



Project Annual Report

Year-2

(November 2020-April 2021)

**Increasing the Effective use of the Right to
Information Law by Media and Civil Society**

Prepared by



1 June 2021

Context

Enactment of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009 is considered as a milestone in the history of Bangladesh's legislation and regulations. It is regarded as a people's law because it has empowered the citizens to claim information they need from the authorities. Unlike other laws which are applied on people by the government, this law is applied by the citizens on the government offices and other authorities.

Media, as the fourth column of the state and an influential social force, keeps people informed about what is happening around and alerts the government and other authorities about what should or should not happen. The RTI Act has opened up opportunities for the journalists to gather information from authorities to develop in-depth and qualitative reports for the media.

On the other hand, civil society had played a vibrant role on formulating the act, through campaign, lobby and advocacy and continued its effort through implementing RTI initiatives by organizing capacity building training and awareness raising programme for the mass.

Even after more than ten years of enactment of the act, it is found that the public awareness and demand for information are quite far from the level of expectation despite different measures taken by the government and other agencies. Strong advocacy needs to be taken to improve the situation. Optimism remains that the RTI can play a key role in promoting transparency and accountability, if journalists and civil society actors can effectively use it. Their engagement with oversight bodies including the Information Commission could be a model for advocacy.

It is also found that Bangladeshi journalists often lack the skills to produce data-driven, analytical reporting. Training on data literacy and visualization will strengthen journalist capacity to produce more informative report.

Project objective

1. Increase independent media capacity for unbiased and objective reporting, and to conduct effective investigations
2. Developing capacity of using RTI as an effective tool for promoting good governance through strengthening linkages and collaboration between media and NGOs/CSOs.

Reporting period: November 2020-April 2021

Activities performed in Year 2

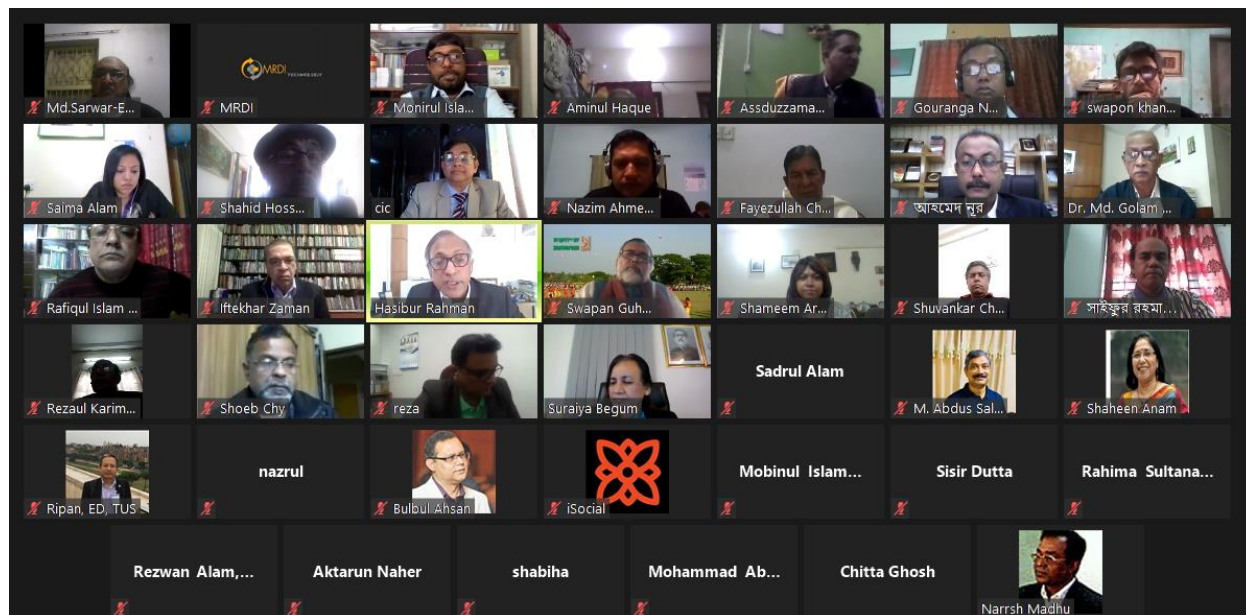
1. National Consultation

Sharing compiled findings and recommendations surfaced from the participatory workshops and present it before the forum for further inclusion national consultation was organized. Dr. Ananya Raihan gave the presentation followed by panel discussions and open remarks. He mentioned Right to Information Act as a powerful law to ensure accountability of government and non-government organizations as well as eradicate corruption from the country. Section 3 of the Act states that if the provisions of the Right to Information Act conflict with any other law, the Right to Information Act shall sustain. In other words, even if an information is restricted for people by any other law, there is an opportunity to get that information by applying the Right to Information Act. Any citizen can use RTI Act anytime to get required information from the authorities. Media & NGO can play a vital role for proper implementation of RTI act, he emphasized.

Total participants	Male	Female
30	28	2

Dr. Iftekharuzzaman, Executive Director, TIB emphasized on the needs to develop a platform with representation of Media and CSO to implement the recommendation properly which came through the discussion of divisional workshops. It will be lead by a convener where core committees can be formed with those who are interested to be involved in such noble initiative. Main role of this platform will be to facilitate the Government reach the target. *Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul*, Editor-in-chief, TV Today mentioned media wants to use RTI but they are facing problems. An intensive analysis is required here. IC can play important role here. *Shaheen Anam*, Executive Director, Manusher Jonno Foundation stressed, that besides taking separate projects on RTI, it should be integrated in every project as a cross-cutting issue. *Professor Md. Golam Rahman*, Former Information Commissioner said, The Information Commission is an independent body. So, it has to carry on with that spirit. People need to be encouraged to make more use of the Right to Information Act. The media can create coverage of RTI law enforcement.

Suraiya Begum NDC, Information Commissioner mentioned Information Commission is working for implementation of RTI Act. It has already reached upazila level to create awareness among mass people. IC also organized training for government officials, NGO and journalists. Appraising this initiative, she mentioned all of us are working towards the same objective. Media, NGO or government officials all are looking for good governance, transparent & accountable society. Information commission will always welcome the initiative facilitating the implementation of RTI act and work combinedly to overcome the challenges. *Martuza Ahmed*, Chief Information Commissioner stressed, IC believes that proactive disclosure is the rule, secrecy is not the culture anymore. Information Commission will play as the safeguard for the citizen in regard to implementing and popularizing RTI Act in everyday life and will provide all kinds of assistance in this work.



Open discussion of the consultation raised some recommendation for future steps.

- A network or platform needs to develop at central, divisional and district levels to do advocacy and lobby in following areas:
 - Facilitate Information Commission to act more effectively
 - Increase RTI campaigning through media
 - Monitor the role of NGO/CSO to create awareness among citizen
 - Coordinate central and local level media and NGOs to implement RTI Act.
- RTI implementation action plan should be developed in an integrated way which could be monitored by RTI monitoring and supervision committees at divisional, district and upazila levels.
- It is necessary to determine who will be responsible for the implementation of the action plan, as well as the financial support for the implementation of the action plan needs to be specified.
- Monitoring is needed on the activities at the local and national levels to ensure the law is being implemented properly.
- Information Commission should take the coordination role to implement the action plan.
- Comprehensive assessment needs to be conducted to identify what have been done so far for RTI implementation.
- One survey can be conducted on who applied for RTI, who got information, who was refused, participation of media/NGOs and how RTI was acknowledged by mass people.
- Information Commission should be more functional.

2. Data Journalism Training for Journalists

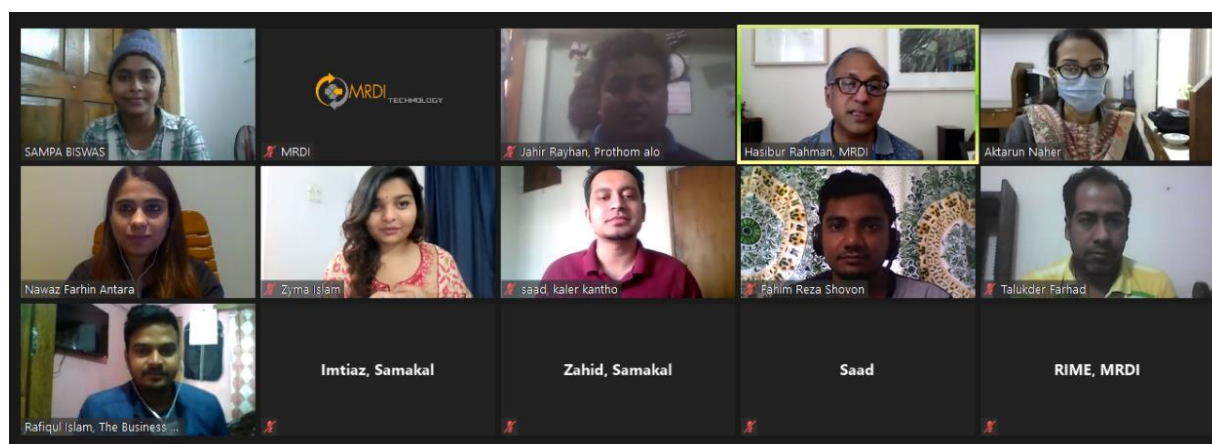
In Bangladesh data journalism is not well discussed and practiced by the media. Though there are some good investigative reports with extensive data analysis, but they are very few in number. Access to open and public data is crucial to meaningful data journalism. However,

open data is hardly available in Bangladesh. This is one of the main reasons why the practice of using data for preparing reports has not yet been established. At present, media is depending on traditional journalism and interview-based reporting. At the same time, most of the journalists have not minimum understanding of data mining and data analysis.

Keeping the importance of data journalism for increasing the objectiveness and quality of reporting in mind the project organized four batches training on data journalism. A total of 48 journalists including national & district level correspondents of print, online and TV reached throughout the process. A special batch training for female reporters also organized. Each of the training was for four half days.

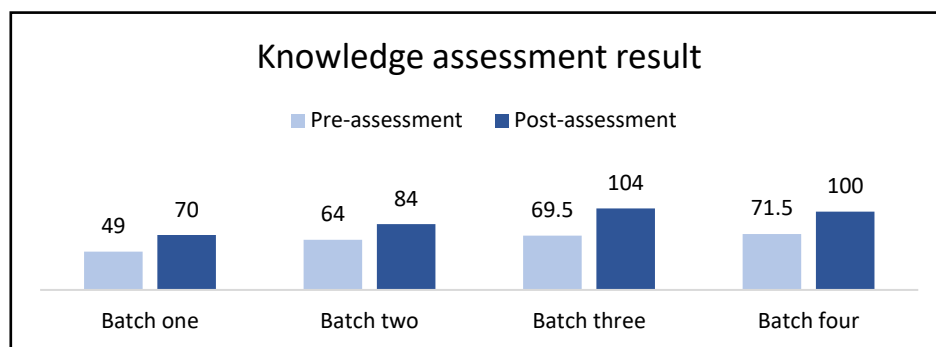
Total participants	Male	Female
48	29	19

According, the data journalism curriculum localized in Bangladeshi context following Internews 200 hours curriculum, 8 lecture sessions and 5 practical sessions were conducted in these trainings. Data journalist Zyma Islam was the facilitator of the training. Naeemul Hassan, Assistant professor, University of Maryland, Philip Merrill College of journalism and Md. Jamal Hossain, Senior Manager Monitoring, BRAC conducted sessions in the training as resource persons. Hasibur Rahman, Executive Director MRDI, also conducted a session on RTI in the training.



A.S.M. Saad, Business Reporter, Kaler Kantho, recognized “The four-day MRDI training was very important. I learned how to create a reliable report using data. I want to be more involved with such trainings in future, because, data can be used to provide quality and reliable report to the reader”.

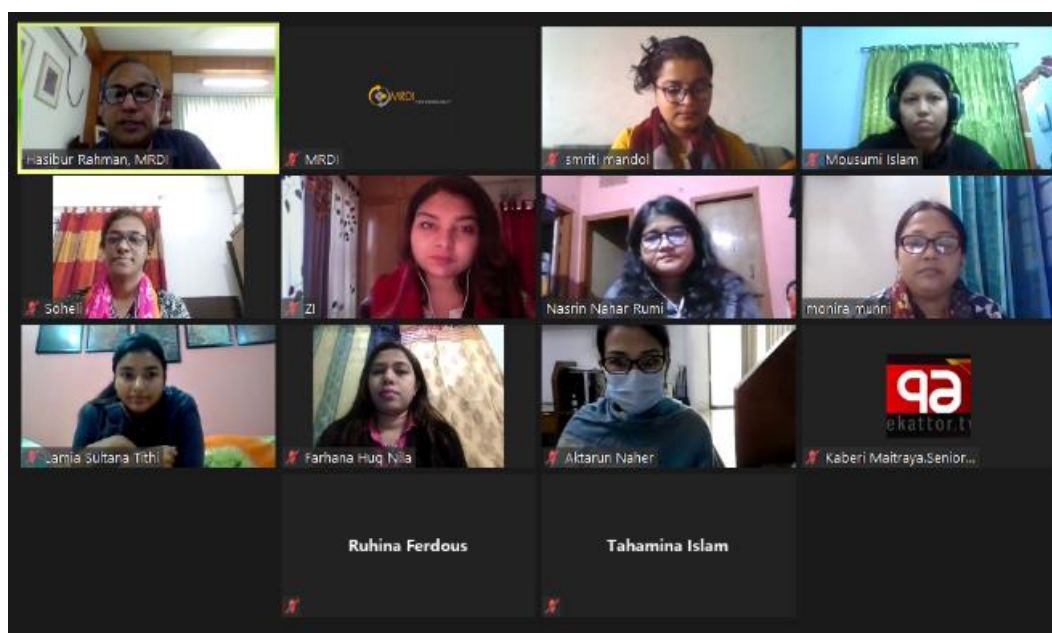
Knowledge assessment of the participants was conducted before and after the training. The result showed improvement in knowledge of the participants.



Mohammad Farhad Hossain Talukder, Staff Correspondent, The Business Standard mentioned “it was a wonderful initiative. I was reluctant to use Excel before. However, I often needed to analyse data, in particular the data we get from Bangladesh Bank. It takes a long time to analyze this data manually. But from today it will be easier for me to analysis those data and I hope I will be able to deliver my report in a short time.”

Salauddin Ahmed Reza, Staff Reporter, Jamuna Television agreed “Before the training we only presented different data in visual story with minimum analysis. But after the training, I will be able to prepare more analytical reports using knowledge on data analysis.”

At end of each training, the participants were given an evaluation form to give their feedback about the overall training programme. As per the evaluation, 86-100 percent participants agreed that the content and discussion of the training fulfilled their expectation. 89-93 percent found the information given through the training was useful & relevant. 89-100 percent found the trainers were competent & helpful.



Participants planned to change their reporting methods, incorporate data analysis in their reporting and way of presentation after receiving our training. Yahia Fazal, Staff Reporter, Sylhet, Kaler Kantho cited “I will practice to prepare quality reports as well as daily routine journalism.” Sajida Islam Parul, Staff Reporter, Samakal mentioned, “In most cases data is not available for report writing and we have to depend on different organizations. After participating data journalism training organized by MRDI, I can create own dataset as per requirement. Data is very important for journalism. I have learned to use Excel through this training. I also learned how to organize data, importance of being careful in using data, including repeated checks and balances. Above all, this training will be helpful in developing my professional skills. Thanks to the MRDI authorities.”

3. Data Journalism Fellowship

Training participants were given opportunity to submit their application for data journalism fellowship. Objective of the initiative was to provide long term capacity building support and encourage reporters for data journalism. Among 23 applications 12 journalists have been awarded fellowship based on their story ideas. Fellows closely work with their mentors in preparing stories and data analysis. Virtual meetings were conducted among the fellows and mentors during the pandemic.

Total participants	Male	Female
12	9	3

Fellowship reports brings interesting findings and analysis. Prothom Alo Pabna correspondent worked on [Chalan beel](#). The vast water body is located at northern part of the country. Once



কৃষি না হওয়ায় চালান বিল এলাকায় অতি-গরমের কারণে প্রচণ্ড শুষ্ক হয়ে গেছে। কৃষিকাজে ও পানিবাহার পানি আশ্রয়ে হাল্কা-খারাপ আছে। সমগ্র চিহ্ন পানিবাহার চট্টোয়ার উপত্যকায় চালান বিল। ছবি: বাসমতি মাসুদ

it was famous for mouthwatering fishes and bio-diversity. The report analyzed, implementing development projects for building dams, sluice gates, bridge, culvert and roads at beel areas seriously disrupted its water flows which impacted on its fish production and

hampered bio-diversity. The report brings forth the need of collective efforts to save the bio-diversity of Chalan beel.

The government approved nine fourth generation banks in 2013 to increase competition and also hoped they would open new avenues in the banking sector. But the trend of [bad debts](#), which is common at old banks, affected them as well. Analyzing data on default and bad loans of 59 banks from 2016 to 2020, staff reporter of the Business standard found that bad debts, although low in amount, increased rapidly at fourth generation banks, and such loans at six foreign banks were almost 100% of the total amount of their default loans. Political consideration, shortage of skilled manpower, failure to launch new products, providing conventional banking services, and the tendency to not learn from the mistakes of old banks are the reasons for the rapid increase in bad loans at these banks, the report explored.

TOP 5 FOREIGN BANKS IN TERMS OF BAD LOANS
(AMOUNTS IN CRORE TAKA)

2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
Bank	Amount	Bank	Amount	Bank	Amount	Bank	Amount	Bank	Amount
NBP	1,460	NBP	1,377	NBP	1,385	NBP	1,379	NBP	1,375
SCB	362	SCB	360	SCB	421	SCB	294	SCB	204
HSBC	123	HSBC	132	HSBC	128	HSBC	135	HSBC	140
Habib	47	Habib	42	Habib	42	Habib	40	Habib	39
Ceylon	46	Ceylon	32	Ceylon	32	Ceylon	35	A I - Falah	34

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Chattogram correspondent of same media house investigated around 41% of [business loan defaulters](#) in the port city come from the consumer goods sector. Different banks and financial institutions in the city have provided loans for various sectors including consumer goods, steel-ship breaking, readymade garment, agriculture and housing. Of the business loans disbursed so far, around Tk35,000 crore has been defaulted by traders in the last eight years. There are a number of reasons behind the rise in defaulted loans in this sector year by year. Among those, selling goods at less than imported prices during 2007's army-backed caretaker government's reign; fluctuation of product prices in domestic and international markets; still conducting business in a conventional way; inadequate development of corporate culture; and the tendency of traders going into hiding after receiving loans are the main ones.

Highlights

- In 2020, defaulted loans in the sector was around Tk600 crore
- Tk35,000 crore defaulted by traders of all sectors in 8 years
- Of the amount, the consumer goods sector defaulted Tk14,000 crore
- Among big groups, SA Group owes Tk4,000 crore to 18 banks
- Loan-giving banks filed cases with Chattogram Artha Rin Adalat in 2020 to get back around Tk2,421 crore

Government under its rehabilitation project allocated 1305 houses for homeless people at Mymensingh district. Though houses have already been distributed but till now 30% peoples are living here. Mymensingh correspondent of Channel 24 explored, these houses have no [electricity, water and sanitation facilities](#). Complaints have also been raised about the actual beneficiaries on the list. This situation ruins the effectiveness of the initiative.

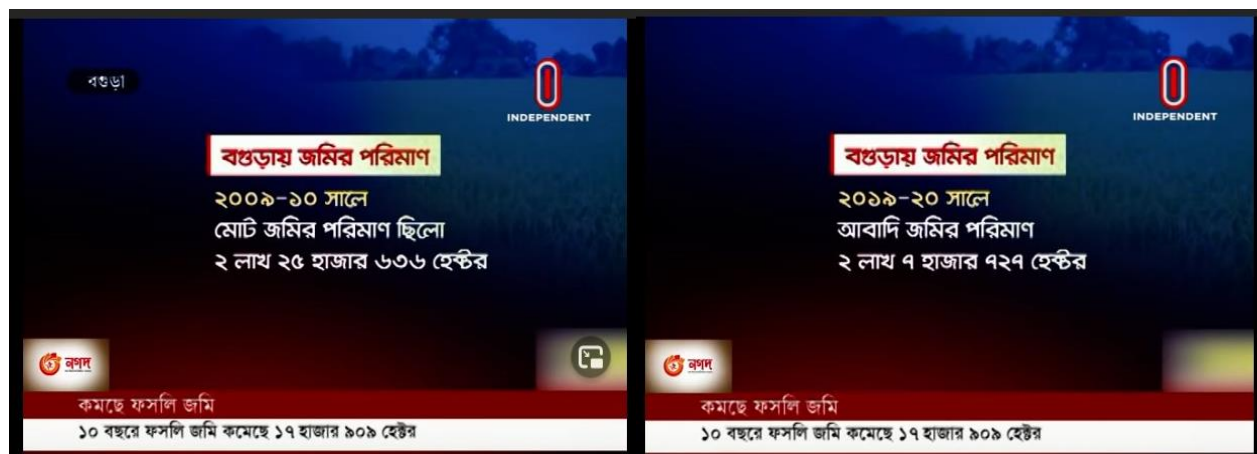


Another senior reporter of Channel 24 investigates on extreme [mismanagement of the power sector](#). To increase power generation in the country many projects have been taken since 2009.

At present total number of projects are more than 150 and their electricity production capacity is 21 thousand megawatts. Report mentioned, over 1.85 lakh crore has been invested at power sector in 12 years. But the production cost per unit could not be reduced. In 10 years, government has given Tk 59,000 crore as subsidy. Experts believes this crisis could have been avoided if the impression of efficiency in planning and implementation had been maintained from the beginning.




Most of the cultivable land in Bogra produce two times crop or three times crop, even four times from some of the lands. However, in the last few years, [factories are being set up on fertile arable land](#). In 10 years, the amount of cultivated land has decreased by about 16 thousand hectares. According to experts, it is necessary to build industrial factories on relatively less productive land.



Kaler Kantho reporter worked on the [allocation and expenditure City Corporations for forestry and beautification](#). In the last four fiscal years, the budget of Dhaka North City Corporation has been reduced by 91 percent in the forestry and beautification sector. On the other hand, the budget of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) for forestry and median, beautification and greening of sidewalks has been reduced by 92 percent as compared to last year. However, the DNCC officials do not have accurate information on how the money allocated for afforestation and beautification is being spent in any sector even after the budget is reduced every financial year.



During the Corona epidemic, [rate of carbon emission](#) and other greenhouse gases decreased by 2.8 gigaton in 2020. This results in a reduction of 125 billion carbon emissions, which is detrimental to many countries around the world. According to the decision of the climate conference, this compensation should be given to those who emit excess carbon. However, in normal times, they pretend to pay this money while actually they do not. Experts fear it will increase due to corona. As per TIB's research, international organizations have promised to lend Bangladesh taka 315.4 million and taka 265 million for free. In total, payable amount was taka 638.4 million. But so far, they have paid only taka 132.75 million. Which is one-fifth of the promised money. A reporter of News24 under the fellowship programme brings this issue forward through her report.

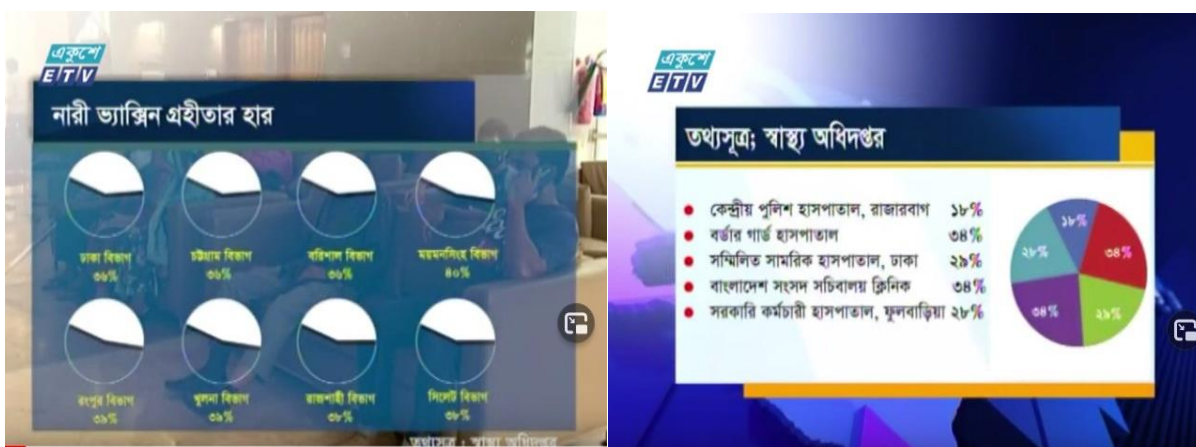


জলবায়ু অর্থায়ন
প্রতিশ্রুত অর্থ আওতায় যেসব প্রকল্প

সংস্থার নাম	প্রকল্পের সংখ্যা	প্রতিশ্রুত অর্থ (মিলিয়ন ডলার)	অর্থ এগেট
গোবাল ফ্রাইন্ডস টেক্স অ্যালাইন্স (জিটিএ)	৯	৯০.৯৪	০
গোবাল এনভায়রনমেন্ট ফান্ডার্স (জিইএফ)	২	৪.৯২	০
গোবাল ফ্রাইন্ডস ফান্ড (জিএফ-৯)	২	২৫৭.৪৮	০
লিস্ট ডেভেলপমেন্ট ফান্ডিস ফান্ড (এলডিএফ)	৪	২৫.২৫	০
পাইলট প্রোগ্রাম ফর ফ্রাইন্ডস রেসিলেন্স (পিপিআর)	৩	৯৩.৪	০
সেলিং অ্যান্ড বিনিউয়েবল এনার্জি প্রোগ্রাম (এআইপি)	৪	৬৭.৫৪	০
সর্বমোট	১৭	৩৯৭	০

তথ্যসূত্র: টিআইবি

ETV reporter analyzed the data of [women vaccination](#) and found the rate of corona vaccination taken by women is less than 40 percent which is less than half of total vaccination. In reference of Director General of Health Services Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal divisions have the lowest vaccination rate for women at 36 percent. This rate is 18-34 percent in the vaccination centers allocated for government officials and employees. According to data from 10 maternal and child health care centers among 48 vaccination centers in the capital, the vaccination rate of women is 36 to 48 percent. Women-friendly environment and prior acquaintance is the reason highlighted for choosing these centers. The infection rate in women is 24 percent which is the main reason for low rate of vaccination. Experts say that although the rate of infection in women is low, but everyone should be vaccinated.



A Daily Star report produced under the fellowship highlighter the ‘Green Cost’, i.e., the environmental cost of the ‘so-called’ [development in Sylhet City](#). Through data, the reporter shows that, Sylhet City Corporation reportedly fell 332 trees in last 5 years; whereas actual count is around 3 times more. According to data given by the Sylhet City Corporation (SCC), they felled 263 trees in last five years since 2016; while the data of the Forest Department, the permitting authority for felling

TREES FELLED FOR DEVELOPMENT				
AREA	GIVEN DATA	SCC LISTED	FOREST DEPT PERMITTED	DS FINDING
Amberkhana to Bandarbar via Chowhatta, Zindabazar	0	No	Data N/A	96
Subidbazar to Madina Market Road	0	No	Data N/A	77
Kazi Jalaluddin School Adjacent Road, Kumarpara	2	Yes	Yes	70
Zindabazar to Tilagarh via Naiorpul	0	No	Data N/A	58
Amberkhana Primary School to Tilagarh via Electricity Supply	25	No	Yes	76
Chowhatta to Kumarpara Road	0	No	Data N/A	39
Kumarpara Christian Tila to Shahi Eidgah Point	18	No	Yes	54
Keane Bridge to Humayun Rashid Chatter Road Side	64	Yes	Data N/A	94
Amberkhana to Chowkidekhi Road Side	13	Yes	Yes	40
Mirer Maidan to Blue Bird School Bridge Road Side	40	Yes	Data N/A	65
Bangabir Road to Sifat Ullah Mosque Road Side	22	Yes	Yes	35
Shajalal Shrine's Western Side to Osmani School Road Side	26	No	Yes	37
PDB Mosque to Nabab Road's Picher Mukh	71	Yes	Data N/A	76
Bakhtiar Bibi School Premises	1	Yes	Yes	6
Shahi Eidgah WDB Road Side	18	Yes	Data N/A	18
Pouro Bironi at Dhopa Dighir Par	6	Yes	Yes	6
Manik Pir Tila	26	Yes	Yes	26
TOTAL:	332			873

trees, shows that the corporation felled another 69 trees by this time. However, a data analysis between Google Street View of 2015 and field visit to assess the present situation, The Daily Star report found that the corporation felled at least 873 trees while implementing seven development projects, mostly road widening.

4. Thematic Seminars

Media, as the fourth column of the state and an influential social force, keeps people informed about what is happening around and makes the government and other authorities alert about what should or should not happen. To discuss recent burning issues for journalism and to create a platform to work together, four thematic workshops were organized under this initiative.

Each of the workshop started by a keynote presentation to explain the current scenario of the issue and facilitate to open the floor of discussion. Former government officials, media gatekeepers, NGO chief executives and journalists were present as panel discussants. To compare the situation on regional context, experts from India also joined in these workshops. Editors of local media, journalists, academics and CSO representatives from around the country were participates in the discussion.

Total participants	Male	Female
59	38	21

4.1 Challenge of reporting during pandemic

The covid-19 pandemic appeared as a big threat to the human civilization affecting global health, life, livelihood and economy. Development and economic activities came to a sudden halt. Panic and uncertainty loomed large in all sectors including development, business,

economy, occupation and livelihood that created an unprecedented threat on fulfilment of the basic needs of people.

Bangladesh is one of the worst sufferers of the situation in South Asia. Lockdown and people's restriction on physical movement left a significant number of working people jobless and partially employed. Closure of educational institutions put children's education and academic life to a state of uncertainty. Health specialists and decision makers looked confused and helpless in combating the situation. Despite different measures taken, there are hardly any signs of improvement in the situation.

Total participants	Male	Female
30	26	4

Like other sectors, media industry is facing the challenge of existence. Journalists are working amid high level of health risk to gather news for the media outlets. Reporters are hardly prepared to cover events and produce stories in the pandemic situation. A number of local media had to shut down due to absence of content and financial crisis. Spreading of disinformation and fake news over online and social media also disseminated wrong message to the media audiences. Despite all these obstacles journalists are working to deliver news to their audiences.

Presenting the keynote in the workshop *Shishir Moral*, Special Correspondent, Prothom Alo mentioned new terminologies have emerged with the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Journalists need to be oriented with these technical terms properly. Source of reporting was also a crucial part in this whole period as the information were new and it had to be checked for authentication otherwise it would have created panic. Reporters identified some authentic sources for regular update. Bangladesh government has disseminated information through IEDCR from the very first day of this pandemic. Other remarkable sources were international media, World Health Organization, IDCR, Public health experts, ICDDR, Lancet, British Journal and Johns Hopkins University.

Some media houses have faced problems in getting information as they do not have reporters dedicated to health beat. Sometimes they got partial or wrong information that they cannot not verify. Apart from these, mental pressure, putting families under risk while covering the pandemic, decreasing circulation, fear of losing job etc. were some of the hurdles and worrying factors.

Efforts have been there to overcome the barriers. Prothom Alo built a five-member factchecking team and developed a guideline to help reporters produce stories during the pandemic. Other houses also took measures to combat infodemic and produce authentic reports through proper planning.

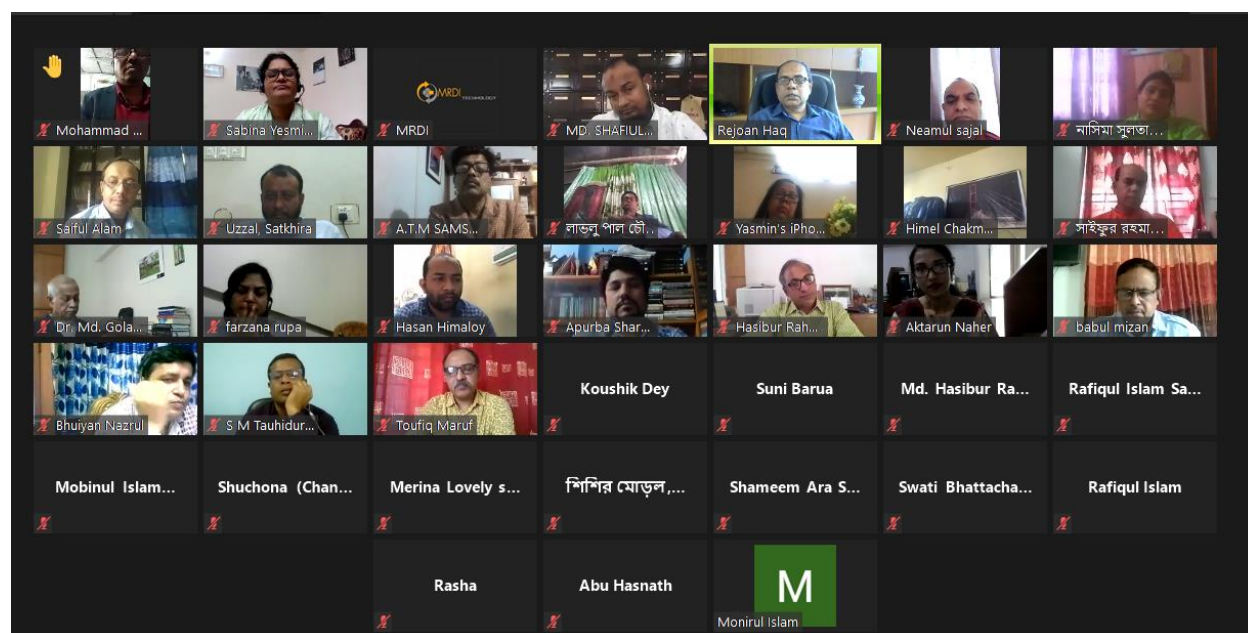
Toufiq Maruf, President, Bangladesh Health Reporters Forum discussed on the relation of trust between government and the media houses which is vital for authentic reporting. He mentioned that WHO appreciated Bangladesh's health journalism in the challenging pandemic situation. *Jenia Kabir Shuchona*, Staff Reporter, Channel 24, mentioned misinformation and the unhealthy

competition amongst the news channels to provide ‘Breaking news’ were one of the challenges of the media industry in this period. During the pandemic situation *Farzana Rupa*, Special Correspondent, Ekattor TV, found doctors and journalists established professional solidarity by sharing information and knowledge to each other. *Professor Md. Golam Rahman*, former Chief Information Commissioner, observed that the journalists have failed to cover the pandemic scenario, and they were mostly providing day to day information. Social media’s role in this pandemic was very crucial and it played a vital role during this time. *Rejoanul Haq*, Head of News, Maasranga agreed media houses have already realized need for a designated health reporter.

Swati Bhattacharjee, Senior Assistant Editor. Ananda Bazar Patrika, Kolkata, explained that journalists are working in a vulnerable situation not only in the covid period but also in normal scenario. She also shared that in India and other countries, governments are hiding information from the journalists because of political interest.

The discussion generated following recommendations:

- Central offices of every media houses can develop a guideline on reporting in the pandemic situation. They can also recommend which journal or website can be followed to understand the appropriate situation, cross check information and avoid misinformation.
- Discussion session can be organized for district level journalists on how to cover pandemic situation and what issues need to take into consideration.



4.2 Challenges and opportunities in Investigative Journalism

Investigative journalism contributes to freedom of expression and freedom of information. Despite limitations in capacity and opportunity, investigative journalism has the potentials to strengthen democratic process and social responsibility of the press. It contributes to combat

social injustice and establish rule of law in the country. It exposes corruption at the local and national levels, irregularities and unlawful activities and corruption in both public and private service providing sectors.

Journalists are facing number of challenges in producing and publishing investigative reports. Absence of legal support by the media houses is one of the major factors that puts the journalist under threats, harassment and false lawsuit. Proper investigation always demands delegation, time and cost which in many cases are not allowed by the media houses.

Total participants	Male	Female
30	26	4

However, facing all the challenges and difficulties, some good investigative stories are being published, though they are not many in number. Also, there are some institutions giving award on best investigative stories to encourage the journalists.

Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Editor-in-chief, TV Today presented the key presentation in the seminar. Challenges of doing investigative reports may be seen from different angles. The public has constitutional right of freedom of expression, but no guarantee of freedom after the expression. Digital security act is seen as a major barrier. But there are many other acts, rules and regulations that are hampering such freedom. He referred to the loopholes of new, old and updated laws of Bangladesh. Legal protection and professional recognition are hardly available to broadcast journalists. Owners of media houses are also reluctant to adopt with a structural system.

Self-censorship & media ownership are creating complications. Owners has multiple identities, political and business interests which are affecting the investigative reporting.

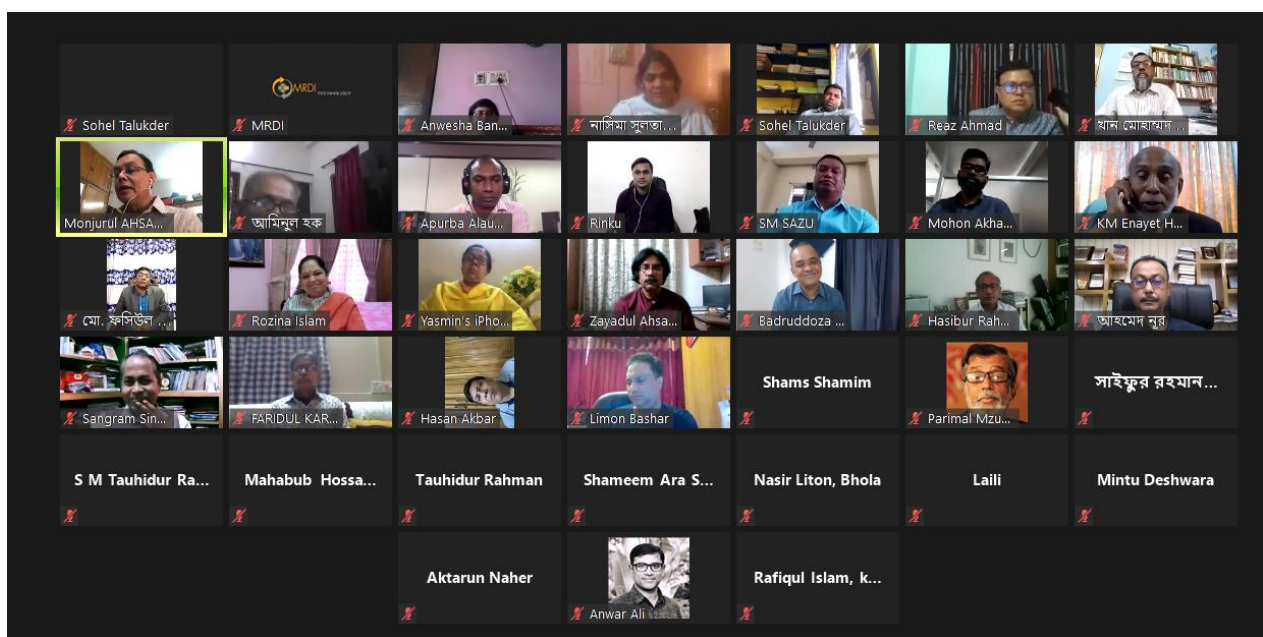
In newsrooms, lack of professional leadership is very common and their own conflicts affect the whole media industry. Where same person plays role as owner and editor will create challenge for the journalist.

From reporter's perspective, however, there is a positive scenario. Young reporters are very interested in investigative reporting now. But as the trend of investigative reporting is not that common yet, there are very few reporters who are devoted only to this which is becoming one of the core problems. Reporters have multitasking responsibilities, so they cannot focus on only reporting. Financial issue is also a concern.

Lack of skilled journalists is a major problem. If there is no efficient leadership, young reporters tend to lose interest.

Most importantly, peer pressure from upper level is very crucial for publishing investigative reports. State, non- state actors work together sometimes against some reports. Legal problems also arise when it comes to investigative reporting. Various journalists' forums are also not that active to promote or support journalists if needed. Job security and unavailability is still a major concern for many journalists.

Zayedul Ahsan Pintu, Editor, DBC News, thinks that IJ is related to democracy and the challenges that were explained before cannot be overcome before next decade maybe. It is an old culture of power politics that hampers the journalists. Media has very low level of independence. 93% of the owners are editors without having any prior experience. *Badruddoza Babu*, Head of IJ Help Desk, MRDI, regretted the fact that the goodwill of journalism is being lost because of some journalists' tendency to please the authority and powerful people, they do not want to take the risk of not being in the list of their 'good book'. Not only in Bangladesh many countries like Malaysia, Russia, China etc. are dealing with worst situations when it comes to journalism. He is thankful that his mentors have let him learn everything about investigative journalism, which is a process and needs to be done with ethics. *Rogena Akter*, Senior Reporter, Prothom Alo, opined there are many scopes to work, many stories to produce, and the risks are part of journalism career. Teamwork is also needed, she mentioned. Expectations and reality



are not the same, so reporters should keep all these in mind. *Apurba Alauddin*, Editor, Investigation Cell, Jamuna TV thinks it is becoming more tough day by day to produce investigative reports. There are many reports that are not being published. Difficulties arise without enough manpower and logistic support. There should be a common platform for investigative journalists. *Reaz Ahmad*, Executive Editor thinks that with trust, support, courage and patience journalists of the country will make more investigative reports, and will overcome all the challenges.

Anwesha Banerjee, Assistant Editor, Ei Samay, Kolkata mentioned that in India the situation is similar, and even worse in some cases. There are investigative reports but most of those are unilateral and pre-made. Political issues are common but other than that no new issues or corruptions are coming up which is making investigative reports less important. In the name of national security many information are being hidden. Neutrality is not being maintained. Still

there are many reports being produced but their standard is not at the desired level. Authorities are not taking any responsibilities on behalf of their journalists.

From the open discussion in the seminar, following recommendation surfaced:

- A platform needs to be developed through which journalists around the country can work for their investigative reporting independently.
- To facilitate the existing platforms continue their efforts for investigative journalism an investigative cell can be developed which will provide necessary technical and financial support.
- Media gatekeeper's sensitization programme needs to be organized to facilitate bring the way out of existing challenges in investigative journalism and create realization on the benefits of investigative reporting.
- Case studies focused on good investigative stories can be published to encourage the young journalists.
- Journalists outside Dhaka should be nurtured more for investigative journalism.

4.3 Gender sensitive reporting

The media plays an increasingly important role in shaping our thoughts and behaviors including perceptions of women and men. Still, the media reflects and sustains discriminatory attitudes to gender, failing to represent the voices of women or to report on such crucial concerns as gender-based discrimination, including violence against women. The fact remains also that women still have relatively little decision-making power inside media organizations.

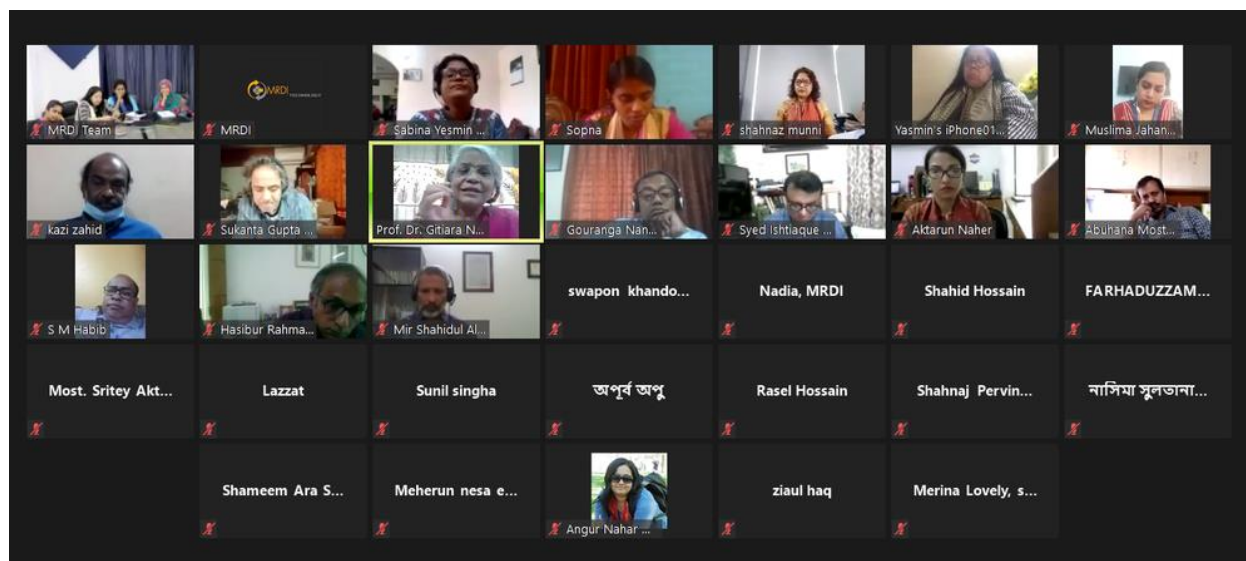
Gender reports in media normally cover the issues like women repression, sexual harassment, family violence, killing and suicide. Success story of women and investigative reports on gender issues are hardly found in the media. Women's stories are published as surface reports mostly in the entertainment or women's page.

Total participants	Male	Female
29	16	13

Dr. Gitiara Nasreen, Professor, Department of Mass Communication & Journalism, Dhaka University presented the keynote in the workshop. She started the presentation with an analysis of some recent media stories seen through a gender lens. She brought up the timely theme of this year's International Women's Day, that is, choose to challenge which encourage to challenge the discriminating viewpoints of the society towards women. She mentioned that the society has positively changed in view of gender balancing and people now recognize the dignity of a transgender person, as the news of the first transgender anchor in Bangladeshi media drew global attention. Sharp reaction of people to the racist attitude of the British Royal Family also proves that they are now questioning the traditional norms. But it is a matter of regret that our media still could not adapt with the paradigm shift and they are still governed by the age-old, faulty perception about gender.

She further explores this point by citing several examples where even mainstream media showed their bias towards the traditional gender outlook. When media should be an active agent of change, they are rather obstructing the change. There is a huge gap between the audience and the media decision maker who think their target audience is only the males even though MRDI's recent survey on media audience showed that a large percentage of the audience are women. In one hand we have a vibrant social media, where progressive point of view of the people are putting pressure on the traditional media to adapt the change, on the other hand, the traditional media are trying to adhere to a conservative position regarding gender issue.

However, she admitted that there is still a huge challenge to change the perception of the society to be a gender inclusive one. As an example, she showed the powerful image of the recently bailed Cartoonist Kishore, where he is photographed in tears. This photograph created a huge impact on the social media and there was controversy whether the photographer should take the photo while he was crying, whether it violated his dignity. She argued, while it is very positive that people are talking about journalistic ethics, but it is interesting to note that it takes a crying male figure in the photograph that can create such reaction. People never objects when watching women cry in front of camera. It is accepted that the women are weak, and crying is normal for them, but people cannot accept that even a man has feelings and should be allowed to express them by crying. There is a strong no-no to publish the photograph of a crying man. But it is high time that media act to deconstruct such biased view, Gitiara suggested.



Angur Nahar Monty, Joint News Editor, News24 expressed instead of improvement, the situation seems to be further deteriorating. Not only the media managers, but also the media owners should be gender sensitive. Social media is becoming a strong pressure group, and this is something we can be hopeful about. *Lazzat Enab Mahsi*, Deputy Editor, Prothom Alo emphasized to understand the agenda of the media owners too, as they often dictate the strategy of a media outlet. They often ignore the importance developing capacity of journalists through training. *Shahnaz Munni*, Chief News Editor, News 24 stressed to be clear that gender sensitivity

is not a matter for women only, rather men should be more concerned about it as it is their mindset which need to be changed. Women's voice is less included in news report. Fair portrayal is also hardly found. And there is a language issue, offensive words should be excluded carefully. Media should do more to change these practices. *Syed Ishtiaque Reza*, Editor-in-Chief, GTV & sarabangla.net mentioned instead of blaming the media owners, media should self-criticize first. Media behaves like ignorant when it comes to gender sensitive reporting.

According to *Stella Paul*, International Journalist, Project officer and mentor at Internews, the common practice and trends of the media is very similar in the region, especially in India and Bangladesh as two neighboring countries. And the scenario is of course not very positive. But one thing we can be assured that we have already identified the problem, we know the challenges. Now we need a roadmap to solve the problem. We don't often see ourselves as problem solvers, we rather wait for someone to do a miracle. But this is a faulty attitude, we all should give our best effort to contribute to bring the change. We need an inner circle in the media, who will work to sensitize the issue.

The seminar brought some recommendation through the open discussions'

- Media should act gender sensitively to ensure their survival.
- Journalists, editors and media managers should create an inner circle, a network amongst them who will work to sensitize the issue within the media organizations.
- News media should be smart enough to publish stories passed through gender lens.
- There should be combined effort to increase number of female journalists, especially in the district level.
- District level journalists should be trained more on gender sensitive reporting, especially the male journalists.
- To build up capable journalist, more institution should be established.

4.4 Use of RTI for objective reporting

Right to information Act 2009 came into execution in Bangladesh as a gleaming hope for the people, as it was thought to improve their lives using the information they need. With the government's strategy to implement the law at every level of the society and activities by the civil society organizations, who also worked as a front liner campaigner for the act itself, RTIA did help a lot of people to ensure their access to information relevant to their lives. However, the act did not reach all the people as it was intended due to several reasons. While the government and other NGO's are trying hard to popularize the act, the other aspect, RTI in journalism, still remains unexplored.

Total participants	Male	Female
30	30	0

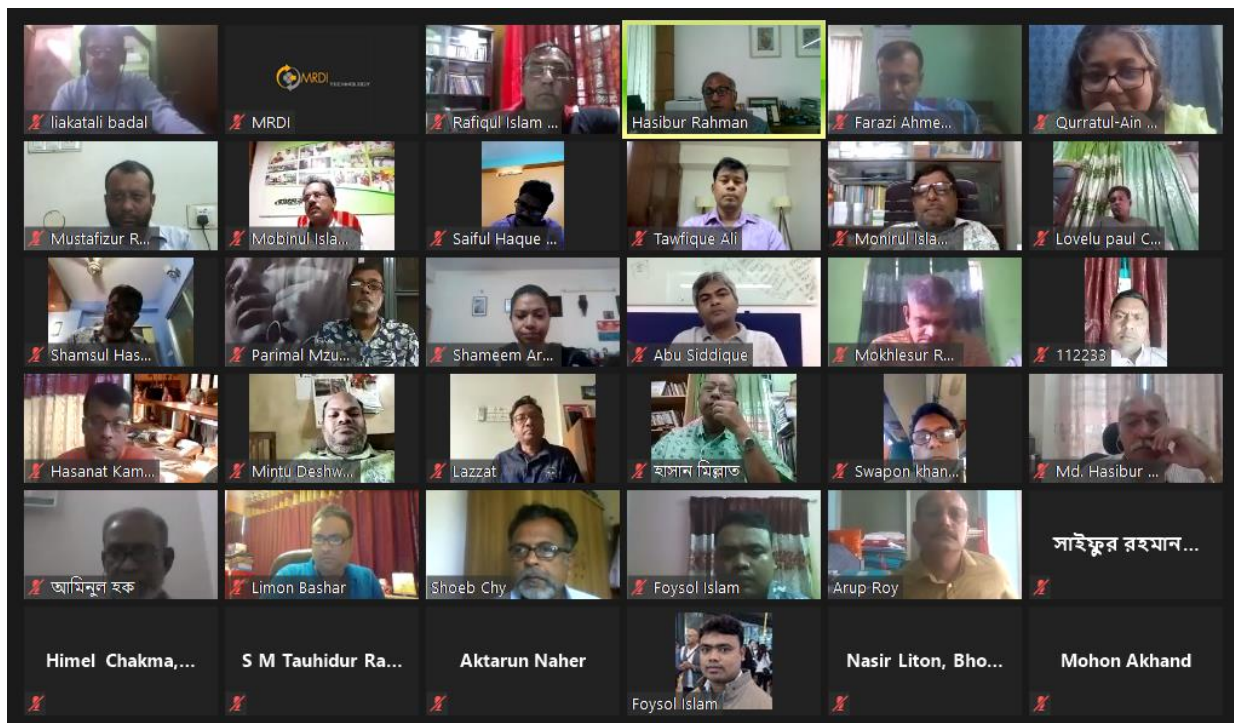
RTI Act can be very effectively used as a tool of investigation to produce objective media report. In neighboring India, right to information has become a strong source to the journalists, as found in the most recent example of filing an application to know in what area the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi took part in the movement to support the War of Independence of Bangladesh in 1971 as he claimed during his visit to the country on the eve of 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence. It had become a headline the following day in the leading newspapers and TV channels in both the countries. There are examples of breakthrough news

reports which used RTI act to gather information that could not be accessed otherwise in Bangladesh too. But the extent it is used is very limited in regards to the actual potentials it has.

In the seminar *Qurratul Ain Tahmina*, Trainer and Journalist started her key presentation by defining objective report as a report based on facts. It is really difficult for a journalist to present the facts only, without being clouded by his/her own perception on the facts, she said. It is like walking on a very thin line. She explained three levels of media reporting. Conventionally a reporter is supposed to state the fact gathered from the source, without analyzing its implications. The information a reporter gathers, often is not verified in the first level. In the second level, s/he cross checks and verify the information. In the third level, the reporter probes deeper to find the true meaning of the fact and its' relevance to the people. Information can make the people take the right decision easily.

The strength of RTI is that it provides information. Because a reporter also seeks information, it is obvious that s/he can use the act to get the desired information. RTI is not an act to help the journalists in particular of course, she explained, but a main essence of the act is to disburse the information for the benefit of people. That is exactly what a reporter can do through his/her report, she emphasized.

In this regard, she referred to Shyamlal Yadav, the famous Indian journalist who took RTI as one of the major sources for his reporting from the beginning of the enactment of this law in India. She also discussed some examples from Bangladesh, where a reporter used RTI act to collect necessary information for well-planned, objective report.



Arup Roy, Staff Reporter, Prothom Alo, Savar has filed 324 RTI applications and 150 complaints. Even after appellate authority ordered to provide information, the designated officer refuses to give it. Arup urged the Information Commission to be more vigilant and take action against those who are reluctant to provide information. *Tawfique Ali*, Former Senior Reporter, The Daily Star emphasized on being focused, target oriented, persistent and determined as a journalist to get optimum benefit from RTI act. He mentioned an imaginary triangle to explain his view. The top angle of the triangle represents public interest, the other two RTI and journalism. RTI act is both a weapon and a refuge to a journalist, he said. *Abu Siddique*, Freelance Journalist reflected on his thrilling experience, where he also used his resources in the neighboring country to file RTI application there to get data on water flow, proves the extent RTI can help a reporter to get detailed information. *Lazzat Enab Mahsi*, Deputy Editor, Prothom Alo admitted the fact that it is not that easy to get information useful for a news report through RTI, as some journalist might have been thought when the act first came into being. There is no short cut way to a big investigation. He emphasized on the capacity building of the reporters regarding the use of RTI. He criticized the media houses for not giving enough time for big investigation and noted that lack of quality and objective investigative reports contributes to the challenge media is facing right now in Bangladesh. *Mobinul Islam Mobin*, Editor, Daily Gramer Kagoj mentioned RTI is a great tool for good journalism and reporters can use this to strengthen their news report. Sometimes, using RTI minimizes the risk as it seeks information direct from the authorities. Even if the reporter faces legal cases for any report, s/he can evidence of authenticity.

The seminar bough following recommendations.

- Continuous public discourse is needed to promote RTI.
- Government, Information Commission, NGOs and media should collaborate together to make RTI act more useful to the journalists.
- Information Commission should be more active in implementing RTI.
- List of designated officers of different government office should be made available, and updated regularly.
- Designated officers should be trained up so that they can help the information seekers.
- Initiatives should be taken to inspire the media houses and journalists to use RTI more.
- Reporter should follow all the procedure patiently to get information, from application to appeal if needed.

Challenge faced and measures taken to overcome

As internet speed is not the same everywhere around the country, participants sometimes faced interruption. MRDI tried to support the participants in overcoming the problem.

Annex-1: Programme Schedule of participatory workshop



National Workshop
Enhancing collaboration between Media and Civil Society
Right to Information Act 2009
26 January 2021

Schedule

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 10.00-10.40 | Welcome speech and objective of the initiative
<i>Hasibur Rahman</i>
Executive Director, MRDI |
| 10.40-11.10 | Key presentation
<i>Dr. Ananya Raihan</i>
Chief Executive, isocial and member, RTI Forum |
| 11.10-11.40 | Panel discussion
<i>Professor Md. Golam Rahman</i>
Former Information Commissioner

<i>Shaheen Anam</i>
Executive Director, Manusher Jonno Foundation

<i>Dr. Iftekharuzzaman</i>
Executive Director, TIB

<i>Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul</i>
Editor-in-chief, TV Today |
| 11.40-12.30 | Open discussion |
| 12.30-12.40 | Speech of issue expert
<i>Suraiya Begum ndc,</i>
Information Commissioner |
| 12.40-12.50 | Speech of Chief Guest
<i>Martuza Ahmed</i>
Chief Information Commissioner
Information Commission, Bangladesh |
| 12.50 -01.00 | Vote of thanks
<i>Md. Nazrul Islam</i>
Director, MRDI Board and Former Full-time member,
National Human Rights Commission |

Moderator: Moderated by: ***Syed Ishtiaque Reza***, Editor-in-Chief, GTV & sarabangla.net

Data Journalism Training

15-18 January 2021

Batch One

Session plan

Day-1, Friday, 15 January		
Time	Session	Resource person
9.30 - 10.00	Inauguration session	Hasibur Rahman Executive director MRDI Shameem Ara Sheuli Programme Manager Internews
10.00-10:35	Session-1 Traditional journalism and data journalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the depth of the issue Reveals the root cause of the issue 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
10:35-11:00	Practical Session-1 Finding and presenting examples of international data journalism	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
11:00-11:20	Session-2 Data: Definition and type	Naeemul Hassan Assistant professor, Philip Merrill College of Journalism
11.20-12.30	Session-3 What can we do with the Data?	Naeemul Hassan Assistant professor, Philip Merrill College of Journalism
12.30-01:00	Practical Session-2 Specifying the required columns from the data file	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
End of Day 1		

Facilitator: **Zyma Islam**, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

15-18 January 2021

Batch One

Session plan

Day 2: Saturday, 16 January 2021		
Time	Session	Resource person
09:30-09:40	Recap	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
09:40-10:45	Session 4 <i>National and international information source</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection • Rules of use Data • Problem with source-based information 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
10:45-11.45	Practical session 3 <i>What kind of data is there on the government website?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database, who created the dataset? • Is one-time data maintained regularly? • How is the data collected? • After collecting the data, is it being presented in a disaggregated way or aggregated way? • If aggregated what kind of data combination has been created? 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
11.45-12.30	Session 5 Use of the Right to Information Act to collect accurate information	Hasibur Rahman Executive director MRDI
12.30-01.00	Session 6 Data analysis: Excel	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
End of Day 2		

Facilitator: **Zyma Islam**, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

15-18 January 2021

Batch One

Session plan

Day 3: Sunday, 17 January 2021		
Time	Session	Resource person
09:30-10:00	Recap	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
10:00-11:00	Session 7 Finding the answer to the question from the initial data: Data analysis	Md. Jamal Hossain Senior manager monitoring, BRAC
11:00-12:30	Practical session 4	Md. Jamal Hossain Senior manager monitoring, BRAC Syed Athar Bin Amir Lecturer Department of electrical and computer engineering North south university
End of Day 3		

Facilitator: *Zyma Islam*, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

15-18 January 2021

Batch One

Session plan

Day Four: Monday, 18 January 2021		
Time	Session	Resource person
09:30-09:40	Recap	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
09:40-10:40	Practical session 5	Zyma Islam Data Journalist Syed Athar Bin Amir Lecturer Department of electrical and computer engineering North south university
10:40-12:00	Session 8 Telling stories with data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert data to report • Data simplification • Data humanization 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
12:00-12:30	Concluding remarks	Hasibur Rahman Executive director MRDI
End of Training		

Facilitator: **Zyma Islam**, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

22-25 January 2021

Batch Two

Session plan

Day-1, Friday, 22 January		
Time	Session	Resource person
9.30 - 10.00	Inauguration session	Hasibur Rahman Executive director MRDI Shameem Ara Sheuli Programme Manager Internews
10.00-10:35	Session-1 Traditional journalism and data journalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the depth of the issue Reveals the root cause of the issue 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
10:35-11:00	Practical Session-1 Finding and presenting examples of international data journalism	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
11:00-11:20	Session-2 Data: Definition and type	Naeemul Hassan Assistant professor, Philip Merrill College of Journalism
11.20-12.30	Session-3 What can we do with the Data?	Naeemul Hassan Assistant professor, Philip Merrill College of Journalism
12.30-01:00	Practical Session-2 Specifying the required columns from the data file	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
End of Day 1		

Facilitator: **Zyma Islam**, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

22-25 January 2021

Batch Two

Session plan

Day 2: Saturday, 23 January 2021		
Time	Session	Resource person
09:30-09:40	Recap	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
09:40-10:45	Session 4 <i>National and international information source</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection • Rules of use Data • Problem with source-based information 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
10:45-11.45	Practical session 3 <i>What kind of data is there on the government website?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database, who created the dataset? • Is one-time data maintained regularly? • How is the data collected? • After collecting the data, is it being presented in a disaggregated way or aggregated way? • If aggregated what kind of data combination has been created? 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
11.45-12.30	Session 5 Use of the Right to Information Act to collect accurate information	Hasibur Rahman Executive director MRDI
12.30-01.00	Session 6 Data analysis: Excel	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
End of Day 2		

Facilitator: **Zyma Islam**, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

22-25 January 2021

Batch Two

Session plan

Day 3: Sunday, 24 January 2021		
Time	Session	Resource person
09:30-10:00	Recap	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
10:00-11:00	Session 7 Finding the answer to the question from the initial data: Data analysis	Md. Jamal Hossain Senior manager monitoring, BRAC
11:00-12:30	Practical session 4	Md. Jamal Hossain Senior manager monitoring, BRAC Rina Nasrin Senior Analyst The Nelson Company BD Ltd
End of Day 3		

Facilitator: **Zyma Islam**, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

22-25 January 2021

Batch Two

Session plan

Day Four: Monday, 25 January 2021		
Time	Session	Resource person
09:30-09:40	Recap	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
09:40-10:40	Practical session 5	Zyma Islam Data Journalist Rina Nasrin Senior Analyst The Nelson Company BD Ltd
10:40-12:00	Session 8 Telling stories with data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert data to report • Data simplification • Data humanization 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
12:00-12:30	Concluding remarks	Hasibur Rahman Executive director MRDI
End of Training		

Facilitator: *Zyma Islam*, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

29 January - 1 February 2021

Batch Three

Session plan

Day-1, Friday, 29 January		
Time	Session	Resource person
9.30 - 10.00	Inauguration session	Hasibur Rahman Executive director MRDI Shameem Ara Sheuli Programme Manager Internews
10.00-10:35	Session-1 Traditional journalism and data journalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the depth of the issue Reveals the root cause of the issue 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
10:35-11:00	Practical Session-1 Finding and presenting examples of international data journalism	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
11:00-11:20	Session-2 Data: Definition and type	Naeemul Hassan Assistant professor, Philip Merrill College of Journalism
11.20-12.30	Session-3 What can we do with the Data?	Naeemul Hassan Assistant professor, Philip Merrill College of Journalism
12.30-01:00	Practical Session-2 Specifying the required columns from the data file	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
End of Day 1		

Facilitator: **Zyma Islam**, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

29 January - 1 February 2021

Batch Three

Session plan

Day 2: Saturday, 30 January 2021		
Time	Session	Resource person
09:30-09:40	Recap	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
09:40-10:45	Session 4 <i>National and international information source</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection • Rules of use Data • Problem with source-based information 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
10:45-11.45	Practical session 3 <i>What kind of data is there on the government website?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database, who created the dataset? • Is one-time data maintained regularly? • How is the data collected? • After collecting the data, is it being presented in a disaggregated way or aggregated way? • If aggregated what kind of data combination has been created? 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
11.45-12.30	Session 5 Use of the Right to Information Act to collect accurate information	Hasibur Rahman Executive director MRDI
12.30-01.00	Session 6 Data analysis: Excel	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
End of Day 2		

Facilitator: **Zyma Islam**, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

29 January - 1 February 2021

Batch Three

Session plan

Day 3: Sunday, 31 January 2021		
Time	Session	Resource person
09:30-10:00	Recap	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
10:00-11:00	Session 7 Finding the answer to the question from the initial data: Data analysis	Md. Jamal Hossain Senior manager monitoring, BRAC
11:00-12:30	Practical session 4	Md. Jamal Hossain Senior manager monitoring, BRAC Rina Nasrin Senior Analyst The Nelson Company BD Ltd
End of Day 3		

Facilitator: **Zyma Islam**, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

29 January - 1 February 2021

Batch Three

Session plan

Day Four: Monday, 1 February 2021		
Time	Session	Resource person
09:30-09:40	Recap	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
09:40-10:40	Practical session 5	Zyma Islam Data Journalist Rina Nasrin Senior Analyst The Nelson Company BD Ltd
10:40-12:00	Session 8 Telling stories with data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert data to report • Data simplification • Data humanization 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
12:00-12:30	Concluding remarks	Hasibur Rahman Executive director MRDI
End of Training		

Facilitator: *Zyma Islam*, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

6-9 February 2021

Batch Four

Session plan

Day-1, Saturday, 6 February 2021		
Time	Session	Resource person
9.30 - 10.00	Inauguration session	Hasibur Rahman Executive director MRDI Shameem Ara Sheuli Programme Manager Internews
10.00-10:35	Session-1 Traditional journalism and data journalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the depth of the issue Reveals the root cause of the issue 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
10:35-11:00	Practical Session-1 Finding and presenting examples of international data journalism	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
11:00-11:20	Session-2 Data: Definition and type	Naeemul Hassan Assistant professor, Philip Merrill College of Journalism
11.20-12.30	Session-3 What can we do with the Data?	Naeemul Hassan Assistant professor, Philip Merrill College of Journalism
12.30-01:00	Practical Session-2 Specifying the required columns from the data file	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
End of Day 1		

Facilitator: **Zyma Islam**, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

6-9 February 2021

Batch Four

Session plan

Day 2: Sunday, 7 February 2021		
Time	Session	Resource person
09:30-09:40	Recap	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
09:40-10:45	Session 4 <i>National and international information source</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection • Rules of use Data • Problem with source-based information 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
10:45-11.45	Practical session 3 <i>What kind of data is there on the government website?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database, who created the dataset? • Is one-time data maintained regularly? • How is the data collected? • After collecting the data, is it being presented in a disaggregated way or aggregated way? • If aggregated what kind of data combination has been created? 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
11.45-12.30	Session 5 Use of the Right to Information Act to collect accurate information	Hasibur Rahman Executive director MRDI
12.30-01.00	Session 6 Data analysis: Excel	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
End of Day 2		

Facilitator: **Zyma Islam**, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

6-9 February 2021

Batch Four

Session plan

Day 3: Monday, 8 February 2021		
Time	Session	Resource person
09:30-10:00	Recap	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
10:00-11:00	Session 7 Finding the answer to the question from the initial data: Data analysis	Md. Jamal Hossain Senior manager monitoring, BRAC
11:00-12:30	Practical session 4	Md. Jamal Hossain Senior manager monitoring, BRAC Rina Nasrin Senior Analyst The Nelson Company BD Ltd
End of Day 3		

Facilitator: **Zyma Islam**, Data Journalist

Data Journalism Training

6-9 February 2021

Batch Four

Session plan

Day Four: Tuesday, 9 February 2021		
Time	Session	Resource person
09:30-09:40	Recap	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
09:40-10:40	Practical session 5	Zyma Islam Data Journalist Rina Nasrin Senior Analyst The Nelson Company BD Ltd
10:40-12:00	Session 8 Telling stories with data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert data to report • Data simplification • Data humanization 	Zyma Islam Data Journalist
12:00-12:30	Concluding remarks	Hasibur Rahman Executive director MRDI
End of Training		

Facilitator: *Zyma Islam*, Data Journalist



National Workshop
Enhancing collaboration between Media and Civil Society

Right to Information Act 2009

26 January 2021

Participant list

1. Md. Sarwer-E-Kamal, General Secretary & Chief Executive, CCBVO- Centre for Capacity Building of Voluntary Organisation, Rajshahi
2. Mohammad Abdur Rahman, Director-Development Programs, RDRS Bangladesh, Rangpur
3. Shoeb Chowhury, Editor, The Daily Probhakar, Habiganj
4. Rahima Sultana Kazal, Executive Director, Avaas, Barishal
5. Asaduzzaman Selim, Chief Executive, Manab Unnayan Kendra (MUK), Meherpur
6. Ripan Chakma, Executive Director, Trinamul Unnayan Sangstha, Khagrachhari
7. Fayezaullah Chowdhury, Executive Director, Barendra Unnayan Prochesta (BUP), Rajshahi
8. Monirul Islam Monu, Staff Reporter, The Daily Kaler Kantho, Bandarban
9. Swapon Khandoker, Executive Editor, Ananda Likhon, Barishal
10. Iqbal Siddiquee, President, Sylhet Press Club, Sylhet
11. Naresh Chandra Madhu, Executive Director, Satsanga Pallikallyan Samity, Pabna
12. Akbarul Hasan Millat, Editor (acting), The Daily Sonar Desh, Rajshahi
13. Ahmed Noor, Editor, Daily Sylhet Mirror, Sylhet
14. Shairur Rahman Miron, Editor, The Daily Vorer Alo, Barisal
15. Sharifa Umma Shirina, Assistant Professor, Barishal University, Barishal
16. Chitta Ghosh, Editor, Daily Ajker Deshbarta, Dinajpur
17. Rezaul Karim Reza, Editor, Dainik Uttar Kantho, Natore
18. Dr. Abdullah Al Faruque, Professor-Department of Law, University of Chittagong, Chattogram
19. Aminul Haque, Editor, Alapon, Neelphamari
20. Saima Alam, Assistant Professor, University of Chittagong, Chittagong
21. Shuvankar Chakraborty, Executive Director, Mobilization for Alternative Programme (MAP), Barishal
22. Shahabuddin Panna, Executive Director, NSS, Barguna
23. Gouranga Nandy, Senior Reporter/Bureau Chief, The Daily Kaler Kantho, Khulna
24. Rafiqul Islam Sarker, Editor, Rangpur Press Club, Rangpur
25. Sadrul Alam Dulu, Adviser Editor, Dainik Rangpur Chitra, Rangpur
26. Mobinul Islam Mobin, Editor & Publisher, The Daily Gramer Kagoj, Jashore
27. Nazim Ahmed, Assistant Director, Institute of Development Affairs (IDEA), Sylhet
28. Sisir Dutta, Executive Director, BITA (Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts), Chattogram
29. Swapan Kumar Guha, Executive Director, Rupantar, Khulna
30. Abdus Salam, Chief Executive, Gono Unnayan Kenedro (GUK), Rangpur

Training on Data Journalism
 15-18 January 2021

Batch One

Sl. No.	Media	Name & designation
1.	Dhaka Tribune	Fahim Reza Shovon Reporter
2.	Dhaka Tribune	Nawaz Farhin Antara Staff Reporter
3.	The Business Standard	Rafiqul Islam Staff Reporter
4.	The Business Standard	Mohammad Farhad Hossain Talukder Staff Correspondent
5.	Samakal	Hasnain Imtiaz Staff Reporter
6.	Samakal	Zahidur Rahman Staff Reporter
7.	Kaler Kantho	A.s.m. Saad Business Reporter
8.	Prothom Alo	Jahir Rayhan Staff Reporter
9.	Kaler Kantho	Sampa Biswas Apprentice Reporter

Training on Data Journalism

22-25 January 2021

Batch Two

Sl. No.	Media	Name and designation
1.	Channel 24	Jannatun Nayeem Senior Reporter
2.	Channel 24	Iqbal Ahsan Senior Reporter
3.	Maasranga Television	Sakir Md Zahirul Hasan Senior Reporter
4.	Maasranga Television	Kazi Zannat Ara (Moumita) Staff Reporter
5.	Jamuna Television	Salauddin Ahmed Reza Staff Reporter
6.	Jamuna Television	Al-Amin Haque Newsroom Editor
7.	Ekattor Television	Robiul Hasan Staff Reporter
8.	Ekattor Television	Md. Habibur Rahaman Staff Reporter
9.	DBC NEWS	MD. Ibrahim Hossain Staff Reporter
10.	DBC NEWS	Tahsina Sadque Senior Reporter
11.	Independent Television	Md. Ruhul Amin Senior Reporter

Training on Data Journalism
 29 January - 1 February 2021
 Batch Three

Sl. No.	Media	Name & designation
1.	Prothom Alo	Khan Sarwar Morshed Pabna Correspondent
2.	Kaler Kantho	Yahya Fazal Staff Reporter, Sylhet
3.	Independent TV	Avijit Paul Staff Reporter, Khulna
4.	Independent Television	A B M Amirul Latif Senior Staff Correspondent
5.	The Daily Star	Md Dwoha Chowdhury Sylhet Correspondent
6.	Channel 24	Sultan Mahmud Konik Staff Reporter, Mymensingh
7.	Samakal	Mustafizur Rahaman Mymensingh Correspondent
8.	Prothom Alo	Shafiqul Islam Rajshahi Correspondent
9.	The Daily Star	Mohammad Suman Staff Reporter, Chattogram
10.	The Daily Star	Md. Asaduz Zaman JU Correspondent
11.	Dhaka Tribune	Shamima Rita Narayanganj Correspondent
12.	The Business Standard	Mohammad Omar Faruque Senior Staff Correspondent
13.	Maasranga Television	Emran Hossain Monim Rajbari Correspondent
14.	DBC News	Md. Rakibul Hasan Bogura Correspondent

Training on Data Journalism

6-9 February 2021

Batch Four

Sl. No.	Media	Name & designation
1.	News Now Bangla.com	Farhana Huq Nila Senior Reporter
2.	Samakal	Sajida Islam Parul Staff Reporter
3.	ETV	Smriti Mandol Reporter
4.	The Financial Express	Monira Begum Munni Sr Staff Reporter
5.	Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha	Tahamina Islam Staff-Reporter
6.	Bangladesh Television	Afrin Jahan Senior Reporter
7.	Channel 24	Zummatull Bida Broadcast journalist
8.	Somoy TV	Nasrin nahar Rumi Newsroom Editor
9.	Alokito Bangladesh	Mousumi Islam Staff Reporter
10.	Daily Bonik Barta	Ruhina Ferdous Sub-editor
11.	Maasranga TV	Kawser Soheli Special Correspondent
12.	Ekattur TV	Kaberi Maitraya Senior Reporter
13.	NEWS24	Antara Biswas Staff Reporter
14.	Jamuna Television	Lamia Sultana Tithi News Room Editor

Annex-3: Fellowship report link

	Fellow	Story publishing date	Story link
1.	Sarwar Morshed Pabna correspondent Prothom alo	21 April 2021	https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/district/%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%AE%E0%A7%87%E0%A6%87-%E0%A6%AA%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A3-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9A%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%9B%E0%A7%87-%E0%A6%9A%E0%A6%B2%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%B2
2.	Mohammad Farhadh Hossain Talukdar Staff Reporter The Business Standard	26 April 2021	https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/bad-debts-hit-new-and-foreign-banks-too-237190
3.	Sultan Mahmud Konik Staff reporter, Mymensingh Channel 24	21 April 2021	https://youtu.be/_0FMcr66ApE
4.	Iqbal Ahsan Senior Reporter Channel 24	17 April 2021	https://youtu.be/blU5DMnuSF4
5.		18 April 2021	https://youtu.be/xtOH_HE6eVI
6.	A B M Amirul Latif Senior Staff correspondent, Bogura Independent Television	19 April 2021	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNGPRshaoVg
7.		19 May 2021	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzTKdzGdlmw
8.	Mohammad Omar Faruque Senior Staff correspondent, Chattogram The Business Standard	20 April 2021	https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/banking/41-ctg-loan-defaulters-consumer-goods-sector-234121#.YH4GpMMO1n1.whatsapp

9.	Sampa Biswas Apprentice Reporter Daily kalerkantho	26 April 2021	https://www.kalerkantho.com/print-edition/last-page/2021/04/26/1027677
10.	Smriti Mandol Reporter ETV	24 March 2021	https://youtu.be/d6OsYxY54Vs
11.		25 March 2021	https://youtu.be/zK2uzUvoWic
12.	Antara Biswas Staff Reporter News24	26 April 2021	https://youtu.be/dWuYb5TNsOQ
13.	Dwoha Chowdhury Sylhet correspondent The Daily star	18 May 2021	https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/the-green-cost-development-2094153