

CHALLENGES OF GROWING COMMUNITIES: MAKE WIKIPEDIA TRUSTWORTHY TO THE EDUCATORS

BANGLADESH PERSPECTIVE



WIKIMEDIA
EDUCATION

THE TEAM



Md. Ibrahim Husain;
Administrator, Bangla
Wikipedia



And “Ela”, Member,
Wikipedia cuteness
association

Afifa Afrin; Community
Director, Wikimedia
Bangladesh

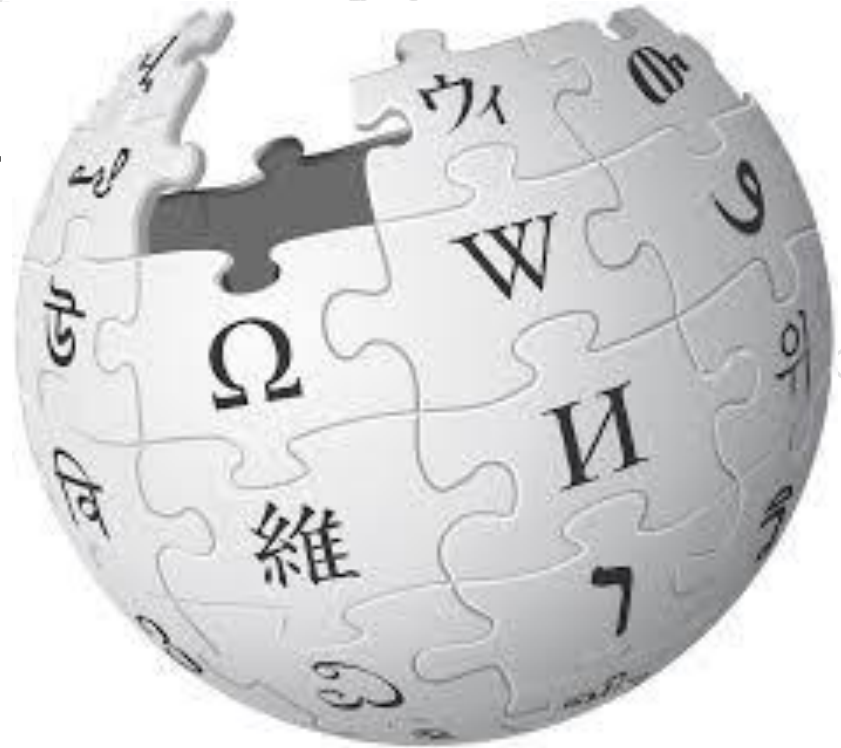


Welcome Message



STUDY OBJECTIVES

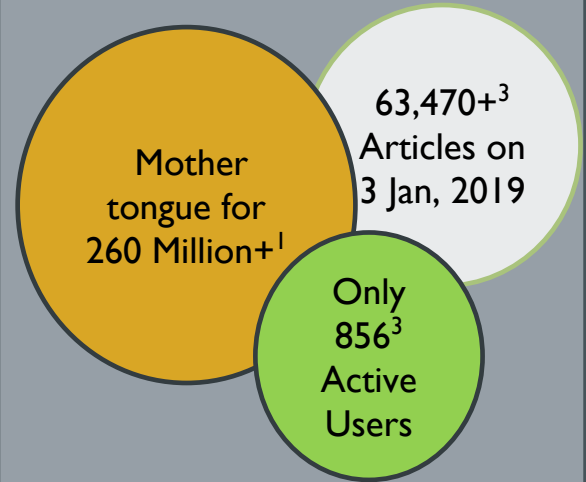
- Explore the usability of Bangla Wikipedia to the Educators
- Understand In what extent Bangla Wikipedia is trustworthy to educators



CONTEXT: BANGLADESH, LANGUAGE: BANGLA



- Bangla Wikipedia Started its Journey in 2004¹
- It ranked 127th with 3046.6 speakers² per article



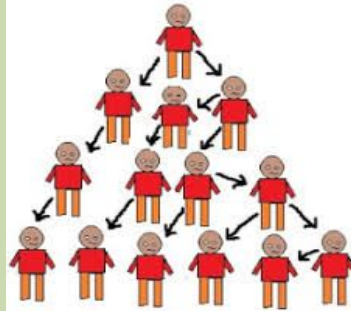
1. en.wikipedia.org. (2019). Bengali Wikipedia. [online] Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bengali_Wikipedia [Accessed 2 Jan. 2019].
2. meta.wikimedia.org. (2019). List of Wikipedias by speakers per article - Meta. [online] Available at: https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/List_of_Wikipedias_by_speakers_per_article [Accessed 2 Jan. 2019].
3. tools.wmflabs.org. (2019). Siteviews Analysis. [online] Available at: <https://tools.wmflabs.org/siteviews/?platform=all-access&source=pageviews&agent=user&range=latest-20&sites=bn.wikipedia.org> [Accessed 2 Jan. 2019].

METHOD:



SURVEY

Snowball Sampling



Simple random sampling

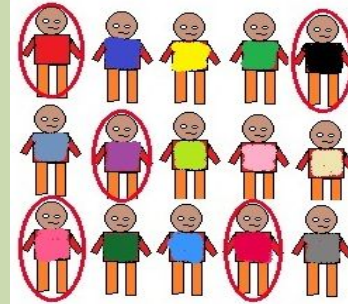


Image source: Towards Data Science. (2019). *Sampling Techniques – Towards Data Science*. [online] Available at: <https://towardsdatascience.com/sampling-techniques-a4e34111d808> [Accessed 3 Jan. 2019].

INTERVIEW

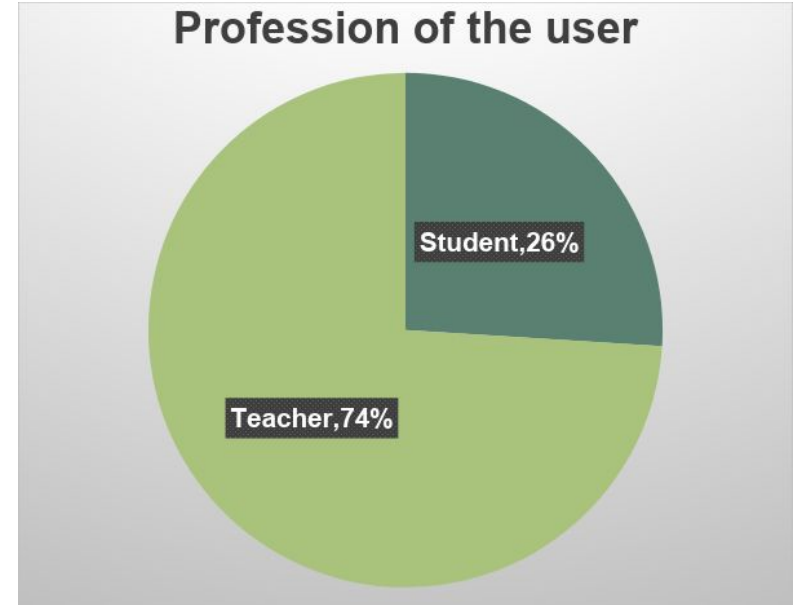
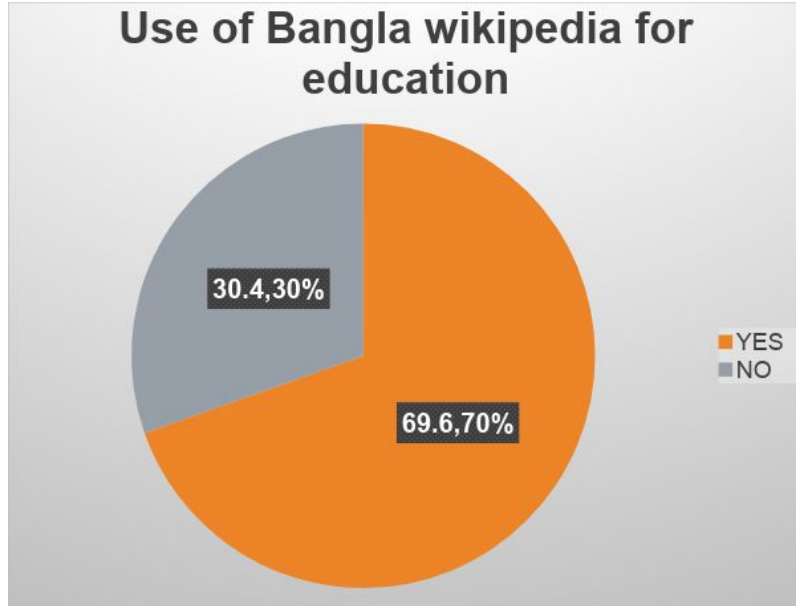
1. Personal Connection
2. Through Referral

LIMITATION:

Social media

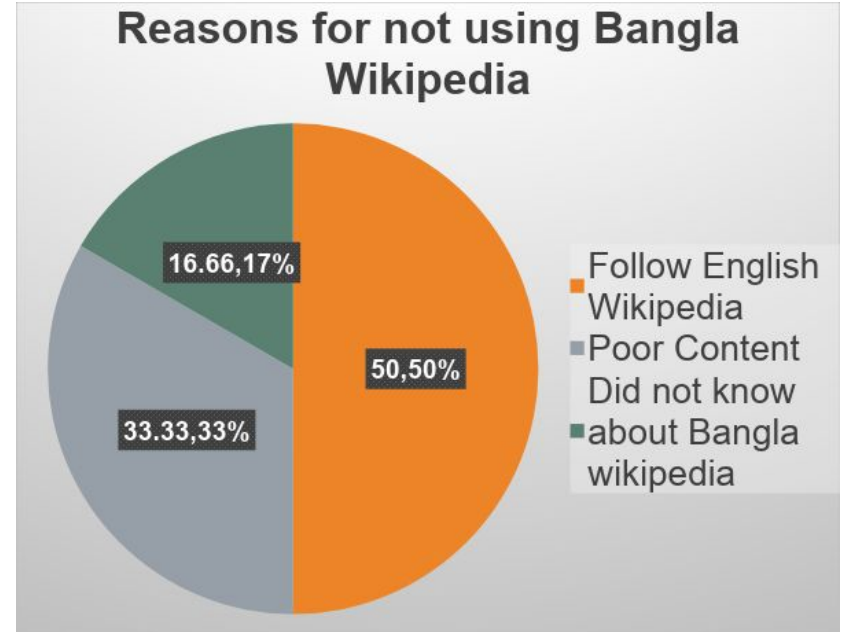
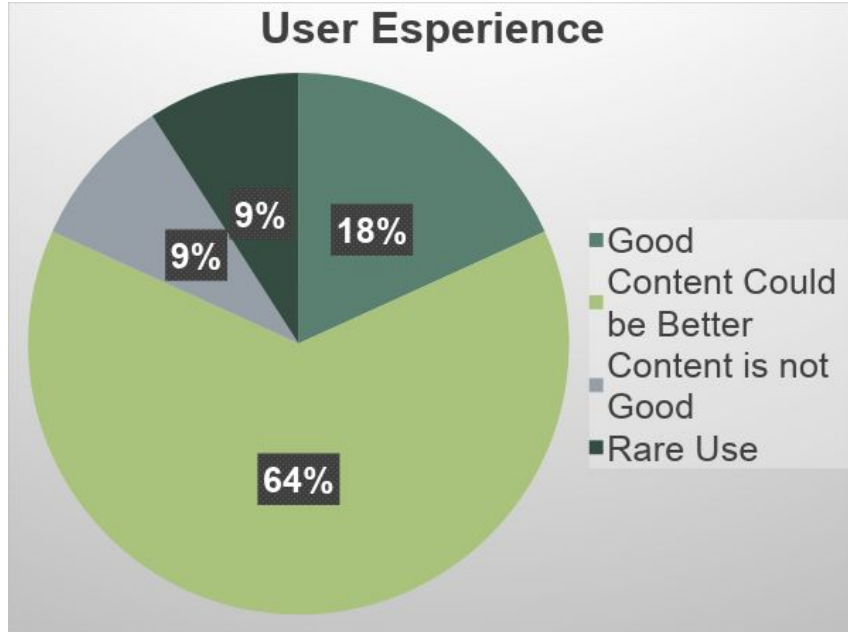
Due to time, resource and budget constraints, The sample size was limited. Does not reflect every area of Bangladesh; also misses the perspective of educators and students from West Bengal, India.

EXPERIENCE OF USING BANGLA WIKIPEDIA FOR EDUCATION PURPOSE:



Source: Data collection survey,
December, 2018

EXPERIENCE OF USING BANGLA WIKIPEDIA FOR EDUCATION PURPOSE:



Source: Data collection survey,
December, 2018



INTERVIEW FINDINGS

CRITICISMS

- Content of the articles could be better (3 mentions): The teachers mentioned that, contents of the articles should be better to become reliable to them. When they find the articles are incomplete and poorly written (such as misspelled, lacking enough information); they do not feel encouraged/ confident to refer Bangla Wikipedia to students.
- Not well organized (1 mention): One teacher mentioned, he prefers to refer English Wikipedia than Bangla as the articles are well organized there. He encourages students to have a look on the information from Wikipedia but not to quote from there for assigned work.
- Editors lack expertise (3 mentions): None of the teachers think of Bangla Wikipedia as ideal academic source because they think Bangla Wikipedia editors lack expertise on specific topics.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Focus on important articles (3 mentions): to create usability, the Bangla Wikipedia editors should give more focus on improving important articles. The criteria of importance should be from the Bangladesh perspective (context wise).
- Hiring expert editors/ articles should be reviewed by experts (2 mentions): to make Bangla Wikipedia trustworthy to educators, community should focus on reaching and recruiting expert editors rather random editors. At least there should be administrators/reviewers from different expertise to ensure the articles are reviewed by experts.

THE CHALLENGES

From the survey results and interviews, the challenges to make Wikipedia trustworthy to educators are stated as below:

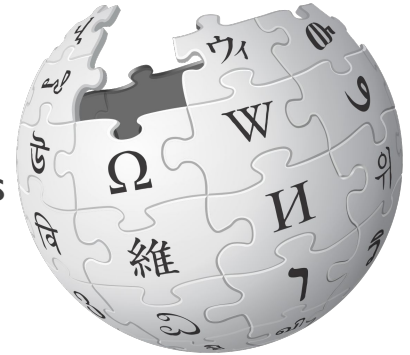
- The educators find Bangla Wikipedia not trustworthy as we lack expert editors.
- They want the articles should be reviewed by experts before they go to students. Hence the challenge is to reach and appeal the expert editors to do such volunteer job rather spending time in other productive ways.

THE CHALLENGES

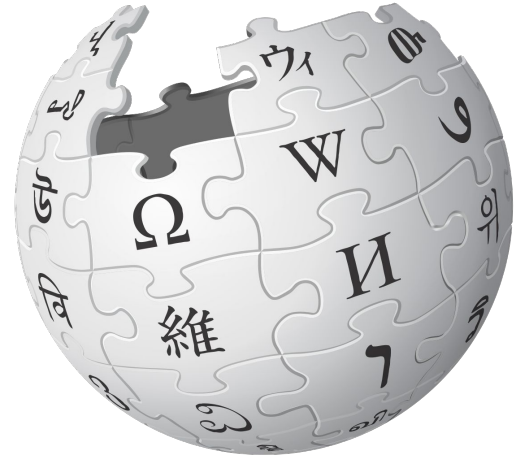
- Again, the educators mentioned that poor content of the articles hinders them from using Bangla Wikipedia for education purpose. It also makes them less confident to refer to Bangla Wikipedia.
- The list the Bangla wiki community follows for important articles is not always in alignment with educators. Here the community needs “collaboration” with educators which is going to be very tough as there are wide ranges of disciplines and topics.

WAY FORWARD

- More experts from diverse disciplines needs to be involved
- Need more collaborative activities with academics from universities
- Need partnerships with research centers, institutes to ensure information quality.



Open Discussion



Thank you!



WIKIMEDIA

EDUCATION