

# Bangladesh's Rankings in Global Governance and Justice Indexes: University Students' Perception Analysis

Bangladeş'in Küresel Yönetişim ve Adalet Endekslerindeki Sıralamaları: Üniversite Öğrencilerinin Algı Analizi

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## Abstract

This study examines the relationship between Bangladesh's low rankings in international governance and justice indexes and the perceptions of 200 university students. The research problem focuses on understanding how these poor rankings correspond to the students' views on key areas such as judicial independence, human rights protection, freedom of speech and press, government influence on the legal system, and corruption. The findings indicate a significant alignment between students' perceptions and Bangladesh's poor rankings, revealing deep-seated concerns in these domains. The research also highlights students' positive views on the importance of an effective judiciary for economic growth and the necessity of public awareness about the legal system. Employing a mixed-method approach, this study combines secondary data from international indexes with primary data from student questionnaires, providing a comprehensive analysis of the governance, justice, and legal system issues in Bangladesh. These insights emphasized the need for targeted policy reforms and further research to address the identified challenges.

**Keywords:** Bangladesh, International indexes, University students, Governance, Perceptions.

## Öz

Bu çalışma, Bangladeş'in uluslararası yönetim ve adalet endekslerindeki düşük sıralamaları ile 200 üniversite öğrencisinin algıları arasındaki ilişkiyi incelemektedir. Araştırma sorunu, bu kötü sıralamaların öğrencilerin yargı bağımsızlığı, insan haklarının korunması, ifade ve basın özgürlüğü, hükümetin hukuk sistemine olan etkisi ve yolsuzluk gibi temel alanlardaki görüşleriyle nasıl bir ilişki içerisinde olduğunu anlamaya odaklanmaktadır. Bulgular, öğrencilerin algıları ile Bangladeş'in kötü sıralamaları arasında önemli bir uyum olduğunu göstererek, bu alanlarda derinlemesine endişeleri ortaya koymaktadır. Araştırma ayrıca, öğrencilerin ekonomik büyüme için etkili bir yargı sisteminin önemine ve halkın hukuk sistemine dair farkındalığın gerekliliğine dair olumlu görüşlerini vurgulamaktadır. Karma yöntem yaklaşımını benimseyen bu çalışma, Bangladeş'teki yönetim, adalet ve hukuk sistemine dair sorunları kapsamlı bir şekilde analiz etmek için uluslararası endekslerden elde edilen ikincil veriler ile öğrenci anketlerinden elde edilen birincil verileri birleştirmektedir. Bu içgörüler, belirlenen zorlukları ele almak için hedeflenmiş politika reformlarına ve daha fazla araştırmaya olan ihtiyacı vurgulamaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Bangladeş, Uluslararası endeksler, Üniversite öğrencileri, Yönetişim, Algılar.

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## **Bangladesh's Rankings in Global Governance and Justice Indexes: University Students' Perception Analysis**

In today's interconnected world, international indexes serve as crucial benchmarks for assessing a country's performance across various domains. For Bangladesh, a nation aspiring to achieve sustainable development and global recognition, its low rankings in international indexes have raised concerns and prompted a closer examination of the underlying factors contributing to this situation. This research paper explores the relationship between Bangladesh's poor rankings in international indexes and the perceptions of university students, offering valuable insights into the country's governance, justice, and legal system.

The significance of this research lies in its potential to provide perspectives on the root causes of Bangladesh's low rankings in international indexes. University students, as a well-educated segment of the population with a deep understanding of governance and the legal system, offer valuable insights into the challenges and areas of improvement. While their perceptions do not directly resolve corporate governance problems, they are important for understanding the issues and framing potential solutions. Viewing the survey outcomes as a means to address these pertinent issues, rather than as immediate fixes, provides a realistic approach to tackling governance challenges.

Understanding the perceptions of university students is crucial, as they represent future leaders, professionals, and stakeholders for change in Bangladesh (Islam, 2010). Their perspectives provide deeper insights into the root causes of governance challenges. By gaining a deeper understanding of the concerns and priorities of university students, policymakers and stakeholders can implement informed interventions and policy reforms to address these issues, ultimately working towards improving Bangladesh's rankings in international indexes.

This research aims to empower policymakers and stakeholders to take proactive measures that address the concerns raised by university students. Efforts to enhance good governance, protect human rights, and strengthen the rule of law can be aligned with the perspectives and aspirations of the future generation. By contributing to evidence-based policymaking, this research supports initiatives that foster a more inclusive and prosperous future for Bangladesh. implemented (Sheikh, 2021).

In conclusion, this research paper explores the relationship between Bangladesh's low rankings in international indexes and the perceptions of university students. By exploring the connections between objective rankings and subjective viewpoints, and through evidence-based policymaking and targeted interventions, Bangladesh can address these concerns. This study aims to pave the way towards a brighter future marked by improved governance, justice, and overall performance on the international stage.

### **Literature Review**

Several studies have explored the connection between international rankings and public perceptions, specifically focusing on university students' perceptions, revealing valuable insights into the factors influencing a country's standing. This literature review incorporates the perspectives of various scholars and emphasizes the perceptions of university students in Bangladesh and other countries regarding global governance and justice indexes.

**Table 1***Literature Review*

| <b>Study Reference</b>           | <b>Study Focus</b>  | <b>Methodology</b>  | <b>Key Findings</b>  |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Gu et al. (2020)                 | Global Justice Index and country contributions to global justice                          | <i>Multiyear research project</i>   | Conceptual framework and evaluative principles to measure each country's contribution to global justice  |
| Sabbagh (2007)                   | Intergenerational justice perceptions among university students                           | <i>Comparative analysis of 2075 students</i>  | Support for resource transfers higher in social-democratic and conservative regimes<br>Correlates with welfare-statist ideological frame                             |
| Mahmud and Mahmud (2024)         | Good governance and student politics in university of Bangladesh                          | <i>Qualitative analysis</i>   | Student politics impede effective governance.  |
| Rabbani and Chowdhury (2014)     | Quality of higher education in Bangladesh   | <i>Survey of 100 master's students at Rajshahi University</i>                             | Governance issues, ineffective policy implementation, and personal/political influence impact higher education quality   |
| Khan (2023)                      | Evaluation of Bangladesh universities in global rankings                                  | <i>Systematic literature review</i>   | Developing countries' universities face challenges in global rankings due to lack of adaptation to ranking indicators  |
| Julián and Bonavia (2022)        | Students' perceptions of university corruption in a Spanish public university             | <i>Online survey of 933 students, path analysis</i>                                       | Justifiability, risk perception, and perceived prevalence of corruption predict corrupt intention<br>Willingness to report corruption is influenced by these factors |
| Akhayeva and Turgunbayeva (2023) | Impact of anti-corruption education on perceptions of anomie among undergraduate students | <i>Mixed-methods research with pre- and post-test surveys, semi-structured interviews</i> | Anti-corruption education significantly reduces anomie<br>Enhances understanding of corruption's negative consequences   |
| Rahman (2023)                    | Students' perceptions toward corruption in Malaysia                                       | <i>Questionnaire survey of 115 students</i>   | Awareness of corruption, recognition of corrupt acts involving large sums<br>Acceptance of minor corrupt practices for efficiency                                    |
| Palizvan et al. (2022)           | Relationship between corruption perception and organizational justice.                    | <i>Descriptive cross-sectional study of 182 employees</i>                                 | Negative correlation between perception of corruption and organizational justice<br>Significant associations with demographic characteristics                        |
| Tamanna (2018)                   | Political perception of youth in Bangladesh   | <i>Mixed methods</i>  | Significant gap between youth and traditional political structures   |
| A. Hossain et al. (2022)         | Cyberbullying among university students   | <i>Focus group discussions</i>  | High prevalence of cyberbullying<br>Significant impact on students' mental health  |
| Mazumder (2014)                  | Quality in public and private universities in Bangladesh                                  | <i>Comparative survey analysis of student satisfaction</i>                                | Higher satisfaction in private universities<br>Public universities struggle with regulatory inefficiencies   |
| Kumar et al. (2019)              | Perception and knowledge on climate change among university students                      | <i>Survey of 370 students using statistical methods</i>                                   | Students see deforestation as a main cause of climate change<br>View government as key actor in mitigation   |

|                                |   |  |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Shoeb and Ahmed (2021)         | Service quality of public university libraries                            | <i>Survey using LibQUAL+ core items</i>                              | Significant gaps between students' expectations and actual service quality in university libraries                                 |
| Hossain et al. (2021)          | COVID-19 vaccine acceptability among university students                  | <i>Descriptive and multinomial logistic analysis of 400 students</i> | Positive attitudes towards vaccination<br>Significant vaccine hesitancy due to misinformation and side effect concerns             |
| Rahman (2013)                  | Quality higher education and students' perception in private universities | <i>Structured questionnaire survey of 500 students</i>               | Quality higher education correlates with positive student perceptions<br>Multiple quality dimensions identified                    |
| Mohammad Shahidul Islam (2019) | Curriculum gaps in business education                                     | <i>Survey of alumni, employers, faculty, and students</i>            | Significant gaps between curriculum and industry needs<br>Recommendations for aligning education with job market demands           |
| Sultana and Nasrin (2021)      | Student satisfaction in academic services                                 | <i>Comparative study using surveys</i>                               | Private university students' satisfaction is lower than public university students   |
| Sarkar et al. (2021)           | Perceptions of online classes during COVID-19                             | <i>Online survey of Islamic University students</i>                  | Majority prefer conventional learning<br>Face difficulties with virtual classes<br>Positive perception among urban and Wi-Fi users |

Source: Authors compilation, 2024

Table 1 highlights the critical connection between university students' perceptions and Bangladesh's rankings in global governance and justice indexes. The studies provide insights into the challenges and opportunities for improving Bangladesh's standing by addressing governance issues, enhancing transparency, and improving educational quality. Additionally, the review includes studies from other countries to offer a comparative perspective and highlight global trends in student perceptions and their impact on national rankings.

## Methodology

### Mixed-Method Approach

This research utilized a mixed-method approach (Creswell, 1999; Teng et al., 2020), incorporating both secondary data collection from international indexes and primary data collection through questionnaires administered to first- to fourth-year university students in Bangladesh (S. F. A. Hossain et al., 2022). This dual approach was chosen to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the topic by integrating quantitative data from reputable international sources with qualitative insights from a specific demographic within Bangladesh (Deb et al., 2023). An in-depth review of relevant literature was conducted to provide context and background for the study. This review included examining legal provisions, policies, and regulations associated with international indexes. Additionally, previous research focusing on the perceptions and viewpoints of university students was considered to frame the current study within the existing body of knowledge.

### Secondary Data Collection

The data collection process for international indexes involved obtaining information from reputable sources to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data. The details of these secondary sources are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2***Secondary Sources of Data Collection*

| <b>Index</b>   | <b>Year</b> | <b>Source</b>    | <b>International Applicability</b> |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Freedom in the World | 2023        | Official website | High                               |
| Transparency International                                   | 2023        | Official website | High                               |
| Economist Intelligence Unit Country Ratings                  | 2023        | Official website | High                               |
| Global Insights Country Risk Ratings                         | 2023        | Official website | High                               |
| World Bank CPIA  | 2023        | Official website | High                               |
| International Country Risk Guide (ICRG)                      | 2023        | Official website | High                               |
| Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project                       | 2023        | Official website | High                               |
| World Economic Forum (WEF) Executive Opinion Survey          | 2023        | Official website | High                               |
| Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index (BTI)            | 2023        | Official website | High                               |

*Source:* Authors compilation, 2024

**Primary Data Collection**

To gather data on the perceptions of university students in Bangladesh, a systematic and well-structured approach was followed. The target population was identified as university students in the country. A set of 10 carefully crafted questionnaires was developed, covering diverse aspects of governance, justice, and the legal system. The questionnaires were designed using a rating scale of 0 to 5 to facilitate quantitative analysis.

***Sample Selection and Justification***

A sample of 200 university students was selected for this study. The sample size was determined based on several methodological considerations:

- ***Focused Demographic:*** University students represent a critical demographic for this study, providing informed insights into governance and legal issues. Their homogeneity in terms of education and exposure to these issues allows for a focused analysis.
- ***Precedent in Literature:*** Previous studies in similar contexts have employed comparable sample sizes to yield significant insights (Palizvan et al., 2022; Rabbani & Chowdhury, 2014; Rahman, 2023). This precedent supports the adequacy of the chosen sample size for the objectives of this study.
- ***Data Saturation:*** Qualitative research principles suggest that data saturation—where no new information is observed—can be achieved with relatively smaller samples when the population is homogenous (Guest et al., 2006). The consistency of responses among university students indicated that data saturation was reached, ensuring the reliability of findings.

***Ensuring Data Integrity***

Special care was taken to ensure the confidentiality and anonymity of the respondents to encourage honest feedback. The collected responses were meticulously recorded, and average ratings for each questionnaire were calculated based on the input from 200 students. The data collection process adhered to rigorous standards to ensure accuracy and reliability, thereby providing a solid foundation for valuable insights to aid policymakers, government officials, and stakeholders in addressing critical issues and enhancing Bangladesh's performance in governance and justice-related areas.

### **Reliability Analysis**

To ensure the robustness of the data collected, a reliability analysis was conducted. The Cronbach's Alpha for the questionnaire items was calculated, resulting in values ranging from 0.78 to 0.88, which are considered acceptable for social science research (Nunnally et al., 1977; Tavakol & Dennick, 2011). This high level of internal consistency emphasized the reliability of the measurement instruments used in the study

**Table 3**

*Reliability Analysis of Questionnaire Items*

| <b>Questionnaire Item</b>   | <b>Cronbach's Alpha</b> |
|---|-------------------------|
| Independence level of the Judiciary                                 | 0.82                    |
| Role of the Judiciary in ensuring the protection of Human Rights    | 0.85                    |
| Freedom of Speech and Press   | 0.78                    |
| Role of the Ruling Government in shaping the Legal System           | 0.80                    |
| Effectiveness, Transparency, and Accountability of Law Enforcement  | 0.83                    |
| Effectiveness of the Judiciary in addressing Corruption             | 0.79                    |
| Satisfaction with the Efficiency and Timeliness of the Legal System | 0.81                    |
| Accessibility of Justice for marginalized communities               | 0.84                    |
| Importance of the effective functioning of the Judiciary            | 0.88                    |
| Importance of public awareness and education about the Legal System | 0.86                    |

*Source:* Authors compilation, 2024

### **Data Analysis**

The data analysis was conducted using a systematic approach (Barat et al., 2017), integrating both primary and secondary data. Primary data, collected through questionnaires administered to university students, and secondary data from international indexes were combined to provide a comprehensive analysis.

#### **Weighting of Data**

To ensure balanced integration, equal weight was assigned to both primary and secondary data. This approach allowed for a holistic view, incorporating both the perceptions of the students and the objective metrics from international indexes. Traditional analytical methods were employed, including the following steps:

- **Data Assembly:** Primary and secondary data were compiled and organized systematically.
- **Review and Analysis:** Both data sets were reviewed independently and then combined. Statistical methods were applied to the primary data to quantify students' perceptions, while qualitative assessments were conducted on the secondary data.
- **Summarization:** The findings from both data sources were carefully summarized to provide clear insights.

The research was conducted collaboratively by three individuals, ensuring thorough cross-verification and validation of the results. This triad analysis ensured that the study maintained methodological rigor and provided reliable insights into governance and justice issues in Bangladesh. The research is processed via Microsoft Word, Excel, and Microsoft Power BI for data analysis.

## Results and Analysis

### Performance of Bangladesh in International Indexes

The WJP Rule of Law Index is a comprehensive assessment tool that measures the adherence to the rule of law in countries around the world. It evaluates various factors related to governance, justice, and the legal system to provide insights into the overall state of the rule of law within a country. For Bangladesh, the WJP Rule of Law Index 2022 reveals that the overall score is 0.39, and a 0.38 score is shown for 2023, indicating a relatively low performance in upholding the rule of law. Bangladesh is ranked 127<sup>th</sup> out of 140 countries assessed in the index, highlighting areas for improvement (WJP, 2023a). The index consists of multiple factors that are critical for the rule of law. The scores for each factor in Bangladesh are as follows:

#### *Constraints on Government Powers*

The score for this factor is 0.38, indicating a limited extent to which those who govern are bound by law. Bangladesh ranks 118<sup>th</sup> globally, highlighting the need for effective limitations on government powers (WJP, 2023a).

#### *Absence of Corruption*

The score for this factor is 0.34, indicating challenges in combating corruption within the government. Bangladesh ranks 113<sup>th</sup> globally (WJP, 2023a), emphasizing the importance of addressing bribery, improper influence, and misappropriation of public funds.

#### *Open Government*

The score for this factor is 0.41, indicating room for improvement in government transparency and citizen participation. Bangladesh ranks 104<sup>th</sup> globally (WJP, 2023a), emphasizing the need for better dissemination of laws, access to information, and civic participation.

#### *Fundamental Rights*

The score for this factor is 0.30, highlighting challenges in ensuring and protecting core human rights. Bangladesh ranks 135<sup>th</sup> globally (WJP, 2023a), indicating the importance of addressing equal treatment, due process, freedom of expression, and other fundamental rights.

#### *Order and Security*

The score for this factor is 0.63, indicating relatively better performance in ensuring the security of persons and property. Bangladesh ranks 110<sup>th</sup> globally (WJP, 2023a), showcasing the need for continued efforts in controlling crime and limiting civil conflicts.

#### *Regulatory Enforcement*

The score for this factor is 0.40, highlighting challenges in the fair and effective implementation and enforcement of regulations. Bangladesh ranks 121<sup>st</sup> globally (WJP, 2023a), emphasizing the importance of enforcing government regulations without improper influence.

#### *Civil Justice*

The score for this factor is 0.37, indicating limitations in accessing affordable and effective civil justice. Bangladesh ranks 130<sup>th</sup> globally (WJP, 2023a), underscoring the importance of ensuring accessible, impartial, and efficient civil justice systems.

#### *Criminal Justice*

The score for this factor is 0.31, pointing to challenges in delivering effective criminal justice.

Bangladesh ranks 120<sup>th</sup> globally (WJP, 2023a), highlighting the importance of improving criminal investigation systems, adjudication processes, and correctional systems.

These findings proved that Bangladesh faces significant challenges in various aspects of governance, justice, and the legal system. Addressing these challenges can contribute to strengthening the rule of law, promoting transparency, accountability, and protecting fundamental rights within the country. Freedom in the World 2023 provides an assessment of the state of political rights and civil liberties in countries around the world. The index evaluates various aspects of governance, including electoral processes, political pluralism, freedom of expression and belief, protection of human rights, functioning of government institutions, rule of law, and personal autonomy. In the case of Bangladesh, the report indicates that the country is categorized as “Partly Free” with a score of 40 out of 100 (Freedom House, 2023). The ruling Awami League (AL) has been criticized for consolidating political power through harassment of the opposition, critical media, and civil society (Andersen, 2021; Jackman, 2021; Riaz, 2021). Corruption is pervasive, and efforts to combat corruption have been hindered by politicized enforcement (Zafarullah & Huque, 2021). Due process guarantees are poorly upheld, and security forces frequently violate human rights with impunity (Uddin, 2023).

The report highlights significant challenges faced by religious minorities and refugees in Bangladesh, particularly Rohingya who have fled Myanmar. It acknowledges some positive developments, such as a reduction in extrajudicial killings by security forces in 2022 and the opposition’s ability to hold major rallies. However, concerns persist regarding the independence of the judiciary, restrictions on freedom of expression and media freedom, discrimination against minority groups, and limitations on academic freedom (Freedom House, 2023). The index underscores the need for improvements in electoral processes, political pluralism, protection of human rights, transparency, and equal treatment of various segments of the population. It also emphasizes the prevalence of corruption, weak rule of law, and the culture of impunity. Additionally, the report highlights challenges related to freedom of assembly, freedom for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), trade unions, and the status of personal social freedoms.

In conclusion, the Freedom in the World 2023 report indicates that Bangladesh faces several significant challenges in upholding political rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law. The findings suggest a need for targeted reforms to address issues such as political harassment, corruption, human rights abuses, discrimination against minority groups, and limitations on freedom of expression and assembly.

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2022 ranks countries based on perceived levels of corruption within their public sectors. Bangladesh received a CPI score of 25 out of 100, indicating a relatively high level of perceived corruption. The country was ranked 147<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries surveyed. The CPI score is based on data from eight different sources and has a standard error of 1.93. The lower confidence interval (CI) for Bangladesh’s CPI score is 22, while the upper CI is 28 (TIB, 2023).

In addition to the CPI, several other indexes and ratings provide further insights into the country’s governance and corruption situation. The Bertelsmann Stiftung’s Transformation Index (BTI) gave Bangladesh a score of 25 (BTI, 2024). The Economist Intelligence Unit Country Ratings scored the country 20 (EIU, 2024), while Global Insights Country Risk Ratings and World Bank CPIA gave scores of 22 and 27 respectively (GlobalData, 2024; IEG, 2024). The International Country Risk Guide (ICRG) Guide assessed Bangladesh with a score of 41, indicating a relatively higher risk level (ICRG, 2024). The Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project assigned a score of 13, suggesting challenges in democratic governance (V-Dem, 2024). The World Economic Forum (WEF) Executive Opinion Survey rated Bangladesh at 33, and the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index scored the country 23 (Forum, 2022; WJP, 2023b).



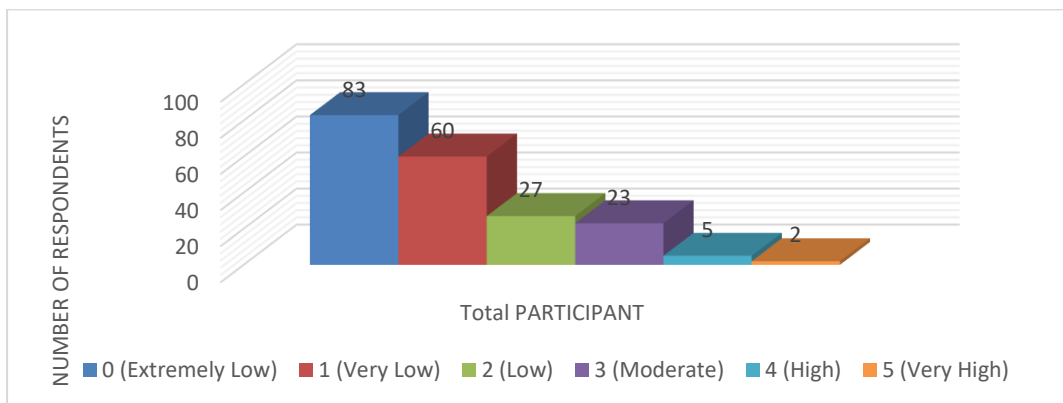
These ratings and indexes collectively indicate the existence of corruption challenges and governance issues in Bangladesh. The scores reflect the perceptions of corruption, transformation, risk, democracy, rule of law, and other related aspects. Improving transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption measures would be essential for addressing the perceived corruption issues and enhancing the overall governance framework in the country (Dr. Md. Mahfuz Ashraf, 2014).

### Specific Areas of Concern

**Figure 1**

#### *Independence Level of the Judiciary*

Rate the Independence level of the Judiciary in Bangladesh? Average Rating: 1.065

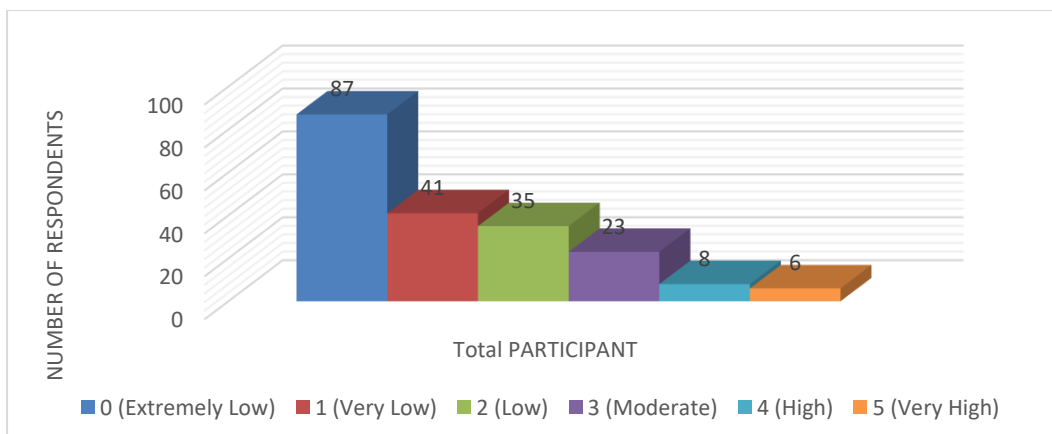


The respondents' perceptions of the independence level of the judiciary in Bangladesh vary. Most respondents, 41.5% (83 individuals), believe that the level of independence is extremely low, as indicated by their ratings of 0 (Figure 1). Only a small proportion, 1% (2 individual), rated it at the highest level of 5. Additionally, 2.5% of respondents (5 individuals) rated it at parameter 4, 11.5% (23 individuals) rated it at parameter 3, indicating a moderate level, and 13.5% (27 individuals) rated it at parameter 2. Approximately 30% (60 individuals) perceive the independence level of the judiciary in Bangladesh to be slightly better than the lowest position. The average rating of 1.065 suggests a perceived lack of independence in the judiciary, raising concerns about potential influences on judicial decisions.

**Figure 2**

#### *Role of the Judiciary in Ensuring the Protection of Human Rights*

Rate the role of the Judiciary in ensuring the protection of Human Rights in Bangladesh? Average Rating: 1.21

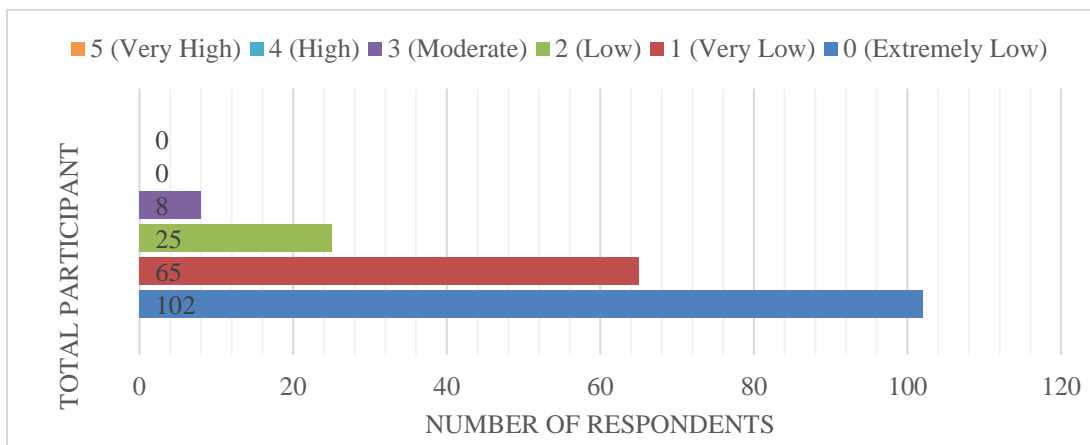


The respondents' perceptions of the role of the judiciary in ensuring the protection of human rights in Bangladesh vary. Figure 2 shows, most respondents, 43.5% (87 individuals), rated it as extremely low (0), while only 3% (6 individual) rated it at the highest level of 5. Additionally, 4 % of respondents (8 individuals) rated it at parameter 4, 11.5% (23 individuals) rated it at parameter 3, indicating a moderate role, and another 17.5% (35 individuals) rated it at parameter 2. About 20.5% (41 individuals) perceive the role of the judiciary in protecting human rights to be slightly better than the lowest position. The average rating of 1.21 suggests a perception of limited effectiveness in safeguarding human rights by the judiciary in Bangladesh.

**Figure 3**

*Freedom of Speech and Press*

What is your rate for Freedom of Speech and Press in Bangladesh? Average Rating: 0.695

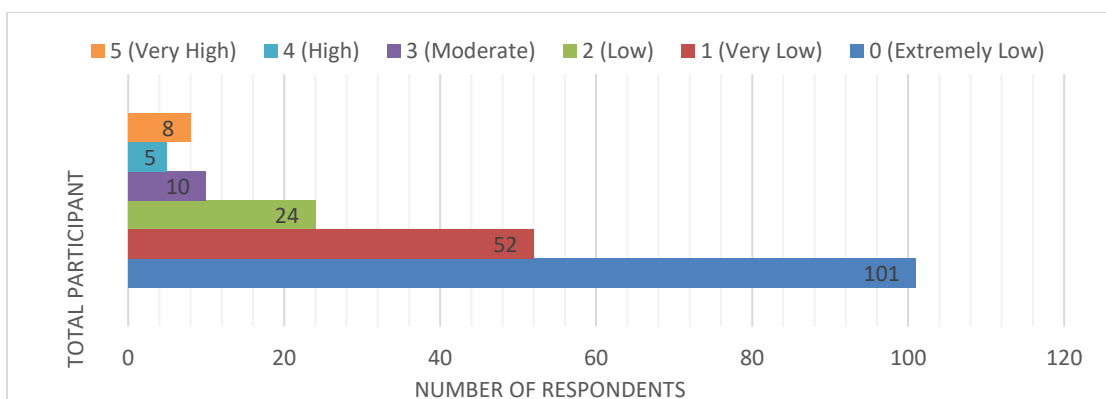


The respondents' ratings of the freedom of speech and press in Bangladesh indicate a perceived lack of freedom in this domain. Most respondents, 51% (102 individuals), rated it as extremely low (0), while neither of the individuals rated it at the highest level of 5 nor at parameter 4. Additionally, 4% (8 individuals) rated it at parameter 3, indicating a moderate level, and 12.5% (25 individuals) rated it at parameter 2. Around 32.5% (65 individuals) perceive the freedom of speech and press in Bangladesh to be slightly better than the lowest position. The average rating of 0.695 suggests a significant concern regarding limitations on freedom of expression and press freedom in the country.

**Figure 4**

*Role of the Ruling Government in Shaping the Legal System and Upholding the Rule of Law*

Rate the role of the Ruling Government in shaping the Legal System and upholding the Rule of Law in Bangladesh? Average Rating: 0.95

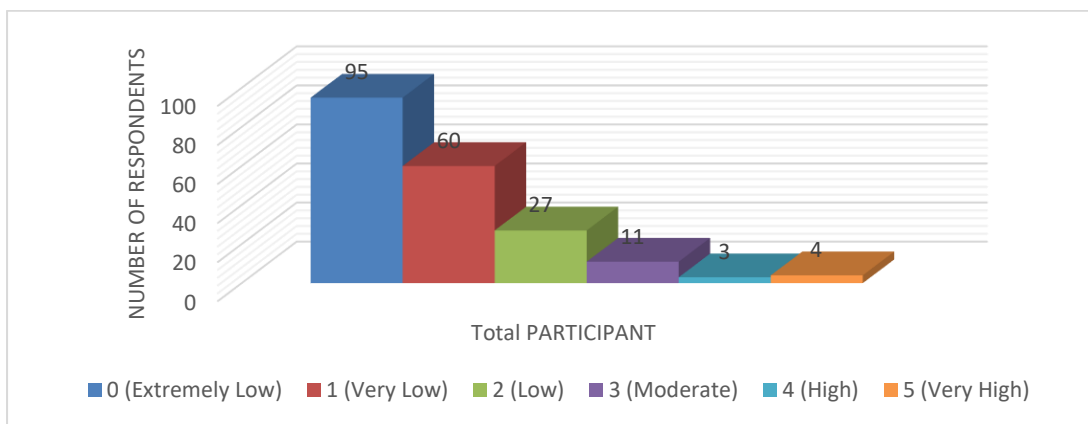


The respondents' perceptions of the role of the ruling government in shaping the legal system and upholding the rule of law in Bangladesh vary. Most respondents, 50.5% (101 individuals), rated it as extremely low (0), while only 4% (8 individuals) rated it at the highest level of 5. Additionally, 2.5% of respondents (5 individuals) rated it at parameter 4, 5% (10 individuals) rated it at parameter 3, indicating a moderate role, and 12% (24 individuals) rated it at parameter 2. About 26% (52 individuals) perceive the role of the ruling government in shaping the legal system and upholding the rule of law to be slightly better than the lowest position. The average rating of 0.95 suggests a perceived lack of effectiveness in this regard.

**Figure 5**

*Effectiveness, Transparency, and Accountability of Law Enforcement Agencies*

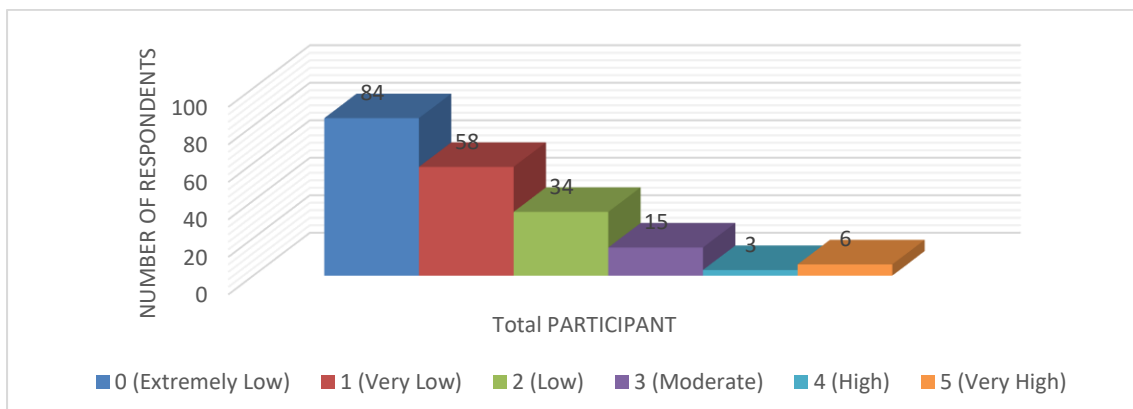
Rate the Effectiveness, Transparency, and Accountability of Law Enforcement Agencies (Police, PBI, CID, NSI, RAB, etc.) in maintaining law and order in Bangladesh? Average Rating: 0.895



The respondents' ratings of the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of law enforcement agencies in maintaining law and order in Bangladesh vary. Most respondents, 47.5% (95 individuals), rated it as extremely low (0), while only 2% (4 individuals) rated it at the highest level of 5. Additionally, 1.5% of respondents (3 individuals) rated it at parameter 4, 5.5% (11 individuals) rated it at parameter 3, indicating a moderate level, and 13.5% (27 individuals) rated it at parameter 2. Around 30% (60 individuals) perceive the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies to be slightly better than the lowest position. The average rating of 0.895 suggests a perceived lack of effectiveness, transparency, and accountability in maintaining law and order.

**Figure 6**

*Effectiveness of the Judiciary in Addressing Corruption and Upholding the Principles of Accountability and Transparency*



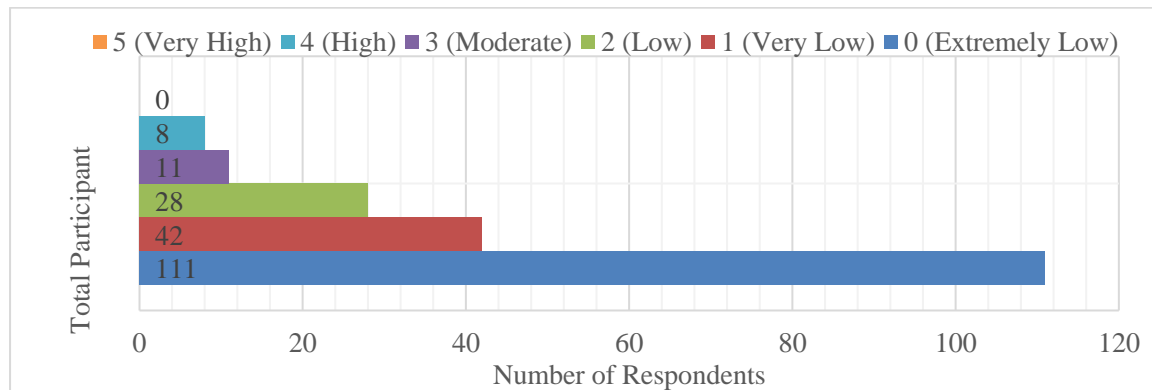
Rate the effectiveness of the Judiciary in addressing Corruption and upholding the principles of Accountability and Transparency in Bangladesh? Average Rating: 1.065

The respondents' perceptions of the effectiveness of the judiciary in addressing corruption and upholding principles of accountability and transparency in Bangladesh vary. Most respondents, 42% (84 individuals), rated it as extremely low (0), while only 3% (6 individuals) rated it at the highest level of 5. Additionally, 1.5% of respondents (3 individuals) rated it at parameter 4, 7.5% (15 individuals) rated it at parameter 3, indicating a moderate level, and 17% (34 individuals) rated it at parameter 2. About 29% (58 individuals) perceive the effectiveness of the judiciary in addressing corruption to be slightly better than the lowest position. The average rating of 1.065 suggests a perceived lack of effectiveness in combating corruption and upholding accountability and transparency.

**Figure 7**

*Satisfaction Level with the Efficiency and Timeliness of the Legal System*

How satisfied are you with the Efficiency and Timeliness of the Legal System in Bangladesh? Average Rating: 0.815

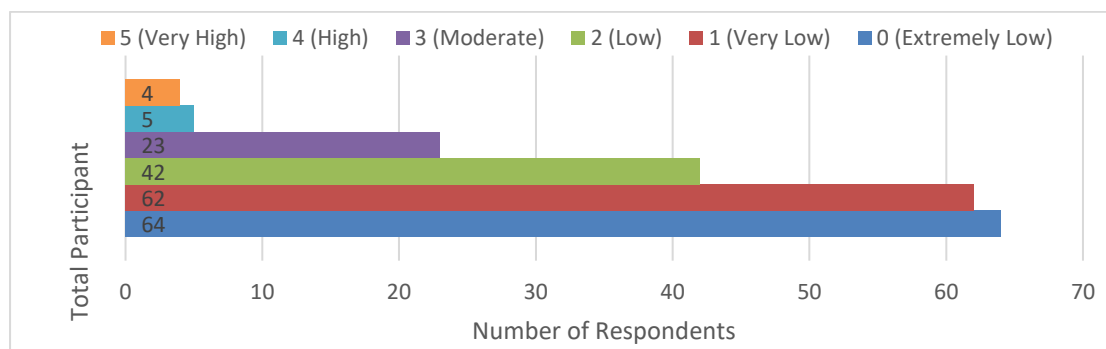


The respondents' satisfaction with the efficiency and timeliness of the legal system in Bangladesh varies. Most respondents, 55.5% (111 individuals), rated their satisfaction as extremely low (0), no individual rated it at the highest level of 5. Additionally, 4% of respondents (8 individuals) rated it at parameter 4, 5.5% (11 individuals) rated it at parameter 3, indicating a moderate level of satisfaction, and 14% (28 individuals) rated it at parameter 2. Around 21% (42 individuals) perceive the efficiency and timeliness of the legal system to be slightly better than the lowest position. The average rating of 0.815 suggests a perceived dissatisfaction with the efficiency and timeliness of the legal system.

**Figure 8**

*Accessibility of Justice for Marginalized Communities*

How would you rate the Accessibility of Justice for marginalized communities in Bangladesh? Average Rating: 1.275



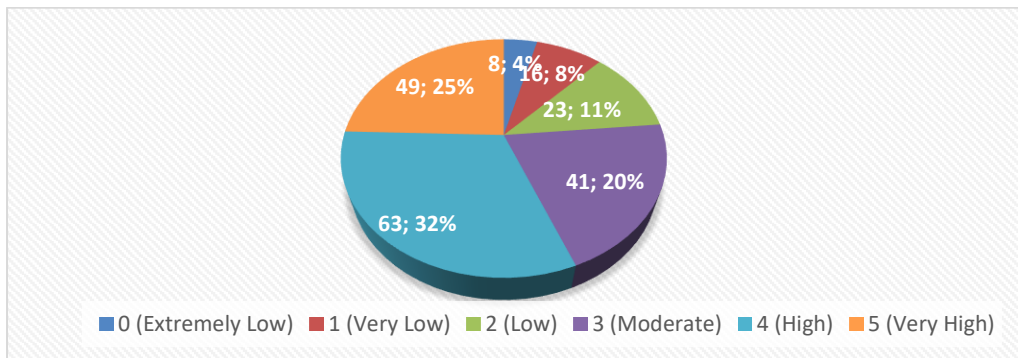
The respondents' ratings of the accessibility of justice for marginalized communities in Bangladesh indicate perceived limitations. Most respondents, 32% (64 individuals), rated it as extremely low (0), while only 2% (4 individuals) rated it at the highest level of 5. Additionally, 2.5% of respondents (5 individuals) rated it at parameter 4, 11.5% (23 individuals) rated it at parameter 3, indicating a moderate level of accessibility, and 21% (42 individuals) rated it at parameter 2. Around 31% (62 individuals) perceive the accessibility of justice for marginalized communities to be slightly better than the lowest position. The average rating of 1.275 suggests a perceived need for improvement in providing accessible justice to marginalized communities.

**Positively Viewed Areas**

**Figure 9**

*Importance of the Effective Functioning of Judiciary for Attracting Foreign Investments & Fostering Economic Growth*

How important is the effective functioning of the Judiciary for attracting Foreign Investments and Fostering Economic Growth in Bangladesh? Average Rating: 3.41

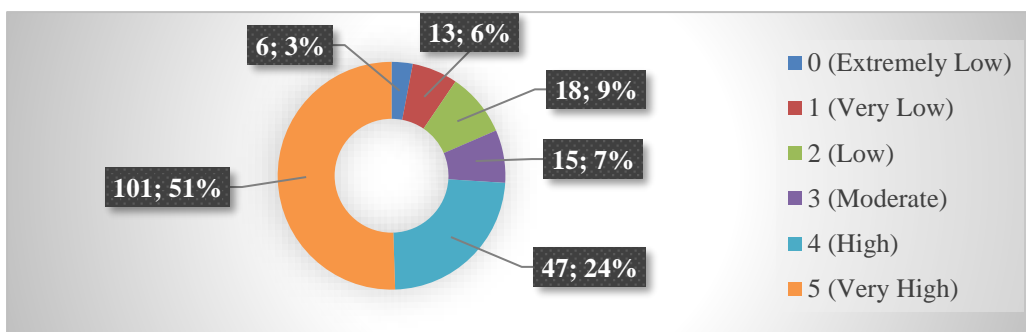


The respondents' perceptions of the importance of the effective functioning of the judiciary for attracting foreign investments and fostering economic growth in Bangladesh vary. Most respondents, 31.5% (63 individuals), rated it at the 2nd highest level of 4, while only 4% (8 individuals) rated it at the lowest level of 0. Additionally, 20.5% of respondents (41 individuals) rated it at parameter 3, indicating a moderate level of importance, and 11.5% (23 individuals) rated it at parameter 2. Around 24.5% (49 individuals) perceive the effective functioning of the judiciary to be the highest position and 8% (16 individuals) perceive to be slightly better than the lowest position. The average rating of 3.41 suggests a perceived significance of the judiciary's role in attracting foreign investments and fostering economic growth.

**Figure 10**

*Importance of Public Awareness and education about Bangladesh's Legal System and the Rule of Law*

Rate the importance of public awareness and education about Bangladesh's "Legal System" and the "Rule of Law"? Average Rating: 3.935



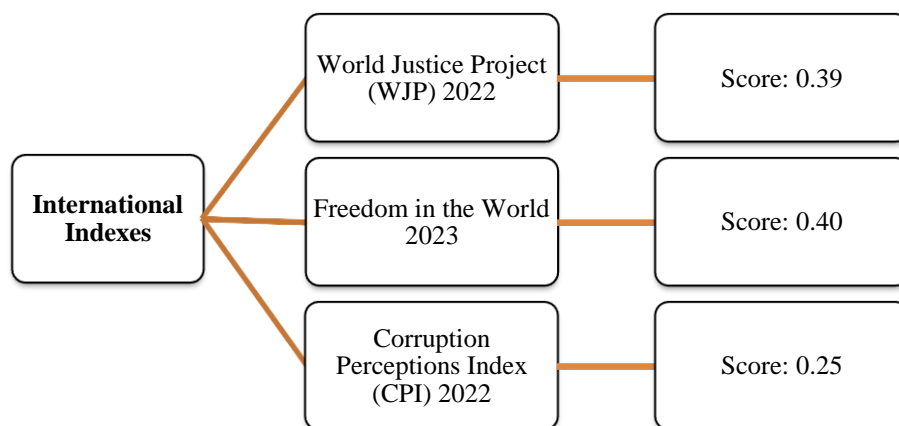
The respondents' ratings of the importance of public awareness and education about Bangladesh's legal system and the rule of law vary. Most respondents, 50.5% (101 individuals), rated it at the highest level of 5, while only 3% (6 individual) rated it at the lowest level of 0. Additionally, 23.5% of respondents (47 individuals) rated it at parameter 4, indicating a significant level of importance, and 7.5% (15 individuals) rated it at parameter 3. Around 9% (18 individuals) rated it at parameter 2 and 6.5% (13 individuals) perceive the importance of public awareness and education to be slightly better than the lowest position. The average rating of 3.935 suggests a perceived high importance of public awareness and education regarding the legal system and the rule of law in Bangladesh.

### Comparative Analysis in One Scale

The WJP Rule of Law Index 2022 reveals that Bangladesh received an overall score of 0.39, ranking 127th out of 140 countries assessed. The index indicates challenges in areas such as constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, and fundamental rights protection. Similarly, the Freedom in the World 2023 report categorizes Bangladesh as "Partly Free" with a score of 40 out of 100, highlighting concerns about political rights, civil liberties, and human rights abuses. The CPI 2022 ranks Bangladesh 147th out of 180 countries with a score of 25 out of 100, indicating a relatively high level of perceived corruption within the public sector.

**Figure 11**

*Performance in International Indexes (Scaled from 0 to 1)*



The perceptions of university students are consistent with the poor rankings in international indexes. The scaled average ratings from 0 to 1 reveal that the students perceive limitations in the independence of the judiciary (0.213), protection of human rights (0.242), freedom of speech and press (0.139), Role of the Ruling Government in shaping the Legal System and upholding the Rule of Law (0.19), and Effectiveness, Transparency, and Accountability of Law Enforcement Agencies (0.179). They also indicate a perceived lack of effectiveness in addressing corruption and upholding accountability and transparency (0.213) and dissatisfaction with the efficiency and timeliness of the legal system (0.163). Moreover, the students place significant importance on public awareness and education about the legal system and the rule of law (0.787), highlighting the need for knowledge dissemination in these areas. Additionally, the students acknowledge the importance of the effective functioning of the Judiciary for attracting Foreign Investments and Fostering Economic Growth (0.682), underlining the potential impact of a robust judicial system on the country's economic prospects.

**Table 4***Perceptions of University Students (Scaled from 0 to 1)*

|                         |   |              |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|
| Perceptions of Students | Independence level of the Judiciary   | Score: 0.213 |
|                         | Role of the Judiciary in protecting Human Rights  | Score: 0.242 |
|                         | Freedom of Speech and Press   | Score: 0.139 |
|                         | Role of the Ruling Government in shaping the Legal System and upholding the Rule of Law                                   | Score: 0.19  |
|                         | Effectiveness, Transparency, and Accountability of Law Enforcement Agencies   | Score: 0.179 |
|                         | Effectiveness of the Judiciary in addressing Corruption and upholding Accountability and Transparency                     | Score: 0.213 |
|                         | Efficiency and Timeliness of the Legal System   | Score: 0.163 |
|                         | Accessibility of Justice for marginalized communities   | Score: 0.255 |
|                         | Importance of the effective functioning of the Judiciary for attracting Foreign Investments and Fostering Economic Growth | Score: 0.682 |
|                         | Importance of public awareness and education about Bangladesh's Legal System and the Rule of Law                          | Score: 0.787 |

Based on the ratings provided by the 10 questionnaires and Bangladesh's rankings in international indexes, there seems to be a correlation between Bangladesh's poor rankings and the students' perceptions. The ratings from the questionnaires generally reflect a negative perception of Bangladesh's political rights, civil liberties, corruption levels, rule of law, and overall risk.

According to the ratings obtained from the questionnaires, the students perceive Bangladesh as having limited political rights, as indicated by Freedom House. The country is also perceived to have a low level of transformation and governance, in line with the findings of the Bertelsmann Foundation

Transformation Index. Additionally, Bangladesh receives a poor country rating, consistent with the Economist Intelligence Unit Country Ratings. The ratings suggest a high-country risk, which aligns with both the Global Insights Country Risk Ratings and the PRS International Country Risk Guide. Furthermore, the students perceive Bangladesh to have low levels of democracy, which corresponds with the results of the Varieties of Democracy Project. Finally, Bangladesh obtains a low score in the Corruption Perceptions Index, confirming the presence of corruption issues in the country.

These perceptions align with the rankings in international indexes, which also highlight Bangladesh's challenges in areas such as political rights, corruption, rule of law, and governance. The students' perceptions, as reflected in the questionnaires, seem to be consistent with the objective assessments made by international indexes, suggesting a correlation between the two.

### **Discussion and Conclusion**

In this comprehensive research endeavor, the perceptions of university students in Bangladesh regarding the governance and justice landscape have been thoroughly examined. As this study concludes, the key findings are summarized, practical implications explored, limitations acknowledged, and directions for future research charted.

The analysis has uncovered a range of views among university students in Bangladesh. Predominantly pessimistic perceptions were observed concerning various facets of governance and justice, including the independence of the judiciary, protection of human rights, freedom of speech and press, the role of the ruling government in shaping the legal system, effectiveness of law enforcement agencies, addressing corruption, efficiency of the legal system, and accessibility of justice for marginalized communities. Conversely, positive sentiments were noted regarding the significance of an effective judiciary in attracting foreign investments, fostering economic growth, and the importance of public awareness and education about the legal system and the rule of law.

These findings align with previous studies. It was noted by Rabbani and Chowdhury (2014) that governance issues and ineffective policy implementation significantly impact higher education quality in Bangladesh. Similarly, it was emphasized by (Gu et al., 2020) that governance practices substantially contribute to justice outcomes. This study extends these findings by demonstrating that university students perceive these governance issues as directly impacting their trust in the judicial system, consistent with the theoretical framework proposed by Sabbagh (2007) and Akhayeva and Turgunbayeva (2023), which highlights the role of governance quality in shaping public perceptions.

Several gaps in the literature have been addressed by this research. While previous studies have focused on governance issues in higher education or the general public, this study specifically targets the perceptions of university students, providing insights into a well-educated demographic with a unique perspective on governance and justice. This research builds on existing theories by applying them to a new context and demographic, highlighting both the similarities and differences in perceptions between university students and other population segments.

The alignment observed between Bangladesh's poor rankings in international indexes and the negative perceptions expressed by students carries profound implications. It underscores the connection between objective assessments and subjective perspectives on political rights, civil liberties, corruption levels, rule of law, and overall risk. These findings establish a solid foundation for informed discussions and debates on these critical issues within the country. The consistency between students' perceptions and international rankings enhances the credibility and reliability of these assessments. This alignment reinforces the role of international indexes as dependable sources of information on governance, human rights, and corruption within Bangladesh. It highlights the vital importance of addressing identified challenges to improve the country's rankings and meet the expectations of its citizens and the



international community.

The results emphasize the imperative of ongoing efforts to enhance political rights, combat corruption, strengthen the rule of law, and improve governance in Bangladesh. The alignment between objective assessments and subjective perceptions provides a robust basis for meaningful discussions, comprehensive reforms, and targeted initiatives aimed at effectively addressing these challenges and fostering positive change. Subjectivity in rating interpretation, biases in self-reporting, and concerns about generalizability may have affected the validity of the study's results. Additionally, accounting for contextual factors and ensuring data integrity posed inherent challenges.

Future research endeavors should consider several avenues for investigation. Comparative analyses with students from other countries can provide cross-cultural perspectives on governance and justice. Engaging legal and governance experts, policymakers, and practitioners can offer deeper insights and potential solutions. Exploring regional variations within Bangladesh, conducting longitudinal studies, incorporating stakeholder perspectives, and utilizing qualitative research methods can contribute to a holistic understanding of the issues. Comparing subjective perceptions with objective indicators and evaluating existing policies and reforms are also promising areas for future research. These efforts can collectively advance evidence-based policymaking and drive improvements in governance and justice systems in Bangladesh.

In conclusion, this research serves as a steppingstone toward a more profound comprehension of Bangladesh's governance and justice landscape. It is hoped that the insights gained will catalyze meaningful change and progress for the nation. The study not only confirms the existing concerns highlighted in previous research but also expands the understanding of these issues through the lens of university students, offering a unique contribution to the literature.

## **Compliance with Ethical Standards**

### **Ethical Approval**

This article does not fall under the requirement for ethical committee approval as it focuses on non-behavioral and non-psychological aspects. A part of the study involved a survey of university students, all of whom were adults and participated voluntarily, providing informed written consent. Adhering to the Declaration of Helsinki 1964 (64th Amended, 2013), the research maintained high ethical standards, and the non-intrusive nature of the study negated the need for Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval.

### **Author Contributions**

All authors contributed jointly to the design, data collection and analysis, interpretation of data and findings, drafting, critical review, final approval and accountability, and supervision processes. The concept and idea development were carried out by M.S.I and Y.A., while the literature review was conducted only by M.S.I. The review, validation, and finalization processes were handled by M.M.F.

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The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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