

Community Radio Station in Bangladesh



Code of Conduct Community Radio Operation In Bangladesh

Promoting
communication
technology
for a
FAIRER WORLD



BNNRC

Bangladesh NGOs Network for
Radio and Communication

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic & Social Council

Introduction

The role of radio is indispensable in case of instant availability to get easy way of communication. But still there is no any radio media is standing to serve to specially raise voices for the different levels of grass root communities in our country. Community Radio Station can be specially designed to run by these marginalized communities, using their own language, ensuring their active participation and own management, where they can find reflections of their dreams through coordinating with their own local knowledge, culture and efforts with updated national and global knowledge and technology.

The Community Radios can play a very significant role in providing these knowledge and information on various local development issues among the poor communities living in rural areas. By broadcasting the information on various development issues, including education, entertainment, disaster risk reduction, updated market price and by providing services of both government and other private or non-government organizations through active people's participation, the Community Radios can contribute in national level development and as well as to make a very successful digital Bangladesh.

Having been influenced and motivated in this ideology, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) mobilized various NGOs, International and UN organizations and the members and specialists of different civil society groups by arranging meetings, seminars, dialogues and publications and highlighted the importance and consequences of the Community Radio.

Realizing the significance of the Community Radio, the Government has announced the Community Radio Installation, Broadcast and Operation Policy 2008. Considering the basic human rights, freedom of speech, good governance issues, free flow of information and security policies and people's right to information the "Ministry of Information" of People's Republic of Bangladesh enacted "Community Radio station for Installation, Broadcast and Operation Policy, 2008." In this continuation, the concerned ministries of the government of its history of Bangladesh have approved 14 Community Radio stations on 22 April, 2009.

Under this policy, Community Radio will direct not only on development of socio-economical aspects and national development plans of actions and moreover give emphasis to keep national interest as a top priority. Simultaneously at the same way, this media, maintaining its unique identity, will be dedicated to broadcast the special national and international and also common events for the disadvantaged groups, especially engaged with women and children issues and to identify also the development of the wellbeing of the poor.

The following sample of "Code of Conduct for Community Radio (CR) Operation" is presented to all by BNNRC, taking into account the reflection of the expectations and interests of the development workers, RTI workers, human and social activists, those who considered themselves accountable to the community.

Definitions:

1. This Code of Conduct shall be known as the "Code of Conduct of Community Radio (CR) Operation".
2. This Code of Conduct is expected to be applicable from the beginning of the CRS broadcast.
3. This Code of Conduct shall be applicable to all CR initiators and CR staff of Bangladesh, who got license from the government.
4. "Radio Workers" shall denote everyone involved with community radio, including Station Manager, Operator, journalists, volunteer, producer and/or the other associates.
5. Community Radio shall denote a radio that has been granted CRS license from the Ministry of Information of People's Republic of Bangladesh.

What Community Radio should do:

1. Community Radio proceeds according to the "Community Radio station for Installation, Broadcast and Operation Policy, 2008, enacted by the Ministry of Information of People's Republic of Bangladesh.
2. Community Radio keeps uphold the values and principles of freedom and sovereignty of the country including overall national development.
3. Community Radio will strongly determine to create a society that functions according to the ethics with a practice and inclusion of democratic values, rule of law, values of socio-cultural and human rights, social justice and transparency.
4. Broadcast programs and material catering to the local needs and public demand, with special focus on publicizing and developing local cultural heritage and originality, languages, art, folk literature and music, preservation and promotion of industry, culture, literature, talent and originality.
5. Participation of the community in the management, operation and control of the radio should be ensured.
6. Endeavour to harmonious relations by communicating each other, unity and exchange of knowledge and resource sharing among radio workers throughout the country.

7. Provide priority to issues that promote local community empowerment, social goodwill, harmony, fraternity and integrity.
8. Broadcast news, opinions and programs based on facts and relevance. In order to be balanced, the opinion of all the parties involved in any event or issues have to be presented.
9. In general, the source of any news should be mentioned but if the source requires anonymity, confidentiality shall be respected. This practice will be specially followed in women and children issues.
10. In the event of any factual error during broadcasts, a correction shall be made immediately.
11. Programs responsive to social justice and those that raise a voice for the disempowered, the helpless, the vulnerable women and children of social backwardness should be broadcast on priority basis.
12. CR should be free of influence from any person, group, belief, organization or political party.
13. Community Radio should be committed to a free & sovereign nation and national unity.
14. CR should be alert against the possibility of adversely affecting cordial relations with neighboring and other friendly countries.
15. Language used for all communities, caste/ethnic groups, regions, professionals, classes and gender should be respectful. All caste/ethnic groups, religions, languages, gender and cultures should be treated equally. It should be ensured that the materials broadcast should not hurt the values and beliefs of the community either in contents or language.
16. While appointing employees in the radio station, inclusion of gender, caste, ethnic groups and local community should be assured.
17. Maintain friendly relations with other radio stations and remain united in purpose to work towards the collective interest. Support all kinds of conflict management by peace and good governance.
18. Everyone associated with the radio station should be encouraged to follow a professional conduct. Emphasis should be on following the journalists `code of conduct.
19. Community Radio will play significant role in education, information dissemination, entertainment, development concept and in the movement of preservation of press freedom and freedom of expression.
20. The income and expenditure of CR stations will be guided by the Financial Manual and financial transparency will be ensured through regular auditing,

21. Ensure Regular Reporting on the activities of Community Radio; submit to relevant authority and preserve.
22. Community Radio Station will act facilitators' role to ensure information accessibility to the grassroots community under Right to Information Act.
23. Community Radio (CR) will stand against all corruptions and protect.
24. Community Radio will stand against all social evils and superstitions.
25. Community Radio will work for empowerment of the poor, reduce digital divide, ICT-based knowledge and information exchange, will contribute to locality-based ICT and access to digitally divided community.
26. Community Radio will assist in identifying local problems and recommends solution, will attempt National Development Plans. Community Radio will engage the disadvantaged community in planning and implementing of the development plan.
27. Community Radio should follow according to the UN declarations of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
28. Community Radio should contribute in implementation of "National Policy of Development for Women" and "National Policy of Development for Children"
29. CR should always broadcast moral education to radio listeners.

What community radio should avoid:

1. Do not broadcast matter that denigrate or insult any community, class, religion, linguistic groups or that create hostility between any cast/ethnic groups, religious groups, communities and class.
2. Should not become the mouthpiece or publicity vehicle of any particular party. Should not broadcast material under the influence of any party or to be prejudiced against them.
3. Should not broadcast matters that instigate hostility, conflict and emotions in society.
4. Should not broadcast any advertisements or materials that adversely affect the general wellbeing, cultural heritage and common interests.
5. Should not broadcast matters that lead to the harm or deterioration of the environment or sustainable development.
6. Should not broadcast matters that adversely affect national unity, interest and integrity.

7. Should not broadcast notices or advertisements that cause harm to the community or assault the positive aspects of the country's economic, social, moral or cultural domains.
8. Should not broadcast news that carries the views of only one side in any controversial issue where community radio will stand for top neutrality.
9. Contradictory news and programs should be produced and broadcast following balanced and professional ethics. Should not infringe on the personal matters of any individual or family.
10. Matters that are create overwrought or distasteful should not be broadcast.
11. Materials that denigrate women, children or various linguistic or cast/ethnic groups and that encourage social discord should not be broadcast.
12. Should not broadcast materials that add to the sufferings of those in trouble or facing injustice.

Code of Conduct prepared by:

	Name of the Community	Name of the Initiating Organizations
01	Community Radio Chilmari 99.2	RDRS Bangladesh
02	Community Radio Mukti 99.2	Landless Distressed Rehabilitation Organization(LDRO)
03	Community Radio Borendro 99.2	Naogaon Human Rights Development Association(NHRDO)
04	Community Radio Mahananda 98.8	Proyash Manabik Unnayan Society(Proyash MUS)
05	Community Radio Padma 99.2	CCD Bangladesh
06	Community Radio Jhenuk 99.2	Srizoni Bangladesh
07	Community Radio Nalta 99.2	Nalta Hospital and Community Health Foundation
08	Community Radio Sundarban 98.8	Broadcasting Asia Bangladesh (BAB)
09	Community Radio Lokobetar99.2	Mass Line Media Center(MMC)
10	Community Rural Radio Krishi Radio 98.8	Agriculture Information Service(AIS),Ministry of Agriculture
11	Community Radio NAF 99.2	Alliance for Cooperation and Legal Aid Bangladesh(ACLAB)
12	Community Radio SagarGiri 99.2	Young Power in Social Action(YPSA)
13	Community Radio Bikrampur 99.2	Environment Council Bangladesh(EC Bangladesh)
14	Radio Pollykantha 99.2	BRAC

Consultants

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