



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY LAW JOURNAL

Vol. XI

June 2023

Articles

Protection of Human Rights in Criminal Justice System: A Study on Preventive Detention in Bangladesh

Laws relating to Prosecution Service in Bangladesh: A Critical Analysis

Development of National Laws and Policies on Free Legal Aid: Welfare States Context

How Lawfare and Public Interest signify in Defending Liberal Standing Rules in Challenging Environmental Decisions : A Study on Australia and Bangladesh

Water Rights and Pollution Prevention in Bangladesh : A Comprehensive Legal Analysis with Reference to Sustainable Development

Protecting Secularism in Bangladesh : A Critique of the Constitutional Unamendability Approach

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Uniform Family Code: A Path for Gender Equality in Bangladesh

Combating Noise Pollution in Bangladesh: Examining the Laws and Policies

Loss of Biodiversity in Bangladesh: A Legal Analysis with Special Reference to Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992

Accountability for Deceptive Advertisement through Celebrities: Exploring Legal Scenario of Bangladesh

Bangladesh's Response to Custodial Torture : A Critical Overview

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The Laws relating to Muslim Women-Initiated Divorce in Bangladesh: An Overview from Right-Based-Approach



FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF RAJSHAHI

Rajshahi University Law Journal, 2023

Volume XI

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ISSN 1991-8976

Rajshahi University Law Journal
Faculty of Law
University of Rajshahi

Volume XI, 2023



Published by
Dean
Faculty of Law
University of Rajshahi
Rajshahi-6205
Bangladesh
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Printed at
Uttoran Offset Printing Press, Rajshahi
Mobile: 01712-101249

Subscription Rates
For Individuals: TK 250.00 USD 30 (without postage)
For Organization: TK 300.00 USD 50 (without postage)

[Published in December 2023]

Rajshahi University Law Journal (RULJ), 2023

Volume XI

Contents

Author's Name	Article	Page
Dr. Mohammad Abdul Hannan	Protection of Human Rights in Criminal Justice System: A Study on Preventive Detention in Bangladesh	1-22
Dr. Md. Abdur Rahim Mia	Laws relating to Prosecution Service in Bangladesh: A Critical Analysis	23-44
Dr. Armin Khatun	Development of National Laws and Policies on Free Legal Aid: Welfare States Context	45-66
Md Atiqur Rahman Md. Mahfuzur Rahman	How Lawfare and Public Interest signify in Defending Liberal Standing Rules in Challenging Environmental Decisions: A Study on Australia and Bangladesh	67-90
Mohammad Imam Hossain Dr. Altaf Hossain	Water Rights and Pollution Prevention in Bangladesh: A Comprehensive Legal Analysis with Reference to Sustainable Development	91-107
Dr. Md. Jashim Ali Chowdhury Md. Abdullah Al Mamun Md. Jahedul Islam	Protecting Secularism in Bangladesh: A Critique of the Constitutional Unamendability Approach	108-131
Dr. Md. Nahidul Islam	Role of Police Relating to Detention of Children and Women in Bangladesh: A Critical Review	132-156
Punam Chakrabarty Debjyoti Sarkar	Uniform Family Code: A Path for Gender Equality in Bangladesh	157-176
Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam	Combating Noise Pollution in Bangladesh: Examining the Laws and Policies	177-192
Dr. Md. Sahal Uddin	Loss of Biodiversity in Bangladesh: A Legal Analysis with Special Reference to Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992	193-206
Dr. Sayeeda Anju	Accountability for Deceptive Advertisement through Celebrities: Exploring Legal Scenario of Bangladesh	207-218
Sharmin Afroj Dr. Asma Bint Shafiq	Bangladesh's Response to Custodial Torture: A Critical Overview	219-241

Md. Tajul Islam	Ensuring Justice towards Victims of Sexual and Domestic Violence through Judicial Activism	242-253
Md. Yamin Rahman Riasat Azmi	Unravelling Defamation: From British India to Present-Day Bangladesh and the Need for Decriminalisation	254-273
Most. Zobaida Sultana Dr. Md. Abdur Rahim Mia	The Laws relating to Muslim Women-Initiated Divorce in Bangladesh: An Overview from Right-Based-Approach	274-293

Rajshahi University Law Journal

ISSN 1991-8976

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Combating Noise Pollution in Bangladesh: Examining the Laws and Policies

Md. Rafiqul Islam*

Abstract: *Now-a-days noise pollution is a burning issue of Bangladesh. Noise pollution is unwanted or excessive sound which is not bearable to the ears of any living creature. Unbearable sound or noise affects people and living creature in different places, ways and forms. It affects on hearing, sleeping, health, behavior and causes of death of peoples and living creature. The Government of Bangladesh has enacted the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act (ECA), 1995 and the Environment Conservation Rules (ECR), 1997 to control environment pollution. The Government has also introduced the Noise Pollution (Control) Rules (NPR), 2006 to prevent noise pollution. The Government has established Environmental Courts under the Bangladesh Environment Court Act (BECA), 2000. However, these initiatives do not seem sufficient in limiting noise pollution in Bangladesh. In this regard, a comprehensive study is necessary to improve the controlling measures of noise pollution. The aim of this article is to focus on the problems of noise pollution in Bangladesh. This article also examines the existing laws, policies and initiatives of Government to control noise pollution in Bangladesh. It also suggests proper measures to limit noise pollution in Bangladesh.*

Keywords: Noise, Pollution, Environment, Environmental Court

1. Introduction

A sound that is loud to a level which is unpleasant to human ears as well as other living creatures causing disturbance is called noise. Poor urban planning, industrial and residential buildings may be a source of noise pollution in the residential areas and outdoor noise is caused by machineries and transportation systems.¹ Other causes of noise pollution in urban areas are musical instruments, vehicles used in transportation of people and goods, use of machineries, constructions

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¹ Leo Marx, *The Machine in the Garden*. New York, Oxford University Press, 1964.

works, explosions and people.² Noise pollution affects on hearing, sleeping, health, behavior and also causes of death of the peoples and living creature.³ It causes of hearing loss and may risk of animals death.⁴ The people of Bangladesh, especially the people of Dhaka city are of high risk for noise pollution.⁵ The problem of conversation, headache, hearing, and heartbeat occurred from noise pollution.⁶ The green light forecast may be use in vehicular traffic system.⁷ The noise pollution may impact on normal lives of the people of metropolitan areas.⁸ The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) may be increased up to 35% by controlling traffic jam only in Dhaka City of Bangladesh.⁹ From the aforesaid discussion it is found that there is no comprehensive study which covers existing laws and concerned authority engaged in controlling noise pollution in Bangladesh.

The study mainly follows documentary analysis method, examines laws, ordinances, rules, Government policies, international instruments, case-laws etc. In view of strengthening the research informal discussion and interviews with different stakeholders such as experts in respective fields, Government officials engaged in controlling noise pollution, journalists, the victims of noise pollution

² Goines L, Hagler L. 'Noise Pollution: A Modern Plague, *Southern Medical Journal*. Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, Vol. 100 (3), 2007, PP. 287-294

³ Münzel T, Schmidt FP, Steven S, Herzog J, Daiber A, Sørensen M (February, 2018), 'Environmental Noise and the Cardiovascular System'. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, Vol. 71 (6), pp. 688-697.

⁴ 'Results and Discussion-Effects-Noise Effect On Wildlife- Noise-Environment-FHWA', available at fhwa.dot.gov, accessed on 15 March 2023.

⁵ Tanjir Ahmed and Taimur Rahman 'Non-Auditory Health Hazard Vulnerability to Noise Pollution: Assessing Public Awareness Gap, *American Journal of Engineering Research (AJER)* e-ISSN: 2320-0847, Volume. 4, Issue-4, 2015, pp. 143-147

⁶ MA Islam, MS Rahman, B Roy and MAM Hossen 'Noise Pollution at Health Care Centers in Mymensingh City of Bangladesh, *Journal of Environmental Science and Natural Resources*. Vol. 9, No. 1, 2016

⁷ D. Singh, S. P. Nigam, V. P. Agrawal, and M. Kumar, 'Vehicular traffic noise prediction using soft computing approach', *Journal of Environment Management*, Vol. 183, 2016, pp. 59-66

⁸ H. Di et al., "Estimation of the quality of an urban acoustic environment based on traffic noise evaluation models," *Appl. Acoust.*, Vol. 141, 2018, pp. 115-124

⁹ S. Chakraborty, "Traffic Congestion in Dhaka City and its Economic Impact," *Dhaka University. J. Bus. Stud.*, Vol. 1, 2016

and other peoples of Bangladesh.¹⁰ The information gathered from the interview has also been logically considered and randomly used in this article. The study also examines the initiatives of Government to control noise pollution and suggests proper measures so as to improve noise pollution controlling mechanisms in Bangladesh.

2. Concept of Noise Pollution

Noise pollution is an unwanted or excessive sound which is not bearable to the ears of any living creature. Encyclopedia Americana defines it as, '*unwanted sound which is pleasant to some ears, may be extremely unpleasant to others, depending on a number of psychological factors.*' It is a mixture of non musical tones.¹¹ Noise may be steady, non-steady, fluctuating, intermittent and impulsive.¹² It may be occurred in different ways and forms such as TV, radio, CD or DVD players, mobile-phone, computer, guitar or drums or other musical instruments, electrical appliances or power tools like drill machine.¹³ Different type of vehicles which is used for carrying goods and peoples such as bus, truck, motorbikes, trains, airplanes etc. and their using horns are also another sources of noise pollution.¹⁴

Noise is measured in decibels. According to the World Health Organization, sound upto 70 decibel is not harmful but any people are at a place for 8 hours daily above 85 decibel sound may be affected by pressure, heart disease, sleep disturbances, and stress. Each and every day noise pollution impacts on millions of people.¹⁵ Noise pollution causes temporary disruption in the natural balance. The children who live near noisy place or streets have been suffer from stress, and may be affected in their memory, attention level, and reading skill.¹⁶ It also

¹⁰ Expert in the field of noise pollution-five persons, Government officials engaged in controlling noise pollution- five persons, Traffic Police- five persons, Victims and general people- five persons, Journalist- five persons and Others- five persons.

¹¹ <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/>, accessed on 15 April 2023.

¹² <http://omnibangla.blogspot.com/2012/06/>, accessed on 12 April 2023

¹³ Tanjir Ahmed and Taimur Rahman 'Non-Auditory Health Hazard Vulnerability to Noise Pollution: Assessing Public Awareness Gap,' *American Journal of Engineering Research (AJER)*, Volume. 4, Issue. 4, 2015, pp. 143-147.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/>, accessed on 15 April 2023

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

impacts on animals navigating, find food, and attract mates. Noise is also a problem for whales and dolphins that live in the ocean.¹⁷

Noise pollution receives less attention than air or water pollution due to it cannot be seen, tested or smell. It has long term impacts on humans, marine life, and terrestrial life and hampers biodiversity. In this regard, I would like to memorize an incident which was happened in front of me during parliament election in 2014. A man about 65 years was standing on the footpath of the main road of Rajshahi City Corporation, Bangladesh. At that time, thousands of Motor bike were crossing the road for election campaign with full honking. The man kept his finger in his two years but he could not able to save him from that loud sound. As a result, he falls down on the footpath and later we came to know he left us. This incident shocked me much and encouraged me to study in this field.

3. Noise Pollution in Bangladesh

Noise pollution is a significant issue in Bangladesh, primarily in urban areas like Dhaka-face high levels sound. However, noise-free environment is peaceful atmosphere to live for living creature. People of Bangladesh are subjected to noise pollution in a number of ways and different forms such as traffic congestion, construction activities, industrial operations, and social events such as celebrations, parties, marriages, etc.¹⁸ This may have adverse effects on public health including hearing impairment and stress related problems including annoyance, stress, sleep disturbance, the cardiovascular and metabolic systems, and cognitive impairment in both adults and children especially the rickshaw-puller, street vendors, traffic police, small shopkeepers' etc.¹⁹

Noise pollution has been increasing day by day with the growing of population and modernisation in Bangladesh. Millions of people are being affected leading to deafness every year due to noise pollution.²⁰ About 30-40% of the patients living in industrial zone, congested traffic areas, near highways or roadside are being affected by noise

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ <http://omnibangla.blogspot.com/2012/06>, accessed on 12 April 2023

¹⁹ Farhad Tuhin, 'Sound pollution - a severe health hazard', *The Daily Star*, 15 November 2008.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

pollution.²¹ According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the average audible limit is 85 decibels; it's almost 95 decibels in different cities of Bangladesh due to continuous and reckless honking. Sometimes, it crosses 105-110 decibels. About 12% of the traffic police have been losses their ability to hear, 15.5% are under trouble hearing on the phone, 19% are unable to hear without loud tone, 34% of them could not even hear each other properly, and 8% are living under the risk of losing their ability to hear permanently as well as yearly 11.7% people of Bangladesh have been losses their hearing due to noise pollution.²² According to, World Health Organization (WHO) the permissible limits of sound is 55 decibels, the noise levels in Dhaka were found to be at least two to three times more noise than acceptable levels. About 80% of noise pollution in different cities originates from vehicles.²³

The shifting duty of a Traffic police is 8(eight) hours daily. However, they have to in duty about 12-16 hours in a day due to insufficient traffic police. About 65% of traffic policemen are facing hearing and sleeping problems due to high noise levels in different cities of Bangladesh.²⁴ According to World Health Organisation, above 65 decibel sound is noise, and up to 75 decibel is painful. In different zones of Bangladesh, the acceptable sound limit is under the Noise Pollution (Control) Rules 2006:²⁵

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² According to the Department of Environment (DoE) (2017), Cited in Majumder Sadrul Hasan 'Sound Pollution in Dhaka Alarmingly High', *The Daily Sun*, 25 May 2021.

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ Rayna SE, Khalequzzaman M, Khan FA, et al, 'An assessment of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for improving the research capacity', *Journal of Global Health Reports*. Vol.5, 2021

²⁵ Schedule 1, *The Noise Pollution (Control) Rules, 2006*

Table-1

Different Zone	Limits in decibel At day time (6 AM- 9 PM)	Limits in decibel At night time (9 PM- 6 AM)
Silent Zone	45	35
Residential Zone	50	40
Mixed Zone	60	50
Commercial Zone	70	60
Industrial Zone	75	70

4. Laws Concerning Noise Pollution in Bangladesh

Noise pollution is an important mode of environmental pollution. So, a few provisions related to environment pollution related laws as well as noise pollution controls related laws are important to reduce noise pollution in Bangladesh. About 200 enactments relating to environment and noise pollution are in Bangladesh among them the basic environmental laws along with some important laws relating to noise pollution are evaluated here:

4.1 The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972

Noise pollution is a violation of our right to life guaranteed under the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972.²⁶ The Government also added an Article 18(A)²⁷ in the constitution by 15th amendment of the constitution in 2015. The signaling of two-stroke motor vehicles caused harsh, shrill, and undue noise, which seriously impaired the audible capacity of the public in *Dr. Mohiuddin Faruquee vs. Bangladesh* case, the court finally recognised a pollution-free environment as a part of the right to life²⁸ and ordered the Government to replace two-stroke motor vehicles with environmentally friendly ones.²⁹

²⁶ Article 32, *The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972*.

²⁷ 'The state shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, biodiversity wet lands, forests and wild life for present and future citizens'. Article 18(A), *The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1972*

²⁸ Article 32, *Ibid*.

²⁹ *Dr. Mohiuddin Faruquee vs Bangladesh*, 55 DLR (2003) 613.

4.2 The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act (ECA), 1995

The primary legislation is the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995 which was introduced to protect environment from pollution in Bangladesh. The Act includes provisions setting standard for air, water, noise, and guidelines. The Department of Environment implements the Act and Director General (DG) has powers to identify and investigate environment issues, close down harmful activities, and declare areas affected by pollution as ecologically critical. According to this Act, any person generally or specially authorized in this behalf by the Director General shall have the right to enter any building or other place at all reasonable times, with such assistance as he considers necessary to seize any equipment, industrial plant, record, register, document or other material that may be used as evidence of the commission of any offence punishable under this Act or rules.³⁰ The provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 shall be followed in conducting any search and seizure.³¹

4.3 The Environment Conservation Rules, 1997

The Government has made the Environment Conservation Rules, 1997³² for the purpose of determining the standards of air, water, sound, soil and other components of the environment. The main function of environmental policy is to reduce, or possibly eliminate, the undesirable effects of a business or overall action on the environment. Another function of environmental policies is to aid in the conservation of natural resources. The Environmental Conservation Rules, 1997 categorized the environment as Green, Orange-A, Orange-B and Red. The rule also mentioned the procedure of taking environmental clearance, ambient standards in relation to water, air, soil, sound and other component of the environment pollution. According to the rule, the validity of an Environmental Clearance Certificate is three years for Green Category and in other cases one year. Each Environmental Clearance Certificate may be renewed at least thirty days before the expiry of its validity period.

³⁰ Section 10(1)(e), *The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act (ECA) 1995*(Act No.1 of 1995).

³¹ Section 10(3), *Ibid.*

³² Section 20, *Ibid.*

4.4 The Noise Pollution (Control) Rules, 2006

The Noise Pollution (Control) Rules 2006 was adopted to reduce noise pollution in Bangladesh. The Rules divided areas, and prescribed noise limits at different time of the day.³³ To arrange any social event, sports tournament, music concert, social gathering in open air spaces need to get permission before three working days from the concerned authorities. The rule also provides obligations to use construction machinery to make building materials in any residential area. The usage of horns is strictly prohibited in silent areas. A motor vehicle is permitted to use up to an 85 decibel sound range. Unnecessary honking, violating such a limit, is an offence under this Rule. There is no restriction to arrange religious events and rites, and important national events and announcements made by government organizations (Taking prior approval). Violation of any provision of the rule is punishable offence i.e imprisonment of 1(one) month and/or a fine up to Tk.5,000/- (Five thousand). For further non-compliance, they may be imprisoned up to 6 months and/or fined up to a sum of Tk. 10,000/- (Ten thousand).³⁴

4.5 The Road Transport Act, 2018

The Road Transport Act provides the rules regarding honking at motor vehicles. The essence is that the government will frame rules for the noise limit which is to be obeyed by the driver.³⁵ The Act lies down that no motor vehicle driver may produce any noise in excess of the noise level.³⁶ The Act also obligates the owner, driver of a motor vehicle, and institutions not to use any honking instrument which crosses the noise limit fixed by the government thereof.³⁷ However, the Act exempts ambulances, civil defences, and other vehicles engaged in the activities of any public importance from such an obligation of noise limit.³⁸ According to the Act for violations of the rules or provisions

³³ Schedule 1, *The Noise Pollution (Control) Rules 2006*

³⁴ *The Noise Pollution (Control) Rules 2006.*

³⁵ Section 45 (1), *The Road Transport Act, 2018 (Act No.47 of 2018).*

³⁶ Section 45(2), *The Road Transport Act, 2018 (Act No.47 of 2018).* Section 45(1) of the said Act provides that the government or any institution or body entrusted by the government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, from time to time, fix the noise limit of a motor vehicle.

³⁷ Section 45 (3),(4), *The Road Transport Act, 2018 (Act No.47 of 2018).*

³⁸ Section 45 (5), *Ibid.*

shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 (three) months, or a fine not exceeding 10 (ten) thousand Taka, or both.³⁹ The Act conferred the power to try the offences on the executive magistrate⁴⁰ under the Mobile Court Act, 2009.⁴¹

4.6 The Penal Code, 1860

Honking horns beyond the prescribed limit may also be an offence if it has been done without any reason. It is to be noted that prolonged honking above 70 decibels cause severe damage to the human ear. Usual honking above 85 decibels is injurious to our hearing capacity. But in the case of prolonged honking above 70 decibels, it causes severe damage to our ears. That's why prolonged honking beyond the prescribed limit, even though not liable under the Road Transport Act, 2018, may be made liable under the Penal Code, 1860. According to the Penal Code 1860, a person commits a public nuisance when they engage in any illegal act or omission that endangers the public, local residents, or occupiers of nearby property, or that inevitably endangers those who may need to use any public rights by inflicting harm, obstructing their use, creating danger, or causing annoyance.⁴² The Penal Code 1860 also provides punishment for such an offence, which may extend to imprisonment of two months.⁴³ Prolonged and continuant horn damage the concentration of public and cause severe annoyance.

4.7 Import Policy Order, 2015-2018

Import Policy Order, 2015-2018 is introduced under the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1950.⁴⁴ According to the order, horn up-to 75 decibel capacity shall be importable and horn above 75 decibel capacity shall be prohibited to import in order to control sound pollution under the Sound Pollution (Control) Rules, 2006.⁴⁵

³⁹ Section 88, *The Road Transport Act, 2018 (Act No.47 of 2018)* (It is laid down that whoever violates the provisions of section 45(2), 45(3), or 45(4) of the Act).

⁴⁰ Section 114, *The Road Transport Act, 2018 (Act No.47 of 2018)*.

⁴¹ Section 59, *The Mobile Court Act, 2009 (Act No.59 of 2009)*.

⁴² Section 268, *The Penal Code, 1860*

⁴³ Section 290, *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ Section 3(1), *The Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1950 (Act No. XXXIX of 1950)*.

⁴⁵ Schedule-1 (11), *The Sound Pollution (Control) Rules, 2006*.

4.8 The Environment Court Act, 2010

The Government of Bangladesh enacted the Environment Court Act, 2010 for speedy disposal of environmental harm related cases. According to the Act the Government has empowered to establish one or more Environment court/s in each district.⁴⁶ At the same time, the Act also provides for the establishment of one or more Special Magistrate Courts with the Magistrates of the first class or Metropolitan Magistrates in each district.⁴⁷

5. Weakness of the Legal and Policy Framework for Preventing Noise Pollution in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has a comprehensive legal and policy framework for controlling noise pollution but its implementation and enforcement have been hindered by several weaknesses which pose significant challenges in controlling noise pollution in Bangladesh. Some of the key weaknesses or challenges of the legal and policy framework for limiting noise pollution are discussed below:

5.1 Weakness of Existing Laws and Policies

The Government of Bangladesh does not able to limit the noise pollution at the optimum level due to shortcomings of existing laws, rules and policies. Noise created from vehicles, machineries on highways, roads, footways etc. may affect the environment. The Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995 deals with the post-harm situations but there is no proactive related provision to control noise pollution. The Act includes a provision 'right to safe and healthy environment' which does not make any obligation on the state despite to conserve the environment. The United Kingdom (UK) and New Zealand have included the provision related to pollution free environment as a part of right to life in their environmental legislations.⁴⁸ These important issues do not properly include in the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995 and the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Rules, 1997. In the case *Dr. Mohiuddin Farooque vs Bangladesh and others*, the views of the High Court Division

⁴⁶ Section 4, *The Environment Court Act, 2010 (Act No.56 of 2010)*.

⁴⁷ Section 5, *Ibid*.

⁴⁸ Section 79, *The Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1990* of the UK. and Section 326 and 327, *The Resource Management Act, 1991* of New Zealand.

(HCD) is 'right to life' includes right to fresh air and water and a situation beyond animal existence in which one can expect normal longevity of life.⁴⁹

The Noise Pollution (Control) Rules 2006 identifies different areas with few exceptions such as silent areas, residential areas, mixed areas, commercial areas, and industrial areas setting noise level at day time and at night. The silent areas include hospitals, educational institutions, offices and similar establishments, and their surrounding 100-meter area where use of horn is forbidden.⁵⁰ It is mentionable here that, after obtaining permission three days before the event, the sound level may be surpassed for social, cultural, and political events such as weddings, sports, concerts, fairs, and bazaars held in open or semi-open places, and exempted the sound level for religious activities held in mosques or temples, as well as activities commemorating key national holidays such as Independence Day, Bengali New Year, and International Mother Language Day. It is also mentionable here that the standard noise level for residential areas is 55 decibels at day and 45 decibels at night. At the same time, the standard noise level for industrial areas is 75 decibels at day and 70 decibels at night. A provision also included regarding the use of construction machines for processing and breaking down building materials (bricks, stones, etc.) shall be used within 500 meters of any residential areas.

The Government of Bangladesh approved to import horn up-to 75 decibel capacity and prohibited to import above 75 decibel capacity according to the Import Policy Order, 2015-2018. It is mentionable here that there is no mechanism to test the horns of imported vehicles.⁵¹ The existing laws and regulations are not fully sufficient to control the excessive use of traffic horns and honking. In many cases no action is taken due to the lack of proper monitoring and no provision has been made for the immediate enforcement of the law or for taking measures to control illegal honking of traffic horns.

Anyone may complain to the Police or Department of Environment (DoE) over phone or in writing regarding excessive noise. They may carryout mobile court over the noise pollution. There is no 24-hour complain system as well as the police don't have the power to impose

⁴⁹ Dr. Mohiuddin Faruquee vs Bangladesh, 48 DLR 1996, p.438.

⁵⁰ Schedule 2, *The Noise Pollution (Control) Rules 2006*.

⁵¹ <http://bangladeshpost.net/posts/loopholes>, accessed on 15 April 2023

finest immediately after honking traffic horns excessively in the Noise Pollution (Control) Rules. It is also mentionable here that the Road Transport Act, 2018 doesn't give power to police or the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to impose fine for high level noise by honking horns or use of musical instruments or others.

5.2 Weakness of Government Policies

i) There is no provision in the government policy to make full cooperation and coordination between different government and non government agencies like City Corporation, the Road Transport Authority and Police department among others to control noise pollution.

ii) The Government of Bangladesh identified 17 goals to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Combating noise pollution may be an important goal to achieve SDGs. However, it is not found or identified in any of the 17 goals.

iii) Public participation, create volunteers and incorporate sound pollution in the syllabus are important factors for limiting noise pollution in Bangladesh. However, in this regard no provisions are incorporated in the Government policies.

The situation of noise pollution is reflected in the number of calls to the national emergency service 999.⁵²

Table 2

Year	Nature of noise pollution	Total number of calls
2019	Loud fireworks, high pitch music, various programmes and other loud sound	5,017
2020	Loud fireworks, high pitch music, various programmes and other loud sound	7,952
2021	Loud fireworks, high pitch music, various programmes and other loud sound	9,238
2022	Loud fireworks, high pitch music, various programmes and other loud sound	13,138

⁵² National Emergency Service 999, See, <http://bangladeshpost.net/posts/loopholes-in-laws-act-as-main-villain-102033>, accessed on 15 April 2023

This figure shows that the noise pollution is increasing rapidly. The situation giving message to take effective steps to control noise pollution as well as the existing laws, policies and controlling measures are not sufficient.

5.3 Lack of Implementation of the Existing Laws and Policies

Proper implementation of existing laws and Government policies are necessary to reduce noise pollution in Bangladesh. The lack of implementation of existing laws and policies are:

- i) The standard of noise level for residential areas is 55 decibels at day and 45 decibels at night.⁵³ The rules of standard noise level are not maintained in many religious events, mosques or temples as well as social, cultural, and political events.
- ii) It is very difficult to reduce noise pollution for inadequate manpower and public transports as well as insufficient traffic police and logistic supports.
- iii) Most of the people do not follow the rules of using horns and mikes in specified silent areas within 100 meters of any hospital, educational institutions, and some government fixed institutions.

6. Findings

- i) Hydraulic horns are still in use. Public participation is not found to stop noise pollution. There is no fully cooperation and coordination between different government and non government agencies like City Corporation, the Road Transport Authority and Police department among others to control noise pollution.
- ii) Unawareness is a big concern to reduce noise pollution in Bangladesh. Most of the people of Bangladesh do not know about the laws, rules and policies related to noise pollution.
- iii) A number of people do not know that the noise pollution is a punishable offence in Bangladesh.
- iv) Many people do not aware to turnoff appliances such as TV, games, computers etc. at home or in offices when not in use. Most of them do not use earplugs or earmuffs to keep ears safe from noises. A big

⁵³ Schedule 1 (11), *The Sound Pollution (Control) Rules, 2006*.

number of people do not lowering the volume of radios, TVs, computers, DVDs etc.

7. Suggestions

The Government of Bangladesh is working to control noise pollution. However, it is very difficult to control noise pollution entirely. A few controlling measures are discussed below:

i) Awareness in General

It is necessary to turnoff appliances like TV, computers etc. at home or in offices when not in use. It may be used earplugs or earmuffs to keep safe from noises. Lowering the volume of electronic devices may be another way of reducing noise pollution. It is also difficult to avoid the use of electric devices like mixers, drilling machines, etc. but may be limit their use. It may also create healthy noise to eliminate unwanted sound. It is important to use of proper lubrication and noise absorbents in noisy machineries and vehicles which may be reduced noise by 5 to 10 decibel around them. Notify to Government or Non-Government agencies about disobedience of Noise Pollution Control Acts, Rules or policies.

ii) Traffic Control

It is necessary to restrict strictly using unnecessary horns in public places and in silent zones such as school, hospitals etc. In addition, it is also important to place noise boards 'No honking' near sensitive areas. Strict application of laws may prohibit unnecessary honking. Traffic Police may impose a fine on everyone discovered to have been honking excessively. The CCTV system may be used to monitor unnecessary honking.

iii) Awareness in Industrial Areas

It is necessary to relocate industries from inside the city to outside of the city or at the periphery to reduce noise or sound pollution. Checking of noise levels regularly is important to limit the noise pollution at optimum level.

iv) Awareness in Business and Commercial Areas

It is important to aware the people not to play CD or DVD at a very high volume or shouting by the name of selling price in streets of commercial places in different areas of Bangladesh.

v) Plantation of Tree

Planting of more trees may be good noise absorbents. Creating green spaces in urban areas may be a natural noise buffers.

vi) Proper Planning

Proper planning is necessary to make a gap minimum 20 meters between residential areas and main road or highways. At the same time, the residential, industrial and transport zone may be established or reestablished in different areas or zones.

xiii) Public Awareness

The Government may take effective steps to aware the people of Bangladesh about the causes, consequences as well as noise pollution preventing laws, rules and policies to reduce noise pollution in Bangladesh. Traffic awareness is also important for drivers to be expert on the road. Spot inspection and imposing fine by the competent authorities may be more effective. Using well-known individuals, public service messages are broadcast on radio and television. Parents may teach their kids about noise pollution, and to respect the privacy and the peace of neighbours.

ix) Awareness Relating to Laws and Policies

Though noise pollution is a punishable offence in Bangladesh, a number of people do not know about the laws, rules and policies related to noise pollution. The institutes of the Government of Bangladesh which are engaged to control noise pollution as well as the electronics and print media may take effective steps to aware the people about the laws, rules and policies related to noise pollution.

Above all, the government may make policy for full cooperation and coordination between different government and non government agencies like City Corporation, the Road Transport Authority and Police department among others to control noise pollution. In addition, the Government may ensure the public participation, create volunteers and incorporate sound pollution in the syllabus for controlling noise pollution in Bangladesh.

8. Conclusion

Urbanizations, industrializations and population growth makes noise pollution is a significant issue in Bangladesh. It stems from various sources such as traffic congestion, industrial activities, construction

works as well as religious, cultural, and political events. The density of population, inadequate urban planning, institutional weakness, corruption, and lack of public awareness exacerbate the problem. Local authorities and organisations have been working to raise awareness and implement measures to mitigate noise pollution, but it remains a persistent challenge for the country. Authorities like the Department of Environment (DoE) are responsible for enforcing noise pollution regulations. Regular monitoring of noise levels in urban areas is essential to identify sources of pollution. Cooperation between government agencies, NGOs, and industries is important for effective control of noise pollution. Continuous research on the impact of noise pollution, learning from global practices may contribute to the noise pollution control management to control noise pollution in Bangladesh. It is also necessary to take effective measures for banning the use of machines to break bricks breaking machines in residential areas, stopping miking for election purposes, providing notice in different places to follow noise pollution preventing laws, rules and policies. Finally, addressing approach involves urban planning, technological solutions, legal frameworks and enforcement, public awareness campaign for the people of Bangladesh on health related issues occurred through noise pollution, and collaborative efforts may bring better result to limit noise pollution.