



**THE ROLE OF NEWSPAPER IN DISSEMINATING INFORMATION IN AMPHAN
AFFECTED AREAS: A STUDY ON PIROJPUR DISTRICT**

Mousumi Khatun* and Rukia Akter

Mass Communication and Journalism Discipline, Khulna University, Khulna-9208, Bangladesh.

KUS-22/15: 07042022

Manuscript submitted: April 07, 2022

Accepted: November 07, 2022

Abstract

In general, Bangladesh's coastal region has been hit by a lot of disasters, but the frequency of these disasters has grown in recent years. Providing adequate information can help lessen the damage caused by these events. Newspapers are vital medium for disseminating information to the public about impending disasters specially in the coastal areas of Bangladesh. This study is all about analyzing the role of newspapers in disseminating information about the Cyclone Amphan to common people's consciousness. Qualitative and quantitative approaches were used in this study. The information was gathered through content analysis of four national dailies and interviews with two groups: victims of the Amphan affected area in the Pirojpur district and journalists from national dailies working in the same district. The study finds that there was insufficient coverage of Cyclone Amphan concerns in The Daily Star (5%), The Daily Prothom Alo (9%), The Daily Ittefaq (7%), and Bangladesh Pratidin (6%) of the total news. From the analysis, newspapers carried disaster-related news to warn the public in disaster-prone areas about the disaster's damage and measures, as well as to alert affected individuals about the disaster's position and signal. Despite the low coverage of disaster news, newspapers attracted people's attention because they provided accurate and credible news and allowed them to learn more about a diverse range of topics.

Keywords: Disaster, national newspaper, information dissemination, cyclone amphan, Bangladesh

Introduction

Bangladesh is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries in South Asia (Islam, 2014). Bangladesh's coastal areas, which include 19 coastal districts, have been devastated by disaster (Kamal & Kaudstaal, 2003). Every year, a number of disasters happen. The consequences of disasters and post-disaster operations are always front and center in Bangladesh's national publications. One of the most important roles played by newspapers in establishing agendas has been through the adoption of advocacy strategies or the coverage of disasters. Natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, and tsunamis, occur as a result of weather or other natural factors.

Disasters have always struck with varying degrees of frequency, depending on local circumstances. Natural disasters can be categorized into two categories: medical issues and environmental issues. Famine and epidemics are the most serious medical issues. Floods, earthquakes, and storms (such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and cyclones) are all serious environmental issues at the same time (Chen, 1973). With the Himalayas to the north and the Bay of Bengal to the south, Bangladesh is located between the two divergent geophysical conditions. Bangladesh is situated in close proximity to frequent natural hazards, which, when combined with socioeconomic and demographic factors, frequently result in tragedy (Neverla, Luthje, & Mahmud, 2012). In May 2020, Bangladesh was devastated by Super Cyclonic Storm Amphan. On May 16, 2020, it developed over the Indian Ocean and began heading north over the Bay of Bengal, towards the coasts of north-east India and south of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) announced the 'great danger' warning number 10 for coastal areas, remote islands, and coral reefs on May 20, 2020. More than 2.4 million people were relocated to 14,636 permanent and temporary shelters after the government of Bangladesh (GoB) issued a great danger signal and emergency order.

*Corresponding author: <mousumi@mcj.ku.ac.bd>
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.53808/KUS.2022.19.2.215-ss>

With wind speeds of 150 km/h, cyclone Amphan blasted into the coastal areas of West Bengal, India, and then entered Bangladesh on May 20 evening, wreaking havoc in 26 districts of the country (<https://reliefweb.int>). When cyclone Amphan made landfall in Bangladesh on May 20, 2020, the "very violent cyclonic storm" killed at least 31 people (Cyclone Amphan, 2020).

Miah et al. (2011) focused on newspaper coverage of natural disasters. This is reinforced by the close proximity of news sources, which is an important component of news value for the general audience. Concerns about climate change's effects on Bangladesh are predicted to significantly increase climate change coverage in the newspaper. According to the web popularity ranking of Bangladeshi newspapers in 2009, The Daily Prothom Alo, The Daily Ittefaq, and The Daily Star were identified as the top three national newspapers covering climate change issues. Content analysis from May 2006 to June 2009 is used in this method. This research revealed that natural disasters receive 47% of press coverage. Three newspapers cover global warming, human health, and agriculture on a regular basis, with the trend of climate-change coverage gradually increasing over the research period. Newspaper presentations on disaster news and the role of newspapers during crisis periods were the focus of the study.

Rashid (2011) identified newspaper stories about natural disasters that covered the scientific and social context in which such disasters occur in addition to the disaster events and their effects on the affected population. Applying content analysis to the coverage of three important cyclone disasters in Bangladesh and Myanmar; Gorky (1991), Sidr (2007), and Nargis (2009) from worldwide online newspapers over the last two decades. The role of the media in informing the public about natural catastrophes and their consequences has grown in prominence. The three disaster characters were all of the same types, and the news reports were quite realistic and effective. The following factors were interconnected: (a) the storms' geophysical characteristics (high wind speeds and rising seas); (b) the high number of deaths; and (c) the significant property destruction. One of the most common starting frames in the newspaper reports reviewed included both qualitative and quantitative information on these three elements.

Islam (2014) found the impact of climate change was one of the most critical issues for Bangladesh is affected by climate conditions due to its geological location. Tropical cyclones, tornadoes, flooding, sea level rise, saltwater intrusion, and a variety of other factors make Bangladesh vulnerable. The media serves as a watchdog since its three primary functions are to inform, educate, and amuse. As a result, print media is playing a critical role during the tragedy. This study is based on an observation of disaster coverage in the print media. Content analysis of four national newspapers in Bangladesh was used as the research approach. Because of the lack of good and effective presentations in newspapers, the newspaper reporter was not properly qualified and skilled in covering environmental and climate change topics.

Rahman (2010) provided essential information that the government of Bangladesh has built frequent disaster warning systems and is strengthening community-based disaster preparedness. The media can play a critical role in raising public awareness about climate change issues. Media coverage has influenced public perception and, as a result, how science is turned into policy, particularly in the area of the environment. The research is essential to determine how the media is covering the climate change issue. It is not to investigate policymakers' perspectives on climate change-related journalism. Content analysis of chosen newspapers and television stations (Prothom Allo and Btv) was used as the research approach. Interview with a media policymaker about the problem of climate change. Its general conclusion is that the media has discovered that the climate change subject may attract a larger audience, making environmental journalism more effective.

Newspapers are helpful during disasters because they provide information on when a crisis is occurring and what actions we can take to keep safe (Islam, 2014). Some scholars in Bangladesh have concentrated on disaster news coverage and presentations. However, there has been relatively little research into the reactions of individuals in affected areas and the contributions of newspaper reporters. Besides, how individuals get information and react to disaster news in the newspaper is critical. In addition, the reporter is the most essential individual in the newspaper since they confront problems and must maintain tactics to cover the news before publishing useful information. Because readers read the news and receive crucial information and knowledge, newspapers have always raised public consciousness. As a result, this study aids in the analysis of news impact, reporter contributions, and reader reactions. To meet the targets, several of the study work's questions have been introduced, such as how to spread information about the calamity during Cyclone Amphan? What kind of news did they pay attention to the most? What was the reaction of the general population to the newspaper that sparked their interest? What was the level of activity among journalists in their local region during the disaster reporting period?

Materials and Methods

This research employs both qualitative and quantitative methods. For this study, content analysis of national newspapers and in-depth interviews with a chosen group of people were employed as data collection methods. In this work, coding sheets for content analysis and semi-structured questionnaires for in-depth interviews were used to collect data. The population of this study was the total number of national newspapers published in Bangladesh, all reporters who work in the Pirojpur district as well as all people. The purposive sampling method was applied in this research work. A total of four national newspapers were selected as a sample in the study, based on circulation. This study sample consisted of three Bengali national dailies and one English national daily to maintain balance. Four daily newspapers were chosen as examples for the study based on their availability during the disaster (The Daily Star, The Daily Prothom Alo, Bangladesh Pratidin, and The Daily Ittefaq). On May 20, 2020, Super Cyclonic Storm Amphan made landfall in Bangladesh and lasted until May 21, 2020 (<https://reliefweb.int>). All of these selected daily newspapers were analyzed from May 19-23, 29-30, 2020. A total of 7 days and 28 issues of the chosen dailies were considered. The selected four newspapers were not published from May 24 to 28, 2020, due to the Eid-ul-Fitr holiday and the aftermath of the Cyclone. As a result, May's issues 29 and 30 were included. Two in-depth interviews were conducted with two categories first one is four reporters of selected dailies and the second one was conducted with 20 respondents from Chandipur village of Indurkani upazila in Pirojpur district. Southern districts are highly vulnerable during any natural disaster. In fact, Cyclone Amphan wreaked havoc on Chandipur village.

Theoretical Framework

The current study's theoretical framework is based on several well-established media and communication viewpoints, which should ideally include: The Media's Agenda Setting Function and Normative Media Theory. The role of the media has been described as the media's 'social responsibility' through its 'watchdog' functions, according to the normative theory of the mass media. Public interest is a tough concept to understand, despite the fact that public welfare issues should be the focus of media output. McQuail (2000), on the other hand, stressed four goals of the media's role in a democratic society:

- Surveillance in circumstances of societal violations of social and moral discipline, as well as unrestricted access to information.
- A timely critique of society's roles and organs.
- Encourage participation of people through making information available.
- Values and culture of specific communities are passed down via generations.

The technique of presenting some issues prominently and regularly with the conclusion that huge parts of the public consider those issues as more important than others is known as agenda setting in the media (Coleman et al. 2009). According to Gladys Engel Lang and Kurt Lang, media agenda setting is giving priority to subjects and events that they believe are essential and useful to people, while ignoring issues that they believe are less significant. As a result, the media helped to order people's thoughts (Lowery, Shearon & Defleur, 1988). This research focuses on how the public agenda and the media agenda form agendas and have an impact on society.

People pay more attention to newspapers because they provide accurate and reliable news and allow them to learn more about various topics (Tompson, 2016). Other media outlets were more important than newspapers in publishing disaster news with all aspects thoroughly.

Furthermore, the media should urge the public to take a more assertive part in awareness raising through information dissemination with national and international agencies in order to reduce the damage of disaster. There was a lot of news in the newspapers before Cyclone Amphan arrived, and it's evident from the news that a lot of things were done to guide them and raise public awareness. The agenda for whether disaster stories are considered important is set by the media and the public.

Results

Table 1 shows the specific dates of newspaper disaster-related news in The Daily Star. There was several Amphan-related news on May 22, 2020. The news about Amphan is substantially less than the seven-day newspaper's entire news. The most crucial pages in every newspaper are the front and the back page where Amphan news didn't get insufficient attention. It appears that there is news about Amphan on the front pages rather than the back pages.

Table 1. Number of news (The Daily Star)

Date of newspaper	Total news	Amphan news	Amphan news on front page	Amphan news on back page	Other pages
19 May, 2020	85	3	1	0	2
20 May, 2020	71	3	2	0	1
21 May, 2020	75	6	3	0	3
22 May, 2020	69	9	4	0	5
23 May, 2020	67	5	2	0	3
29 May, 2020	87	2	1	0	1
30 May, 2020	75	0	0	0	0
	529	28			

Table 2 shows the percentage of total and Amphan-related news in The Daily Star. The Daily Star published 529 news stories in seven days, but Amphan news made up only 28 of them, accounting for only 5% of the total.

Table 2. Percentage of News (The Daily Star)

Variables	Number	Percentage
Total news	529	95%
Amphan news	28	5%

Table 3 indicates the information about the number of individual dates of newspaper disaster related news in The Daily Prothom Alo. Amphan-related news was the most here on 21 May, 2020. Here, the news of Amphan issues was less than the total news of the seven-day newspaper. The inside pages, in fact, receive more attention than the front and back pages.

Table 3. Number of news (The Daily Prothom Alo)

Date of newspaper	Total news	Amphan news	Amphan news on front page	Amphan news on back page	Other pages
19 May, 2020	95	6	2	1	3
20 May, 2020	85	6	2	0	4
21 May, 2020	86	17	5	0	12
22 May, 2020	86	16	4	0	12
23 May, 2020	93	8	1	2	5
29 May, 2020	93	3	0	2	1
30 May, 2020	99	3	0	1	2
Total	637	59			

The percentage of Amphan news is depicted in Table 4. Only 59 Amphan news items were found in the seven daily issues, out of 637 total news items, making Amphan news only 9%.

Table 4. Percentage of News (The Daily Prothom Alo)

Variables	Number	Percentage
Total news	637	91%
Amphan news	59	9%

Table 5 shows the information regarding the number of specific dates of newspaper disaster related news in The Daily Bangladesh Pratidin. On May 22, 2020, the Amphan-related news can be found more. In terms of the entire news of the seven-day newspaper, the number of new regarding Amphan is comparatively little. The first page and the back page of any newspaper are the most important but both pages relatively receive less attention.

Table 5. Number of news (Bangladesh Pratidin)

Date of newspaper	Total news	Amphan news	Amphan news on front page	Amphan news on back page	Other pages
19 May, 2020	116	2	2	0	0
20 May, 2020	156	2	2	0	0
21 May, 2020	135	9	2	0	7
22 May, 2020	161	22	4	0	18
23 May, 2020	181	14	1	2	11
29 May, 2020	139	4	0	2	2
30 May, 2020	160	5	0	1	3
	1048	58			

From Table 6, it is seen that the total number of hard and soft news articles sans adverts and other items in the Bangladesh Pratidin newspaper was 1048. Only 58 Amphan news stories accounted for 6% of the total news. In the event of a calamity, it appears that having published news is insufficient.

Table 6. Percentage of News (Bangladesh Pratidin)

Variables	Number	Percentage
Total news	1048	94%
Amphan news	58	6%

Table 7 represents the number of specific dates in which newspaper disaster-related news appeared in the Daily Ittefaq. Stories of Amphan published the most news in a seven-day period on May 23, 2020, emphasizing the importance of the inner pages. As a result, it is clear that news of Cyclone was not widely disseminated as it should have been.

Table 7. Number of news (The Daily Ittefaq)

Date of newspaper	Total news	Amphan news	Amphan news on front page	Amphan news on back page	Other pages
19 May, 2020	84	3	1	0	2
20 May, 2020	91	4	1	0	3
21 May, 2020	112	8	2	0	6
22 May, 2020	77	11	4	2	5
23 May, 2020	108	13	2	0	11
29 May, 2020	101	1	0	1	0
30 May, 2020	113	4	1	0	3
	686	44			

Table 8 shows the total seven days of The Daily Ittefaq newspaper carried a number of hard and soft news without advertisement were 686, out of them 44 Amphan news were about only 7% of the total news, can be considered to be insufficient in the context of disaster.

Table 8. Percentage of News (The Daily Ittefaq)

Variables	Number	Percentage
Total news	686	93%
Amphan news	44	7%

Table 9 displays the comparative percentage of total news and Amphan related news in the four national dailies where The Daily Prothom Alo found to have the highest volume of Amphan news (9%), while The Daily Star the lowest (5%). Only 6% and 7% of news are covered by Bangladesh Pratidin and The Daily Ittefaq, respectively.

Table 9. Comparison of the percentage of Amphan news in four daily newspapers

Variables	Others news	Amphan news
The Daily Star	95%	5%
The Daily Prothom Alo	91%	9%
Bangladesh Pratidin	94%	6%
The Daily Ittefaq	93%	7%

Structural and Characteristic Analysis

The patterns of news presentation on Amphan issues of the selected newspapers are analyzed in this section. The focus of this research was to determine the role of national newspapers in disseminating information about disasters, with a special focus on pre, during and post-disaster coverage.

Pre-disaster period

Super cyclone Amphan has ramped up, as anticipated by four publications, and they were also warning people about the significance of signals and encouraging them to seek shelter. Providing people with information on how big the tidal wave will be and when it will strike. Cyclone Amphan was anticipated to be more powerful than cyclones Sidr and Aila with greater speed. They had to take additional precautions because they needed to do something at the shelter, and though it was not an epidemic, they disseminated information by emphasizing these issues in the media. Due to the Covid 19 outbreak, people spent their days in a bind. The newspapers also stated that Cyclone Amphan had made more appearances in it. All selected newspapers extensively covered the disaster-prone area, the speed and intensity of cyclones, the evacuation procedure, and the cyclone location through photographs.

During the disaster period:

Other than television and radio, online media were the first providers of news. Newspapers, on the other hand, typically print the day before the news is highlighted today. This newspaper did not receive the news of Cyclone Amphan hitting the final that day. Their portal was up and running. Four national newspapers were chosen by the researcher, all of which possessed print copies but were never published. During the pre- and post-disaster periods, newspapers predominantly covered disaster-related news.

Post-disaster period

Relief and rehabilitation arrangements:

After the disaster, the most essential factor was that the topics of relief and rehabilitation were covered extensively in four newspapers. In the aftermath of a disaster, people suffer a variety of losses. Following the tragedy, relief and restoration efforts were carried out in partnership with both government and non-government organizations. Readers discovered what kind of harm had occurred as a result of the disasters reported in the media. Its damages include efforts done both formally and locally to mitigate disaster damage.

The quantity of damage

Bangladesh has evaded the effects of Amphan in the Sundarbans. Cyclone Amphan did not make landfall in Bangladesh as expected. It made landfall in India from Bangladesh. Bangladesh suffered fewer losses than India. However, at least 31 persons were killed (<https://reliefweb.int>). A large number of people were without electricity. Many people were left without access to mobile phones. Cyclone Amphan wreaked havoc on Koira, Shamnagor, and Shatkhira. After the storm Amphan, people have been living in flooded areas for a long period. In Rajshahi, there was considerable damage, especially to the mango crops. Cropland tracts were severely damaged. By publishing a variety of news, newspapers attracted the attention of both government and non-government organizations to the rehabilitation program.

The respondent numbers and identities for the selected national dailies in Pirojpur district are shown in Table 10. The key points of their conversation are summarized below-

Receiving primary information of disaster

Before publishing any news, journalists gathered material from a variety of sources, double-checked it, and finished the story. Four journalists from the four publications chosen were interviewed by the researcher. The Department of Meteorology, its website, the Red Crescent, and the Deputy Commissioner's office are the first sources of information for reporters. In order to foresee any natural calamity, the District Press Association has been notified.

Table 10. Respondents and newspaper (Reporter)

Respondent number	Sex	Age	Newspaper	Designation
1	Male	35	The Daily Prothom Alo	District correspondent
2	Male	28	The Daily Star	District correspondent
3	Male	31	Bangladesh Pratidin	District correspondent
4	Male	48	The Daily Ittefaq	Senior reporter

News Coverage of disaster

Journalists were given the disaster's precedent at first, and they attempted to update it and acquire information on their local area. The preparation of news was prevalent before the cyclone and the dissemination of news to alert people to seek shelter. Another issue is that they occasionally republish soft news as hard news. Follow-up news was involved on special news. Maintaining the disaster area source, verifying the information, and developing relevant crisis news are all requirements for disaster news coverage. It is critical to monitor the news both before and after the accident. In most cases disaster news begins with a feature story. Media organizations frequently call journalists for disaster coverage.

Training on disaster Journalism

Different sorts of training are provided by the news house or by different training schools in order to boost the speed of work so that journalists can work conveniently and beautifully. Every newspaper deals with disasters on a regular basis. A journalist must have a lot of information and knowledge to undertake disaster journalism.

Disaster news is presented differently at different periods, and in order to comprehend that pattern, a journalist must be offered and receive separate disaster journalism training. Except for one, all four journalists have received disaster journalism training. According to a Daily Star reporter...

"So far, I've taken training in three areas of environmental journalism, two of which were on disaster management, and I've learnt what I need to keep information and report on newspapers as a result of this training. What is the nature of the disaster management training I received? It was given to me by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB)."... (R2)

To raise public awareness of disseminating information

Increasing public awareness of the crisis through disseminating news in several sorts of newspapers. Before Cyclone Amphan hit, a lot of news was published in newspapers, and it is evident from the news that a lot of things were done to guide and develop public awareness. There are several types of news that are mentioned in newspapers, all of which are vital to informing people and safeguarding them from harm. Another issue was that people were constantly urged to seek refuge in shelters. The newspaper goes into great depth about disaster-prone places during Cyclone Amphan, as well as the threat alerts in those areas. The public can take precautions as a result of this. The public cares significantly more about the harm and prospects that are reported before, during, and after a disaster. The public is made aware of matters relating to the many directions of government via releasing news.

A reporter of the Daily Ittefaq said, *"Natural disasters such as Sidr and Aila have struck our country at various times in the past, and the harm caused during this time was more likely than during Cyclone Amphan. With the knowledge of the past, that period was chronicled in detail in the newspapers. It is critical to encourage people in disaster-prone areas to seek refuge in shelters and to*

raise awareness among them." ... (R4)

Since Cyclone Amphan occurred during the COVID-19 epidemic, it needs to have special guidelines and play an important role in disaster message dissemination in newspaper houses. A reporter of the Daily Star said, "It's become increasingly more critical to raise public awareness about catastrophes like the Cyclone Amphan. The COVID-19 disease was spreading over the world, and another disastrous Cyclone Amphan was on its approach, so it's very crucial to promote public awareness so that people don't get infected in any way during this Amphan. Newspapers have reported on the use of masks at shelters, as well as the frequent use of soap and hand sanitizers to preserve social distance"...(R2). According to journalists from four newspapers, the news had a critical role in disseminating knowledge about the Corona virus outbreak and the Amphan period.

Challenge of disaster news

People nowadays receive their news first through online news portals and electronic media, then from newspapers. But people pay more attention to newspapers because they contain accurate and reliable news, and they may learn more about things from them. Other media outlets are more significant than newspapers in terms of releasing disaster news since they can post minute-by-minute on a regular basis, which is not possible with a newspaper.

"In many cases, the news of disasters goes online before it reaches the newspapers and takes people from there. During Cyclone Amphan, it has been observed that its speed is constantly changing and keeping pace with this change is much more difficult for the newspaper due to the online portal's constant updating."... (R1)

Table 11. Demographic Data of the Respondents (People of affected areas)

Respondent number	Sex	Age	Educational Background	Occupation
1	Male	33	Post Graduate	Banker
2	Male	35	SSC	Business
3	Male	38	Class nine	Labor
4	Male	49	Post Graduate	Teacher
5	Female	38	HSC	Teacher
6	Female	22	HSC	Student
7	Male	28	Graduate	NGO worker
8	Female	52	HSC	Business
9	Male	59	B.A	Politician
10	Male	31	HSC	NGO worker
11	Male	48	Graduate	NGO worker
12	Female	43	HSC	Health worker
13	Male	55	HSC	Politician
14	Male	52	Post Graduate	Teacher
15	Male	26	HSC	NGO worker
16	Male	21	HSC	Student
17	Female	34	HSC	NGO worker
18	Male	30	Post Graduate	Banker
19	Male	37	Post Graduate	Teacher
20	Male	45	Graduate	Teacher

Table 11 shows the respondent numbers and identities of Amphan affected areas. In-depth interviews were conducted with 20 respondents from Chandipur village in Indurkani Upazila of Pirojpur district. The following are the main elements of their discussion:

Receiving information about Cyclone Amphan

People no longer wait for the print newspaper for the previous day's news. People are getting information about the calamity from television and online media, thanks to a variety of modern media. When it comes to a community, the first thing that is mentioned about the calamity is in the news; everyone claims that it was discovered on television, but some people prefer to read the newspaper for further details.

"It frustrates me if I don't read the daily Ittefaq newspaper one day. That is why I sit with the newspaper day and night, wrapping up its news. When it comes to calamities, I pay greater attention to the specifics in the news"....(R-4)

A respondent was a teacher who keeps a regular newspaper in his home and selects essential news from the newspaper he gave at the time of the disaster and reads it in depth.

"Every day I keep a newspaper in Bangladesh Pratidin and try to read the newspaper sitting in the shop. Those who come here sometimes read from the newspaper I took with me and read various issues also during Cyclone Amphan. Reading newspaper during Amphan and found out that it would be worse than Aila and Sidr. I discussed the matter with those who were sitting in my shop. It also said that the situation could get worse this time."....(R-2)

In this case, another respondent is a regular reader of the Bangladesh Protidin. He reads very carefully the disaster news and discusses it with others for awareness.

"I hear the news from people that disaster is coming but I can know the details of this news through the daily Ittefaq kept in my house. There is no television in the house. I keep a newspaper every day and read it finish the work of the day."... (R-3)

Trustworthy and diversity of information on disaster

People learned about disasters from the internet and electronic media, yet newspapers were seen as a trustworthy source of information. The newspaper provided information on any subject. In other media, this style of describing disaster news is not conceivable. Normally, disaster news is described in great detail. As a result, people take newspaper selection quite seriously.

"I watched the catastrophe news on TV, but I was skeptical. The information in the newspaper was accurate and trustworthy. The newspaper was disseminating disaster information and offering useful data. The disaster was covered in a special newspaper story that featured newspaper commentary.".... (R-6)

Another responder watched television and other forms of media to keep up with the news. He is meant to rely on the newspaper from the standpoint of diversity and reliability.

"There was a time when the day would not begin without a newspaper reading. Other mediums are now available. Because there are so many distinctions between newspaper and television news, I always advise my students to read the newspapers. During Cyclone Amphan, I read articles that numerous reports had published about past Cyclones, which provided me with a lot of information."... (R-14)

Discussion

The study focused on the role of national newspapers in disseminating information and found by analyzing 19 May 2020 to 30 May 2020 total seven-day newspaper Cyclone Amphan issues selected four national newspapers.

Miah et al. (2011) investigated how natural disasters were covered in newspapers. Concerns about the effects of climate change on Bangladesh are expected to lead to a considerable increase in climate change coverage in the media. The Daily Prothom Alo, The Daily Ittefaq, and The Daily Star were named the top three national newspapers covering climate change problems in 2009, according to an online popularity ranking of Bangladeshi media. Natural disasters receive 47% of journalistic attention, according to this study, which looked at content from May 2006 to June 2009. The Daily Prothom Alo, The Daily Ittefaq, The Daily Star, and Bangladesh Pratidin, on the other hand, covered 5-9 per cent of the disaster news during Cyclone Amphan, according to the current study. The Daily Prothom Alo, on the other hand, published the most news, while The Daily Star published the least. Bangladesh's national newspapers are more interested in event-based coverage of the relevant issues than in-depth investigation, analysis and follow-up. Despite the minimal coverage of catastrophe-related topics in national dailies, The Daily Star and Prothom Alo set some new patterns in reporting the subject, using features and images from the disaster to publish features and creating a chart of disaster damage. The conclusions of Bangladesh Protidin and The Daily Ittefaq, which were debated in the tragedy Amphan, are not serious. The following categories of disaster-related news and information are explained by the daily.

Climate change, according to Islam (2014), is one of the most pressing challenges for Bangladesh, which is affected by climate conditions due to its geographical location. Because its three basic functions are to inform, educate, and entertain, the media serves as a watchdog. As a result, print media is playing an important part in the catastrophe. The newspaper reporter was not appropriately qualified and skilled in reporting environmental and climate change subjects due to the lack of strong and effective presentation in newspapers. That claim is debunked by current studies. Because disaster news is presented differently at different times, a journalist must be offered and

receive separate disaster journalism training in order to comprehend this pattern. According to the findings of this study, newspaper executives have organized extensive training for reporters in order to provide them with the skills and information required for disaster reporting.

The theoretical framework of the current study is based on numerous well-established media and communication viewpoints, which should ideally include: the media's agenda-setting function and normative media theory. According to the normative theory of the mass media, the role of the media has been described as the media's "social responsibility" through its "watchdog" functions. Despite the fact that public welfare issues should be the center of media production, public interest is a difficult idea to grasp. According to the findings of this study, the media covered Amphan news out of a sense of social obligation and as a "watchdog" function. According to the Agenda Setting Theory, the technique of presenting some issues prominently and on a regular basis with the conclusion that a large portion of the public considers those issues to be more important than others is the technique of presenting some issues prominently and on a regular basis with the conclusion that large parts of the public consider those issues to be more important (Coleman, et al., 2009). Media agenda setting, according to Gladys Engel Lang and Kurt Lang, entails prioritizing subjects and events that they believe are important and valuable to people while neglecting concerns that they consider are less important. As a result, the media aided in the organization of people's thoughts (Lowery, Shearon & Defleur, 1988). The findings of the current investigation are very similar to the idea. Given the global importance of 'disaster' issues in general and in Bangladesh in particular, the newspaper's strategy and agenda is to "inform, educate, and persuade disaster-affected individuals by following up on diversifying news on the Amphan issue." On the other hand, the public agenda, by consistently covering news, turned the issue into a media agenda.

On the eve of the COVID-19 epidemic, Super Cyclone Amphan struck. Cyclone Amphan frightened new people, while Corona frightened old ones. During Amphan, newspapers focused on ways to protect people from COVID-19 and took comparable precautions to prevent it. Government directives on social distance and different sanitary issues, including how cyclone centers will be set up and what kind of facilities would be available, have been published in newspapers. Any natural disaster has various follow-up news in newspapers, which is utilized to inform people in greater depth. People will never lose interest in the newspaper, no matter how soon it is available on the web and electronic media because the topics related to any tragedy in the newspaper are presented in a more and more informative manner.

Conclusion

According to this study, Bangladesh's national newspaper covers disaster news, but not adequately. Newspapers are usually important in catastrophe situations. According to the findings, Bangladeshi national newspapers are more interested in event-based coverage of significant issues than in-depth investigation and analysis. Given the gravity of the disaster issues in Bangladesh, the newspaper should devise and implement a strategy to inform, educate, and persuade the public. Findings exhibit that the majority of these four publications addressed disaster issues and reported on the aftermath of the disasters. Regardless of its low coverage, the daily consistently draws attention to its reliable and trustworthy information. Newspapers publish a greater variety of news and follow-up stories than other forms of media. This study also shows that news organization or different training schools provide various types of training in order to increase the speed of work so that journalists may work efficiently and attractively, which has not been seen in previous studies. Therefore, since people have a higher level of trust in printed newspapers than in online ones or other media, the amount of coverage of the disaster period in the news should be enhanced. The researchers had to work around some constraints in order to complete this study, such as determining the sample size. The finding would have been more accurate if a large number of samples had been taken. Another issue was time and budget, as the researchers could not reach a significant number of respondents if they funded the study themselves.

Acknowledgement

The authors are grateful to every respondent who took part in the survey and provided their insightful responses. They would like to express their appreciation to anonymous reviewers for their helpful comments and recommendations to enhance the quality of the manuscript. The researchers are grateful to everyone else who helped with this work in some way, directly or indirectly.

Conflict of Interests

The author declares no conflict of interest.

References

- Akter, T. (2009). *Climate Change and Flow of Environmental Displacement in Bangladesh*. Unnayan Onneshan-The Innovators.
- Boykoff, M. T., & Yulsman, T. (2013). *Political economy, media, and climate change: sinews of modern life*. Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change, 4(5), 359-371.
- Chen, L. C. (1973). *Disaster in Bangladesh*. Oxford University Press.
- Coleman, R., McCombs, M., Shaw, D., & Weaver, D. (2009). *Agenda setting*. In *The handbook of journalism studies*, Routledge (pp. 167-180).
- DOMINICK, R. J & WIMMER, D. R. (2011). *Mass Media Research, An Introduction*. 9th Edition, Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.
- Haque, M A. Yamamoto, S. and Sauerborn, R. (2010). *Print Media and Climate Change in Bangladesh: The Missing Health Issue*, Institute of Public Health, Heidelberg University,
- Germany; Proc. of International Conference on Environmental Aspects of Bangladesh (ICEAB10), Japan, Sept. 2010; <http://benjapan.org/iceab10/40.pdf>, retrieved on 26.03.2014
- Islam, S. M. (2014, July 2). *Print media coverage on climate change issues in Bangladesh*. DIU Journal of Humanities and Social Science.
- Kamal, U. A. M., & Kaudstaal, R. (2003). *Delineation of the coastal zone working paper*. WP005. Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Lasswell, H. D. (1948). Bryson, L. (ed.) *The Structure and Function of Communication in Society. The Communication of Ideas*. New York: Institute for Religious and Social Studies. p. 117.
- Lowery, Shearon A. & Defleur, M.L. (1988), *Milestones in mass communication research*, Longman Inc, New York.
- Miah, D. M., Kabir, h. M., Koike, M., & Akter, S. (2011). *Major climate-change issues covered by the daily newspapers of Bangladesh*. Springer Science.
- Mallick, B., Ahmed, B., & Vogt, J. (2017). *Living with the risks of cyclone disasters in the south-western coastal region of Bangladesh*. *Environments*, 4(1), 13.
- Neverla, I., Luthje, C., & Mahmud, S. (2012). *Challenges to climate change communication through mass media in Bangladesh: A developing country perspective*. *Rethinking Climate Change Research: Clean Technology, Culture and Communication*; Almlund, P., Jespersen, PH, Riis, S., Eds, 223-241.
- Osanloo, A., & Grant, C. (2016). *Understanding, selecting, and integrating a theoretical framework in dissertation research: Creating the blueprint for your "house"*. *Administrative issues journal: connecting education, practice, and research*, 4(2), 7.
- Reza, Shameem, S. M. and Haque, A. (2011), 'Agenda Setting on Environment and Climate Change Issues in Bangladesh Newspapers: the case of UN Climate Change Conference, Cancun'. *Social Science Review (The Dhaka University Studies, Part-D)*, 28(2)
- Rashid, H. (2011). *Interpreting cyclone disasters in Bangladesh and Myanmar from web-based newspaper discourse: media framing of cyclone vulnerability on the Bay of Bengal coast*. *The Arab World Geographer*, 14(1), 1-32.
- Rahman, M. (2010). *Climate change coverage on the mass media of Bangladesh*. *Global Media Journal Paistan* .
- Rice, R. E., & Atkin, C. K. (2009). *Public communication campaigns: Theoretical principles and practical applications*. In *Media effects* (pp. 452-484). Routledge.
- Roy, C., Sarkar, S. K., Åberg, J., & Kovordanyi, R. (2015). *The current cyclone early warning system in Bangladesh: providers' and receivers' views*. *International journal of disaster risk reduction*, 12, 285-299.
- Shahid, S. (2009). *Probable Impacts of Climate Change on Public Health in Bangladesh*, *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health*
- Tompson, T. (2016). *A New Understanding: What Makes People Trust and Rely on News*. American press institute.
- Walizer, M. H. & Wienir, P. L. (1978). *Research methods and analysis: Searching for relationships*. New York: Harper & Row.
- <https://reliefweb.int>. Cyclone Amphan: Death toll rises to 31. (2020, May 22). Dhaka Tribune. <https://archive.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/nation/2020/05/22/cyclone-amphan-death-toll-rises-to-34>