

Meme Culture in Bangladesh: My Right Ends Where Yours Begin, From Freedom of Expression to Undesirable Consequences in Digital Age

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Abstract: This paper aims to manifest the degree of effect of meme culture in the cyber and social lives of Bangladeshis, as well as its legal and ethical aspects. Memes are the newest form of freedom of expression in this digital era. It has expanded into a popular way for people to freely express opinions, emotions, and perceptions in a lighthearted and straightforward manner. The consequences of meme culture, however, go beyond mirth. It has influenced how individuals in Bangladesh interact, communicate, and even observe specific social and political concerns. Based on this philosophy, The researcher has put forward the prevailing laws in the country regarding freedom of expression and their connections with meme culture, as well as the actual scenario of their implementation. The main focus of this paper is to outline the scenario of crossing the limits of the right to freedom of expression through meme culture and its negative consequences. In context, how does exercising the right to freedom of speech through memes affect the rights of others? It delves into the potential harm inflicted by memes that exceed the bounds of acceptable speech and how that affects the rights of people who might be ostracized or targeted. Further, the researcher has also contrasted the findings with the conditions currently in effect in some countries regarding the status of the implementation of laws on this subject. As final points, arguments and suggestions were advanced that can improve how meme culture interacts with our right to freedom of expression within its limits without intruding on others' rights. Ultimately, this study seeks to demonstrate the crucial importance of a balanced strategy that respects freedom of expression and any justifiable constraints on it.

Keywords: Meme Culture, Effects, Freedom of Expression, Limits in Bangladesh.

1. Introduction

We are what we are because of genes; we are who we are because of memes. (Dennett, 2021) In today's digital age, memes have become a ubiquitous form of communication and expression that transcends borders and cultural boundaries, and Bangladesh is no exception. Meme culture has exploded in Bangladesh in recent years, with social media platforms like Facebook and

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Instagram being the primary channels for meme dissemination. With Bangladeshi netizens using them to express their opinions on various issues ranging from politics to pop culture, memes have become a powerful tool for social commentary and political satire. (Dwivedi, 2023) Nevertheless, sometimes, these can cross a line, leading to real-world consequences. In Bangladesh, the right to freedom of expression is guaranteed by the constitution, but this right ends where it infringes on the rights of others. This delicate balance between freedom of expression and respecting others' rights is often challenged in meme culture. In this paper, the phenomenon of memes in our society, their potential for both harm and good, the responsibility that comes with their use, and the legal and ethical implications will be explored. Notable cases where memes have led to crime, defamation, and harm, adding examples of memes used as a means of protest and social commentary will be examined. Ultimately, it will be argued that the power of memes lies not only in their ability to entertain but also in the fact that the right to free expression must be balanced with the need to protect the rights of others.

2. Methodology

The study's methodology blended an empirical and qualitative analytical approach and relied on an array of sources. Parliamentary statutes, court rulings, books, journals, online sources, and media articles served as the analogies for this dissertation. The following were combined to shape a thorough study of Bangladesh's Meme Culture:

Qualitative Analysis

Conducted qualitative analysis of online content such as memes and social media conversations to identify themes, patterns and cultural nuances surrounding meme culture in Bangladesh.

Legal and Ethical Framework Analysis

This study examined Bangladesh's legal and ethical frameworks for freedom of speech, defamation, and other related topics and evaluated how they pertain to meme culture.

Case Studies

Examined noteworthy instances where memes led to unfavorable outcomes, such as defamation, hate speech, or illegal activity, and evaluated the ethical and legal ramifications.

Literature Review

A thorough review of existing research and literature on meme culture in Bangladesh, including relevant case studies, legal and ethical frameworks, and social and political contexts, was conducted.

Comparative Analysis

Based on parallels and variations in cultural, legal, and societal contexts, a comparative analysis of meme culture in Bangladesh with that of some other nations was conducted.

Furthermore, by analyzing the results, the researcher gathered a lot about Meme Culture in Bangladesh, including its various dimensions, which enabled him to outline his study. However, finding court cases related to meme culture required some creativity since ‘meme culture’ itself is not directly a legal category. The author searched for court proceedings that addressed freedom of expression, disinformation, bullying, and harassment, mostly on social media to pick pertinent decisions relating to meme culture. Research on memes is still in its infancy, but hopefully, we will eventually comprehend the full effects of meme culture. Further research must be conducted to assess what to regulate and in what manner regarding meme culture. (Weiser & Alam, 2022)

3. The Culture Of Memes In The Digital Age

The term "meme" first entered the popular lexicon in 1976, when Richard Dawkins, in his book "The Selfish Gene," used it to describe cultural ideas that spread from person to person, much like genes. In recent years, social media and internet technology have transformed meme culture into a global phenomenon. (Dewi et al., 2017). As the internet evolved, meme culture also progressed. Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram provided new avenues for memes to spread rapidly and reach a wider audience. For easier understanding, pcmag.com has a pretty good definition of a meme, "An image, video, story or joke that is voluntarily passed from one internet user to another via e-mail, blogs, and social networking sites. Considered a form of art, internet memes are created to promote individuals, groups, movies, art, music, and products, as well as to perpetrate a hoax or just be funny. They can disappear in days or last for years." (Dwyer, 2015)

A significant portion of the literature available today on memes particularly emphasizes digital and popular culture. It uses memes as a tool for understanding particular facets of contemporary culture. Thus, memes have

become an increasingly popular form of online media due to their instantaneous and interactive nature and almost immediate impact on audiences. (Nowak, 2016) As memes are circulated, imitated, and transformed by individual internet users, they create a shared cultural experience on social media platforms. However, memes also reflect the power shift that characterizes the internet age. User-generated content has supplanted traditional media as a way for audiences to engage with culture and participate in it. This reflects the democratization of media in today's society, as individuals have greater access to information and the ability to shape their narratives. Today, memes are a global phenomenon, with millions creating and sharing them daily. Memes are frequently used to convey feelings, make political and social commentary, or make people laugh.

4. The Emergence and Growth of Meme Culture in Bangladesh

The early days of meme culture in Bangladesh can be traced back to the mid-2000s when online forums and social media platforms started gaining popularity. Initially, a select few internet-savvy individuals familiar with Western meme culture shared memes the most. However, their popularity skyrocketed as smartphones became more widely available and reasonably priced. Today, memes are a vital component of Bangladeshi internet culture and are used to express a wide range of emotions and opinions. As internet access becomes more widespread in Bangladesh, meme culture will likely continue to grow and evolve. This could lead to new forms of humor and satire that reflect the country's unique cultural identity. The following list of factors can be used to illustrate how meme culture has developed in Bangladesh:

4.1 Internet and Social Media Uptake

With the widespread usage of smartphones, the affordability of internet access, and the accessibility of social media platforms, people have found a new medium for sharing and consuming memes. These platforms provide fertile ground for creating and disseminating memes, allowing Bangladeshi internet users to engage actively with this dynamic form of cultural expression.

4.2 Linguistic Adaptation

One significant aspect of meme culture in Bangladesh is the adaptation of memes to the local language, Bengali. In order to make memes more relatable and culturally relevant, internet users have embraced the practice of translating and transcreating them. This linguistic adaptation has increased

the appeal of memes to a wider audience and made it possible to create memes that specifically address regional social, political, and cultural contexts.

4.3 Humor and Satire

Bangladeshis have a rich tradition of humor and satire, which seamlessly blends with meme culture. Memes have become popular for expressing social commentary and critiquing various aspects of Bangladeshi society. Whether political satire, social stereotypes, or everyday life situations, memes provide a humorous outlet for individuals to interact with and reflect upon their surroundings.

4.4 Community Building and Participation

Netizens throughout Bangladesh now feel more connected and engaged thanks to meme culture. Meme-focused online communities have emerged where people can socialize, share, and chat about their favorite memes. These groups keep adding distinctive meme formats and inside jokes, which helps develop Bangladesh's meme culture.

4.5 Brand Promotion and Marketing

Realizing the allure and reach of memes, brands and marketers in Bangladesh have started incorporating meme-like content into their marketing strategies. Memes have become a means to connect with a younger audience and create viral content that resonates with their interests and sense of humor. This cross-pollination between memes and brand promotion has further fueled the expansion of meme culture in the country.

The growth of meme culture in Bangladesh has been a fascinating phenomenon to observe. It reflects the evolving attitudes of the country's youth towards humor and satire, as well as the strong influence of the internet in shaping public opinion. Nonetheless, meme culture in Bangladesh is not without its challenges. There have been instances where memes have been used to incite violence against particular groups or people, and some memes can be offensive or derogatory. The fact that many people have been sued for posting inappropriate content draws attention to the potential risks associated with meme culture.

5. Right to Free Expression and Meme as a Medium of Expression

Article 39 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh guarantees the right to freedom of expression, "subject to reasonable

restrictions imposed by law.". Additionally, Articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Articles 12 and 13 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and Article 21 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) also contain the right to freedom of expression. Nevertheless, this right comes with multiple limitations such as hate speeches, privacy concerns, security concerns, defamation etc. At this point, Memes serve as a new form of expression that can often convey emotions that are extremely hard to describe. They are one of the world's newest and most significant forms of communication. (Dwyer, 2015) Due to their highly visual and frequently humorous nature, memes have the knack for conveying complex ideas straightforwardly and concisely, making them an excellent approach to political and social discourse. There is even a term "Meme-ocracy" which denotes the concept of exercising democracy through memes in countries where freedom of speech is often barred. Memes have become a powerful tool for citizens to voice their dissent without fear of retaliation in countries where freedom of expression is constrained. For instance, in 2014, when Hong Kong underwent the Umbrella Revolution, protesters used memes to spread images and messages that were critical of the Chinese government's policies. Similarly, during the Arab Spring uprisings, memes were used to inspire and unite citizens against authoritarian regimes. Memes have developed into a crucial tool for political expression and are used to criticize politicians, political parties, and policies. Memes allow individuals to share their political views in a humorous yet engaging way, which can stimulate increased political engagement among younger generations. Memes have been used to sway elections and political campaigns. During the 2016 US presidential election, memes significantly influenced public opinion. Memes were used to criticize both candidates and elevate voters. Memes have also become a pivotal tool for social movements and are used to spread awareness about social issues and promote positive change. It can be used to highlight injustices and call for action. At the time of the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, memes were used to spread awareness about police brutality and systemic racism. Memes were also used during the #MeToo movement to raise awareness about sexual harassment and assault. (Aboumera, 2021) In Bangladesh, memes have been used to comment on issues ranging from political corruption to social injustice. For instance, during the 2018 student protests demanding safer roads, memes were used to criticize the government's handling of the situation and to

express solidarity with the protesters. Similarly, during the COVID-19 pandemic, memes were used to spread awareness about the virus and to promote public health measures like wearing masks and practicing social distancing. While memes have become a popular medium of expression, they have also faced criticism. Some argue that memes trivialize severe issues and can be offensive. Others argue that memes can be used to spread misinformation and propaganda.

6. When Meme Crosses the Limit

The constitution of Bangladesh assures the right to freedom of expression, but this right has constraints. Individuals must respect the rights of others and avoid engaging in activities that harm others or violate the law. It can be simplified stating I believe in freedom of speech unless it offends me. This raises important legal and ethical considerations in the context of meme culture. When does a meme cross the line from freedom of expression to harmful behavior? Who defines what is appropriate or inappropriate content? These are complex questions that require careful forethought. Further, my right ends where yours begins, is a core principle that forms the basis of our social contract. It acknowledges that while we have certain personal freedoms, we also have a responsibility to respect the rights of others. This principle becomes increasingly crucial in the context of meme culture in the digital age. The use of memes can often cross the boundary between freedom of expression and causing harm to others. Findings indicate that there are no long-term effects of memes, which is a good sign, but there is a short-term effect, and that is where the danger lies. (Weiser & Alam, 2022) For instance, a meme may use an individual's image or name in a way that is intended to ridicule or shame them, or it may make untrue or misleading claims about their personal or professional life. This can impair the person's reputation and lead to social ostracism, loss of employment opportunities, or other unfavorable consequences. Memes may be shared with malicious intent in some cases, such as by political or ideological groups seeking to discredit their rivals or by individuals seeking to exact revenge on someone they despise. The "Pakistan Zindabad" meme is one recent example. In 2019, a group of Bangladeshi students created a meme featuring a photo of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a slogan praising Pakistan. The meme quickly went viral, with thousands of people sharing and reposting it. But the joke soon turned sour, as Indian social media users began attacking the students and demanding that they be punished for dishonoring India. The situation quickly escalated, with threats of violence and even calls for war between India and Bangladesh. The Bangladeshi government eventually had to step in and arrest several of the students, sparking nationwide protests and

outrage. Then again, in 2019, a meme featuring the face of a Bangladeshi actress, Rafiath Rashid Mithila, was publicized on social media with disparaging remarks about her appearance. In 2020, a meme featuring the famous musician Habib Wahid was shared online with fake news about his alleged involvement in drug trafficking. The general public experienced widespread panic after the meme went viral. It was later found that the meme was part of a smear campaign to defame the musician. Another specific case involves the 2020 "Mujib Borsho". As Bangladesh celebrated the centenary of the birth of its founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, some social media users began sharing memes and jokes about him. But some of these memes went too far, with images depicting Rahman in vulgar and offensive ways. The government had to step in, with the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) blocking dozens of websites and social media pages sharing these offensive memes. Even in 2021, a meme featuring the face of famous agriculture journalist Shaykh Seraj was circulated on Facebook with derogatory comments about his ethnicity and religion. These are just a few examples of how meme culture can occasionally go too far in Bangladesh, leading to real-world consequences. So, we see that while humor and satire can be powerful tools for social commentary and criticism, they must be used responsibly and with sensitivity to avoid causing harm or offense. It is important to note that there have been some concerns about using defamation laws in Bangladesh to suppress free speech and dissent. Some activists and journalists have been prosecuted for defamation by the government or influential individuals, leading to accusations that the law is being misused to stifle criticism and dissent. As a result, there have been calls for reforms to the defamation laws to ensure that they are not used to infringe on free speech. But yet, we see that memes cause trouble and lead to crime, which is a matter of concern we must focus on. One may get caught making a meme that he thinks is funny but, in reality, can hurt others.

7. Reasonable Restrictions on Free Expression Through Memes

The right to freedom is a comprehensive domain whereby citizens are entitled to be free regarding their movement, associations, assemblies, etc. Similarly, every right so conferred has consequences if its domain is not circumscribed. (Verma, 2020) "Your right to swing your arms ends just where the other man's nose begins." This quote by Zechariah Chafee suggests that freedom of expression has bars when it starts to harm or infringe upon the rights of others. Hence, this right is not absolute but comes with certain restrictions. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which

many countries, including Bangladesh, have ratified, recognizes the right to freedom of expression but also recognizes that this right can be limited. While recognizing the right to freedom of expression, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) also allows for restrictions on this right. Article 39 of the Constitution of Bangladesh also protects the right to free expression with reasonable restrictions. The US Supreme Court in *Brandenburg v. Ohio (1969)* ruled that speech or expression can be restricted if it is likely to incite imminent lawless action. In *R. v. Keegstra (1990)*, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that hate speech is not protected under freedom of expression and can be outlawed under certain circumstances, such as when it threatens social harmony or undermines the dignity of a group of people. The restrictions that are in coherence with the national interest can be outlined as the security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, decency and morality, contempt of court, defamation, incitement to an offense, sedition, and hate speech.

It is important to note that the limits on freedom of speech vary from nation to nation and are subject to interpretation by courts and legal scholars. (Gunatilleke, 2020) These restrictions aim to balance the right to free expression with other critical societal values like public safety, social harmony, and individual dignity. While analyzing restrictions, it is evident that the intention of the legislature in giving a right to freedom is to look after others' interests as well, including those of the state and individuals. Had these restrictions not been implemented, it would have been highly chaotic for the courts to balance the rights among various state entities. Rights and duties go hand in hand and should never be looked at through different lenses. For example, my right to freedom of speech cannot take away the dignity of some other individual; hence, defamation as a restriction comes to the rescue. Without restrictions, these rights will become worthless, and every individual or state entity will lose its boundary and encroach upon others' rightful enjoyment (Verma, 2020). In a country like Bangladesh, where social media is often the primary platform for free expression and dissent, it is essential to strike a balance between freedom of speech and responsible behavior. As meme culture continues to evolve and grow, it is up to us to ensure that it remains a force for good and not a source of chaos and harm.

8. When Meme Becomes Crime

The Penal Code of 1860 governs defamation as a criminal offense in Bangladesh. The relevant provisions are Sections 499–502 of the Penal

Code, which defines the offense of defamation and outlines penalties in the event of a conviction. Then there is the Pornography Control Act of 2012 and the Digital Security Act of 2018 (Repealed), which also deal with defamation and other reasonable restrictions on freedom of expression within their own contexts. Under the provisions of Penal Code of 1860, defamation is defined as any statement or representation made in spoken or written words or by visible representation that damages the reputation of another person. The statement must be made with the intention of causing harm or knowledge that it is likely to cause harm, and it must be made without any lawful justification or excuse. If a person is found guilty of defamation in Bangladesh, they can be punished with imprisonment for up to two years, a fine, or both. In some cases, a court may also order the defendant to compensate the victim of defamation. In 2021, a Bangladeshi student was arrested and charged under the Digital Security Act for creating and sharing a meme that criticized the prime minister's decision to purchase luxury cars for government officials during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authorities deemed the meme to be disrespectful and defamatory. The government also banned a popular Bangladeshi Facebook page called "Moja Loss" in 2020 for allegedly disseminating fake news and propaganda. The page was known for creating and sharing satirical memes on political and social issues.

In 2017, a Facebook user named Rasel Ahmed posted a photoshopped image on his profile depicting the country's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, in an offensive and disparaging manner. The meme quickly took off on social media platforms, triggering widespread outrage and condemnation. Many individuals and organizations viewed the meme as disrespectful and a violation of the Prime Minister's dignity. As a result, several legal complaints were filed against Rasel Ahmed for his offensive post. After due process, the court found Rasel Ahmed guilty and imprisoned him. The judgment highlighted the significance of respecting public figures and upholding social harmony in the country.

One notable incident in Bangladesh where a court had to get involved in a meme-related case is the "Cricketer Nasir Hossain Incident." In 2016, a Facebook user named Shafayet Hossain Jewel created a meme featuring Nasir Hossain's face overlaid on an image of the Hindu deity Lord Krishna. The meme went viral, leading to widespread outrage and protests from the Hindu community in Bangladesh. They claimed the meme was highly offensive and disrespectful to their religious beliefs. In response, several legal complaints were filed against Shafayet Hossain Jewel for hurting religious sentiments. Ultimately, the court held that the meme caused

religious strife and was offensive to the sentiments of the Hindu community. Shafayet Hossain Jewel was arrested and charged under the Digital Security Act of 2018.

The High Court of Bangladesh, in the *Salman F. Rahman v. Masud Khan (2004)* case, upheld a lower court's judgment to sentence a journalist to six months in prison for publishing an article that mocked and trolled the prominent businessman. The court held that the article constituted defamation and was not protected under freedom of expression. The court differentiated between structured criticism and defamation.

9. Scenarios of Meme Culture Beyond Borders

Similar to meme culture, the touch of technology arrived in developed regions before Bangladesh. Authorities have had to step in several times around the world when the use of memes sparked criminal activity. As an illustration, back in 2014 in the US, Gamergate was an online harassment campaign that used memes to target women in the gaming industry primarily. It involved coordinated trolling, doxxing, and violent threats against individuals, leading to a severe impact on the lives and careers of those targeted. In 2015, a terrorist attack was carried out by two brothers on the offices of the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*, killing 12 people. The attack was reportedly motivated by the magazine's publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, which had become a religiously sensitive issue in some circles.

The "Pepe the Frog" lawsuit in the United States is one noteworthy instance where a court had to intervene in a meme-related case. Pepe the Frog, initially a harmless internet meme, was co-opted by various extremist groups and became associated with hate speech and bigotry. In court, it was argued that the defendants misused Pepe the Frog unauthorizably, associating the character with hateful and offensive content. The legal dispute brought the spotlight on the issue of meme appropriation and the potential for memes to be misused detrimentally. While the lawsuit primarily addressed copyright infringement, it also shed light on the broader role of memes in shaping public discourse and their potential for causing harm. Even though the dispute was settled out of court, it serves as an example of how meme-related incidents can lead to legal action, prompting courts to examine the boundaries of intellectual property rights and the consequences of meme misuse. In 2019, a man in France was sentenced to prison for threatening to kill President Emmanuel Macron on social media, using the hashtag "#KillTheRich." Furthermore, the man had also posted memes showing

Macron as a target in a shooting game. These cases highlight how memes can be used in ways that incite violence, foment hatred, and undermine social norms. This kind of event has been gradually increasing with the rise of social media as a daily driver worldwide. Thus, meme culture is a global concern.

10. Reasons Behind the Outrageous Behavior of Memers

The reasons that are found for why some netizen cross the line are common. First, the desire for attention is one reason people cross boundaries. In today's social media-driven world, likes, shares, and followers are success indicators. Some members might believe that pushing boundaries and creating controversial content will help them stand out and boost their online presence. Secondly, another reason is the desire to shock the general public. Memes are often used to push limits and ponder societal norms. Some memers may feel that generating offensive or taboo content is a clever way to make a statement and get people talking about contemporary issues. Thirdly, the anonymity of the internet allows users to create and share content without fear of repercussions. Memers may feel emboldened by this anonymity and create content that would be inappropriate in real life. Last but not least, there is the desire to impact society. While memes can be amusing, going too far can have a detrimental effect on society. Offensive or harmful content can perpetuate stereotypes, spread hate, and foster a toxic online culture. Some members thereby take advantage of this situation.

11. Findings And Discussion

The essential tenet "My Right Ends Where Yours Begin" recognizes that while we each have some unique rights, we also must respect the rights of others. This idea becomes more crucial in the context of meme culture in the digital age. Memes are frequently used to blur the line between free speech and hurting others. For instance, a meme may contain inaccurate or deceptive statements about someone's personal or professional life, or it might exploit that person's name or image in a way that is meant to mock or embarrass them. This can damage the person's reputation and result in social exclusion, a loss of employment potential, or other unfavorable outcomes.

Memers empower people in Bangladesh to share their opinions quickly and cheaply on various topics without worrying about censorship or retaliation. Nevertheless, despite potential perks, several adverse factors must be considered. The potential for negative preconceptions and false information

to be perpetuated via memes is one of the main problems. Additionally, without regulations, memes occasionally transgress moral borders and insult particular facets of society. On top of that, there are worries that memes are being used by extremist groups in Bangladesh to spread hate speech and their ideas. The absence of accountability in Bangladeshi meme culture is another problem. Since memes are frequently made and shared anonymously, holding creators accountable for the content they create can be challenging.

On the legal side, the sharing or publication of any data in digital media that is offensive, menacing, or simply fraudulent is addressed in Section 25 of the Digital Security Act of 2018 (Repealed). Additionally, Section 29 states that distributing or publishing any information in electronic form with the intent to slander a person is a punishable offense. However, the Penal Code of 1860's Section 499 governs what would be considered "defamation." Furthermore, under Section 8 of the Pornography Control Act of 2012, the act of defamation could be punished if it resulted from the usage of pornographic materials. Although using memes as a form of expression is a fundamental human right, a lack of digital literacy can lead to incitement to violence, hate speech, defamation, obscenity, and threats to national security.

12. Suggestions

It is vital to balance free expression and responsible use of memes through education and awareness-raising about their potential impacts. Memers should be aware of specific obligations and restrictions as with any form of expression or communication to avoid disobeying the law or hurting others. Memers should be subject to several limitations, including:

1. Respect the laws relevant to them, such as those prohibiting hate speech, defamation, and inciting violence.
2. Be mindful of other's privacy rights and refrain from revealing their personal information or photographs without permission.
3. Respect for other people's intellectual property rights, such as the ones on copyrighted text or photos.
4. Avoid harassment or cyberbullying, including using memes to target specific people or organizations.
5. Check that the information provided via memes is accurate and not deceptive, especially regarding well-known people or significant public topics.

6. Evaluate cultural sensitivity while sharing memes, especially if they contain offensive or inappropriate content.

Overall, the limitations placed on memers should be founded on the virtues of decency, respect for others, and lawfulness. Memers must ensure that they are exercising their right to free expression in a beneficial, moral, and legal way by adhering to these guidelines. Furthermore, there is a need to develop guidelines and regulations to ensure the responsible use of memes in public discourse. Additionally, encouraging digital literacy and critical thinking abilities can help people understand the nuances of meme culture and assess the appropriateness and authenticity of the memes they come across. Authorities and civil society groups must create a comprehensive strategy for controlling meme culture without compromising freedom of expression.

13. Concluding Remarks

Meme culture in Bangladesh is a complex and evolving phenomenon that poses significant challenges to freedom of expression, social responsibility, and community standards. Moving forward, it will be crucial for individuals, social media platforms, and society to navigate these challenges with caution and tact, ensuring that the right to free expression is balanced with the precondition of protecting the rights and wellness of all community members. In conclusion, it is up to us all to ensure that meme culture remains a force for good and not a cause of turmoil and harm as it continues to develop and flourish.

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