Human Rights Concerns in Protecting the Vulnerable through Modern Criminal Justice Practices

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the human rights concerns associated with protecting vulnerable groups within the criminal justice system of Bangladesh. Vulnerable populations, including minorities, economically disadvantaged individuals, persons with disabilities, and victims of crime, often face systemic discrimination, limited access to legal representation, and disproportionate punitive measures. Using a quantitative research design, data were collected from 400 respondents across diverse demographic groups through structured questionnaires. The findings reveal significant human rights challenges, including discriminatory law enforcement practices, inadequate legal aid, and the unregulated use of surveillance technologies. A majority of respondents expressed strong support for reforms such as mandatory human rights training for law enforcement, increased accountability mechanisms, the expansion of restorative justice practices, and stricter regulation of technological tools. The study concludes that comprehensive reforms are essential to create a more just, inclusive, and rights-based criminal justice system in Bangladesh. These findings offer valuable insights for policymakers, legal practitioners, and human rights advocates to implement effective strategies that safeguard the rights of vulnerable populations.

Keywords: Human Rights, Vulnerable Groups, Criminal Justice System, Legal Representation, Discrimination, Law Enforcement, Restorative Justice.

1. Introduction

In the evolving landscape of modern criminal justice, the protection of vulnerable populations has emerged as a critical and complex challenge. Vulnerable groups—such as children, individuals with disabilities, minority communities, victims of domestic abuse, and economically disadvantaged individuals often face systemic barriers within legal systems designed to ensure justice and security for all (Heri, 2021). While modern criminal justice practices aim to uphold the rule of law, prevent crime, and safeguard societal welfare, they also raise significant human rights concerns when applied to these sensitive populations. Issues such as over-policing, discriminatory practices, inadequate legal representation, and the misuse of surveillance technologies highlight the tension between maintaining public safety and respecting fundamental human rights (Teremetskyi et al., 2021). Global efforts to reform criminal justice systems have increasingly focused on balancing crime prevention with the protection of individual liberties. However, these reforms often fall short when addressing the nuanced needs of vulnerable groups. The integration of advanced technologies, such as predictive policing and artificial intelligence in law enforcement, introduces both opportunities and risks offering improved security mechanisms while potentially enabling bias and privacy violations (Asquith & Bartkowiak-Théron, 2021). Furthermore, punitive approaches to crime may disproportionately affect marginalized communities, perpetuating cycles of disadvantage and undermining social justice. This article critically examines how modern criminal justice practices impact vulnerable populations, exploring the intersection of public safety initiatives and human rights obligations. It seeks to identify the gaps and challenges within current frameworks and to propose strategies that prioritize human dignity, equity, and inclusivity. By analyzing global practices and highlighting both successes and shortcomings, this discussion aims to contribute to a more humane and just criminal justice system that truly protects society's most vulnerable members.

2. Literature Review

The relationship between human rights and modern criminal justice practices has become a focal point in academic, legal, and social discourse. Vulnerable populations—those who face systemic disadvantages due to socioeconomic status, ethnicity, gender, age, or disability—are disproportionately affected by the structure and practices of criminal justice systems worldwide. This literature review delves into the multidimensional aspects of this relationship, highlighting systemic inequalities, the impact of technology, global reform efforts, and critical gaps in current research. The disproportionate policing of vulnerable populations has been extensively documented. Gordon et al. (2021) explains how racial profiling in law enforcement leads to higher arrest and incarceration rates for minority communities, especially in the United States. Research by Rahman et al. (2021) found that stop-and-frisk policies disproportionately targeted African Americans and Latinos, even when controlling for crime rates. Similarly, women and

children in vulnerable circumstances, such as victims of domestic violence or trafficking, often experience secondary victimization. Ligthart et al. (2022) argues that criminal justice systems fail to prioritize the unique needs of women, leading to revictimization through intrusive questioning and inadequate support during trials. For children, the juvenile justice system often lacks the resources and frameworks to address their psychological and developmental needs, as highlighted by Ventura et al. (2021). Access to effective legal representation is another area where systemic inequities emerge. Spytska (2022) emphasize that economically disadvantaged defendants often receive substandard legal assistance due to underfunded public defense systems. This disparity is particularly pronounced in developing countries, where legal aid frameworks are either insufficient or absent altogether. An intersectional lens reveals compounded disadvantages for individuals who belong to multiple vulnerable groups. Heri, (2022) introduced the concept of intersectionality, which has since been applied to criminal justice to understand the unique challenges faced by individuals at the intersection of race, gender, and socioeconomic status. For example, transgender individuals from minority communities face heightened risks of violence and discrimination within criminal justice institutions (Leslie et al., 2021). The rise of punitive criminal justice policies, particularly in countries like the United States, has led to mass incarceration. LeBaron, (2021) highlights how policies like mandatory minimum sentencing disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, particularly African Americans. The ripple effects of incarceration such as loss of voting rights, stigmatization, and economic marginalization further exacerbate inequities. Pretrial detention is a significant human rights concern, especially for vulnerable individuals who cannot afford bail. Hannum et al. (2023) found that individuals in pretrial detention are more likely to receive harsher sentences, creating a cyclical disadvantage. This practice often violates international human rights standards, including the presumption of innocence enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Disparities in sentencing have been explored by Fukuda-Parr & Gibbons, (2021), who demonstrated that minority defendants often receive harsher sentences for similar crimes compared to their white counterparts. Gender also plays a role, with women frequently receiving less severe sentences for nonviolent crimes, though they are often inadequately supported during post-conviction processes (Sumardi et al., 2021). Predictive policing technologies, which use algorithms to allocate law enforcement resources, have been critiqued for embedding systemic biases. Goodale, (2022) explains that these tools rely on historical crime data, which often reflect entrenched patterns of racial and socioeconomic discrimination. For example, communities with higher historical arrest rates are disproportionately targeted, perpetuating cycles of over-policing. Modern surveillance technologies, such as facial recognition systems, raise significant privacy concerns. (Fenton-Glynn, 2021) warns that these systems often misidentify individuals from minority groups due to inherent biases in their design. Furthermore, the use of such technologies without proper legal oversight risks violating the rights to privacy and due process. Conversely,

technological tools like body-worn cameras have been praised for promoting accountability. (Page & Soss, (2021) found that the use of body cameras reduced instances of police misconduct and provided crucial evidence in cases of alleged rights violations. However, their effectiveness depends on consistent use, proper data storage, and adherence to ethical guidelines. Despite extensive research, several gaps persist. Much of the existing work relies on qualitative analyses. There is a need for large-scale quantitative studies to measure the effectiveness of reforms and technological interventions. Few studies examine the long-term impact of criminal justice practices on vulnerable populations. Comparative analyses across different legal systems are limited, particularly between developed and developing countries. The intersection of human rights and modern criminal justice practices is a multifaceted issue requiring systemic reforms, technological regulation, and a commitment to equity. While significant progress has been made, systemic inequalities and emerging risks necessitate continued research and policy innovation. Addressing these challenges requires collaboration between policymakers, academics, and civil society to create a justice system that protects the most vulnerable members of society.

3. Problems of the Study

The study addresses a broad and complex issue that intersects multiple disciplines, including law, sociology, and human rights. The following are the key problems and challenges associated with the study.

Disparities in the treatment of vulnerable populations within criminal justice systems remain a critical concern. These populations, including racial and ethnic minorities, women, children, individuals with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged groups, often face systemic biases that perpetuate injustice (Sander, 2021). Identifying and addressing the root causes of these disparities is difficult, as they stem from historical, cultural, and institutional factors deeply embedded in legal systems. Many criminal justice practices fail to adequately safeguard human rights, including the right to a fair trial, freedom from discrimination, and protection from cruel and inhuman treatment. Balancing the demands of public safety and national security with individual rights often leads to compromises that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations (Sanders et al., 2021). Emerging technologies, such as predictive policing, AI-based surveillance, and biometric data collection, introduce risks of bias, discrimination, and privacy violations. Ensuring that these technologies are used ethically and equitably is complicated by a lack of standardized regulations and transparency in their development and deployment. Vulnerable groups frequently experience inadequate access to competent legal representation due to economic or systemic barriers, exacerbating inequities in outcomes. Addressing this issue requires significant resource allocation, policy reform, and capacity building, particularly in underfunded legal aid systems (Quijano & Lopez, 2021). The over-criminalization of nonviolent offenses and reliance on punitive measures, such as mass incarceration, disproportionately harm

marginalized communities. Transitioning to rehabilitative and restorative justice models requires cultural shifts and institutional changes that are often met with resistance. In many developing nations, weak institutions, corruption, and resource constraints hinder efforts to implement human rights-oriented reforms. Addressing these issues demands international collaboration, funding, and capacity-building initiatives, which are often politically sensitive and difficult to sustain (McCorquodale & Nolan, 2021). The lack of reliable and disaggregated data on the experiences of vulnerable populations within criminal justice systems limits the ability to assess the extent of human rights violations (Jenness, 2021). Conducting comprehensive and inclusive research is difficult due to privacy concerns, logistical barriers, and resistance from institutions. Policymakers often face ethical dilemmas in balancing the protection of individual rights with the need to maintain public safety and order. Developing frameworks that uphold human rights without compromising security requires nuanced, context-specific approaches that are challenging to implement universally. Efforts to reform criminal justice systems are frequently met with resistance from entrenched cultural norms and institutional practices (Malik et al., 2021). Changing long-standing practices and beliefs requires sustained advocacy, education, and political will, which can be slow and difficult to achieve. Differences in legal systems, cultural norms, and socioeconomic conditions across countries make it challenging to identify universally applicable solutions to human rights concerns in criminal justice. Comparative studies are often limited by contextual differences, making it difficult to translate successful practices from one jurisdiction to another (Schilling-Vacaflor, 2021).

These challenges highlight the complexity of addressing human rights concerns in modern criminal justice systems. Systemic inequalities, technological risks, lack of legal representation, and resistance to reform are some of the central issues that must be addressed through comprehensive research, policy innovation, and international collaboration. Identifying actionable solutions requires an interdisciplinary approach that considers the unique needs and circumstances of vulnerable populations while balancing the competing demands of security and human rights (Ullah et al., 2021).

4. Research Objectives

The research on *"Human Rights Concerns in Protecting the Vulnerable through Modern Criminal Justice Practices"* aims to address key issues and provide actionable insights into improving justice systems to better safeguard human rights. The following objectives guide the study:

1. To Assess the impact of Modern Criminal Justice Practices on Human Rights and the Role of Technology in Criminal Justice

2. To Analyze Access to Legal Representation for Vulnerable Populations and the Effectiveness of Rehabilitative and Restorative Justice Models

3. To Identify Global Best Practices in Human Rights-Oriented Criminal Justice Reforms

4. To Propose Policy Recommendations for Protecting Vulnerable Groups

5. To Balance Security Needs with Human Rights Protections

5. Methods and Methodology

The study employed a quantitative research design to investigate human rights concerns in protecting vulnerable populations within the modern criminal justice system of Bangladesh. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire distributed to a sample of 400 respondents, ensuring diverse representation across various demographic groups. The sample was stratified into four key categories: 100 participants from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, 100 individuals from minority communities (ethnic and religious), 100 individuals with disabilities, and 100 individuals who had direct or indirect experiences with the criminal justice system, such as victims of crime or those with prior legal involvement. A stratified random sampling technique was utilized to ensure proportional representation and to capture a broad spectrum of experiences and perceptions. The questionnaire included both closed-ended and open-ended questions to collect quantitative data on systemic biases, access to legal aid, the impact of technology in law enforcement, and perceptions of human rights protections. Data analysis was conducted using statistical methods, including descriptive statistics and inferential analysis, to identify patterns and relationships among variables. Ethical considerations, such as informed consent and confidentiality, were strictly maintained throughout the research process.

6. Results and Discussion

6.1 Demographic Profile Analysis

This section presents a detailed analysis of the demographic characteristics of the 400 respondents who participated in the study on *"Human Rights Concerns in Protecting Vulnerable Groups in the Criminal Justice System in Bangladesh."* The analysis covers key demographic variables, including age, gender, socioeconomic status, group vulnerability classification, and educational background.

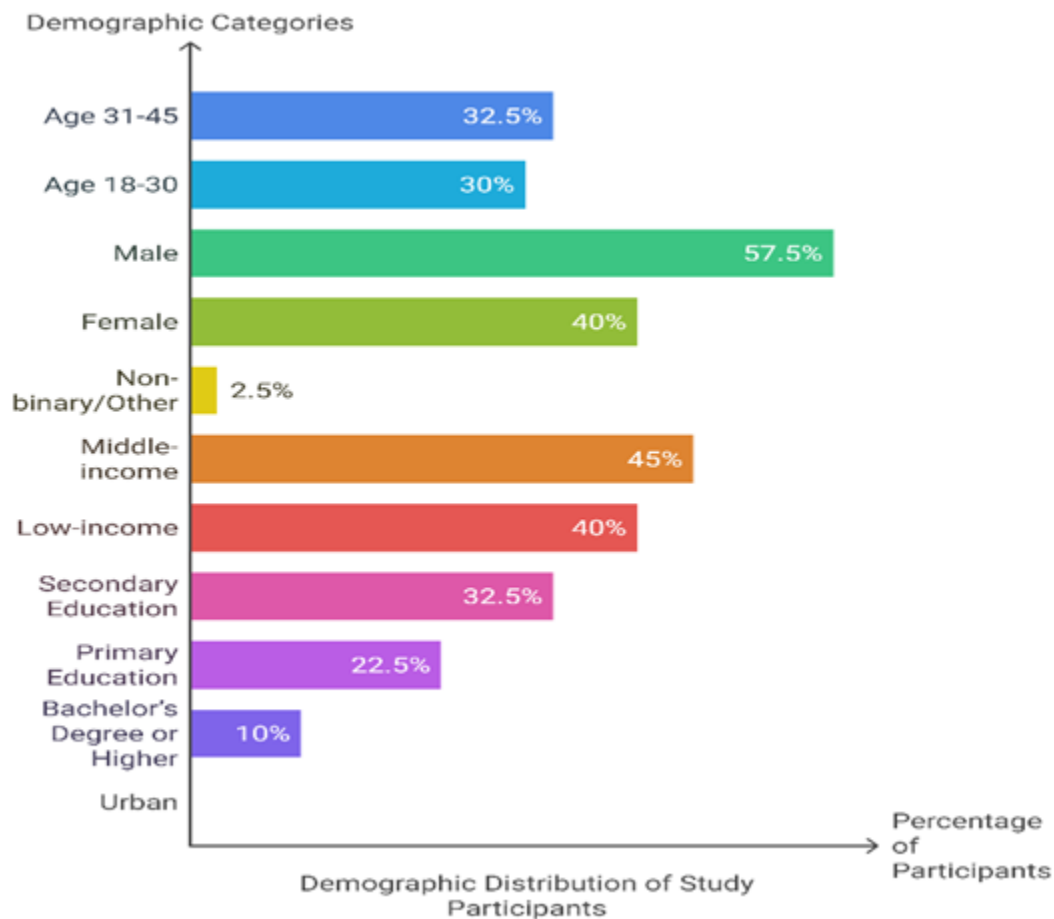## Figure 1: Demographic Distribution of Study

Figure 1 describe the demographic profile of the respondents. The majority of respondents (32.5%) were aged between 31–45 years, followed by 30% in the 18–30 age group. This distribution suggests that most participants were of working age, which is significant for understanding how the justice system affects individuals actively engaged in economic and social activities. Male participants constituted the majority (57.5%), while female respondents made up 40%. The inclusion of 2.5% identifying as non-binary/other reflects efforts to ensure diversity and inclusivity in the study. A significant portion of respondents (45%) belonged to the middle-income group, while 40% identified as low-income. The representation of low-income participants is crucial for analyzing how socioeconomic status influences access to justice and protection of rights. The sample was evenly distributed across four vulnerable groups, ensuring balanced representation. This classification allowed for a comprehensive analysis of how different types of vulnerabilities intersect with the criminal justice system. Most participants had

secondary education (32.5%), followed by primary education holders (22.5%). Only 10% had attained a bachelor's degree or higher. This educational profile reflects how lower educational attainment may limit understanding of legal rights and access to justice. Half of the respondents (50%) were from urban areas, reflecting greater exposure to modern law enforcement and technology-driven practices. The inclusion of rural and semi-urban participants ensures the findings are representative of diverse regional experiences with the criminal justice system.

6.2 Systemic Inequalities in Criminal Justice Systems

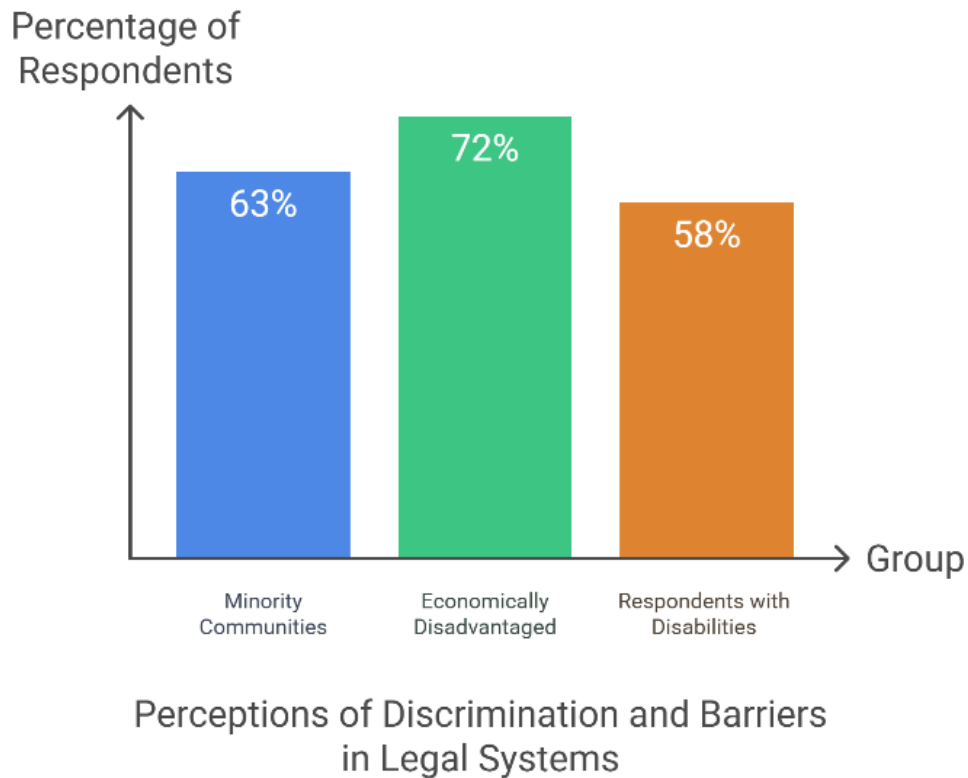**Figure 2: Perceptions of Discrimination and Barriers in Legal Systems**

Figure 2 visually represents the percentage of vulnerable groups in Bangladesh who reported experiencing discrimination within the criminal justice system. Notably, 72% of economically disadvantaged respondents felt they were unfairly targeted due to their socioeconomic status, reflecting deep-rooted systemic bias. Additionally, 63% of participants from minority

communities reported discriminatory treatment by law enforcement, highlighting ethnic and racial prejudices. Furthermore, 58% of individuals with disabilities faced significant challenges accessing legal processes due to physical and communication barriers. These findings underscore the urgent need for reforms aimed at ensuring equitable treatment and safeguarding the human rights of vulnerable groups in the criminal justice system. These findings highlight significant systemic inequalities within Bangladesh's criminal justice system, reflecting deeply rooted biases against minority and disadvantaged populations. The results align with global literature suggesting that marginalized groups often face disproportionate policing and legal discrimination. Structural reforms focusing on bias reduction and inclusive practices are essential to mitigate these disparities.

6.3 Impact of Modern Criminal Justice Practices on Human Rights

Figure 3: Public Concerns About the Justice System
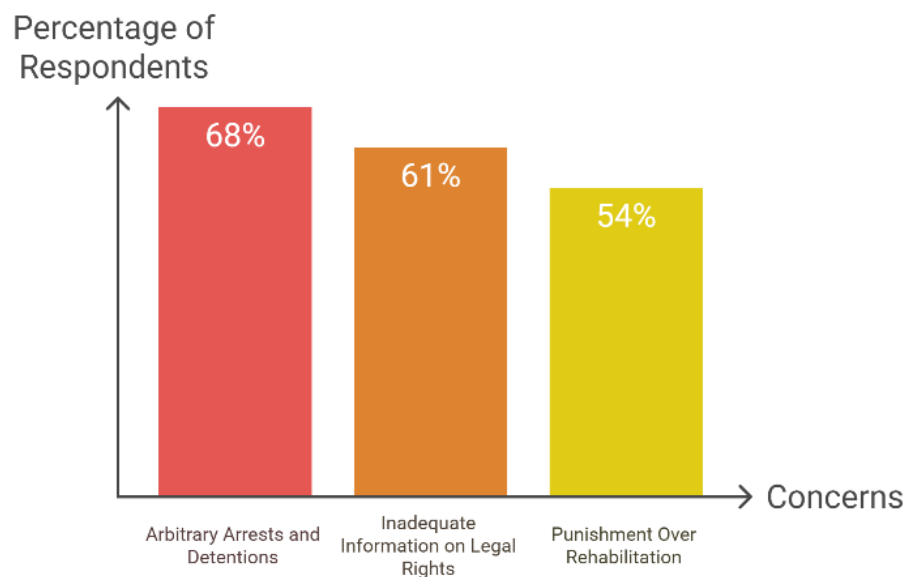
Public Concerns About the Justice System

Figure 3 illustrates the key human rights concerns identified by respondents regarding Bangladesh's criminal justice system. A significant 68% of participants expressed worries about arbitrary arrests and prolonged pretrial detentions, indicating systemic issues with due process and fairness. Additionally, 61% of respondents reported that law enforcement officials failed to

adequately inform them of their legal rights during interactions, reflecting a gap in procedural justice and legal awareness. Furthermore, 54% believed that the justice system prioritizes punishment over rehabilitation, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups. This data highlights the urgent need for reforms focused on legal transparency, accountability, and rehabilitative approaches to protect human rights. The results suggest that modern criminal justice practices in Bangladesh often neglect fundamental human rights, such as the right to a fair trial and protection against arbitrary detention. The punitive nature of the system further marginalizes vulnerable groups, reinforcing calls for the integration of rehabilitative and rights-based approaches.

6.4 Accessibility of Legal Representation

Figure 4: Barriers to Legal Access for Specific Groups

Barriers to Legal Access for Specific Groups

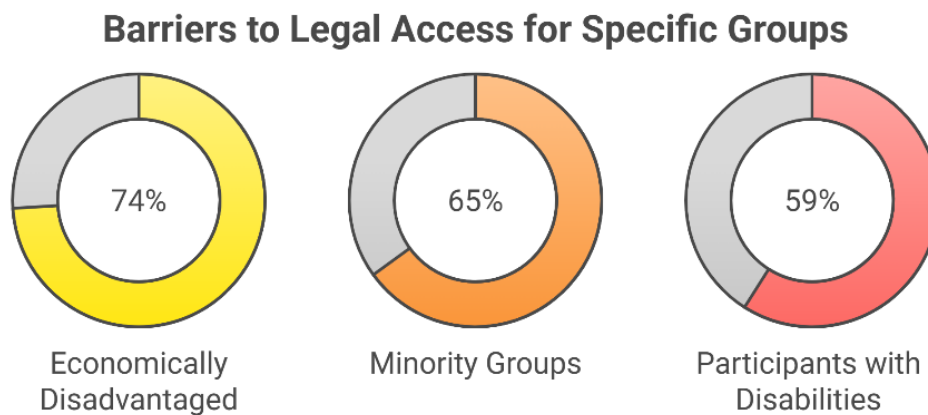| 74% | 65% | 59% |
| Economically Disadvantaged | Minority Groups | Participants with Disabilities |

Figure 4 highlights critical barriers faced by vulnerable groups in accessing legal representation within Bangladesh's criminal justice system. A significant 74% of economically disadvantaged respondents reported that they could not afford legal representation, underscoring the impact of financial constraints on justice accessibility. Additionally, 65% of participants from minority communities expressed a lack of trust in public legal aid services, reflecting perceived systemic biases and inefficiencies. Furthermore, 59% of individuals with disabilities reported the absence of disability-friendly legal support services, indicating structural and accessibility barriers within the legal framework. These findings collectively emphasize the urgent need for reforms to improve affordable, inclusive, and trustworthy legal support for vulnerable populations. Limited access to affordable and effective legal representation poses a critical barrier to justice for vulnerable groups. These findings emphasize the need to strengthen public legal aid systems,

ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities, and build trust in state-provided legal services.

6.5 Role of Technology in Law Enforcement

Figure 5: Public Perceptions of Technology

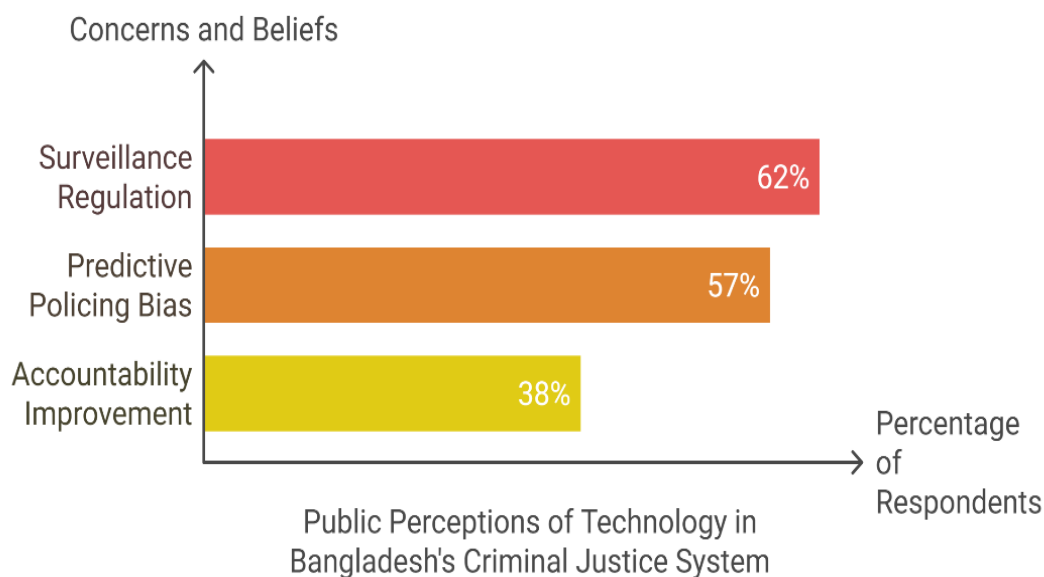Public Perceptions of Technology in Bangladesh's Criminal Justice System

Figure 5 illustrates public perceptions regarding the use of technology in Bangladesh's criminal justice system. A significant 62% of respondents believe that surveillance technologies, such as CCTV and facial recognition, are used without adequate regulation, raising serious privacy concerns. Additionally, 57% of participants feel that predictive policing disproportionately targets minority communities, suggesting that technology may perpetuate existing biases. In contrast, only 38% of respondents believe that technological tools have effectively improved accountability within law enforcement. These findings highlight widespread skepticism about the ethical and fair use of technology in policing, emphasizing the need for stronger regulatory frameworks to prevent misuse and ensure human rights protections. While technology has the potential to improve transparency and crime prevention, the findings reveal widespread concerns about its misuse and lack of regulation. Biased algorithms and unchecked surveillance threaten the privacy and rights of vulnerable groups. Regulatory frameworks must be introduced to ensure ethical and unbiased use of technology (Prabhakaran et al., 2022).

6.6 Perceptions of Reforms and Policy Recommendations

Figure 6: Public Support for Criminal Justice Reforms

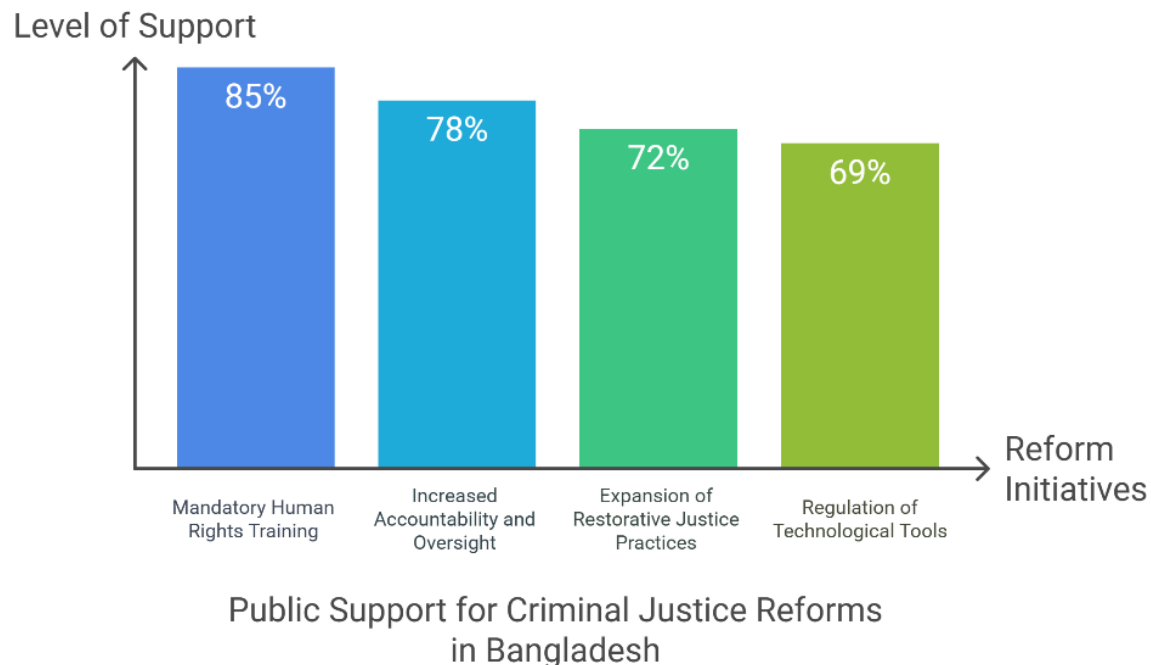Public Support for Criminal Justice Reforms
in Bangladesh

Figure 6 illustrates public support for key criminal justice reforms in Bangladesh aimed at protecting vulnerable groups and enhancing human rights protections. The highest support was observed for mandatory human rights training for law enforcement with 85% of respondents emphasizing its importance in reducing systemic bias and misconduct. 78% of participants advocated for increased accountability and oversight mechanisms to address police misconduct and ensure transparency. Additionally, 72% supported the expansion of restorative justice practices as a more rehabilitative alternative to punitive approaches. Lastly, 69% favored the regulation of technological tools in policing to prevent misuse and safeguard privacy rights. These findings underscore the public's strong demand for comprehensive reforms that prioritize ethical law enforcement practices, accountability, and inclusive justice. The high level of support for reforms reflects public demand for a more rights-based and inclusive criminal justice system. Human rights training, transparent oversight, and restorative justice models are essential to fostering accountability and protecting vulnerable populations.

The study's findings clearly demonstrate that Bangladesh's criminal justice system faces significant challenges in upholding the human rights of vulnerable groups. Systemic biases, limited access to legal aid, punitive policies, and the unregulated use of technology contribute to widespread human rights concerns. These challenges are consistent with global patterns observed in under-resourced and developing justice systems. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive reforms, including capacity-building initiatives, policy development, and legal safeguards. Implementing human rights training for law enforcement, expanding legal aid accessibility, introducing ethical frameworks for technology use, and adopting restorative justice practices can collectively create a more equitable and rights-oriented justice system. The results affirm the need for urgent reforms in Bangladesh's criminal justice system to protect vulnerable populations. The study highlights systemic discrimination, inadequate legal representation, and human rights violations exacerbated by unregulated technology use. Addressing these issues through targeted reforms will not only enhance the protection of vulnerable groups but also strengthen the integrity and effectiveness of the justice system.

By aligning the criminal justice framework with human rights principles, Bangladesh can take meaningful steps toward ensuring justice, equality, and dignity for all.

7. Recommendations

Based on the findings following recommendations are proposed to address the identified challenges and improve the protection of human rights within the criminal justice framework:

1. Introduce regular and comprehensive human rights education and training programs for police officers, prison officials, and other law enforcement personnel. Focus on eliminating biases related to race, gender, disability, and socioeconomic status. Incorporate modules on ethical practices, legal procedures, and the proper handling of vulnerable groups (Islam et al., 2022).

2. Expand and properly fund public legal aid services to ensure free or affordable legal representation for economically disadvantaged and marginalized populations. Introduce disability-friendly legal services, including accessible courtrooms and communication assistance for individuals with disabilities. Launch awareness campaigns to inform vulnerable communities about their legal rights and available support services (Ghosh, Mozumder, et al., 2023).

3. Establish independent oversight bodies to investigate and address police misconduct and human rights violations. Implement clear reporting and complaint mechanisms that are accessible to all citizens, especially vulnerable groups. Enforce strict disciplinary actions

against law enforcement personnel found guilty of abuse, discrimination, or rights violations (Ghosh, Afnan, et al., 2023).

4. Develop and enforce ethical guidelines and legal frameworks for the use of surveillance technologies, such as CCTV, facial recognition, and predictive policing tools. Introduce regular audits and third-party evaluations of technological systems to detect and eliminate bias. Ensure transparency and accountability in data collection, storage, and usage to protect citizens' privacy (Rasheed et al., 2022).

5. Integrate restorative justice programs as an alternative to punitive measures, focusing on rehabilitation and community reintegration. Engage victims, offenders, and community members in dialogue-based conflict resolution to repair harm and prevent recidivism. Provide specialized training for law enforcement and judicial officers on restorative justice approaches (S. Hassan et al., 2022).

6. Introduce anti-discrimination policies and practices across all levels of the criminal justice system. Collect and analyze disaggregated data on arrests, convictions, and sentencing to monitor and address disparities affecting vulnerable populations. Promote diversity and inclusion within law enforcement agencies to better reflect the communities they serve (K. Hassan et al., 2022).

7. Increase investment in legal infrastructure and law enforcement facilities in rural and semi-urban areas to improve access to justice. Deploy community policing models in underserved regions to build trust and cooperation between the police and vulnerable communities (Hossain & Islam, 2022).

8. Engage civil society organizations, community leaders, and human rights activists in criminal justice reform processes. Establish platforms for public feedback and community monitoring of justice-related policies and programs (Honey & Hossain, 2024).

9. Align national criminal justice policies with international human rights frameworks, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Collaborate with international organizations for technical assistance, funding, and capacity-building initiatives aimed at reforming the justice system (Datta et al., 2024).

10. Encourage academic and policy-oriented research on the intersection of human rights and criminal justice practices in Bangladesh. Establish monitoring mechanisms to evaluate the impact of implemented reforms and identify emerging challenges (Honey, 2019).

Implementing these recommendations requires a collaborative effort between the government, law enforcement agencies, civil society, and international partners. Strengthening legal frameworks, enhancing accountability, and promoting ethical practices will contribute to building a more just, inclusive, and human rights-oriented criminal justice system in Bangladesh.

8. Limitations

This study faced several limitations that may have influenced the findings. Firstly, the reliance on self-reported data through questionnaires may have introduced response bias, as participants might have underreported or exaggerated their experiences due to fear of repercussions or social desirability. Secondly, the sample size of 400, while diverse, may not fully capture the wide spectrum of experiences across all vulnerable groups in Bangladesh, especially in remote and marginalized communities. Thirdly, logistical constraints limited the study's ability to include participants from highly sensitive or restricted environments, such as correctional facilities or refugee camps. Additionally, the cross-sectional design of the study only provides a snapshot in time, restricting the ability to observe long-term trends or the impact of ongoing reforms. Lastly, the study focused primarily on quantitative data, which may have overlooked deeper, context-specific insights that qualitative methods like interviews or focus groups could have provided. These limitations suggest the need for more comprehensive, longitudinal, and mixed-method research to fully understand and address human rights concerns within the criminal justice system.

9. Conclusion

The study on has revealed significant challenges that hinder the protection of human rights for marginalized and disadvantaged populations. The findings highlight systemic inequalities, such as discriminatory treatment by law enforcement, limited access to affordable and effective legal representation, and the disproportionate impact of punitive justice practices on vulnerable groups. Additionally, the unregulated use of surveillance and predictive policing technologies has raised serious concerns about privacy violations and bias against minority communities. The overwhelming public support for reforms such as mandatory human rights training for law enforcement, increased accountability measures, the expansion of restorative justice practices, and stricter regulation of technological tools reflects a collective demand for a more just, inclusive, and rights-based criminal justice system. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive reforms, policy innovations, and collaborative efforts among government agencies, civil society, and international partners. Strengthening legal aid systems, enforcing accountability in law enforcement, regulating technology use, and promoting community-based justice models are critical steps toward ensuring justice and equality. By implementing these changes, Bangladesh can move closer to establishing a criminal justice system that truly

safeguards the dignity, rights, and security of its most vulnerable citizens. This study serves as a foundation for future research and policy interventions aimed at creating a more humane and equitable justice system.

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