

Project 4 : Investigating Report Proposal

Course Code & Course Name: MSJ4152 Investigative Journalism-II

Project Name: Investigating Report on *“Reoccurring Sexual Offend and Pedophilia cases in Bangladesh”*

Project Description

The project **“Reoccurring Sexual Offend and Pedophilia Cases in Bangladesh”** looks at the rising number of sexual abuse cases in schools, colleges, and madrassas. Many problems in the system, like slow trials, corruption, and no proper tracking of offenders, make it easy for these crimes to continue. This investigation will run for six months. It will collect data from court records, NGO reports, and interviews with victims, families, whistleblowers, and police. The goal is to find patterns, show the failures in the system, and tell these stories in a clear way with charts, maps, and real cases. The final report will be shared through media and advocacy groups. It will push for reforms, ask for better protection of children, and try to bring accountability to the institutions involved.

Project Justification

The rise of sexual abuse and pedophilia cases in Bangladesh’s schools, colleges, and madrassas is a serious problem. Reports from NGOs and newspapers show that the number of victims is increasing every year, yet justice is often delayed or denied. Weak legal systems, corruption, and poor offender tracking allow many abusers to escape punishment and repeat their crimes. This project is important because it gives voice to victims and families who are often silenced. By collecting data, interviewing key people, and exposing the failures in the system, the investigation will highlight why urgent reform is needed. Without such reporting, these crimes would remain hidden, and children would continue to suffer in silence. The findings will not only inform the public but also guide policymakers, NGOs, and law enforcement to take stronger action. This project is justified as a step toward protecting children, improving justice, and holding institutions accountable in Bangladesh.

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Introduction

The recurrence of sexual offences, particularly against children, is an alarming issue in Bangladesh, affecting schools, colleges, and madrassas. The rise in such incidents highlights systemic failures in safeguarding children from abuse and ensuring justice. This investigative project seeks to uncover the mechanisms enabling these crimes to persist. The study will map offenders, expose institutional and legal weaknesses, and recommend actionable measures to address the crisis. The goal is to bring accountability and drive systemic reform through evidence-based reporting.

Background

The prevalence of sexual abuse cases in educational institutions in Bangladesh has steadily increased over the years. Data from the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) shows a 20% rise in child abuse cases in schools and madrassas over the past five years, as reported by The Daily Star (BNWLA, 2023). World Vision's 2019 report indicated a shocking 76% year-on-year increase in child rape cases, with an average of 84 victims per month. These statistics reveal not only the magnitude of the problem but also its deeply entrenched nature.

Key reasons for recurring sexual offences include:

- **Delayed legal proceedings:** Cases drag on for years, creating barriers to justice for victims.
- **Corruption in the legal system:** External pressures often lead to case dismissals and acquittals.
- **Lack of offender tracking:** Weak tracking mechanisms allow offenders to relocate and reoffend.
- **Systemic loopholes:** Inadequate policies fail to monitor high-risk individuals, enabling recidivism.

Objectives

This investigation aims to achieve three critical objectives. First, it will map offenders and identify the institutions implicated in recurring sexual offences. Second, it will examine systemic failures that enable these crimes, shedding light on gaps in legal and institutional frameworks. Finally, it will provide actionable recommendations to policymakers and stakeholders, advocating for stronger safeguards and justice mechanisms to prevent such offences in the future

This investigation is designed to achieve the following objectives:

1. **Map offenders and institutions** involved in recurring sexual offences.
2. **Highlight systemic failures** that enable such crimes.
3. **Propose actionable recommendations** to strengthen legal and institutional safeguards against sexual offences.

Methodology

A comprehensive and multi-faceted approach will be employed to ensure an in-depth understanding of the issue. The methodology involves both qualitative and quantitative methods, integrating hard data with personal narratives to deliver impactful storytelling.

The investigation will begin with mapping offenders and their associated institutions using legal records, court documents, and NGO reports. Evidence gathering will focus on interviews with victims, families, whistleblowers, and law enforcement officials, aiming to capture diverse perspectives and experiences. To ensure accuracy and credibility, findings will be cross-verified through multiple sources.

The data collected will be presented in a visually engaging format, including trend graphs, geographical maps of high-risk areas, and case studies that humanize the data. These elements will not only illuminate the scale of the problem but also provide actionable insights. The final report will be disseminated through online platforms, traditional media outlets, and advocacy groups, targeting policymakers, NGOs, and law enforcement agencies for maximum impact.

To ensure a comprehensive and impactful report, this investigation will adopt a hybrid approach, combining data analysis with human narratives.

Data Collection and Analysis

- **Mapping offenders and institutions:** Utilize legal documents, court records, and NGO reports to identify repeat offenders and the institutions linked to these cases.
- **Evidence gathering:** Conduct interviews with victims, their families, whistleblowers, and law enforcement officials.
- **Cross-verification:** Corroborate findings through multiple sources to ensure the accuracy and credibility of the investigation.

Data Presentation

Findings will be visualized through:

- Graphs illustrating trends over time.
- Maps showing offender locations and areas of high prevalence.
- Case studies highlighting individual stories to humanize the data.

Publication Plan

The final report will be shared through online platforms, traditional media, and advocacy channels.

Recommendations will be directed at policymakers, NGOs, and law enforcement agencies to encourage reform.

Key Sources

Human Sources

- Victims and their families.
- Whistleblowers within institutions.
- Legal professionals and law enforcement officials.

Paper Sources

- Legal records, including bail orders and judgments.
- NGO and human rights reports.
- Academic research on systemic corruption and recidivism.

Online Sources

- Anonymous online forums where survivors share their experiences.

- Data from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Investigation Timeline

The investigation is planned over a six-month period to ensure thorough data collection, analysis, and reporting. The first three months will focus on collecting data through interviews, legal analysis, and field visits. This will be followed by a month dedicated to analyzing the collected data, identifying patterns, and creating visual representations. The report will be drafted and refined over the next one and a half months, incorporating expert feedback to ensure accuracy and relevance. Finally, the findings will be published within two weeks, accompanied by advocacy efforts to promote the proposed reforms.

This project will span six months, structured as follows:

- 1. Data Collection (3 months):**
 - Conduct interviews with victims and whistleblowers.
 - Analyze legal records and visit implicated institutions.
- 2. Data Analysis (1 month):**
 - Identify patterns of abuse and systemic failures.
 - Create visual aids to represent findings.
- 3. Report Writing (1.5 months):**
 - Draft and refine the report with input from subject matter experts.
- 4. Publication (2 weeks):**
 - Publish findings and advocate for systemic reforms through media and NGO partnerships.

Budget

Estimated Total Cost: BDT 85,000

- 1. Travel and Field Expenses**
 - Transportation: BDT 50,000
 - Accommodation: BDT 20,000

2. **Data Collection and Analysis**
 - Access to legal databases: BDT 10,000
 - Data visualization tools: BDT 20,000
3. **Reporting and Publication**
 - Editing and fact-checking: BDT 5,000

Risk Assessment

Investigating sensitive issues such as sexual offences involves inherent risks:

1. **Retaliation against sources:** Victims and whistleblowers may face threats or backlash.
 - **Mitigation:** Maintain strict confidentiality and anonymize sources.
2. **Legal challenges:** Accused individuals or institutions may attempt to suppress findings.
 - **Mitigation:** Consult legal experts and adhere to journalistic ethics.
3. **Data breaches:** Sensitive information could be exposed.
 - **Mitigation:** Encrypt all data and use secure storage methods.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations will be at the forefront of this investigation. The identities of victims, whistleblowers, and other sources will be strictly protected, ensuring their safety and privacy. Allegations will be rigorously verified before publication to prevent misinformation and harm to individuals. All data will be handled with the utmost care, maintaining confidentiality and respecting the rights of those involved.

- **Confidentiality:** Ensure the identities of victims, whistleblowers, and other sources are protected.
- **Verification:** Rigorously verify allegations before publication to avoid false accusations.
- **Privacy:** Handle all data with the utmost care to maintain privacy and confidentiality.

Expected Outcomes

This investigation will:

- Expose the systemic failures allowing recurring sexual offences in Bangladesh.
- Provide actionable recommendations to policymakers and law enforcement agencies.
- Advocate for the implementation of effective preventive measures, such as offender monitoring programs and reforms in the judicial process.

Conclusion

Sexual offences in Bangladesh's educational institutions represent a deep societal failure that demands immediate attention. By combining rigorous data analysis with compelling human narratives, this investigation seeks to drive meaningful change. Through accountability and advocacy, we aim to create safer spaces for children and prevent future offences.

[Presentation Slides](#)



Learning Outcome : From this project, I learned the difference between a regular news report and an investigative report. I understood that an investigation is also a form of research, which needs time, patience, and proper planning to complete. I also learned about some of the most popular investigative reports from around the world and the stories behind them. This helped me see how investigative journalism can create real impact and bring important changes in society.