

## STUDY REPORT

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# JS Bodies Under Media Scanner



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## JS Bodies Under Media Scanner

### Coverage of

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### Parliamentary Standing Committee Meetings by Bangladesh Media



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# Disclaimer

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The Study Report “JS Bodies Under Media Scanner”: Coverage of Parliamentary Standing Committee meetings by Bangladesh media has been developed by MRDI under Promoting Democratic Institutions and Practices (PRODIP) program funded by USAID and UKaid and implemented by The Asia Foundation Bangladesh. The views and information containing in this Study Report is not official U.S. Government information and does not represent the views or positions of USAID or the U.S. Government.

# Acronyms

<b>BNP</b>	Bangladesh Nationalist Party
<b>CEO</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>DCC</b>	Dhaka City Corporation
<b>DG</b>	Director General
<b>EMGL</b>	Engaging Media in Governance and Legislation
<b>ICT</b>	Information Communication Technology
<b>JS</b>	Jatiya Sangsad
<b>KII</b>	Key Informant Interview
<b>LGRD &amp; CO</b>	Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
<b>MP</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>MRDI</b>	Management and Resources Development Initiative
<b>OMS</b>	Open Market Sale
<b>PRODIP</b>	Promoting Democratic Institutions and Practices
<b>PSC</b>	Parliamentary Standing Committee
<b>TAF</b>	The Asia Foundation
<b>VGf</b>	Vulnerable Group Feeding
<b>WASA</b>	Water Supply & Sewerage Authority



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# FOREWORD

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MRDI is implementing its Engaging Media in Governance and Legislation (EMGL) project under the PRODIP program, supported by The Asia Foundation Bangladesh, funded by the USAID and UKAid. The project aims to enhance public participation in political governance and legislation by establishing close linkage between parliament and the civil society through engaging media in the process. As a part of this initiative a study has been conducted on coverage of Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) meetings by Bangladesh media. The study tried to explore the factors behind low level of coverage of the issue in terms of volume and quality and suggest some measures to improve the situation.

A team comprised of four journalists and MRDI officials conducted the study. Three committees were selected as sample. The study team reviewed the meeting minutes, analyzed media reports and interviewed committee members to derive findings and observations. Data and information have been scientifically analyzed and compiled to generate this report which will hopefully help strengthen the role of the parliamentary standing committees. The report has been shared in a dissemination workshop organized in the IPD Conference Room of the Parliament House in presence of the Speaker, Information Minister, MPs, development partners and other relevant stakeholders.

We express our humble thanks and gratitude to the Former Speaker and Honorable President of The People's Republic of Bangladesh Md. Abdul Hamid for his kind support to us in initiating this project involving the parliament. We are thankful to the Honorable Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury for her kind cooperation. Honorable Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu inspired us through his presence in the dissemination workshop. We are grateful to him. We extend thanks to the Members of Parliament who put their valuable remarks through interviews. We are thankful to Richard Greene, Mission Director, USAID. We are also thankful to Hasan M. Mazumdar, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation and Russell Pepe, Chief of Party, PRODIP, The Asia Foundation. We got the privilege of observing the proceedings of a meeting of a committee that helped us a lot. Sincere thanks to the Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat Md. Mahfuzur Rahman and his staff for providing us with all-out cooperation in taking the activities forward. Special thanks to the MRDI study team members which includes the journalists who worked hard to carry out the process of the study and generate this report.

We must acknowledge with gratitude the role of team members of The Asia Foundation PRODIP program, without whose support this study would not have been conducted. Our thankful gratitude to USAID and UKaid for their tremendous support in conducting the study.

This report, we believe, will provoke thoughts among the decision makers and help them take steps to make the parliamentary standing committees more useful. Findings and recommendations are also expected to benefit the media and the journalists.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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This study found that the media inadequately covers the meetings of the parliamentary standing committee (PSC) that regularly reviews their related sectors, policy issues and irregularities and recommends corrective measures. This partial coverage brought out many important issues and bridged the standing committee meetings with the public.

But sometimes the media has failed to cover some important issues either by ignoring the meeting or through misreporting, while sometimes the individual standing committee members give the media briefings that lack in clarification of the issue.

The standing committee members were not happy with the poor coverage by the media, but they believed that the coverage was generally authentic.

Due to lack of access of the media to the standing committee meetings, the press relies on briefings by the committee members. The study found that briefings by the committee members did not often match with meeting proceedings. It implies that either there were shortcomings with the officials who write the proceedings or the standing committee members prefer to speak whatever they personally thought was important or that the individual reporters did not understand and failed to grasp the relevant issue.

As per the rules of the procedure of Jatiya Sangsad, the media is not allowed to be present at the meetings. But the MPs feel this should change so that the journalists are present there and make these meetings more meaningful and relevant to the people.

The standing committee members also recommend inviting members of the civil society of relevant subjects to make the committee meetings more meaningful.

The study also found that while the state owned BTV gives a lot of coverage of these meetings, the television channel does not serve the actual news — the decisions or recommendations taken at the meetings — rather simply show and read out names of the MPs or ministers present there. The BTV needs serious journalistic reforms.

The journalists also need training for better understanding of the mandate of these committees and other parliamentary issues. Besides, the media houses need to understand the value of covering these meetings so that they deploy more reporters for coverage.

The study applied media content screening, review of PSC meeting minutes and key informant interview methodologies. Minutes of committee meetings of a certain time prior to the study period were compared with the media coverage of the corresponding period. These minutes were taken from the published reports of the parliament secretariat. Findings and recommendations of the study were presented in a dissemination workshop. Participants of the workshop made some recommendations which were incorporated in the final report.

# INTRODUCTION

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The parliament is elected by the people. The activities of the parliamentarians at the parliament are covered by the media so that the voters get to see whether their elected ones are delivering their promises. Without a free and vibrant media, the voters will be deprived of this important information and thereby undermine democracy.

The parliament raises and dissects many issues at its sessions. Side by side, there are different parliamentary standing committees dealing with finer details to review policy and performance and suggest changes in different sectors.

The Bangladesh constitution laid out the basis of such parliamentary committees. Article 76 (1) of constitution empowers the Parliament to appoint the following standing committees (a) a public accounts committee; (b) committee of privileges; and (c) such other standing committees as the rules of procedure of Parliament require.

Article 76 (2) says in addition to the committees referred to in clause (1), Parliament shall appoint other standing committees, and a committee so appointed may, subject to this Constitution and to any other law-- (a) examine draft Bills and other legislative proposals; (b) review the enforcement of laws and propose measures for such enforcement; (c) in relation to any matter referred to it by Parliament as a matter of public importance, investigate or inquire into the activities or administration of a Ministry and may require it to furnish, through an authorized representative, relevant information and to answer questions, orally or in writing; (d) perform any other function assigned to it by Parliament.

Article 76 (3) says Parliament may by law confer on committees appointed under this article powers for -(a) enforcing the attendance of witnesses and examining them on oath, affirmation or otherwise; (b) compelling the production of documents.

About functions of committees section 248 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament also says--each such standing Committee shall meet at least once in a month and the functions of a Committee shall be to examine any Bill or other matter referred to it by Parliament, to review the works relating to a Ministry which falls within its jurisdiction, to inquire into any activity or irregularity and serious complaint in respect of the Ministry and to examine, if it deems fit, any such other matter as may fall within its jurisdiction and to make recommendations.

Such constitutional mandates have put very important duties on the standing committees on different ministries. Since restoration of parliamentary democracy in 1991, such standing committees have been playing an increasingly strong role in making recommendations about

policies, criticizing performance and giving opinions. The standing committees would sometimes request presence of officials related to a subject of discussion or even external experts-and thus would generate stimulating discussions and well advised recommendations.

The media has also been focusing on the standing committee meetings-and thus ensuring that the voters know how their elected parliamentarians are playing a role in running the country. This is very important in the light of the political culture of the country where the main opposition parties tend to boycott the parliament sessions-depriving the nation of a proper exercise of the parliamentary democracy.

But the media coverage of the standing committee meetings is not regular. Sometimes the media totally skip a meeting of one standing committee and sometimes they do not make reports true to the proceedings of a meeting due to many reasons-including wrong or partial briefings by the MPs or misinterpretation by reporters.

The country's media has become vibrant in the last two decades-specially with opening up of private television channels. Journalism has flourished in the country to a proportion that never before had the people been exposed to so much daily news generation. This has helped the people become better informed about the government-and thus help build better public opinions on different issues.

Among many important beats, parliament is a permanent beat in all newspapers and to some degrees, with the electronic media. But neither the newspapers nor the electronic media assign adequate reporters to cover all parliamentary standing committee meetings-either due to lack of adequate manpower or due to lack of interest or understanding the importance of these meetings.

This study was commissioned to understand the level and quality of media coverage of the standing committee meetings and the impediments to better coverage so that a set of recommendations to improve the media coverage can be made.

# OBJECTIVE AND METHODOLOGY

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People know about the discussions and decisions of the PSCs through media. But a gap prevails between the discussions of the meetings and their coverage over media. Objective of this activity is to identify the gap between the discussions of the PSCs and their coverage over media through media screening.

Media news content analysis has been applied as the prime methodology of this study. Review of PSC meeting minutes was another methodology. Analysis of media coverage and PSC meeting minutes during a previous period based on the issue of publication of the reports and dates of meeting has been done. These previous meeting minutes were selected because the parliament secretariat has already published reports of these meetings. These minutes have facilitated the research team to compare them with media coverage during the corresponding period. Minutes of current meetings are not available because it takes six months to one year to publish a report. Time frame of the reports and dates of meetings have been detailed out in a table below. Besides, key informant interview was also used as a methodology. Finally, draft report of the study was presented in a dissemination workshop in presence the speaker, information minister, members of parliament, development partners and the members of media and the civil society. Detailed flow of activities in conducting the study is given below;

## **Selection of PSC**

In consultation with the Speaker, Parliament secretariat and PRODIP CSO team, MRDI selected the following three PSCs for this study.

1. Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Agriculture
2. Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of LGRD & CO
3. Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of food & disaster management<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>During the study period Ministry of food and disaster management was united. At present this ministry has been separated into ministry of food and ministry of disaster management.

## PSC Meeting Minutes Collection

At the beginning of the study, meeting minutes for the said PSCs were collected as per the following table:

Name of PSC	PSC Report	Date of PSC Meeting	Media Monitoring Period
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Agriculture	First Report September 2010	<b>2009</b> 19 March (1st), 2 April (2nd) 21 May (3rd), 22 June (4th) <b>2010</b> 31 January (10th), 1 April (11th) 13 April (12th)	March- June 2009 January- April 2010
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of LGRD & CO	First Report January 2010	<b>2009</b> 5 March (1st), 24 March (2nd) 29 March (3rd), 16 April (4th) 11 May (5th), 20 May (6th) 1 June (7th), 21 June (8th) <b>2010</b> 3 February (17th), 24 February (18th)	March- June 2009
	Second Report March 2011	<b>2010</b> 21 March (19th), 11 April (20th)	January- April 2010
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Food & Disaster Management	First Report May 2011	<b>2009</b> 24 April (1st), 26 May (2nd) 18 June (3rd) <b>2010</b> 26 January (9th) 28 February (10th) 24 March (11th), 22 April (12th) <b>2011</b> 19 January (21st) 24 February (22nd) 22 March (23rd), 28 April (24th)	March- June 2009 January- April 2010 January- April 2011

## Team formation

A journalist team comprising four members worked with MRDI team for performing this screening activity.

## News Monitoring

The following ten newspaper and four TV channels were brought under this study.

<b>Newspapers:</b> 1. Ittefaq 2. Janakantha 3. Jugantor 4. Kaler Kantho 5. Naya Diganta 6. New Age 7. Prothom Alo 8. Samakal 9. The Daily Star 10. The Independent	<b>In newspaper the following pages were monitored:</b> 1. Front page 2. Back page 3. Metro page 4. Editorial page 5. Op-ed and 6. Other page	<b>TV channels:</b> 1. ATN 2. BTV 3. Channel-i 4. NTV	<b>The prime time news bulletin were monitored in TV channels:</b> 1. BTV at 8:00pm 2. ATN Bangla at 10:00pm 3. Channel-I at 10:30 pm 4. NTV at 10:30 pm
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## KII

Under this study 8 interviews were taken involving the chairmen and members of different PSCs during 15 June to 15 October 2012. The purpose of such interview was to assess their views about the published news over media regarding PSC meetings. It also aimed to know their recommendations on disseminating more information to the mass people about PSC through media.

## News Content Analysis

At first, the team picked the news from the selected newspapers and TV channels. Then the journalist team went through the reports and identified the focuses of the stories and also authenticity, clarity and readability status of the stories. They also compared the stories with the meeting minutes of the PSCs which had already been published.

Then the database was analyzed under SPSS software. It has generated the scenario that has been presented graphically.

Based on the results of the analysis and findings of the KII, a draft report was prepared.

## Dissemination Workshop

Findings and recommendations of the study were disseminated in a workshop "Jatiya Sangsad Bodies Under Media Scanner" organized in the parliament premises. Speaker of the parliament, information minister, members of parliament, development partners and the members of media and the civil society attended the workshop and took part in discussions.

# OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

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## **1. Press needs protection from court contempt for parliament coverage**

The MPs enjoy absolute immunity for what they say at the parliament and in any committee and the court has no jurisdiction to proceed against them even if they say anything false or with malicious intent. On the other hand, if the press reports on what they are saying at the parliament, the press can face contempt or any other charge by the court or individuals. This issue needs to be legally addressed.

## **2. Reporters should be present at committee meetings**

Although there is procedural restriction for reporters' presence at the committee meetings, the BTV is allowed to be there. The MPs themselves term this as contradictory. They all favour presence of reporters at their meetings, also specially on the ground that since reporters are allowed to cover parliament sessions, why not let them cover the committee meetings.

## **3. Committee briefings can be formalized to avoid information gaps**

We have found that reports based on informal briefings by different committee members are often far away from the actual discussions or spirit of a meeting. Some MPs brief the press on issues that seem most important to them. This leads to misreporting. To avoid this, the committees should designate either their chairpersons or certain other persons for the press briefings.

## **4. The press should also increase coverage**

The parliamentary standing committees are great source of news where interesting debates take place, controversial issues pop up and policy shaking recommendations are often made. The study revealed sketchy and non-persistent coverage by the media. By increasing the coverage, the press could provide better service to the people.

## **5. Writings of proceedings need improvement**

The reports based on briefings also reveal that the officials in charge of writing meeting proceedings do not always carry out their responsibilities sincerely for whatever reasons. Each proceeding is a historical record. Therefore the proceedings cannot ignore vital discussions, arguments or presentation of reports that had actually taken place. But the study found many instances where the proceedings excluded such information. This must be addressed by a. increasing manpower and b. increasing their efficiency.

## **6. Proceedings should be released by the next meeting**

To make proceedings meaningful and its presentation more efficient, the standing committees should attempt to make each proceedings available for the public by the next meeting date.

## **7. Committees may invite related experts frequently**

While some committees invite related experts at their meetings, most committees do not invite outsiders. But such an interaction could immensely benefit the MPs in terms of enrichment of knowledge and ideas and thus facilitate their decision making process.

## **8. The press needs more expertise to write better stories**

Media houses should be made aware of the shortcomings of the reporters in writing their standing committee and parliament stories better. They should be encouraged to nurture dedicated reporters in this field.

## **9. BTV's news coverage needs to be more focused on journalistic principles**

During the media study, the BTV's news presentation strongly drew the team's attention. While the BTV gave the most electronic media coverage of the parliamentary standing committees – their news items were the least journalistic and the least audience friendly. It seemed that the news team was working in an environment where the superiors do not understand the basics of news and the elements required for drawing people's attention to a news.

The BTV is run by the tax payers' money. The people have every right to know through BTV how their MPs are performing their role. But unfortunately BTV is not playing its role properly. The BTV's current policy on news coverage needs to be reformed.

Its current coverage is a serious journalistic opportunity lost for both the parliamentary committees that are generating the news and for the BTV that is already spending its resources to cover them.

This is what we found in the BTV news content:

- a. The reports are casually made with basic information only.
- b. They lack details which could have explained why the news is important for the nation.
- c. The reports are focused on the names of members present at the meeting.
- d. Some reports mention decisions without explaining why the decisions were taken.
- e. The reports do not follow journalistic order-but a protocol order. For instance, irrespective of the importance of the event – the minister or the MPs would get higher priority than the outcome of the event.

The study also observed that this kind of news coverage revealed the mindset of the MPs for years who were happy only to hear their names and not what they were doing through the committee meetings.

# KEY FINDINGS

The MRDI monitored coverage of meetings of three standing committees on the ministries of food and disaster management, agriculture, and LGRD and Cooperatives during a certain period of time by 10 popular newspapers including three English language dailies plus four television channels including the state owned BTV.

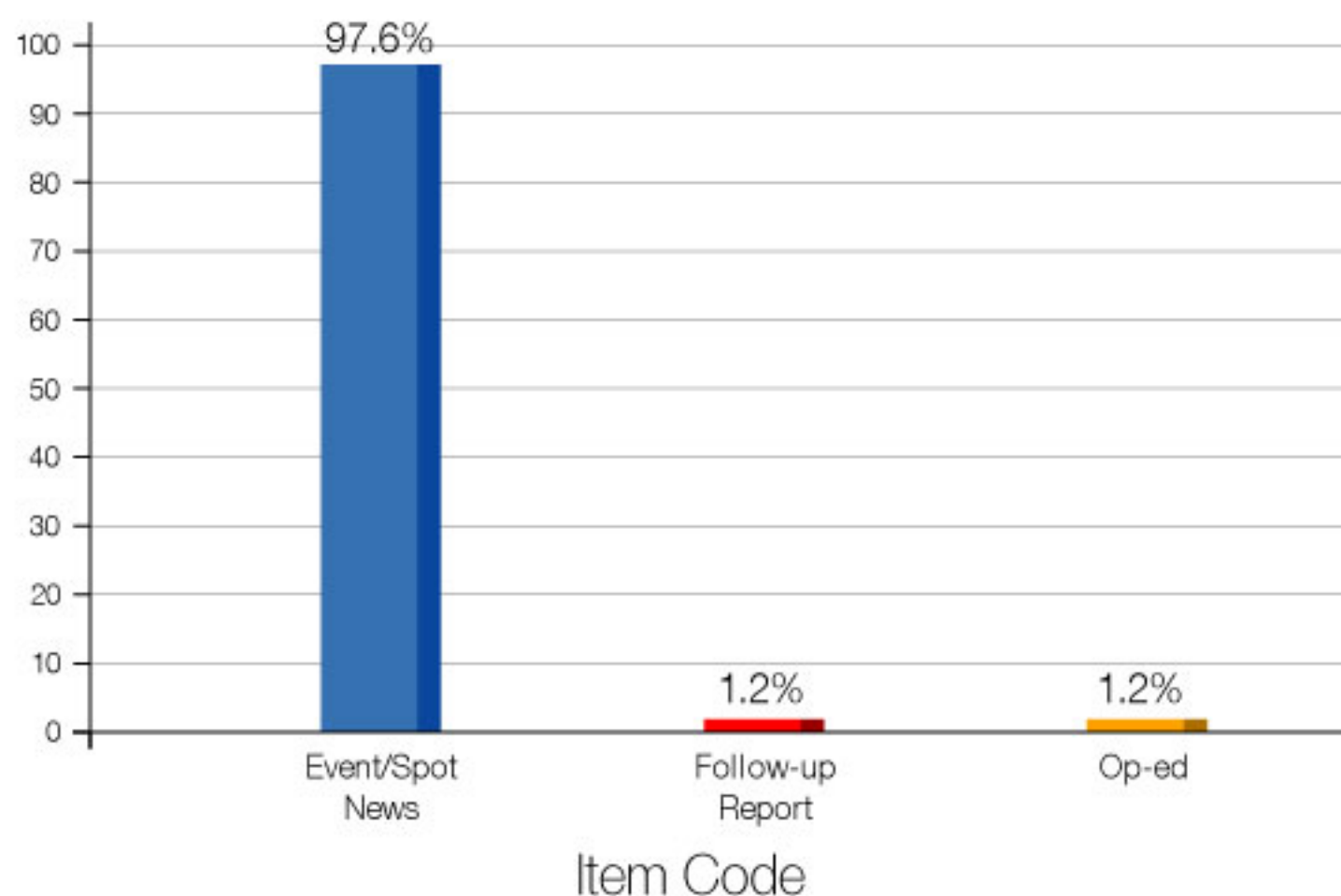
There were 85 print items and 24 television items during the monitoring period.

It was found that the print media predominantly provided double column treatment to the standing committee meetings; and followed by single columns.

The standing committee meetings rarely generated top stories. But the items mostly received treatment in the upper fold of the papers and only a few reports received special treatment.

## ITEM COVERAGE

It was found that the media predominantly cover event or spot news on the parliamentary standing committees, written by only the media staffs.



Highest number of the items in print medium was carried on the back pages, followed by publication in other pages and in the front page. Some papers never carried any of these items in their front pages.

Coverage by certain newspapers was much higher than others-but that does not mean their coverage could take pride of quality reporting.

Most of the stories gave their focus on reviewing the government policy, followed by sector performance review and some stories had focus on corruption or irregularities.

The monitoring found an alarming picture in the print medium. Out of the 85 monitored items, only 19 had no problem with their authenticities. The rest had one or multiple problems. No newspaper had all their items fully authentic.

In majority cases, information gap is the common problem in establishing authenticity of the stories. This problem is followed by the problems of sweeping statement, weak source and vagueness, inaccuracy and not all parties involved are covered.

In this light, it was also found that the newspaper that gave the most coverage of the standing committee meetings also was infested with most authenticity related problems.

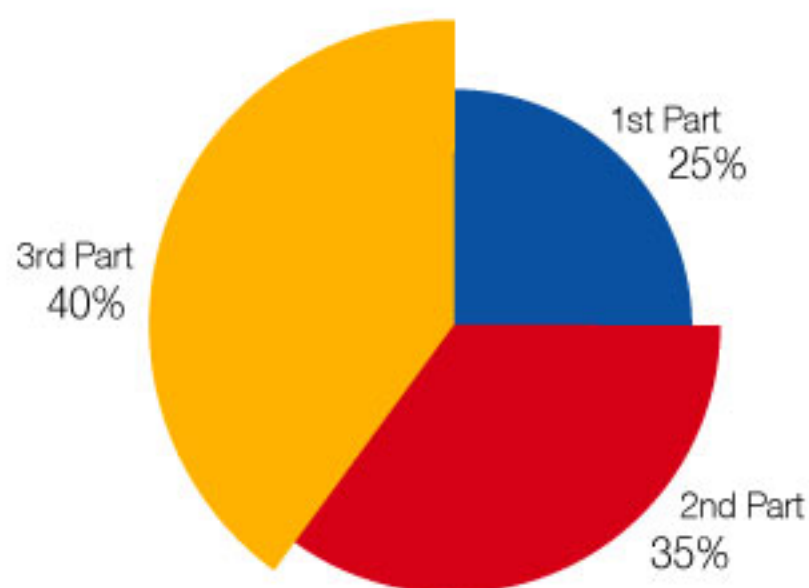
Lack of clarity is the second biggest problem with these print media stories. A little less than one third of the stories had no clarity problems-leaving the majority stories with one problem or another.

The biggest clarity factor overlooked in these reports is that there is a large number of instances of unanswered questions or incomplete information. The other problems are-unlinked paragraphs, lack of focus and jerks in logical sequence.

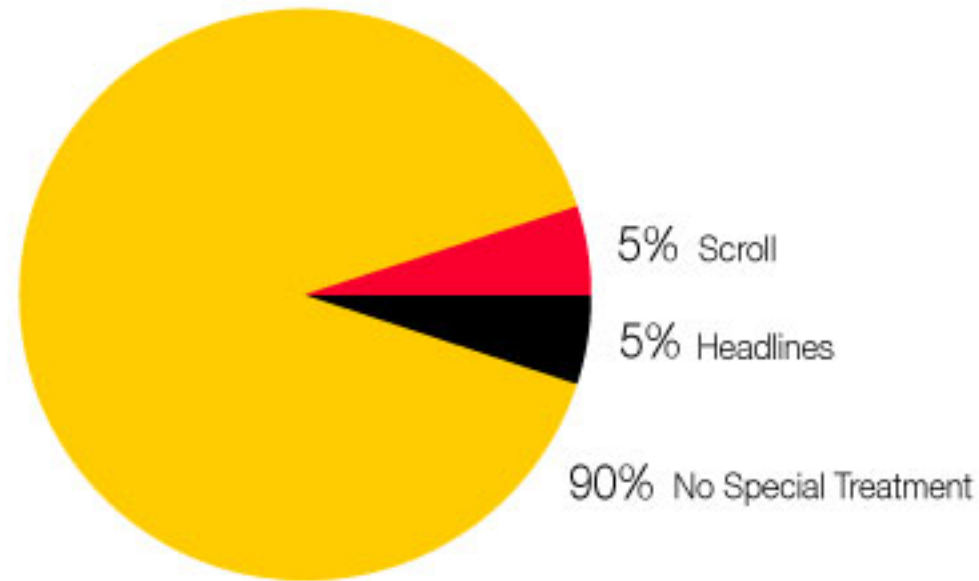
In terms of readability, out of the 85 items, 54 read well. The most common readability issue is repetitions and use of unlinked paragraphs and in some cases use of long and complex sentences and jargons.

The TV channel monitoring reveals that the private TV channels were not much interested in covering the standing committee meetings. Out of the 24 spot news covered by the TV channels, 21 were covered by the state owned BTV alone.

Secondly, the TV coverage did not pay high importance to the meetings as the items mostly went in the second and third segment of the news.



When in the News Bulletin?



Special Treatment by Channels

In giving treatment to these items, all of the 21 BTV items and Ntv's lone item were given Out of Vision treatment. The ATN Bangla gave one item Out of Vision and the other as OOV plus Sync treatment.

In terms of duration of these items, one item each in BTV and ATN Bangla got one minute coverage. The remaining items received coverage ranging from five seconds to maximum 52 seconds.

Time in seconds	BTV	ATN Bangla	NTV	Total
19	1	0	0	1
20	1	0	0	1
24	2	0	0	2
27	1	0	0	1
28	1	0	0	1
32	1	0	0	1
34	2	1	0	3
35	1	0	0	1
36	2	0	1	3
38	1	0	0	1
41	1	0	0	1
46	1	0	0	1
48	2	0	0	2
52	1	0	0	1
65	1	0	0	1
69	0	1	0	1

News Time by Channels

## PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE

But most importantly the monitoring determined that the BTV's coverage of the standing committee meetings was void of any journalistic values. Its current coverage is a serious journalistic opportunity lost for both the parliamentarians and the committees that are generating the news and for the BTV that is already spending its resources to cover them.

The BTV reports are casually made with basic information, lacking explanation of the importance of the news, lacking in news structure and they are focused on the names of members present at the meetings.

Other than monitoring the media, the MRDI has also interviewed the chairmen and members of the standing committees asking them about how they find the news coverage, their views of media access to the standing committee meetings and roles of the civil society.

While the Rules of Procedure of the parliament prohibit journalists from being present at the standing committee meetings, all the chairmen and members were in favour of allowing journalists at the meetings to make the committees' functions more effective.

They also found it contradictory that while journalists were not allowed to be present at the meeting, the BTV was allowed to be there. The press was allowed to cover the parliament sessions, then why they were barred from the committee's meeting, some of them asked.

Most of the interviewees said that they believed the newspapers covered committee meetings without distortion of information. Yet almost all of them were unhappy about the poor media coverage of the committees.

All of them favour disclosing committee meeting proceedings through the media as they felt that the people have the right to know.

On the question of a strong relationship between the standing committees and the civil society, they said that without involving the media and civil society groups, the functions of the legislature could not be transparent.

The Rules of Procedure of Parliament provides an excellent window for engaging civil society in the process of parliamentary functions. This gives the committees immense opportunities to engage experts and civil society personalities to build a new world of cooperation. But it is seldom exercised. Therefore there's a wide gap between the civil society and the parliamentary committees-which all the chairmen and members believe should be reduced for the benefit of the nation.

To have a complete picture of the quality of media reports on the three parliamentary standing committees, the MRDI study team collected the proceedings of the meetings of the three standing committees of the study period and compared them with the press reports.

Through this comparison it was found that the press did not cover all the standing committee meetings. For instance, the press did not cover four out of seven meetings of the standing committee on Agriculture during the study period. The press covered only four meetings of the standing committee on food and disaster management that held 11 meetings during the study period. The standing committee on LGRD held 11 meetings during the study period and the press covered eight of them.

This way, many important standing committee decisions or recommendations never reach the people.

Again, among the meetings that received coverage, was not covered by all the newspapers.

The alarming issue that came out through these comparisons is that often the proceedings did not match with the newspaper reports-which are mainly based on briefings by committee members.

Again, it was found that briefings by members of the standing committees might not be there in the meeting proceedings. In other words, the committee briefing was either not correct-or the proceedings dropped out many points that the members thought were important.

For instance in a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the food and disaster management ministry the press quoting committee members said that the parliamentary body recommended enacting anti-hoarding act. But this information was not found in the relevant meeting proceedings. The committee however made this recommendation in the next meeting. The press made this mistake due to wrong briefing by the committee members or due to journalists' misunderstanding of their briefing.

The study found that some reports gave out detailed data absent in the proceedings. This data was presented at the meeting, but apparently the officials in charge of writing the proceedings decided not to include them because they were either inefficient or under tremendous workloads or they lack adequate manpower.

The study also found that sometimes the press would fail to report properly despite proper briefing, probably due to lack of understanding by the reporters on certain issues.

For instance, in the first meeting of the standing committee on food and disaster management ministry in 2009, the committee recommended renaming "Food and Disaster Management" ministry into "Food, Relief and Disaster Management" ministry. But this key recommendation did not come up in any of the media reports that focused on other issues. It was a journalistic failure.

This finding only confirms the suggestions that the press should be allowed to be present in the standing committee meetings to ensure more correct, authentic and understandable news.

# DETAILED FINDINGS

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To find out the level and quality of coverage of the three parliamentary standing committees in the print medium and electronic medium, the MRDI monitored 10 popular newspapers including three English language dailies and four television channels including the state owned BTV. The periods of monitoring of such coverage were March-June 2009, January-April 2010, January-April 2011- a total of 12-months.

The selected newspapers are: Jugantor, Ittefaq, New Age, Prothom Alo, Naya Diganta, The Daily Star, Janakantha, Samakal, The Independent and Kaler Kantho. These papers have published a total of 85 items during the period of monitoring.

## **1. COMPARING MEDIA REPORTS WITH PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

To have a complete picture of the quality of media reports on the three parliamentary standing committees, the MRDI study team collected the proceedings of the meetings of the three standing committees of the study period.

Following is the list of issues that the team found.

### **A. Standing Committee on Agriculture:**

There had been seven meetings of the standing committee on Agriculture during the study period between March 2009 and April 2011. Three of these meetings were not covered by the 10 newspapers. The other four meetings were covered – but not all newspapers covered all the meetings at the same time.

The agriculture minister attended all of these standing committee meetings, while the lone member from BNP attended just one of these seven meetings.

The maiden meeting of the Agriculture Committee was held on March 19, 2009 and it generated only two reports in two dailies. Both reports highlighted on the basis of briefing by the Standing Committee that the committee had recommended making the Agriculture Development Corporation more effective. But the meeting's proceedings do not have such recommendation. In other words, the committee briefing was not correct.

The next meeting held on April 2, 2009 that discussed taking the information technology to farmers and giving farmers ICT training, disseminating new technologies to farmers, recommending recovery of encroached godowns etc – but no newspaper ran any report on the meeting. This was an important news item that was missed.

The third meeting was held on May 21, 2009 and it was covered by four newspapers. It was found that out of six decisions taken by the committee, only one decision was highlighted. The media reports also highlighted in detail on vacant posts in different organs under the agriculture ministry. The reports were based on a report submitted by the agriculture secretary to the committee. But the committee proceedings did not include these details. Yet having the details of the secretary's report would serve a good purpose in the future. It shows that the officials in charge of writing the proceedings were either inefficient or under tremendous workloads (or they lack adequate manpower).

The fourth meeting was held on June 22, 2009 which was covered by only one newspaper. The report wrongly interpreted the discussions as it did not cite the meeting proceedings properly. The committee had scrutinized the National Agriculture Award Fund (Amendment) Bill that aimed at renaming the award after Bangabandhu, while the report said something different.

The committee held its 10th meeting on January 31, 2010 where it discussed developing salinity resistant rice and taking measures to resolve agriculture problems caused by climate changes among other issues. Some papers covered the meeting but highlighted on introduction of crop insurance. It is understood that as the parliament was in session at that time, there was a lack of reporters' focus on this meeting.

The 11th meeting was held in April 1, 2010 – but it was not covered by the press. The meeting however did not discuss very interesting topics.

The 12th meeting was held on April 13, 2010 – and again it was not covered by the press. The meeting was additionally attended by high officials of different agriculture organizations and it discussed deploying first grade union agriculture officials at union level, allocating Tk 10,000 crore fund to the agriculture ministry to deal with sudden disasters and a number of issues related to irrigation, power supply for agriculture.

## **B. Standing Committee on Food and Disaster Management:**

The standing committee on food and disaster management held 11 meetings during the study period-out of which only four meetings were covered by the newspapers and seven meetings ignored. One significant issue about these meetings was that the member from the Opposition BNP attended all but one of these 11 meetings, whereas the relevant minister had skipped two of these meetings.

The first meeting of the standing committee on food and disaster management ministry was held on April 28, 2009 and it got coverage in four newspapers. The first meeting made five recommendations which included renaming "Food and Disaster Management" ministry into "Food, Relief and Disaster Management" ministry. But this key recommendation did not come up in any of the media reports. It's a journalistic failure.

There were two different focuses in the newspaper reports. One focus was on engaging the MPs in TR VGD while the other focus was on increasing food stock and godowns.

The second meeting on disaster management was held on May 26, 2009. It did not have any interesting discussion and the press did not cover it.

The third meeting held on June 18, 2009 recommended, among other things, a law that would make it mandatory to take recommendations of local MPs when taking a project to distribute relief allocated by Upazila Parishad. But there was no media coverage.

The ninth meeting of the committee was held in Jan 26, 2010. A sub-committee was formed at the meeting to find out the causes of rising price of rice when there was adequate rice in the stock. This was worth reporting. But there was no press coverage.

The next meeting held on February 28, 2010 further discussed price hike of rice, extending the investigation period for the sub committee, a pilot initiative for better targeting hardcore poor, advising high officials to find out the bank loans of big rice dealers etc. But none of these public interest issues came up in any of the newspapers.

The 11th meeting was held on March 24, 2010 and it was covered in three newspapers. All these reports focused on the same issue that the committee rebuked the DG food. But the proceedings did not show any such information. All it said was that a member of the committee questioned the quality of rice being distributed among the VGF card holders but no newspapers wrote on it.

As the reports were based on briefing by committee members, it's clear that what the press reported was true. It was the proceedings writer who had either dropped the incident deliberately or upon getting some instructions to exclude the incident.

The 12th meeting was held on April 22, 2010 and it was totally ignored by the media. But the agriculture minister claimed in the meeting that the 100-day special programme for food distribution taken during the caretaker government was full of corruption. This issue should have been covered by the media.

On January 19, 2011 the 21st meeting of this committee was held. This was covered by 4 newspapers. The reports said that the committee recommended for enacting anti-hoarding act. But this information was not found in the meeting proceedings. The food minister and some members spoke about anti-hoarding act in this meeting, but enacting the law was not recommended. The recommendation was made in the next meeting. The press made this mistake due to wrong briefing by the committee members or due to journalists' misunderstanding of their briefing.

The next meeting held on February 24, 2011, recommended anti-hoarding act among other issues. The press covered the meeting focusing on the committee's recommendation on strengthening the OMS programme to bring the rice price down.

The next meeting was held on March 22, 2011. It discussed among many issues on price control and introducing a fair price card at the Upazila level, which deserved good media coverage. But there was no press report.

On April 28, 2011, the next meeting once again discussed price control, fair price card, OMS etc. Once again, there was no press report.

### **C. Standing Committee on LGRD**

The standing committee on LGRD held 11 meetings during the study period. Out of these three committees' meetings, the LGRD standing committee received comparatively the best coverage in the newspapers with only three of its meetings not being covered.

The representative of the Opposition BNP skipped five of these meetings while the minister skipped seven and the state minister four.

The first meeting was held on March 5, 2009 and it was given single column coverage in a paper. The proceedings show that the LGRD minister informed the committee about transfer of his ministry's secretary and additional secretary without his knowledge. This revealing information is missing from the story which was otherwise loyal to the meeting.

The second meeting held on March 24, 2009 was not covered by the newspapers. The meeting discussed on MPs becoming advisors to the city corporations which was interesting topic.

The third meeting held on March 29, 2009 was covered by some newspapers. The newspapers however highlighted the discussion of the previous meeting where the issue of MPs becoming advisors to city corporations was raised. But it was not discussed at this meeting. This happened due to briefings by the committee members. The reports wrote other issues in accordance with the proceedings, but they missed one crucial point that an upazila office cannot communicate with the government without informing the local MP.

The fourth meeting held on April 16, 2009 was also covered by the press. The newspaper reports gave details on the discussion on Gram Sarkar stating that Tk 135 crore was looted by the Gram Sarkar-but the proceedings did not truly represent the spirit of the meeting.

The fifth meeting on May 11, 2009 was covered by two newspapers and their reports match the proceedings.

The sixth meeting held on May 20, 2009 was covered by the media but there is mismatch between the reports and the proceedings. As per the meeting proceedings, there was no discussion on formation of metropolitan government. The discussion was focused on splitting the DCC and upgrading Narayanganj and Gazipur municipalities to city corporations. Some newspaper reports say the committee discussed formation of metropolitan government. This mismatch, once again, stemmed from the briefings by the committee members.

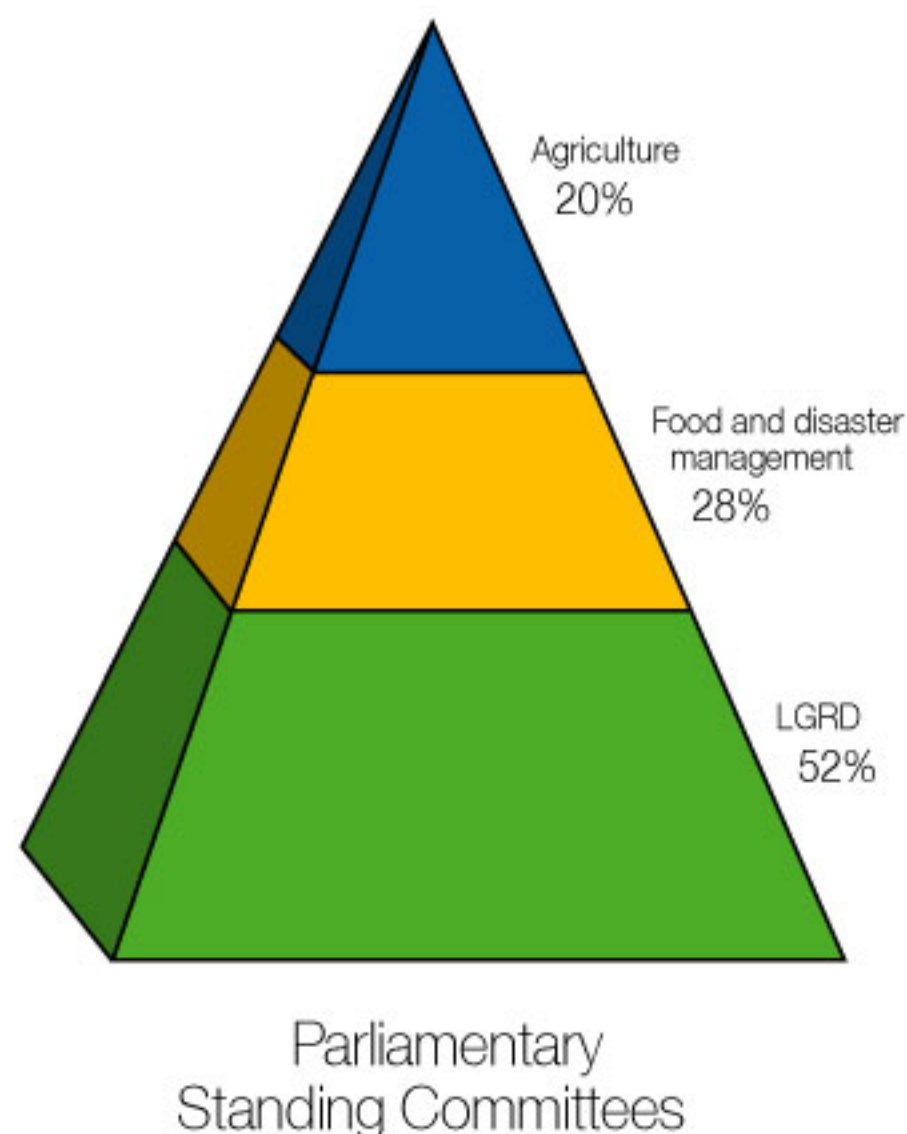
The seventh meeting was held on June 1, 2009. No newspaper ran any report on this meeting. There were at least two important information on the committee's foreign tour and LGRD minister's statement to hold due polls-which deserved press coverage.

On February 3, 2010 the 17th meeting of the committee was held and two newspapers covered it. The reports reflected the meeting proceedings. But the reports missed the state minister's statement about corruption in Milk Vita-which would serve as the tip of the iceberg for the papers to start its investigative reporting on the issue.

The next meeting held on February 24, 2010 had a lot of sensational issues which was totally missed by the press. The meeting discussed various anomalies and allegations of corruption in Milk Vita where it was discussed that a high official of Milk Vita at Baghabari Ghat stole sales money of 20,000 litres of milk a day.

The next meeting on March 21, 2010 generated three newspaper reports. The reports focused on Zila Parishad Bill, some issues on WASA and resentment of the MPs on certain issues. The resentment was not mentioned in the proceedings.

The 20th meeting of the committee was held in April 11, 2010 and it generated just one report focusing on corruption in Milk Vita. The meeting proceedings also predominantly mentions issues related to Milk vita.



## 2. FINDINGS FROM INTERVIEWS OF JS BODY CHIEFS AND MEMBERS

As part of the study, we have interviewed the chiefs and some of the members of the three parliamentary standing committees seeking their views on media coverage of their activities.

The Rules of Procedure of Jatiya Sangsad prohibit journalists from being present at the meetings of the parliamentary standing committees. On the other hand, there has been a growing demand for allowing journalists to be present at the committees' meetings.

Interestingly all the chairmen and members we interviewed unequivocally agreed that journalists should be allowed to be present at the meetings of the parliamentary standing committees to make the committees' functions meaningful and more effective.

They also found this contradictory that while journalists were not allowed to be present at the meeting, the BTV was allowed to be there. The press was allowed to cover the parliament sessions, then why they were barred from the committee's meeting, some of them asked.

Citing example of journalists' presence at the House of Commons and the US Senate, chairman of a standing committee said he did not see any problem with media presence at the committee meetings.

On the question of news coverage, most of the interviewees said that they believed the newspapers covered committee meetings without distortion of information.

While they said that the press reports were consistent with the discussions, some of them observed that sometimes the newspapers did not give due importance on issues that the committee was giving importance.

Nevertheless, almost all of them were unhappy about the poor media coverage of the committees. The media does not cover the meetings regularly.

Some interviewees noted that not all reporters who cover the committees were sincere.

One MP noted that the media would cover only the meetings that they thought was important.

All of them favour disclosing committee meeting proceedings through the media as they felt that the people have the right to know.

On the question of a strong relationship between the standing committees and the civil society, the parliamentarians including the committee chiefs were highly supportive. They said that without involving the media and civil society groups, the functions of the legislature could not be transparent.

While their opinions are favourable for the civil society, the MPs on frequent occasions had blasted the civil society for criticism of the government.

The Rules of Procedure of Parliament provides an excellent window for engaging civil society in the process of parliamentary functions. This gives the committees immense opportunities to engage experts and civil society personalities to build a new world of cooperation. But it is seldom exercised. Therefore there's a wide gap between the civil society and the parliament committees.

All the chairmen and members interviewed unanimously opined that the gap should be reduced so that the nation could benefit from expert opinions of the civil society at the committee meetings on important issues.

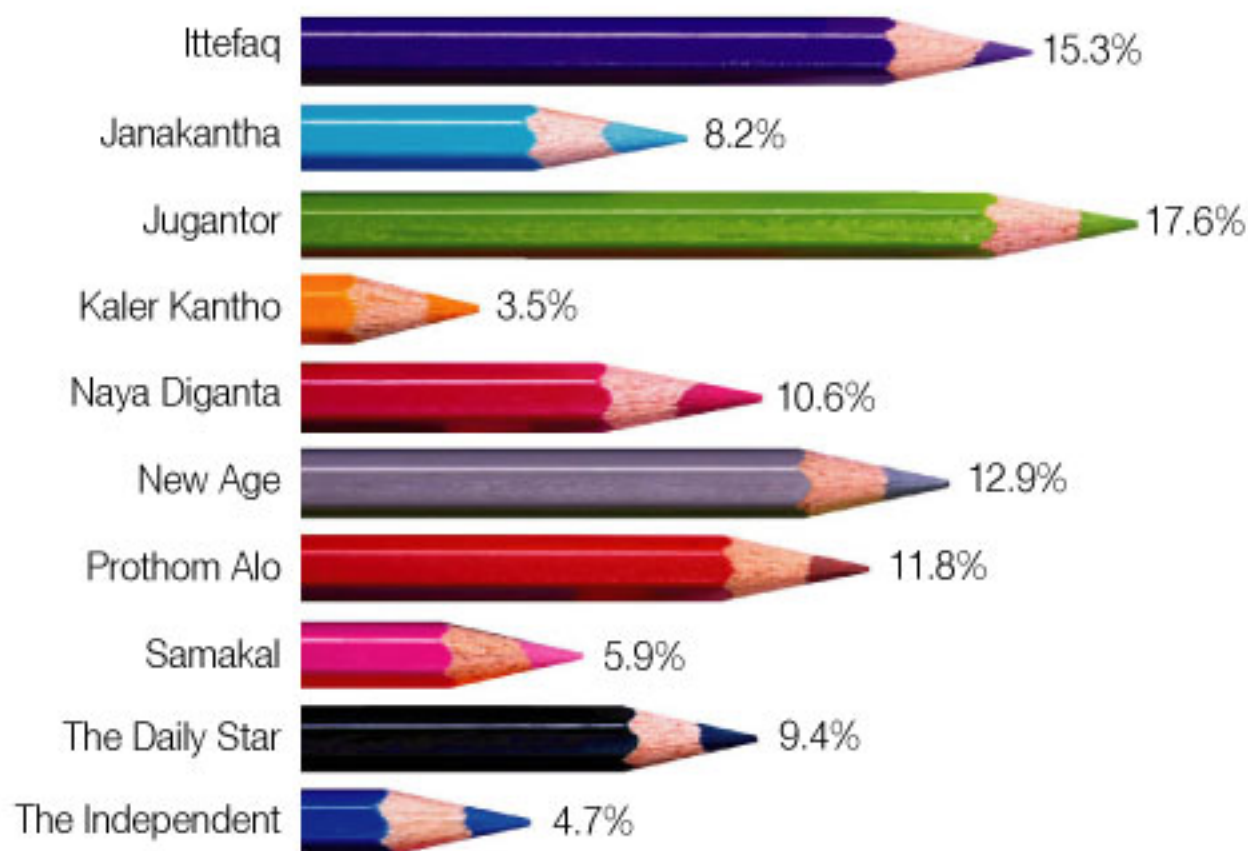
The petition committee of the parliament also can help develop the bridge between the parliament and people and the civil society. This non-functional committee can ensure people's participation in the legislation as through this committee anyone can file petitions about pending proposed legislations. They can also file petitions about any important issue. To make the committee functional, the Speaker, who is chief of the committee, needs to take steps.

### **3. PRINT MEDIUM**

Of these 85 items in newspapers, there was only one editorial and just one follow-up news story while the rest are all event or spot news.

With one editorial and 14 event reports, Jugantor ran the most number of news, followed by Ittefaq (13), New Age (11), Prothom Alo (10), Naya Diganta (9), The Daily Star (7 event reports and 1 follow up), Janakantha 8, Samakal 5, The Independent 4 and Kaler Kantho 3.

All of these items were written by the newspapers' staffs.

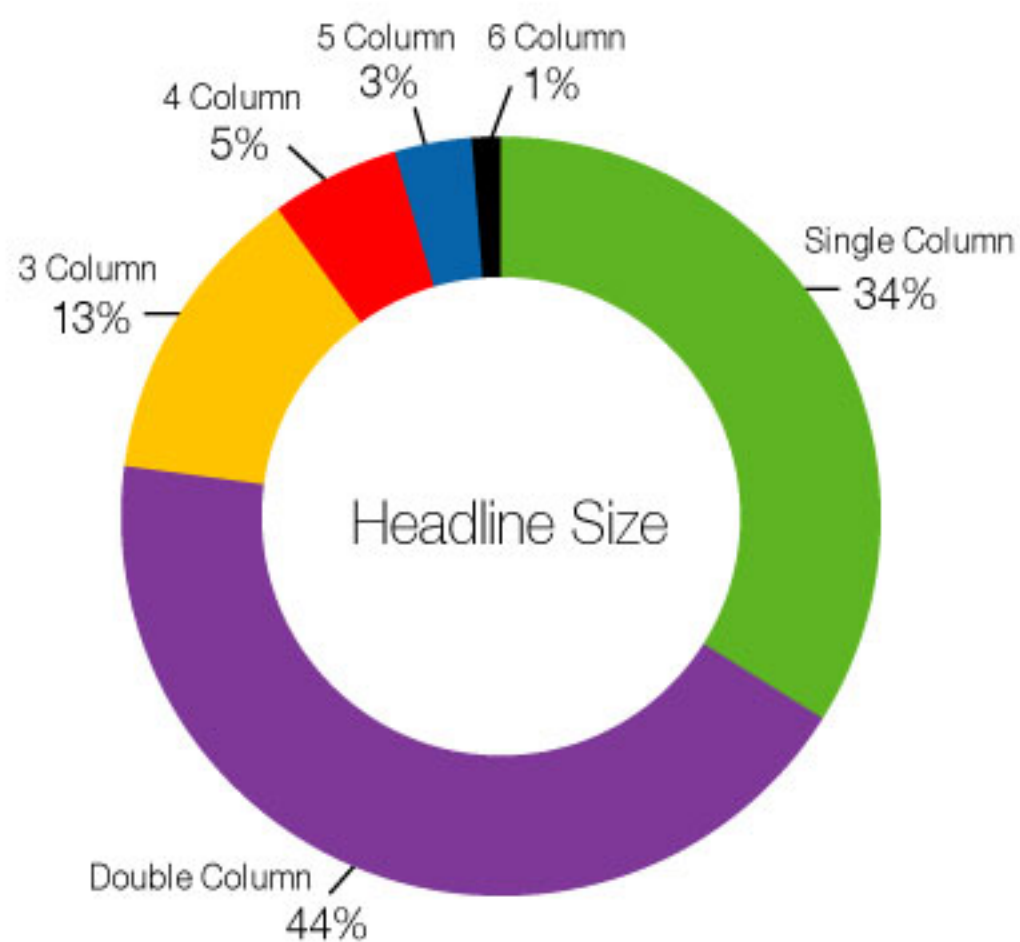


Coverage by Print Media

In the news item treatment, majority received double column, followed by single column, three columns, four columns, five columns and just 1 six column treatments.

The New Age gave comparatively high importance in treating their parliamentary committee news. The lone six column treatment was given by New Age which also ran 3 five column items, 1 four column, 4 double column and 2 single column items.

The Jugantor treated six items as single columns, seven items double and two items three columns. The Ittefaq ran equal number of single and double columns (4 items each), 3 three columns and 2 four columns. Prothom Alo treated 2 items as single column 5 as double and 3 as three column items. Naya Diganta gave one three column and 4 each as single and double column treatment. The Daily Star gave 2 single column, 4 double, 1 three and 1 four column treatment. The Janakantha gave 6 out of 7 items single column treatment and 1 double column. The Samakal gave 2 single, 2 double and 1 three column treatment. The Independent published 1 single and 3 double columns while the Kaler Kantho gave 3 double columns.

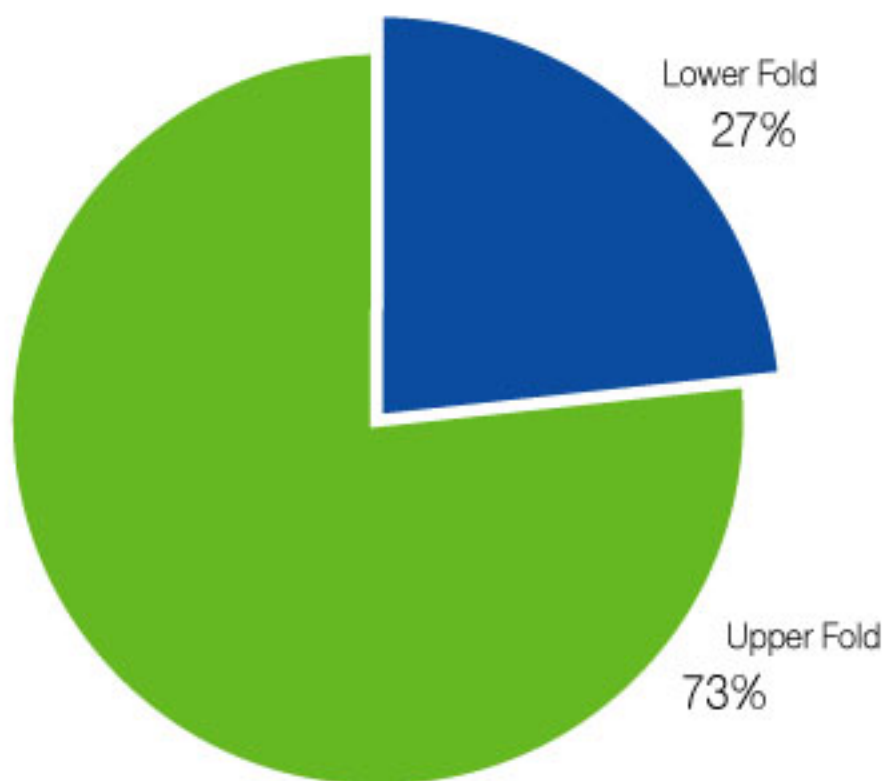


Majority (34) of the items were placed on the back page. As many as 30 items were placed in other pages, 14 in the front page, six in metro and one in op-ed page. Prothom Alo placed the highest 4 items in its front and the rest in other pages.

Naya Diganta, The Independent and the Kaler Kantho did not run any item in their front page. Out of its nine items, Naya Diganta ran 5 in back page, one in metro and three in other pages. Independent ran three items in the back and one in metro while Kaler Kantho placed all its three items in other pages.

The Ittefaq, New Age, Janakantha and Samakal each ran two items in their front page. Ittefaq ran six stories in back page, one in metro and four in other pages, New age five in back page, two in metro and two in other pages, Janakantha five in back page and Samakal three in other pages. The Daily Star ran one item in the front, six in the back and one in the metro pages.

Most of the news items got upper fold treatments in these newspapers-with 62 items in the upper and 23 in the lower folds.



Placement of Items

Ittefaq, New Age, and Prothom Alo placed most of their items (10 to 11) on the upper fold-and lesser (0 to 2) on the lower fold. Jugantor ran nine in the upper six in the lower, The Daily Star ran six items on the upper, two in the lower, Naya Diganta five in upper and four in lower, and Janakantha two upper and five lower folds. Samakal ran three upper, two lower, The Independent ran all its four items in the upper fold and Kaler Kantho two upper and one lower folds.

Out of the three standing committees, the one dealing with the LGRD got maximum coverage with 44 items in these papers. The Food and Disaster management got the second attention with 24 items and the agriculture the least attention with 17 items.

The Jugantor gave the LGRD and Disaster Management parliamentary committees most attention with nine and five items respectively and Agriculture just one item. Ittefaq's coverage of all the three committees were close-with Agriculture getting three items, disaster four and LGRD six.

The New Age, Prothom Alo and The Daily Star each ran six items on the LGRD, while they ran one to three items on Disaster Management and one to two items on Agriculture. The Naya Diganta ran five items on LGRD, three on Disaster and one on Agriculture.

The Janakantha on the other hand gave least coverage of LGRD with just one item, but it ran three items each on Agriculture and Disaster. The Samakal gave two items each for Agriculture and LGRD and one for Disaster, The Independent two on LGRD and one each for Agriculture and Disaster and Kaler Kantho ran one item each for the three committees.

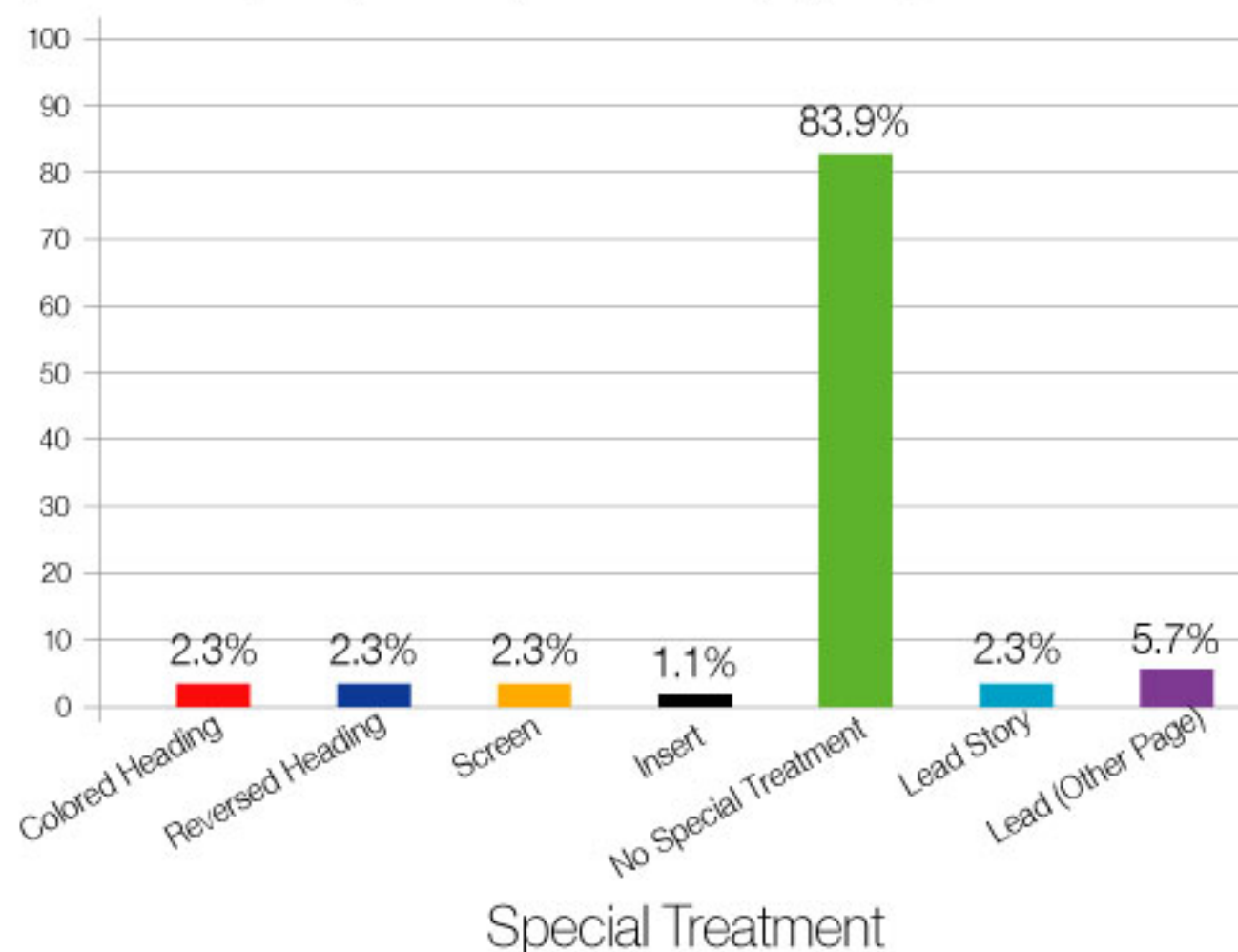
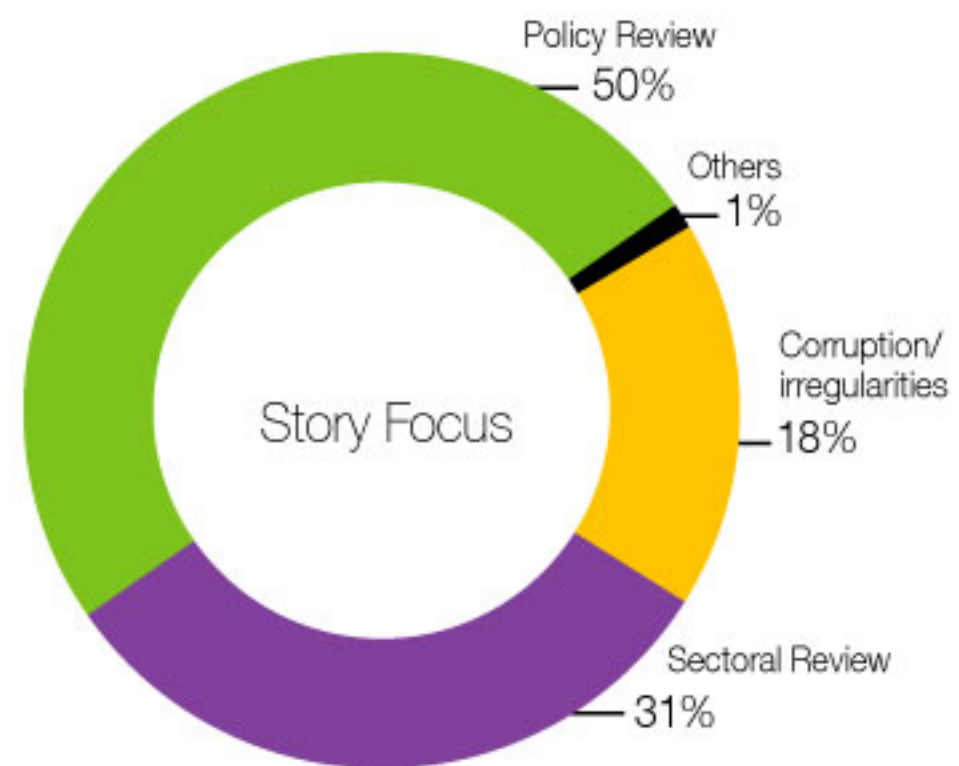
Most of the stories gave their focus on reviewing the government policy (43 items), while 26 items got sector performance review focus, and 15 items corruption or irregularities and just one item other focus.

Each of Jugantar, Ittefaq, New Age, Prothom Alo, Naya Diganta, The Daily Star ran five to six news items focusing on policy review, while Janakantha, Samakal and The Independent ran three to four items on the same and Kaler Kantha just one item on this focus.

Jugantar, Ittefaq and New Age also ran five to six items each focusing on sector performance, Prothom Alo three, Naya Diganta, Janakantha and Samakal two each and Kaler Kantho and The Daily Star zero items in this focus.

Jugantar, Ittefaq and The Daily Star ran three items each focusing on corruption and irregularities, Kaler Kantho two, New Age, Prothom Alo, Naya Diganta and Janakantha one each and Samakal and Independent zero items on this focus.

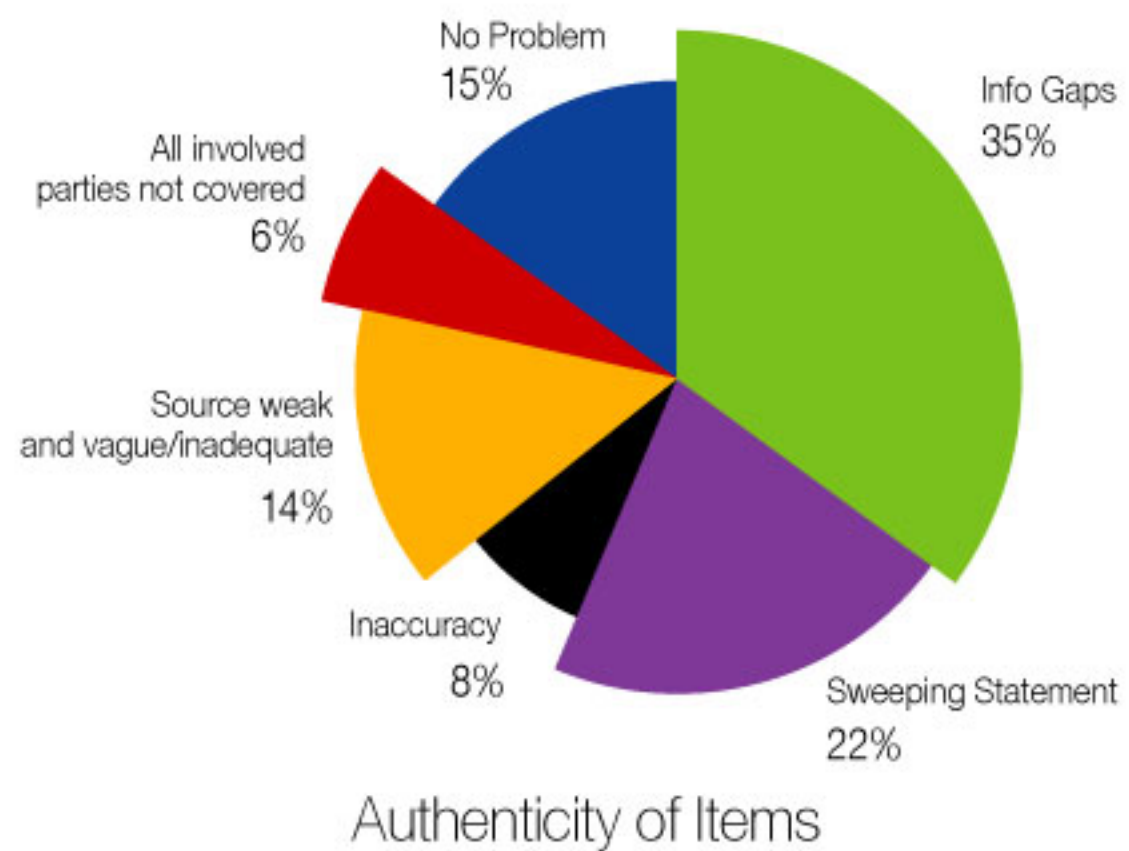
An overwhelmingly majority items received no special treatment. Out of the 85 items published only 14 items had received some special treatments. Only two items were given lead treatments (Ittefaq and Frothom Alo), two coloured headings (Ittefaq and Samakal), two reversed headings (New Age and Janakantha), two screens (Ittefaq and Prothom Alo), five were made lead stories in other pages (New Age, Prothom Alo, and The Daily Star) and one given an insert (Jugantar).



## Authenticity

What's most alarming about the quality of these news items is that out of the 85 items, only 19 had no problem with their authenticities. The rest had one or multiple problems. No newspaper had all their items fully authentic.

In majority cases, information gap is the common problem in establishing authenticity of these stories. This problem relates to 44 of the stories. This problem is followed by another shortfall-sweeping statement (27 instances), weak source and vagueness (18 instances), inaccuracy (10 instances and not all parties involved are covered (eight instances). Note that there are several stories that had more than one category of problems.

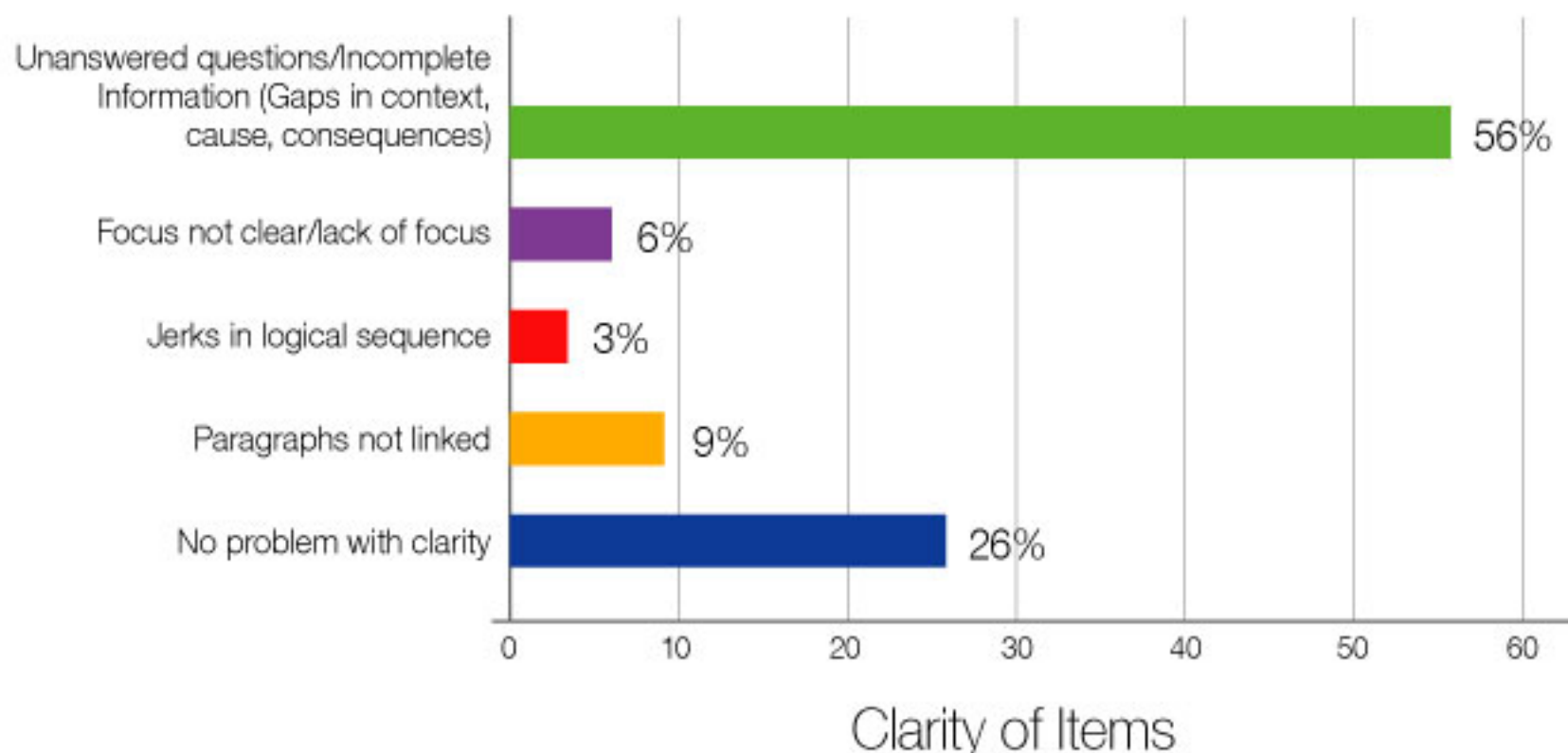


## Readability

Interestingly, out of the 85 items, 54 read well. There had been instances of unlinked paragraphs of repetition in some reports. There had been some instances of long and complex sentences.

## Clarity

When it comes to clarity, once again the larger number of stories had problems. There are 53 instances of unanswered questions or incomplete information. In contrast, there are 24 stories without any clarity problems. Other problem areas are: paragraphs not linked (eight instances), lack of focus (six), and jerks in logical sequence (three).



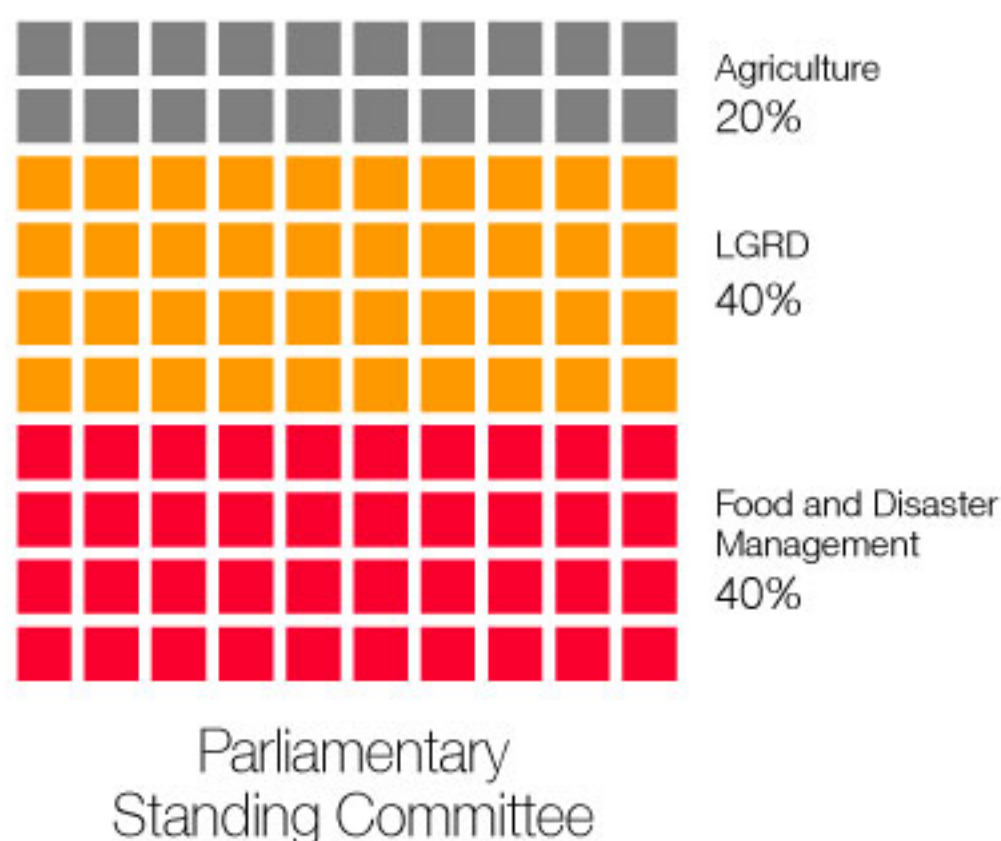
#### 4. Television

The three TV channels during the monitoring period ran 24 event or spot news items. Of them, the BTV ran 21, ATN Bangla two and Ntv just one. All of these items were covered by their staffs.

Majority of these items landed in the second and third segment of the news. In the first segment of news, the BTV ran three items, ATN Bangla both its items and the Ntv none. In the second segment, the BTV ran 10 items and Ntv 1 item. In the third segment, the BTV ran 8 items.

In giving treatment to these items, all of the 21 BTV items and Ntv's lone item were given Out of Vision treatment. The ATN Bangla gave one item Out of Vision and the other as OOV plus Sync treatment.

Again, in giving special treatment, only one item in the BTV was given space in the main headlines while the lone item in Ntv got a scroll treatment. All other items in BTV and ATN received no special treatment.



#### When in the News?

	Frequency	Percent
1st Part	5	20.8
2nd part	11	45.8
3rd Part	8	33.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Of the three standing committees, the LGRD and Disaster Management ones got highest coverage (each claiming nine items) and Agriculture the least (six items). The BTV gave five items for agriculture and eight each for LGRD and Disaster Management. The ATN Bangla gave no coverage of Disaster Management while the Ntv gave its lone coverage on Disaster Management.

In terms of duration of these items, one item each in BTV and ATN Bangla got one minute coverage. The remaining items received coverage ranging from five seconds to maximum 52 seconds. The lone Ntv item was given 36 seconds coverage, while ATN Bangla gave nine seconds for one item 34 seconds for the other.

BTV gave two items each 24 seconds, 34 seconds, 36 seconds and 48 seconds. It also gave one five second item and one 52 second item.

# DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP

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## **Jatiya Sangsad Bodies Under Media Scanner**

Findings and recommendations of the study were presented in a dissemination workshop organized at the Parliament House. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP, Honorable Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, Hasanul Haq Inu, MP, Honorable Speaker of Parliament, the Minister of Information, Chairmen of Parliamentary Standing Committees, Members of Parliament, newsroom leaders of print and electronic media, representatives of the development partners and civil society were present as discussants. Participants of the workshop took part in discussions and made some recommendations on the findings of the study. The report has been finalized accommodating the recommendations. Their observations and suggestions are given below:

### **MEDIA**

- Media should have access to the PSC meetings to better cover the events. PSC members may be more aware of their role when media access is permitted. However, media access could be restricted only to the issues concerning national security.
- The reporters who cover the ministries should be assigned to cover the meetings of the corresponding PSCs. For example, the reporter who covers the ministry of agriculture will cover the meetings of the PSC on the agriculture ministry.
- Media have to be proactive in covering PSC meetings and do follow-up reporting on the progress of the PSC recommendations.
- Media should work on the private members' bills that wait for years to be placed in the parliament.
- Journalists' training is important for better reporting on the parliamentary affairs.

### **Parliament**

- PSCs should make formal briefing on each meeting held. Media should be provided with written documents to avoid misinformation.
- PSCs should have a spokesperson to deal with the media.



- PSC chairman should check if the meeting proceedings are written in a proper manner.
- Those addressing the press briefings on the PSC meetings require training to ensure objectivity.
- The MRDI study needs to be shared with all the PSC chairmen.
- PSCs could have an annual calendar and agenda for the meetings. This can help people, and media to prepare for better coverage of the meetings.
- The Parliament TV should follow all the proceedings of the PSC meetings.
- MPs need more staff to help them research the issues they work for.
- The Parliament should relieve the journalists of the contempt proceedings by passing the private member's bill on protection of the journalists.
- PSCs should select the pertinent issues of public interests for discussion and actions by the government.
- MPs may visit media houses and have a good relationship with the journalists as both the parties work to establish accountability and transparency.
- Proceedings of PSC meetings need to be precise and contain specific recommendations.

PSCs should allow the reporters covering the ministries concerned to cover the corresponding PSC meetings instead of allowing only those covering the parliament.

- All PSC meetings should make an arrangement for the citizens to voice their issues on the specific ministry at least for half an hour.
- PSCs should seek clarifications on the news reports that do not have authenticity to make sure that people do not suffer from misinformation.
- Parliament should have its own website where PSCs will proactively upload the discussions of the meetings, so everybody including media, can get information.
- PSCs should seek clarification from the BTV why its reports have so little contents on the PSC meetings.
- Parliament should invite the relevant experts to the PSC meetings. This generates more interests among public on the issue and leads to better laws and policies.
- Parliament can publish a bulletin, which can detail the updates of the PSCs. It can also be a great help for media.
- PSCs should be stronger to hold the ministries accountable.
- PSCs should allow the reporters covering the ministries concerned to cover the corresponding PSC meetings instead of allowing only those covering the parliament.
- The Parliament should have better relations between the people. For example, when there is no session, people could be allowed to visit the parliament so they can learn the functions of the parliament.

Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, CEO of Boishakhi Television moderated the workshop and Sharier Khan, Deputy Editor of The Daily Star made presentation of the study report. MRDI Executive Director Hasibur Rahman narrated the background and objective of the study.

# CONCLUSION

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It appears from the findings and observations that interventions are needed to make the activities of parliamentary standing committees more visible to people. Media can play a vital role in this regard. A gap is found between meeting minutes and the media reports. Formal briefing by a spokesperson of the committee, access of media to the committee meetings, capacity improvement of the reporters, releasing the proceedings before the next meeting and more careful recording of the proceedings can help bridge the gap which will substantially contribute to make the JS bodies more functional and meaningful.

# ANNEXURE

## ANNEX-1

### Code Sheet : Print Media

(Study Period : March-June 2009, January-April 2010, January-April 2011)

#### Codes for National Dailies

Prothom Alo	1
Jugantor	2
Samakal	3
Ittefaq	4
Kaler Kantho	5
Janakantha	6
Naya Diganta	7
The Daily Star	8
New Age	9
The Independent	10

#### Codes for Items

Event/spot News	1
Follow-up Report	2
In-depth	3
Editorial	4
Op-ed	5
News Analysis	6
Interview	7

#### Item Source Codes

Staff Correspondent/Reporter	1
Desk Reports/Desk Compilation	2

News Agency	3
Editorial Writer	4

#### Heading Size Codes

Single Column	1
Double Column	2
3/C, 4/C, 5/C	3/4/
6/C, 7/C	5/6/7
Banner	8

#### Page Codes

Front Page	1
Back Page	2
Metro Page	3
Editorial Page	4
Op-ed	5
Other Page	6

#### Placement Codes

Upper Fold	1
Lower Fold	2

#### Special Treatment Codes

Boxed	1
Italic Heading	2
Colored Heading	3

Reversed Heading	4
Screen	5
Logo	6
Insert	7
Reports with Pictures	8
No Special Treatment	9
Lead Story	10
Second Lead in First Page	11
Lead (other page)	12

#### Parliamentary Standing Committee

Agriculture	1
LGRD & CO	2
Food and Disaster Management	3

#### Focus of the Story

Corruption/Irregularities	1
Sectoral Review	2
Policy Review	3
Other Specify	4

#### Authenticity Codes

Info Gaps	1
Sweeping Statement	2

Inaccuracy	3
Source Weak And Vague/Inadequate	4
All Involved Parties Not Covered	5
No Problem	6

#### Codes for Clarity Problems

Focus Not Clear/ Lack of Focus	2
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Unanswered Questions/Incomplete Information (Gaps in context, cause, consequences)	1
Jerks in Logical Sequence	3
Paragraphs Not Linked	4
No Problem with Clarity	5

#### Codes for Readability Problems

Jargons/Hard Words	1
Sentences Long and Complex	2
Paragraphs Not Linked	3
Repetition/ Unnecessary Length	4
No Problem with Readability	5

## ANNEX-2

### Code Sheet : Electronic Media

(Study Period : March-June 2009, January-April 2010, January-April 2011)

#### TV Code

BTV	1
Channel i	2
ATN Bangla	3
Ntv	4

#### Codes for Items

Event/spot News	1
Follow-up Report	2
Graphics	3

#### Item Source Codes

Staff Correspondent/ Reporter	1
Local Correspondent	2
Desk Reports/ Desk Compilation	3
Archive and Reference	4

#### When in the News?

1st Part	1
2nd Part	2
3rd Part	3

#### Treatment of News

In Vision (IV)	1
Out of Vision (OOV)	2
Package (graphic, sync, phono, Vox-pop)	3
OOV+Sync	4

#### Special Treatment

Lead News	1
Special Report	2
1-1 Studio Discussion	3
Special Sting	4
Headlines	5

Coming Up	6
Breaking News	7
Scroll	8
Multiple	9
No Special Treatment	10

#### Parliamentary Standing Committee

Agriculture	1
LGRD & CO	2
Food and Disaster Management	3

#### Focus of the Story

Corruption/Irregularities	1
Sectroal Review	2
Policy Review	3
Other specify	4

## ANNEX-3

### Talking points of Key Informant Interview

1. Do the journalists cover PSC meetings properly?
2. Do the newspapers publish PSC focused stories regularly?
3. Do you search for PSC stories in the next day's newspaper?
4. Are the stories on PSCs preserved in the office of the PSC Chairmen?  
If yes, are the clippings shown to the PSC chairmen?
5. Does the media properly report on the statements of PSC Chairman or members?
6. Does the media also give importance to a issue what PSCs consider important?
7. Are there any discussions in the committee meetings relating to which part of the decisions will the media cover?
8. Do you think PSC meeting proceedings should be published in the media?
9. Are any other issues discussed beyond agenda jotted in the proceedings?
10. Are there any differences found between the briefings to the media and what gets published?
11. What should the role of media and PSCs be like?
12. What role can the PSCs play in bridging the gap between the Civil society and the Parliament?

## ANNEX-4

### Workshop Participant List

#### Guest

1.	<b>Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP</b>	Honorable Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament
2.	<b>Hasanul Haq Inu, MP</b>	Honorable Minister of Information
3.	<b>Richard Greene</b>	Mission Director, USAID
4.	<b>Hasan M. Mazumdar</b>	Country Representative, The Asia Foundation Bangladesh
5.	<b>Sheela Tasneem Haq</b>	Civil Society Program Director, PRODIP
6.	<b>Hasibur Rahman</b>	Executive Director, MRDI

### Panel Discussant

6.	Shawkat Momen Shahjahan, MP	Chairman, Standing Committee on Ministry of Agriculture
7.	A B M Anwarul Hoque, MP	Chairman, Standing Committee on Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief
8.	Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP	Honorable Member of the Parliament
9.	Shah Jikrul Ahmed, MP	Member, Standing Committee on Ministry of Agriculture
10.	Narayan Chandra Chanda, MP	Member, Standing Committee on Ministry of Food
11.	Hafiz Ahmed Majumder, MP	Member, Standing Committee on Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief
12.	Md. Mujibul Haque, MP	Honorable Member of the Parliament
13.	Shahjahan Sardar	Editor, Manabkantho
14.	Abdul Quayum	Joint Editor, Daily Prothom Alo

### Report Presenter

16.	Sharier Khan	Deputy Editor, The Daily Star
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### Moderator

17.	Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul	CEO, Boishakhi Television
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### Discussant

18.	Md. Mahfuzur Rahman	Secretary, Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat
19.	Bhim Charan Roy	Additional Secretary (HR), Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat
20.	Md. Joynal Abedin	Director (PR), Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat
21.	S. M. Manzoor	Director (PR), Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat
22.	Mohammad Nazmul Huda	Deputy Director (PR), Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat
23.	Farid Hossain	Bureau Chief, AP
24.	Rejwana Farha	Political Process Advisor, Office of Democracy and Governance, USAID
25.	Christean Cole	Programme Officer, USAID
26.	Wasif Hasan	Communication Specialist, USAID
27.	Nepal Chandra Sarker	Advisor, Programme Operations, MRDI
28.	Md. Shahid Hossain	Advisor, Planning and Development, MRDI

29.	<b>Mobinul Islam Mobin</b>	Editor, Daily Gramer Kagoj
30.	<b>Hasan Millat</b>	Executive Editor, Daily Sonar Desh
31.	<b>Khan M Khaled</b>	Editor, Weekly Purbakash
32.	<b>Ashish Saikat</b>	Managing Editor, Daily Ittefaq
33.	<b>Shakhawat Liton</b>	Senior Reporter, The Daily Star
34.	<b>Harun Al Rashid</b>	Senior Reporter, Daily Prothom Alo
35.	<b>Nasim Firdaus (Amb. Ret'd)</b>	Executive Director, BDAWL
36.	<b>Dr. Ananya Raihan</b>	Executive Director, D.Net
37.	<b>AHM Bazlur Rahman</b>	Chief Executive Officer, BNNRC
38.	<b>Aminur Rasul Babul</b>	Member Secretary, Unnayan Dhara Trust
39.	<b>Syeed Ahmad</b>	CEO, IID
40.	<b>Sanjeeb Drong</b>	President, Indigenous Peoples Development Services
41.	<b>Mong Thowai Ching</b>	Executive Director, Green Hill, Rangamati
42.	<b>Md. Harun Or Rashid</b>	Executive Director, Light House
43.	<b>Farzana Maherin</b>	Senior Program Officer, PRODIP-CSO
44.	<b>Swe Min Zaw</b>	APS to Honorable Speaker

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