

Presentation of Public Suffering News on Covid-19 Issues: Bangladeshi Case Studies

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Abstract:

According to the basic definition of journalism, the main task of media is to provide information to the people. But the definition of 19th-century journalism has changed dramatically in the digital world. In the new century, the world has faced new problems. The definition of journalism has changed in the face of a shifting world. Journalism has evolved into sometimes development journalism, sometimes solution-based journalism and sometimes advocacy journalism and so on. This research work is on a new form of journalism—Constructive Journalism (CJ). The study has identified some situations of the suffering caused by the covid-19 in Bangladesh and sought the potential for positive journalism with the aim of solving it. In order to explore how a reporter portrays the suffering of the people in Bangladesh and its solution during the Covid-19 situation, eight reports of the public suffering from eight media outlets in Bangladesh have been selected as samples. At the end of a case study analysis, some recommendations have also been presented. The study has recommended that there is a possibility of CJ in the present practice of journalism in Bangladesh. The study has evaluated the role of CJ in developing countries like Bangladesh.

Keywords

Constructive Journalism, Public Suffering, Covid-19, Solution-based Journalism

Introduction

A journalist is basically a storyteller. The job of a journalist is to present different images of society in the form of story. Under the influence of new journalism, storytelling returned to newsrooms in the 1960s and 1970s by applying literary techniques, such as point-of view writing and scene-by-scene reconstructions.¹ Storytelling as a practice has always been an integral part of journalistic work. It tells certain events according to a specific schedule so that it sticks in the listeners' mind. In previous centuries, journalists often used literary elements in their writings, but as a consequence of the professionalization of journalism, “the narrative style of news articles was replaced with a neutral and objective style”.² Studies have shown that people are more interested in hearing negative news.³ As a result, people are starting to omit the news at one stage as negative news has been the daily news.⁴

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¹ The Newsreel Project Consortium. 2021. *Newsreel2. New Teaching Fields for the Next Generation of Journalists*. Research report. Dortmund: Erich Brost Institute for International Journalism. <http://doi.org/10.17877/DE290R-22455>.

² Van Krieken, K. 2018. Multimedia Storytelling in Journalism: Exploring Narrative Techniques in Snow Fall. *Information* 9(5): 123. Advance Online Publication, doi: 10.3390/info9050123.

³ MacGregor, Marion (2020); *Constructive journalism: Why and how journalists want to change the rules*, Global Media Forum, Deutsche Welle, Available at: <https://p.dw.com/p/3mUOY>, accessed 2 February 2022.

⁴ Stafford, Tom (2014); *Psychology: Why bad news dominates the headlines*, BBC Future, Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20140728-why-is-all-the-news-bad>, accessed 02 February 2022.

Public Suffering during Covid-19 Situation in Bangladesh

Suffering means misery or difficulty—the state of undergoing pain, distress, or hardship. When the people of an area are not able to confront the situation caused by mismanagement or any disaster, the people suffer a lot. What we call public suffering.⁵ As an important populous country in South Asia, the people of Bangladesh have been suffering from various evils and Covid-19 situation is not different. Due to the spread of Covid-19 in Bangladesh, several government institutions could not take appropriate action in time which increased the sufferings of the people.⁶ Society has a historical relationship with the media. The media has to stand by the people in any crisis. The media has indirectly acted as a savior in any war, epidemic, natural calamity, etc. in the world.⁷ In this study, the case is public suffering news on Covid-19 issues in Bangladeshi media. It will give us a great opportunity to look at the journalistic practice during the Covid-19 situation.

Storytelling in Journalism

The purpose of storytelling is that the viewer/ reader/ listener will consume the story, as well as s/he will create a positive attitude and be able to get solutions. Another method of practicing journalism is CJ, a new way of approaching news based on the idea that there is a negativity bias in the news media that needs to be corrected. It aims to provide audiences with a fair, accurate and contextualized picture instead of over emphasizing what is going wrong in the world.⁸

This new trend of journalism needs to be practiced in various aspects of our daily life. For example, countries like Bangladesh, 20.5% of people live below the poverty line.⁹ Corruption rate is very high.¹⁰ People suffer a lot from bad governance. So, there a media report should be prepared in a solution-based method. If the situation of the suffering of the people is presented through this practice, the people feel very engaged with the report.¹¹ As Covid-19 outbreaks in early 2020, the people have faced various hardships. From the Covid-19 test to the bed crisis in the hospital, the people have continued to die without getting treatment. Later, when the vaccine came, there were many hardships to get the vaccine.

Storytelling techniques are followed in the data collection process. The techniques were time, space, suspense, character, ups and downs of events, conversations and descriptions. Special focus has also given to the key elements of journalism—honesty, precise data and evidence.

⁵ Bueno-Gómez, Noelia. “Conceptualizing suffering and pain.” *Philosophy, ethics, and humanities in medicine: PEHM* vol. 12,1 7. 29 Sep. 2017, doi:10.1186/s13010-017-0049-5

⁶ Ahmed, N U (2021). করোনা প্রতিরোধে এখন ইয়াযাকরতে হবে, ProthomAlo, Dhaka. Available at: <https://www.prothomalo.com/opinion/column>. Accessed 2 February 2022.

⁷ Tuchman, Gaye. (2010). The relationship among the news media, society, and culture: Thoughts on objectivity, method and passion. *Revista Perspectivas de la Comunicación*. 3. 126-133.

⁸ MacGregor, Marion (2020); *Constructive journalism: Why and how journalists want to change the rules*, Global Media Forum, Deutsche Welle, Available at: <https://p.dw.com/p/3mUOY>, accessed 2 February 2022.

⁹ ProthomAlo English Desk (2019). Poverty rate comes down to 20.5pc: BBS, ProthomAlo, Dhaka. Available at: <https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/Poverty-rate-co-comes-mes-down-to-20.5pc-BBS>.

¹⁰ CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (2021). Transparency International. Available at: <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2021> Accessed 10 February 2022.

¹¹ Hermans, L., & Gyldensted, C. (2019). Elements of constructive journalism: Characteristics, practical application and audience valuation. *Journalism*, 20(4), 535–551.

Research Objectives

Almost 166.50 million people¹² live in Bangladesh within 147,570 square kilometers area.¹³ The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country is 302.56 USD.¹⁴ Sadly, mass people have been faced with a lot of hardship in this pandemic. Almost 1.6 million people were affected in the whole country and more than 28,000 died till December 31, 2021. But lots of things happened in the meantime. Shortage of testing kits, lack of treatment, registration for vaccines to get vaccinated, mismanagement was at the top.

The study is designed to find out how such issues have been presented in the news reports and how the public have been benefited through those reports which were prepared in a constructive way. The objectives of the study were—

- ✓ To assess the journalistic practice in Bangladesh on the issues of public suffering news published during covid-19 and the aftermath in Bangladesh; and
- ✓ To find out and analyze the public suffering news during the period which were prepared in an alternative way like CJ.

Research Questions

The study has been carried out to know the answer of the following questions:

1. Is there any CJ report on the issues of public suffering during covid-19 and the aftermath in Bangladesh?
2. What are the main reasons behind the absence of CJ reports on the public suffering issues?
3. Is there any involvement of reader/ visitor/ viewer with the reports on public suffering issues?

Literature Review

The word news refers to the usual events of the day or any information revealed. A news story, on the other hand, is a single piece of news as reported. A news report of any length is usually presented in a straightforward style and without editorial comment.¹⁵ Charles Dana, an editor of *the Sun* in New York, during the 19th century said: 'News is anything which interests a large part of the community and which has never been brought to their attention.' This stresses the two most obvious points: it needs to be something that would interest your readers, and if they already know it, then it is not news.¹⁶ But nowadays the news industry is a competitive marketplace. In early 2020 Covid-19 spreads worldwide. The winds hit the news industry. The Covid-19 pandemic period impacted society on its trust and satisfaction with the media. Easy access to the news today makes news very easy to find. News about Covid-19 with various framing is endemic on various media platforms as headlines. Inter-media competition makes

¹² Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), *Bangladesh Statistics 2020*, Available at: https://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/a1d32f13_8553_44f1_92e6_8ff80a4f82e/2021-05-14-06-22-47723b0e1476ed905d1c121f8f07d935.pdf, accessed 31st December 2021.

¹³ <http://www.bangladesh.gov.bd/site/page/812d94a8-0376-4579-a8f1-a1f66fa5df5d/বাংলাদেশকে-জানুন>

¹⁴ Bangladesh GDP (2021) TRADING ECONOMICS. Available at: <https://tradingeconomics.com/bangladesh/gdp>. Accessed 10 February 2022.

¹⁵ <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/news-story?s=t>

¹⁶ McKane, Anna (2006); *WHAT MAKES NEWS?* News Writing, SAGE Publications Inc. 2455, Teller Road Thousand Oaks, California 91320, P-1/ (P: 1-15)

framing displayed by the media made as attractive as possible by bringing up titles that sometimes cause "traps" (click bait).¹⁷ For most people the media is an abundance of repetitive bad news that leads them to experience, at least occasionally, some form of mental health problem. So it is high time for news outlets to take lessons and think about the types of Covid-19 news that can make their audiences feel not only informed and reassured but also inspired and empowered.¹⁸

CJ is a developing technique in journalism practice and journalism research. CJ requires a public-oriented perspective and seeks to cover contemporary affairs and news, amplifying solution, action and future oriented perspectives. With methods such as solution orientation, future orientation, the focus on inclusiveness and diversity in perspective and sources, CJ seeks to connect people and enhance their participation in the society. CJ does not focus on extremes, conflicts, and problems. It rebuilds journalism traditions that aim at a negative focus for journalism that uses constructive elements, such as the inclusion of actual developments and context, solutions, and diversity, as part of more accurate and engaging news coverage that attempts to hold power accountable along new lines. Herman's and Gyldensted showed in their research that overall, people evaluate news that employs constructive elements. For example, people value it most when news includes diverse sources containing multiple perspectives, followed by news that provides in-depth information.¹⁹ Wiard and Simonson investigated the relationships between citizen media and CJ. The citizen journalists of the city Brussels are practicing specific which produce news that raises awareness toward uncovered issues, and that tries to counter mainstream media's negativity bias by proposing solutions to local issues while trying to stay away from stereotypes.²⁰ Rotmeijer argued that local constraints on St. Maarten journalism undermine the normative underpinnings of CJ. His study revealed skepticism toward CJ practices because of local political, economic and socio-cultural constraints.²¹

Research Methodology

In the data collection process, the study followed the case study method. Case study is the popular research method of mass communication and journalism area. Alan Bryman has stated, 'In case study research, there may be just one or two units of analysis. With such research, the goal is to understand the selected case or cases in depth.'²²

The study attempted to find out how a reporter portrayed the public suffering news and its solution in the CJ method among the news portals of Bangladesh. The study was designed to analyze the demographic reports of eight media outlets in Bangladesh through a case study to analyze the situation of the suffering caused by the Covid-19 infection.

¹⁷ Hafidzi, A. & Sahir, Syafrida Hafni & Eliya, Ixsir & Siregar, Fitri & Sudarmanto, Budi.(2021). The Perception and Impact of Covid-19 News on the Society. *Profetik: Jurnal Komunikasi*.

¹⁸ Nguyen, A., Smith, A.F., Jackson, D., & Zhao, X. (2021). Pandemic News Experience: COVID-19, News Consumption, Mental Health, and the Demand for Positive News. *Social Science Research Network*.

¹⁹ Hermans, L., & Gyldensted, C. (2019). Elements of constructive journalism: Characteristics, practical application and audience valuation. *Journalism*, 20(4), 535–551.

²⁰ Wiard, V., & Simonson, M. (2019). 'The city is ours, so let's talk about it': Constructing a citizen media initiative in Brussels. *Journalism*, 20(4), 617–631.

²¹ Rotmeijer, S. (2019). 'Words that work?' Practices of constructive journalism in a local Caribbean context. *Journalism*, 20(4), 600–616.

²² Bryman, Alan (2012). 'The nature and process of social research', *Social Research Methods*, Oxford University Press Inc., New York, ISBN 978-0-19-958805-3, 4th edition 2012, P-12) P- 8-14

Sampling Methods: The news reports were selected based on the issue of public suffering during covid-19 and the aftermath in Bangladesh. According to the latest figures (May 5, 2021) from the Department of Films and Publications (DFP), the number of enlisted daily newspapers in the country is 572.²³ Among these, the *Bangladesh Pratidin* (circulation: 5,53,300 copies), the daily *ProthomAlo* (circulation: 5,01,600 copies) and the daily *KalerKantho* (circulation: 2,90,200 copies) are the leading Bengali dailies in terms of circulation. Among the English newspapers, the topper of the list was: *The Daily Star* (circulation: 44,614 copies) and *The Financial Express* (circulation: 41,000 copies) respectively.

According to Alexa.com²⁴, the top three online news portals in Bangladesh are: *Jagonews24.com*, *Dhakapost.com* and *Banglatribune.com*.

The above eight news media have been selected as study area. To study the case, eight issues have been identified on the issue of public suffering during covid-19 and the aftermath in Bangladesh. A total of eight reports on eight issues have been selected from these eight news media outlets. The selected news and the issues are as follows:

S/L	Issue	Reporter	Date of publication	Media Outlets	Link of the reports
1	Suffering from getting vaccinated	Shariful Alam Shumon	November 18, 2021	<i>KalerKantho</i>	জন্মানিবন্ধনে ডিজিটাল জটিলতা টিকা য় ভোগা শিক্ষার্থীদের
2	Suffering to get hospital treatment	-	July 6, 2020	<i>Bangladesh Pratidin</i>	বিভাগীয় শহরে বেহাল সবকিছু
3	COVID-19 Test	Monirujjaman Ujjal	May 19, 2021	<i>Jagonews24.com</i>	করোনা পরীক্ষায় বিড়ম্বনায় দুর্বলতারো গব্যাদিতে আক্রান্তরা
4	Expatriate passengers suffered for COVID-19 test and vaccine	Saddif Ovi	December 18, 2021	<i>Bangla Tribune</i>	বিশ্ব অভিবাসীদিবসে ভোগা গণ্ডিতা পিছু ছাড়া ডেনা প্রবাসী কর্মীর
5	Transportation crisis in lockdown	Farhaduzzaman Faruque	July 11, 2021	<i>Dhaka Post</i>	লকডাউনে পণ্যবাহী পরিবহন-সংকটে দেশের অর্থনীতি
6	Price hikes of daily commodities in lockdown	Sohel Parvez	October 4, 2021	<i>The Daily Star</i>	Is higher inflation knocking at the door?
7	Effects of COVID-19 on students' mental health	S M Najmus Sakib	October 10, 2021	<i>The Financial Express</i>	84.6pc students suffer from mental disorders during pandemic: Survey
8	Impact of lockdown on low-income people	Staff Reporter, Dhaka	May 1, 2020	<i>Prothom Alo</i>	করোনার ধাক্কায় ঘরোয়া বাবর নেই নিম্ন আয়ের ১৪ ভাগ মানুষের: ব্র্যাক

²³ Newspaper circulation number and advertisement rate, May 2021, Department of Films and Publications, [Link: পত্র-পত্রিকার-প্রচার-সংখ্যা-ও-বিজ্ঞাপন-হার-মে-২০২১ \(dfp.gov.bd\)](#) Accessed 11 February 2022

²⁴ Alexa rank is a global ranking system that ranks millions of websites in order of popularity. Alexa is an organization of Amazon.com. [Alexa - Top Sites for Countries](#) Accessed 11th February 2022, 9:30 pm

Data Analysis

1. Suffering from getting vaccinated

This report is about the vaccination activities of 12 to 18 years old students stuck in the digital complexities of birth registration in Bangladesh. According to the report, the Department of Information and Communication Technology and the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education is working to solve the technical problems to launch the registration program for all. However, it is feared that it will take a long time to complete the vaccination activities of all students. The report brings up the fact, but the reporter did not show any quick solution or alternative to protecting against Covid-19 infection.

Towards the end of the report, a guardian commented, "I thank the government for initiating the vaccination program for students. However, the technical complications that have arisen should have been considered in advance. Unable to register, many have run to the city corporation's birth registration office, while others have run to the education department. The students and guardians have suffered in this. Although two years have passed since the Covid-19 spread, neither the government nor the health department has taken technical measures to bring a large number of students into the country under the vaccination program.

2. Suffering to get hospital treatment

This report describes the severe suffering caused by mismanagement in the divisional cities of Bangladesh during the Covid-19 situation. It has been mentioned that even though the bed crisis in Chittagong has subsided, the suffering is increasing, crying for ICU in Sylhet, only relatives next to the patient in Rajshahi, suffering from the oxygen crisis in Khulna. The main focus of this report is that patients are suffering everywhere who came to get treatment in all the divisional cities of the country. Medical services have collapsed across the country. According to the report, let alone Covid-19 affected patients, medical services for other diseases are not being appropriately provided in government hospitals, patients and their relatives are complaining. The patients are dying due to lack of oxygen; Patients are not getting access to doctors or nurses. Due to the lack of pre-planning and management, the rate at which the hospital staffs—including the doctors, health workers and cleaners of the hospital have started to be affected on a daily basis has created a new crisis of doctors and health workers in the hospital.

3. COVID-19 test

The main focus of this report is that the low-cost government hospitals are overcrowded with people suffering from various complex and incurable diseases. But for such complicated patients, there are no rules or guidelines for the rapid Covid-19 test. Therefore, the report focuses on the case study of a patient who came from Comilla to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in Dhaka for treatment. According to the report, not only BSMMU but almost every government hospital, every day, many patients who are suffering from a complex and incurable disease are to undergo hardship for low-cost Covid-19 tests. Although there is no obligation to register online, a certain number of patients get the token of opportunity. There is also forgery in getting tickets. A class of brokers has settled the business.

4. Expatriate passengers suffered for COVID-19 test and vaccine

The main focus of this report is on the suffering of expatriates as a result of the Covid-19 situation. According to the report, the second wave of Covid-19 hit the export sector before the first wave of the Covid-19 epidemic was contained. Then remittances turned the wheel of the economy. The record 205 core dollars of remittances sent by the expatriates in the December last year also played a big role in boosting the morale of the government in dealing with Covid-

19. However, the expatriate workers suffered the most during this period. In this report on World Migrants Day, a question of expatriate workers is raised—when will this suffering be left behind? In support of this question, the reporter has made the report in several steps. Such as: The beginning of the suffering of the expatriates is the flight stop, the suffering to return to work, the suffering of quarantine and lab crisis, the complications of getting vaccination etc.

It is noteworthy that at the end of this report, the solution to these sufferings has been nicely highlighted. The report quoted Shariful Hasan, head of the BRAC migration program, as saying: The problem of migrant workers cannot be mapped in any way in advance, what could be the problem in the immigration sector, what will be the solution? When workers take to the streets helplessly, we are finding solutions. Many people think that the workers will spend money and sell the land. Misery, suffering will all pass over them. If that is the case, then what is the role of our policymakers?

Thus, at the end of the report, the problem has been positively addressed briefly to the policymakers. The positive vibe of this report was:

- Taking the opinion of immigration experts
- Highlight the problem
- Trying to find a solution

5. Transportation crisis in lockdown

This report is about the suffering of farmers in Bangladesh during the Covid-19 situation. According to the report, when there were strict restrictions in the country to prevent the spread of Covid-19, public transport was also closed across the country. As a result, the cost of transporting agricultural goods has increased. Apart, the farmers did not get the transport service as per the demand, on the other hand, the wholesalers bought vegetables at half price on the excuse of the Covid-19 Situation. As a result, the agricultural farmers of North Bengal have suffered due to not getting the actual price of the crop produced by their sweat.

Incidentally, trucks, pickup vans, and covered vans are used in Bangladesh to transport agricultural products from North Bengal to the capital. But in the situation of the lockdown during Covid-19, farmers have suffered with their crops as much as in the transport crisis and the marketing of the crops in the capital and the urban areas of North Bengal.

The report expressed a situation of the suffering of the people of Rangpur. However, the weak point of this report is that no solution has been given to the price of vegetables which has gone up in different parts of the country including Dhaka due to transport crisis. Though the statement of the Rangpur Agriculture Extension Department is in the news, it is not a timely solution to alleviate the suffering. The reporter could not show any solution to this problem even through the statements of farmers, cultivators, buyers and sellers of the area.

6. Price hikes of daily commodities in lockdown

If we regularly follow the kitchen market or inquire a neighborhood grocery about prices, we are likely to get an obvious answer: the prices of daily commodities are on the rise. The Daily Star has worked on this issue in detail in this report.

In the report, this is stated clearly and in detail that the daily market price data compiled by the state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) will give a clearer picture of what is going on in the market. The prices of rice, flour, edible oil, pulses, and broiler chicken meat have gone up over the last year. For the rest, Bangladesh is highly dependent on the international market, where commodity prices are going up. Oil prices have already crossed \$80 per barrel for supply disruptions and recovering demand from the Covid-19 pandemic.

As we read this report, due to supply shortages and low production of other fuels, the oil price rally to a three-year high is exacerbated by an even bigger increase in gas prices. A slow depreciation of the Taka against the US dollar increased the import costs. So, there is an apprehension whether higher inflation, which has already become a concern for many nations, is knocking at the door.

In this report, economists say Bangladesh always remains vulnerable to import-induced inflation because of its reliance on external markets for key commodities.

In Bangladesh, petroleum and gas prices are administered. So, a lot lies on whether the government will increase the prices of the two energy products. And any price increase is likely to stoke inflationary expectations and adversely affect prices.

In August, overall inflation raised 18 basis points to 5.54 per cent owing to the rise in demand and the abnormal hike in transport cost following the reopening of the economy from the Covid-19-induced lockdowns, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

This report tried to come to a conclusion with solutions from expertise. Such as:

- The exchange rate has to be kept stable. Otherwise, increased import cost will fuel inflation.
- The imports of luxury items should be discouraged.
- A smooth supply chain will be important too to contain prices spikes.

7. Effects of COVID-19 on students' mental health

The main focus of this report is about mental health which is ignored among the students due to an inadequate number of mental health professionals in Bangladesh. Further mentioned in the report, such as Uncertain future, loneliness, fear of death because of Covid-19, session jam, unwanted pressure for marriage were also blamed for such a situation. So a large number of students suffering from mental health which is public suffering ignored by everyone even the sufferer.

According to the report, the mental health status of the students especially at the country's universities has taken a turn for the worse with 84.6 per cent suffering from mental depression during the Covid-19 pandemic under a survey.

A private organization name Achol Foundation had conducted a survey and released the findings ahead of World Mental Health Day.

According to the survey, 75.5 per cent of university students lost their interest in studies during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Online classes had led to a considerable increase in screen time where the students had to sit in front of a computer or laptop most of the time that 98.3 per cent of the students faced different problems such as decreased memory power, headache, dripping eyes, lack of concentration and sleep. Achol Foundation had recently conducted another study where they found that many university students were facing mental problems with many of them showing suicidal tendency. They carried out the study to know and understand the mental health condition of the student as mental health is still ignored among the students. A psychologist name Depon Sarkar said that the closure of educational institutions in the country has resulted in decreased communication with friends. Regular study along with career and personal life was affected seriously, thus resulting in the consequence of their mental sufferings.

Jobeda Khatun, assistant professor and Chairman of Clinical Psychology Department at Dhaka University commented that a large number of students suffer from mental depression mainly

due to the changing lifestyle during the Covid-19 pandemic. Changing sleeping schedules affects both physical and mental health.

She added a positive side that their department has already provided mental healthcare support to over 900 people including students through online campaigns. Also, she feels frightened that the number of psychiatrists and psychologists is inadequate compared to the demand of such a large population in Bangladesh.

The positive vibe of this report was:

- Focusing on students' mental health is very important in this pandemic.
- It stated that students should get regular counseling from mental health specialists.
- A suggestion of addressing the issue and launching an awareness campaign, involving our community leaders at the grassroots level.
- This report suggested providing the students with mental health education from primary schooling aiming to bring about a sustainable change
- In order to avoid 'fake' treatment, the government could provide registration to all valid psychologists in the country

8. Impact of lockdown on low-income people

This report is about the declining standard of living of people in Bangladesh during Covid-19 situation. According to the report, Covid-19 has affected people's income and food security. 89% of the people have fallen below the poverty line. 14% of people have no food at home. This report is based on the results of a survey conducted by BRAC, a development partner agency of Bangladesh. The report balances well with the statement of suffering and the proposal for a solution. In addition to the existing conditions of suffering, solutions have also been sought in the light of the research report. The survey was conducted to find out the perceptions of low-income people about the health aspects during Covid-19 and its economic crisis. It found that 89 percent of the survey participants had fallen below the poverty line. Prior to Covid-19, 24 percent of respondents to income-based surveys were below the poverty line and 35 percent were below the upper limit of the poverty line. In other words, in the current situation, extreme poverty has increased by 60% than before. Due to public holidays or social distance, 72% of people have lost their jobs or their work has decreased. 14% of people have no food at home. 29% have 1 to 3 days of food in their home.

Meanwhile, BRAC has made some recommendations in light of the situation raised in the survey. That recommendation is presented at the end of the report. Such as:

- Covid-19 prevention awareness campaigns should be run through television channels.
- Prompt delivery of food to people in a food crisis across the country for proper implementation of social distance measures.
- A large number of people have returned to the villages from the cities that are not covered by the village-based social security program. To take immediate action to deliver emergency food items to them.
- Conduct advance procurement campaigns on behalf of the government.
- To plan in advance the process of reaching out to other co-operatives including financing for resumption of business to compensate the losses of small entrepreneurs in rural areas.

Findings and Recommendations

This study is about exploring the trend of CJ in presenting public suffering news during Covid-19 in Bangladeshi media. According to the previous study, it can be understood that, a report must contain certain elements to be Constructive Report. Therefore, the elements of CJ found in the analyzed reports are presented in the chart.

Components Issue	Requires Public Oriented Perspective	Seeks to cover contempora ry affair	Ampl ifying soluti on	Acti on	Future- Oriented Perspect ive	Focus on Inclusiv eness	Diverse Source
Suffering from getting vaccinated	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X
Suffering to get hospital treatment	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X
COVID-19 Test	✓	✓	X	X	X	X	X
Expatriate passengers suffered for COVID-19 test and vaccine	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X
Transportation crisis in lockdown	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X
Price hikes of daily commodities in lockdown	X	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Effects of COVID-19 on students' mental health	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X
Impact of lockdown on low-income people	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X

In this chart, it appears that 'Action', an element of constructive journalism, is absent in every report. And 'Seeks to cover contemporary affair' is present in every report. Other elements are randomly available or not. Findings showed that media in Bangladesh did not present the news of the public suffering in the genre of CJ. But some elements of CJ are found in the report though they are not following the method of CJ properly.

In the report of issue of 'Suffering from getting vaccinated' the solutions that report could give to the suffering of the people-

- Bringing out the alternatives of birth registration digits.

- Involve the school/college authorities in the vaccination program on their own initiative.
- Prioritize student vaccination program through coordination committee with public health and technology experts of the country

In the report of issue ‘Suffering to get hospital treatment’ published in *the daily Bangladesh Pratidin* has a detailed description of the people's suffering, there is no way out or solution for it. The solutions that this report could provide to the suffering of the people-

- Inclusion of intern doctors and junior doctors
- Spotlighting and encouraging the activities of voluntary organizations
- Focusing on home quarantine and Adherence to hygiene rules

In the issue of ‘COVID-19 Test’, the report highlights the severity of the Covid-19 situation but does not provide a solution. The report could have given solutions to the suffering of the people-

- Emphasis on ensuring treatment of elderly and terminally ill patients on an emergency basis instead of online serial token method.
- Finding field hospitals or alternative therapies so readers can find a solution
- Authorities' monitoring could have focused on stopping the harassment of brokers over serial tokens.

It is to be noted that in the report of issue ‘Transportation crisis in lockdown’, despite the severity of the suffering of the farmers during the Covid-19 Situation, no solution has emerged. In this report, the solutions to the suffering of the people could be given-

- Transportation of goods with subsidy to farmers under government management during the Covid-19 situation.
- Overcoming the transport crisis through government initiatives or special management.
- Ensuring fair prices to farmers through market monitoring by local administration
- To consider the interests of the farmers as a priority under the special package program in special circumstances during the Covid-19 situation.

Although the present study is driven on the issue of public suffering during Covid-19 situation of Bangladesh, it may serve as a guideline in the future for CJ practice. In this case, the study presents some suggestions in the form of recommendations below:

- Active News Media Management in Constructive News Format.
- Increase media literacy among the journalists.
- Provide CJ training to the journalists.
- Inclusion of CJ in the academic curriculum of the department of Mass Communication and Journalism at Universities.

Conclusion

Exploring the trend of CJ in presenting public suffering news during Covid-19 in Bangladeshi media is the main objective of this study. Though, most of the media in Bangladesh did not present the news of the public suffering in the genre of CJ. But the elements of CJ are present in the report could be a better way to deal with an extreme crisis like Covid-19. Though the reports are based on awareness but the whole scenario is not updated yet. So my

recommendations are journalism should be solution based, CJ elements should be followed in reports and try to find an alternate solutions which could lead us a way of solving the problem. CJ could be the ideal and timely reporting genre in the mainstream news of a country as crowded and plagued with multifaceted problems as Bangladesh. When people are terrified of excessive informational flow and fake information in the Covid-19 situation, CJ could be a great potential of the time of infodemic. As a result, acceptance of the media would increase among the viewers/ listeners/ readers. If CJ is properly followed, the media can play a historic role in alleviating the suffering in this pandemic. Thus, the debate on how much the mass media really belongs to the masses will end; the mass media of Bangladesh will become the medium of the people in a true sense.

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