**Challenges of Virtual Court in Bangladesh:**

* When government introduced e-justice system, it was widely viewed as a necessary step to keep the justice system flowing during lockdown. But the whole system has become more complicated for lawyers and judges as they’re not technologically advanced, especially senior lawyers and judges. In bdnews24.com one lawyer shared his experience about the virtual court. He said that, when he logged in to an online court hearing, he was confused about the whole process, which was really embarrassing for him. Other lawyers also dealing with similar issues. Most of them aren’t trained and don’t have technological knowledge to deal with virtual court system. According to HM Masum, office secretary of Dhaka Ainjibi Samity, most of the lawyers aren’t trained on the online court proceedings.
* Internet connectivity has become another challenge for lawyers and judges. According to Advocate Kayum Khan Kaiser, general secretary of Barisal District Ainjibi Samity, internet speed is very slow to continue the virtual court activities. Some lawyers accused that, because of slow internet connection, it took ling time to continue the hearing. To take part in an online hearing, lawyer must register on a website by using his phone number and email id. Then they get an SMS to create a password so that they can take part in court proceeding by logging into specific website. But many lawyers said that, they didn’t get any message to create that password. Many lawyers think that, Virtual Court system is more complicated than traditional court system.
* Another challenge is confidentiality. There is a high chance that, confidential information may disclose during virtual court proceedings. Any litigants may record the virtual court proceedings by using their personal devices and make it viral by uploading on social site. Another problem is absence of special agreement between video conferencing software provider company and court authority. Are the general terms and conditions provided by software company sufficient to protect the sanity of the court proceedings? These terms and conditions may be changed at any time.
* Virtual Court contains sensitive personal and government information, that’s why Data Security has become another challenge for Virtual Court. Virtual Court fall under the category of Critical Information Infrastructure. Did our Judicial authority declare Virtual Court as Critical Information Infrastructure under section 15 of the Digital Security Act 2018? According to section 6 of Digital Security Policy 2020 and sections 5 and 9 of Digital Security Act 2018 Digital Security Agency will create a national Cyber Emergency Response Team to ensure the cybersecurity of a Critical Information Infrastructure with technical support. Did our Judicial authority collaborated with the CERT to ensure cybersecurity?
* Most of the documents submitted online don’t carry the correct information, which has become another trouble for virtual court. Most of the lawyers are not capable of utilizing the software properly and this has been a hindrance in bail hearings. Many of the lawyers don’t have computers with webcams and they continue their virtual court proceedings by their smart phone. It is really hard to represent documents and continue hearing simultaneously. That’s why many lawyers think that Virtual Court is more time-consuming comparing to traditional court system.
* Another challenge for Virtual Court is the “human” aspect. Courtroom requires a human interaction. A lawyer can’t give reassurance to his nervous clients over the telephone. In traditional courtroom, a lawyer can give moral support to his client in hard situation, but in Virtual Court it’s not possible to provide moral support to his clients.
* Evidence and fact representation in Virtual Court is more complicated and time consuming than traditional courtroom because of slow internet connection and faulty tech accessories like microphone and webcam. Recently, in Delhi, faulty microphones disrupted the Supreme Court’s virtual hearing for nearly an hour.