

## **Causes of Increasing White-Collar Crime in Different Sectors of Bangladesh and its Impact on Society: A Feasible Reform**

Mohi Uddin<sup>1</sup>

### **Abstract**

White-collar crime is a type of nonviolent crime that typically involves deception or concealment to acquire or protect assets or to achieve a personal or business benefit. It is on the rise in various sectors of Bangladesh due to its challenging identification, the prevalence of upper-class perpetrators, and their complex techniques. The previous laws and regulations were inadequate in addressing the increasing criminal activity and its negative impact on social and State life due to upper-class society's financial and professional dominance. This research paper examines the causes of the increase in white-collar crime in different sectors and its impact on Society in Bangladesh and finds a feasible reform for preventing it. The researcher also tries to provide a legal framework for preventing white-collar crime, especially in various sectors of Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** White-collar Crime, Crime, Feasible, Nonviolent crime, Various.

### **Introduction**

Crime has been a significant concern since the beginning of human civilization, and attempts to address it have had varying degrees of success over time (Paranjape, 2007). White-collar crime was initially named in 1939 by Edwin H. Sutherland, the Father of American criminology. He noted that in addition to murder, rape, kidnapping, dacoity, robbery, and other violent crimes, wealthy people engage in anti-social behaviours in their jobs. Historically, these methods were considered acceptable for achieving success in professional or corporate settings. The term "white-collar crime" refers to nonviolent, financially motivated offences that individuals, businesses, or government personnel often commit (Croall, 2001). This type of crime poses a significant danger to the integrity and stability of the various sectors. The intertwining variables of Political Affiliations, Banking Sector Engagement, and Corruption Prevalence become key determinants that influence the empirical study on White Collar Crime in the various sectors of Bangladesh, as well as the occurrence and patterns of White-Collar Crime (WCC) within the Bangladeshi public sector. This is because the wheels of bureaucracy continue to turn. When viewed against the backdrop of a

---

<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Law, International Islamic University Chittagong, Chattogram, Bangladesh. [adv.mohim@gmail.com](mailto:adv.mohim@gmail.com)

globalized world, where interconnected financial institutions and technology breakthroughs present both opportunities and challenges, it becomes critically important to have a solid understanding of the dynamics of white-collar crime within the context of a particular nation (Weisburd et al., 2001). Based on Bangladesh's socio-economic context, this research aims to illuminate the specific variables influencing the prevalence of economic malpractice across industries. This research aims to examine the causes of the rapid increase in white-collar crime in the different sectors of Bangladesh and its impact on society. It also suggests a quest for feasible Reform in Bangladesh. However, the study endeavours to achieve the subsequent specific objectives:

- a) To ascertain the underlying causes of the rapid rise in white-collar crime in various sectors of Bangladesh and its implications for society, a review of the current laws and policies in place in Bangladesh to prevent white-collar crime is necessary.
- b) To determine the specific legal protection provided by the laws of Bangladesh to victims of "white-collar crime."
- c) To offer a feasible theory and policy for executing legislation and addressing challenges to prevent and ensure accountability in Bangladeshi white-collar crime.

This research seeks to uncover the causes and provide a clear legislative framework for combating white-collar crime in Bangladesh by contextualizing the subject within the specific dynamics of the country's varied sectors. Its goals are to contribute to scholarly discourse and to shed light on the topic.

### **Literature Review**

The researcher has comprehensively analyzed several literary sources to holistically discover the research gap in the title. The influence of economic growth on white-collar offences (Shajib, 2017). The study's focal point was the Bangladeshi stock market disaster resulting from manipulation and investor characteristics (Muhammad et al., 2022). Criminals engage in criminal activities due to unemployment, income disparity, drug addiction, greed, and inadequate national security crime control models (Vitus & Okolie-Osemene, 2016). In addition to hindering investment and exacerbating migratory gaps, crime also affects socio-economic progress (Jonathan et al., 2021). White-collar criminality is widespread in Bangladesh due to certain characteristics of society. The legal system is insufficiently prepared to address white-collar crimes successfully (Islam & Paul, 2019). White-collar crime in Bangladesh involves bribery, money

laundering, and apparel manufacturing OHS breaches. According to studies, unskilled government employees cause corruption and crony capitalism, which plague the economy. (Faysal, 2022). This article focused on how plant owners are often careless and don't follow health and safety rules at work, calling accidents that happen because of this white-collar crime (Chowdhury, 2014). Research white-collar crime in Bangladesh's public sector using Structural Equation Modelling (SEM). Investigate the links between WCC (Working Capital Cycle), PA (Profitability Analysis), BSE (Business Sustainability Evaluation), and CP (Corporate Performance) to provide insights into governance (Das, 2023). The rise in white-collar crime in Bangladesh is largely due to socio-economic, cultural, and familial factors, causing teenagers to engage in drug addiction, trafficking, and criminal politics (Patoari, 2020). The global increase in white-collar crimes can be attributed to various factors, including the pressure to achieve high-performance goals, inadequate oversight, lack of transparency, and the justification of fraudulent conduct (Siregar et al., 2024). White-collar crime has wide-ranging effects beyond financial repercussions. It impacts individuals, communities, organizations, and government agencies with significant social, economic, and political ramifications (McFayden, 2010). The rise in Caesarean Section (CS) deliveries in Bangladesh has raised healthcare expenses, straining families and misallocating resources (Haider et al., 2018).

### **Significance of the Research**

This research will benefit legislatures, policy-makers, civil and criminal court judges dealing with cases of white-collar crime, as well as lawyers, educators, researchers, the general public, and law students interested in this topic. This research finds out the causes of the rapid increase in white-collar crime in the different sectors of Bangladesh and its impact on society. It also suggests a feasible reform under the existing laws of Bangladesh and proposes to enact new laws.

### **Research Methodology**

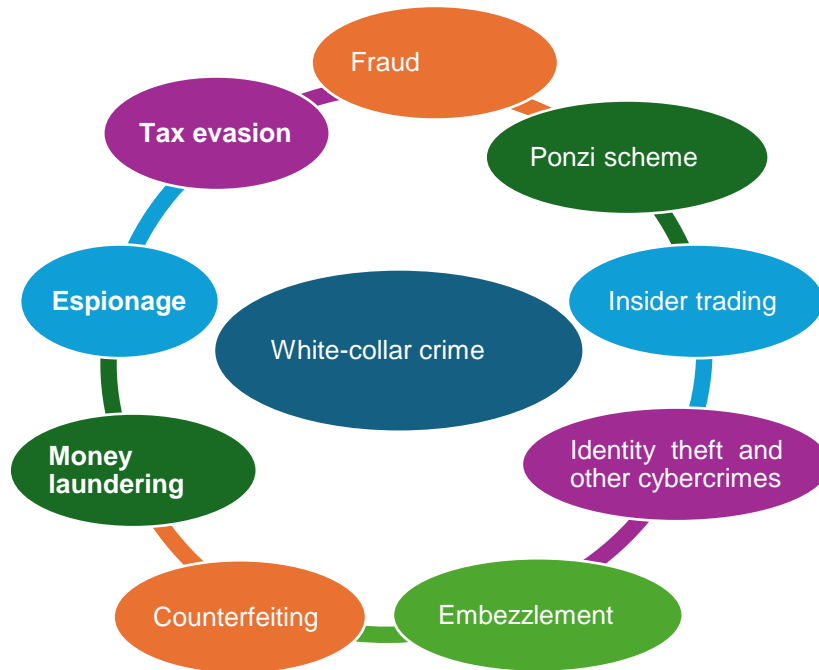
This study employs a doctrinal legal research approach. Acknowledged sources included primary and secondary data, legal texts, and resources such as books, journals, articles, conference and seminar papers, statutes, case law, and online resources.

**Results and Discussion****i. Concept of White-collar Crime:**

The term "white-collar crime" refers to crimes that are done by individuals, businesses, and government personnel that are financially motivated, nonviolent, or non-directly violent. White-collar crimes could include wage theft, fraud, bribery, Ponzi Schemes, insider trading, labour racketeering, embezzlement, cybercrime, copyright, infringement, money laundering, identity theft, and forgery (Sutherland, 1949). The term "white-collar crime" is also distinguished by the occupational position of the white-collar criminal (Newman, 1958). Firstly, white-collar crimes are committed by individuals of high social status, and secondly, these crimes are the result of occupational responsibilities. This definition in itself provides for two unique features of white-collar crimes. This definition also distinguishes white-collar crimes from other common crimes, which are conventional crimes. White-collar crime is classified into four primary forms: fraud, corruption, manipulation, and larceny (Gottschalk, 2010).

**ii. Classification of White-collar crime:**

A broad spectrum of offences, such as the following, are included in white-collar crime:



**Figure 1: Classification of White-collar Crime**

- a) Fraud is a broad phrase comprising various schemes designed to cheat individuals of their money. One of the most popular and easy ways is offering to transfer someone a large sum of money in exchange for a small sum. Of course, the fraudster receives the money, but he never sends the money he promised to pay.
- b) Insider trading involves traders using non-public information to gain an advantage in financial markets, such as an employee buying stock in a company anticipating a significant price increase once the acquisition becomes public knowledge.
- c) A Ponzi scheme, named after its creator, Charles Ponzi, offers investors enormous profits. Initial investors receive rewards from new investors' deposits. The scheme collapses when the scammer cannot acquire enough new clients to pay off the existing ones, leaving many investors with substantial losses.
- d) Among the most common computer crimes, identity theft and "hacking" of computer systems are two of the most common.

- e) An embezzlement is a theft that can vary from an employee stealing a small amount of money to an elaborate plan involving transferring millions from a company's accounts to the perpetrator's accounts.
- f) Currency design has been enhanced with more vibrant colours and intricate details to prevent counterfeiting. Due to the current technology in computers and sophisticated laser printers, the previous currency was vulnerable to counterfeiting.
- g) Money laundering is a crucial service for criminals who handle significant monetary quantities. The process entails channelling the money via multiple accounts before directing it into lawful enterprises, where it gets mixed with the authentic earnings of the business, making it untraceable to its criminal origins.
- h) For the most part, white-collar crimes include espionage or spying.
- i) Tax evasion is the illegal violation of taxes by individuals, corporations, trusts, and others. It entails deliberately falsifying the taxpayer's financial facts to reduce tax liability. This includes cheating on taxes, underreporting income, inflating deductions, bribes in corrupt countries, and hiding funds.

**White-collar crime in different sectors of Bangladesh** "As a whole, white-collar crime is pervasive in Bangladesh. Most people are unaware that this kind of offence can lead to acquittals. These specific sectors will be briefly covered below:

- i. **White Collar Crime in Politics:** Politicians are expected to guide the nation towards a positive trajectory and prepare us for the challenges of the twenty-first century. They should prioritize good governance and the growth of Bangladesh. They are accused of corrupt practices instead of fulfilling their intended duty. Politicians are often recognized as the most corrupt group in many countries, including Bangladesh. Politics has evolved into a lucrative business where individuals can generate four to five times the profit with minimal commitment.
- ii. **White Collar Crime in Judiciary:** A nation's court plays an essential role in governing and maintaining the rule of law by fairly, promptly, and equitably settling societal conflicts. Article 35 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh states unequivocally that every individual has the right "to a speedy and public trial by an independent

and impartial court or tribunal(The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 1971)." Judicial systems are a nation's foundation, applying the law and maintaining order. This brings innocent individuals to justice. However, this is not the case. Bangladeshi judges' salaries are too low to live comfortably and dissuade talented people from becoming judges. Joiners want a better life; hence, few judges take bribes to decide or rule on cases. Higher authorities sometimes pressured them.

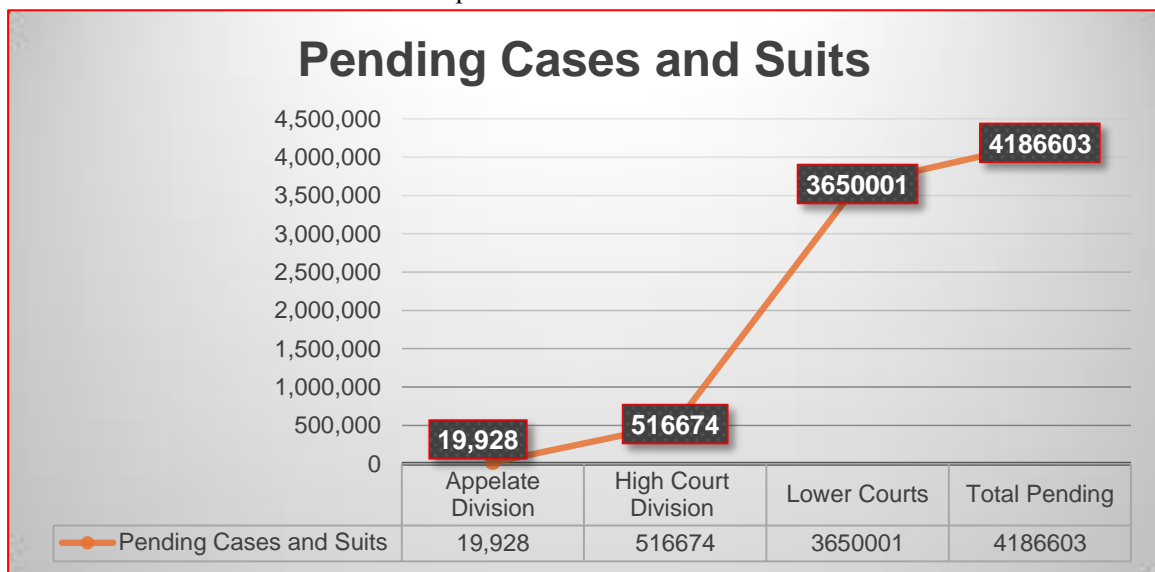


Figure 2- Pending cases and suits in the court of Bangladesh

According to a study conducted by the Supreme Court, until December 31, 2023, a total of 41,96,603 cases are pending in all courts of Bangladesh, following the filing of 15,71,617 cases and the disposition of 14,71,402 cases. Until that date, 19,928 cases were pending with the Appellate Division, 5,16,674 with the High Court Division, and 36,50,001 with the subordinate courts (*Courts – Justice Audit Bangladesh*, n.d.).

- iii. **White Collar Crime in Government Officials:** Corruption, bribery, and abuse of power are other main reasons for white-collar crime among Government officials in Bangladesh. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2023, released by Transparency International, depicts a dismal image of international leadership and draws attention to the complex relationship between wrongdoing and corruption. Corruption flourishes due to public officials being less held accountable, says TI, a worldwide

trend in the decline of justice systems. A news conference was held at the Dhaka Office of TIB to launch the CPI 2023 at the same time as all other Transparency International chapters worldwide. Perceived levels of corruption are used to classify 180 nations in the index. This year's index shows that administrative and judicial institutions worldwide, including Bangladesh, have been undermined by declining democratic standards and the return of authoritarian governments. A "very serious corruption problem" impacting more than 80% of the world's population is indicated by 105 countries (58.33%) scoring below the average of 43 on the index, which indicates a "serious corruption problem" when the score is below 50 (*CPI 2023*, n.d.).

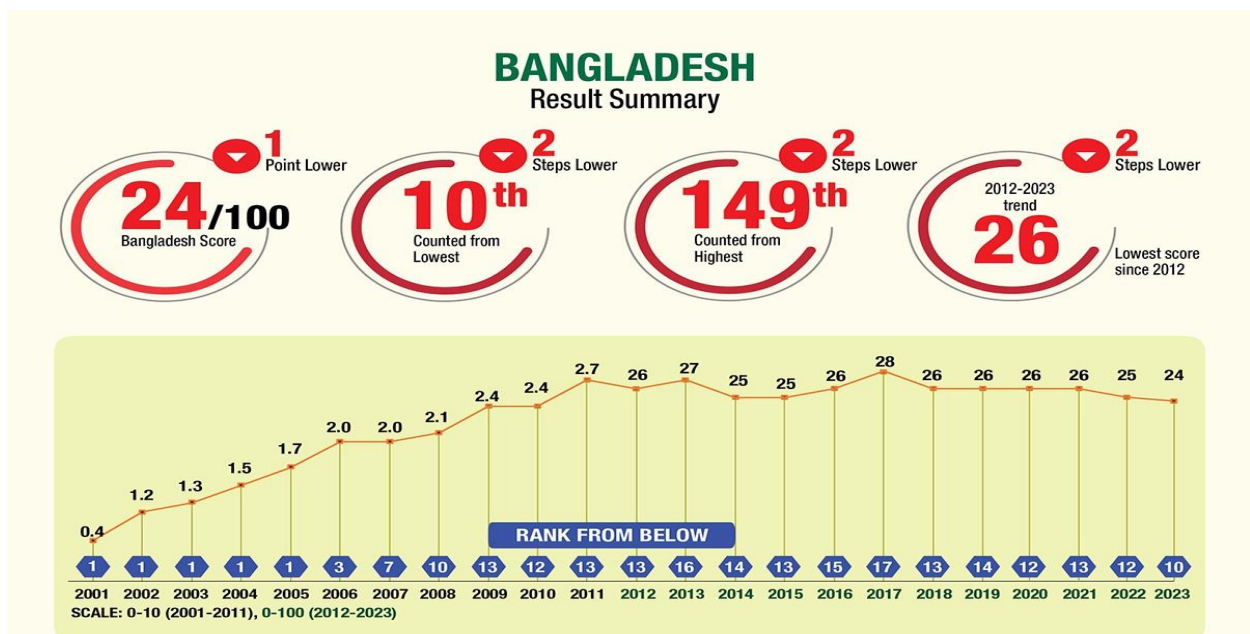


Figure 3: Corruption Perceptions Index 2023 of Bangladesh(*CPI 2023*, n.d.)

With a score of 24 out of 100, Bangladesh is much worse than the typical authoritarian country. This nation has also recorded its lowest CPI since 2012. After a one-point drop in 2023 from 25 to 24, Bangladesh moved to 149th place, from 12th in 2022 and 147th in 2022, respectively. Among the many factors that contributed to Bangladesh's "very serious corruption problem" were the government's failure to uphold its promise of zero tolerance for corruption, the worsening of corruption inside the public

sector, and the lack of effective measures to combat money laundering (Correspondent, 2024).

- iv. **White Collar Crime in Education:** A quarter of Bangladeshis believe corrupt officials are at work in the education system, and a third admit to bribing someone in that position. Corruption plagues all government entities. Corruption in education is evident in the leak of the secondary-level assistant teacher recruitment exam question paper. A formidable syndicate leaked many government recruiting exam papers. Admissions and stipend administration, nepotism in teacher employment, and procurement fraud are Bangladesh's main education corruption sectors. Less glaring examples include sexual exploitation in educational institutions, teacher absenteeism, and teachers abusing private tutoring services (Islam & Paul, 2019). Research shows that corruption is most widespread in student selection, scholarship funding, instructor appointments, and related systems. While elementary education is free, many schools charge fees for entrance, sports, promotion, etc. Faculty at public colleges and universities often miss classes to work at private universities for financial gain.
- v. **White Collar Crime in Legal Profession:** As social engineers, lawyers help the public by advising them on legal matters. In industrialized nations, the chance to study law and, if successful, practice law is reserved for very bright pupils. The situation in Bangladesh, however, is getting worse. A common proverb among the general population of Bangladesh states that one who is idle turns to law. Nowadays, most advocates want to gain money at whatever cost. This honourable occupation's honour, integrity, and character don't matter to them. Discovering that many advocates lack even basic legal knowledge is pathetic. The Bar Council grants enrolment, and the enrolment exam has been accused of being mismanaged. Common unethical practices include fabricating bogus evidence, using professional witnesses, and dilatory court ministries. In the name of interpreting laws, they hide political goons and let them go.
- vi. **White Collar Crimes in Engineering:** By deceiving contractors and facilitating road, building, bridge, and culvert construction, engineers might commit corruption. The Chief Engineer has absolute control, allowing power abuse in recruiting, promotion, posting and transfer, project director selection, and procurement.

Every Chief Engineer, past and present, has abused their ultimate power in these areas, respondents said. Engineering department crimes include project planning irregularities, protracted implementation and proposal amendment, delayed feedback and lack of cooperation, and cost calculation irregularities (Das, 2023). Political influence on work orders, tender manipulation, licence irregularities, and information changes following orders occurred in this department.

- vii. **White Collar Crime in Medical Sectors:** The medical sector is one of the most valuable services in the world, and Bangladesh is not exceptional in this. White Collar Crimes, which are commonly committed by persons, include selling sample drugs and medicine to patients or chemists, issuance of false certificates, doing illegal abortions, trafficking human body parts, secret service to dacoits by giving expert opinions, fake and misleading advertisement on Newspaper, televisions, radios, etc. There are longstanding and widespread allegations against doctors, nurses, and other health professionals in Bangladesh's more than 500 public hospitals that demand bribes for services that should be free of cost (Uddin, 2021). The High Court Division recently noted rampant health industry corruption. The court also noted that doctors profit from pharmaceutical company collaboration. These issues are fully understood and agreed upon. Corruption in procurement, hospital mismanagement, and doctors' reluctance to operate in rural areas are common (The Daily Star, 2023).
- viii. **White-collar crime in the banking and financial sector:** White-collar crimes, including corporate fraud, embezzlement, money laundering, and insider trading, are widespread in Bangladesh's banking and financial industry. The banking sector is experiencing crony capitalism, exacerbating the industry's issues. The CPD executive director expressed concerns about the banking industry's stability due to rising loan defaults and improper influence, saying crony capitalism controls the sector. Crony capitalists used banks to create a financial aristocracy. The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) reports that about Tk 92,000 crore has been misappropriated from the banking sector in the past 15 years through 24 significant loan frauds from 2008 until now (CPD, n.d.). Instances of loan default, mismanagement, and corruption that receive widespread media

attention add to the volatility of the financial system and damage investor confidence.

- ix. **Corporate sector:** Corporate fraud, accounting manipulation, and unethical business practices are all commonplace in Bangladesh's corporate sector, notably among large conglomerates and multinational firms. These behaviours are commonly seen in Bangladesh. The likelihood of white-collar crime occurring in business entities is increased when corporate governance and regulatory supervision processes are less effective.
- x. **Technology and Telecommunication:** Technology and telecommunications in Bangladesh are plagued by cybercrimes such as hacking, identity theft, and online fraud. Companies and individuals are vulnerable to cyberattacks for several reasons. These factors include weak regulatory frameworks and poor cybersecurity procedures (Muhammad et al., 2022).

#### **Effect of white-collar crime on Bangladeshi society**

The societal and economic costs of white-collar crimes are substantial enough to affect the national budget. The following are some consequences of such crimes: -

- a) **Threatening to Society:** White-collar criminality is detrimental to society as it results in significant financial losses for the nation and contributes to a decline in moral standards. It creates a social imbalance among people, so many ill effects occur.
- b) **Criminal activity directed at society:** The crime of "treason includes tax evasion, black money flotation, and other crimes undertaken for personal gain, causing significant state losses.
- c) **The imbalance in the economy:** The majority class pays the price when a small elite group benefits from unethical practices that allow them to amass more wealth.
- d) **Negative Impact on Future Generations:** The future generation will endure destitution and unemployment when White Collar criminality disrupts the entire economy of a nation.
- e) **Decrease in Revenues for the Government:** There is a disruption in the government's overall fiscal policy if white-collar

criminals avoid paying taxes or pay less than they are required to pay.

- f) **The societal effects of hoarding:** Some major politicians, especially from the ruling party, store common needs in case of floods, cyclones, drought, and economic slowdown or inflation. Fake market crises raise goods pricing. Social issues arise from such wrongdoing due to the substantial financial loss.
- g) **Distortion of Legal Regulations:** Forgery and bribery are punishable by the Penal Code 1860. Through mischief or corruption, white-collar thieves pilfer significant amounts of money. They're not adequately punished. As they don't think that, they're not guilty.
- h) **Effects on the Judiciary:** Currently, crime syndicates employ legal representatives who offer substantial remuneration to individuals involved in illicit activities. They enable offenders in our society to evade punishment by influencing judicial personnel and law enforcement agencies.
- i) **Effect on the advancement of infrastructure:** White-collar thieves steal a lot from government construction projects. Because of this, government infrastructure like highways and multi-purpose bridges are falling early. This undermines the nation's infrastructure development.
- j) **Influence on the Budget of the Parliament:** According to the Global Financial Integrity (GFI) study, a total of six billion dollars has been illicitly transferred to other countries during the past decade. If this sum of money is reimbursed to our nation's banks, then the country will reap various benefits and avoid a substantial loss.
- k) **Effects on the Healthcare Industry:** The majority of doctors are enthusiastic about conducting a wide range of medical tests at their designated diagnostic centres and receive medication from companies that provide them with increasing quantities of drug samples and other amenities. All of these instances are illustrations of white-collar offences. However, they are not

subjected to severe penalties as a result of inadequate legislation (Uddin, 2021).

- l) **The repercussions of white-collar crimes on the educational sector:** The educational sectors are being progressively undermined by white-collar crimes on a regular basis. The policy-maker of the educational ministry of the government has embezzled a substantial financial endowment from many international sources, such as the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project. Consequently, the research areas of the universities do not receive adequate benefits. The educational system in our country is deteriorating progressively. Because crimes are primarily perpetrated by those in positions of power and influence within society, government institutions are not perceived as being proactive or willing to take appropriate and prompt action against them.
- m) **Other effects:** White Collar Crimes are committed by individuals with high social, economic, and occupational positions, often unable to differentiate between offences due to lack of specialized knowledge. The legislative authority must pass special legislation to prevent the mentioned crime.

#### **Legal Framework and white-collar crime in Bangladesh**

In order to prevent and address white-collar offences in Bangladesh, numerous laws and regulations have been implemented. These laws encompass a wide range of issues, including financial misconduct, corruption, corporate governance, and cybercrimes. Public awareness, effective enforcement, and collaboration between law enforcement, regulatory organizations, and the commercial sector are needed to prevent white-collar crime. The legal frameworks must be robust. The reduction of white-collar crime in Bangladesh can be facilitated by ongoing initiatives to fortify these components. The following are a few of the most significant laws that are designed to prevent white-collar crime:

- a) **Accession to the UN Convention against Corruption:** The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh's accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in February 2007 was a significant and symbolic measure (UN Office on Drugs and Crime, 2013). It demonstrated the Bangladesh Government's dedication to implementing the necessary reforms in a timely and

efficient manner to uphold international standards, promote good governance, and combat corruption.

- b) **Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh:** The Bangladeshi Constitution emphasizes governance concepts like the rule of law and fundamental rights rather than white-collar criminality. Through openness, accountability, and good governance, various constitutional values and laws indirectly prohibit white-collar crime. Some important provisions:

**i. Rule of Law (Article 7):**

Democracy, socialism, secularism, and the rule of law are state policy ideals under Article 7 of the Constitution. The rule of law holds everyone accountable, including white-collar criminals.

**ii. Protection of Fundamental Rights (Part III):**

Part III of the Constitution protects fundamental rights like equality before the law (Article 27) and law protection (Article 31). These rights prohibit state and individual arbitrariness, preventing power abuses and white-collar crime.

**iii. Separation of Powers (Articles 22, 109, 116):**

Constitutional Articles 22, 109, and 116 separate the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. This division promotes accountability and prevents white-collar crime by preventing government power concentration.

**iv. Independence of the Judiciary (Article 22):**

Article 22 protects judicial independence, which is necessary for unbiased white-collar crime adjudication. Legal enforcement and financial misbehavior accountability benefit from an independent judiciary.

**v. Directive Principles of State Policy (Part II):**

Part II of the Constitution provides state policy directives, including economic and social justice, public health, and public welfare. These concepts influence legislative and executive actions, indirectly affecting white-collar crime prevention and economic integrity measures.

The Constitution of Bangladesh does not address white-collar crime directly, but it does provide a framework and ideas that can be used to create laws, organizations, and systems that can prevent it. The government must combat white-collar crime and advance accountability, transparency, and good governance; subsequent laws, rules, and enforcement measures have supplemented these constitutional protections.

c. **The Penal Code, 1860:** The Penal Code of 1860 Includes laws pertaining to offenses such as fraud, forgery, cheating, criminal breach of trust, and corruption. These rules are crucial for holding those engaged in financial and corporate malfeasance accountable.

d. **Anti-Corruption Laws:**

- i. **The Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004:** The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Act was created and given the authority to conduct investigations and bring legal action against individuals involved in corruption-related crimes.
  - ii. **The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947:** Examines diverse manifestations of corruption, encompassing bribery, extortion, and embezzlement.
- e. **The Money Laundering Prevention Act of 2012** aims to prevent actions such as money laundering and finances for terrorist organizations. Imposes obligations on financial institutions to conduct anti-money laundering (AML) measures, including customer due diligence and reporting suspicious transactions.
- f. **The Companies Act, 1994:** Rules the establishment, operation, and dissolution of businesses and establishes standards for corporate governance. Requires businesses to follow established guidelines for corporate governance, disclose financial information openly, and keep accurate records of financial transactions.
- g. **The Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969:** Authorizes the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to supervise trading in securities and regulates the market for such transactions. Maintains open and honest trading in the stock market by enforcing regulations.
- h. **The Cyber Security Act 2023:** Includes a wide range of cybercrimes and security issues, such as hacking, data theft, and internet fraud. Offers statutory means for the detection and punishment of white-collar crimes that make use of cyber technology.

- i. **Banking Regulations:** The central bank of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bank, issued these in order to control the banking industry. Incorporates rules and laws pertaining to responsible risk management, Know Your Customer (KYC) initiatives, and anti-money laundering (AML).
- j. **Consumer Protection Laws:** The Consumer Rights Protection Act of 2009 safeguards customers from deceitful activities, unjust trade practices, and misleading advertising. Advocates for equitable competition and the well-being of consumers in the market.
- k. **The Income Tax Act, 2023:** This Act provides certain provisions regarding tax evasion and tax avoidance, tax fraud, and tax malpractice, which is similar to white-collar crime.

Despite the fact that there are no laws that specifically address the prevention of white-collar crime, the laws that have been discussed above, along with the regulations and enforcement mechanisms that are associated with their respective implementation, play a significant role in the prevention of white-collar crime at the national level in Bangladesh. To successfully prevent and prosecute white-collar crimes, it is vital to have effective implementation, enforcement, and public awareness.

#### **Causes for increasing white-collar crime in Bangladesh**

The causes of rapidly increasing white-collar crime in Bangladesh depend on various factors like economic, social, political, cultural, etc. The main causes are explained below.

- a) The perpetrators of white-collar crimes believed that they were not killing people in the same way that other traditional crimes were. The majority of people have a minimal understanding of white-collar criminality.
- b) One more reason that white-collar criminals commit their crimes is greed. A number of white-collar offenders are of the opinion that since everyone breaks business laws, it is not a big deal if they break them themselves.
- c) The need is also important. Because everyone wants a nice life, they want to please their boss and earn a lot. They still commit white-collar crimes.
- d) Social and economic factors may drive white-collar crime. For social status and economic stability, many engage in white-collar crime.
- e) White-collar criminals are proficient in perpetrating this crime, which is why the general populace is not well-informed about it.
- f) Drug, gambling, and alcohol addiction cause white-collar crime together. Lack of thought control, drug and alcohol addiction, and gambling-related

financial losses occur. They turned to white-collar crime to make up for the financial loss.

- g) Engaging in a lavish lifestyle may contribute to white-collar crime if an individual loses control over the expenses of others engaging in such illicit activities.
- h) White collar crime are untouchable, undetected. This crime left no evidence to trace or detect the criminals.
- i) White-collar crimes are typically committed by those in the upper socio-economic class, which means that those in the lower class often lack the authority, influence, or bravery to hold them accountable.
- j) The grounds for white-collar crime are the absence of appropriate laws and regulations, the absence of evidence, and the absence of an appropriate punishment.
- k) White-collar criminals are treated better than regular criminals due to their power and contacts with higher authorities. This drove the criminal to commit white-collar crimes.

### **Conclusion**

The economic consequences of white-collar crime are significantly more expensive than those of conventional crime, as the majority of experts concur. White-collar crime can result in harm to consumers due to hazardous products, the endangerment of employees through unsafe working conditions, and the creation of contamination issues within a community. Sociologists have underscored the fact that white-collar crimes are particularly detrimental to society because they are perpetrated by individuals in positions of authority who are expected to demonstrate morality and conduct themselves responsibly. Although individuals may acknowledge the existence of corruption, they are frequently unable to address it, and those who attempt to expose corruption are frequently intimidated by management or their peers. The elimination of corruption frequently necessitates a substantial organizational endeavour to modify deeply ingrained business practices, which necessitate modifications to "strategies, power, structure, and systems." Therefore, the cornerstone of the anti-white-collar crime strategy appears to be public vigilance. Containing this expanding menace will be impossible unless white-collar crime is recognized as repugnant by the public. Strengthening moral particularity in the public service and higher echelons is necessary to achieve this objective. This study adds to the current discussion on how to prevent white-collar crimes in the different sectors and suggests feasible reform. Stakeholders in Bangladesh can promote a transparent, accountable, and morally sound way of preventing white-collar crime by recognizing the results,

implementing proposed steps, and resolving the indicated limits. For the sake of the nation's socio-economic foundation, the government must prioritize the conduct of a comprehensive investigation of this burgeoning subject.

### **Recommendations**

Though white-collar criminals are untraceable and unreachable, analyzing this thesis, there are some remedial measures I can recommend. Those are:

- a) As we have seen with traditional crimes such as homicide, robbery, theft, and extortion, there must be a law that is especially connected to preventing white-collar crime named "the White Collar and Others Crime Prevention Act" besides the specific laws regarding white-collar crime judicial and administrative organs as well as a legal professional have the potential to play a significant role in ending this crime.
- b) The Anti-Corruption Commission must remain impartial. Offenders sometimes manage to evade punishment due to a lack of appropriate power or the improper use of that power. We need to acquire more evidence regarding suspicious folks; thus, we need to use the right power and make sure we use it properly.
- c) A lack of accountability has resulted in the corruption of nearly all government officials. Numerous public officials are refraining from visiting their offices or restricting public files in order to facilitate progress. The prevalence of white-collar crime could be decreased if government officials were subjected to public questioning.
- d) The government should lend a hand in raising public awareness since it is crucial. Government power comes from the people. A public outcry against this crime could put an end to it.
- e) Establishing a specialized task force in this area is indeed feasible. Example: hackers are smart enough to out-plan traditional law enforcement. Thus, law enforcement agencies need to focus on this particular domain if they want to stay up with this sort of criminal.
- f) A unique set of statutes and regulations is required to establish expedited tribunals. Consistent with court practice, reaching a decision on whether to release this offender takes considerable time. Thus, these offences should be transferred to this Tribunal in order to save time.
- g) A modification to the penal laws must criminalize white-collar crime. The Penal Code covers forgery, fraud, and associated crimes. However, white-collar crime is not explicitly prohibited. The Penal Code describes white-collar crime as forgery, fraud, cybercrime, etc.

- h) Criminals committing white-collar crimes should be dealt with severely since they do not appear to feel remorse for their actions. The indirect loss can never be recovered or repaired. Though they do not directly conduct crimes like robbery or murder, they damage a country's economy and bring shame to it.
- i) News outlets that broadcast crime and related topics, such as television, radio, social media, and newspapers, must step up and provide the required information. People only obtain updates about a lot of things from the media. This form of crime could be reduced if it seeks to raise awareness.
- j) The government ought to disseminate information about the detrimental consequences of this offence via various media platforms, including television, radio, and newspapers.

## References

- Chowdhury, M. (2014). Deterrence theory and labelling of industrial accidents as white-collar crime in Bangladesh apparel industry: An epistemological standpoint. *Perspectives of Innovations, Economics and Business*, 14, 69–82. <https://doi.org/10.15208/pieb.2014.09>
- Correspondent, S. (2024, January 31). *Corruption Perceptions Index 2023: Bangladesh fares worst in a decade and a half*. The Daily Star. <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/corruption-perceptions-index-2023-bangladesh-fares-worst-decade-and-half-3532406>
- Courts – Justice Audit Bangladesh. (n.d.). Retrieved May 24, 2024, from <https://bangladesh.justiceaudit.org/national-data/key-measures/courts/>
- CPD: Over 92,000C embezzled in 24 banking scams in 15 years. (n.d.). Dhaka Tribune. Retrieved May 24, 2024, from <https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/334749/cpd-over-92-000c-embezzled-in-24-banking-scams-in>
- CPI 2023: Global Corruption and Injustice Persists, Bangladesh Experiencing Further Decline. (n.d.). Retrieved May 24, 2024, from <https://ti-bangladesh.org/articles/story/6909>
- Croall, H. (2001). *Understanding white collar crime*. McGraw-Hill Education (UK).
- Das, P. K. (2023). An Empirical Study on White Collar Crime in the Public Sector of Bangladesh. *International Journal of Humanities & Social Science Studies (IJHSSS)*, 9(4), 108–123. <https://doi.org/10.29032/ijhsss.v9.i4.2023.108-123>
- Faysal, A. (2022). White-collar crimes: How to combat the offence of bribery. *Asian J. Soc. Sci. Leg. Stud*, 4(4), 106–111.
- Gottschalk, P. (2010). White-Collar Crime: Detection, Prevention and Strategy in Business Enterprises. *Universal-Publishers*.
- Haider, M. R., Rahman, M. M., Moinuddin, M., Rahman, A. E., Ahmed, S., & Khan, M. M. (2018). Ever-increasing Caesarean section and its economic burden in

- Bangladesh. *PLOS ONE*, 13(12), e0208623. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0208623>
- Islam, M., & Paul, S. (2019). *Growing Concern of White Collar Criminality: Exploring Legal Safeguards in Bangladesh*. 01, 76.
- Jonathan, O., Akinyede, J., Bernadin, T., & Inoussa, T. (2021). Impacts of Crime on Socio-Economic Development. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 12, 71. <https://doi.org/10.36941/mjss-2021-0045>
- McFayden, E. (2010). Global Implications of White Collar Crime. *Social Science Research Network*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/SSRN.1530685>
- Muhammad, S., Haque, S. M., Chakraborti, T., & Mahbuba, N. (2022). *A Critical Study on Power and White-Collar Crime in Stock Market Debacle of Bangladesh*. 15, 92–107.
- Newman, D. J. (1958). *White-collar crime law and contemporary problems*. 23(4).
- Paranjape, N. V. (2007). *Criminology and Penology* (12th ed.). Central Law Agency.
- Patoari, M. M. H. (2020). Socio-Economic, Cultural and Family Factors Causing Juvenile Delinquency and Its Consequences in Bangladesh: A Look for Way Out. *Asian Journal of Social Sciences and Management Studies*, 7(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.20448/journal.500.2020.72.89.98>
- Shajib, A. (2017). White Collar Crimes in Bangladesh Perspective. *BiLD Law Journal*, 2(2), 127–148.
- Siregar, H. W., Kirani, N., & Tarigan, D. A. B. (2024). Upaya Pencegahan White Collar Crime. *Jurnal Riset Rumpun Ilmu Sosial, Politik Dan Humaniora*, 3(1), 101–110. <https://doi.org/10.55606/jurrisih.v3i1.2284>
- Sutherland, E. H. (1949). *White Collar Crime*. Dryden Press.
- The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, § Article 35 (1971).
- The Daily Star. (2023, May 11). *A corruption crackdown in the health sector is a need of the hour* [Newspaper]. The Daily Star. <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/editorial/news/corruption-crackdown-health-sector-need-the-hour-3316846>
- Uddin, M. (2021). Medical negligence in Bangladesh: A quest for feasible reform. *IIUC Studies*, 18, 157–172. <https://doi.org/10.3329/iiucs.v18i1.61280>
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime (Ed.). (2013). *UNCAC a Bangladesh Compliance & Gap Analysis*. United Nations. <https://www.unodc.org/documents/NGO/Civil-Society-Guide-English.pdf>
- Vitus, U., & Okolie-Osemene, J. (2016). Prevalence of Lethal and Non-lethal Crimes in Nigeria. *Journal of Advanced Research in Humanities and Social Science*, Vol 3, 10–25.
- Weisburd, D., Waring, E., & Chayet, E. F. (2001). *White-Collar Crime and Criminal Careers*. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511499524>