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Prospects and Challenges of Journalism in Northern Divisions of Bangladesh: An Exploratory Study

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Abstract

Journalists are highly respected members of our society usually known as mass media personalities who make important contributions to the promotion of economy, education, safety, security peace, love and overall prosperity of the country. They also uphold public opinions, sufferings as well as all the happenings of every nook and corner of our society through electronic and print media so that the people all over the country as well as the government can know the overall aspects and situation of the country which could help all the organs of government to take proper steps in case of necessary and emergency.

Index terms— prospects, challenges, journalism, northern division, bangladesh.

1 Introduction

Journalism is a prominent career in Bangladesh, and those who work in this noble field contribute significantly to the development of the country's various industries. Despite the fact that journalism is a very significant career, there are no specific requirements for becoming a journalist or a politician in the United States. However, recently, there has been a little improvement in this scenario. A graduate can pursue a career in the media. However, in some circumstances, a bachelor's degree in journalism from an accredited university is a requirement for employment. Recruitment is an important part of every business [1]. In Bangladesh two thousand registered in daily newspapers published around the country, with more than four hundred of them being dailies. It is vital to note that more than two hundred newspapers are printed in the capital every day. Dhaka is the capital of Bangladesh [2]. Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, a former head of the Bangladesh Press Council, expressed his opinion that in compared to the country's economic situation, the number of daily newspapers issued is enormous. In addition the statement emphasized that the publication of a newspaper should be seen as a commercial endeavor. The People who are financially well-off should step forward and take the initiative to build a newspaper publication system industry. Furthermore, in order to protect press freedom, the minimal financial soundness of the publication must be maintained. Journalists should be given first priority [3]. However, it is a source of regret that journalists are frequently subjected to this. In Bangladesh, not receiving a salary for months on end is not uncommon [4]. The working conditions of journalists in rural and remote places are not suitable. A significant percentage of the local journalists who work for the newspapers are not properly compensated. In Bangladesh context Journalism, a prestigious job and those who are involved in this noble profession play vital role in different sectors like political, economic, social, science and technology, sports, entertainment and other sectors of this country. As a profession journalism is a very important one but no qualification is specified for becoming journalist likely politician. However, this situation has been slightly changed in last few years. A graduate can join the media organization, but in some cases university degree in journalism is prerequisite condition of the recruitment. The condition of journalists working at local areas is not satisfactory. A good number of the dailies do not provide salary properly to their local journalists. Most of the pressmen of the different dailies published from divisional and district level are drawing less than Taka one thousand per month that is even less than a day labor [1]. According to a study in 1995 on Dhaka city newspapers, about 69% journalists are getting salary as per 4th wage board but they are not enjoying other facilities or incentives stated in 4th wageboard. Journalists are blaming the owners' commercial attitude for this sort of deprivation. For this reason most of the journalists are not satisfied with their present jobs. In a study regarding journalism found that

50 percent journalists are not satisfied to their salary and other facilities. That study was based on the interview of Journalists of 67 dailies published from six divisions including Dhaka. That study showed 68% pressmen felt disappointed being connected with journalism profession [5]. Consequently, the researcher has designed this present study. The aim of this study was to explore a survey in the northern divisions of Bangladesh to know the prospects and challenges of Journalism in northern Bangladesh.

Research Questions: What are the prospects and challenges of journalism in the northern divisions in Bangladesh?

2 Objective

? To determine the prospects and challenges of the journalists in the northern divisions of Bangladesh.

II.

3 Methodology

This prospective cross-sectional study was conducted in the northern divisions of Bangladesh during June 2021 to June 2022. The ethical clearance of this study was obtained from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Shikkabarta.com. The purpose and benefits of the study was disclosed to the respondents in local language and written informed consent was taken from the respondents of the study. Purposive sampling method as per inclusion criteria was applied for the study. Samples were selected conveniently according to inclusion and exclusion criteria and availability of cases and a total of 167 male and female journalists aged above 18 years from Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions were enrolled in this study. Both qualitative and quantitative data were applied to find out best possible outcome. A pre structured questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents through face-to-face interview. The collected data were edited, cleaned, entered and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 23.0. Descriptive analysis such as frequencies and mean were used for this study. The result of this study was presented by using tables graphs and pie charts. The inclusion and exclusion criteria of this study were as follows: opportunity in time while 59.88% reported their organization doesn't.28.14% participants reported that the higher authority of their organization recognizes risks and undertake specific mitigation strategies hours while 71.86% reported their organization doesn't.28.14% participants reported that their organization provides transport at news covering time while 71.86% reported their organization doesn't.25.15% participants reported that their organization provides electronic devices while 74.85% reported their organization doesn't. 23.35% participants reported that their organization provides office while 76.65% reported their organization doesn't. 11.98% participants reported that their organization provides insurance support while 88.02% reported their organization doesn't.14.37% participants reported that their organization provides provident fund facility while 85.63% reported their organization doesn't.20.36% participants reported that their organization provides gratuity facility while 79.64% reported their organization doesn't.32.93% participants reported that their family supports regarding their job while 67.07% reported their family doesn't support.60.48% participants feel fear for their physical security while 39.52% reported they doesn't fear.52.69% participants fear for their digital security while 47.31% reported they doesn't fear at all.61.68% participants reported that they had experienced work-related threats while 61.68% reported they didn't.38.32% participants reported that they had experienced digital security threats while 61.68% reported they didn't.41.32% participants reported that they use proper software for the protection of digital communication system while 58.68% reported they doesn't.40.72% participants reported that they took digital security training to keep data safe while 59.26% reported they didn't take any training.53.29% participants were aware of the protection against ICT act while 46.71% were unaware regarding digital security Act. According to the satisfaction level with the salary 2.40% were very satisfied, 43.11% were satisfied, 8.96% were neutral, 33.53% were dissatisfied and 11.96% were very dissatisfied. 47.90% participants' salary were reported below 10 thousand, while 23.95% get a salary between 10 28.14% get more than 20 thousand BDT monthly. According to the satisfaction level with working hour 1.80% were very satisfied, 55.09% were satisfied, 13.17% were neutral, 25.75% were dissatisfied and 4.19% were very dissatisfied. Inclusion criteria a. Age

Among the respondents 49.10% respondents are satisfied followed b 24.55% are neutral dissatisfied, 3.59% are very dissatisfied and 3.59% are very satisfied.

4 Discussion

Once upon a time, journalism was seen as a calling. The media upholds democracy and rights of mass people in the contemporary globe, and it is regarded as the fourth estate of a state to all [6]. Its significance to the Bangladeshi revolution is immense. On the other hand, things have turned around. This is now the standard practice in the commercial world. The journalists in the northern part of Bangladesh confront a lot of difficulties. Due to a lack of Pressures from owners for marketing and profit-making, coupled with government assistance, financial difficulties, low salaries, feudal rule, and historical precedents for these structures, journalists face nowadays. Journalists often raised the issues of low salaries, financial difficulties, and the absence of government assistance. Journalists aren't compensated fairly, and they don't get overtime pay. According to Riaz's (2015) research on the vernacular press, these are the primary economic concerns of local journalists. [7] The present study found that 31.74% participants reported that they got appointment letter from the organization while 68.26% reported they

105 didn't get. 20.36% participants reported that they drowned salary from their organization while 68.26% reported
106 they didn't do that. 20.36% participants reported that their organization pays their salary regularly while 83.23%
107 reported their organization doesn't. 19.16% participants reported that their organization gives allowance for their
108 offspring while 80.84% reported their organization doesn't. 12.57% participants reported that their organization
109 provides insurance while 87.43% reported their organization doesn't. 21.56% participants reported that their
110 organization provides festival allowance while 78.44% reported their organization doesn't. 29.34% participants
111 reported that their organization provides conducive working hours while 70.66% reported their organization
112 doesn't.38.32% participants reported that their organization arranges yearly performance award while 61.68%
113 reported their organization doesn't.75.45% participants reported that they need further professional training
114 and workshop while 24.55% reported they doesn't need.37.72% participants reported that they got performance
115 award while 62.28% reported they didn't get yet.38.32% participants reported that their organization provides
116 relevant training while 61.68% reported their organization doesn't. 40.12% participants reported that their
117 organization provides promotion opportunity in time while 59.88% reported their organization doesn't.28.14%
118 participants reported that the higher authority of their organization recognizes risks and undertake specific
119 mitigation strategies hours while 71.86% reported their organization doesn't. [8][9][10][11][12] The major focus
120 of the study was to explore the relationships of journalists' economic issues and ethical journalism. Concept of
121 political economy suggests that media has © 2022 Global Journals Volume XXII Issue VIII Version I 51 () become
122 industry and political, economic elites used media for their interests (Baran & Davis, 2010 [13]; ??oyd-Barrett,
123 1995;McQuail, 2010). [14] V.

124 5 Limitations of the Study

125 This study was conducted within a short period of time with limited sample size. So, total scenario of prospects
126 and challenges of journalism in the northern divisions of Bangladesh may not depict. Consequently, further study
127 is recommended on a large scale VI.

128 6 Conclusion

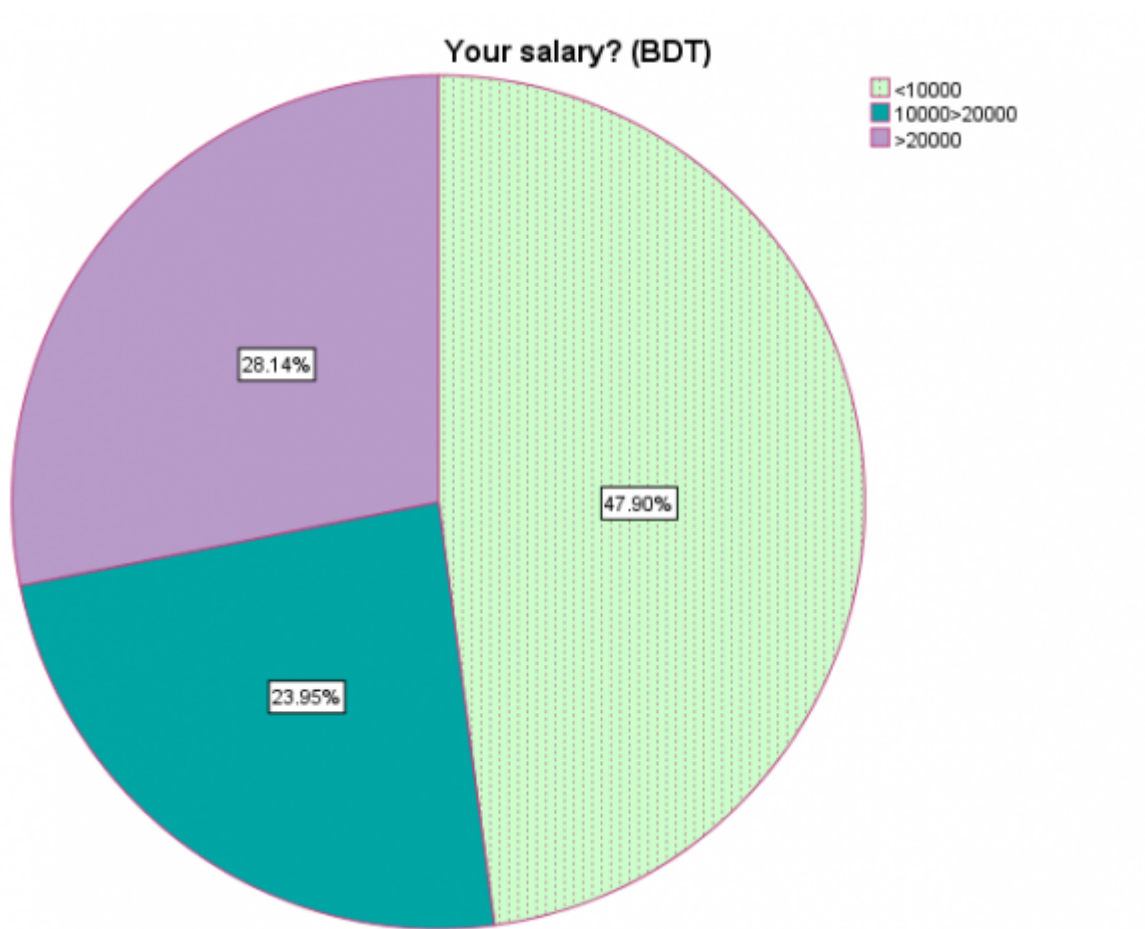
129 This study identifies challenges affecting the Journalism Profession in northern divisions of Bangladesh, such as
130 work instability, risk, poor facilities, and a lack of an appropriate job policy. Despite its shortcomings, the study
131 recommends encouraging and growing journalism in Bangladesh.

132 7 Disclosure Statement

133 None of the authors has any conflicts of interest regarding the content of this article.

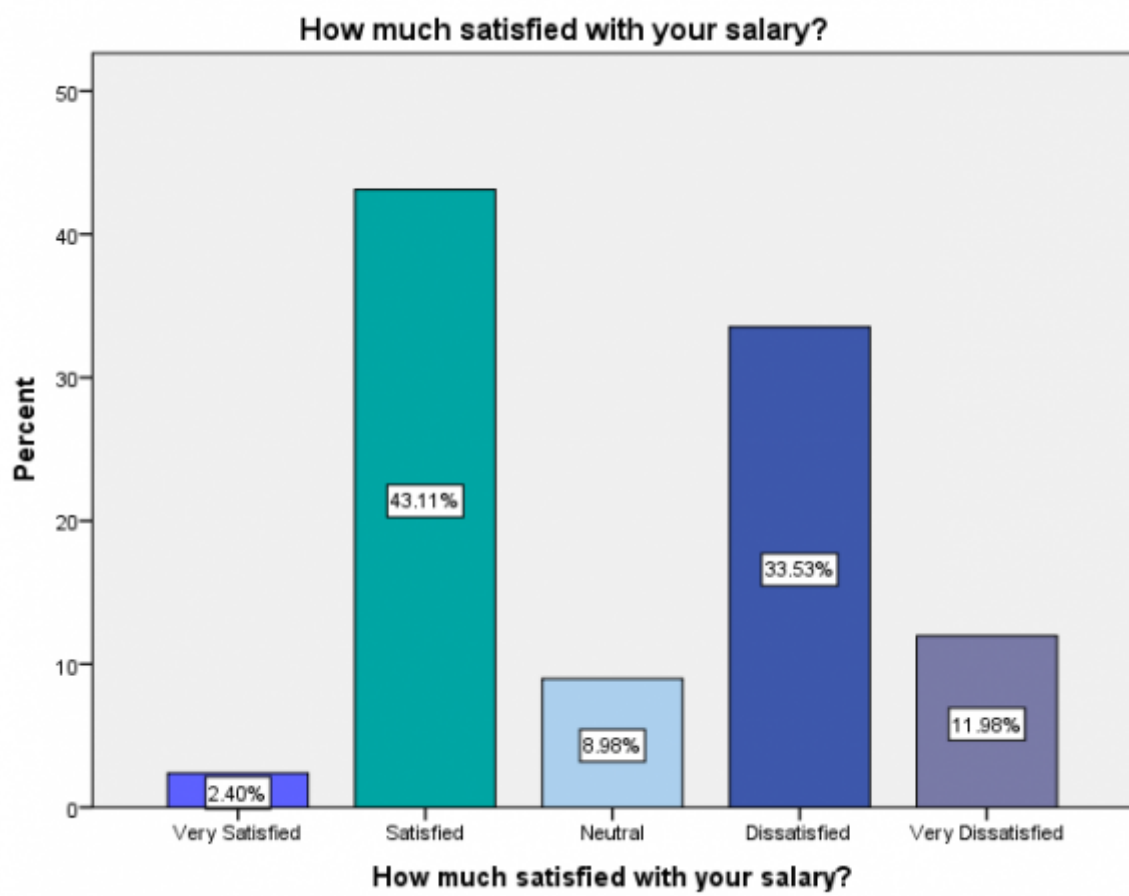
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¹Prospects and Challenges of Journalism in Northern Divisions of Bangladesh: An Exploratory Study



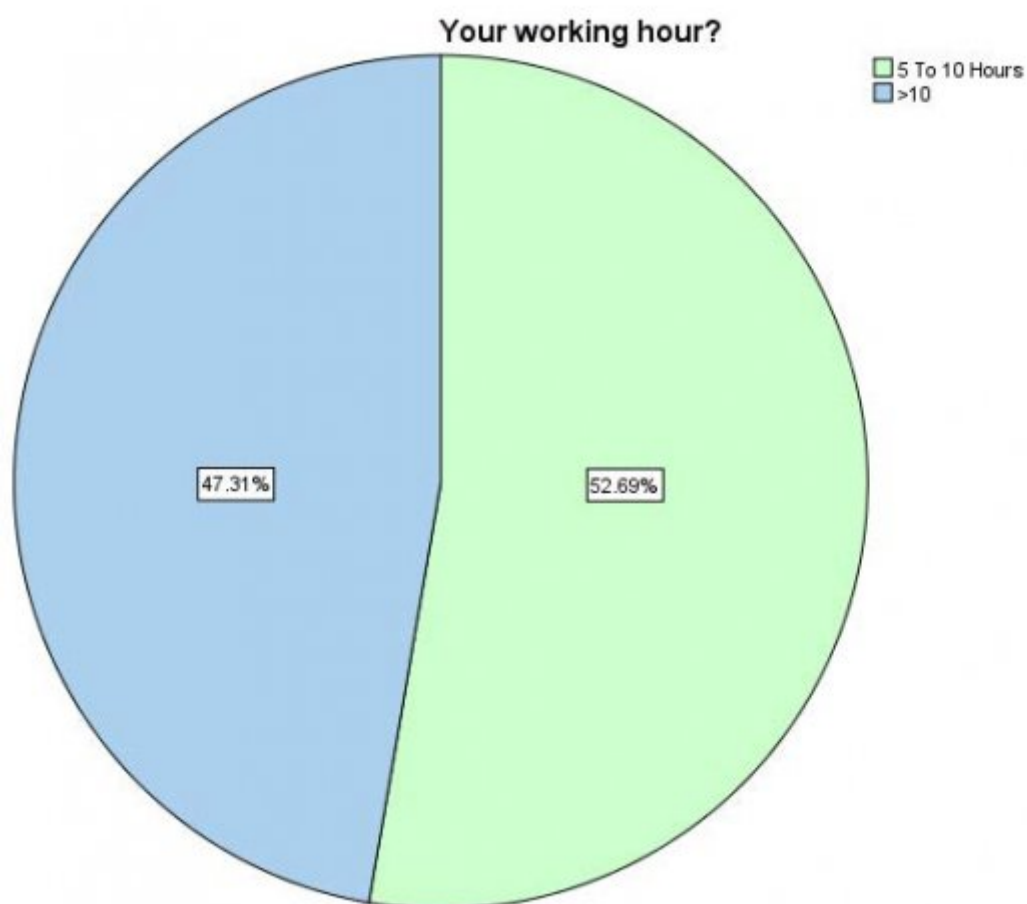
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Figure 1: Figure 1 :Figure 1 :



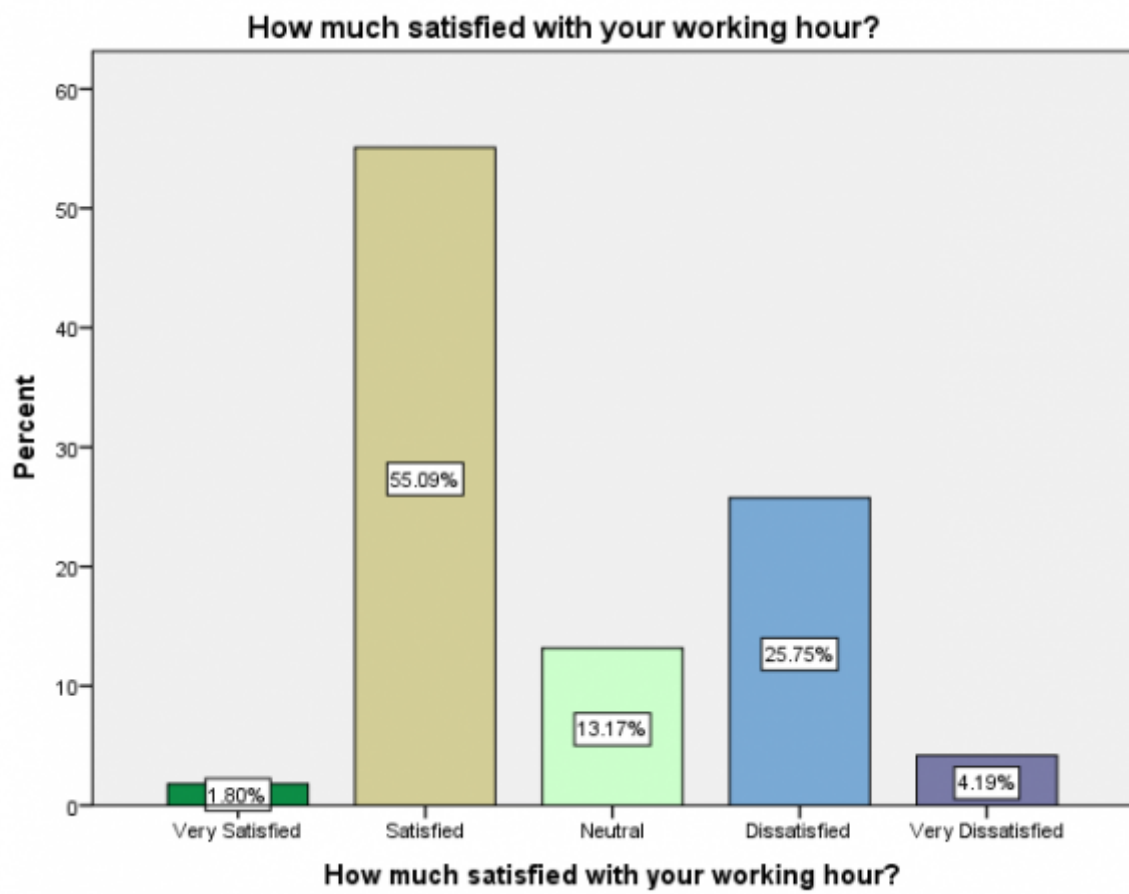
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Figure 2: Figure 2 :



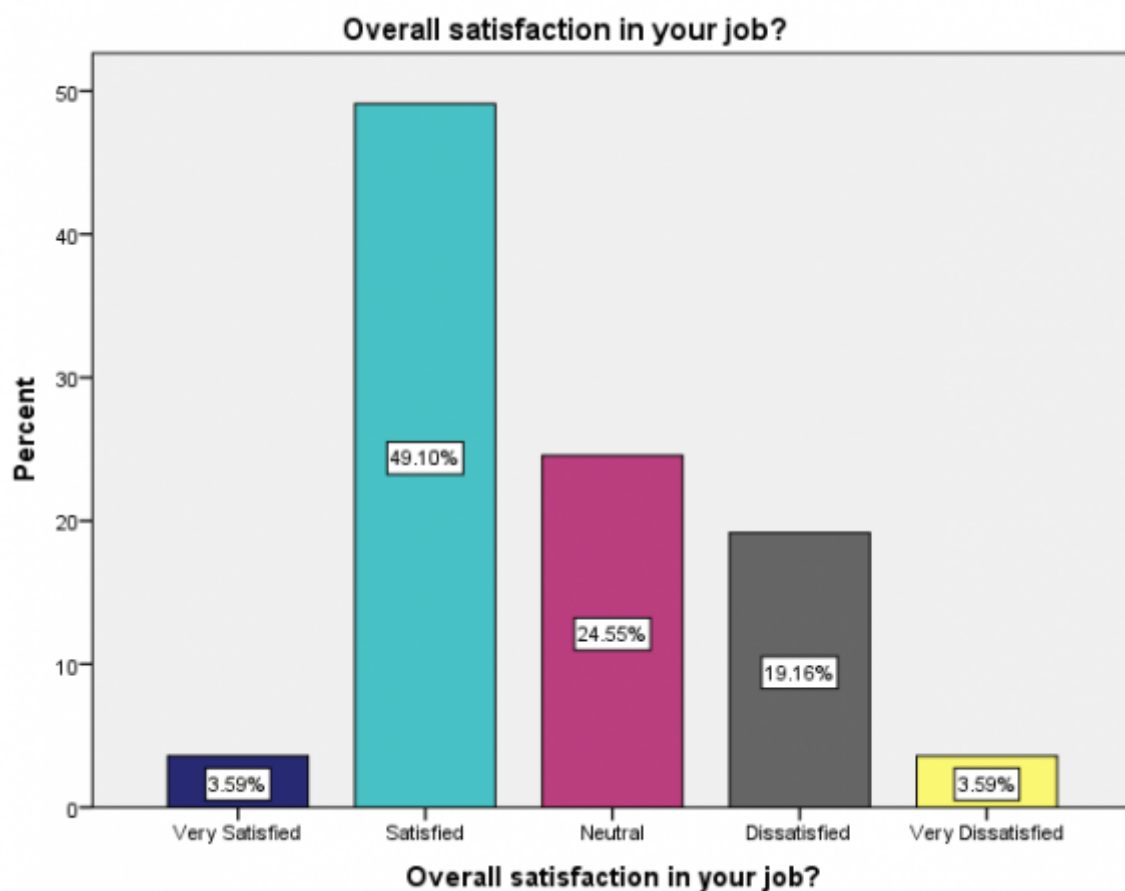
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Figure 3: Figure 2 :



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Figure 4: Figure 3 :



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Figure 5: Figure 3 :

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[Note: >18 years b. Male and Female Journalist c. Physically or mentally able to participate in this study
Exclusion criteria a. Age <18 years b. Unwilling to participate in this study c. Physically or mentally unable to participate in this study Volume XXII Issue VIII Version I (Table 1): Shows the socio-demographic profile of the respondents. Among 167 participants 94.01% were male and 5.99% were female. 25.1% were reported 18 >29 age group, 37.7% were aged 30>39, 29.3% were reported for the age group of 40>49, 6.0% were reported for 50>59 age group and 1.8% were reported 60>69 aged group. According to the religion 92.2% were reported Islam while Hindu were reported 7.8%.According to the education level of the participants S.S.C. was reported 4.8%, H.S.C. was reported 24.0%, Under graduate was reported 50.3% while Post graduate was reported 21.0%.83.2% were reported married while 16.8% were reported unmarried.35.9% had no children, while 16.8% had only one child, 36.5% © 2022 Global Journals Volume XXII Issue VIII Version I]

Figure 6: Table 1 :

2

Service Length	Frequency (n)	Percent (%)
1>5	25	15.0
6>10	55	32.9
11>15	23	13.8
16>20	17	10.2
21>25	30	18.0
26>30	8	4.8
31>35	9	5.4
Total	167	100.0
(

Figure 7: Table 2 :

2

According to the service length 1 to 5 years was reported 15.0%, 6 to 10 years was reported 32.9%, 11 to 15 years was reported 13.8%, 16 to 20 years was reported 10.2%, 21 to 25 years was reported 18.0%, 26 to 30 years was reported 4.8% and 31 to 35 years was reported 5.4%.

Figure 8: Table 2)

3

Variables

Figure 9: Table 3 :

4

Opinion Frequency (n) Percent (%)

[Note: 48()]

Figure 10: Table 4 :

.1 Acknowledgement

- All the Presidents and the Secretaries of Local Press Clubs of Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions of Bangladesh.
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