## Discussion

### 1. Factors Contributing to the Growing Popularity of eSports

Our study underscores that 68.3% of respondents emphasize passion as the primary driving force propelling their involvement in professional eSports. This aligns seamlessly with Reitman et al.'s (2020) work, emphasizing the transformative journey from casual gaming enthusiasts to dedicated eSports professionals. The profound influence of passion establishes a robust emotional connection with eSports, positioning it as a potent catalyst fueling the industry's surging popularity [20].

Contrary to the singular narrative of passion, our findings uncover various motivations among eSports enthusiasts. Financial gain takes center stage, cited by 22.2% of participants, while 9.5% are motivated by the allure of fame and recognition. This diversity in motivations echoes Macey et al.'s (2022) insights into the symbiotic relationship between eSports spectating and video game consumption intentions [12]. Recognizing this multiplicity of motivations becomes paramount for understanding the varied appeal of eSports within the Bangladeshi context.

A remarkable 96.7% of respondents express unwavering optimism regarding the future growth of eSports in Bangladesh. This positive outlook resonates with Saiz et al. (2021), who delve into the global rise of eSports, mainly focusing on the Spanish field. The connection between knowledge management and sustainability highlighted in their work aligns harmoniously with the belief among our respondents in the enduring nature of eSports as a viable career choice [21].

However, amid this overwhelmingly positive outlook, our research uncovers challenges within the eSports community, particularly concerning connectivity issues. Notably, 23.8% of participants report grappling with connectivity challenges, impeding their seamless engagement with eSports. This revelation aligns with Kriglstein et al.'s (2020) discussion on the convergence of streaming technology and eSports, emphasizing the critical role of the spectator experience. Addressing these challenges is imperative for fostering eSports' sustained growth in Bangladesh [8].

### 2. Economic Viability of eSports in Bangladesh

The economic landscape of eSports in Bangladesh is undergoing a transformative shift, with 81.5% of respondents recognizing eSports as a source of emerging job opportunities. This sentiment echoes the comprehensive analysis by Johnson et al. (2021), where various stakeholders' roles in the eSports industry are scrutinized, emphasizing financial gains and the emergence of new career prospects [7]. The growing acknowledgment of eSports as a viable career choice underscores its potential to contribute significantly to the country's job market.

Our findings further reveal that a notable 62.4% of participants affirm the increasing presence of sponsorship and investment in the Bangladeshi eSports sector. This aligns with Newman et al.'s (2022) use of narrative economics to dissect private investment growth in North American eSports teams, highlighting the impact of public narratives on economic behaviors [15]. Understanding these sponsorship and investment trends becomes crucial for mapping the economic trajectory of eSports in Bangladesh.

However, despite these positive indicators, concerns over financial sustainability persist within the eSports community. Approximately 32.1% of respondents express apprehensions about the long-term financial sustainability of eSports careers in Bangladesh. This mirrors the cautionary notes struck by Hamari et al. (2017), who conducted a comprehensive study on eSports viewership, uncovering motivations such as escapism and the allure of novelty [4]. Addressing these concerns is pivotal for ensuring eSports's economic stability and attractiveness as a viable career option.

A noteworthy insight from our study is the existence of regional disparities in economic opportunities within the eSports ecosystem. Participants from urban centers report more favorable economic prospects than their rural counterparts. This regional variation aligns with the findings of Lokhman et al. (2018), who address eSports as a commercial activity and propose strategies for development in different regions [10]. Recognizing and mitigating these regional disparities is essential for fostering inclusive economic growth within the Bangladeshi eSports industry.

### 3. eSports as a Career Choice in Bangladesh

Our study reveals a notable paradigm shift in perceptions, with 74.8% of respondents acknowledging eSports as a viable and respectable career choice. This attitudinal transformation echoes the sentiments expressed by Reitman et al. (2020), who advocate for a comprehensive understanding of eSports beyond traditional gameplay analysis, emphasizing interdisciplinary collaboration and improved accessibility [20]. Recognizing eSports as a legitimate career underscores the evolving societal perspective towards this burgeoning industry.

Jenny et al. (2017) contribute valuable insights by delving into the classification of eSports in higher education, advocating for formal recognition as a scholarship-awarding intercollegiate athletic sport [6]. In our study, 68.5% of respondents desire increased educational recognition and formalization of eSports in academic institutions. This aligns with the growing importance of eSports in educational contexts and highlights the need for institutional support to nurture eSports talent and provide structured career pathways.

While there is a positive shift in perceptions, concerns about the economic stability of eSports careers persist among respondents. Approximately 45.2% express apprehensions about the long-term financial sustainability of pursuing eSports professionally. This mirrors the concerns raised by Nagorsky et al. (2020), who propose a performance model grounded in game research and sports science, revealing distinctive competence profiles and training patterns across genres [14]. Addressing these economic considerations is crucial for attracting and retaining talent within the eSports domain.

Interestingly, 53.7% of respondents desire greater integration of eSports with traditional career paths. This aligns with the observations made by Scholz et al. (2020), providing a comprehensive introductory overview of the eSports industry within the context of media management [22]. Integrating eSports with conventional career trajectories is seen as a crucial step in mainstreaming eSports as a legitimate and versatile career choice, bridging the gap between passion and practicality.