**Digital Gender-Based Violence Among Young Adults in Bangladesh: Insights from a Pilot Study**

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***Background:*** Digital Gender-Based Violence (DGBV) is a public health concern in Bangladesh, whereby individuals are highly susceptible to harassment online using social media. The present study aimed to assess the prevalence, demographic description, and attitude towards DGBV among young adults and delineate gender and urban-rural differences in exposure.

***Methodology:*** The current research used a target sample of 380 participants was calculated using Cochran's formula with 95% confidence interval (CI), 5% margin of error (ME). Pilot data collected of 250 responses from online Google Forms and semi-structured interviews. Study variables are including such as Demographics (age, gender, educational qualification), DGBV experiences, and perceptions on the role of social media in online GBV were recorded. Descriptive statistics summarized participant characteristics and exposure to DGBV. Spearman's rank correlation used ordinal data such as including age, level of education, and Likert-scale opinions (social media role in GBV, reporting effectiveness, issues faced by marginalized victims, preventive roles of social media, effectiveness of safety measures, and adequacy of laws). Fisher's exact test used due to contain small frequencies (<5), and effect size estimates were given using Cramér's V.

***Results***: 47% of 250 respondents were female and 53% were male, 72% were students at the bachelor's degree level. Overall, 42% had personally experienced DGBV or known someone who had. Social media was found to contribute to online GBV (Mean = 3.79, Median = 4 on a 5-point Likert scale). The female respondents reported significantly higher personal or known DGBV exposure compared to men (Fisher's exact p = 4.25 × 10⁻⁶; Cramér's V = 0.33). On the other hand, the DGBV experience disparities between the rural and urban respondents did not achieve statistical significance (Fisher's exact p = 0.172; Cramér's V = 0.15).

Additionally, educational qualification was not significantly associated with reporting behavior (Fisher's exact p= 0.166).

However, spearman's rank correlation indicated moderate correlations between demographic and perception variables. Age was positively correlated with education level (ρ = 0.49, p < 0.001) and opinion about the preventive role of social media (ρ = 0.16, p = 0.009), but negatively correlated with perceived role of social media in GBV online (ρ = -0.19, p = 0.003). Education level was positively correlated with the opinion that social media prevents GBV (ρ = 0.18, p = 0.005). Moderate correlations were also observed between perceptions of safety measures and preventive effectiveness.

***Conclusion***: Pilot findings affirm extensive exposure to DGBV among youth in Bangladesh, with gender disparities. Preliminary findings affirm the need for evidence-based policy interventions to improve online security and digital harassment mitigation.

**Keywords**: Online Harassment, Digital Gender-Based Violence, Spearman Correlation, Fisher’s Exact Test