

National Girl Child Advocacy Forum

Report

On

Secondary Data Collection from the Daily News Papers

Initiative by: National Girl Child Advocacy Forum

Supported by: Educo Bangladesh

National Girl Child Advocacy Forum is a platform to combat the subjugation of girl children and women in Bangladesh. It's vision is to create a positive and protective environment for girl children and women increase opportunities for girls to grow into their full potential. And advocate for comprehensive policies which help to improve the living standards and rights of girls. Since its inception, NGCAF has been working to ensure establish the rights of girl children, so it's important to know the overall pictures of girls in order to conduct activities from the field level to the policy level.

In our country, many national and international organizations are working with children. Many of those organizations collect and publish the data on violence against children. However, from all these data, we get a partial picture of girls, but in many cases, it's not possible to get an overall picture of girl children. Different national and local level magazines/newspapers have published report on child marriage and sexual abuse of girls at different times. But all those information can't be properly documented. No effective monitoring system has been developed at the local levels from national level. As a result, policy makers often do not give their attention to these issues and in many cases, it becomes difficult to conduct appropriate advocacy activities to take necessary action.

In order to lobby and advocacy at the policy level, it's necessary to bring out the overall picture of girlchildren. With this vision in mind, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF) has taken an initiative to collect violence/ abuse pictures against girlchildren from 24 dailies (08 Daily National Print, 02 Online & 14 Local Daily News Papers) since January 2021 to get an overall picture of Girl Children with the help of Members Organizations. The targeted age limit of girl children is up to 19 years.

As part of developing the Report, Educo Bangladesh has provided financial support to collect Secondary Data from May to November 22. Secondary data has been collected by recruiting 02 volunteers (01 Dhaka and 01 Barishal) from this fund.

Through those collected information NGCAF will have taken advocacy activities at all levels. If necessary, will advocate for the amendment of existing laws, rules (additions, deletions) and enactment of new laws.

Below is the violence information for last 08 months based on the 24 Newspapers:

Type of Violence	Number	Remarks
Sexual Harassment and Abuse	76	In January-Aug 2022, a total of 76 girls were sexually harassed and abused, including 1 disabled, tribal, third gender, Dalit girls. 15 girls have been victims of pornography.
Child Marriage	15	However, in the case of child marriage, the picture on the field level is far different from the

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Rescued from child marriage.	32	number of information published in newspapers.
Rape	574	
Attempt to Rape	87	
Dowry	13	In the last 06 months, 7 girls have been victims of violence due to dowry, 5 have been killed and 01 girl child has committed suicide due to dowry torture.
Torture of Domestic Workers	15	From the collected data, we have received a total of 15 domestic violence, among them 5 physically tortured and 2 has been killed.
Kidnapping	136	A total of 136 girls have been kidnapped and trafficked. Of these, 74 were kidnapped, 2 were killed after kidnap, 60 were rescued after kidnap, 1 girls were trafficked, 8 were rescued after trafficking.
and Trafficking	09	
Eve Teasing	35	
Corporal Punishment at Educational Institutions	17	Victims of corporal punishment in Educational Institutions were-11 and Sexual Harassment in Madrasah/Mosque were 6.
Acid attacks	03	
All types of Suicides	181	A total of 181 girls have committed suicide in the last 08 months as they could not bear all the above types of torture like rape, kidnap, dowry type violence.
All types of Murders	186	Extreme violence with all kinds of violence.
Neglect towards Girl Children	08	

Source:

National Daily Newspapers: The Daily Prothom Alo, The Daily Bangladesh Protidin, The Daily Ittefaq, The Daily Jugantor, The Daily Kaler Kantho, The Daily Samakal, The Daily Star, The Daily Dhaka Tribune, Online Bangla Tribune, Online Dhaka Times.

Loacl Daily Newspapers: The Daily Sonali Shangbad, The Daily SunamKantho, The Dainik Purbanchol, The Daily Gramer Kagoj, The Daily Korotoa, The Daily Juger Alo, The Daily Cox's Bazar, The Daily

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Azadi, The Daily Ajker Bangladesh, The Daily Sun Shine, The Daily Matobad, The Daily Ajker Barta, The Daily Spondon, The Dainik Sabuj.

It's found that sexual violence against girl children is increasing in times of COVID-19. But sexual harassment news has been less published in the newspapers. In January-Aug 2022, a total of 76 girls were sexually harassed and abused, 15 girls have been victims of pornography. It could be said that, many people think that sexual harassment is not an extreme violence consequence like rape, the family has not made much fuss about it, because the family's honor will be ruined. Because of which relatively less is published in the media.

Recently rape has become a serious issue in our country. Sometimes people from various levels gathered to protest rapes across Bangladesh. In 2020, during the movement, the Bangladesh government has adopted an amendment that would authorize the death penalty in rape cases. The ordinance has been recognized as Women and Children Repression Prevention (amendment) Ordinance -2020. According to the ordinance, 'Lifetime Rigorous Imprisonment' mentioned in Section 9(1) of the Act was replaced by 'Death or Lifetime Rigorous Punishment.' This means that rape is punishable by the death penalty or life imprisonment. But rape has not been stopped, despite the death penalty being the maximum punishment. On the contrary, it's increasing day by day. Although we have some laws to get legal support but the law enforcement is less, for this reason it's constantly increasing. While gathering the news monitoring, we noticed that children as young as 01 years have been also victims of crimes like rape or gang rape. Sadly, the truth is that they were mostly abused by close relatives. These victimized girls will be grown up in a lifelong trauma, unable to reach specific goals, which will detrimentally effect on our society and the state.

From the newspapers we have received information about Kidnapping and trafficking 145 girls. Among them, many girls have been rescued and legal action has been taken in some cases. Note here that legal action means initial detention or case file.

Finally, the above pictures of helplessness and persecution in the women and girls lives that has emerged here is the responsibility of the entire nation. We have to break the silence and unmask the family and society and it will be possible only through the responsibility of all of us including the state.

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