

Revitalizing Democracy and Governance in post COVID-19 Pandemic: Bangladesh perspective

Nazia Arifa*

Abstract

An inclusive epidemic known as COVID-19 has resulted in noteworthy societal and financial glitches, as well as political upheavals, in addition to substantial public health disputes. Public safety concerns have clashed with democratic civic norms and expectations as well as basic rights because of this uncertain pandemic scenario, which has caused unsteadiness in Bangladesh's social structure, governance, and political system. To recuperate miserable circumstances of Bangladesh and counteract the effects of COVID-19, it is essential to resuscitate democracy and governance after pandemic era. The aim of this research is to investigate approaches that will reenergize democracy and governance of Bangladesh after pandemic. The study was conducted using a qualitative research methodology. The paper examines COVID-19's negative impacts as well as presents proposals for establishing good governance and accountable institutions, efficient leadership and management, implementing USAID program and the G&I Umbrella Program of the Work Bank, efficient leadership and management, free and fair elections, active local government, civil society, and civic engagement in public decision-making for recovering Bangladesh's damaged democracy and governance in the wake of the catastrophe.

Key Words: COVID-19, Democracy, Revitalize, Governance, Post Pandemic Era.

Introduction

The COVID-19 has caused numerous disruptions to health, the economy, and society, has been plaguing the whole planet since 2019. The country Bangladesh is not out of them and still facing challenges to tackle the crisis. Though from the beginning, Bangladesh was at high risk because of its dense population, crowded cities, unequal access to healthcare, and large population reliance on daily labour incomes (Anwar, 2020). At first COVID-19 was discovered in the Chinese province of Wuhan in 2019. Then mid-March 2020 the pandemic spread quickly throughout the world (Wu, 2020) (Bonotti and Zech, 2021). Bangladesh is one of the severely affected country by the pandemic, along with other affected nations. It advanced in Bangladesh through China initially, and

* Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Jagannath University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, E-mail: narifa27@gmail.com

subsequently through other countries. The COVID-19 epidemic has had a severe negative impact on Bangladesh. A significant number of people in Bangladesh has become poorer due to losing their jobs and income sources. Due to increasing number of unemployment and poverty many people migrated in urban to rural areas throughout the country. Moreover, for continuous lockdown, the increased the vulnerability of the vulnerable group. When the coronavirus outbreak spreads across the globe, the Bangladesh government started to implement non-therapeutic preventive measures such as travel bans, remote office operations, country lockdowns, and, most crucially, social isolation. However, the government of Bangladesh was sometimes unable to successfully contain the pandemic due to the breadth of the country and the negligence of its residents. Bangladesh government has shown its sincerity from the beginning of the pandemic and taken efforts to protect the common people from the effects of pandemic. Like other developing countries, Bangladesh government has faced challenges of safeguarding safety, maintaining social distancing or quarantine, providing public health services, supplying public goods and upholding democratic values. The general public has begun to lose hope in government due to undesirable health care and governance. The paper explains the harmful consequences of COVID-19 and looks at how Bangladesh responded to the pandemic in terms of the health sector, lockdown management, humanitarian efforts, and community-level arrangements during the COVID-19 period and identifies areas where governance might be strengthened. In light of the problem of pandemic governance management, the study focuses on building good governance after COVID-19 with an emphasis on democratic values and institutional accountability and responsiveness. The study suggests that Bangladesh needs to establish an ideal governance system through a strong institutional framework that can protect common people and continue development activities through protecting democracy and governance. The article recommends for establishing good governance and accountable institutions, implementing USAID program and the G&I Umbrella Program of the Work Bank for promoting citizen-responsive governance and protecting democratic principles and rights; efficient leadership and management; free and fair elections; active local government; civil society, and civic engagement in public decision-making for recovering Bangladesh's damaged democracy and governance in the wake of the catastrophe.

Research Methodology

The study was conducted using a qualitative research methodology. The secondary information was gathered from a survey of the literature, including printed journal papers, news items, and online sources. Additionally, the author has gathered data from government and non-government organization databases about the COVID-19 situation in Bangladesh during the past few years in comparison to other afflicted countries. In addition, the author reviewed a variety of documents and publications to comprehend how COVID-19 harmed Bangladesh's democracy and system of government and to offer some suggestions for resolving the situation.

Conceptual Discourse: Democracy, governance and COVID-19

What is Democracy and Governance?

A crucial concept in politics and government is democracy. Commonly the term 'Democracy' is described as a form of popular rule. We refer to it principally as a kind of government that places equal importance on the needs of the individual and the group. In a democratic society, the will of the people is freely expressed, fundamental freedoms and human rights are upheld. In the center of it are regular individuals. According to Jeremy Bentham, democracy gives value of equality of citizenship and meeting popular needs, pluralism, compromise, guaranteeing basic freedoms and societal renewal. Additionally he illustrated that democracy entails two principles of popular control over collective decision-making and equality of rights in the exercise of that control (Bentham & Boyle, 1995).

The term "governance" is not a new one, on the other hand. It predates human civilization by a long shot. The act of making decisions and the manner in which they are carried out (or not carried out) are collectively referred to as the governance process. Accountability, transparency, responsiveness, the rule of law, stability, equity and inclusion, empowerment, and widespread participation are qualities of governance provided through organizations and procedures. It is concerned with the processes of interaction and decision-making among those involved in a collective issue that contribute to the formation, reinforcement, or replication of social norms and institutions. According to Goran Hyden, the term governance refers to a conceptual paradigm that establishes the parameters for appropriate political behavior, emphasizes the nature of relationships between the state and social actors, and describes how political actors can creatively intervene to change the structures (Website of South Africa's National Party, Governance Barometer: Policy guidelines for good governance). There are eight key components to good governance. It is inclusive, consensus-driven, accountable, open, and responsive. It is also effective and efficient. It also upholds the rule of law (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)

COVID-19 and Bangladesh context

The COVID-19 was first surfaced in the Chinese city of Wuhan in 2019 as a pneumonia of unknown cause. After the first death was reported in Wuhan, China, on January 11, 2020 (Islam, Ali, Akanda, Rahman & Kamruzzaman, 2020) (Zhang, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh is caused by the coronavirus 2 that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV-2). On March 8, 2020, the IEDCR, the country's epidemiology institute, revealed the first three confirmed cases. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic and asked countries to "identify, test, treat, isolate, trace, and mobilize their people in the response" (WHO, 2020). From 3 January 2020 to 30 October 2022, Bangladesh has 2,031,006 cases of COVID-19, with 29,388 fatalities reported to WHO. 311,755,456 doses of vaccine

have been given as of 3 October 2022 (WHO Bangladesh COVID-19 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Update (MMWU). 28 March 2022, No109.).

Table-1: Number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases till February 28, 2023

Countries	Total number of effected people
Entire world (February 28, 2023)	679,905,737
Bangladesh	2,037,773
India	44,686,371
USA	105,266,332
UK	24,341,615
Japan	33,205,088
China	503,302
Brazil	37,038,230
Canada	4,591,149

Source: Statista 2023 (Table compiled by the author)

Until February 28, 2023, the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) had been confirmed in almost every country in the world. The virus had infected almost 680 million people worldwide, and the number of the death had reached almost 6.8 million. The most severely affected countries include the U.S., India, and Brazil (Statista, 2023). In Bangladesh, from 3 January 2020 to 21 March 2023, there have been 2,037,978 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 29,445 deaths, reported to WHO. As of 20 March 2023, a total of 357,316,472 vaccine doses have been administered (World Health Organization). Despite the fact that coronavirus causes deaths among healthcare workers on the front lines of the epidemic all around the world, researchers claim that the pandemic is particularly lethal for Bangladeshi doctors in terms of fatality rates (Jahangir, 2020).

COVID-19's waves: Democracy and governance deterioration in Bangladesh

In addition to destroying public health and the global economy, the new coronavirus epidemic is also upending global democracy and governance. It happened at a time when many nations already faced threats to their democratic systems, and it runs the risk of accelerating democratic regress and authoritarian consolidation. The epidemic has been used by governments to curtail personal freedoms and enlarge executive authority. The coronavirus is likely to alter other tenets of democratic governance, such as elections, civilian command of armed forces, and civic engagement, and it may also change the parameters of the worldwide discussion on the relative benefits of democracy and authoritarianism (Brown, Brechenmacher, and Carothers, 2020). From the beginning of the pandemic, Bangladesh government has been experiencing difficulties to protect human rights related to health and security. Moreover, government faced trouble to maintain democratic values of transparency, inclusivity, and accountability. As a result, community people are negatively impacted by poor public health and governance issues. Some crisis related to the COVID-19 epidemic are discussed below-

Inadequate healthcare service

Bangladesh has been dealing with a variety of health-related issues, including infections and fatalities, since the start of the COVID-19 epidemic. The majority of virus-infected individuals suffered severe respiratory illnesses and recover without the need for special care. However, some individuals experience significant illnesses and need medical care. The elderly and those with underlying medical diseases including cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, or persistent respiratory illnesses are more susceptible to a serious sickness. Anyone, regardless of age, could become extremely ill from COVID-19 or end up dead. Moreover, due to our isolation at home during the lockdown and lack of outdoor activity, the COVID-19 epidemic affects us both physically and mentally. Our physical and emotional health is negatively impacted by the epidemic for this reason. Inadequate healthcare planning, capacity, and resources for the fight against COVID-19 also led to an exceptional calamity in Bangladesh's healthcare system. At the start of the epidemic, a failing healthcare system, inadequate public health communication, a dearth of medical facilities, poor governance, and rising corruption increased the number of victims (Haque, 2020). The healthcare system is also made even more vulnerable and ineffective by a lack of testing labs and kits, a lack of medical professionals, exorbitant coronavirus test costs in private medical institutions, inadequate information flow, and weak communication networks. Rumors were spread primarily due to the absence of trustworthy information sources and the availability of both (Al-Zaman, 2020) (Kolloi, 2020). Additionally, the concentration of medical institutions in cities deprives rural communities. Overall, in such circumstances, the COVID-19 pandemic exposes numerous flaws in the healthcare system, including subpar leadership and rising corruption, subpar medical facilities, and inadequate public health communications (Al-Zaman, 2020) (Repon, Pakhe, Quaiyum, Daria and Islam, 2021). In general, throughout the COVID-19 period, the rights of ordinary people to receive appropriate medical care and facilities were infringed.

Economic Crisis

In Bangladesh as well as other nations throughout the world, the COVID-19 epidemic has resulted in catastrophic health and economic devastation. Specifically, during COVID-19, economic uncertainty has grown to be a widespread issue for the broader people. The poor were also affected by hunger and malnutrition at that time. Because economic, social, and cultural human rights are intertwined, common people's rights have greatly suffered under COVID-19 in every way. The major causes of the economic crisis from the start of the pandemic included significantly reducing exports, a contracting service sector, a decline in remittances, and job losses as a result of the closure of numerous factories and businesses. In 2020, 4.8 million employments will be lost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a report. Numerous factories have been permanently closed down as a result of the prolonged lockdown (Antara, 2020) (Alam, 2020). The significant impact of COVID-19 during this epidemic was felt throughout a number of economic and financial sectors, particularly the garment industry sector (Antara, 2020).

Small businesses, other commercial organizations, banks, and other financial institutions are also influenced by COVID-19 (Islam, Talukder, Siddiqui, & Islam, 2020).

Social problems

As a result of the pandemic's limits on participating in social activities, public gatherings, events, travel, and holidays, among other basic liberties, such as the right to free movement and the right to assemble, democracy has been undermined. The COVID-19 epidemic significantly hampered the typical way of life of the average person and their interpersonal interactions. It has changed the pattern of interpersonal relationships due to prolonged lockdown, social isolation and quarantine which are to blame for feelings of isolation, psychological anguish, despair, and anxiety (Ferreira, Merçon-Vargas & Midgette, 2022). Furthermore, some individuals engage in suicide behavior as a result of the pain of living alone. Overall, the pandemic has a bad impact on common people's mental health in addition to their physical health. Both children and adults are drawn to using social media and digital devices when they are bored and alone. People of all ages, excluding children, were dependent on online platforms since they provided easy access to the internet.

Education sector's challenges

The pandemic seriously damaged Bangladesh's educational system, and it has only curtailed the right to education by forcing schools and other educational institutions to close, which undermines democracy. To limit the spread of COVID-19, Bangladesh suspended all of its educational institutions after introducing the virus. On March 17, 2020, when Bangladesh had 8 confirmed cases, the government originally shut down all educational institutions for the remainder of March. The Education Ministry announced at the moment that it would close schools until things got better. Generally speaking, educational institutions were shut down for more than a year. The reopening of educational institutions on March 30, 2021, is anticipated to take place in the midst of an increase in cases. On September 12, 2021, elementary, middle, and upper secondary educational institutions reopened. Many academics have studied the impact of school closures on their children and discovered that COVID-19-related school closures have produced gaps in children's education. They discovered that the primary reasons for closing the educational institutions were the expansion of the virus, as well as issues affording educational fees and the price of accessing online schooling, as well as pandemic income decrease and economic losses (Bangladesh Nationwide Survey on COVID-19 impacts).

Centralized power and imprudent human rights

COVID-19 also affected on government and political system of Bangladesh as well as all over the world. Governments throughout the world have gathered emergency powers to respond to the COVID-19 epidemic, violating human rights and democratic procedures at times. The epidemic has an impact on democracy and human rights, affecting everything from media freedom to constitutional checks and balances. Furthermore, COVID-19

diminished the general public's interest in political engagement. On the other side, during the lockdown and emergency, political leaders had a restriction to do their political activity or movement. Besides, general people were deprived to practice their individual rights and freedoms in emergency situations.

Condensed freedom of press

Since the pandemic's start, *freedom of expression in Bangladesh* stood in crisis. The government has stepped up its pressure on free speech and the press, specifically targeting any journalists, artists, or social activists who have spoken out against it or criticized its approach to the health catastrophe. According to the International Foundation of Journalists, authorities have taken great attempts to restrict the media, detain individuals who speak out, and step-up surveillance on the suspected rumor-spreading around the Covid-19 virus (International Foundation of Journalists).

Policy Measures to revitalize democracy and governance after COVID-19

The following are some ideas for preserving democracy and governance after COVID-19:

Establishing good governance and accountable institutions

During Bangladesh's COVID-19 period, there have been many challenges to maintaining democracy and sound government. Numerous obstacles to democratic administration have been seen, including weak political leadership, a weak civil society, and fraud in the administrative system, a lack of the rule of law, a weak local governance framework, and power disputes between local government organizations and representatives. In order to lessen the consequences of COVID-19 in Bangladesh, there needs to be a proper understanding of the concept of good governance through powerful institutional systems that would offer appropriate direction in making policy decisions. In light of this, institutionalists viewpoints would be helpful in ensuring effective and responsible government at the national and local levels following the pandemic (Alam, 2020) (Vijge, 2013). The government of Bangladesh should take the necessary steps to strengthen institutional and political governance, prioritize improving economic growth, and offer high-quality public services for health, education, and other public needs while reducing corruption and protecting the rights of ordinary citizens.

Introducing the Governance and Institutions Umbrella Program of World Bank

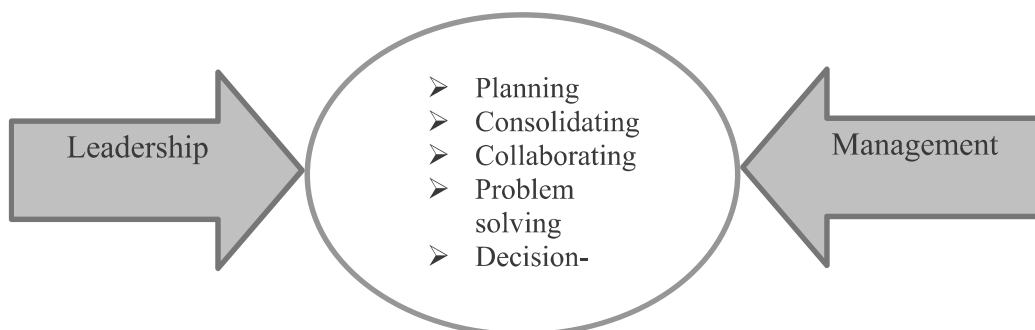
Moreover, Bangladesh's government can enhance democracy and the institution of governance, and accomplish the 2030 SDGs in the post-pandemic period through following the Governance and Institutions Umbrella Program of World Bank. The initiative was established to assist clients from partner nations construct stronger, more effective local and central governments, institutional transformation, boost the application of digital and technological solutions in the public sector, and improve transparency and accountability. The program effectively aids in restructuring government operations to handle issues in all circumstances or times, provides guidelines

to institutions to be competent and responsible, uses technology, reduces opportunities for corruption, and holds accountable to the public through effective formal and informal monitoring (Global Governance Program: World Bank Governance Global Practice).

Efficient leadership and management

COVID-19 poses a threat to Bangladesh and other democratic countries. Governments face a plethora of difficulties as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective management and leadership are essential for the crisis to be addressed. Through effective leadership and skillful administration by its governing institutions, Bangladesh may be able to control the pandemic's impacts. For the post-pandemic era to recover from the shock of the pandemic and the harm done to democracy and governance, strong leadership and transparent, accountable government services may be needed. Government executives and leaders should prioritize increased interaction with common people to learn about their needs and concerns. This can be done through both direct and indirect engagement. For the wellbeing of the general populace, they should formulate effective policies and put them into practice.

Figure 1: The connection between leadership and management.



Source: Compiled by the Author

Free, fair election and public participation:

During pandemic, common people's democratic rights and governance are eroded with so many rules, regulations and restrictions in many countries. Many governments could not be able to satisfy the needs of people with proper services to all level people. In post pandemic period, all countries should follow the path of democratic governance where government can play key role to bring out back the faith of common people. In this situation election is a key element which can accumulate the common people with their participation. Election modifications may allow for the undermining of democratic rights, the danger to the rule of law, or the abuse of emergency powers for one's own or another's political benefit. On the other hand, there may be chances to improve

enfranchisement, especially for excluded or at-risk populations. Though numerous nations are debating to postpone elections due of the COVID-19 epidemic or alter voting procedures to reduce the risk of transmission (Ellena, 2020). In post pandemic period, Bangladesh needs free and fair election with all people participation that will protect trust of the voters. In the context of Bangladesh, now the free and fair election is the most vibrant element of democracy as the people of Bangladesh can politically participate through election.

Civic engagement in public decision-making

To counteract the consequences of COVID-19 and safeguard democracy and governance in Bangladesh, a strong system of civic engagement in public decision-making is important. Citizens' rights, obligations, and responsibilities will be made clear via civic education, which is something the government should prioritize. If people become conscious, they will also be able to resist all types of corruption and bribery in the society. Thus, the general population will have the opportunity to engage in public affairs and market themselves through community development programs. Additionally, they will be aware of preserving, allocating, and utilizing human resources to offer security in the future (Majanga, 2019). By doing this, they will be able to contribute to the growth of a perfect government that will benefit the whole country.

Effective role of local government

Local governments can play a significant role in helping Bangladesh recover from the COVID-19's impacts and sustain its democratic system of government. It may be significant change agents because they are closest to the people. By protecting local democracy through the preservation of the common good and supplying them to satisfy public demands, local government may play a significant role in changing Bangladeshi society and culture after the epidemic. Local and national leaders should work together to rebuild public confidence on the government since this will support smart community development. The national government should provide the financial resources required for the local authority to perform its obligations. The national government should be prepared to provide crucial services in the fields of health, education, and administrative assistance to all facets of the population with the aid of local government, even if COVID-19's stages have not yet been finished. In the event of a public health emergency, both governments must ensure that they are ready to offer enough medical services and supplies, as well as to supply food and energy products and to maintain public safety. Together, the national and local governments should shape society and safeguard human rights in post-pandemic situations (Ahmed, 2020).

Active role of civil society

Members of civil society have been crucial in the pandemic phase in spreading knowledge of the virus and warning people to disregard erroneous and misleading information and tales about the spread of pandemic. After COVID-19, civil society organizations play a critical role in preserving democracy and government. To shield

people from risky situations, they can exert influence over local governments and authorities. In the wake of a pandemic, civil society might play a critical role in improving and more resilient communities, eliminating urban inequities, and easing the burden on those who are susceptible to future shocks. In addition to helping with pandemic recovery, they can carry out development programs for young people, women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and victims of gender-based violence.

USAID's program of Citizen responsive governance

After COVID-19 era, USAID's programs can help increase the capacity of governments to respond to the emergency, as well as build the skills of civil society and media to support increased and transparent communication between governments and citizens, and where appropriate, serve as accountability and watchdog mechanisms. USAID's approach will need to be different in each country based on the political context and the extent of a country's capacity and commitment to democratic governance. The programs help for developing national action plans and policies, including legislation to create the legal framework for effective response to the pandemic; enhancing government communications, accountability, and transparency in health and public social services; supporting government capacity to communicate accurately and effectively with the media; building the capacity of governments to protect their populations through improved governance and the training of frontline officials and law enforcement; building trust in the actions of partner governments, particularly local ones, through bolstered delivery of basic social services, crisis-management, and information-sharing; mobilizing domestic resources to respond to the pandemic; and strengthening public financial management, crisis-response management, and efficient delivery of basic social services to improve public trust. In addition, USAID interventions addressing COVID-19 should also support governments, political actors, civil society, and media to promote and protect democratic principles and rights as crisis responses are developed and implemented.

Conclusion

In order to lessen the consequences of COVID-19 and deal with the pandemic issue, it is concluded in this study that safeguarding democracy and good governance is a major concern. After COVID-19, a solid institutional base, accountability, efficacy, openness, respect for human rights, and civic education are required in order to uphold democracy and good governance. To balance the economy and promote long-term community development, the government of Bangladesh is addressing a number of issues that have arisen because of the outbreak. The coronavirus outbreak has already been somewhat controlled by Bangladeshi government policy actions. However, to achieve a successful COVID-19 reaction after the COVID-19 era, institutional improvements rather than economic recovery should be the government's first priority. The study highlights the importance of the USAID program, the Governance and Institutions Umbrella Program (G&I UP) of the World Bank, the necessity of free and fair elections with sufficient public participation, and the significant roles that local government and civil society to

recover the damaged situation. Furthermore, the author of the study suggests that the government of Bangladesh support the development of more comprehensive crisis management institutions and capacities focused on responding to a wider range of potential shocks by allocating resources, granting authority, and providing incentives to the suitable government actors and agencies (Ahmed, 2020).

References

- Ahmed, N. (2020). *Mobilization of Local Resources by Rural Local Government Institutions in Bangladesh*. Mimeo.). Dhaka: BRAC Institute of Governance and Development and BRAC University.
- Akanda, A. A. M., & Ahmed, R. (2020). How successful Bangladesh is in controlling the coronavirus pandemic?. *Bulletin of the National Research Centre*, 44, 1-8.
- Alam, M. A. (2020). Leading in the shadows: understanding administrative leadership in the context of COVID-19 pandemic management in Bangladesh. *International Journal of Public Leadership*, 17(1), 95-107.
- Al-Zaman, M. S. (2020). Healthcare crisis in Bangladesh during the COVID-19 pandemic. *The American journal of tropical medicine and hygiene*, 103(4), 1357.
- Antara, I. J. (2020). Phase V: COVID-19 crisis impact on RMG wages and employment and role of trade unions – media tracking report. *BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University*. Retrieved From- <https://bigd.bracu.ac.bd/publications/phase-v-covid-19-crisis-impact-on-rmg-wages-and-employment-and-role-of-trade-unions-media-tracking-report/>
- Anwar, S., Nasrullah, M., & Hosen, M. J. (2020). COVID-19 and Bangladesh: Challenges and how to address them. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 8. Retrieved From- <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2020.00154>
- Bentham, D. and Boyle, K. (1995). *Introducing Democracy. 80 Questions and Answers. Polity press*. UNESCO.
- Bonotti M, Zech ST (2021). The Human, Economic, Social, and Political Costs of COVID-19. Recovering Civility during COVID-19. 2021 Mar 3:1–36. Retrieved From- DOI: 10.1007/978-981-33-6706-7_1. PMID: PMC7924095.
- Brown, F.Z., Brechenmacher, S., and Carothers, T. (2020). How Will the Coronavirus Reshape Democracy and Governance Globally? *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. The report was done by the Council of Europe.
- Ellena, K. (2020). IFES COVID-19 Briefing Series: Legal Considerations When Delaying or Adapting Elections. *International Foundations for Electoral Systems*. Retrieved from- <https://www.ifes.org/publications/ifes-covid-19-briefing-series-legal-considerations-when-delaying-or-adapting-elections>
- Ferreira, J.M., Merçon-Vargas, E.A. & Midgette, A.J. (2022). Sociability, Social Isolation, and Social Interaction During the First Months of COVID-19 Pandemic: a Qualitative Analysis of Brazilian, Finnish, and American Adults. *Trends in Psychol.* (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43076-022-00172-9>
- Haque, A. (2020). The COVID-19 pandemic and the public health challenges in Bangladesh: a commentary. *Journal of Health Research*, Vol. 34 No. 6, pp. 563-567. Retrieved From- <https://doi.org/10.1108/JHR-07-2020-0279>
- International Foundations of Journalists (2021). Bangladesh: Government crackdown on media has increased during pandemic.

Revitalizing Democracy and Governance in post COVID-19 Pandemic: Bangladesh perspective

- Islam K, Ali, S., Akanda, SZR, Rahman S, Kamruzzaman AHM, et al. (2020). CPVID-19 Pandemic and Level of Responses in Bangladesh. *Int J Rare Dis Disord* 3:019. Retrieved From-Doi.org/10.23937/26434571/1710019
- Islam, M., Talukder, A., Siddiqui, M., & Islam, T. (2020). Tackling the COVID-19 pandemic: The Bangladesh perspective. *Journal of Public Health Research*, 9(4), 1794. Retrieved From-https://doi.org/10.4081/jphr.2020.1794
- Islam, S. (2020). BB buys US dollars from banks to keep the forex market stable. *The Financial Express*. Retrieved From- <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/Economy/Bangladesh/bb-buys-us-dollar-from-banks-to-keep-forex-market-stable-1583813208>
- Islam. S. (2020). Banks are fully capable of executing stimulus packages. *The Financial Express*. August 9, 2020.
- Jahangir, A. R. (2020). Coronavirus: doctors' mortality rate in Bangladesh 'highest in the world. *United News of Bangladesh (UNB)*.
- Kolloi, K. (2020). Coronavirus: testing crisis because of lab and kit scarcity. *BBC News Bangla*, June 23 Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/bengali/news-53156434>. Accessed August 7, 2020. [Google Scholar]
- Majanga, K. (2019). Role of civic education in community development. Michael Mushi.
- Repon, M. A. U. Pakhe, S. A., Quaiyum, S., Das, R., Daria, S., and Islam, M. R. (2021). Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on mental health among Bangladeshi healthcare professionals: A cross-sectional study. *Science Progress*.
- Retrieved from- <https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/04/06/how-will-coronavirus-reshape-democracy-and-governance-globally-pub-81470-1/7>.
- Retrieved From- <https://unb.com.bd/category/Special/coronavirus-doctors-mortality-rate-in-bangladesh-highest-in-the-world/53378>.
- Retrieved From- https://www.academia.edu/38754468/role_of_civic_education_in_community_development.
- Usaid. (2020). Covid-19: Democracy, Human Rights, And Governance Issues and Potential Usaid Responses April 2020.
- Vijge, M. (2013). The Promise of New Institutionalism: Explaining the Absence of a World or United Nations Environment Organisation. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* 13 (2): 153-76.
- Zhang, L. (2020). Origin and Evolution of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, Vol. 71, No. 15 (2020): 882–883. 10.1093/cid/ciaa112.