

Project Completion Report

13 November 2023 - 31 January 2024

Training for journalists from marginalized and disenfranchised communities

Prepared by



4 March 2024

Background

The voice of journalists from marginalized and disenfranchised communities in the news media is very insignificant. Because of this, the needs and situation of this community does not get proper reflection in the news media.

Building capacity of the young journalist of marginalized and disenfranchised communities on quality journalism can change the situation by improving their skills for production of in-depth reporting, through which they can bring the real situation of their community needs and make the authority accountable to ensure their rights.

Considering these issues, MRDI with support from Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) organized 3-day *Training for journalists from marginalized and disenfranchised communities*.

Project objective

To build capacity for young journalists from the marginalised and disenfranchised communities.

Activity performed

3-day journalist training

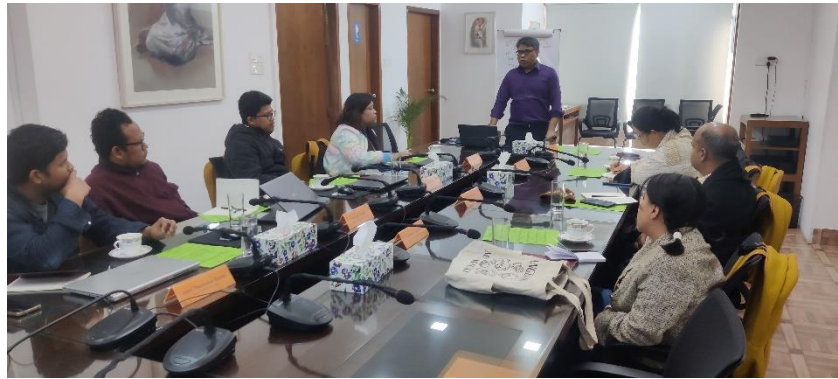
The 3-day training took place at MRDI conference room from 27-29 January 2024. Eight journalists from marginalized and disenfranchised communities selected by the GIJN were invited to participate in the training. But due to sickness one participant dropped. Finally, 7 participants took part in the training. Among them two were from outside Dhaka.

MRDI followed the session plan provided by the GIJN. It began with an inaugural session. Executive Director MRDI Hasibur Rahman and GIJN Bangla Editor Miraj Ahmed Chowdhury were present in the session. Welcoming the participants ED MRDI explained the main objective of this initiative. GIJN Bangla Editor emphasized on the need of quality journalism and importance of capacity enhancement of the journalist of marginalized and disenfranchised communities.



MRDI's head of capacity building Md. Badruddoza Babu was present in the training as facilitator and conducted sessions in the training.

Qurratul-Ain-Tahmina, Journalist and trainer; Saiful Alam Chowdhury, Associate Professor, Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University; Sheikh Sabiha Alam, Assistant Editor, Prothom Alo; Minhaj Aman, Research Lead, Dismislab and Hasibur Rahman, Executive Director of MRDI also conducted different sessions in the training.

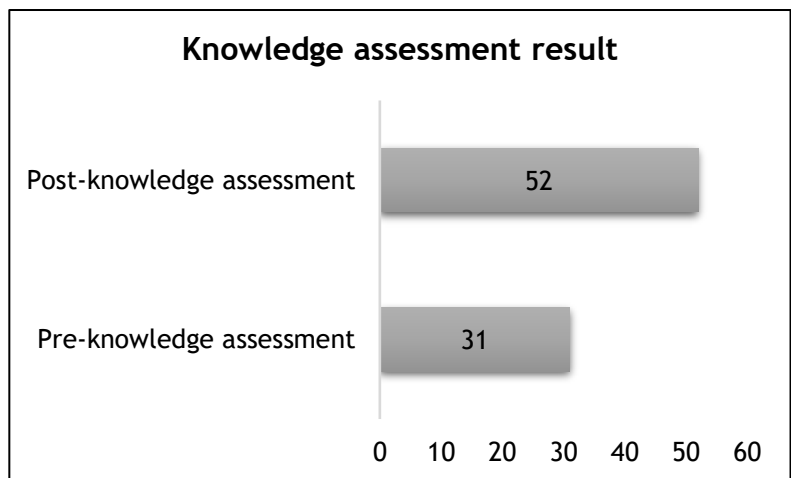


The three-day training consisted of ten sessions to provide knowledge on quality journalism and introducing the tools and techniques of investigation. Sessions covered with how a report becomes investigative, importance of story planning, way of conducting online research, sources mapping, gathering evidence, Right to information act and its uses, interview techniques and write a good story and information verify and ethics.

Exercises, lectures, and multimedia presentations were used to conduct the training. Question-and-answer sessions, group discussions and hands-on activities were applied to make the sessions participatory and interesting.

Knowledge assessment was conducted with the training participants before and after the training session using the same set of questionnaire. The assessment questionnaire was developed based on the issues to be discussed in the sessions.

The assessment result shows improvement of knowledge on the topics discussed. Aggregate score of the participants increased from 31 in the pre assessment to 52 in the post.



The training program was well-received by the participants, with 86% agreement that it fulfilled expectations, provided useful and relevant information and the trainers were praised for their competence and helpfulness.

Participants mentioned different aspects & tactics of investigative journalism, process of RTI applications, online research, interview techniques, story planning and source mapping in reporting as new things they have learnt from this training.

Participants acknowledged to bring changes in their future reporting by utilizing the knowledge gained from this training.

They have suggested to organize training on online research and data journalism as follow-up of this training. They emphasized to include more practical sessions while organizing future training. Scope of mentorship can be the opportunity for the participants to utilize the knowledge achieved from this training.