



**PRESENTING “HARD NEWS” OF
BANGLADESHI ONLINE AND PRINT MEDIA
IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY:
A STUDY ON THE NEWS PRESENTED CENTERING THE RECENT
RELIGIOUS VIOLENCE IN BANGLADESH IN THE PRINT AND
ONLINE MEDIA**

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Abstract

The study is based on the case of the series of incidents of violence and vandalism that occurred during the Durga Puja in 2021 in Bangladesh. The study analyzed the traditional news making pattern of Bangladeshi mainstream media and the nature of its negativity bias. Analyzing the pattern and the negativity the study recommended a way to present the ‘hard news’ of Bangladeshi online and print media in a constructive way. The primary method of the study was content analysis. Four national daily newspapers (two print and two online) were selected as the sample for the study. In addition to that interview of 2 journalists was conducted to understand the news making pattern of Bangladeshi print media in case of the said incident and to form a recommendation. The findings showed that the traditional news making pattern of the print media of Bangladesh is not appropriate for the constructive framework and biased towards negative.

Chapter One: Introduction

The Press is an agency of the science of the dissemination of news and opinion (Mott, 1953). Since the time George Fox Mott wrote this about journalism, the field has passed a long way. Journalism went through a lot of changes and adopted various new techniques and often responsibilities. Today, journalism is not only about disseminating accurate news. It also withholds some social responsibilities. It must decide which news is significant for the society. It must recheck its news presentation regarding the welfare of society. If a press publishes news irresponsibly, however-true and accurate the news may be, it can cause havoc in society.

News may be defined as merely a factual statement, disseminated information that appeals to a big part of the community. However, the duty of a journalist is not limited to this. Apart from sharing information, a journalist has a lot more to do. A journalist has responsibility towards the society it serves. Therefore, they must not limit their effort merely disseminating information, no matter how important, exclusive or entertaining they are. The authors argue that, journalist should also guide their audiences. Simply put, informing or explaining the problem is not enough, telling how to solve the problem and actively involving in solving the problem is also important.

Religious violence is a big problem in Bangladesh. It needs great attention and active effort to solve this problem. Journalists have a big responsibility to mitigate tension between people of different religions and create harmony among them.

Background

During the Durga Puja celebration in Bangladesh from October 13 to 19, 2021, Muslim mobs sparked communal violence against Hindu communities. Over 250 temples and improvised worship sites have been vandalized. Videos and allegations that a Qur'an, the Muslim holy book, had been put on the knee of a statue of the Hindu god Hanuman in a shrine set up for the Hindu holy festival of Durga Puja caused the controversy. Following the viral video earlier this week, mobs of over 500 people gathered in Cumilla and surrounding regions to protest the alleged blasphemy. Approximately ten Hindu temples and shrines were vandalized by protesters who flung stones and destroyed Hindu god statues. Although the government took actions through police and security forces, the violence spread to many places (Ellis-Petersen,

2021). Places like Cumilla, Chottogram, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali and Rangpur witnessed violence against Hindu community of Bangladesh (Deb and Chakrabarti, 2021).

Although this specific incident can be coined as the most intense religious and communal violence of recent times, violence like this in Bangladesh is not rare. Bangladesh, a country with Muslim majority and Hindu minority often experiences violence and communal adversity among the people. These violence and adversities are often created through provocations from certain political or extremist groups to meet their interest. The issue of communal violence and hatred is a very sensitive issue.. Therefore, the news treatments these incidents get must be carefully analyzed. Centering incidents occurred during puja, this research analyzes the news treatment and offers how the treatment should have been and what can be done in future to reduce incidents like this and mitigate the communal adversity between the ethnic communities of Bangladesh.

The traditional news media of Bangladesh publishes hard news in such a way that is negative. As the media covers and presents the news of the negative incidents, generally the presentation emphasizes on the negative side of the story. In most cases, partly for the sake of publishing negative events in the form of a human-interest story and partly for sake of sensation, the news media of Bangladesh are slightly biased to the negativity. In the traditional journalism practiced in Bangladesh today there is a proverb which seems really active- "Bad news is the good news".

Journalism, even if it isn't emphasizing negativity and acting as a watchdog, it rarely acts as a guide dog. Also, the journalism in Bangladesh has been rarely solution oriented. These kinds of news are not ideal as they merely inform people about different incidents occurring in the society. It may make us informed, cautious and conscious about the problems that exist in the society and nation, but hardly offer a way out. An ideal journalism must not be limited to informing and interpreting events, it must be extended to guiding people

Constructive Journalism is relatively new in the field of Journalism. It is different from the traditional news making style. Constructive journalism is solution oriented and forward looking. Constructive journalism is a relative new idea in the field of journalism. As a field, it criticizes much (mainstream) reporting for being formulaic, immediate, and event-centered, as well as the tendency for 'news' to be (about) the negative, primarily crisis and conflict oriented, and traditions based on the belief that professional journalists should remain detached observers at all times, limiting themselves to (merely) reporting on social reality and not intervening in any way (Mast, Coesemans & Temmerman, 2018). Rather, constructive

journalism offers solutions, makes room for the positive, presents the story highlighting every angle and engages the media to guide its audience. According to Bond (1966), one of the purposes of Journalism is to guide. Journalism that is constructive can be compared to a guide dog.

Objectives

The general objective of this study is to examine the traditional way of presenting hard news in our traditional mass media as well as in online media, and suggest an alternative/better way i.e., constructive reporting. The specific objectives are-

- To analyze how Bangladeshi media traditionally presents religious issues. This research analyze the way Bangladeshi print and online media (online news portal) presents the news related to the violent incident and religious riot that occurred during the Durga Puja Festival in 2021 in various regions of Bangladesh.
- To Analyze how these Specific News propagate “Negativity” and how much of these news stories are actually negative. The research discover the nature of the negativity presented in these news stories.
- To recommend a way of transforming the news making style of Bangladeshi media to make it more appropriate for the constructive approach.

Rationale

It might be tough to avoid becoming overwhelmed by all the newest information when it appears like all news is bad news. It's simple to understand how a 24-hour news cycle, easily accessible on smartphones wherever everyone in the globe, may have a significant influence on mental health and leave some people feeling uneasy. (Salter, 2020).

Part of the reason for this exhaustion is the type of the stories that dominate the news. Because bad news tends to garner more attention, the majority of what you see, read, and hear will be negative.

This is tied to a phenomenon known as "negativity bias" among scientists. People are programmed as humans to seek out and remember bad news - people usually naturally drawn to the negative.

According to studies, when anyone hear terrible news, they concerned about more than just the news story's content. Negative news coverage drives people to worry about troubles in their own lives, according to research on the psychological consequences of television news. (Salter, 2020).

Religious news come with new discourse and the representation style of religious news is more on negative side. Constructive and solution-based journalism are rapidly gaining popularity throughout the world. That s why now the representation of religious violence in news paper study is rational. We saw the news top to bottom to see each angle and word clearly. This study has given a guideline towards representing news in a more constructive way.

Research Question

According to our aim, we have set three questions that we aim to find out. These are

1. What is the traditional news making pattern of Bangladeshi Print Media?
2. Were the news stories published during the festival presented in a constructive way?
3. How can the news stories published centering on the specific incident be more constructive?

Definitions

Traditional News making Pattern: In this Study, the traditional way of news making pattern can be defined as the news structure, pattern or style the traditional print media of Bangladesh generally follow. In this pattern, the news stories follow the established news structures and are generally descriptive.

Print Media: Print media in this study can be defined as the newspaper, both in print and online form.

Constructive Journalism: Constructive journalism is a reaction to today's news media's rising tabloidization, sensationalism, and negative bias. It is a strategy aimed at giving viewers a balanced, truthful, and contextualized image of the world, rather than overemphasizing the bad and what's wrong.

Religious Violence: Religious violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to religion. Here in this research, we consider the incident During the Durga Puja celebration in Bangladesh from October 13 to 19, 2021, Muslim mobs sparked communal violence against Hindu communities.

Hard News: According to Britannica Traditionally, "hard news" refers to the details of a recent occurrence or incident that is of broad local, regional, national, or worldwide importance. In this research all the news are actually hard news. Not any kind of soft news or feature.

Chapter two: Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Literature Review

According to our research, the way of presenting religious violence in the media and its impact and the way of presenting such violence news in a constructive way is most relevant. However constructive journalism is a recent concept specially the emergence of this idea is mostly relatable to the time of Corona. In this research religious violence, negativity, rumor, these are also important aspects.

Soroka et al. (2019) found the majority of news coverage of current events is negative. The majority of American descriptions of this trend focus on journalistic practices, although this does not account for all negative news material around the world. It is more likely that news negativity stems from a human predisposition to pay more attention to negative news. Their findings imply that negative news articles engage the ordinary person more physiologically than favorable news items around the world. Despite this, there is a lot of variety amongst people. The latter finding has actual implications for newsmakers: news producers should not underestimate the audience for good news material, especially in a varied media environment. What explains the high incidence of bad news? One solution could be found in humans' proclivity for reacting more strongly to negative than positive information. Although "negativity biases" in human cognition and behavior have been thoroughly documented, current research is based on small Anglo-American samples and stimuli that are only distantly relevant to our political reality. Accordingly, the findings of a 17-country, 6-continent experimental investigation assessing psychophysiological reactions to genuine video news information are presented in this paper. The findings provide the most complete cross-national demonstration of negativity biases to date, but they also indicate significant individual diversity in news content responsiveness. The findings, insofar as they demonstrate the pervasiveness of negativity biases on average, serve to explain why audience-seeking news is generally negative over the world. Insofar as the findings show individual-level heterogeneity, they also point to the potential for more positive material, suggesting that there may be reason to rethink the adage that "if it bleeds, it leads." In a research project done by Ariyanto & Hornsey (2008), the goal was to see how useful an intergroup viewpoint may be in understanding media bias in the setting of intergroup conflict. Despite the fact that the media is frequently accused of prejudice, actual evidence of media bias is mixed. The content of tales of ongoing Christian–Muslim

violence in Ambon, Indonesia, as published in both Christian and Muslim periodicals, was analyzed. This indicated the existence of a 'naming bias,' in which Christian and Muslim publications were more inclined to name the religious outgroup as perpetrators of intergroup violence than they were to blame their own group. This prejudice, however, was unbalanced between the two groups: it was more prevalent in the Muslim publication but less so in the Christian one. A wide sample of media stories revealed this tendency, as did a sample of matched reports in which the same occurrence was reported by both papers. The name bias and its variable operation are explained using intergroup dynamics theory from social psychology. An article by Wright (2002) takes the shape of a broad examination of refugee visual representations in a variety of media types. For starters, it implies that these media representations are based on Christian imagery. The study then moves on to the subject of forced migration in fiction films, arguing that cinematic representations of forced migration frequently follow the "road movie" genre. An examination of current concerns in the media's portrayal of refugees highlights the need for and direction of future research on the topic suggested by the researcher.

Social Media Rumors in Bangladesh was done in 2020 in the prominent time of corona. This research looked at 181 sample from social media rumors in Bangladesh to see what the most common themes, sources, and goals were. Political, health & education, crime & human rights, religious, political, entertainment, and other are the top seven themes in social media rumors, according to the findings. Furthermore, online and traditional media are the two primary sources of social media rumors, with three possible outcomes: positive, negative, and unknown. The following are some of the study's significant findings: Most social media rumors are negative and emerge from online media, social media itself being the dominant online source of social media rumors, most health-related rumors are negative and surge during a crisis period, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. and, most social media rumors are negative and emerge from online media, with social media itself being the dominant online source of social media rumors. The data collection period, data source, and data analysis are all limitations identified in this paper. But this study is a guideline for further research on social media rumors and its negativity. However, this research particularly addressed the religious rumors and that is more significant for our research. The research findings also shows that online media are most likely to spread disinformation and rumors across Bangladesh (Zaman et al, 2020). The spread of disinformation and the effect of bad news on mental health are highlighted throughout COVID-19, highlighting a contradiction between the news media as a source of critical public

health information and news as a cause of distress. Constructive journalism is a proposed method of reporting that is both instructive and soothing to the listener. During COVID-19, they looked into the advantages and uses of constructive news reporting from the standpoint of journalists who are interested in it. In the first two months of the epidemic, eleven people from four continents were questioned. Thematic analysis was used to look at the data, and two themes emerged: "Sober not sensational" and "What's good in a pandemic?" "Beyond the figures," "slower reporting," "understanding uncertainty," "solutions," "we're all in the same boat," and "awakening" were among the six sub themes developed. Constructive methods were regarded as assisting journalists in their jobs as educators and providing hope without generating unnecessary fear. During the epidemic, our interviews imply that constructive news reporting might help to strike a balance between informativeness and public mental health. (Van et al, 2022). The role of solutions journalism in reporting the COVID-19 pandemic in 25 nations and regions is compared in this study. While solutions journalism emphasized varied reactions and responders in the coverage and demonstrated different responsibilities in different places, it played more interventionist, facilitator, and civic-oriented roles overall. When reporting on the government-led containment of the virus in East Asia and non-US Western nations where COVID-19 infections were fewer, solutions journalism took on more interventionist and facilitator responsibilities. In the United States, where COVID-19 infection was more severe, solutions journalism played a crucial role in reporting grassroots initiatives to tackle the epidemic. However, in a moment of crisis, when the public requires more how-to assistance and accountability, solutions journalism failed to adopt a service and watchdog role (Li, 2021).

A study by Islam et al (2020) shows that during pandemics like COVID-19, social media plays an important role since it allows individuals to communicate news, personal experiences, and perspectives with one another in real time, all over the world. In this study they explain how motivating variables and personal traits impact social media fatigue and the dissemination of unverified information during the COVID-19 pandemic, based on the affordance lens and cognitive load theory. As a result, they create a model that tests using data obtained from young people in Bangladesh (N = 433) using structural equation modeling and neural network approaches. People who are motivated by self-promotion and amusement, as well as those with poor self-control, are more likely to distribute unsubstantiated material, according to the findings. The spreading of dubious information was adversely connected with exploration and religion. Exploration, on the other hand, increases social media weariness. The data suggest

that varied social media usage objectives have negative implications, including greater misinformation dissemination. The 'crisis in Punjab' in 1983 and 1984 is examined using media framing theories in a study by Mann (2016). The Times of India portrays Sikhs and the situation in such a way that it creates a caricature of Sikhs as fundamentally aggressive, pre-modern, and threatening to India's state. The researcher suggests that this framing echoes William Cavanaugh's critique of clichés of religion and violence in *The Myth of Religious Violence: Secular Ideology and the Roots of Modern Conflict* [2009. Oxford University Press, New York, 2001.] He uses Cavanaugh's critical perspective on the myth of religious violence to show how the media and the government use this framing of Sikhs to justify illegitimate violence against them.

Concerns regarding fear, racial prejudice, and resistance against public health advice arose as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, all of which were exacerbated by the press and social media. By randomly allocating 492 respondents to watch simulated social media news updates with varying headlines and graphics, this study evaluated the impact of constructive journalism in the context of this crisis. Positive and constructive headlines were found to cause less wrath and anxiety than negative ones. Anger, anxiety, COVID-19 risk perceptions, and anti-Chinese attitude all dropped when graphic pictures were sanitized—a link that was mediated by anger and anxiety. These findings show that constructive journalism may be beneficial in times of crisis, and that the visual part of it deserves further scholarly study. Furthermore, these findings give fresh information on the implications of news exposure via social media during times of crisis, as well as how this influence varies depending on headline and picture characteristics of the material being shared. The findings are explored in light of emotional intelligence theory and contemporary concerns about how news and social media impact public opinion during times of crisis (Overgaard, 2021).

An article by Rusch et al (2021) seeks to address this gap by conducting a quasi-experimental online poll in collaboration with the West German Broadcasting Corporation (WDR). A total of 480 persons were exposed to three different emotionally charged news subjects in order to determine the impact. Three item versions were produced for each of them. There are three types of solutions: individual solutions, meta-solutions, and no solutions. The findings suggest that constructive television programming has a favorable emotional impact on viewers. This is especially true for news stories that require a unique answer. The results for item variants when compared to a meta-solution or no solution yielded no clear evidence. In news stories with

individual or meta-solutions, negative feelings are lessened. When compared to news articles without solutions, this effect is smaller for the latter.

Theoretical Framework

Two theories have been set as the framework for this research. These are-

1. Representation Theory
2. Agenda Setting Theory

Representation Theory: The production of meaning through language is known as representation. Representation works as a connection between meaning-language and culture. Representation is an important aspect of the process of producing and exchanging meaning among members of a culture. It entails the use of language, signs, and images to symbolize or stand for things (Hall,1995). Representation is all about how language and meaning is connected to culture. Hall (1995) stated three theories in this discussion,

1. Reflective
2. Intentional
3. Constructionist

For our study, the constructionist representation is appropriate as we are willing to discover how the use of words constructed the reality. Hall (1995) stated that the constructionist perspective acknowledges language's public, social nature. It recognizes that neither materials nor individual language users have the ability to fix meaning in language. Things do not have meaning: we create meaning through the use of representational systems, such as concepts and signs.

Also, we can acknowledge the intentional approach in this study. According to the intentional approach to meaning in representation, the speaker, or author, imposes his or her own distinctive meaning on the world through language. Words have the meaning that the creator intends for them to have (Hall,1995). Here, the author is inevitably the journalist (the reporter or the editor).

Agenda Setting Theory: According to the Agenda Setting Theory, the media may not be successful in making us believe something, but it is more than successful in selecting what to think about. Griffin (2000) states that the mass media holds the ability to transfer the noticeable elements of their items from the agenda of the news to the agenda of the public. Cohel (1963) states that the press has the ability to make people think about something specific.

The theory defines the ability of mass media to set an agenda through specific procedure. In our study, the theory is relevant because we wish to view the angle that has been highlighted and the angles that have been ignored. The process of Framing and Priming is significant in our discussion.

By framing, Gitlin (1980) means, the way to represent something in its own way. Framing is basically showing one side of the story while ignoring the others. This way, only one angle of the story is highlighted, and the other parts are played down, if not completely ignored

Chapter three: Methodology

Sampling and Sample

The sampling method for this research is “purposive sampling”. For data collection we selected- two printed and two online newspapers. The printed newspapers are the daily *Prothom Alo* and the daily *Bangladesh Protidin* and the online news portals are “Jago News” and “BanglaTribune”. They are the most popular print and online newspaper in Bangladesh (top 10 newspaper list, 2022).

Data Collection Method

The study is a case study. Therefore, to collect the necessary data we used the news stories that are directly related to the incident of the religious violence during Durga Puja in Bangladesh in 2020 from the selected newspapers and online portals from 15 October 2020 to 20 October 2020.

We examined the news headline, usage of photographs, graphics and images used in the story, the use of words within the stories and the angles of the stories to find a series of qualitative and quantitative data. For additional information and findings, we did interviews of 3 journalists and a psychologist and noted them down to use them to form a recommendation.

Data Analysis Method

All the sample data is analyzed by qualitative content analysis methods. However, we quantified some of the data through analyzing the news stories to find out how much news we have with traditional criteria.

We saw some criteria in the news story by which we identified the news has tendency towards negativity biases. We examined the headlines, the words and the representation style of the news. We examined the angle of the news and how they frame and prime the news using image, graphics and more extra elements. And lastly, we focused on how they mentioned the positive action taken by the authority or any individual or group. Moreover, our analysis looked for

solutions and if any solutions or future plans are offered, we examine the plan and decide what is the nature of the story.

We analyze the news with the three basic pillars of constructive Journalism. The Three Pillars are the cornerstones of constructive journalism. Each pillar symbolizes a journalistic methodology that, when taken collectively, contributes to the overall objective of contributing to democracy.

One of them suggested that focusing on a solution means not only drawing attention to the issue, but also to the solution.

Second, to cover nuances, attempt to discover the most accurate version of the truth. look at the world with both of your eyes.

The third is to enforce more democratic conversation to engage and facilitate debate, including people in the community (constructive institution, 2022).

We analyzed the in-depth interview taken from the three journalists and one psychologist as respondents and formed a recommendation from the interview.

Chapter four: Data Analysis and Findings

The Traditional Journalism of Bangladesh: Comparing with the Constructive Framework

The Pattern of the Story

According to our analysis of the news stories,

1. The traditional news making of Bangladeshi print media is descriptive and factual: The traditional journalism of Bangladesh follows the old-fashioned descriptive journalism that enables a news to merely inform and interpret. It rarely guides or critically examines the problem. As we analyzed, the news reports or stories followed the descriptive pattern, generally following the inverted pyramid structure. The Structure is rarely useful in offering solutions and bringing about critical and insightful discussion on the incident. News which centered on the incidents of violence and vandalism that occurred in the time of Durga Puja in 2021 in Bangladesh, were merely a description of events and incidents. Rarely it critically examined the incident and looked for the reason for the problem. Although some of the news included positive included- for example- Actions and progress, protests and positive statements of the actors, added positive incidents etc., they were all in a form of description. These positive, solution-oriented elements were largely ignored, played down and included in the news for sake of the story. Some stories relying on protests and statements of the civil society were mostly positive as it covered the protests and statements that were against the communal violence and vandalism. However, still these reports were also limited to description.

2. The reporters are merely an observer and act as an informer of the details of the incident: The reporters were inactive and merely observed the incident but neither critically examined it, nor framed it as a positive example. The reporter merely reported the events through observing and occasionally investigating the incident. In the constructive framework, being an observer, detached from the incident itself is not enough, as the journalist must be a guide dog. Digging the positive actions or the possibilities of positive actions of the authority and the community where the negative incident occurred requires active action. Therefore, the

journalists must neither be apathetic to the victim and attentive to the incident, nor they should display the mere suffering of the victim. The journalists may try finding possible solutions to the problems from the spot and in the newsroom, at least in his/her process of digging the story and writing the story he/she must dig for the possible solution as well as the details of the incidents and victims.

3. The story was limited to one-single incident which did- not project the whole picture:

Most of the news stories we analyzed were incomplete and limited to one incident. These news stories described an incident partially. Specifically in the incident-based news stories we rarely get the full picture. One side is explained, and the other side is avoided in these news stories. According to our respondents, the lack of space in the newspaper and thus the pressure to shorten the story (In the Print Version) as well as the demand for timeliness (In the Online Version) is responsible for creating a story that does not include the whole picture and detailed discussion. The constructive approach relies on telling the whole story completely from every angle. Getting the holistic view of the incident is important to shift the focus of the audience from the problem to the solution. Moreover, the whole story offers the whole truth.

The Negativity Bias

The Negativity Bias in the News Stories:

Through analyzing the sample data, we found the following-

Criterion	Quantity (in Percentage)
Negative Headlines, Images and Graphics	54.76% (among 44 headlines intotal)
Negative Angle of the story	59.52%
Positive Action Non-existent	80.92%

45.24% stories included positive headlines and images. In case of headlines, the nature of positivity relied on the mention of positive actions and the use of positive words. In most cases,

actions like the culprit being arrested and victims being protected was mentioned in the headline. However, most of the headlines and images (54.76%) were negative. In case of images, the images of wreckage, vandalized Puja Mandap and temples, heart-breaking photographs of victims, vandals and religious fanatics vandalizing puja mandaps or walking on a procession titled “Touhidi Janata” (তৌহিদী জনতা). Also, in case of framing, the headlines are generally leaning to the negative side of the story. The headlines highlight the conflict, violence and attack of the minorities or on the prediction of the future attack. Media is always using on the negative words like “সংঘর্ষ” (Conflict) “উত্তাপ” (Heat) “নাশকতার” (Vandalism) তান্ডব (Torment). In some cases, there has been a mention of action through sentences like- “সতর্ক আইনশৃঙ্খলা বাহিনী” (Police are Cautious) or words like “গ্রেফতার” (Arrested). However, these headlines inevitably followed or were followed by a mention of a negative incident.

Most of the stories (59.52) framed the negative aspects of the story. The center of the attention of these stories were the descriptions of the attack and vandalism, torments of the victims, the spread and fear and hatred in various places and the negative comments and blame games of different parties. The intonation was done through highlighting the negative aspects of the incident by placing them in the most important portion of the story- i.e., in the lead of the story, and in the upper portion of the story. Moreover, there were detailed and elaborate descriptions of the vandalism and of the attack of the minority. In some cases, the torments of the victims were described as an element of human interest and thus was thoroughly described.

The news stories framed the negative incidents and ignored the less negative ones. There are also mentions of positive actions or statements, but they are not highlighted and often found in the lower part of the story, making them less important. Several news stories described the brutal incident with great importance. The incident itself was brutal and therefore it's natural that the story description will be brutal. These news stories consist of staccato and metaphorical words to make the story more depressing for the sake of human interest. However, these very elements like usage of negative words like নিঃস্ব (impoverish), অসহায় (helpless) to label the minority religious group and সহিংস (Violent), উগ্র (Radical or Fanatic) to label the majority religious group forms a conflicting relationship between the majority and the minority religious groups. These labels make the news negative and generate a culture of fear and disappointment. Moreover, the term “তৌহিদী জনতা” is often used to label the vandals and the attackers although the term originally refers to the god fearing muslim people.

There was hardly any positive action mentioned in the stories. 80.92% of the stories has no mention of the action taken by the authority, individual or any group. Thus, most of the news stories are negatively biased.

In the qualitative textual analysis, we examined the news and decided the nature of the news. We have examined the news that is negative and as well we examined the news that is positive. Also, the news we decided were constructive also went through keen examination and the nature was discussed.

According to our interview with the journalists, the general mindset of the media houses of Bangladesh are biased toward highlighting the negative aspects. The reasons are-

1. Negative News helps increase the purchase
2. As the incident is negative, the story must rely on negative aspects
3. The raw description of negative incidents may create public sympathy towards the victims and may gain attention of the authorities.

Constructive Journalism is not necessarily positive journalism. However, it is a balanced and unbiased approach where all angles of the news are emphasized. Constructive journalism proponents argue for an "alternative," more inclusive, and accountable form of journalism that actively seeks out positive values and emotions when gathering and reporting news, as well as pointing out potential solutions, bringing affirmative, inspiring, and often untold narratives (Mast, Coesmans & Temmerman, 2018). The Traditional Journalism of Bangladesh, specifically during the time of the Durga Puja violence in 2021, were biased toward the negative events. Through headline, images, news angle and description of the content these news stories leaned to the negative. Therefore, these stories were not constructive.

The Focus of the Story

The news story merely described the past incidents. It never looked to the future. It never focused on the action taken by the police, or any positive steps taken by any authority. These news stories often mention action. Generally, these actions are taken by the administration and the police. There are several mentions of arrests and inspection of the spot of the incident by the local administrator. However, these actions were not highlighted. Moreover, the reports

merely mentioned the action taken. The news stories failed to analyze the nature of the cautionary actions taken by the law enforcement force. Often, they only mention the statement of a police-super or a police officer on their cautionary steps, but fail to investigate how the steps were taken and whether they were really taken or not. Often, in response to the violence, the local administration engaged Islamic Scholars and Imams to make positive statements. The news stories described these incidents in a few reports examined. However, these positive actions were merely part of news stories that were negatively biased as a whole. We found a very few stories relying on or highlighting these positive actions. The news only gives a simple description of the incident or violence here. But the root cause of the main problem is ignored here and not analyzed much. As a result, the reader will remain ignorant about the actual incident. The reporters cannot focus the story on possible solutions as they do not mention the background of the story. So, the overall news is actually dependent on mere facts, not any solution. Another thing is the lack of the expert opinion for such violent incidents. In any news we didn't find any expert opinion for the incident and how to manage the situation. They do not mention any positive example done by the locals or the authorities. They only mention the activities and comments done by the police. We only found the mention of the past only. If the news tells anything about the future, it represents them in a negative way. So, the future should be more solution oriented, not filled with anxiety and fear.

While these elements can also be included in constructive journalism, at the same time constructive reports have positive elements, guidance and intricate discussion of the problems. In a constructive news report, the negative incidents are critically examined, the reason for the problem is identified and a solution of the reason is offered.

Constructive Journalism, as an approach, is more hopeful and looks for possibilities. Our examination proved that the news report that was published centering the Durga Puja Incident was devoid of examining any possibilities of a way out of the problem.

Debates and Democratic Discussion

In constructive journalism it's really important to present democratic conversation via news. But we found something opposite yet conversational news in our sample. The people who commented anything good or bad about the incident the newspaper presented it as a statement. They are not presenting anything from the other side of the news. And presenting it as news made things more complicated. Such as there was a news headline like, কুমিল্লার ঘটনার দায় সরকারের: ভিপি নূর (The Government is responsible for Cumilla incident). By this news it is clear that the

DUCSU leader is blaming the government for the whole incident. It is not true but we found no other statement from any government. Another example was that ‘ধর্মের নামে হানাহানি যেকোনও মূল্যে প্রতিহত করবো’ (we will protest any violence in the name of religion). In this news we found a statement from a group. But this is one group. There are several groups sayings differently about this topic and that was not presented in the news. Another thing we found was that there was no news presenting any conversation from the victims or minority people. How they feel, what they want as punishment for the criminal who was responsible for the whole incident. In fact, they presented only complex statements by which people feel like the news is more complex rather than informative. This type of statement news or comment based news is misleading for the audience of our newspaper.

As suggested by constructive journalism institution news should present as many point of view as possible. So that the news should be more like conversation not like statement. But in our sample, we saw a different and traditional style of presenting news. That is only mentioned someone speech about the incident. In maximum case we saw the political leader’s speech was presented in such ways. Or any group or public figure say anything about the violence is presented without any changes. But that is not the proper way of presenting such conversation. There should be alternative speech given by opposite party. If the speech of both sides will present in a conversational way, only then news can create more debate and democratic discussion.

Focusing on Tomorrow

None of the news stories we analyzed focused on the main story. . It merely described the past and often the present situation. It never asked what the future holds and examined the best possible future. Constructive Journalism focuses mainly on the incident and incident that are connected with. . It analyzes the past and the present and works for a giving update about the upcoming future. . It identifies the problem through thorough examination from every angle, digging deep into the story and dialogue and democratic exchange. As soon as the problem is identified constructive journalism tries to offer the possible solution to the problem. But we found no solution as we mentioned earlier. But we figured that all sample news was followed by the inverted pyramid structure. So that structure is only suggested news to represent more facts serially. To know more about this typical representation of news we interviewed two journalists about this. They told us that journalists cannot say anything more than facts. So, the concept of guiding us is still not adopted yet in Bangladesh. Journalists believe that the present

representation of news actually follows the traditional way of journalism because all of them did not come across with the concept of constructive journalism.

Guiding and Facilitating

Bangladeshi media houses are still only playing the role as a watchdog not as a guide dog. They only try to explain the incident and present the information in a structured way. They do not give any answer to a problem.

As we examined the news stories of the series of violence and vandalism during the Durga Puja 2021, we witnessed these stories never offered any guidance. According to the respondents (Psychologists), news of communal violence begets anxiety and often more violence. Therefore, guiding the audiences in how to act is important. To establish a constructive structure of journalism journalists must guide and facilitate its audiences.

Improving the News Making Style in Bangladesh: Recommending the transformation process from descriptive to constructive

Constructive journalism is a reaction to today's news media's rising tabloidization, sensationalism, and negative bias. It is a strategy aimed at giving viewers a balanced, truthful, and contextualized image of the world, rather than overemphasizing the bad and what's wrong (Constructive Institution, 2022). Still now we have not started practicing constructive journalism. We still now over emphasize the news and not focus on the contextual image.

Changing the News Pattern: Our traditional journalism generally follows the inverted pyramid structure and makes descriptive news based on the events of the past. The traditional inverted pyramid structure is suitable for factual news but not appropriate for solution-oriented news. This structure is perfect for describing an incident, but not appropriate for examining it. Therefore, one important recommendation is to break the bias for an inverted pyramid structure. Also, we need to coin a new news structure or news-making method more appropriate for the constructive framework and train the journalists to follow that structure.

We need to change the typical news patterns where we see only the negative or serious things only focused on the news. The news must not have merely described the incidents, rather it

must critically examine the incidents as well. To examine these incidents critically we can offer two recommendation-

1. Bringing out positive examples. In case of religious violence and intolerance we can bring out examples of religious harmony and how in different regions of the world various ethnic and religious groups live together in harmony and practice their festivals.
2. Also, bringing positive statements from specialists, religious leaders, civic leaders and influential people into the story can make the story more hopeful and solution oriented.

Balancing the Positive and Negative: Constructive journalism suggests only not overemphasizing the news or exaggerating any particular angle. It wants both the positive and negative so balancing both positive and negative aspects will be a good way for the reader to understand the story or the incident better. If the news of the Puja incident emphasized on actions as well as the negative incident it could have been better. Actions like arrests of the culprits, measures taken by the authority and protests from different bodies should be emphasized and identified as positive actions, as these actions stood against the perpetrators, condemned the religious violence and initiated creating religious harmony. These elements will make the stories more hopeful and positive.

Telling the Complete Story: Another recommendation is writing the whole story. For that, we may need to practice slow and calm journalism. It is difficult in online media as they face the pressure of timeliness. Print media can do it very easily if it trains its journalists. Instead of making all the news factual, one or two news stories can be detailed, critically interpreted, positively provocative and solution-oriented. In that specific news, we may expect detailed discussion on the incident, statements of both parties, statements of specialists, religious and civic leaders, and influencing and prominent figures. There may be constructive criticisms, debates and discussions on the problem and the solution. In the case of the religious violence during Durga Puja 2021, a model constructive report may include details of the incidents, statements and the critical examination of the statements of both the victims and vandals, statements of Imams, purohit, police and other bodies of administration.

It's only a matter of time to know each and every side of a story. Without knowing the full story, one cannot understand the incident properly. It must emphasize two sides or even more of the stories. Lack of information creates a gap among the audience.

Arrange Democratic Discussion: Journalists can start to practice democratic discussion in the news. More and more voices in one news can present a wholesome idea about any incident. Online media can take this action. As online media is more dynamic and flexible than print media, arranging a debate or an elaborate discussion session on the problem is easier. Also, print media can arrange a debate or discussion and publish the discussion the next day.

Critically Examining Statements: Before publishing any statement, journalists must analyze the speaker's situation and the impact of publishing the statement in public. If that can create a social or political clash then try not to directly quote this kind of news in public. Also, the story must include an interpretation of the statement.

Chapter five: Conclusion

Constructive Journalism in the present era is not only about conveying the information to the greater community. "Truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" is not the motto of modern journalism. Rather, many media theorists and modern journalists are in favour of changing the society in a positive way. Therefore, the constructive approach is more appropriate for modern day journalism. Especially when the issue is a sensitive issue like religious violence or intolerance. The traditional journalism of Bangladesh, especially that of the print media, is still not solution oriented. As we can see in the case of violence and vandalism occurring during the Durga Puja 2021, the news published in the mainstream Bangladeshi print media was negatively biased, mere descriptive and merely informed and occasionally interpreted the incidents, but never critically examined the situation or dig out any solutions to the problem. Moreover, these reports looked at the rear-view mirror. Rarely, they looked at the way forward. Therefore, the journalism during the incident, was just another series of description of the said incident. It never became a mount to change the situation. But there are a lot of reasons behind these types of representation. We hope one day the situation may be changed with initiatives taken from today towards constructive journalism.

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