indicates that 3.33% of respondent's report harassment from bosses, 30% from managers, 13.33% from supervisors, and the largest proportion, accounting for 53.33%, identify colleagues as the source of their harassment.

Section C: Pregnancy and health problem of the female garment's worker

Table-10: Harmful aspects of garments and problems during pregnancy

Harmful aspect	Frequency	Percent	Problem during pregnancy	Frequency	Percent
Unhygienic environment	63	35%	Over workload	48	26.67%
Duty during night shift	42	23.33%	Lack of treatment	42	23.33%
Extended periods of standing/sitting	75	41.67%	Lack of nutritious food	72	40%
Others	0	0%	Others	18	10%
Total	180	100%	Total	180	100%

Source: Field Survey-2019

The table-10 underscores that 35% of women perceive the garment factory environment as potentially harmful to their health during pregnancy. Additionally, 23.33% attribute risk to working night shifts while pregnant. A significant majority, accounting for 41.67% of respondents, share the belief that extended periods of standing or sitting in the workplace have adverse effects on pregnant women's health. The data indicates that 40% of workers face the issue of inadequate nutritious food, 26.67% experience overwork, and 23.33% lack proper medical treatment during pregnancy. An additional 10% mention other problems.

Figure-4: This data can be shown following by the figure.

Problem during pregnancy

Other 10%
Lack of nutritious food 23%
Over workload 27%
Lack of nutritious food 40%
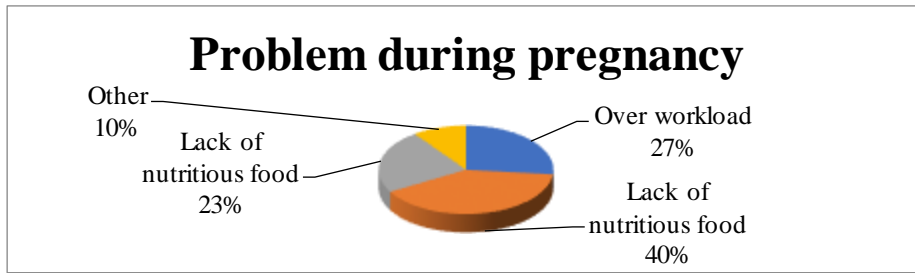
Table-11: Bearing the expenses of treatment if any accident occurs.

Treatment	Frequency	Percent
Own self	96	53.33%
Relatives	75	41.67%
Garment authority	9	5%
Total	180	100%

Source: Field Survey-2019

The table displays the proportional breakdown of the responsibility for covering treatment expenses in the event of an accident. With previous data indicating that a significant portion of respondents perceive their workplace as detrimental to their health, the table reveals that 53.33% of respondents personally bear the costs of treatment if accidents happen. For 41.67% of respondents, treatment expenses are covered by their relatives. A mere 5% report that the garment authority assumes the responsibility of treatment costs.

Section D: Effects of heavy workload on family life of the respondents

Naturally women are physically week than male. So they cannot bear heavy workload as men can do. So their inability to bear workload and their illness during their pregnancy is responsible behind the instability of the certainties of their job in garment.

Table-12: Duration of work of the respondents.

Duration of work	Frequency	Percent
8-10	48	26.67%
10-12	63	35%
12-above	69	38.33%
Total	180	100%

Source: Field Survey-2019

The table-12 reveals distinct patterns in work hours, with 26.67% of respondents working between 8 to 10 hours per day, 35% engaged in work for 10 to 12 hours, and a notable 38.33% working 12 hours or more daily. About 78.33% respondents are not conscious about their children's education. 76.67% respondent think that the long time absent of themselves has a badly impact on the life of their children. Above table mentioned those 85% respondents have no scope to get time to their children and family for recreation as they remain busy with their work.

Table-13: Aspect of workplace that negatively effect on family and children of the respondents

Aspect	Frequency	Percent	Types of effect	Frequency	Percent
Instability of job	18	10%	Effect on child's education	63	35%
Risk of accident	87	48.33%	Effects on child's food	42	23.33%
Deprivation by owner	45	25%	Effects on child's security	54	30%
Physical and mental harass	30	16.67%	Other	21	11.67%
Total	180	100%	Total	180	100%

Source: Field Survey-2019

The table-13 presents that (48.33%) respondents perceive the risk of accidents as a prominent threat. Moreover, 25% of respondents indicate experiencing deprivation at the hands of owners. Emotional well-being is also at stake, with 16.67% citing physical and mental harassment as a distressing factor that resonates in their family lives. Surprisingly, job instability appears to exert a comparatively lower influence, affecting only 10% of respondents. The table also reveals that the most prominent type of effect reported is on the child's education, accounting for 35% of responses. Additionally, 23.33% of respondents note effects on their child's food, highlighting the vulnerability of children's nutritional well-being in the face of these circumstances. Notably, 30% express concerns about their child's security, indicating the multifaceted challenges these households face in ensuring their children's safety. A smaller proportion (11.67%) mentions other types of effects.

Result and Discussion

The analysis of socio-demographic variables revealed that the age group with the highest representation among the respondents was 26-35 years, in line with the pattern observed in similar studies. The religious distribution of the respondents reflected a dominant Muslim majority, consistent with the demographic composition of the region. Marital status indicated that a considerable proportion of respondents were married, a common characteristic among female garment workers. The respondents' living conditions were found to vary, with a substantial portion residing in tenements and slums, which could be attributed to economic constraints and familial circumstances. Educational levels among the respondents ranged from illiteracy to varying degrees of formal education, reflecting the diverse educational background of female garment workers. The husbands of female garment workers often shared a connection with the garment sector, either through direct employment or as day laborers, highlighting the interconnectedness of livelihoods within families. The prevalence of nuclear families with limited members is consistent with the challenges posed by long working hours and the need for both spouses to contribute to the family income. The distribution of respondents across different garment factories, along with their job roles, aligns with the heterogeneous nature of the industry's workforce. The reasons cited for entering the workforce, such as economic solvency, health concerns of the husband, and others, underscore the complex interplay of socio-economic factors that influence women's decision to join the workforce. Income levels reported by the respondents reflect the existing wage disparities within the garment sector, where many workers feel their compensation is insufficient relative to their efforts.

Perceptions of working environments, health risks, and expenses shed light on the challenging conditions prevalent in the RMG sector. Instances of harassment and the reported sources resonate with broader concerns about workplace dynamics and gender-related issues. Social restrictions and workplace insecurities reflect the gendered nature of employment and societal expectations placed upon female workers. The investigation into pregnancy-related concerns resonates with earlier studies,

highlighting the vulnerabilities faced by female garment workers during this period. Dissatisfaction with maternity leave and its implications for job security aligns with broader discussions on work-family balance and maternity protection. The perception of work instability and its impact on family life speaks to the intricate relationship between employment conditions and overall well-being. The lack of awareness about children's education echoes the challenges faced by working mothers in managing their family responsibilities. Overall, the findings of this study contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex socio-economic and health challenges experienced by female garment workers in the Kanchpur region, emphasizing the need for comprehensive reforms to improve their working and living conditions.

Conclusion

This study explored the socio-demographics of garment workers, capturing key details like age, religion, education, marital status, and workplace conditions. These insights provided a comprehensive understanding of workers' situations. The research highlighted prevalent income inequality between male and female workers in the garment industry, often linked to differing job roles. Female workers, seen as more vulnerable, frequently faced job loss due to pregnancy-related matters. The study revealed a significant gap in labor rights awareness among workers and regulatory authorities, resulting in poorly understood and enforced regulations. Additionally, the research emphasized the limited economic prospects within garment factory employment, with many workers expressing a strong desire for financial independence beyond their factory roles. Given these findings, it's clear that addressing gender-based income disparity and empowering female workers are paramount. Educating both workers and authorities about labor rights is crucial for fostering a fair work environment. Providing avenues for economic independence, as desired by many workers, can contribute not only to their well-being but also to broader societal and economic development goals.

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Child Marriage in Bangladesh: Exploring the Societal and Legal Implications

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Abstract: Child marriage is one of the social problems in Bangladesh. There are a lot of reasons why it happens. Poverty, negligence in sending children to education, societal pressure, harassment, and marriageable dowry are considered the foremost reasons for child marriage in Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, child marriage may have several negative effects. The current study demonstrates that child marriage has significant negative social, economic, and cultural repercussions, as well as substantial health costs. Early-aged girls are more likely to give birth to babies, endangering the mother's life and increasing the risk of miscarriage, infant mortality, and malnutrition. However, maternal health risks are quite high, and a woman in her 20s has a five-fold greater chance of dying during pregnancy or delivery if she is a girl under the age of 15. Girls who marry as children face danger and hardship. Young brides run the risk of starting impoverished and ending up poor. Such a marriage restricts their access to education and a good life, endangers their health, and lessens their chances and opportunities for personal development.

Key Words: Child marriage, Circumstances, Poverty, Uneducated, Legal Implications.

Introduction

Child marriage remains a pressing social issue with severe consequences that hinder the progress of societies worldwide. Among the countries heavily affected by this detrimental practice, Bangladesh stands out as a nation grappling with the detrimental effects of early marriage on its young population. This research aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the consequences of child marriage in Bangladesh, shedding light on the profound physical, psychological, social, and economic impacts experienced by those forced into such unions. Bangladesh faces an alarming prevalence of child marriage, with a significant number of girls being married before the age of 18. This phenomenon not only undermines the fundamental human rights of these young individuals but also hampers the development and well-being of the nation as a whole. Understanding the multifaceted consequences of child marriage is critical for implementing effective interventions and policies to address this issue widely. To explore the wide-ranging ramifications of child marriage in Bangladesh, examining its implications for the physical and mental health of young girls who enter these unions unprepared. It explores the disruption of education and curtailed opportunities for personal growth and economic independence that are often accompanied by early marriage. By analyzing the social and cultural factors that spread child marriage, this article aims to provide insights into the complex dynamics that drive the practice and the challenges associated with combating it. Through this comprehensive overview, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners will gain a deeper understanding of the magnitude and gravity of the consequences associated with child marriage in Bangladesh. The findings presented in this research are intended to inform the development of targeted strategies, policies, and programs that can effectively address the root causes and mitigate the far-reaching negative effects of

child marriage. Ultimately, it is our collective responsibility to advocate for the rights and well-being of the young girls affected by child marriage, striving for a future where every child in Bangladesh will have the opportunity to thrive, grow, and contribute to a prosperous society.

Conceptual Framework

Child marriage has become a burning issue in Bangladesh because the country has the fourth-highest rate of child marriage in the world. It implemented a law to stop child marriage in 1929, and since the 1980s, the legal minimum age for marriage has been set at 18 for females and 21 for males. Inaction on the part of the government and carelessness in local administration permits child marriage, especially for young girls. Typically, families seek to marry their daughters young due to financial constraints. Bangladesh has received recognition for its accomplishments in a variety of development-related fields, including women's rights. Bangladesh's "impressive" drop in poverty from 56.7% in 1991–1992 to 31.5% in 2010 was noted by theUN.[1]Child marriage reflects deeply rooted norms and the unequal position of females in society. It deteriorates progressively over 30 years. Child marriage happens across all socioeconomic sectors and origins, despite poverty and illiteracy. More than half of Bangladeshi mid-20s-aged women married before age 18. Nearly 18% were under 15 years old. South Asian parents influence their children's marriages. Girls protect the family's honour. As their daughter nears adolescence, her parents worry about her virginity. It prevents child marriage. According to recent research, parents who desire to marry off their daughters dread sexual assault from the outset of adolescence. Many married teenagers are abused sexually and physically. 33% of teen girls say a husband can hit his wife.

Present Status of Child Marriage in Bangladesh

Child marriage in Bangladesh was 13% during the COVID-19 pandemic. Loss of parental income and pandemic-related school closures increase child marriages. Child marriages in Bangladesh soared by 13% during last year's COVID-19 epidemic, which devastated towns and businesses. It has become an obstacle to the development of Bangladesh, and the virus has hindered efforts to end it. A survey was run by the BRAC, a renowned NGO, in eleven districts on the way COVID-19 has affected women and young girls regarding their lives. The result of the survey was that 13% of child marriages increased during that time. This year, Bangladesh had the most child weddings within 25 years. The country has reduced child marriage and is leading in social progress indicators. According to the poll, parental financial loss and pandemic-related school closures are driving child marriages. The girl's family was forcing her to marry a man from another upazila until Raushan Ali interfered. Ali and the cops detained the groom-to-be when they arrived. The mobile court granted him a seven-day sentence. Local officials in Dharmapur, Gaibandha district, responded swiftly when neighbours called Child Helpline 1098.

Some of these weddings were prevented by the government, but others evaded municipal and federal authorities. In Kurigram, Natore, Jessore, Kushtia, Narsingdi, and Jhalokati, the number of child marriages has grown. 231 child marriages took place nationwide in the first three months (March to June) of the shutdown the previous year, with 61 taking place in Kurigram in the north. Natore had 23 child weddings, Jessore and Kushtia 15 each. 10 child weddings occurred in Jhalokati, 8 in Naogaon, Chapainawabganj, and Narsingdi, 7 in Gaibandha and Cox's Bazar, 6 in Nilphamari, and 5 in Chittagong and Rajshahi. 59% of women marry before age 18, while 22% marry before age 15. Anam said many individuals lost their jobs and all educational facilities were stopped to fight the infection, hence child marriage has risen. Social security considerations worried many parents about homeschooling. Due to the situation, the parents married off their adolescent daughters. Child Helpline

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[1] General Economics Division (GED) Bangladesh Planning Commission, "Millennium Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2013," August 2014, http://www.bd.undp.org/content/dam/bangladesh/docs/Publications/Pub-2014/MDG%20Report%20Last.pdf (accessed August 2, 2022), p. 15.

1098, run in conjunction with UNICEF, has received more reports of child weddings during the epidemic, says manager Chowdhury Mohiman. According to Save the Children's Global Report, 2.5 million more girls will be married by 2025, bringing the total to almost 200,000 in South Asia in 2020.[2]

Child Marriage: A Global Concern
There are more than five hundred organizations around the world which are working to stop child marriage. South Asian, European, and Middle Eastern child brides exist. Nearly 700 million living women married before 18. One-third were married by fifteen. Most child marriages occur in poor nations. Child marriage "robs girls of their girlhood, entrenches them and their future families in poverty, limits their life options, and imposes huge development costs for communities," according to the UN Population Fund. Child marriage is debated worldwide.

Child Marriage in Bangladesh
Child marriage globally is linked to early pregnancy, poor scholastic performance for girls who marry younger, marital violence, and poverty. "It has severe consequences on the physical health of young girls in Bangladesh. Early marriage often leads to complications during pregnancy and childbirth, resulting in higher maternal and infant mortality rates" UNICEF. (2020). Child Marriage: Latest Trends and Future Prospects. Retrieved from https://data.unicef.org/resources/child-marriage-latest-trends-and-future-prospects/.

According to a seven-country study, the women who got married at the age of over 25 are less likely to endure domestic abuse. According to global statistics, girls from the poorest 20% of households are twice as likely to marry before 18 as girls from the richest 20%. Bangladesh has been lauded for its progress in women's rights and other areas. Bangladesh's poverty decrease from 56.7% in 1991–1992 to 31.5% in 2010 was "outstanding," according to the UN. According to the UN, Bangladesh enjoys gender parity in primary and secondary education. Between 2001 and 2010, maternal mortality fell 40%. Why is Bangladesh's child marriage rate so high when it has met several development goals? This study seeks to find a way to answer those questions and identify the ways Bangladesh's government might equally reduce child marriage. Bangladesh's high child marriage rate is caused by many reasons. "The social consequences of child marriage are significant, as it perpetuates a cycle of gender inequality and limits social mobility for young girls. They are deprived of educational opportunities and are confined to traditional gender roles and household responsibilities"[3]. Because it promotes harmful societal norms and behaviours for girls at every stage of development, gender discrimination is a primary reason for the country's high child marriage rate. In Bangladesh, many families live in great poverty, and many parents believe that child marriage is the only option to secure a girl's future. Many households, especially those in rural and disaster-prone areas of Bangladesh, suffer additional suffering due to natural catastrophes and climate change. As awareness of child marriage's harms has grown, Bangladesh's government has committed to act promptly. At the Girl Summit in London in July 2014, Bangladesh's prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, vowed to reduce child marriage and eradicate it by 2041. By 2021, she promised to stop child marriage and reduce female marriages between 15 and 18 by more than one-third. As part of this initiative, her administration will change social norms and involve civil society in fighting underage marriage. These initiatives included drafting a national plan of action by 2014, revising Bangladesh's Underage Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) before 2015, and more.[4]

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[2]   https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/law-rights/2021/03/28/child-marriage-up-13-during-covid-19-pandemic-in-bangladesh.

[3] Ahmed, S., & Khan, M. A. (2018). *The Consequences of Child Marriage: A Synthesis of Recent Evidence from Low- and Middle-Income Countries*. Annu. Rev. Public Health, 39, 417-432.

[4]https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/06/09/marry-your-house-swept-away-child-marriage-bangladesh

Bangladesh's Legal Marriage age Minimum
The Ban on Child Marriage The bill maintains the legal marriage age as 21 for males and 18 for women but adds exceptions for "exceptional instances" or where it is in the "best interests" of the teenager.

Bangladesh's Child Marriage Problem
Child marriage is a global issue, not just in Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh has a worse situation. Child marriage in Bangladesh is caused by poverty, illiteracy, low socioeconomic level, and religious ignorance. Child marriage in Bangladesh is also impacted by custom, a lack of social security, career opportunities, parents' anxieties about their daughters' virginity, and the country's poor law enforcement. Below are explanations.

Poverty
Child marriage in Bangladesh is largely caused by poverty. In Bangladesh, it causes and causes child marriage. Bangladesh's poverty hinders its development. It's an epidemic that causes all social problems. Poor parents who can't afford their daughters' schooling and other expenses often use early marriage to shift their financial burden to the husband's family. 12.9% and 24.3% of residents live below the lower and upper poverty lines, respectively (HIE Survey, 2016). 11.5 percent of Sylhet residents live below the poverty line and 16.2 percent live above it, making child marriage closely linked to poverty. Jisun, 2016. 11 per cent of Sylhet weddings are to minors, according to the 2015 BBS Report. According to the 2016 HIE Survey, 30.5 per cent of Rangpur's population lives below the poverty level, while 47.2 per cent does not. According to the 2015 BBS Report, 55.3% of Kurigram children are married. "Poverty forces poor parents, especially impoverished female parents, to arrange early marriages for their children." Child marriage rates are lower when financial situations improve but higher when poverty rates are high.[5]

Lack of Education
Development depends on education. Without good education, no nation can progress. Underage marriage in Bangladesh is linked to illiteracy. Child marriage and schooling are bad. Uneducated children accept their parents' early marriage proposals since they don't grasp the repercussions. When a girl graduates, her parents usually rush her marriage. Higher education reduces child marriage, but lower education increases it. Uneducated parents are more motivated to get the under-aged girls married than making them more educated, but the scenario is the opposite in the case of their boys[6]. Bangladesh's efforts to reduce child marriage are directly impacted by education; in Barisal, 15.11 per cent of the population lacks a high school certificate, while in Rajshahi, 27.9 per cent do (Islam, Haque, & Hossain, 2016) While the percentage of marriages between those under the age of 18 in Rajshahi is 28.5%, it is just 11.7% in Barisal.

Improper Knowledge and Conventional Wisdom
Muslim girls without basic education often marry early. "Psychologically, girls forced into child marriages face an increased risk of mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety, due to the emotional and psychological stressors associated with early marriage"[7]. Theocratic philosophers are more prevalent because young moms are healthier, more obedient, better able to care for their husbands, and more productive. However, sometimes an imam (a Muslim religious authority) would utilize phoney theological grounds to force the parents to arrange an early wedding. In addition to

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[5]https://www.researchgate.net/publication/301300503_REGIONAL_VARIATIONS_IN_CHILD_MARRIAGE_IN_BANGLADESH.
[6]https://www.proquest.com/docview/1634549852.
[7] Sabbe, A., Oulami, H., Zekraoui, W., Hikmat, H., Temmerman, M., & Leye, E. (2016). *Reproductive Health Consequences of Child Marriage: A Systematic Review of the Literature*. European Journal of Contraception & Reproductive Health Care, 21(5), 420-430.

these, it's important to start wedding preparations early because society believes that a girl loses her appeal as she gets older and then regains it, making it hard for her to find a good husband.

Lack of Knowledge of the bad impact of Early Marriage
"Early marriage contributes to poverty by limiting women's access to education, work, and resources, which hampers their ability to support themselves and their families."[8]It is also induced by a lack of awareness, especially in rural and slum parts of Bangladesh. Early marriage lets the girl early pregnant which harms the mother and child. STIs are also possible. Parents supported arranged marriages because they were unaware of the health risks of early marriage.

Inadequate Laws
Underage marriage is legal in Bangladesh. When parents and other close relatives give their approval, child marriage is unlawful, making it hard to prevent. The penalties for child marriage, parents, and solemnizers under the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 (Act No. VI of2017) are insufficient to deter repeat offenders. Birth certificates are occasionally falsified by parents, and weddings are not always recorded. Because there are no consequences under the law, child marriages are common.

Behind causes of early Child Marriages
- Poverty
- Lack of girls' education
- Considering the girl child as a burden to a family
- Cultivate the folk and old traditions and customs

Statistics
As per the statistics organized by UNICEF
- 29%get married before the age of 15 of a girl,
- 2% get married before the age of 11of a girl,
- 66 % get married before the age of 18 of a girl.
- The child law of Bangladesh says that boys should be at least 21 at their age to get married and other hand, girls should be 18.
- The number of girls getting admission into secondary school is only 45% and among them, a smaller number attend regularly.
- It is also found that One-third of teenage girls whose ages are between 15 to 19 become pregnant as well.

Bangladesh Government's Responses to Child Marriage
Since taking office in 2009, the People's Republic of Bangladesh's current administration has committed to ending child marriage as soon as possible, by the year 2041. Sheik Hasina, the prime minister of Bangladesh, also promised to stop child marriage and reduce the number of married women between the ages of 15 and 18 during the London Women's Summit in July 2014. She promised that as part of this endeavour, her administration would update the Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA), create a national child marriage action plan by 2015, and take further efforts to modify societal customs and involve civil society in the battle against child marriage.[9]

Bangladesh's International Legal Obligations
The Bangladeshi government must protect women's rights under international law. These include freedom from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, equality, and nondiscrimination. They include health, education, and knowledge rights. Infringed parties need an effective remedy. In Bangladesh,

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[8] World Bank. (2018). Ending Child Marriage in South Asia: A Profile of Progress in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. Retrieved from https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/29787.
[9]https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/06/09/marry-your-house-swept-away/child-marriage-bangladesh.

child marriage can lead to these rights not being completely safeguarded, and failing to do so can increase child marriage.

Governments must prevent and respond to human rights violations as per international law, which holds nations liable for private acts. The CEDAW Committee, which reviews government compliance with CEDAW, adds, "States may also be liable for private activities if they fail to act with reasonable care to avoid rights violations or investigate and punish acts of violence."

CEDAW requires states to stop social and cultural breaches of women's rights. Governments must "change the social and cultural patterns of men and women" to eliminate biases, conventions, and other behaviours based on the challenge of discriminatory behaviour. The Human Rights Committee, which reviews ICCPR compliance, says governments must "ensure that traditional, historical, religious, or cultural perspectives are not used to excuse violations of women's rights to equality before the law and to equal enjoyment of all Covenant rights."

Government Initiatives of Child Marriage
Bangladesh's elementary and secondary school enrollments are equal. Bangladesh's MMR has dropped 66% in 20 years, to 194 per 100,000 live births. Poverty decreased from 34% in 2000 to 24.8% in 2015. The government removed primary college fees to promote education. Despite awareness and desire to prevent child marriage, Asian countries have not taken the essential actions. This issue has helped young women delay marriage establish a family and obtain jobs. 1995: 1.1 million Bangladeshi women in secondary school; 2018: 3.9 million. According to a Globe Bank analysis, married women aged 13 to 15 were born between July 14 and Bastille Day, while those aged 16 to 19 were born between July 72 and July 65, showing the regular payment program delays marriage. The joint program aims to eradicate poverty (MDG #1) by empowering women, expand access to education (MDG #2) through gender-sensitive program design, improve child and maternal health (MDGs #4 and #5) through increased access to women's health care, and eradicate HIV/AIDS (MDG #6) by addressing women's vulnerability to thevirus.[10]

NGO Initiatives of Child Marriage
Community radios may launch a November-December campaign to raise awareness against child marriage. Nationwide, 17 community radios distribute information on 11 child marriage-related topics in local languages.

The event indicates that community radio broadcasts may cover child marriage, the role of fathers, academics and community leaders, community engagement, government, social media, NGOs, and harassment. Bangladesh Community Radio Association engages with BRAC's Gender Justice and Variety and Community Authorization Program on magazine shows, skill training, and promotion.[11]

World Vision
World Vision promotes children's global education. WHO risk exploitation, early marriage, and poorer income-earning capacity. In Bangladesh, they engage with communities and governments to improve children's education. Wedding Studies 1st educates families about child marriage.

CARE
CARE is a multinational nonprofit that helps poor women. Education for girls is part of their responsibility to combat child marriage. CARE works with families, communities, and local organizations to reduce child marriage via educational and behavioural modification programs.

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[10]http://bmet.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bmet.portal.gov.bd/publications/d0a417cc_46ea_439f_aebf_e70 dd03325e7/Brief%20on%20Child%20Marriage%20in%20Bangladesh.pdf.
[11]http://www.brac.net/search?start=182.

Existing Laws Relating to Child Marriage in Bangladesh

Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 (CMRA) repealed a British statute from 1929. The Act sets the male marriage age at 21 and the female marriage age at 18.

Protection Act

Bangladesh's Force (Prevention and Protection) Act was approved in 2010. This statute gave victims of coercion fresh hope but lacked societal control.

The statute gave victims of family abuse greater recourses and aid. The statute covers physical, psychological, sexual, and economic abuse. The statute allows magistrates to issue protection, shelter, maintenance, compensation, and child custody orders. The statute offers housing, medical, and legal services to victims. Forceful violators of court orders will be imprisoned and/or punished.

CMR Act reform (CMRA)

The CMRA made child marriage illegal throughout Asia in 1929. In July 2014, Bangladesh's prime minister committed to revising the CMRA, indirectly acknowledging the law's inadequacies. Some of the loopholes that allow child marriage in Asian countries have to do with societal control of the legislation, yet the law itself is also a hindrance.

Problems regarding Child Marriage in Bangladesh

There are several factors regarding child marriage in Bangladesh. To analyze child marriage in Bangladesh this study uses case studies also. The problems are:

- In Bangladesh, child marriage is still very common. Women aged 20 to 24 make up 64% of the population, and 64% of those marriages took place before they turned 18.
- Younger women are less likely to get married as children than older women, which suggests that the number of child marriages is declining.
- Location (urban/rural) and child marriage have a positive relationship. All women aged 20 to 24 who were married had a child at a rate of 54% in urban regions vs 71% in rural ones.
- Child marriage and education are closely related. In comparison to 26% of women who had earned a secondary or higher degree, 86% of women with no education were married before becoming 18 years old. The father of the bride is frequently the one who decides if his daughters will be married.
- Location and knowledge of legal age restrictions are related. The percentage of women who knew the marriage age was 45% among rural women and 55% among urban women. Why Child marriage rates are lower when there is employment present (57% employed versus 70% jobless at the time of marriage)?

Recommendations

- Government agencies that help low-income families and disaster victims should avoid child marriage.
- The government and development partners must prioritize a strategy to prevent child marriage, limit sexual harassment, support girls in education, and provide contraceptive supplies and information.
- To reduce forced child marriage and its detrimental repercussions, early marriage laws must be altered. From informal behaviors to formal rules, society must be educated and aware. Bangladesh's child marriage law must be revised and enforced.
- Government and non-governmental groups must collaborate to reach Bangladesh's most remote and neglected villages to enhance advocacy on this problem.
- Improve the efficiency and accessibility of birth and wedding registration systems, especially in remote regions, enforce the legal marriage age, and increase penalties for noncompliance. First, provide a girl with the tools to make her own choices.

- Schools may teach child marriage. This would allow women to freely express their concerns about forced marriage.
- Anti-child marriage programs need more financial and technical support.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the consequences of child marriage in Bangladesh are far-reaching and detrimental to the well-being of girls and the overall development of the nation. This research has highlighted the profound physical, psychological, social, and economic impacts experienced by those forced into early marriages. From compromised health outcomes to limited educational opportunities and perpetuation of gender inequality, child marriage hampers the potential of young girls and contributes to the cycle of poverty. By understanding these multifaceted consequences, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners can work together to develop evidence-based interventions that address the root causes and mitigate the far-reaching negative effects of child marriage. We must advocate for the rights and well-being of these young girlsfor the rights and well-being of these young girls, striving for a future where every child in Bangladesh has the opportunity to thrive, grow, and contribute to a prosperous society. Efforts to eradicate child marriage must prioritize empowering girls, promoting gender equality, and fostering an environment that nurtures their physical, emotional, and intellectual development. Only through comprehensive and sustained action can we break the chains of child marriage and build a brighter future for the girls and the nation as a whole.

Agency Amidst Adversity: A Postcolonial Feminist Interrogation into Female Migration to Europe

Lutfunnessa Sagor[1], Nahid Aktar[2]

Abstract: Female migrants from developing countries have increased rapidly in recent decades, while migration to Europe has exercised agency in the face of multifaceted challenges. This study explores the challenges faced by women who immigrate to Europe from developing countries. Ittakes an ethnographic approach to explore challenges to feminist and postcolonial theories to conduct the study. Despite numerous works on migration law, there is a dearth of postcolonial research on discrimination against migrant women in developing countries in Europe.Therefore, this paper examines how gender plays a role in the various forms of prejudice and marginalisationof these women and their limited economic potential. In addition, it suggests how to make things better for migrant women in Europe, such as increasing access to resources and support services, increasing education and employment opportunities, and recognising their rights as equal citizens.

Key Words: Women migrants, Discrimination, Marginalization, Gender-based violence, Legal protection, Economic opportunities.

Introduction

Migration from developing countries to Europe has been a significant phenomenon in recent decades. This mass movement has resulted in a new type of female migrant. "[3]During the last few decades, the gender balance of international migration flows has developed in response to immigration legislation, gender-selective demand for foreign labour, and changing gender relations in countries of origin. Different factors have often worked together to increase the share of women in migration flows. As a result, the feminisation of migration has been recognised as a tendency at the global level (Castles & Miller, 2003, p. 67). Women migrants from developing countries to Europe face a range of challenges, many of which are exacerbated by their gender.[4]The reasons for the increasing feminisation of international migration can be found in social, economic and political factors. This paper investigates the challenges faced by female migrants from Developing countries to Europe and the role of gender in exacerbating these challenges. To explore this topic, it draws on various sources, including academic literature, first-hand accounts, and official statistics.

The background of the study

Due to the traditional social structure of developing countries, women's migration tends to be different or viewed differently from men's (Pessar et al., 2003). The growing number of migrants to Europe from developing countries has created a unique challenge for female migrants, especially when it comes to gender roles. Women migrants often face a range of intersecting problems in their new host

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[3]Carling, Jørgen. "Gender dimensions of international migration." *Global migration Perspectives* 35.1 (2005): Pg 1

[4] Yvonne Riaño, (2005). "Women on the Move to Europe. A Review of the Literature on Gender and Migration" In da Marroni, M.G. and Salgado, G. (eds), Latinamerican Diaspora: Migration within a Globalized World. Autonomous University of Puebla (Mexico) and Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (Japan). Pp. 207-239

countries, such as domestic and sexual violence, exploitation, and discrimination, as well as a lack of access to essential services such as healthcare and education. As such, women migrants are particularly vulnerable to a range of human rights violations, making it essential to understand the role of gender in their migration experiences.

This study examines the challenges faced by female migrants from third-world countries to Europe and the role of gender in the migration process. By investigating the multiple factors that shape the lived experiences of female migrants, this study aims to provide essential insights into the complexity of the migration experience and how gender influences female migrants' decisions and experiences.

Analysing factors contributing to the marginalisation and limited economic potential of female migrants in Europe:
This objective focuses on understanding the factors that contribute to the marginalisation and limited economic opportunities experienced by female migrants in Europe. It includes examining issues such as occupational segregation, limited access to decent work, and discriminatory practices in the labour market. Existing research highlights the intersecting effects of gender, race, class, and immigration status on women migrants'economic integration.[5]

Moreover, it is essential to understand the intersectional nature of women migrants' experiences by exploring how gender intersects with other social identities such as race, ethnicity, religion, and class. It involves examining how these intersecting identities shape the specific challenges and vulnerabilities faced by women migrants. [6](Crenshaw, 1989).

By addressing these research objectives, the study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by female migrants from developing countries in Europe, with a particular focus on the role of gender. The findings can contribute to the existing literature, inform policy development, and promote gender equality and social inclusion for women migrants.

Scope of Study
This study focuses on female migrants from developing countries who immigrated to Europe. It examines the challenges they face in various aspects of their lives, including gender-based violence, discrimination, marginalisation and limited economic prospects. The study considers the experiences of female migrants in different European countries, aiming to provide a broader understanding of the issue.

Research Significance
This study is of significant importance for several reasons:

Bridging the research gap: Postcolonial research focusing specifically on discrimination against immigrant women from developing countries in Europe needs to be improved. This study aims to contribute to the existing literature by addressing this research gap and providing insight into the unique challenges female migrants face.

Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion: By examining the role of gender in shaping the experiences of women migrants, this study contributes to the broader goal of promoting gender equality and social inclusion. It sheds light on the structural inequalities and systemic barriers women migrants face, informing policy and intervention efforts to address these issues.

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[5]Kofman, E., Phizacklea, A., Raghuram, P., & Sales, R. (2000). *Gender and international migration in Europe: employment, welfare, and politics*. Psychology Press.
[6]Crenshaw, K. (1989). Demarginalising the intersection of race and sex: A black feminist critique of antidiscrimination doctrine, feminist theory and antiracist politics. *U. Chi. Legal f.*, p. 139.

Policy and Intervention Recommendations: Study findings and recommendations can inform the development of evidence-based policies and interventions that improve the well-being and integration of immigrant women. By understanding their specific challenges, policymakers can work towards creating a more inclusive and supportive system for women migrants in Europe.

The Rationale of the Study

The rationale for conducting this study is the pressing need to understand and address the challenges faced by female migrants from developing countries in Europe. Women migrants often face intersectional discrimination, with gender playing an essential role in shaping their experiences. By conducting an in-depth exploration of these challenges, the study aims to raise awareness, promote social change and advocate for the rights and well-being of migrant women.

Furthermore, the barriers women migrants face are crucial to building inclusive societies and ensuring the fulfilment of human rights principles. By highlighting the gendered dimensions of migration, the study contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of migration processes and how gender intersects with other social identities to shape the experiences of female migrants. Overall, the rationale of this study lies in its potential to generate knowledge, inform policy and intervention efforts, and contribute to creating a more just and equitable society for women migrants in Europe.

The Analysis of the Key Terms

Migration Defined

Migration is an individual or group moving from one place to another, often across national borders, to seek a better life (De Haas, 2005). [7]Women migrants come from various backgrounds and countries and can be categorised as voluntary or involuntary. Voluntary migrants are those who choose to move for economic reasons or to pursue better educational or employment opportunities; involuntary migrants are those who are forced to move due to political, economic, or environmental factors (Gammeltoft & Tamas, 2016).

Women migration

Women migrants[8] from Developing World countries frequently face challenges in their new countries, such as poverty, discrimination, and limited access to resources (Carmen, 2014). Gender is a crucial factor in understanding the challenges that female migrants from developing countries face when making the transition to Europe.

Gender and Migration

[9]"Gendered migration research has often focused separately on women and men, although the importance of understanding the relations between women and men in shaping the causes and consequences of migration is increasingly being realised. Gender, class, race, and the notion of nation are all constitutive in the migration process and are being reconstituted globally through migration."

It is well established that gender plays a significant role in determining the experiences of migrants. Women migrants often face more difficulties than men, including language barriers, cultural conflicts, and a lack of access to resources. In addition, gender roles and expectations can influence how women are perceived and treated in their new environment, limiting their opportunities and contributing to their marginalisation. Women are also more likely to be the targets of exploitation and abuse due to their vulnerable position.

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[7]IOM 2021: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/2021-AP-Migration-Data-Report_1.pdf
[8]ixhttps://www.iom.int/gender-and-migration
[9]Kofman, E. Unequal internationalisation and the emergence of a new epistemic community: gender and migration. *CMS* **8**, 36 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-020-00194-1, Pg 10

Challenges Faced by Women Migrants

Women migrants face a range of challenges in their new environment. These include difficulties in finding employment, especially in traditionally male-dominated sectors (Affairs, D. O. E. a. S., 2020). In addition, women may be discriminated against in the workplace due to their gender, race, or ethnicity. Women are also at risk of exploitation by employers due to their lack of knowledge of the local labour laws and their vulnerable position. Furthermore, women may face cultural and religious discrimination, as well as difficulties in accessing healthcare and education (Kofman, 2020).

Literature Review

Gendered Challenges in European Migration

The surge in women migrating from developing countries to Europe has sparked a growing body of research examining their multifaceted challenges. A study by Kasem (2018) emphasises the need to scrutinise the gendered dimensions of migration, highlighting that women face distinct obstacles that often differ from those encountered by male migrants. These challenges encompass socio-cultural, economic, and legal aspects, influencing women's overall integration and well-being in their host countries.

Research indicates that women migrants commonly grapple with issues such as discrimination, limited access to healthcare, and precarious employment conditions (Düvell, 2019). Gender roles and stereotypes can exacerbate these challenges, restricting women's autonomy and impeding their ability to navigate unfamiliar environments. Moreover, the intersectionality of factors such as race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status amplifies the complexity of their experiences (Gioli et al., 2020). Understanding these intricacies is crucial for developing targeted policies and interventions that address the specific needs of women migrants and promote inclusivity.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Perspective

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) plays a pivotal role in addressing the challenges faced by female migrants in Europe. Through its comprehensive reports and initiatives, the IOM has highlighted the need for gender-sensitive migration policies (IOM, 2017). The organisation emphasises the importance of recognising women's diverse roles in migration, including as primary caregivers, workers, and economic contributors (Women and Girls on the Move to Europe – Flow Monitoring Surveys, 2018–2020).

A study commissioned by the IOM underscores the significance of providing adequate support systems for female migrants, including access to education and healthcare services (IOM, 2020; Lutz H. et al., 2016). Additionally, it emphasises the need for collaboration between governments, NGOs, and international bodies to create an environment that fosters gender equality and social inclusion for migrant women. Integrating the insights from IOM reports into the broader literature on women migrants in Europe enhances our understanding of their systemic challenges. It informs policy recommendations for more effective interventions (Why migrant women need gender equality and empowerment in "*The Changing World of Work*" 2023).

Beyond IOM: Exploring Intersectionality and Policy Implications

In addition to the IOM's contributions, other scholars have delved into the intersectionality of factors shaping the experiences of women migrants in Europe. Research by Anthias (2017) and Charsley (2021) emphasises the interconnected nature of gender, ethnicity, and class, highlighting how these intersecting identities contribute to unique challenges and opportunities for women in the migration process. Understanding these intersections is essential for designing inclusive policies that address the diverse needs of women from developing countries.

Policy implications emerge from the literature, suggesting the necessity of implementing gender-sensitive measures within migration frameworks. It involves creating avenues for economic

empowerment, combating discriminatory practices, and fostering cultural competence in host communities. Additionally, collaborative efforts between governments, NGOs, and international organisations are essential for developing and implementing policies prioritising the well-being and integration of women migrants in Europe. By synthesising insights from various sources, this literature review contributes to a holistic understanding of the challenges women migrants face and informs strategies to enhance their resilience and overall quality of life.

Understanding The Motivations and Aspirations of Women Migrants From Developing Countries: Exploring The Drivers For Migration to Europe

Women from developing countries often choose to migrate to Europe due to a combination of social, economic, and political factors. The reasons behind their migration can vary depending on their home countries' specific circumstances and contexts (Massey et al., 1999). Here are some common reasons why women from developing nations tend to migrate:

Economic Opportunities: Economic reasons significantly influence women's migration decisions. Many developing countries face limited job prospects, low wages, and poor economic opportunities, especially for women. Migration to Europe offers the potential for higher-paying jobs, better working conditions, and improved financial stability.

Poverty and Lack of Basic Services: Women from developing countries often migrate for better living conditions and access to essential healthcare, education, and sanitation services. In their home countries, they may face poverty, limited infrastructure, and inadequate social support systems, prompting them to seek a better life in Europe.

Gender Inequality and Discrimination: Gender inequalities and discrimination prevalent in developing countries can be a significant motivating factor for women to migrate. They may face restrictions on their rights, limited access to education and healthcare, and unequal treatment in employment opportunities. Migration offers the possibility of escaping gender-based discrimination and gaining greater autonomy and independence.

Political Instability and Conflict: Women may migrate due to political instability, armed conflicts, or social unrest in their home countries. These conditions can lead to heightened violence, human rights abuses, and insecurity, making migration a means to seek safety, stability, and a better future for themselves and their families.

Social Stigma and Cultural Barriers: Women migrants from developing countries may face social stigma, cultural restrictions, and traditional norms that limit their freedom and opportunities in their home countries. Migration to Europe can offer them the chance to escape social and cultural constraints, pursue their aspirations, and challenge gender roles and expectations.

Family Reunification: Family reunification is another significant driver for women's migration. Women may choose to migrate to Europe to join their family members who have already migrated. The desire to be with loved ones, build stronger family ties, and provide better opportunities for their children often motivates women to journey.

It is important to note that while Migration to Europe offers new opportunities and freedoms, it does not automatically guarantee an end to all suffering. Women migrants still face numerous challenges and obstacles in their host countries. They may encounter language barriers, cultural adjustment difficulties, discrimination, and exploitation, including gender-based violence and labour exploitation.

While economic freedom is a significant factor, women migrants also seek freedom from social stigmas, religious barriers, and other social constraints in their home countries. They aspire to live in

societies with more inclusive and egalitarian environments, where their rights are recognised and they can participate fully in social, economic, and political life.

Nevertheless, women from developing countries migrate to Europe due to a combination of economic opportunities, poverty and lack of essential services, gender inequality and discrimination, political instability, social stigma, and family reunification. While migration offers the potential for a better life, it is crucial to address the challenges and barriers women migrants face in their host countries to ensure their well-being, empowerment, and integration into society.

In general, European legal frameworks and international human rights standards recognise the importance of gender equality and non-discrimination, including migration and refugee protection. There are several key areas where immigration, nationality, and refugee law aim to support women's rights and address their specific challenges.

The diversification of contemporary female Migration in Europe

The diversification of contemporary female migration in Europe carries significant implications for various aspects, including social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions migration in Europe carries significant implications for various aspects, including social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions migration in Europe carries significant implications for various aspects, including social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions migration in Europe carries significant implications for various aspects, including social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions migration in Europe carries significant implications for various aspects, including social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions migration in Europe carries significant implications for various aspects, including social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions (Venturini, A., 2004).

Figure-1

A summary table of female migrants from different countries or regions:

Region/Country	Key Migration Trends	Challenges Faced	Contributions to Host Society
Africa	Increasing migration is often due to economic opportunities and conflict. Women face challenges related to exploitation, discrimination, and limited access to resources. Contribute to diverse cultural enrichment and often engage in healthcare and domestic work sectors.		
Middle East	Migration is driven by conflict, seeking refuge and economic opportunities. Women may experience challenges related to cultural adjustment, discrimination, and gender-based violence. Contribute to cultural diversity and participate in sectors such as services and education.		
Asia	Varied migration motivations include economic prospects, family reunification, and education. Challenges may include language barriers, social integration difficulties, and employment disparities. Contribute to economic growth, particularly in sectors like technology and healthcare.		

Region/Country	Key Migration Trends	Challenges Faced	Contributions to Host Society
Eastern Europe	Migration is often for economic reasons, seeking better employment opportunities. Challenges include labour market exploitation and discrimination. Contribute to labour force diversity, especially in industries like hospitality and agriculture.		
Western Balkans	Migration is driven by economic opportunities and seeking better living conditions. Women may face challenges related to social integration and labour market disparities. Contribute to workforce diversity and may participate in service industries.		
Latin America	Migration due to economic factors, family reunification, and sometimes fleeing violence. Challenges include language barriers and social discrimination. Contribute to cultural diversity and often engage in sectors like services and agriculture.		

Migration and the well-being of the 'left behind Asia: Key themes and trends (2006).
Social and Cultural Implications:
It has resulted in the development of vibrant transnational communities where people from various backgrounds interact, exchange ideas, and contribute to the cultural fabric of host societies (Ahmad, 2015; Anthias, 2007), enriching cultural diversity and creating multicultural societies in Europe (Piazza et al., 2019). [10]This diversification challenges traditional notions of identity and promotes intercultural dialogue and understanding.

Economic and Political Implications:
[11]The diversification of female Migration in Europe has played a crucial role in host countries' labour markets. Women migrants contribute to the workforce in various sectors, including healthcare, domestic work, manufacturing, and service industries. [12]Female migrants often send remittances to their home countries, providing economic support and development opportunities.Policymakers have been compelled to address the unique needs and difficulties faced by various groups of women migrants, such as those from refugee backgrounds, undocumented migrants, or victims of trafficking, as a result of the diversification of female migration, which has political implications, particularly in shaping migration policies and integration processes. [13]This diversification has also led to discussions on gender equality, antidiscrimination measures, and recognition of migrants' rights within the political sphere.

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[10]Hondagneu-Sotelo, P. (1999). Introduction: Gender and contemporary US immigration. *American Behavioural Scientist*, *42*(4), 565-576.
[11]Piper, N., & Roces, M. (Eds.). (2004). *Wife or worker? Asian women and migration*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
[12]Hune, S. (1991). Migrant Women in the Context of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. *International Migration Review*, *25*(4), 800–817. https://doi.org/10.1177/019791839102500407
[13]Affairs, D. O. E. a. S. (2020). *World Social Report 2020: Inequality in a Rapidly Changing World*. United Nations.

Health and Well-being Implications:

[14]It is essential to recognise and address the specific health needs of diverse groups of women, including access to healthcare, reproductive health services, and mental health support. The diversification of female migration in Europe has implications for the health and well-being of female migrants. Culturally sensitive and gender-responsive healthcare services are crucial to promoting the well-being of diverse women migrants.

Social Justice and Human Rights Implications:

Women migrants face overlapping forms of marginalisation and discrimination based on their gender, race, class, and other social factors, which calls for a thorough understanding of intersectionality. The diversification of female migration raises issues of social justice and human rights. [15]Promoting social justice and human rights for diverse women migrants requires addressing structural inequalities, combating gender-based violence, and ensuring access to education, employment, and legal protection.

Examining discriminatory practices and barriers women immigrants face in accessing legal protection:

Immigration Legislation: Immigration policies and regulations play a crucial role in shaping migration patterns. In some cases, specific immigration policies have been implemented to recruit female workers in specific sectors, such as domestic work, healthcare, and care services. These policies may be designed to fill labour gaps or meet specific labour demands in receiving countries. Research has shown that immigration policies that target specific occupations or sectors can influence the gender composition of migrant flows. [16]

Gender-Selective Demand for Foreign Labor: "The demand for certain types of labour can be gender-selective, increasing female migration. For instance, the demand for domestic workers, caregivers for the elderly, or workers in the garment industry often attracts women migrants. These gendered labour demands in receiving countries contribute to the feminisation of migration ".[17]

Changing Gender Relations: Changing gender dynamics in countries of origin also contribute to the feminisation of migration. Factors such as increasing education and employment opportunities for women, shifts in traditional gender roles, and women's aspirations for independence and better livelihoods can influence their decision to migrate. These changing gender relations can create opportunities and challenges for female migrants (Piper, 2005).

The challenges faced by female migrants from Developing countries to Europe are multifaceted, and their gender often exacerbates these challenges. Some common challenges include:

Exploitation and Vulnerability: Female migrants are often vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and trafficking. They may face gender-specific forms of violence, such as sexual harassment, assault, and forced labour. Discriminatory immigration policies and lack of legal protection can further exacerbate their vulnerability. [18]

[14]Nations, U. (2019). *World Migration Report 2020*. United Nations.

[15]Sen, G., & Mukherjee, A. (2014c). No Empowerment without Rights, No Rights without Politics: Gender equality, MDGs and the post-2015 Development Agenda. *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, *15*(2–3), pp. 188–202.

[16]Kofman, E. (2004). Family-related Migration: A critical review of European Studies. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *30*(2), 250.

[17]Piper, N. (2005). Gender and Migration. *Policy analysis and research programme of the Global Commission on International Migration*, *7*, pg 5

[18]Parreñas, R. (2015). *Servants of globalisation: Migration and domestic work*. Stanford University Press

Limited Access to Rights and Services: Female migrants may encounter barriers in accessing social protection, healthcare, education, and legal rights in receiving countries. Language barriers, cultural differences, and lack of awareness about their entitlements contribute to their marginalisation.[19]

Family Separation and Care Responsibilities: Female migrants often leave behind families and may experience emotional distress due to family separation. They may also face challenges in fulfilling their care responsibilities for children, elderly parents, or other family members left in the country of origin.[20]

This objective analyses the discriminatory practices and structural barriers that hinder women migrants from accessing legal protection. It involves investigating issues such as limited language proficiency, lack of knowledge about their rights, and systemic biases in the legal and healthcare systems.[21]

Marginalisation and limited economic potential

Immigrant women also experience marginalisation and limited economic opportunities in Europe. Several studies have documented precarious and low-paid work prevalence among immigrant women (Garcia, 2017; Lee, 2019). They often face exploitative working conditions, including long hours, low wages and limited job security. Discrimination in employment, such as language barriers and prejudice, exacerbates their economic vulnerability.

Furthermore, the intersectionality of gender and immigration status compounds the marginalisation experienced by these women. Research by Brown (2016) highlighted how immigrant women with irregular immigration status are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, as they are often excluded from legal labour protections and social support systems.

Improving the Status of Women Migrants

Various strategies can be implemented to address the challenges faced by female migrants in Europe. First, increasing access to resources and support services is critical. These include language classes, counselling services, and culturally sensitive healthcare facilities. As Davis (2021) suggests,"Such initiatives can help women immigrants overcome barriers and increase their chances of integration."

Second, providing education and employment opportunities is crucial for empowering women migrants. By developing programs to increase skills and qualifications, as Anderson (2018) suggested, immigrant women can gain greater economic autonomy and overcome labour market inequality.

Finally, it is essential to recognise the rights of female immigrants as equal citizens. Legal reforms and policies that protect the rights of immigrant women, regardless of their immigration status, can contribute to combating discrimination and promoting social inclusion (Taylor, 2017).

This literature review highlights the challenges faced by female migrants from developing countries in Europe, emphasising the role of gender in shaping their experiences. Gender-based violence, discrimination, marginalisation and limited economic opportunities are the main barriers these women face. Increasing access to resources and support services, providing education and employment opportunities, and recognising their rights as equal citizens are essential to address these challenges. Further research in this area is warranted to develop comprehensive policies and interventions that promote the well-being and integration of female migrants in Europe (McKeown, A. 2004).

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[19]International Organization for Migration. (2019). *World Migration Report 2020*. intergovernmental commit.
[20]Donato, K. M., &Gabaccia, D. (2015). *Gender and international migration*. Russell Sage Foundation.
[21]International Organization for Migration. (2019). *World Migration Report 2020*. intergovernmental commit.

Theoretical Framework

This research adopts a feminist and postcolonial theoretical framework to investigate the challenges female migrants facefrom developing countries to Europe. Emphasising intersectionality, the study explores how gender, race, and class intertwine to shape the unique experiences of discrimination and oppression among female migrants (Crenshaw, 1989; Hooks, 1984; Collins, 1990). This approach recognises that social identities are interconnected, influencing the multifaceted challenges women face navigating migration processes.

Building on transnationalism, the study draws from the works of scholars such as Ahmed (2009), Mohanty (2003), and Yuval-Davis (1997). Transnationalism provides a lens to examine how female migrants maintain connections with their home countries while forming new ties in their host countries. Understanding these dual affiliations is crucial for unravelling the complex negotiation of multiple identities, with a focus on the role of gender in shaping these processes.

Furthermore, the study integrates the concepts of power and resistance, aligning with Bhavnani's (2020) insights. This framework acknowledges that marginalised individuals possess agency and the capacity to resist oppressive systems. By applying this lens, the research tunnels into how female migrants navigate challenges, showcasing their resilience and empowerment strategies. This analytical approach is vital for comprehending how women exercise agency to confront and transform their lived experiences during migration.

Intersectionality Theory:
Intersectionality theory is used to analyse the interconnected nature of gender, race, class, and migration status in shaping the challenges faced by women migrants from developing countries in Europe. This framework helps uncover how multiple intersecting forms of discrimination and oppression impact their experiences.[22]

Feminist Theory: [23]Feminist theory provides insights into the gendered dimensions of migration and the power dynamics involved. It helps examine the gender inequalities, patriarchal structures, and violence experienced by women migrants. This framework alsoemphasises women's agency and the importance of addressing gender disparities in migration policies.

Postcolonial Theory:
[24]Postcolonial theory is used to analyse the historical legacies of colonialism and their impact on the experiences of women migrants from developing countries. It explores how colonialism and imperialism shape migration patterns, economic inequalities, and power dynamics between sending and receiving countries. This framework helps uncover underlying structures of discrimination and subordination.

Human Rights Framework:
[25]The human rights framework provides a normative foundation to analyse the rights violations experienced by women migrants. It helps examine the denial of access to legal protection, healthcare, education, and decent work. This framework underscores the need for international conventions and domestic policies that recognise and protect the human rights of women migrants.

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[22]Crenshaw, K. (1989). Demarginalising the intersection of race and sex: A black feminist critique of antidiscrimination doctrine, feminist theory and antiracist politics. *U. Chi. Legal f.*, p. 139.

[23]Povey, L. (2018). Gendered States of Punishment and Welfare: Feminist Political Economy, Primitive Accumulation and the Law, by A. Roberts.

[24]Spivak, G. C. (1988). "Can the subaltern speak?" In C. Nelson and L. Grossberg (eds) Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture. *Urbana: University of Illinois Press*, 27-313.

[25]Parkes, J. (Ed.). (2015). *Gender violence in poverty contexts: The educational challenge*. Routledge.

Transnationalism:
[26]The concept of transnationalism can be employed to understand the complex social, economic, and cultural connections that women migrants maintain across borders. Itexplores how transnational ties shape their experiences and identities and challenges simplistic notions of assimilation. This framework highlights the importance of transnational networks and practices in women's lives.[27]

Gender-Based Violence and Discrimination
Gender-based violence represents a significant challenge facing female migrants in Europe. Research by Smith (2019) found that immigrant women are disproportionately affected by various forms of violence, including domestic abuse, sexual assault, and trafficking. These acts of violence are often rooted in gender inequality and power imbalances that exist both in the host society and the women's country of birth.

Discrimination against immigrant women is evident across various dimensions, resulting in disparities in access to crucial services such as health care, education, and legal protection (*Annual Report, 2019–2020*, 2021). Studies and reports from organisations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) consistently highlight the challenges faced by immigrant women, emphasising the need for targeted interventions to address these inequalities (IOM, 2017; UNHCR, 2020). Research conducted by Johnson (2020) found that immigrant women face numerous barriers to accessing healthcare services due to language barriers, cultural sensitivity, and lack of knowledge about available resources. Similarly, Roberts (2018) highlights limited access to legal protection, as immigrant women often face discrimination within the legal system, making it difficult to seek justice and resolve their grievances.

Theorising a Multi-Level Spatio-Temporal Analytical Framework for Understanding the Challenges and Experiences of Women Migrants from Developing Countries in Europe.
By employing this tailored theoretical framework, the research can delve into the gendered challenges faced by women migrants from developing countries in Europe. It provides a nuanced understanding of how intersecting factors such as gender, race, class, migration status, and colonial legacies shape their experiences and help identify strategies to address these challenges effectively.

Figure-2
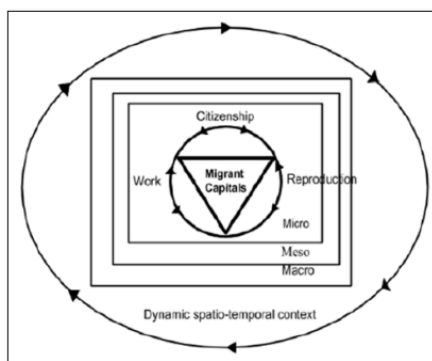
Multi-level spatio-temporal framework for analysing migrant capitals.

Source: Migrant capitals: Proposing a multi-level spatiotemporal analytical

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[26]Schiller, N. G., Basch, L., & Blanc, C. S. (1995). From immigrant to transmigrant: Theorising Transnational Migration. *Anthropological Quarterly*, 48-63.
[27]Anthias, F. (2009). Translocational belonging, identity and generation: Questions and problems in migration and ethnic studies. *Finnish Journal of Ethnicity and Migration*, *4*(1), 6–15.

The increasing migration of women from developing countries to Europe has led to the need for a comprehensive analytical framework that can capture the multi-dimensional challenges and experiences they face. This paper proposes a multi-level spatiotemporal analytical framework to understand the complexities of women's migration and its impact on their lives. By integrating spatial, temporal, and multi-level perspectives, this framework aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the intersecting factors that shape the challenges and experiences of women migrants from developing countries in Europe.

Figure-3

Conceptual Framework: Theorizing a Multi-Level Spatio-Temporal Analytical Framework
Central Concept | Women Migrants from Developing Countries in Europe
Spatio-Temporal Dimensions | - Spatial Levels: Origin countries, transit regions, host countries.   - Temporal Phases: Pre-departure, migration process, post-arrival. |
Macro-Level Factors | - Political Context: Immigration policies, diplomatic relations.   - Economic Context: Global economic trends, labour market conditions.   - Sociocultural Context: Cultural norms, gender roles. |
Meso-Level Factors | - Migration Policies: Laws affecting migrant women, visa regulations.   - Social Structures: Community networks, social support systems.   - Employment Landscape: Job opportunities, occupational challenges. |
Micro-Level Factors | - Individual Agency: Decision-making, empowerment strategies.   - Personal Networks: Family and social connections, support systems.   - Cultural Identity: Adaptation, preservation, and negotiation. |
Temporal Dynamics | - Pre-Departure Phase: Decision-making, preparation, expectations.   - Migration Process: Travel, settlement, integration.   - Post-Arrival Phase: Adaptation, challenges, long-term integration. |
Interconnections | - Arrows indicating interactions and influences between components and levels,   emphasising the dynamic and interconnected nature of the framework. |

This summary table provides a structured overview of the main components and relationships within the theoretical framework.

Spatial Dimension:

[28]The spatial dimension of the framework recognises the significance of geographic factors in women's migration experiences. It considers the macro-level spatial dynamics, such as migration patterns, routes,

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[28]Massey, D. S. (1999). *Why immigration occurs?A theoretical synthesis* (Massey, 1999, pp. 34–52). na.

and destination choices, which influence the opportunities and constraints women migrants face. Additionally, it considers the meso-level spatial contexts, including the social and cultural characteristics of both the sending and receiving countries, which shape the experiences of women migrants. [29]

[30]The spatial dimension of the framework also acknowledges the micro-level spatial dynamics, such as the spatial distribution of resources, services, and social networks within the receiving countries. It explores how spatial inequalities and segregation can impact the opportunities and integration prospects for women migrants.[31]

Temporal Dimension:
[32]The temporal dimension of the framework recognises that women's migration experiences unfold over time. It considers the different stages of the migration process, including pre-departure, transit, and settlement phases. Understanding the temporal aspects helps capture the challenges and transformations women migrants undergo throughout their migration journey.

The temporal dimension also explores migration's short-term and long-term effects on women's lives, encompassing changes in social roles, family dynamics, and personal aspirations. It recognises that the challenges and experiences of women migrants may shift over time due to factors such as legal status, economic opportunities, and changing social contexts.[33]

Multi-Level Perspective:
The multi-level perspective of the framework acknowledges that women's migration experiences are shaped by interactions between various levels of analysis, including the individual, household, community, and societal levels. It recognises that macro-level factors, such as migration policies, economic structures, and gender norms, intersect with micro-level factors, such as individual aspirations, social networks, and cultural values, to shape the challenges and opportunities women migrants face[34].

[35]The multi-level perspective also considers the interplay between structural constraints and individual agency. It recognises that female migrants navigate and negotiate their experiences within broader power structures and social contexts while exercising agency and resilience to overcome challenges and pursue their goals.

By adopting a multi-level spatiotemporal analytical framework, researchers and policymakers can gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and experiences faced by women migrants from developing countries in Europe. This comprehensive approach allows for a nuanced exploration of the spatial, temporal, and multi-level dynamics that shape their migration journey. It provides valuable insights to

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[29]Pessar, Patricia R., 'Engendering Migration Studies: The Case of New Immigrants in the United States', in Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo (ed.), *Gender and USUS Immigration: Contemporary Trends* (Oakland, CA, 2003; online edn, California Scholarship Online, March 22 2012),
https://doi.org/10.1525/california/9780520225619.003.0002, accessed May 28 2023.

[30]Lama, P., Hamza, M., & Wester, M. (2021). Gendered dimensions of migration about climate change. *Climate and Development*, *13*(4), 326-336.

[31]Kofman, E., Phizacklea, A., Raghuram, P., & Sales, R. (2000). *Gender and international migration in Europe: employment, welfare, and politics*. Psychology Press.

[32]Madianou, M., & Miller, D. (2013). *Migration and new media: Transnational families and polymedia*. Routledge.

[33]Hondagneu-Sotelo, P. (1999). Introduction: Gender and contemporary US immigration. *American Behavioral Scientist*, *42*(4), 565-576.

[34]de Haas, H. (2010). Migration and Development: A Theoretical Perspective. *The International Migration Review*, *44*(1), 227–264. http://www.jstor.org/stable/20681751

[35]Lutz, H., Vivar, M. T. H., & Supik, L. (Eds.). (2016). *Framing intersectionality: Debates on a multifaceted concept in gender studies*. Routledge.

inform policies, interventions, and support systems that address their unique needs and promote their well-being and empowerment.

Conclusion

In summary, this study has highlighted the many challenges women migrants face from developing countries in Europe, emphasising the crucial role of gender in shaping their migration experiences. Using various theoretical perspectives, including intersectional, feminist, postcolonial, human rights, and transnational frameworks, the paper examined the discrimination, violence, marginalisation, and limited economic opportunities that these women often encounter.

The research findings emphasise the urgent need for inclusive policies that specifically address the unique needs and vulnerabilities of female migrants. Gender-based violence is a prevalent issue, requiring targeted interventions to ensure the safety and protection of women migrants. Barriers to accessing legal and medical protection underscore the need to remove structural obstacles and provide fair access to justice and healthcare services.

The economic challenges faced by female migrants highlight the importance of addressing issues such as occupational segregation, unequal pay, and limited employment opportunities. Strategies should focus on enhancing economic integration, promoting skill development, and challenging gendered and colonial legacies perpetuating inequality.

Recognising the interconnectedness of women migrants' identities and experiences across borders, the concept of transnationalism suggests supporting their networks, fostering cultural exchange, and leveraging their skills and resources for social integration and well-being.

In terms of recommendations, this study advocates for a holistic approach that considers the rights, agency, and empowerment of female migrants. Policy interventions should be grounded in a human rights framework, recognising the fundamental rights of all migrants and promoting gender equality. Efforts should also address the structural inequalities underlying the challenges faced by women migrants, considering factors such as race, class, and migration status.

An inclusive approach by policymakers can create a more supportive and equitable environment for female migrants, enabling them to thrive and contribute to their host societies. Future research should continue exploring the experiences and perspectives of female migrants, amplifying their voices and advocating for policies that recognise and address their unique needs and aspirations.

Ultimately, fostering social inclusion, gender equality, and respect for human rights are essential steps towards creating societies that value the contributions of all individuals, regardless of their gender or migration status.

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Phytochemical Screening and *in vitro* Antibacterial Activity of *Typhonium trilobatum* Methanolic extract

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Abstract: *Typhonium trilobatum* (Family: Araceae) is a common vegetable and a useful perennial herb in traditional medicine found all over Bangladesh. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the phytochemical screening, total phenolic content, total flavonoid content and antibacterial activity of *Typhonium trilobatum* species. The phytochemical analysis revealed the presence of alkaloids, carbohydrates, flavonoids, phenolic compounds and reducing sugar. The antibacterial study result confirmed that the crude methanolic extract of *Typhonium trilobatum* has the ability to inhibit bacterial growth. The higher antibacterial activity was found against Gram-negative bacteria *Shigella bodydii* where the zone of inhibition was found 12 mm for 1000µg/disc extract. The lowest inhibitory activity was found against *Salmonella paratyphi* with 8 mm zone of inhibition. The presence of total phenolic and flavonoid contents was found 10.8 mg gallic acid equivalent (GAE/gm) and 6.5 mg quercetin equivalent (QE/gm), respectively in each gram of *Typhonium trilobatum* methanolic extract. The antibacterial effects of the *Typhonium trilobatum* leaves extract may be linked to the presence of phenolic and flavonoid components. However, further studies are required to obtain more reliable information.

Keywords: *Typhonium trilobatum,* phytochemical, antibacterial activity, phenolic content, total flavonoid content.

Introduction

The genus *Typhonium* (Family: Araceae) comprises of about 69 species of tuberous perennial herbs and is widely distributed in tropical region of India, China, Bangladesh, Burma, Siam, Ceylon, Malaysia and North Australia. *Typhonium trilobatum* is one of them and it is a well-liked green vegetable that is less expensive due to its availability and is thus eaten by the under privileged. This perennial spice is a significant source of vitamins like thiamine, niacin, carotene, and folic acid. In Bangladesh, it is typically referred to as Bengal arum, Ghat kanchu, or Ghat kol [1].

The herb has historically been used to treat a variety of illnesses. Both the Unani and Ayurvedic medicines have provided detailed descriptions of the medicinal properties of this plant. According to scientific studies, the plant contains antibacterial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and nematocidal

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properties. In addition, it treats spleen enlargement, liver disease, dermatitis, piles, boils, body aches, rheumatoid arthritis, edema, and piles [2].

The vast majority of the species of T. *trilobatum* are utilized customarily to treat regurgitating, hack, asthma, pyogenic sore throat, gastric ulcer, migraine, abscess, snake nibble [3] and feminine inconveniences [4]. The plant is also utilized as an energizer. The leaves are cooked as vegetables and given to the patient suffering from heaps and ailment [5, 6]. Different studies showed that the leaf contains reducing sugars, alkaloids, glycosides, gums, tannins and saponins. Rhizome contains lectins and roots contain flavonoids, carbohydrates and phenols [1]. A summary of the pharmacological activities reported from various authors is given below (Table 1).

Summary of pharmacological activities of *Typhonium trilobatum*

Pharmacological activity	Experimental models	Animals/microbes/ larvae used	Parts of plant used	References
Anti-inflammatory activity	Xylene-induced ear Edema model	Wistar rats	Leaf	[7]
Analgesic activity	Acetic acid-induced writhing method	Swiss-albino mice	Leaf	[7]
Wound healing activity	Excision wound model and the incision wound model	Adult albino rats	Whole plant	[9]
Anti-bacterial activity	Disc diffusion methods	*Salmonella typhi* (18), *Proteus mirabilis* (15), *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*	Tuber and aerial parts	[10,11]
Anti-fungal activity	Disc diffusion methods	Candida albicans and Aspergillus niger	Aerial parts	[11]
Anti-diarrhoeal activity	Castoroil-induced Diarrhoea	Swiss-albino mice	Leaf	[7]
Larvicidal activity	Dose response larvicidal bioassay	Culex quinquefasciatus	Leaf	[12]
Anti-oxidant activity	DPPH free reducing scavenging assay, scavenging of hydrogen peroxide and nitric oxide radical scavenging assay	Root		[13]
Anti-diabetic activity	Alloxan induced Diabetic model	Albino rats	Leaf	[14]
Anti-depressant Activity	Forced swimming Test method	Swiss-albino mice	Root	[13]

The objective of the present study was to evaluate antibacterial activity of methanol extract of *Typhonium trilobaum* leaf and stem extracts using disc diffusion method against few Gram-positive bacteria and Gram-negative bacteria and also to investigate the presence of different phytochemical compounds.

Methods and Materials

Chemicals and reagents

Methanol (Merck), ethanol (Merck), standard antibiotic disc (ciprofloxacin) (Bioqual, Inc.), Folin-ciocalteu (FC) reagent (Loba), gallic acid (Loba), quercetin (SRL), nutrient agar medium (Hi media), nutrient broth medium (Hi media), bismuth carbonate (Loba), sodium iodide (Merck), 5% glacial acetic acid (Merck), ethyl acetate (Merck), distilled water, mercuric chloride (Merck), potassium iodide (Merck), sodium citrate (Merck), sodium carbonate (Merck), copper sulphate (Merck), potassium sodium tartrate (Merck), NaOH (Merck), iodine solution (Unique Scientific Mart), alcoholic α- nepthol (Merck), conc. H_2SO_4 (Merck) , 5% ferric chloride (Merck), KOH pellets (Merck), nitric acid (Merck), lead acetate solution (Loba), sodium nitrite (Research Lab), potassium dichromate solution, sodium bicarbonate (Merck), sodium acetate trihydrate (Merck).

Collection and identification of plant materials

The leaves and stem of *Typhonium trilobatum* used in this experiment were collected in September 2022 from the area of Satarkul village, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Authentication was done by expert teachers at the Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of science and Engineering, Dhaka International University.

Figure 1: *Typhonium trilobatum*

Extraction and isolation

Fresh plant were harvested and washed thoroughly with running tap water. The washed and cleaned stem and leaves of the plant were dried in air and then dried in oven at 60°C.

Figure 2: Air dried *Typhonium trilobatum*   **Figure 3:** *Typhonium trilobatum* in oven

The stem and leaves of dried plant were crushed, powdered and weighed separately, before cold extraction. Dried powdered leaves and stem 150g of *Typhonium trilobatum* were soaked with 600ml methanol by cold extraction method in closed bottle container for 19 days, accompanying occasional shaking and stirring. After 19 days, the combined extract underwent a coarse filtration by a piece of clean white cotton, and then it was filtered with Whatman filter paper.

The filtrate (methanol extract) was evaporated using rotary evaporator (DLAB, USA). After drying, dried sticky extract was obtained and weighed to calculate the yield of the extract. This extract was designated as crude extract. Throughout the experiment, the plant extract was preserved in beaker (100ml) covered with aluminum foil and kept in cool place at 4°C.

Phytochemical analysis

Phytochemical screening of this plant extract:

Preliminary qualitative analysis of the extracts were carried out to determine the presence of various phytochemicals which include tannins, phenolics, flavonoids, alkaloids, saponins, steroids and glycosides in accordance with the methods as described below.

Reagent preparation for phytochemical screening

Reagent	Stock solution	Working solution	Compounds for identification
Drangendroff's reagent	5.2gm bismuth carbonate + 4gm sodium iodide + 50mL glacial acetic acid, boiled for few min, after 12hr precipitated sodium acetate crystals are filtered by sintered glass funnel; 40mL filtrate + 160mL ethyl acetate + 1mL distilled water, (stored in amber-coloured glass bottle).	10mL stock solution +20mL acetic acid + distilled water to make final volume 100mL.	Alkaloids
Mayer's reagent	Solution A; 1.358gm mercuric chloride + 60mL distilled water Solution B; 5gm potassium iodide +10mL distilled water	Working solution; solution A + solution B + distilled water to make final volume 100mL.	Alkaloids

Wagner's reagent	1.27gm iodine + 2gm potassium iodide + distilled water to make final volume 100mL.		Alkaloids
Seliwanoff's reagent:	0.05% resorcinol +100mL dilute HCl		Reducing sugar
Benedict's reagent	**Solution A;** 173gm sodium citrate + 100gm sodium carbonate+800mL water, dissolve and boil to make solution clear	**Working solution;** mix solution A and solution B	Reducing sugar
	Solution B; 17.3gm of copper sulphate dissolved in100mL distilled water		
Fehling's solution	**Solution A;** 34.66gm copper sulphate + distilled water to make final volume 100mL		Carbohydrate, Reducing sugar
	Solution B; 173gm potassium sodium tartarate + 50gm NaOH + ditilled water to make 100mL.		

Determination of antibacterial activity

Six bacterial strains used in the present study include *Shigella bodydii*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aureus*, *Sarcina lutea* and *Salmonella paratyphi*. These organisms were maintained on nutrient agar slopes and the organisms were confirmed by biochemical test. Agar media was prepared by adding 5.6 g of nutrient agar to 200ml distilled water and then autoclaved at 121°C and pressure of 15 lbs. /sq. inch for 15 minutes. Agar slants were prepared by pouring sterilized agar media into petri dishes with inoculation of bacteria and then incubated at 37°C (typically 37.5-37.8°C) for 16-18 hours to observe the zone of inhibition. To observe the zone of inhibition, standard ciprofloxacin concentration was 5 µg and crude extract concentration were 1000 µg and 2000 µg[7, 8].

Determination of Total Phenolic Content

The total phenolic content of the extract of *Typhonium trilobatum* was determined by using Folin-ciocalteu reagent. 1 ml of plant or standard of different concentration solution was added in 5 ml of Folin-ciocalteu (diluted 10 times with water) reagent and 5 ml of sodium carbonate (7.5%) solution. The mixture was incubated for 20 minutes at 25°C and the absorbance of the final mixture was measured at 760 nm. Gallic acid was used as reference standard and the result was expressed as mg gallic acid equivalent (GAE/gm) of the dried extract [7, 8].

Absorbance of different concentrated solution mixtures were measured at 760 nm using spectrophotometer against blank and the TPC in root extract in Gallic Acid Equivalence (GAE) was calculated using the following equation.

$$C = (C \times \mathcal{V})/m$$

Here, C= total content of phenolic compounds, mg/gm root extract, in GAE
c= the concentration of Gallic acid established from the calibration curve (mg/ml)
$\mathcal{V}$ = the volume of extract in ml
m = the weight of root extract in gm.

Determination of Total Flavonoid Content

For the determination of total flavonoid of the extract of *Typhonium trilobatum*, quercetin was used to make the standard calibration curve. Using methanol (5-200 g/mL), the standard solutions of quercetin were prepared by a series of dilutions. Separately, 0.6 mL of diluted standard quercetin extracts or solutions was combined with 0.6 mL of 2% aluminum chloride. The mixture was then left to sit at room temperature for 60 minutes. Using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer, the absorbance of the reaction mixtures was measured against a blank at 420 nm. The calibration plot was used to compute the amount of total flavonoid content in the test samples, which was then reported as mg of quercetin equivalent (QE)/g of dried plant material [7, 8].

The total content of flavonoid compounds in plant methanol extracts in Quercetin equivalents was calculated using the following equation:

$$C = (C \times V)/m$$

Here, C= total content of phenolic compounds, mg/gm root extract, in Quercetin equivalent,
c= the concentration of Quercetin established from the calibration curve (mg/ml),
V= the volume of extract in ml
m = the weight of root extract in gm.

Result:

For centuries, *Typhonium trilobatum* has been utilized as a traditional medicine, not just in Bangladesh but also in other areas of the world. Under this experiment a number of different tests have been done. The tests have been summarized in the following graphs.

Phytochemical test results

Test	Observation
Alkaloid	+
Carbohydrate	+
Reducing sugar	-
Cardiac glycoside	-
Proteins and amino acids	-
Flavonoids	+
Phenolic compounds	+
Saponins	+

(+) indicates presence, (-) indicates absence

Evaluation of antibacterial activity result
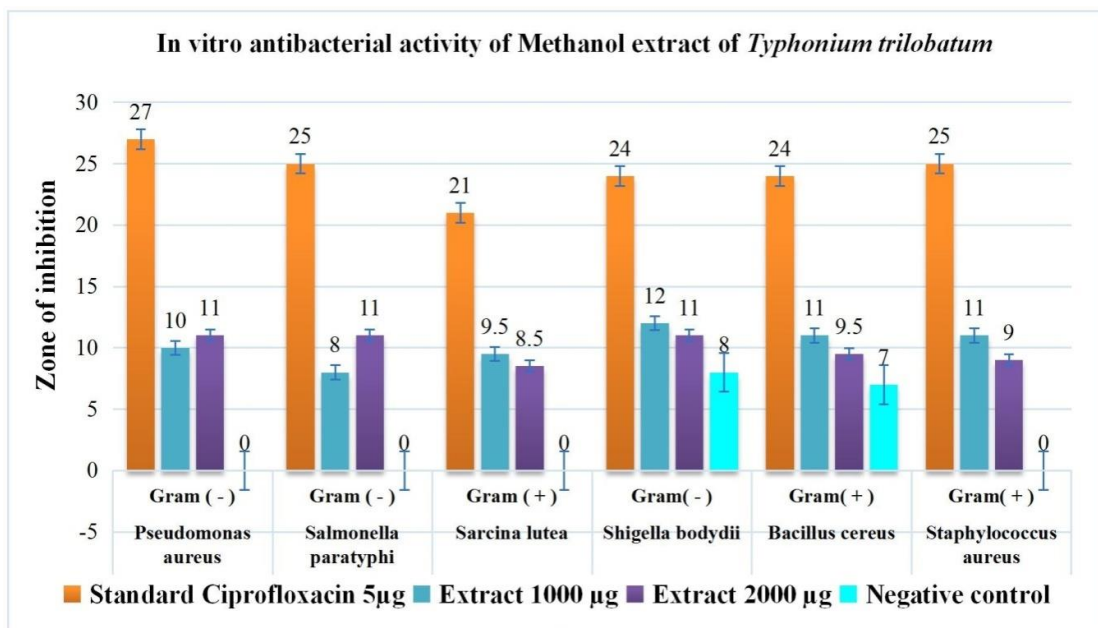
Determination of Total Phenolic Content

Graph for the determination of phenolic content (Standard)
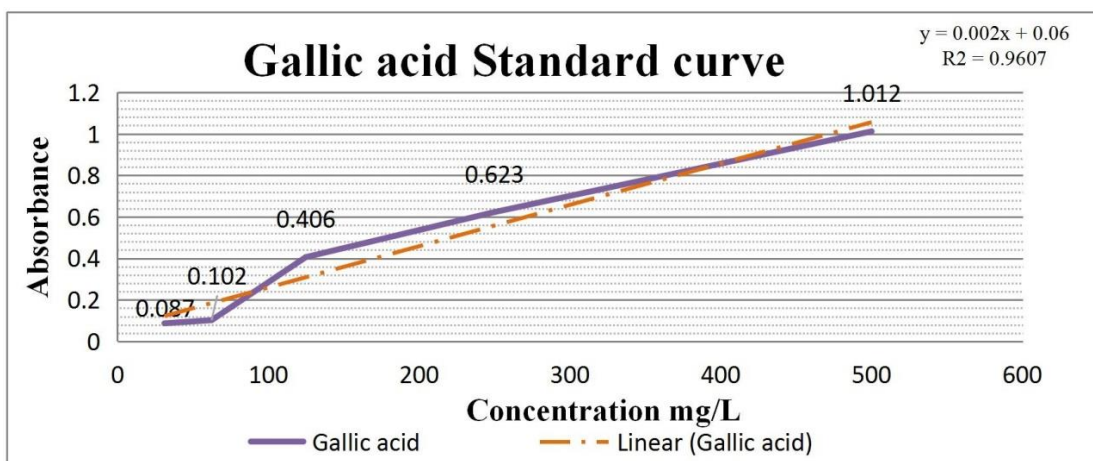
Table 1: Data for the determination phenol content of *Typhonium trilobatum* samples

Sample solution (μg/ml)	GAE conc. (μg/ml)	TPC as GAE equivalent, C= (mg/gm)

1000	9.6	9.6
1000	12.15	12

Determination of Total Flavonoid Content
Graph of determination total flavonoid content (Standard).

Quercetin standard curve

$y = 0.0076x + 0.0507$
$R^2 = 0.9403$

(Absorbance vs Concentration mg/L)

0.264, 0.312, 0.468, 0.601, 0.875

— Quercetin   ········· Linear (Quercetin)
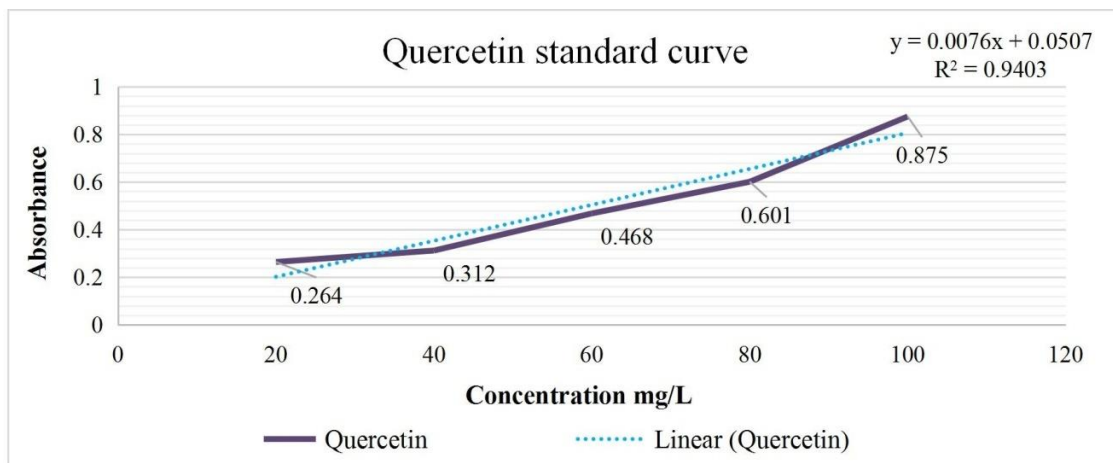
Determination of Total Flavonoid Content
Graph of determination total flavonoid content (Standard).

Table 2: Data for determination flavonoid content of *Typhonium trilobatum* samples

Sample solution (µg/ml)	Quercetin conc. (µg/ml)	TFC as Quercetin Equivalent, $C = \dfrac{c \times v}{m}$ (mg/gm)
1000	5.96	6
1000	6.75	7

DISCUSSION

The crude extracts of *Typhonium trilobatum* were subjected to phytochemical screening, determination of total phenolic content, total flavonoid content and *in vitro* antibacterial activity. The phytochemical screening tests revealed the presence of phenols, flavonoids and alkaloids in this plant. *In vitro* antioxidant activity of leaf and stem extracts were determined by assessing its total phenolic and flavonoid content. Polyphenol have been shown to decrease the formation of atherosclerotic plaques, block LDL oxidation and reduce arterial stiffness, leaving arteries more responsive to endogenous stimuli of vasodilation. Ethanol extract of leaves of the plant was found to contain the highest amount of phenolic content (13.3. mg/gm) [8]. Our investigation also confirmed similar result, a total of 10.8mg GAE/gm of phenolic content with reference to gallic acid.

Plants' antioxidant systems depend heavily on flavonoids. The scavenging of free radicals, chelation of metal ions like iron and copper, and inhibition of enzymes that produce free radicals are only a few of the processes by which flavonoids possess antioxidative characteristics. Depending on their structural

makeup, flavonoids can scavenge nearly every known ROS. Previous study with *Typhonium trilobatum* leaf ethanol extract found to have the greatest flavonoid concentration (14.26 mg/gm) [8]. In compare with this, our study with *Typhonium trilobatum* methanol extract has found average 6.5 mg quercetin equivalent (QE/gm) flavonoid concentration. This may be due to natural variations. Flavonoid contents of the extracts were found to decrease in the following order: Ethanol Extract > Methanol Extract [8].

The zone of inhibition for the antibacterial activity of *Typhonium trilobatum* methanolic extract at concentrations 1000µg/10µl were recorded for *Shigella bodydii* (12±0.29 mm), *Bacillus cereus* (11±0.29 mm), *Staphylococcus aureus* (11±0.29 mm), *Pseudomonas aureus* (10±0.29 mm), *Sarcina lutea* (9.5±0.29 mm) and *Salmonella paratyphi* (8±0.29 mm). Our result suggested that this extract has antibacterial properties against both the Gram positive and negative bacteria. Study reported active growth inhibition of S. aureus by crude methanolic, ethyl acetate and chloroform extracted fractions of the aerial parts of *Typhonium trilobatum* Linn [15].

The medicinal value of the plant extract may be related to their phytochemical constituent. So further investigations are needed to isolate and identify the active component present in the plant extract and its various fractions, and their efficacy. It will help in the development of novel and safe drugs for the treatment of various diseases.

Conclusion
Phytochemical screening and *in-vitro* pharmacological evaluation of crude extract *of Typhonium trilobactum* were done to investigate different therapeutic activities of this plant. Phytochemical screening tests confirmed the presence of phenols, flavonoids and alkaloids in the leaf extract. *In-vitro* antioxidant activity test determined the scavenging activity of *Typhonium trilobactum* including total flavonoids and phenolic contents. The leaf extract also revealed significant antibacterial activity. This study result indicates that *Triphonium trilobactum* may be an important source of new drug discovery including antioxidant, antibacterial agents and cardioprotective agents. Therefore, further study on *Typhonium trilobactum* might be required to find out other therapeutic effects and to isolate new medicinal compounds.

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Contemporary Geopolitics: A Bangladesh Perspective

Doel Akter [*]

Abstract: Bangladesh emerged as a sovereign country on December 16, 1971 after nine months long brutal war with Pakistan. The thriving South Asian state, once labeled as the 'bottomless basket', has transformed itself as a 'development miracle'. Its geographical proximity and strategic location aided by remarkable economic boom has renewed its geopolitical relevance both within and outside the region. In a changing regional and global geopolitical landscape, Bangladesh faces a number of geopolitical challenges mitigation of which requires cautious endeavors. But Bangladesh as a modern geopolitical entity lacks an astute geopolitical doctrine which can guide itself to neutralize those challenges. This research paper offers the design of a cohesive and relevant geopolitical doctrine that can navigate its geopolitical graduation as a Smart Power and deal with contemporary geopolitical challenges in the coming days.

Key words: Bangladesh; Geopolitical Challenges; Geopolitical Doctrine; Geopolitical Space; Diplomatic Engagements; Image Geography; Smart Power Potential.

Introduction

Five decades ago, Bangladesh declared her emergence as a sovereign state in global arena by defeating Pakistan in a brutal war. Only a few people believed that the newly born state would survive, let alone progress towards development. During the initial few decades after its independence, Bangladesh was plagued with various problems such as political instability, natural disasters, military coups, political violence, corruption etc. However, Bangladesh has survived those initial setbacks. It not only survived them but also wrotean Asian miracle story of development through sustained economic growth and social development. Though the emergence of Bangladesh in 1971 could not catch much attention, today as it celebrates her golden jubilee, the economic development and social advancement has been praised globally. As the economic boom has continued for last few years, the geopolitical significance of the country has grown too. Being born during the tensed era of the Cold War, Bangladesh has always been entangled in geopolitics. In her history, there is no time when Bangladesh has not been caught between animosity of major powers- be it the endless rivalry between India and Pakistan, be it the conflict between the US and the former Soviet Union of Cold war era, and be it the Sino-Western or Sino-Indian rivalry of present world. The geopolitical landscape of South Asia has also changed in recent years due to renewed interest of the major global powers in this region.China and India, two nuclear powers of South Asian region, are endeavoring continuously on multiple plans and intentions to change the geopolitical order of this region in their favor. In addition, decaying Superpower America has shifted its geopolitical focus to Indo-Pacific region for countering China's rise in this region. So, the regional geopolitics is getting competitive day by day. Bangladesh has caught the attention of these powerful states due to its geographical proximity and strategic position. So growing presence of China in this region, shifting geopolitical focus of USA, and deliberate efforts of India to

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sustain its regional dominance all together have initiated a 'New Great Game of Geopolitics' in South Asian landscape where Bangladesh now finds greater relevance and significancedue to its geographical potential (Riaz and Parvez, 2021). But in this world of ever evolving geopolitical scenario, the geopolitical space of Bangladesh is not limited within South Asia. Rather it stretches from the Bay of Bengal to South Asia, from Middle East to Africa, and from Europe to even global arena. Bangladesh is now at a geopolitical crossroads from where it should act tactfully to settle geopolitical issues with neighbors, make balancing relations with major powers, extend its geopolitical space beyond South Asia by fostering diplomatic engagements, convert its physical geography into image geography by reinstating democratic values and human right principles, and play significant role in dealing with non-traditional security issues such as climate change, transnational terrorism, religious extremism and proliferation of drugs within and aroundits border. However, the absence of a shrewd geopolitical doctrine casts doubts over the potential rise of Bangladesh as a proactive player both in regional and global arena. Since emergence as a sovereign state, Bangladesh has failed to design an effective geopolitical doctrine because of foreign policy fluctuations along with the change of political regime. But now with booming economy aiding the geographical proximity, and ever evolving regional and global geopolitics, Bangladesh faces serious challenges of balancing major powers, and fostering diplomatic engagements to safeguard its national interests along with the enhancement of the defense and military capabilities. This research paper outlines a cohesive geopolitical doctrine for Bangladeshby combining both hard power and soft power elements to ensure its geopolitical graduation as a smart power which shall effectively guide itself to tackle all the geopolitical challenges in the coming days.

Methodology

Numerous methodologies are available for Social Science research. Since this research paper aims to design a cohesive geopolitical doctrine for Bangladesh that would enable itself to face the geopolitical challenges emerged from the changing regional and global geopolitical atmosphere, it mainly depends on the scholarly views and writings. Qualitative method is used in this research to collect both primary and secondary data. Primary data have been collected through in depth interview of the scholars, academicians, researchers in the fields relevant to the topic. Secondary data are collected through analysis of relevant journal articles, newspapers, and website articles.

Results and Discussion

Geopolitical Doctrine for Bangladesh

'Geopolitics' as a term was first coined by the Swedish political scientist Rudolf Kjellénand its use gained currency across Europe during the period between two World Wars (Deudney, 2013). According to Cambridge Dictionary, Geopolitics refers to the study of the way how the size, position, etc. of a state influences its power and its relationships with other countries of the world (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.). To make it more concise, it can be defined as the study of the influence of geographical factors over inter-state relations. There are two contrasting schools of geopolitics, namely Classical school and critical school. Classical school of geopolitics propagates the idea that the state can only enhance its power by the enlargement of its territory through the use of military force. Contrasting to the Classical School, Critical Geopolitics disseminates that rather than enlargement of territory through the use of military power, intellectual statecrafts, cultural artifacts, organizational processes, and diplomatic endeavors etc. shapes the spatiality of a state (Ahmed, 2017). Turning to the circumstance of Bangladesh, it has become evident that the geopolitical doctrine of Bangladesh must be efficient enough to handle the simultaneous tasks of protecting territorial sovereignty and extend its functional space to South Asia and beyond. For designing such a proactive and enabling geopolitical doctrine, Bangladesh must combine the elements of both Classical and Critical school of geopolitics so that it can navigate its survival in all kinds of geopolitical weather.

Geopolitical Doctrine for Bangladesh			
Design	**Objectives**	**Instruments**	**Power Dimensions**
Combination of the elements of both Classical and Critical school of Geopolitics	Protection of Territorial Sovereignty and Extension of Functional space to South Asia and Beyond	Military Capacity Building, Intellectual Statecrafts, Cultural artifacts, Diplomatic Endeavors, Geo-economics, etc.	Integration of Hard Power and Soft power capabilities to make Bangladesh a 'Smart Power'

Table: Geopolitical Doctrine for Bangladesh prepared by the Author
Geography Cuts both ways

Bangladesh's geographic position acts as the most important factor which provides both advantages and disadvantages in its geopolitical play. Except a little border with Myanmar, Bangladesh is landlocked by India from three sides other than the South. It puts Bangladesh in a geopolitically disadvantageous position by making it a prisoner of geography.Because when a small country like Bangladesh is landlocked by a giant powerful state and regional pivot like India from all three sides except one, it becomes a geopolitical burden (Uddin, 2016). However, perception has changed in recent years as Dhaka now sees itself as land linked rather than land locked. Because geography provides Bangladesh the opportunity to become the linking state that connects South Asia with South East Asia. So, to make happen any cooperative effort between these two dominant regional blockscannot exclude Bangladesh. So geography provides Bangladesh an inspiring role to become the hub of regional connectivity for realizing its geographic potential fully (Rahman, 2021). Another advantage that geography has blessed Bangladesh with is its balanced share of land and sea. It offers Bangladesh the opportunity of both land transport with the neighboring states, and navigation through the Bay of Bengal along with the opportunity of exploring the benefits of untapped blue economy (Paul, 2015).

Geopolitics with the Bordering States

Geopolitics of Bangladesh with the bordering states involves India and Myanmar as it shares border with these two countries. Bangladesh shares 4,096km of its border with India which is the fifth-largest land border in the contemporary world. Both countries celebrated the golden jubilee of their relations that began with India's recognition of Bangladesh as a sovereign state on December 6, 1971. From Sheikh Mujib's first civilian regime to the current regime, the relationship of the two neighboring states has traversed a long path with stability other than some abrupt fluctuations. The relationship between two neighboring states has been built on centuries of shared history, heritage, culture, and ethno-linguistic roots. It was strengthened when India unconditionally supported Bangladesh during Liberation war of 1971 by providing military support and sheltering 10 million refugees. Over the decades, this bond has been further blossomed by the mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. In recent years, both the countries have resolved their long-sustained land and maritime disputes in a peaceful manner that symbolizes the depth of the inter-state relations between the two countries. The two neighboring states also sealed two defense agreements in recent years. Further to that, India recently extended defense related Line of Credit (LOC) to US $500 million for Bangladesh's procurement of defenseequipment (Shazzad, 2021). However, there are issues such as massive trade imbalance, illegal migrations, border killing, sharing of water of common rivers which irritates the fabric of a congenial relationship between the two countries. Moreover, India's failure to support Bangladesh in Rohingya issue and non-fulfillment of the promise of delivering agreed doses of

vaccine generated public resentment in Bangladesh. Bangladesh cannot ignore the presence of its mighty neighbor India as it surrounds Bangladesh from three sides. Similarly, India cannot neglect the significance of a healthy relationship with Bangladesh as it holds an important position in India's geostrategic calculus. Both the countries must redefine their relationship comprehensively to resolve bilateral issues and foster mutual cooperation (Yasmin, 2021). Another next-doorneighbor with whom Bangladesh shares 271 kilometers of its border is Myanmar.The bilateral relation between the two states was initiated by Myanmar when it recognized Bangladesh in January 13, 1972. However there exists a strained relationship between the two neighboring nations due to various issues such as Rohingya crisis, and cartographic propaganda maneuvered against Bangladesh by Myanmar. Besides, the economic relation between two countries is plagued with trade deficits even though Myanmar can be a potential market for Bangladeshi exports such as pharmaceuticals, leather goods, vegetables, textile and Readymade Garments (RMG) (Ahmed, 2017). As Bangladesh cannot wage war against India and Myanmar due to its disadvantageous location, it must design a neighborhood policy by which bilateral contentious issues can be resolved mutually, and cooperation can be fostered.

Navigating Survival in Changing South Asian Landscape

The rise of the continent of Asia is critically linked to the global system through South Asia. South Asia, home to one fourth of the global humanity, is one of the fastest growing regions of the world with an average GDP growth of 7.1%. This region is called the engine of growth for future Asia as 40% of its population falls within the Youth category (The Daily Star, 2019). However, this is one of the most volatile regions of the world due to deteriorating inter-state relationship, lack of effective regional mechanism, and unending rivalry between two nuclear powers India and Pakistan. The geopolitical landscape has become more complicated due to growing presence of China, Indian endeavors for regional dominance, Sino-Indian rivalry for becoming the regional pivot, and shifting focus of USA to Indo-Pacific region for containing China. In such a turbulent geopolitical scenario, Bangladesh has been caught in the Sino-American and Sino-Indian rivalry. As extra-regional players like USA and China are involved in this great game of geopolitics along with regional pivot India, Bangladesh is playing its role with balancing act. For Bangladesh, it should strictly follow and sustain its policy of nonalignment to get better economic packages and increase its bargaining power as the primary goal for a developing country like Bangladesh is rather economic than geopolitical (Ahmed, 2022).

Playing with the Rising Dragon

In the changing geopolitical landscape of South Asia, China has emerged as one of the major players. Though it is not a South Asian state, it is making relentless efforts for last few years to increase its influence by participating in the development activities of countries of this region through economic diplomacy. China also plans to resort to vaccine diplomacy by which it aims to provide emergency Corona virus vaccines to countries like Myanmar, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka (Haque and Hasan, 2022). Like some other South Asian states, Bangladesh is immensely important in China's geostrategic calculus because of its central location to realize the Chinese dream of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). In addition, Bay of Bengal is strategically valuable to China as it can offer port facilities and alternative access to the Indian Ocean. Reciprocally, China is also recognized as an important strategic partner of Bangladesh as it is the largest arms supplier and trading partner to Bangladesh. In recent years, it has also geared up its investment in Bangladesh for making various development projects implemented swiftly. However, China has always sided with Myanmar in Rohingya issue which dashed the hope of prompt repatriation of the Rohingyas. Bangladesh should also remain tactful so that it does not fall into Chinese debt trap. Besides, the government of Bangladesh should keep China reserved as a countervailing strategic partner if relations with the western countries deteriorate due to the issues of human rights abuse and democratic decay (Riaz and Parvez, 2021).

Decaying Great Power Inclining to deepen ties

The bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and USA was marked by ups and downs since inception. Historically the relationship was never cordial because of strict opposition of USA to the liberation struggle of Bangladesh, and subsequent joining of Bangladesh in Soviet bloc after its emergence. Washington also used to see Bangladesh through the eyes of Delhi for many years. But American experts now have opined that dependence on India to contain China will negatively impact the US credibility in Bangladesh (Riaz and Parvez, 2021). Rather their scholars have called for deepening bilateral ties with Bangladesh which can boost American interest in the Indo-Pacific region.With United States beginning to end its strategic indifference, Bangladeshcan also get benefitted from the deeper bilateral ties with US as such partnership would decrease its leaning and dependence on India and China (Mohan, 2021).

Geopolitical Space beyond South Asia

With greater geopolitical significance and interest from global community, the geopolitical space of Bangladesh has extended beyond South Asia. For instance- The European Union (EU) is one of the largest partners of Bangladesh in terms of trade relations, and the same entity provides around 40% of the total foreign aid received by Bangladesh. Though relations between EU and Bangladesh centers around trade and foreign aid, experts believe that Bangladesh should ask EU for support in the issue of Rohingya repatriation, access to Covid-19 vaccines, and GSP+ status for the duty-free access to the European market with the changing political stance of EU on the cards due to reshaping of global order (Rahman, 2021). Bangladesh also enjoys congenial relationship with the Middle-Eastern Muslim states as majority of the population in Bangladesh are subscribers of the religion Islam making it a predominantly Muslim country. Middle-East remains the largest market for the Bangladeshi labor force that enables Bangladesh in earning remittances to sustain the recent economic boom. In addition, Bangladesh has also won the organizational space in various global and regional forums in recent years by subscribing active membership and taking leadership role.

Managing the New Great Game in the Bay of Bengal

Recent strategic importance of Bangladesh to the major regional and global powers is critically linked to the Bay of Bengal. The Bay of Bengal, being located at the meeting point of South Asia and South East Asia, has become a new theatre of Great Power rivalry due to increasing demand of energy sources and uninterrupted Sea Lines of Communications (SLOC) (Kabir and Ahmad, 2015). Bangladesh now faces the challenge of dealing with both littoral and extra-littoral players like China, India, USA, Japan and Australia who are rivaling each other with various strategic groupings like the QUAD, the AUKUS, the BIMSTEC and the BRI to safeguard their own interest in the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh should not tilt towards any of these grouping because any act of alignment may become strategic burden in the long run (Shovon, 2022).

Playing Cards through Greater Engagement

During the early days of pandemic, most countries faced disastrous conditions in their economic and health sectors. Inspired by the foreign policy designed by the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh sought to foster mutual cooperation with the neighboring states and beyond during that period when Bangladesh sent Covid-19 aid and assistance to India, announced $200 million swapping of currency to favor Sri Lanka in easing its debt burden, and granted another $200 million loan to Maldives. Besides, recent visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in France created suitable ground for greater bilateral engagement in defense, trade and climate change matters. These kinds of diplomatic engagement can be instrumental for Bangladesh to exert influence in South Asia and beyond.So Bangladesh must continue these engagement efforts to amplify its influence in South Asia and around the globe (Shovon, 2022).

Greater emphasis on Image Geography

In recent years, Bangladesh has been immensely successful in converting its Physical geography to image geography. Once notoriously known for political instability, military coups, natural disasters and corruptions has become a champion of sustained economic growth, achieving SDGs, establishing peace and security around the world through UN Peacekeeping missions, uprooting terrorism and religious militancy from the land, tackling natural disasters and climate vulnerabilities, and creating a secular and tolerant society in a predominantly Muslim country. However, Bangladesh has also been suffering from image crisis due to allegations of human rights violations, shrinking public sphere, electoral anomalies, and democratic decay. The government of Bangladesh should take pivotal role in restoring the good image of the state through prompt action aimed for rectification of these issues.

Future Looks Bright, Yet Challenges Wait

The growing relevance in a changing regional and global geopolitical landscape supported by recent economic and developmental success has boosted Bangladesh's opportunity to play a proactive role both in South Asia and global sphere. Even so, Bangladesh is now condemned for its recent democratic setbacks and poor human rights governance. In addition, the most critical geopolitical drawback that Bangladesh suffers from is the absence of a sound geopolitical doctrine. The contemporary geopolitics offers the suggestion to combine both hard power capabilities with soft power applications for both, ensuring survival of the state and securing national interests. Bangladesh, being located under the nose of South Asian giant India and adjacent to the politically instable Myanmar, must remember that neither it can wage war against its neighbors nor forget about its military preparedness. Besides, it must craft mutual cooperation and diplomatic engagements with other states to aid its peaceful rise. So, Bangladesh must look forward to combining efforts of developing hard power capabilities along with soft power measures to get a better geopolitical posture.

Conclusion

Bangladesh has recently celebrated 50th anniversary of its emergence as a sovereign state. Even after 50 years of its independence, Bangladesh lacks an astute geopolitical doctrine which can offer itself the guiding light to navigate its survival in an ever evolving regional and global geopolitical environment. However, such lacking can affect Bangladesh's potential rise as a proactive player, and plummet its ability to exert geopolitical influence in the coming days. As a growing state, Bangladesh now faces the simultaneous task of both enhancing military preparedness to protect its territory from any external aggression, and occupying the functional space both in the regional and global sphere through greater diplomatic engagements. This is because Bangladesh, as a thriving state, can neither ignore the necessity of the enhancement of its military capabilities nor it can forget about realizing its soft power potential to get a proactive role in theregional and global arena. So, Bangladesh must combine the elements of both hard and soft power to design a smarter geopolitical doctrine which can realize its potential of becoming a Smart Power, and safeguard its geopolitical interests all over the globe.

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The Legacy of a Revolutionary Thinker: Evaluation on Viscount John Morley's Contribution as a Social Reformer

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Abstract: In the realm of literature, there exists an extraordinary power - the power to reform and improve societies. Besides this responsibility Viscount John Morley stands as a writer, thinker, critic, political leader, orator, journalist, and biographer. With his steadfast dedication, Morley fearlessly confronts all odds and offers a genuine portrayal of the society he seeks to transform. Through his writings, he reveals the kind stories of historical scholars, shaping the course of history itself. This study aims to look into into the exceptional literary contributions of Viscount John Morley, highlighting his invaluable contribution to society.Viscount John Morley, a prominent political leader with flawless management skills, serves as a true embodiment of impartiality in his works. His deliberate and calculated approach allows him to find the way into the complex maze of society, evaluating its various dimensions with precision. Not influenced by personal bias, Morley channels his unique creative thinking into unraveling the true nature of societal issues. It is his sense of independence that distinguishes his role as a literary expert and social advocate. Within the vast realm of literature, Viscount John Morley emerges as a beacon of intellectual enlightenment. His remarkable literary contributions period a multitude of genres, each equally impactful in shaping public perceptions.

Keywords: Critic, Literary Contribution, Literary world, Revolution, Social Thinker, , Society,

Introduction

Viscount John Morley, born on December 24, 1838, in Blackburn, England, and later passed away on September 23, 1923, in Wimbledon Park, London, United Kingdom, was not just an ordinary English Liberal statesman. He was a man of immense literary talent, especially as a biographer. With an illustrious career as a member of Parliament from 1883 to 1895 and again from 1896 to 1908, Morley held prominent positions such as chief secretary for Ireland in 1886 and from 1892 to 1895. Additionally, he served as secretary of state for India from 1905 to 1910 and was granted the prestigious peerage in 1908.

Morley's literary contributions are a testament to his brilliance. Some of his most notable works include influential biographies on figures such as Edmund Burke (1867), Voltaire (1872), Rousseau (1873), Diderot and the Encyclopaedists (1878), Richard Cobden (1881), Ralph Waldo Emerson (1884), Oliver Cromwell (1900), William Ewart Gladstone (1903), and many more. His writings showcased his expertise, passion, and deep research in various subjects, spanning from literature to history and philosophy.

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As a leader of the Liberal Party, Morley's political essays resonated with his readers, drawing nourishment from his strong political ideas. He fearlessly tackled social policies, evaluating their impact on society. Morley's writing revealed a deep empathy for the masses, and he utilized his political expertise and literary skills to shed light on issues of human suffering, dreams, corruption, and the state of society. His works offered a realistic portrayal of people's lives, enabling readers to better understand the world around them.

One cannot discuss Morley's literary pursuits without mentioning his admiration for John Stuart Mill, an iconic figure in his life. Mill's impactful ideologies influenced Morley's own beliefs and writings, adding depth and intellectual rigor to his literary contributions.

Beyond his contributions as a political leader, Morley's dedication to literature was praiseworthy. He invested a significant amount of time into his craft, displaying discipline, clarity, a robust vocabulary, and an openness to change. His writings, both informative and thought-provoking, deserve recognition for the immense literary and social value.

Methodology

A comprehensive exploration of John Morley's influence through literature on society was conducted utilizing a content analysis methodology. To extract valuable insights, extensive data from various reliable sources such as academic research articles, government databases, newspapers, magazines, original documentaries, and research reports were meticulously evaluated. The study adhered to strict criteria for the inclusion and exclusion of relevant information, ensuring that the overall objectives were met with precision.

Limitations of the Study: Overcoming Obstacles in the Pursuit of Knowledge

During the course of the study, the researcher encountered certain limitations that presented obstacles to our research. These limitations, although unfortunate, have contributed to a more nuanced understanding of the topic at hand. I would like to acknowledge and address these challenges in a professional and objective manner.

Firstly, I encountered a lack of sufficient research on relevant topics. Despite our rigorous efforts to gather comprehensive information, we found that certain areas remained underexplored. This deficiency limited our ability to fully evaluate the impact and significance of the chosen subject.

Additionally, a significant limitation stemmed from the unavailability of the latest information and analysis on Morley's work. While I endeavored to incorporate the most up-to-date research, there were gaps in understanding due to the absence of certain resources. This constraint may have hindered a complete and comprehensive analysis of Morley's contributions.

Objective of the Study: A Profound Evaluation of Morley's Sociopolitical Perspective

This research endeavor delves into an in-depth analysis of Morley's attitudes towards contemporary society, politics, and their flawless integration. With a critical focus on Morley's literary contributions as a revered political leader, this study aims to shed light on his impactful social policies. By examining various aspects of Morley's worldview, one can gain a deeper understanding of his invaluable insight into society.

Morley's multifaceted outlook towards society and politics exemplifies his profound understanding of their interdependent nature. Through his literary contributions and eloquent expression, he navigated

the intricate balance between these two crucial spheres of human existence. His remarkable ability to perceive public dynamics and political nuances allowed him to develop a comprehensive perspective on the integration of politics and society.

Morley's stature as a political leader was instrumental in shaping his vision for society. As a prominent figure in public service, his evaluations of societal challenges were enlarged, making him an influential advocate of social policy reform. The thoughtful consideration he applied to pressing issues, combined with his eloquent articulation, established Morley as a respected and impactful authority on social policy.

Morley's literary contributions serve as a testament to his intellectual prowess and dedication to unearthing the truths of society. Through his writings, he eloquently depicted the intricacies of social and political frameworks.

Morley's Contribution to Bengal's Partition

Morley, a prominent political leader, made significant contributions to the partition of Bengal, which resulted in the creation of West Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam. However, this partition sparked strong opposition from Bengali-speaking leaders associated with India's National Congress, who saw it as a manipulative tactic employed by British imperialists for their "divide and rule" policy. The division effectively separated the Bengali-speaking majority, situated just east of Calcutta, the historic heartland of a united Bengal, and left Hindu Bengali speakers as a minority amidst Bihari- and Oriya-speaking communities in West Bengal. However, the Muslim Bengali-speaking population demanded autonomy within their region, ultimately leading to the emergence of British India's first Muslim-majority province with its capital in Dhaka, where the Muslim League was born in 1906.

Amidst mounting pressure from leaders such as Gopal Krishna Gokhale, who appealed to Morley to reverse the partition, he obstinately defended his decision, referring to it as a "settled fact." However, the Congress' opposition to the partition only intensified during Morley's tenure, with the formation of the extremist "New Party" led by BalGangadharTilak. This group resorted to violent means, introducing bomb attacks to amplify their pleas and petitions.

Morley's term in office concluded in 1910, but not before he drafted the announcement of Bengal's reunification, which was delivered by King George during his Delhi Durbar in 1911.Critically evaluating Morley's role in the partition of Bengal, one cannot overlook the political ramifications and divisions it created within the Bengali-speaking community. While Morley's refusal to reverse the decision indicates a rigid stance, it also underscores his commitment to maintaining the status quo. The opposition from Congress can be seen as a significant factor that forced Morley to eventually pave the way for reunification.

Furthermore, it is important to acknowledge Morley's contributions beyond the political realm. His literary endeavors and social policies have had a lasting impact on Bengal's socio-cultural fabric. Though his political legacy remains entangled with the partition controversy, his literary works and social policies stand as separate, distinct and valuable contributions.

John Morley's Role in India Council Reforms: A Profound Legacy

John Morley, a prominent political leader, played a pivotal role in the Indian Councils Act of 1909, often referred to as the "Morley–Minto Reforms." This article aims to shed light on Morley's profound

contributions to British India's Constitution by introducing major reforms and challenging the status quo.

Morley's Strategic Interventions-

In 1907, Morley demonstrated his dedication to inclusivity by advocating for the inclusion of two Indian members in the India Office Council in Whitehall, where he held a significant position. Despite initial opposition, he succeeded in establishing this representation, marking the initial step towards a more inclusive governance structure.

The Indomitable Satyendra P. Sinha-Building upon this success, Morley turned his attention to Satyendra P. Sinha, a remarkable individual who would lend his intellect and vision to the Viceroy's Administrative Council of the Government of India in 1910. With Sinha's appointment, Morley strengthened the voice of Indian nationals in decision-making processes, enhancing social policy and fostering a more collaborative approach towards governance.

Morley Minto Reform

Morley-Minto Reform, also known as the Indian Council Act of 1909, was a significant political development aimed at both appeasing the Moderates (Congress) and implementing separate electorates based on religious grounds. This reform marked an increase in Indian participation in the administration, bringing about constitutional changes within British India. The discussions held between John Morley, Secretary of State for India from 1905 to 1914, and Lord Minto, Viceroy of India from 1905 to 1910, were consolidated in the Indian Councils Act of 1909.

These reforms encompassed the inclusion of Indians in the Secretary of State's commission, the Viceroy's administrative council, as well as the supervisory councils of Bombay and Madras. Furthermore, they introduced an elected element in legislative councils, with the provision for separate electorates specifically catering to the Muslim community. However, these cautious reforms were met with mixed receptions. Indian nationalists perceived them as too limited in scope, while Hindus expressed their resentment towards the provision of separate electorates for Muslims. In evaluating the Morley-Minto Reform, it is imperative to acknowledge the significant role played by key political leaders like John Morley and Lord Minto.

Rousseau (1873)

In his seminal work "Rousseau," published in 1873, Morley delves into the multifaceted issues surrounding the renowned thinker Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Morley astutely captures Rousseau's primary concern: the direction of "civilization" and its impact on humanity. According to Rousseau, civilization had veered off course, losing sight of what truly holds significance in life. However, he adamantly upheld that there was still hope for redemption. Rousseau believed that by adhering to the rule of law, promoting individual liberties, and embracing innovative approaches in education, society could be steered back to its rightful path.

The words of R. A. Leigh aptly summarize Rousseau's enduring importance: "He is not only the most original, profound, and controversial figure among the great eighteenth-century writers, but also the most relevant to our own modern era." (R. A. Leigh, 2015)

The Struggle for National Education (1873) / **The Quest for National Education (1873)**

Education, as the most potent tool for catalyzing societal transformation, takes center stage in Morley's reverential exploration of England's education system. Amidst the turbulent years of 1866-1876, Morley grappled with the perennial predicament faced by intellectuals – how to navigate their relationship with politics and provide a resolution to the education crisis. His work, The Quest for National Education, dissects various foundational issues plaguing the education system, including the dire inadequacy of the problems addressed, the profound influence exerted by the church and dissent, the historical dominance of rebellious politics, the overwhelming expectations and subsequent disillusionment of the masses in 1870, the Education Act's perpetuation of archaic ideals, the dearth of qualified educators, insufficient funding and grants, the notion of free education, and the proposal for deductions in educational costs. By scrutinizing and dissecting these interconnected issues, Morley presents a comprehensive overview of England's National Education policy, exposing its strengths, weaknesses, and progress. Furthermore, this discourse unfurls as an integral thread interwoven into the vibrant tapestry of societal progression.

On Compromise (1874): / **The Art of Compromise: Navigating Life's Constraints**

"On Compromise (1874)" offers profound insights into the myriad constraints we face in our daily lives, be it in terms of adjusting to various art forms, financial systems, administrative frameworks, adhering to traditional values, or finding a middle ground. Compromise, though often seen as a limitation, has become an indispensable aspect of our existence. It necessitates relinquishing some freedoms, such as independent thinking and activity, and embracing society's prevailing norms. However, it is crucial to evaluate whether this excessive compromise impedes positive societal transformations.

The Role of Political Leaders-Political leaders play a pivotal role in shaping social policies and determining the degree of compromise required by the populace. Their decisions and actions serve as valuable indicators of the prevailing norms and values within society. A skilled leader would take into account the needs of diverse interest groups while striking a balance between progress and the preservation of cherished traditions.

Studies in Literature (1891): **A Profound Evaluation of Wordsworth's Literary Contribution**

In the literary masterpiece known as Studies in Literature (1891), readers are treated to a plethora of captivating chapters that delve into a myriad of thought-provoking areas. At the forefront of this enlightening work, the first chapter meticulously explores the life and works of the esteemed poet, Wordsworth. Leaving no stone unturned, the author meticulously examines Wordsworth's family background, his diverse body of work, as well as his profound contributions to both literature and society. Throughout this insightful discourse, readers are able to grasp the true essence of Wordsworth's strength, unwavering resolve, and extraordinary judgmental prowess.

Furthermore, Studies in Literature (1891) goes above and beyond by delving into a wide range of captivating topics. For instance, the text provides a comprehensive analysis of aphorisms, delves into Maine's perspectives on popular government, discusses the merits of the French model.

Walpole (English Statesmen series; 1889)

Walpole, a renowned English political leader, played a pivotal role in shaping the course of the nation's history during his time as the first British Prime Minister. In Morley's exceptional biography of

Walpole, published as part of the English Statesmen series in 1889, the author delves deep into the life and achievements of this influential figure.

Morley astutely evaluates Walpole's leadership, recognizing that greatness in peacetime rulers often stems from wise and benevolent morality. However, in Walpole's case, his exceptional leadership qualities lie in a different realm. Despite being a powerful ruler who skillfully guided the country through significant challenges, Walpole's name lacks the heroic associations typically attributed to leaders of his stature.

As a highly capable peace minister, Walpole's career does not explicitly exude the charms of personal virtue or the inspiration of lofty public ideals. He emerges as a figure whose strength lies in his sagacity, penetrating common-sense, and unwavering dedication to the welfare of the nation. Faced with the formidable nature of his task and the characteristics of his era, it becomes clear why Walpole was not destined for the grandeur of heroism.

Recollections
The embodiment of Morley's career at Westminster comes to life in the renowned book, Recollections. This timeless piece of literature has garnered global acclaim for its profound insights into political matters. Morley's astute evaluations shed light on the challenges faced by the British government, drawing a striking parallel to the experiences of the United Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada from 1841 onwards. During this era, influential political leaders like Baldwin and Lafontaine, along with their liberal or radical contemporaries, fervently demanded the establishment of a responsible and parliamentary government.

Amongst the pages of Recollections, readers are also provided with a riveting glimpse into Morley's own political journey and the latter years of Queen Victoria's reign. This literary contribution not only serves as a comprehensive account of Morley's achievements but also offers deep insights into the socio-political landscape of the time.

Throughout the book, Morley's professional and analytical tone meticulously examines various aspects of political leadership, evaluating its impact on society and the formulation of key social policies. This eloquent portrayal of the intertwining realms of politics and society offers readers a profound understanding of the complexities that shape our governance structures.

Indian Speeches: A Paradigm of Historical, Cultural, and Intellectual Significance
In the realm of literature, few works possess the profound impact and influence that Indian Speeches holds. This compelling collection not only showcases the literary brilliance of its author, Morley, but also provides a comprehensive insight into the intricate tapestry of Indian politics and society.

With meticulous deliberation, Morley delves into the essence of leadership, emphasizing its pivotal role in inciting collective action. Through a careful evaluation of pivotal speeches, Indian Speeches presents an all-encompassing view of the transformative power of political leadership, particularly during the era of British rule.

From the Unrest in India to the Partition of Bengal, Morley presents a vivid depiction of the significant moments that altered the course of India's political landscape. This anthology encompasses a diverse range of topics, including the Directorship of Public Instruction in Bengal, the Indian Army's Reorganization, and the Indian Government's stance on the Rhodesia Mines.

Delving deeper, this literary gem explores social policies that have shaped Indian society. Topics such as the rampant sale of drugs to children, the Opium Traffic, and the prosecution of Indian school boys shed light on the societal challenges India faced under British rule. Additionally, the book delves into the indomitable spirit of the Swadeshi Movement, the tumultuous agitation in Bengal, and the profound impact of aggressive political rallies.

Beyond politics and social policy, Indian Speeches unveils the profound impact of religion and culture. The book unveils the intriguing debates surrounding church consecration in India and explores the religious services that played a pivotal role in shaping society.

Conclusion

Morley is an admirable leader, literary giant, and catalyst of social change. Morley, a name synonymous with versatility and genius, left an indelible mark on his contemporary era and shaped the thinking of prominent figures of the 20th century, including Mahomed Ali Jinnah, the revered founding father of Pakistan. Through his political leadership and remarkable literary contributions, Morley not only shaped social policies but also depicted the lives and achievements of exceptional individuals, setting the benchmark for society at large.As a political leader, Morley seized ample opportunities to make significant contributions to society. His visionary evaluations and pragmatic approach to governance influenced the implementation of progressive social policies.

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Exploring the Nexus between Money Supply and Interest Rates: A Focus on Bangladesh

Asma Akter [*]

Abstract: Theoretically, money supply and interest rates are interrelated. The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between money supply and interest rates from the perspective of Bangladesh. Using yearly time series data, this paper employs the Autoregressive Distributed Lag Model and Bound test. The main findings of the study indicate both long-run and short-run positive correlations between these variables. So, to formulate the monetary policy for our country, policymakers should consider the empirical evidence of the positive correlation between money supply and interest rate. This study has significant policy implications for shaping the monetary policy of Bangladesh.

Key words: Money Supply, Interest Rate,

Introduction

The relationship between the money supply and interest rates stands as one of the fundamental pillars of modern financial theory. This intricate interplay between the quantity of money circulating within an economy and the prevailing interest rates exerts a profound influence on a wide range of economic phenomena, from investment decisions to inflation management. Bui and Kiss[1] (2021) stated that understanding this relationship is pivotal for policymakers, investors, and economists alike, as it provides critical insights into the functioning of financial markets and the broader macroeconomic landscape.

Economic theories present two apparently conflicting perspectives on the relationship between money supply and interest rates. The first perspective, arising from the money market (the interaction between money supply and money demand), asserts a negative correlation between money and interest rates. According to this viewpoint, the demand for money depends on the

nominal interest rate because the interest rate represents the cost of holding money. Consequently, a reduction in the money supply would lead to an increase in interest rates to maintain equilibrium in the money market. In contrast, the Fisher[2] equation posits a positive correlation, indicating that rising interest rates necessitate an increase in the money supply growth rate.

Moreover, Milton Friedman[3] is a renowned American economist and one of the leading figures in the field of monetary economics during the 20th century. His theory on the money supply, often referred to as the "Quantity Theory of Money," has had a significant influence on economic thought and policy. Friedman believed that changes in the money supply have a significant impact on nominal variables like interest rates. In his view, an increase in the money supply, all else being equal, leads to lower nominal interest rates, while a decrease in the money supply leads to higher nominal interest rates. This relationship stems from the equation of exchange ($M * V = P * T$), where M represents the money supply, and V represents the velocity of money.

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However, Friedman makes a distinction between the short run and the long run. In the short run, changes in the money supply can have real effects on output and employment, aligning with the Keynesian view. However, in the long run, he believes that monetary changes primarily affect nominal variables, such as prices and interest rates, while having minimal impact on real variables like real GDP and employment. This concept aligns with his notion of "monetary neutrality" in the long run.

Friedman also argues that inflation is primarily a monetary phenomenon. He believes that sustained inflation can only occur if the money supply grows faster than the real output of goods and services. Consequently, to control inflation, Friedman recommends that central banks should target a stable and predictable rate of growth in the money supply.

In this paper, we aim to assess the relationship between money supply and interest rates in the context of our country. The rest of the paper is structured as follows. The next section discusses the literature review. Section 3 provides a brief description of the empirical model and econometric methodology, and section 4 presents the data and the estimated results of the study. Section 5 concludes the study with some policy implications for Bangladesh.

Literature Review

The determinants of money supply have always been a subject of interest for macroeconomists worldwide. However, this area in Bangladesh is still relatively unexplored. Since interest rates impact money supply through money demand, we also explored literature related to money demand. Notably, some of these studies, such as those conducted by Ahmed[4] (1977) and Murty and Murty[5] (1978), consider the nominal interest rate as the opportunity cost of holding money.

Using quarterly data from Bangladesh, Hossain and Younus[6] (2009) examined the sensitivity of money demand to interest rates. Their conclusion is supported by both Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) and Dynamic Ordinary Least Squares (DOLS) methodologies. Furthermore, their findings suggest that their estimated money demand model demonstrates stability.

However, Taslim[7] (1984) criticizes the inclusion of the interest rate variable as an opportunity cost for holding money. He argues that institutionally determined rates are typically set below the expected inflation rate, resulting in negative real interest rates. He also suggests that expected inflation is a good enough measure for the opportunity cost of money; the nominal interest rate would not reflect the opportunity cost of holding money. Aid and Benelbar[8] (2023) found a positive association between money supply and the exchange rate in Algeria.

We understand that the ultimate effect of changes in the money supply on nominal interest rates can be positive or negative: liquidity and credit effects exert downward pressure on the rate, while higher inflationary expectations work in a positive direction. Using a vector auto regression (VAR) approach and Granger causality statistics, Yunana[9] et al. (2014) examine the effects of money supply on interest rates in a market-based monetary regime and the bilateral relationships between these variables in Nigeria. The results of their study confirm that the effect of money supply on interest rates is negative, while fiscal deficits are found to have a positive association with interest rates. The Granger causality statistics reveal a bilateral relationship between money supply and interest rates.

Blejer's[10] (1978) research on Argentina highlights the dominance of the expectations effect, emphasizing that any degree of monetary disequilibrium significantly impacts nominal interest rates.

Hossain[11] (2010) delves into the appropriateness of monetary targeting as a policy strategy for Bangladesh. Employing annual data spanning from 1973 to 2008, Hossain examines the causal relationship between money supply and inflation using cointegration techniques alongside variables such as broad money, GDP, time deposit interest rates, US T-bill rates, and NEER.

Furthermore, Jaradat[12] et al. (2014) investigate the relationship between interest rates and inflation in Jordan's economy. Their methodology includes testing the impacts of inflation, economic growth, money supply, and budget deficits on interest rates. Subsequently, they explore the causal link between interest rates and inflation through multiple regression, cointegration, and causality tests. Their empirical findings unveil a positive relationship between inflation and interest rates and identify a bidirectional causal relationship between these two pivotal variables.

In this study, I aim to explore the relationship between money supply and interest rates using updated data. I expect that this research will add value by enhancing the understanding of the short-run and long-run relationship between money supply and interest rates in Bangladesh.

Models and Methodology
The aim of this paper is to investigate the relation between broad money supply and interest rate. To do this Dornbush and Fischer use the following equation.
$$i = \frac{1}{h}(ky - \frac{M}{P})$$
-----------------------------(1)
Where, i is the interest rate, y is real output, M is money supply, p is price level and are constants.
In this study I use as
$$dp = \beta_0 + \beta_1 lgdp + \beta_2 lm2 + \beta_3 cpi + \varepsilon i$$
-----------------------------(2)

Where, dp= deposit interest rate (dp) offered by commercial or similar banks for demand, time, or savings deposits, lgdp= log of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at local currency unit, lm2=log of Broad Money Supply (M2) at local currency unit, cpi=Consumer Price Index (CPI) and εi=error term.
However, in time series econometrics regression analysis cannot be done without stationarity checking. If these variables are combination of integrated of order one and zero, I can use Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model for analysis. The ARDL model is a versatile modeling approach based on Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression, suitable for analyzing both non-stationary time series data and time series with a mixed order of integration

Data and Estimation
i) Source of Data
The variables Broad Money (M2), GDP, Interest Rate and Consumer Price Index are collected from World Bank website[13].

Figure 1: Time series Plot
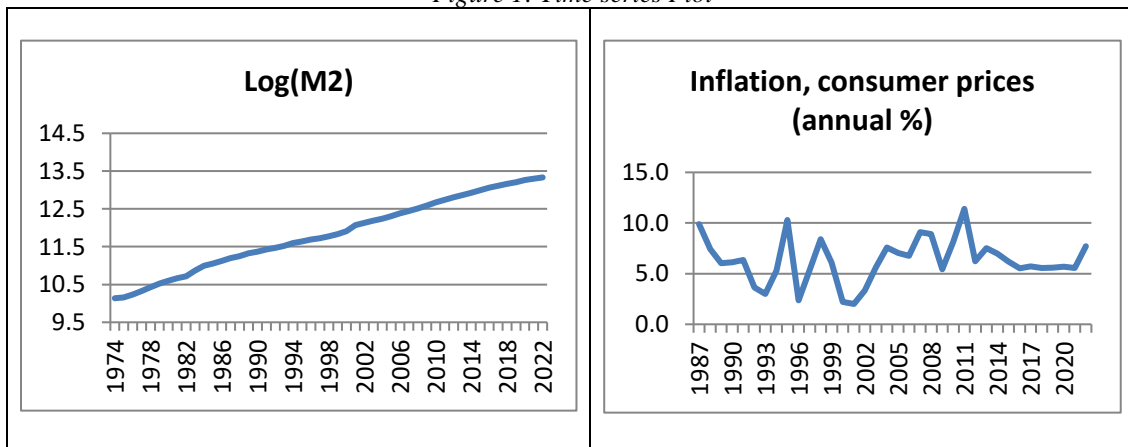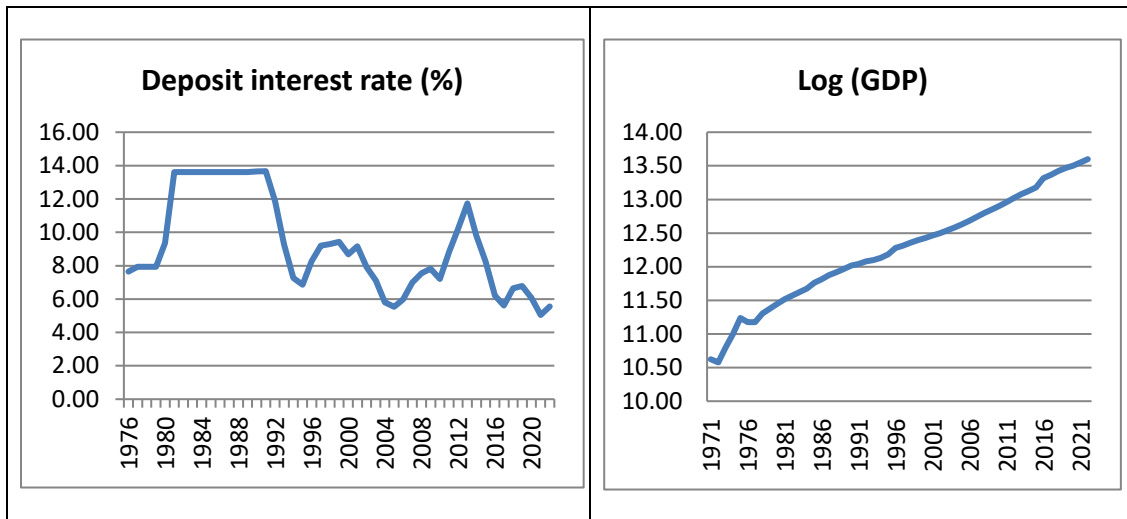
Source: World Bank Website

ii) Unit Root Test

The Augmented Dickey-Fuller[14] (ADF) test is a statistical test used in time series analysis to determine whether a given time series data set is stationary or non-stationary. It is also an essential tool in time series analysis for model selection.

According to the ADF test, dp and lm2 have unit roots at level and stationary at first difference. However, CPI and lgdp are stationary variable. As the dataset consists of variables with different orders of integration, ARDL can handle this situation.

iii) Lag selection

The lag order determines how many past observations of a variable should be included in the model to effectively capture its temporal dependencies. There are various lag order selection criteria, such as the Akaike Information Criterion[15] (AIC) (Akaike 1973, 1974), the Schwarz Bayesian Criterion (SBC) (Schwarz, 1988), and the Hannan-Quinn Criterion (HQC) (Hannan-Quin, 1979). Selecting the right lag order requires a combination of statistical techniques and domain knowledge. Considering all of these factors, in this analysis, I use up to 2 lags for dp, 4 lags for lgdp, and 1 lag for CPI and lm2.

## iv) Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model

From our result (reported in appendix) I can see that deposit rate and money supply are positively associated in the short run and the coefficient is statistically significant. From the F statistic I can conclude that the model is jointly significant. The value of R squared and adjusted R squared is 91.6% and 89.0% respectively. Therefore we can conclude that the model is well explained.

v) Bound test

The ARDL (Autoregressive Distributed Lag) bound test is a statistical method used in econometrics to test for the presence of a long-run relationship between two or more time series variables. From the bound test result it can be concluded that there exists a significant positive long term relationship between money supply and interest rate.

Conclusion

In this study, the relationship between money supply and interest rates is investigated using annual data of Bangladesh. The findings of the analysis indicate a positive long-term association between money supply and interest rates. However, using quarterly or monthly data may reveal more information though historical data is unavailable for GDP. This outcome holds significant policy implications for our nation. Before implementing any expansionary measures, like seigniorage, it is imperative for the central bank to thoroughly evaluate their long-term effects on interest rates.

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Appendix

• Regression Output

```
· ARDL(2,4,1,1) regression

  Sample:      1988 -     2022                      Number of obs   =         35
                                                    F( 11,    23)   =      26.76
                                                    Prob > F        =     0.0000
                                                    R-squared       =     0.9275
                                                    Adj R-squared   =     0.8929
  Log likelihood = -35.558921                       Root MSE        =     0.8244


  ------------------------------------------------------------------------------
  depositinterestrate |    Coef.   Std. Err.      t    P>|t|     [95% Conf. Interval]
  --------------------+---------------------------------------------------------
· depositinterestrate |
               L1. |   1.242277   .1614625     7.69   0.000     .9082665    1.576288
               L2. |  -.4762823   .1472931    -3.23   0.004    -.7809812   -.1715833
                   |
             loggdp |
               --. |   4.020057   8.204465     0.49   0.629    -12.95217    20.99229
               L1. |   12.25806   10.26608     1.19   0.245    -8.978948    33.49507
               L2. |  -6.015869   10.01661    -0.60   0.554     -26.7368    14.70506
               L3. |  -10.32612   10.17868    -1.01   0.321    -31.38232    10.73007
               L4. |   5.820841     8.3809     0.69   0.494    -11.51637    23.15805
                   |
              logm2 |
               --. |   13.62972   7.586934     1.80   0.086    -2.065052    29.32448
               L1. |  -18.72399   9.088944    -2.06   0.051     -37.5259     .077923
                   |
              var21 |
               --. |   .1609927   .0873797     1.84   0.078     -.019766    .3417515
               L1. |   .1353269   .0791839     1.71   0.101    -.0284775    .2991313
                   |
             _cons |  -11.81791   13.77532    -0.86   0.400    -40.31433    16.67851
  ------------------------------------------------------------------------------
```

- Bound Test

```
Pesaran, Shin, and Smith (2001) bounds test

H0: no level relationship                                    F =     5.003
Case 3                                                       t =    -2.869

Finite sample (3 variables, 35 observations, 7 short-run coefficients)

Kripfganz and Schneider (2020) critical values and approximate p-values

    | 10%              | 5%               | 1%               | p-value
    |   I(0)     I(1)  |   I(0)     I(1)  |   I(0)     I(1)  |   I(0)     I(1)
---+------------------+------------------+------------------+-----------------
F |   2.895   4.215  |   3.579   5.106  |   5.263   7.282  |   0.013   0.054
t |  -2.504  -3.413  |  -2.877  -3.841  |  -3.649  -4.720  |   0.051   0.214

do not reject H0 if
    either F or t are closer to zero than critical values for I(0) variables
      (if either p-value  > desired level for I(0) variables)
reject H0 if
    both F and t are more extreme than critical values for I(1) variables
      (if both   p-values < desired level for I(1) variables)

decision: no rejection (.a), inconclusive (.), or rejection (.r) at levels:

              |      10%         5%          1%
--------------+---------------------------------
    decision |       .          .a          .a
```

Sociological Perspectives of Social Media, Expression, and Opinions: An Empirical Evidence

Tanjila Shabnam[1], Suraiya Akter[2]

Abstract: This study examines the association between social media and new styles in the expression of opinion among students at Dhaka International University. Data were collected from 100 students from four departments of the university using a structured questionnaire. The study found that social media has become increasingly popular among students because it allows them to express their opinions freely and quickly. The study also explored the negative aspects and potential benefits of social media use. On the negative side, the study found that social media can contribute to the flourishing of foreign cultures among students, which can lead to new styles in expression of opinion that may be at odds with traditional values. On the positive side, the study found that social media can be used to attain knowledge, promote education, and facilitate social movements.

Keywords: Social-media, quantitative method, potential benefits, cognitive development

Introduction

The developed world, including Bangladesh, has recognized the significance of social media as a crucial communication channel. Without a shadow of a question, social media has become an indispensable component of the lives of the vast majority of people, particularly the younger generations. In point of fact, people use social media not just for communication but also for a variety of other reasons in today's world; nonetheless, the primary reason people use social media is to express their opinions (Kramer, 2011).

The rise of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Messenger, Imo, WhatsApp, and YouTube, amongst others, has resulted in the emergence of a novel mode of opinion expression that did not exist in earlier eras. This study was conducted on 100 students in some selected departments of Dhaka International University which all of them use social media more than one type and have availability of internet connection. Most of them use it for more than 3 hours. All of them have a Facebook account (Amedie, 2015).

Watching mainstream media, one would get the feeling that the public has accepted the idea that social media has an effect on people's beliefs and actions. Additionally, there is a wealth of marketing and

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behavioral literature that has thus far concentrated on retrospectively analyzing data regarding social media's impact on consumers' purchasing decisions (Baird & Parasnis, 2011; Lee & Oh, 2017).

The eight sections of this study are as following introduction, the Sociological significance of the study and objectives of the paper are discussed in the second and third section respectively, while the objectives is presented in the fourth. The following sections provide a systematic breakdown of the study's Background of the Study, background of the study, methodology, results and discussion, discussion of the Findings, and final thoughts.

Sociological significance of the study

The study of social media and new style in expression of opinion is one of the most important areas of interest in sociological research. Sociological research extensively deals with the lifestyle of people, new style of expression of opinion, freedom of speech. This new style of expression is influenced by globalization, urbanization, modernization liberalization, westernization, commercialization, corporatization and marketization, industrialization. These kind of globalization, urbanization, modernization liberalization, westernization, commercialization, corporatization and marketization, industrialization are spreading and disseminating through social media. Foreign culture (Indian serial, Hindi serial, movie) plays role in making new style in expression of opinion. These all are the major discussion of sociology which have been discussed in this study.

The phenomena of social media are one of great significance. It is mostly related to Globalization and technology. Sociology of Globalization which major aspect is social media because globalization is disseminated through social media is a distinct discipline in sociology.

Socio economic status including culture, economy, power, lifestyle, educational background and other aspects such as social movement, crime, depression also cover a vast area of sociology which also have been discussed here. Inequality, discrimination based on access to social media are also key point in sociology.

Beside these, this study has been conducted by using various sociological perspectives including functionalism Conflict, globalization, modernization, dependency theories of social media.

Objectives of the Study

Some major objectives of the study are:

- To investigate the nature of social media.
- To explore the way of expression of students through social media.
- To find out the impact of this new style of expression of opinion on students.

Background of the Study

Social media are one of the most important inventions of 21th century. It is abundantly clear that the significance of social media in our everyday lives is growing at an exponential rate, and it is even capable of serving as a driving force behind global movements. Unavoidably, it will have an influence on people as individuals, particularly students. 21th century is moving ahead with tremendous technological upgrading and innovative things, where people were unable to talk, meet and see in far areas.

Social networking sites are online internet based social media where people can communicate with each other and express their opinion they want. Social media are Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Twitter, LinkedIn, Snapchat, Messenger, Skype etc. which sties help students to share information, like the updates, comment on status or updates, online discussion and chatting for expressing their opinion that was not available in previous time and period when these social were not invented. In Bangladesh

there is increasing trend of using Facebook, people from rural areas to highly profiled people share the same social network and can express their opinion easily and raise their voice through social media. The speed of internet has changed the way people receive the information. Many people who have access to the Internet at school, home and at work place use the Internet for the purpose of recreation, r doing research or education, sending and receiving mail etc. All are the part of expression of opinion. Social media now creates a new style in expression of expression as these media are not seen before and this new style of expression of opinion was not possible. People especially students can easily express and share their thought and idea through social media.

Through social media, individuals can utilize connections of online friends and group membership to stay in touch with current friends, reconnect with past friends, or create real-life friendships based on shared interests or membership in groups.

By joining groups and forums, members of social media can share their interests with other users who share the same passions, in addition to establishing essential social relationships. Personalizing their profile page to reflect their individuality allows members to convey themselves with ease. Evidently, the significance of social media in our daily lives is growing exponentially, and social media can even lead global movements. It will undoubtedly have an effect on individuals, particularly students. The video section of YouTube also helps to express their opinion that is now a new style of expression of opinion through social media.

These impacts specially on the students is significant. This new style in expression of opinion is also influenced by foreign culture that are disseminated through social media widely especially in Bangladesh and affect the students very significantly.

Literature Review
A literature review is an integral and indispensable element of the research process. The evaluation of the literature enables the scholar to formulate the problem in terms of particular elements of the broader field of study. It allowed us to become acquainted with the topic and methodology of the research. Researchers conduct a literature review based on their particular areas of interest. They organize the literature review according to their research methodology. Here, in this study the intended to organize my literatures according to the issues raised in the literatures.

SJ (2020) investigated young online perceptions. The investigation found three themes. Start vowless-exciting and growing, freedom, power, and connection. Third, virtual partnerships explore self and identities. Youth who use the internet multitask, he found. They played games, hosted conversations, made magazines, designed their website, researched, acted politically, and communicated with pals. All these online activities excite and deepen relationships. Online, teens felt calm and liberated. Online space connected them and allowed them to share interests with peers. Personal space assist's identity search. She said young people found a home in social media because they could express themselves differently. The survey found teen answers differed online and in person. On the ground, they assumed they lied. They could speak freely online. Internet exposed digital life's many truths. No one considers the digital self-fixed. Digital identities developed and emerged.

Lee (2014) examined a study links Facebook use to demonstrations. In another route study, Facebook does not affect protest participation. Facebook promoted political expression and news consumption, fueling protests. After accidental Facebook news exposure, political viewpoints were not posted. Cheap smartphones and tablets enable online communication. Many communicate via social media. Celebraters are happy. When angry or excited, they post on social media. Young people post online. It accommodates individual and generational demands modestly. Knowledge sharing on social media is great, but not for meaningful relationships. Teens communicate on social media. Young adults use Facebook, Myspace, WhatsApp, etc. Many uses rely on age and experience. Younger users prioritize

tastes, interests, and personal preferences, whereas older users prioritize friends and social group messages. Social media enable chatter. College students communicate with old and new peers their age, academic interests, and vocations on social media. It goes beyond linking them online to discuss, debate, publish photos and videos, and do online banking and commerce.

Van Dijck (2013) found social media allowed self-expression, representation, and marketing, according to. Online users utilize social media for several objectives and have changed their presentation techniques as platforms have evolved. Social media platforms like Facebook were initially used for self-expression and friendship. Users learned the skill of online self-presentation and the value of social media for self-promotion. Social media like Facebook and LinkedIn have elevated 'mass self-communication' They influenced users to reveal personal information knowingly and unconsciously. They require several self-stories about different aspects of their identities for a limited audience. The new Facebook layout carefully integrates self-expression and self-communication into one interface.

Shafie & Osman (2012) examined how Malaysian university students used Facebook profiles, photos, nicknames, and languages to create online identities. The study found that social media gave users plenty of possibilities to build their online persona through profile photographs and nicknames that matched peer perception. The study revealed that boys were more comfortable using their personal identities online because they were comfortable presenting themselves. Girls loved catchy, innovative, and appealing names. These innovative names were seen as more entertaining because they change online and offline personas.

Mesch (2009) explored the phenomenon of Internet culture, which encompasses the analysis of various aspects such as consumption patterns, content production, online communication, social interaction, expression, and identity formation. This study aims to understand how these activities are established and maintained within the digital social space, and emphasizes that Internet culture can be considered as a distinct social realm. This literature review compiles findings from several studies that have explored the effects of allowing users a safe online environment in which to express themselves freely.

Siibak (2009) examined how young people use social media photos to define themselves. Young folks used social media to make friends and gain approval. They were compelled by friends with social media profiles or by a desire to make new friends and possibly date. This study found that young individuals carefully choose photographs for their social media pages. The survey found that young people failed to make a good impression on a broad audience. However, we could only treat positive perceptions by assuming what others anticipate from us. They chose photographs from an adult's perspective to improve their self-image. The images they chose showed crucial moments in their lives, their personalities, or photos with important people to create an ideal self.

Mazalin & Moore (2004) examined the association between internet use and wellness factors such social relationship-identity and social anxiety in young adults, which are crucial for their development. Increased internet use has been associated to decreased social network and familial communication, as well as depression and loneliness. Loneliness is the subjective feeling of emptiness caused by the absence of close relationships. Due to excessive online activity, people are physically isolated from their friends, causing a loss of intimacy. Social worries, identity status, and internet use are linked, with men using the internet more than women. Internet use was connected to higher social anxiety and less mature identity statuses among men. Internet use and social anxiety in women were not correlated.

McLuhan (1964) explored the cultural impact of media events. McLuhan sees media as an extension of the body, like a telescope and camera for sight. Tech changes how we perceive and communicate, but also who we are. Preliterate people used their senses...mainly hearing. Readers interacted with books and reality. Unliterate people are assaulted with cultural expressions in random sequence. Myths, images, and symbols evoke these sentiments. Read words, literati experience culture. Words must be

linked rationally and cannot replace real objects. Literati culture may die. Electronic media change the world, claims McLuhan. Future 'post literate' era. TV diminishes literacy. Eyes and ears are needed. Viewers must actively engage with its non-sequential, illogical impressions. The characters—real people from around the world—engage TV viewers. Televisions, phones, and tape recorders link people globally. Myths and symbols trumped logic and rigorous thinking in post-literate humans.

Methodology of the Study

Sampling, Study Area and Data Collection

A quantitative approach was followed in this study to collect primary data. Surveys are the main tool for data collection. This study covers the four (4) departments of Dhaka International University. Data were collected from 100 respondents (students). The target groups for primary sources of information are the students of Dhaka International University's four departments as a purposive sample. All the students use multiple types of social media; this sample consists of both undergraduate and graduate and postgraduate students living in those departments of Dhaka International University. The sample size was 100 respondents. Then, using random sampling, select students. For collecting data, a standardized questionnaire consisting of both open-ended and closed-ended questions were used. The data collecting period spanned from June 2023 to July 2023.

Table 1: Sampling Design of the Study

Name of Departments	Number
Dept. of Sociology	25
Dept. of English	25
Dept. of Civil	25
Dept. of Pharmacy	25

Source: Field Survey 2023

Results and Discussion
Demographic profile of the respondents

This study covers four departments at Dhaka International University. All students use multiple types of social media; this sample consists of both undergraduate and graduate and postgraduate students living in those departments of Dhaka International University. The sample size was 100 people from the Sociology, English, Civil, and Pharmacy departments. The majority of respondents were between the ages of 21 and 23. By the table 2 the demographic profile of the students is given below:

Table 2: Demographic profile of the respondents

Categories	Sub categories	Respondents		Total
Age of the respondents	18-20 years	3		100
	2 1-23 years	84		
	24-26 years	13		
Sex	Male	50		100
	Female	50		
Departments	Dept. of Sociology	25	50	100
	Dept. of English	25		

	Dept. of Pharmacy	25	50	
	Dept. of Civil	25		
Educational status	Under graduate	72		100
	Graduate	28		
Current cgpa	Below 3.00	1		100
	3.00-3.24	36		
	3.25-3.49	49		
	3.50-3.75	14		
User of social media	Male	50		100
	Female	50		

Source: Field Survey 2023
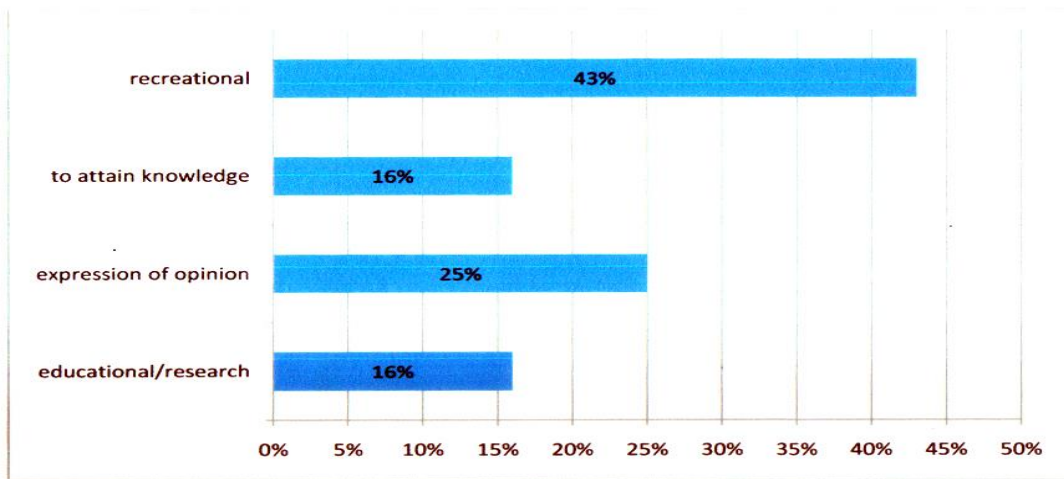
Purpose of using social media most

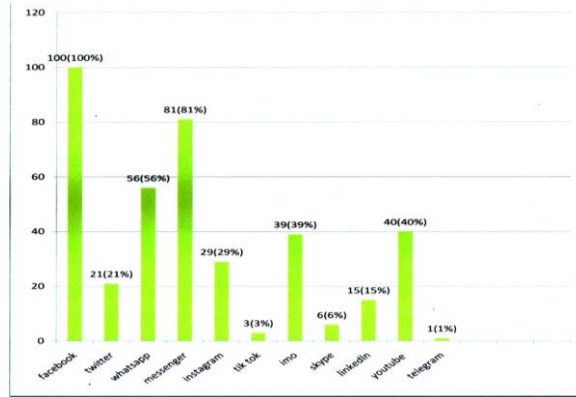**Figure 1:** Purpose of using social media most

Source: Field Survey 2023

The findings indicate that 43% of individuals employ social media platforms for recreational purposes, while 16% utilize them to acquire knowledge. Additionally, 25% of users employ social media as a means to express their opinions, and another 16% employ it for educational or research-related objectives.

Recreation emerges as the predominant purpose for students' utilization of social media platforms. This phenomenon can be attributed to the availability of several recreational opportunities on social media platforms, including video consumption, gaming, and socializing with acquaintances and relatives.

The findings indicate that students employ social media platforms in diverse manners, encompassing both advantageous and detrimental aspects. It is imperative for educators and parents to possess an understanding of the diverse methods through which children engage with social media platforms, and to actively facilitate their utilization in a manner that prioritizes safety and responsibility.

**Type of using social media among respondents**

Figure 2: Type of using social media among respondents

Source: Field Survey 2023

A recent survey of students found that all of the respondents used more than one social media platform at a time. The most popular platform was Facebook, which was used by 100% of the respondents. Other popular platforms included WhatsApp (56%), Messenger (81%), Instagram (29%), and YouTube (40%).

This study also found that a significant number of students were using social media for educational and professional purposes. For example, 15% of the respondents used LinkedIn, which is a platform for professional networking. This suggests that students are becoming more aware of the potential benefits of using social media for their careers.

Respondents spending time on social media (Daily)
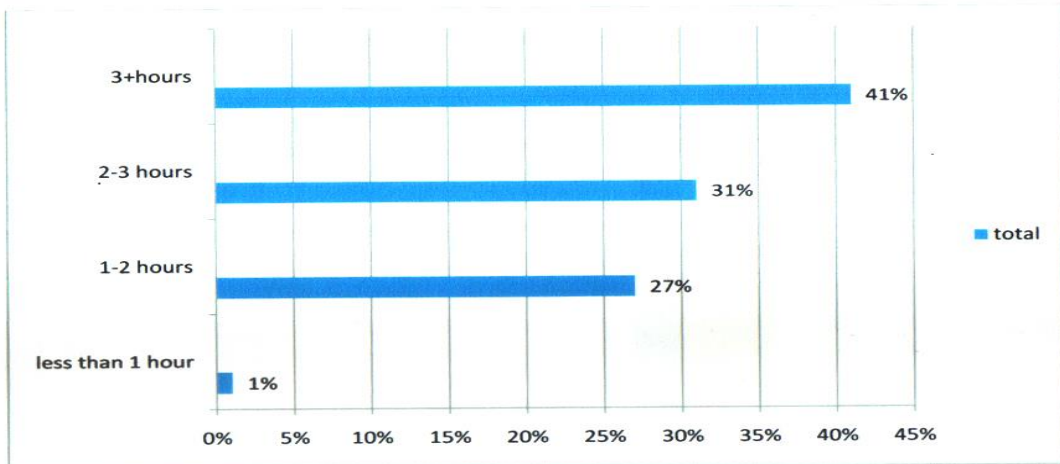
Figure 3: Respondents spending time on social media (Daily)

This study found that 41% of internet users spend more than three hours per day online. This is a considerable quantity of time, which raises the question of whether or not students spend too much time online.

Utilizing the Internet has a variety of potential advantages. Students can, for instance, use the internet to access educational resources, collaborate with peers on assignments, and gain knowledge of current events. Internet addiction, cyberbullying, and online predators are a few of the potential dangers associated with excessive Internet use.

Opinion on social media working as a new style in expression

Table 3: Opinion on social media working as a new style in expression

Categories	Number	Percentage
Yes	75	75
No	1	1
Maybe	24	24
Total	100	100

The data from the table above reveals that 75 percent of students agree that social media represents a new way of expressing one's opinions, while only 1 percent of students disagree.

Expressing opinion through social

Table 4: Expressing opinion through social

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	50	50
No	10	10
Sometimes	40	40
Total	100	100

Table 4 shows that, of the 100 respondents, 50 (50%) express their opinions through social media, 10 (10%) do not express their opinions through social media, and 40 (40%) sometimes express their opinions through social media.

This suggests that a majority of respondents use social media to express their opinions. It is also worth noting that a significant number of respondents sometimes express their opinions through social media, which suggests that they may be hesitant to do so all the time.

There are a number of reasons why people might choose to express their opinions through social media. For example, social media can provide a platform for people to share their thoughts and ideas with a large audience, and it can also connect people with others who share their views. Nevertheless, it is crucial to acknowledge that social media platforms can serve as fertile grounds for the dissemination of false information and the propagation of hate speech. Therefore, it is imperative to exercise discernment and scepticism while engaging with content encountered on social media.

Type of opinion that respondents wanted to express in social

<div align="center">

Table 5: Type of opinion expressing in social

</div>

| What type of opinion do you express through social media?	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
	Political	12	13.5
	Educational	16	18
	Societal	21	23.6
	Recreational	22	24.7
	Ideological	18	20.2
	Total	89	100

<div align="center">

Source: Field Survey 2023

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In this study of 89 respondents found that the most common types of opinions expressed on social media are recreational (24.7%), societal (23.6%), ideological (20.2%), political (13.5%), and educational (18%).

Recreational opinions are those that are shared for entertainment or amusement, such as opinions about movies, TV shows, music, and sports. Societal opinions are those that are about social and political issues, such as opinions about climate change, racial justice, and gender equality. Ideological opinions are those that are about personal beliefs and values, such as opinions about religion, morality, and philosophy. Political opinions are those that are about government and politics, such as opinions about candidates and policies. Educational opinions are those that are about teaching and learning, such as opinions about schools and curricula.

These results suggest that social media is a platform for a wide range of different types of opinions. This is both a positive and a negative thing. On the one hand, it is positive that people have a platform to share their opinions and to connect with others who share their views. On the other hand, it is negative that social media can also be used to spread misinformation and hate speech.

Believe the news spread through social media

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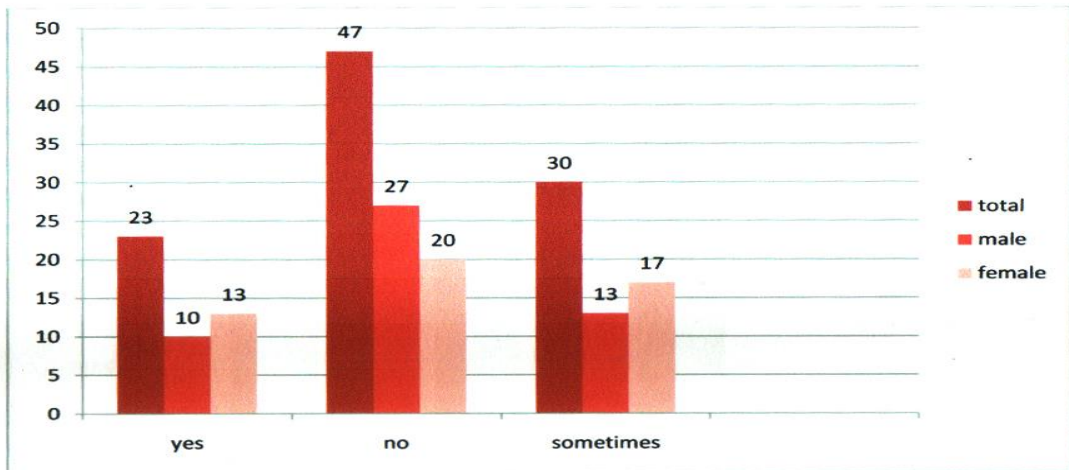
Figure 4: Believe the news spread through social media

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Source: Field Survey 2023

The graphic shows interesting student views on social media content. It shows that 23% of pupils trust anything they see online. We find a gender-based nuance in this group: 10% of male and 13% of female students.

Conversely, 47% of respondents are distrustful of social media content. A closer look shows that 27% of male students and 20% of female students are doubtful.

Most noteworthy is the 30% of respondents who say they trust social media content conditionally. This category includes 20% of male and 23% of female students who occasionally believe these outlets' content.

These findings illuminate how students traverse social media's immense sea of information by revealing the intricate relationship between trust, skepticism, and gender in the digital era.

Language usually used for expressing opinions through social media
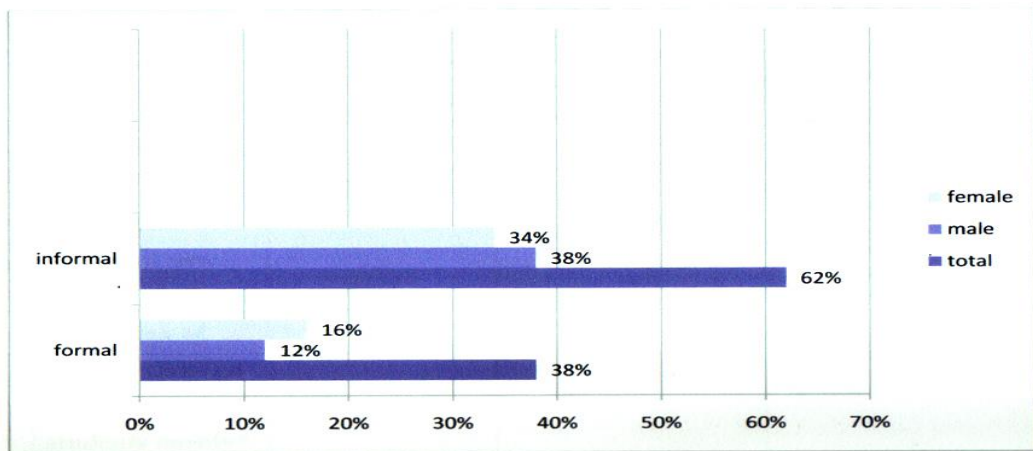
Figure 5: Language usually used for expressing opinions through social media

Source: Field Survey 2023

Above chart shows that 62 % students use informal language for expressing opinion in social media of which 38% are male and 34% are female students, 38% of respondents use formal language of which 12% are male and 16% are female students.

Effect of social media on the respondents

Table 6: Effect of social media on the respondents

How does the new way of expressing opinions that is made possible by social media effect students in particular?	Category	Frequency	Percentage
	Positive	58	58
	Negative	42	42
	Total	N=100	=100

Source: Field Survey 2023

The table shows that 58% answered social media positively affected the students and 42% answered it negatively affected the students mostly.

Social media expression of opinion enables the students to increase their knowledge

Table 7: opinion enables the students to increase their knowledge

Is it possible for the respondents to get more information by using this novel method of expressing their opinions?	Category	Frequency	Percentage
	Yes	51	51
	No	8	8
	May be	41	41%
	Total	100	100

The above table shows that 51% of respondents think this new style of expression of opinion through social media enables the students to increase their knowledge; 8% do not think that; and 41% think it may enable the students to increase their knowledge.

Role of social media on social movement

Table 8: Role of social media on social movement

Do social media play important role in social movement?	Categories	Frequency	Percentage (%)
	Yes	79	79
	No	0	0
	Maybe	21	21
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey 2023

In that study found that 79% believe that the new style of expression of opinion through social media plays a vital role in social movements. No respondent disagreed with this statement, and 21% were unsure.

This study showed that there is a strong consensus among respondents about the importance of social media in social movements. Social media can be used to raise awareness of important issues, to mobilize people for action, and to build communities of support.

Here are some specific examples of how social media has been used to support social movements:

- The upheavals of the Arab Spring in 2011 were predominantly orchestrated and synchronized via social media platforms (Noueihed & Warren, 2012).
- The Black Lives Matter movement has effectively utilized social media platforms as a means to generate public consciousness on instances of police brutality and racial inequity (Lindsey, 2015).
- The #MeToo campaign has utilized social media platforms as a means to amplify the voices of individuals who have experienced sexual assault (Tuttle, 2020).

Social media possesses considerable potential as a tool for amplifying the voices of underrepresented communities and contesting prevailing norms and values. Social media has emerged as a crucial instrument for social movements, and its influence is anticipated to persist as a prominent catalyst for societal transformation in the foreseeable future.

Foreign culture creating new style of expression of opinion

Table 9: Foreign culture creating new style of expression of opinion

Do you think foreign culture (Indian serials, western serials, movies) plays an important role in creating a new style of expression of opinion through social media?	Category	Frequency	Percentage
	Yes	90	90
	No	1	10
	Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey 2023

**Victims of cyberbullying among the respondents**
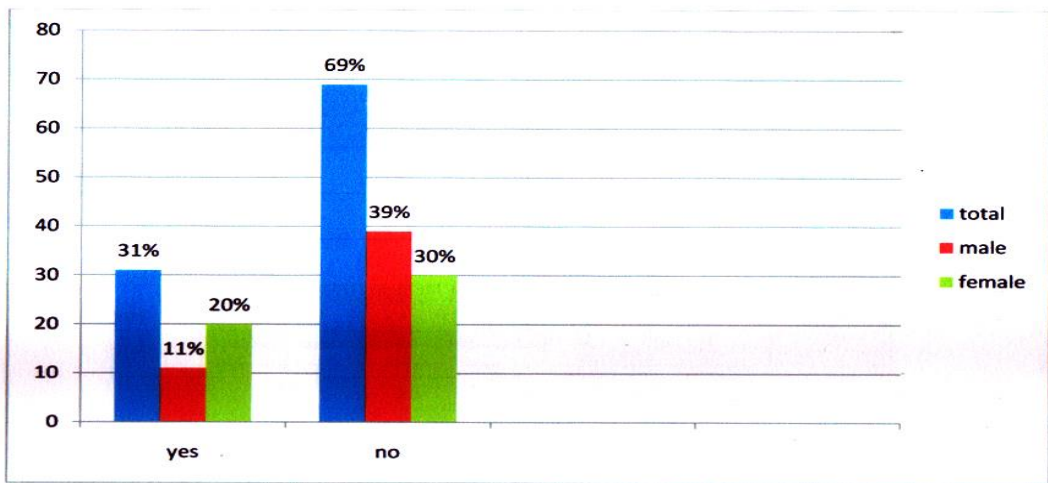
Figure 6: Victims of cyberbullying
Source: Field Survey 2023

Above chart shows that 31% students are the victim of cyber bullying through social media of which 11% are male and 20% are female students, 69% of respondents aren't the victim of cyber bullying of which 39% are male and 30% are female students.

Feel the physical and psychological stress due to social media usage among the students
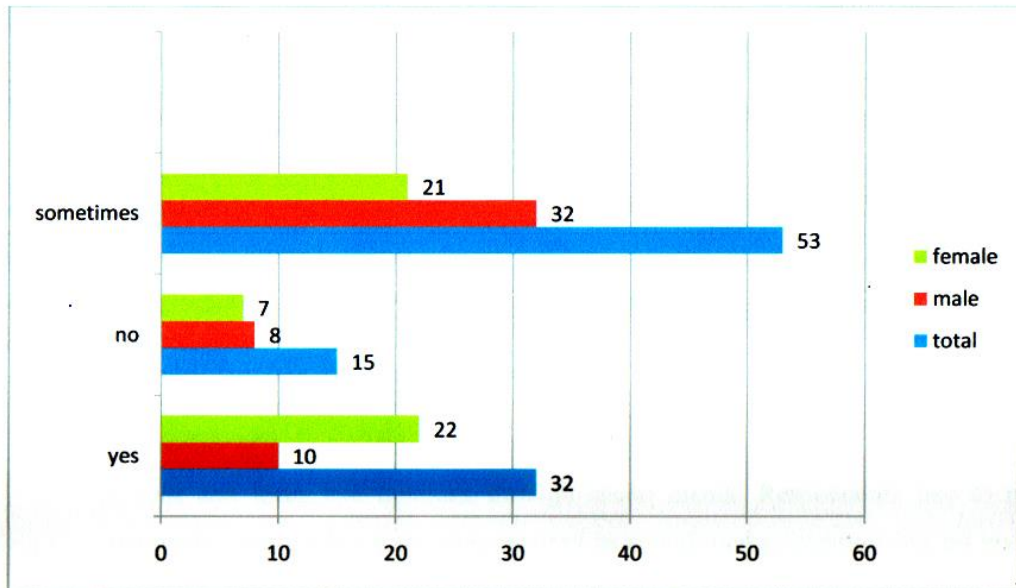
Figure 7: Students physical and mental stress is caused by the use of social media.
Source: Field Survey 2023

According to the findings of this study, a significant proportion of participants, specifically 32%, reported experiencing a considerable degree of physical and psychological stress as a result of their engagement with social media. Further analysis revealed that this stress level was reported by 22% of female participants and 10% of male participants. A total of 7% of the participants reported not experiencing this particular degree of stress, with 8% of male participants and 7% of female participants belonging to this subgroup. The remaining 53% of participants occasionally experience a significant degree of stress as a result of their engagement with social media, with 32% of male participants and 21% of female participants experiencing such stress levels.

The results of this study indicate that the utilization of social media platforms can exert a notable adverse influence on the levels of stress experienced by students, with a specific emphasis on female students.

Discussion of the Findings

Social media include online platforms and software programs specifically created to facilitate the rapid, efficient, and instantaneous sharing of digital content among individuals.

All respondents have the availability of internet connection and all use different kinds of social media for expressing different kinds of opinion such as educational, political, societal etc. All of the respondents use Facebook especially for the purpose of expressing opinion through social media. Some Impact of social media and new style in expression of opinion:

Positive Impact:
- Social media contribute significantly to education.58% of respondents believe social media and new forms of expression have a positive impact on education. Social media can provide

students with access to a wealth of educational resources, such as articles, videos, and podcasts.
- Social media contribute significantly to social movements
- Social media creates a new form of expression;
- Social media can help students to develop their critical thinking skills by exposing them to different perspectives and viewpoints.
- Social media platforms offer students an opportunity to enhance their communication abilities by serving as a medium for the expression of their thoughts and ideas.

Negative Impact:
- Social media can be addictive and can lead to students spending too much time online.
- Social media platforms can foster cyberbullying, harassment, and other forms of online abuse.
- Social media can expose students to misinformation, hate speech, and other harmful content.
- Social media can be used to spread viruses and malware.

In this study it is also found that, the respondents usually use informal language for expressing their opinion through social media, and the respondent also waste a huge part of time by browsing their social media account.

Conclusion

Social media has become an integral part of the lives of students, and it plays a significant role in their education, collaboration, and professional development. Educational institutions are embracing social media to make group discussions on various topics, to provide support for learning, and to facilitate communication with families. Facebook is the most popular social media platform used by educational institutions.

In addition to its educational benefits, social media can also be used for business, reading global journals, and getting the latest news and information. However, social media also has a number of detrimental effects, such as cyberbullying, data theft, viruses, and cybercrime. One of the most dangerous aspects of social media is that people can claim to be someone they are not, which can be deceptive and harmful. Social media can be a valuable tool for students, but it is important to use it responsibly.

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Patterns and Determinants of Community Participation in Community Clinics in Rural Bangladesh

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Abstract: This paper aims to assess the patterns, determinants and magnitude of local peoples' involvement in community clinics (CCs) in rural Bangladesh. We endeavor to show how these clinics function in rural settings, taking account of local socio-economic and political contexts, and additionally to explore how community members perceive their participation in the clinics' activities. To this end, an ethnographic approach has been used as a methodology. Drawing on ethnographic data from rural settings, we argue that rural healthcare provision may be usefully examined in light of a community-based approach. The findings indicate that CCs have played a crucial role in providing primary healthcare among rural women, poor and marginalized people; however, the utilization of the existing healthcare services is still low compared to the target set in the policy. The extent of local's engagement in clinics is determined by different contextual factors, including social stratification, power dynamics, and the possession of social and cultural capitals. Although there has been an observed rise in the extent of community engagement, it has not yet reached the expected level. Sociocultural dynamics, political and economic factors, and a lack of awareness among locals are the key barriers in this regard. More specifically, both structural arrangements and cultural factors within the local community determine the success of CC programs. The effectiveness and sustainability of CCs are believed by local people to be greatly enhanced by the implementation of a community-participatory strategy, provided that the goals behind this approach are really adhered to and put into action. Hence, conducting comprehensive research is necessary in order to develop future action plans that may improve the quality, magnitude and level of community engagement in CCs. Aside from its scholarly contribution to public healthcare management, the findings may be useful for policymakers who are involved in the decision-making processes of CCs.

Keywords: Community clinics, community participation, empowerment, rural Bangladesh, SDGs

Introduction

The involvement of people and communities is of utmost importance in the advancement of public health, as it acts as a means of mobilizing efforts and motivating both individuals and communities. Furthermore, it assists individuals in formulating policies and programs that are tailored to address their particular requirements (Chu, 2016). When it comes to interventions, it becomes an important tool for effective changes in individuals' attitudes and behaviors, with the ultimate goal of fostering a

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heightened feeling of responsibility. The Alma Ata Declaration of 1978 emphasized the need of involving local communities in primary healthcare, as highlighted by WHO and UNICEF. Since then, a total of 150 Member States of WHO and the United Nations (UN), including Bangladesh, have made a commitment to enhance the involvement of people in the management of healthcare facilities at the community level. The primary objective was to bring about a transformation in the advancement of healthcare systems with the aim of attaining 'Health For All' by the year 2000.

However, it was discovered in 1998 that Bangladesh was significantly far from the designated goal in terms of health for all (Khan, n.d.). The limited availability and accessibility of primary healthcare facilities to the vast rural population, comprising 75 percent of the national populace, and especially to marginalized, destitute, and vulnerable groups, were the ultimate sufferers in this situation. Within this particular context, the idea of the then government was effectively implemented through a strategic initiative aiming at establishing community clinics in various rural areas across the country, including those that are geographically challenging and isolated. The endeavor was to facilitate the accessibility of primary healthcare services to the rural populace, thereby ensuring their convenience and proximity to such essential provisions (Parvin et al., 2021). So, Community Clinic, the lowest-tier health care facility, started its journey in 1998 with a view to introducing a one-point service outlet for healthcare for the people of rural Bangladesh (Khan, n.d.).

Throughout the course of human history, different strategies have been used to foster collaboration among individuals with the aim of collectively pursuing a shared objective. For example, there is a growing emphasis on promoting development projects that engage people at the grassroot level in order to enhance their long-term viability (Kieya, 2016). Community involvement is characterized by a proactive approach in which the beneficiaries exert influence over the conception and administration of development efforts, rather than just receiving a portion of the project's benefits (Adesida & Okunlola, 2015). The achievement of sustainable development is facilitated by giving users the authority to choose the extent of services, make critical investment and management decisions, and allocate resources to support their chosen actions (Adesida & Okunlola, 2015; Sara & Katz, 1998). The participation in sustainabile initiatives may lead to self-initiated engagement, giving individuals a voice, the opportunity to make choices, and a sense of empowerment (Adesida & Okunlola, 2015; Mansuri & Rao, 2004).

Both Local Agenda 21 and Healthy Cities place significant emphasis on community engagement as a fundamental principle. The inclusion of sustainable development in the aims of the Earth Summit was a significant component of the United Nations' Agenda 21 action plan, aimed at fostering sustainable development throughout the 21st century. Since its establishment in 1992, the implementation of Local Agenda 21 has been accompanied by the promotion of a sharing and bottom-up approach to sustainable development (WHO, 2002). The implementation of Health for All and the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion within respective communities is a responsibility assigned to local governments, as outlined by the "Healthy Cities" project (WHO, 2002). Engagement within the community is seen as an essential aspect shared across individuals (WHO, 2002).

During the 1950s, there was a prevailing perception that community development and community participation were synonymous. Currently, there is a debate about the correlation between the two entities. Consequently, the existing body of literature on this issue may be categorized into three separate schools of thought. According to de Kadt (1982), the first school of thought involves the substitution of community development with a more suitable form of community engagement. Within the realm of academic discourse, it has been observed that the concept of "community development" has undergone a transformation in the second school of thought, whereby it is now referred to as "community involvement". It is worth noting that despite the subtle variation in terminology, these two expressions bear striking resemblance to one another (Sheng,1990:57). Furthermore, community

development is widely recognized as a kind of engagement; nevertheless, its implementation is contingent upon varying and sometimes conflicting viewpoints (Ekong & Sekoya, 1982).

Active participation is a key expectation for those involved in community activities, since it entails taking a direct role in decision-making processes. According to Brown and Wocha (2017), community engagement encompasses the active participation of individuals, families, and groups in decision-making processes, which in turn enables them to cultivate the essential skills and capabilities for enhancing their own well-being as well as that of their fellow community members. According to Theron (2005), there exists a diversity of perspectives about the efficacy of citizen engagement. This is due to the belief that citizen engagement enables individuals to harness their creative potential, effectively allocate resources, exercise decision-making authority, and assume responsibility for matters that effect their lives. Based on all of these, Okafor (2011) came to the conclusion that popular participation is a clear depiction of how the people's involvement works together, pool their efforts, and use their resources to reach the goals they set for themselves.

Hence, according to post-development perspective, community participation approach is essential for promoting health as it empowers local people and reflects their priorities in policy-making and implementing of the project. In pursuit of this objective, the government has established over 13,500 CCs, each catering to a catchment area population of approximately 6,000 individuals (Shah, 2020). A community clinic is a small healthcare facility primarily developed in geographically isolated and underserved regions with the aim of facilitating health education and delivering essential primary healthcare services directly to individuals within the local communities. The participatory aspect of such clinics exemplifies a public-private partnership programme aimed at ensuring that health and healthcare quality align with Sustainable Development Goals 3. Additionally, these clinics seek to empower local people by including them in the processes of designing, implementing, managing, and monitoring community clinics.

Research Objectives and Methodology
The objective of this article is to analyse the patterns and factors that influence community engagement in community clinics located in rural areas of Bangladesh. Specifically,

(a) to explore the patterns of participation of community members in the need assessment, design and planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of community clinic activities;
(b) to identify factors that affect the participation of locals in clinic activities, and
(c) to determine if community participation is effective in sustaining community clinics.

The research was undertaken by the first author of this article as a part of a wider ethnographic study (2020) in two rural community clinics situated in the Rajshahi region of Bangladesh. Chowdhury (1988) emphasized the significance of ethnographic enquiry in a rural context, highlighting its suitability for comprehending the societal and cultural dynamics of rural Bangladesh. This approach facilitates the establishment of a rapport between the ethnographer and the study population, fostering trust and minimizing potential misconceptions pertaining to the objectives of doing fieldwork. The selection of both clinics was purposive, taking into account the specific objectives of the research. This study has used the ethnographic methodology, applying several methods such as participant observation, key informant interviews, case studies, focus group discussions, and document analysis to gather the necessary primary data in order to achieve the research objectives. The combined sample size for the Key Informant Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussions (FGD), and case studies included a total of 52 participants. Furthermore, a comprehensive compilation of secondary data has been acquired from pertinent books, scholarly papers, and reports. The participants were requested to provide their accounts of their participation in different aspects of community clinic operations, including planning, implementation, management and maintenance, monitoring and evaluation, quality

care, fundraising, and decision-making. In addition, the fieldwork included the consistent maintenance of four distinct kinds of notes, namely jottings, field notebooks, a diary and a logbook.

In order to ensure the reliability, validity and trustworthiness of the collected data, different sources have been used and a triangulation procedure has been employed to ascertain the accuracy of the data. In this instance, the data obtained from observations, participant observation, and focus group discussions (FGDs) were analyzed and compared in conjunction with case histories and key informant interviews to provide a comprehensive understanding. The essential data acquired through interviews and observation was supplemented with documents pertaining to particular agency. Following the collection of data, the raw data underwent a coding process that included categorizing them according to the emergent themes. In conducting the data analysis, a thematic and systematic approach was used, and the presentation of the results was done using manual means. The study also prioritized ethical considerations by actively seeking and ensuring the permission, confidentiality, and voluntary participation of the research participants.

Theoretical Framework

The Social-Ecology Model (SEM) serves the theoretical basis for this study. It was established under the umbrella of ecological theory in which SEM makes substantial contributions to describe the many aspects of community involvement in development-related endeavors (Bronfenbrenner, 1979, 1994; Stokols, 1996, as cited in Sulaiman et al., 2014). The foundation of SEM is predicated upon the premise that people must actively participate in their own communities in order to have a comprehensive understanding and perspective on factors that influence their behaviour. Under this theoretical framework, individuals are conceptualized as being nested within a system of networks that has consistently shown growth and expansion. The immediate environmental circumstances that constitute the SEM include human, social, institutional, and policy factors (Stokols, 1996 as cited in Sulaiman et al., 2014). The choice of an individual to accept or deny participation in community clinic management is likely to be impacted by their contacts with the specific context in which they find themselves. Consequently, gaining comprehensive understanding of all possible scenarios inside the system in which individuals are embedded provide substantial insights into the factors that impact engagement within that system (Stokols, 1996 as cited in Sulaiman et al., 2014). Hence, we assert that SEM is a suitable framework for examining individuals' participation in community clinics. When it comes to the actual application of community clinic management, an individual's choice to accept or deny participation is determined by their encounters with the distinct environment. Hence, gaining a thorough understanding of all potential situations inside the system in which people participate will provide significant knowledge about the aspects that affect their engagement (see Figure 1).
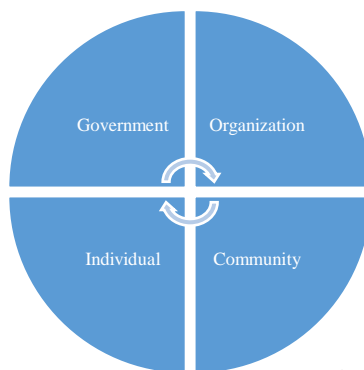

Fig. 1: Social Ecology Model (SEM)   drawn from Sulaiman et al., (2014).

The development of a four-level model by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) may be attributed to the influence of social ecology theory on understanding the elements that affect health. The first level of the model incorporates biological and other individual characteristics, such as age, education, earnings, and medical history. Individuals who are part of immediate social network, consisting of close friends and family members, constitute the second tier of connections. This degree of social interaction has a substantial influence on an individual's behaviour and overall life experiences. When analyzing the societal environments in which people reside, the third tier of community attempts to identify the characteristics of these contexts that influence people's well-being. The fourth tier of analysis delves into the broader social factors that have the potential to either promote or hinder the state of public health. The existence of socioeconomic disparities may be ascribed to both cultural and social norms, as well as to the policies that aim to either perpetuate or alleviate these disparities (CDCP, 2015).

Community Participation: Conceptualization

The term 'community participation' is used to refer to a wide range of activities in which people are active in making decisions and working toward common goals. Community engagement starts to emerge when a collective of individuals unite to address their particular challenges. According to WHO (1991:4), there are three proposed meanings of participation: contribution, organization and empowerment. Participation in predetermined activities and initiatives is facilitated by the community's contributions of work, financial resources, or other supplies. To facilitate and streamline participation, the establishment of institutions is vital to enhance accessibility and engagement for individuals. In order to enhance participation, it is essential to provide groups and communities, especially those facing poverty and disadvantage, the capacity to have genuine influence or authority over healthcare initiatives and provisions. Participants are more inclined to exhibit proactive behaviour and engage in action when they get encouragement from the facilitator (Kumar, 2002). Okafor (2011) reiterated similar perspectives and said that via community involvement, individuals actively participate in decision-making, take action, and engage in reflective practices as conscious agents. Furthermore, according to Kofi (2013), active participation of individuals in the management of societal advancements is especially effective for the principles and practices of social democracy.

Community Clinic in Bangladesh: Origin and Development

Since gaining independence in 1971, Bangladesh has implemented various measures to decentralize its healthcare system. These measures include the establishment of upazila (sub-district) health complexes, which aim to gradually extend healthcare services to the local level. Currently, Bangladesh is actively pursuing its own strategy to attain universal healthcare coverage, with the goal of ensuring access to healthcare for all individuals within the country. In accordance with the Alma-Ata Declaration's commitment to achieving universal health coverage by the year 2000 via the implementation of primary health care, the government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with the WHO, devised a strategy to build a community clinic for every 6,000 people in 1996.

Within the given environment, the realization of the government's initiative to establish community clinics in rural regions throughout Bangladesh, including the most challenging and isolated areas, was achieved via a strategic approach aimed at providing primary healthcare services directly to the rural population (Khan, n.d.). The community clinic initiative is an innovative endeavour aimed at delivering essential healthcare services to the remote areas of Bangladesh. The CCs are healthcare facilities that serve as the main providers of primary healthcare services at rural areas. These institutions are established and managed by the government in partnership with local communities (Riaz et al., 2020). It is worth mentioning that Bangladesh encountered a range of challenges stemming from resource scarcity and the limited availability of basic healthcare services to its vast rural population (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, n.d.). This initiative was developed as a substitute for pre-existing outreach programmes. The establishment of community clinic has played a significant

role in the attainment of Millennium Development Goal (MDG)-4, which aims to reduce child mortality, while also setting the stage for enhancing maternal health as outlined in MDG Goal 5 (Bhuiyan et al., 2018). The transition from MDGs to SDGs is expected to result in community clinics assuming a pivotal role in the attainment of the SDGs and the provision of essential healthcare services to the majority of Bangladesh's populace (Sterne et al., 2016). Moreover, the attainment of universal health care stands as a fundamental aim of SDG-3. The realization of this target necessitates the establishment of partnership between the private and public sectors.

The community clinic is a compact facility comprising of two rooms, equipped with drinking water and sanitary amenities. The structure is built on a parcel of land that is generously donated by the local community. According to Bhuiyan et al. (2018), the provision of staff and resources by the government is seen in each clinic, where there is a presence of one community healthcare provider (CHCP), one health assistant and one family welfare assistant. In spite of several challenges, the aforementioned effort was revived in 2009 under the *"Revitalization of Community Health Care Initiatives in Bangladesh (RCHCIB)."* This initiative aimed to create a total of 18,000 community clinics in rural Bangladesh (ibid). In order to facilitate effective administration, every community clinic has formed a Community Group (CG) led by a locally elected Union Council member. This group should have a minimum of 13 to 17 individuals, with a requirement that at least one-third of the members be either female or teenagers. The collective encompasses many constituents of the catchment population, with the individual serving as the member secretary being a Community Health Care Provider (CHCP). In order to facilitate the clinic's management and promote community health education, every CC is equipped with three Community Support Groups (CSGs). These CSGs consist of 13-17 members, ensuring that at least one-third of the group is comprised of female members. The concerned-UP chairman serves as the principal patron for all of the Union's CCs. Both group members have received orientation and volunteer their time. It is found that if group members are proactive and the UP chairman is engaged and supportive, certain CCs do better than others (Khan, n.d.).

Patterns of Community Participation in Community Clinic

The establishment of a community necessitates more than just physical proximity among individuals; it also requires a collective adherence to a common system of principles, beliefs, and actions (Suffian et al., 2012). The concept of participation in community development refers to the active participation and endorsement of individuals or groups in the established activities and objectives of a community (Cavaye, 2010 as cited in Sulaiman et al., 2014). The active participation and contribution of all community members are vital in the development and implementation of any activities or initiatives within their locality. According to Lyndon et al. (2012), this intervention is expected to have positive outcomes for individuals, leading to an enhancement in the quality of life (as cited in Sulaiman et al., 2014). Community engagement should include the provision of assistance to grassroots communities, the establishment and enhancement of professional work networks, and a willingness to expedite the program's implementation to guarantee its efficacy for the majority of populations. It often encompasses different stages, including planning, execution, assessment, and monitoring (see Figure 2).
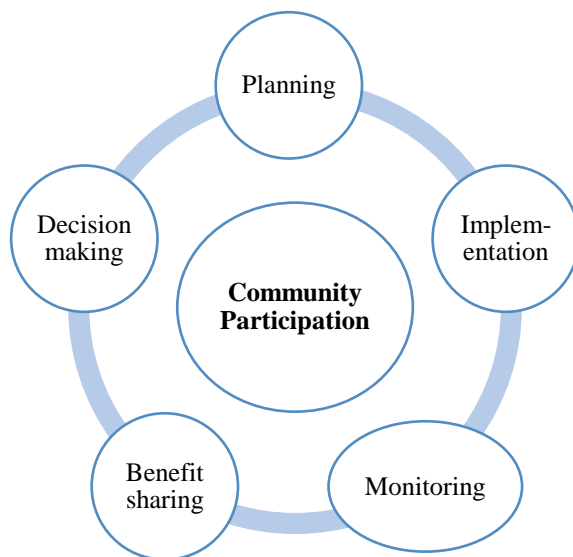
Fig. 2: Elements of Community Participation (Lyndon et al., 2012 as cited in Sulaiman et al., 2014: 2442)

Challenging Lyndon's argument, Wilson and Wilde (2003) established a framework consisting of four distinct aspects that pertain to community participation: influence, inclusiveness, communication, and capacity (as cited in Sulaiman et al., 2014). Cavaye (2010) drew an analogy to an onion ring characterized by layers that include the essence of the community, including those actively engaged, those passively involved, as well as those who possess awareness but lack active involvement. Individuals who possess knowledge of a certain project or activity but lack interest in it might be categorized within the bigger group referred to as the "aware circle" (as cited in Sulaiman et al., 2014). According to this analysis, seven characteristics of community engagement have been taken into account to better comprehend these three models in this study (Fig 3).

Community Participation	Planning
	Implementation
	Management/ Maintenance
	Monitoring and Evaluation
	Quality Care
	Fund Raising
	Decision Making

Fig. 3: Community participation elements for understanding the patterns.

Planning

The significance of strategic planning for the smooth operation of the community clinics is recognized by individuals residing in the study areas. It is often regarded as an inherent and essential element in the administration of the clinics. Nevertheless, during the early phase, there was a lack of community involvement in the planning process of the clinic projects. The planning was made by the higher authority in relation to CC, reflecting a top-down perspective. Both clinics were founded on land that was donated by the community. Following the formation of the clinics, there were instances when local individuals were engaged in consultations pertaining to the efficient operation of those clinics. However, the significant planning related decisions are often made by the relevant officials of the clinics. According to a local named Rafik commented,

> This clinic is very useful for us. Essential medications can be obtained from the clinic to be cured. However, the involvement of local residents throughout all phases of the planning might potentially enhance its use. Occasionally, meetings are organized with the purpose of soliciting enquiries and seeking guidance, although the outcomes of these interactions fail to manifest in actuality. The highest level of planning is derived from the governing body. The prioritization of opinions is not given to us.

The above statement suggests that there is a lack of substantive engagement from local people in the planning process of the clinics. Brown and Wocha (2017) assert that effective participation in community development requires active engagement in the processes of planning and decision-making. A fundamental aspect of community involvement within the context of the United Nations (UN) is the need of guaranteeing equal chances for everyone to actively engage in the development of their own communities, while simultaneously assuring the allocation of related advantages. The notion of community participation encompasses the dynamic engagement of community members in planning-making processes, so affording them a substantial role.

Decision Making

Armitage (1988) argued that community participation is a means where residents respond to public issues, express their views on significant choices affecting them, and assume responsibility for the development of the community (as cited in Papa, 2016). Nevertheless, the nature of this contact might manifest in several forms. Within clinic settings, the process of decision-making is usually conducted via community meetings. Representatives from several groups continue to be in attendance at the meeting. Evidently, the meeting adheres to a bottom-up approach in which the clinic committee president actively engages in listening to all participants before making a final decision. Nevertheless, the participants consistently expressed that their perspectives were not taken into consideration. The purpose of the meeting is merely ceremonial. In the realm of decision-making, individuals who possess significant influence, hold political leadership positions, or rich get priority in decision making process. The impact of social hierarchy and power dynamics on community involvement in rural Bangladesh is significant. The decision-making process mostly revolves on the local Union Council Member, who assumes the role of committee head. The Member in conjunction with other prominent committee members, cultivates a positive rapport with the community health care provider (CHCP) and makes decision that priorities the interests of the committee as a whole rather than the wider community. If the CHCP fails to cater to the needs and concerns of the aforementioned group, he/she may encounter difficulties or face adverse consequences. This scenario evolves into a mutually beneficial arrangement in which the welfare of the general people can be undermined. A member of the CG remarked:

> Healthcare practitioners usually make decisions. In the event of a clinic closure due to unforeseen situations, the decision is made by the CHCP in collaboration with the health official. In this particular scenario, the decision may remain unknown. Nevertheless, in the event that a significant matter arises pertaining to the clinic, we are sometimes approached for consultation in order to address the issue at hand.

The above remark unequivocally suggests that the community members possess limited access to the decision-making procedures of the clinics. Ratanavaraha and Jomnonkwao (2013) argued that authentic community involvement entails a deliberate method that permits citizens to actively participate in the design and execution of development endeavors. This strategy promotes the cultivation of collaborative thinking and decision-making processes, so empowering communities to effectively tackle their own challenges. The facilitation of the effective resolution of community issues may be achieved via the involvement of appropriate experts, along with rigors organizational monitoring and staff management to support the progress of living circumstances. Besides, interactive participation is an additional kind of community engagement characterized by citizens engaging in collaborative efforts with external specialists to assess their circumstances, develop strategic goals, and make collective decisions about community initiatives (Abbott, 1995 as cited in Sulaiman et al., 2014).

Implementation, Management and Maintenance

The participation of public engagement is facilitated by the communication of future decision to be enacted. In order to ensure efficient management and maintenance, it is necessary for each community clinic to establish a Community Group (CG) led by a locally elected UP member. This group is comprised of a minimum of 13 to 17 members, with a requirement that at least one-third of the members be either female. A CC is led by a Community Health Care Provider (CHCP), a Health Assistant (HA), and a Family Welfare Assistant (FWA), who together rotate their work schedules, each of HA and FWA working three days each week. Every CG is supported by three Community Support Groups (CSGs), each consisting of 13 to 17 people, with a minimum requirement of at least one-third of the members being female. The selection process involves individuals from different layers of the society. The objective of this group formation is to ensure the representation of different groups and provide them with a feeling of ownership as their involvement in planning, implementation, monitoring, benefit sharing, and decision-making was anticipated. The chairman of the local Union Parishad assumes the role of the primary patron for all clinics within the area. A regular monthly meeting of the CG is often convened. Both CG and CSG are formulated to facilitate and enhance the activities in the clinics. However, the formation of CG and CSG has not been in a neutral manner, since these entities have been subject to politicization. The members of the clinic possess significant local and political power, and actively seek to capitalize on this influence for personal gain. Consequently, the development of a complete feeling of ownership was not seen among the members. The CSGs may be characterized as mostly dysfunctional. As a teacher from a nearby educational institution said,

> Despite the volunteer nature of this group, its creation exhibits political bias. The majority of the committee members are affiliated with political parties that support the current ruling government. Rather of striving to improve the clinic, they use their position for personal gain. Consequently, there is no significant increase in the general public's feeling of ownership.

The aforementioned narrative illustrates the presence of discontent among the populace regarding the execution, administration, and maintenance of many initiatives. The notion of participatory development, as defined by the Learning Group on Participatory Development of the World Bank (1995), necessitates an interactive and ongoing procedure in which multiple stakeholders exert influence and collaboratively exercise control over the initiatives. Participating in intervention programs or projects enabled by governmental, non-profit, or corporate groups may be seen as a tangible expression of community participation.

Monitoring

The task of monitoring is often carried out by healthcare professionals employed by community clinics. Typically, routine visits to community clinics are conducted by both the Assistant Health Inspector and the Health Inspector. The monthly reports are made and discussed during the CG meeting. Regular reports are sent to superior authorities through virtual channels. In actuality, the prevailing approach is one of conventional monitoring, which prioritizes the augmentation of care recipients over participatory monitoring, since decision-making mostly rests with health authorities. Furthermore, a state of conflict exists between the CHCP and the committee members. The members said that the CHCP exhibits hesitancy towards them and solicits their cooperation alone when it is required. Contrarily, according to CHCP, the members exhibit sporadic attendance and lack motivation when it comes to participating in meetings. Specifically, the head of the CSG and members of the CHP engage in mutual accusations. According to a CHCP,

> The perception among locals is that this is a public clinic. We have nothing to do. Service providers has the capability to effectively address and resolve any issue that may emerge. From a certain perspective, this is good for us. The presence of members belonging to Community Groups and Community Support Groups may have a disruptive impact on the smooth execution of clinic activities. They usually fail to fulfil their responsibilities. Instead, they engage in the abuse of their positions as members of the CG for personal benefit, for example, they just want medicine from me.

Quality of Care

In the event that community clinics remain closed, individuals experiencing financial hardship may experience heightened dissatisfaction due to their reliance on seeking medical care from local private practitioners. The clinics continue to provide services from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. as a result of limited resources, despite originally being scheduled to operate until 3 p.m. The degree to which care recipients are satisfied is largely determined by the amount of medication provided. The practice of delivering health education is implemented in limited instances. Regardless of the intricacy of health conditions, medications are administered to all individuals. Nevertheless, in regards to obtaining high-quality medical care, a local care seeker made the following comment:

> Treatments are often accessible to those who possess a level of knowledge and personal connections with care providers, rather than being readily available to individuals of average standing such as myself. The provider exhibits a lack of sincerity towards those who are unknown to them; yet, if a personal connection is established, one may expect to get quality treatment.

According to Kotalova (1996), social hierarchy is deeply embedded into Bangladeshi culture, with individuals possessing a keen awareness and ability to discern their relative positions of superiority or inferiority. The status of rank is seen in both informal discussions and formal places, when individuals are identified based on factors such as skin colour, income, educational attainment, and birth order within their family. The aforementioned hierarchical structure is also evident in the manner in which patients are attended to inside the clinics. Various medical tools are available for health diagnosis, including blood pressure (BP) monitors, weighing scales, and thermometers. Nevertheless, it is often observed that these tools are mostly used for those individuals who are affiliated with more priviliged social status (Shah, 2020).

Fundraising

The clinics, operating as a public-private partnership project, are intended to generate financial resources from other sources. Fundraising via the use of Donation Boxes serves as the primary means of accumulating financial resources. It has been observed that the primary source of funding often comes from governmental entities. Simultaneously, community members also contribute to the

development of the clinics by donating to the fullest extent feasible. Furthermore, these donations foster a sense of ownership throughout the local community. In this regard, a CHCP mentioned:

> Funding is sourced from local individuals as the support from the government is not enough. Besides, the act of individuals contributing monetary funds or resources fosters a heightened feeling of ownership among them. Hence, a donation box has been established in front of the clinic.

Determinants of Community Participation in Community Clinic

Being guided by the work of Sulaiman et.al (2014) on community policing in the context of Malaysia framed by the socio-ecological model, this study has identified the key determinants that may influence individual to participate in community clinic such as individual factors, community factors, organizational factors, and policy factors.

Individual Factors

The individual component that has the most significance in fostering active engagement in community clinic management is the perspective of the community. In terms of the perception of management, the relation seems to be reciprocal. The study reveals that several factors, such as age, gender, perspective, knowledge, healthcare effectiveness, awareness, and feeling of ownership, significantly influence community engagement in clinics. Suffian et al. (2012) emphasize that the acquisition of information may have a dual effect on participation, as it can both enhance individuals' engagement and contribute to the overall efficacy of a community program. The association between engagement in community activities and heightened consciousness and dedication, sometimes referred to as commitment, has been linked to increased willingness (Suffian et al., 2012; Bahaman et al., 2009, as cited in Sulaiman et al., 2014). According to Olorunfemi (2020), individuals residing in close proximity to a project site tend to exhibit passive contributions.

Sociocultural Factors

Participation among locals is influenced by a range of sociocultural factors, such as social hierarchy, power dynamics, social and cultural capital, collective interests, community cohesion, the cultural norms about health, community leadership, and the availability of healthcare services. In relation to other factors, community leadership has a unique place along the continuum. The most influential factors in facilitating successful community participation in clinics include social hierarchy, power dynamics, and social and cultural capital. When an individual from the upper class intercedes in a process of decision-making, the prevailing response from the mass of the populace tends to be one of apathy and discouragement. They often refrain from expressing their views. Moreover, cohesion is influenced by many significant characteristics, including collective interest and community integrity, which are closely interconnected. It is found that an attachment has a beneficial influence on both individuals and the communities in which they reside. Given these circumstances, it is imperative to acknowledge the significance of community health culture and the available healthcare service provision. If the community lacks the belief in the need of healthcare or exhibits unwillingness to engage in the aforementioned process, their participation in the process will be absent.

Organizational Factors

Community engagement is influenced by several elements of the clinics as organization, including perceptions, trust in services, quality of care, contentment, provider attitudes and sincerity, clinic culture, and laws and regulations. Specifically, if organizations have a negative attitude towards public involvement and lack confidence in the quality of their services and care, community engagement may become ineffective or inconspicuous. In addition, the attitudes and genuineness of service providers have a significant influence on community engagement. When considering the extent of influence, it may be argued that the rules and regulations implemented by the clinics have similar significance in this context.

Policy Factors

In addition to the aforementioned three elements, community participation in community clinics is also influenced by policy, strategy, and practice. The involvement of community members is often viewed unfavorably by those in positions of power, since it raises concerns about potential disruptions to the established processes. The presence of government policies in this domain has the potential to enhance individuals' motivation to engage more efficiently, hence increasing the likelihood of their acceptance by the organization. However, it is essential to establish a cordial and efficient means of communication in this context. This is because any instances of inappropriate behavior may lead to a decrease in motivation for all parties involved in the clinics.

Discussion

The establishment of community clinics was in accordance with the Alma-Ata Declaration's commitment to provide universal access to primary healthcare, as stated in the promise to offer HFL (Bhuiyan et al., 2018). The decision to construct community clinics (CC) in rural regions throughout Bangladesh, including the most challenging and isolated areas, was put up in this regard (Khan, n.d.). To ensure efficient administration, every community clinic is equipped with a Community Group (CG) and three CSGs (Ibid.). The purpose of creating these groups is to guarantee the representation of individuals and empower them with a feeling of ownership (Cavaye, 2010). The impact of social hierarchy and power dynamics on community engagement is significant in rural Bangladesh. While individuals have a large role in the planning and execution stages, they have little impact in the decision-making process. The interactions between care givers and recipients are influenced by power dynamics, familial connections, social status, and gendered relationships. In general, those who are more affluent tend to get superior service in social, political, and financial contexts. Furthermore, the availability of medication is restricted, leading to significant difficulties for the service providers. Monitoring is a viable solution in this situation, but community clinics lack the presence of a monitoring authority. The meetings, intended to occur on a monthly basis, were shown to be very inconsistent. In the two clinics we examined, one clinic's meeting occurred two months later, whereas in the other country, it occurred three months later. The CG head, CHCP members, and others accuse each other over the respective roles. The CHCPs are hesitant to involve its members and only seeks their support when necessary. Conversely, CHCPs claim that the community members exhibit significant irregularity and lack motivation when it comes to attending meetings. Consequently, both the provision of high-quality healthcare and the process of generating funds have also been impeded. This situation demands to create awareness among both parties. In addition, the government should consider establishing a regulatory body to ensure efficient administration of the clinics.

Community clinics have played a pivotal role in delivering essential healthcare services. However, the usage of these services remains below the objective specified in the policy. The level of involvement of local residents in CCs is influenced by several factors specific to the local environment, such as social stratification, dynamics of power, and social and cultural resources (Shah, 2020). Essentially, this research demonstrates that community clinics in Bangladesh mostly fail to ensure the involvement of locals in decision-making, management, monitoring, and the provision of high-quality healthcare. As a result of the hierarchical structure of classes, large numbers of locals are disregarded in the process of making decisions. When it comes to management, the input of locals is hardly taken into consideration. Despite voicing their grievances, they continue to go unnoticed. Regarding monitoring, individuals continue to be disengaged in all aspects, including quality care. Mass involvement is only guaranteed in the implementation phase, and to a certain degree in the planning phase.

Conclusion

The establishment of community clinics was undertaken in accordance with the Alma-Ata Declaration's commitment to ensuring universal access to healthcare via the provision of primary healthcare services (Bhuiyan et al., 2018). In rural Bangladesh, community clinics have been vital in

delivering primary healthcare services. Nevertheless, the usage of healthcare services remains below the desired level outlined in the policy. This study highlights the limited extent to which community clinics in Bangladesh priorities the inclusion of locals in decision-making processes, management practices, monitoring activities, and the provision of quality care. The exclusion of large segments of the locals from decision-making processes is a consequence of social stratification. In the context of management, the voices of locals are seldom acknowledged or taken into consideration. When it comes to monitoring, locals continue to lack active involvement. The current practices indicate that the degree of community involvement has not yet reached the necessary threshold. The primary obstacles in this context are sociocultural dynamics and structural constraints. The efficacy and long-term viability of community clinics are believed by local residents to be enhanced by the implementation of a community participatory approach, provided that meaningful involvement is guaranteed. The aforementioned discussion illustrates the concept of "contributive participation", whereby community involvement is mostly predetermined. The social and economic structures in place have the potential to transform healthcare clinics into agents that perpetuate disparities in access and quality of care.

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