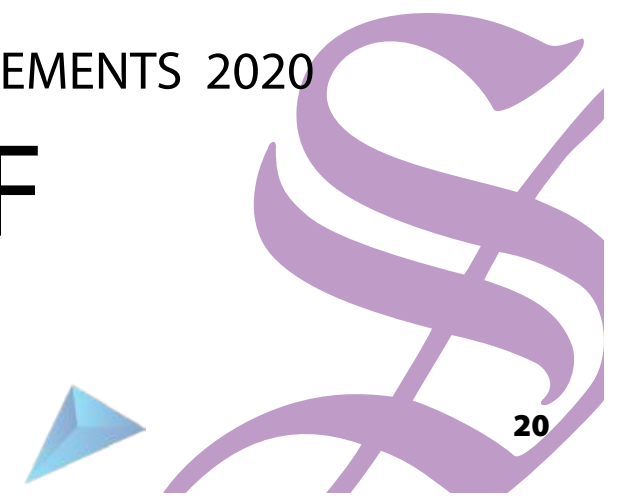




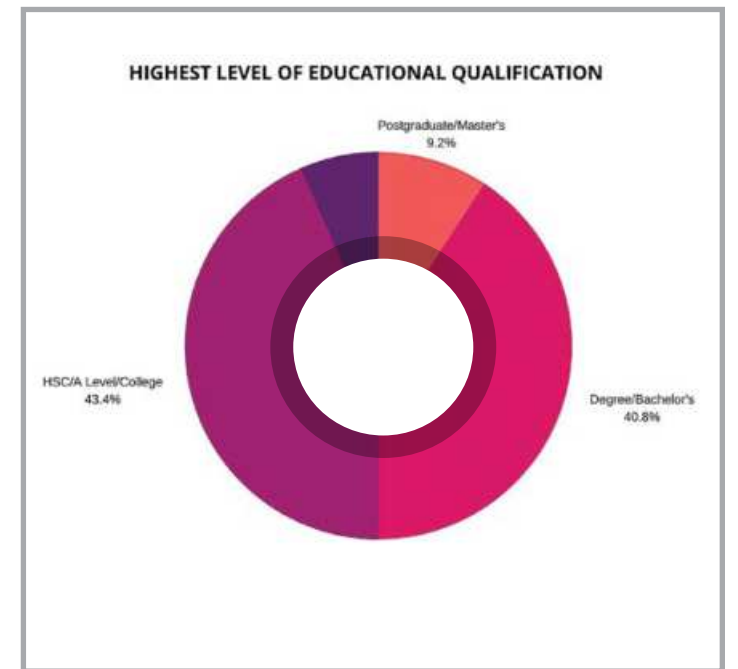
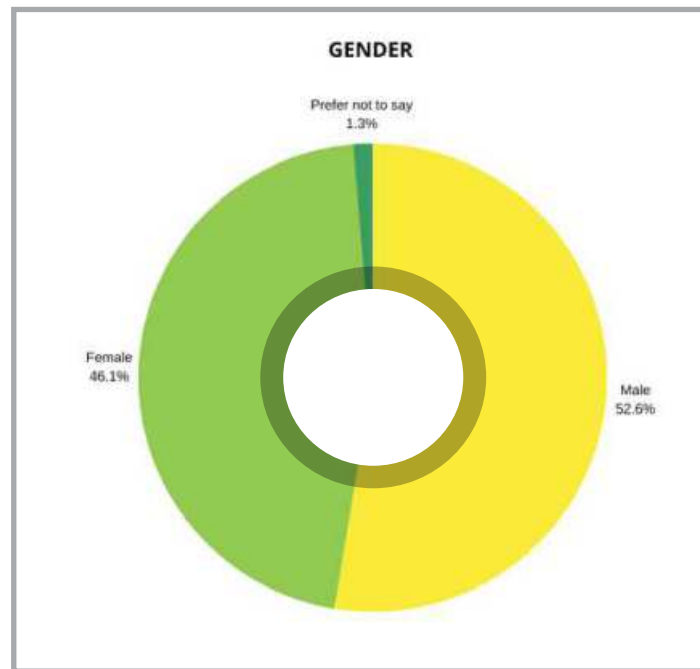
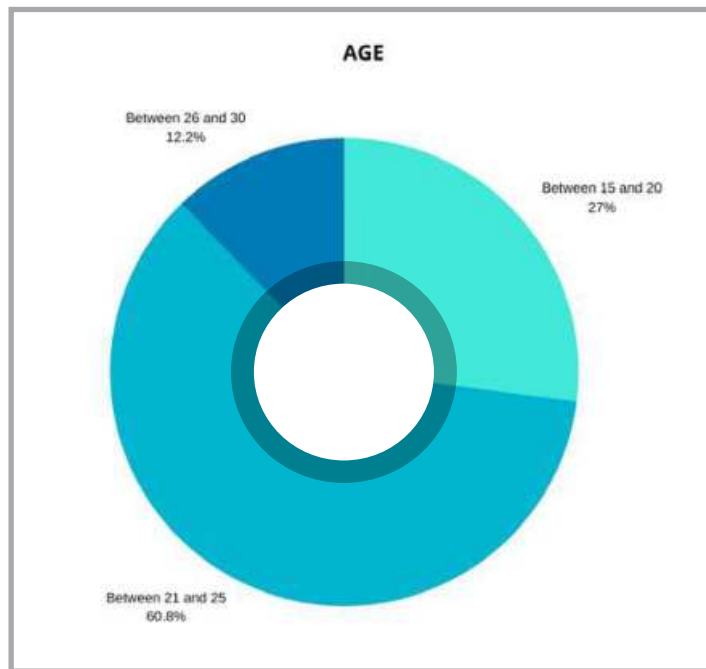
THE YOUTH IN THE ERA OF DIGITALISATION

DHAKA THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2020, FALGUN 7, 1426 BS



What do the youth think? The Daily Star's survey on youth and the environment

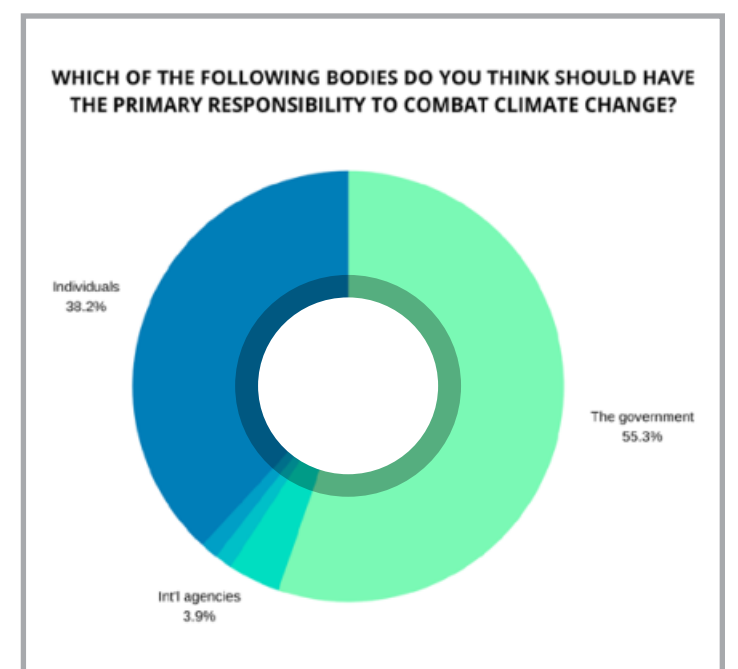
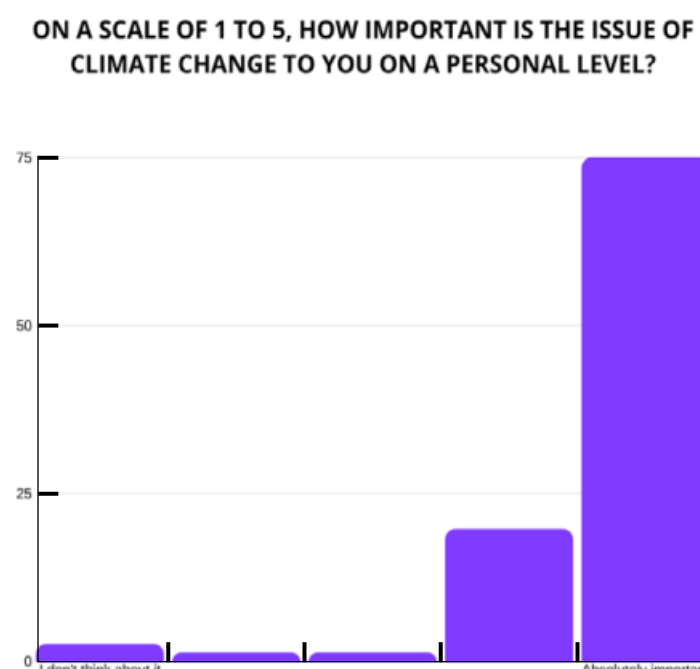
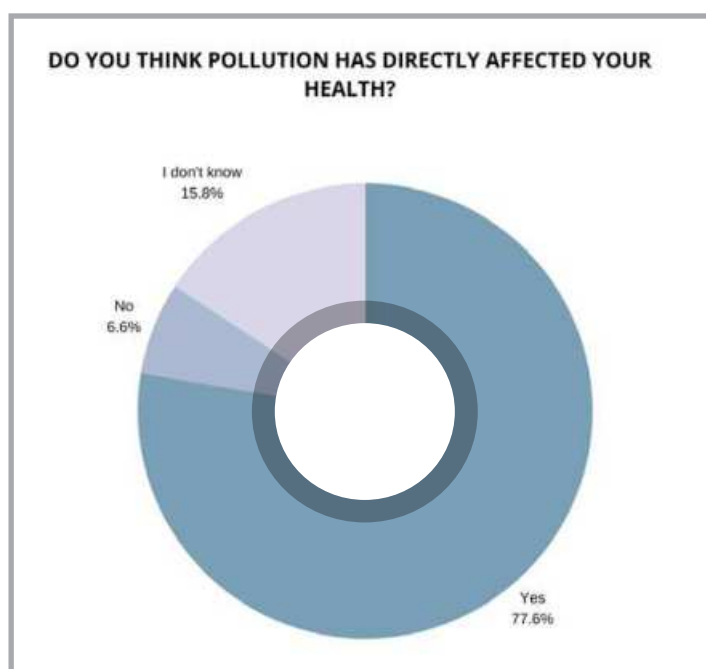
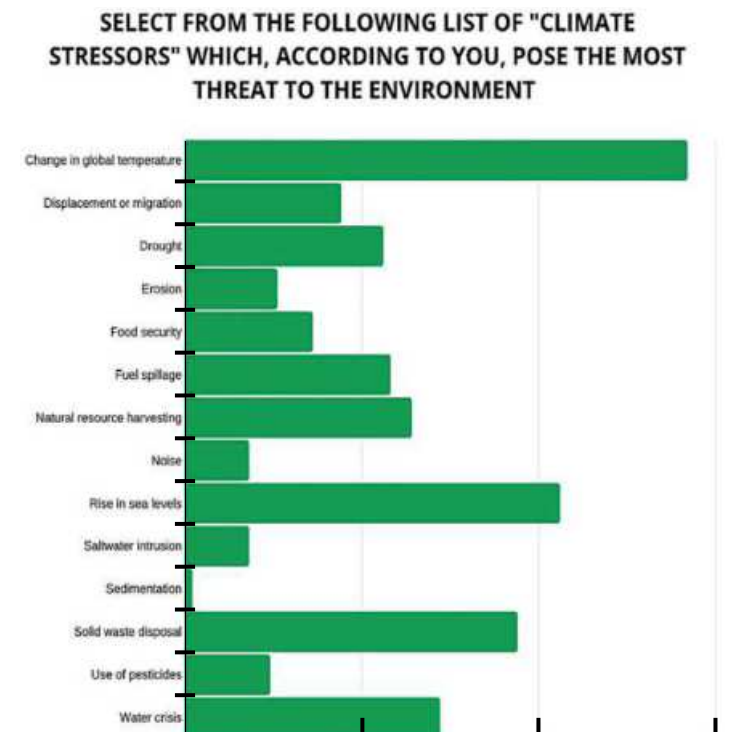
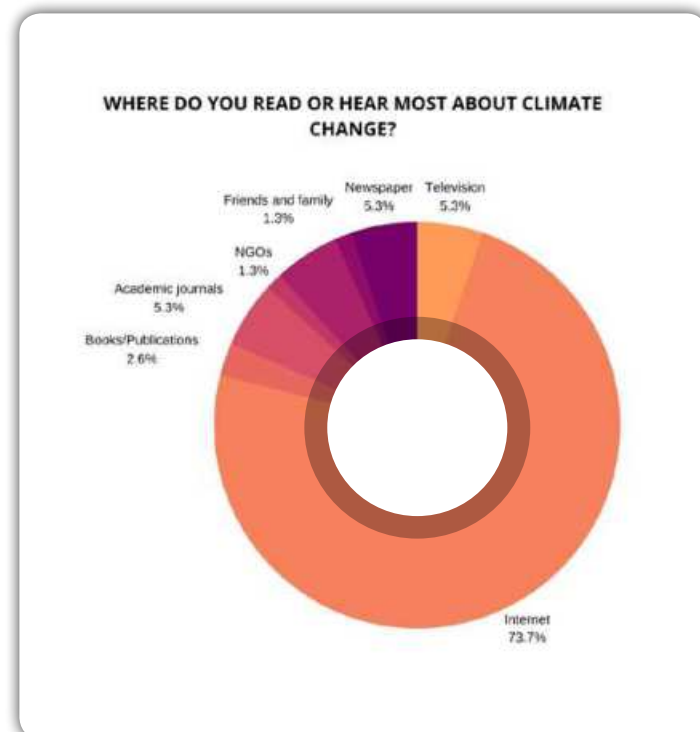
The Daily Star conducted a survey targeted towards the youth to explore what they think about the environment and activism. A total of 76 participants responded to the questionnaire. A few noteworthy responses and comments have been included with the charts. The survey was conducted by Kazi Akib Bin Asad, Sub-editor & Events Coordinator of SHOUT, The Daily Star, Adnan Ibne Abdul Qader, Senior Research Officer at ICCCAD, and Rafidah Rahman, Environmental Science graduate from North South University.



THREE WORDS OR PHRASES THAT COME TO MIND WHEN YOU HEAR THE TERM "CLIMATE CHANGE"

POLLUTION. PLASTIC. WILDLIFE.	PLASTIC. GLOBAL WARMING. GRETA THUNBERG.	GLOBAL WARMING. POLAR BEARS. EXTINCTION.	APOCALYPSE. DISASTER. DEATH.
SEA LEVEL RISE. SOIL SALINITY. POLLUTION.	PLASTIC. AIR POLLUTION. LESS CONCERNED PEOPLE.	IGNORANCE. INEVITABLE. CHALLENGE.	GRETA THUNBERG. IGNORANCE. HOPELESSNESS.
GLOBAL FREEZING. ANIMALS DYING. HUMANITY WILL BE EXTINCT.	EXTREME HEAT. MORE RAINFALLS. ICE MELTING.	PLASTIC IMPROPER GARBAGE DISPOSAL/BURNING BLACK SMOKE FROM UNFIT VEHICLES	IGNORED. RECOVERABLE. IMPENDING DEATH.

Another interesting fact was that majority of the participants see or relate climate change as the end of the world, doomsday, or something apocalyptic. Another observation made in this question is that people are not being able to distinguish between global warming and climate change.



DO YOU PERSONALLY TAKE INITIATIVES TO HELP TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS? OR, ARE YOU AFFILIATED WITH ANY ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

- I HAVE REDUCED MY PERSONAL PLASTIC AND ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION. I ALSO MAKE IT A POINT TO MAKE PEOPLE AROUND ME MORE AWARE ABOUT THE ISSUES.
- PRODUCING MORE OXYGEN BY PLANTING MORE TREES WHERE POSSIBLE. ESPECIALLY WORKING WITH MY SCHOOL'S ECO EARTH CLUB.
- I TRY TO FOLLOW THE SDGS - RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AS MY FIRST STEP TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE. ALSO I TRY TO RECYCLE AS MUCH AS I CAN.
- I WORK WITH BRAC. BRAC HAS A LOT OF PROJECTS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE.
- WE RUN AN ORGANISATION NAMED "CLEAN AND GREEN CAMPUS".
- I AM PART OF THE ENVIRONMENT CLUB AT MY UNIVERSITY WHICH WORKS WITH RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN.
- CLEANUP DRIVES IN MY CAMPUS, MAKING SURE PEOPLE AND MY OWN LITTER END UP IN TRASH CANS INSTEAD OF THE STREETS, DRAINS, ETC.
- I ALWAYS RECYCLE AND TRY TO USE AS LITTLE PLASTIC AS POSSIBLE, I HAVE ALSO RECENTLY SHIFTED TO USING MENSTRUAL CUPS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS.

One recommendation that was made unanimously was to urge for organized, collaborative effort from the government and industries to find alternatives and solutions. The first thing that needs to be done is to create awareness programmes and give the populace a sense of responsibility and liability. Following that, proper planning, implementation and monitoring should be done regarding traffic, landfill burning, constructions and other human-induced actions that accelerate climate change.

HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE THE TERM "YOUTH ACTIVISM"?

- YOUTH ACTIVISM IS WHEN MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH URGE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE IN SOCIETY.
- YOUTH BEING CONCERNED ABOUT THE ISSUES AT HAND AND TAKING ACTIONS TO RESOLVE THEM.
- THE ACTIONS WHICH PORTRAY YOUTH INNOVATION THAT MEETS A PURPOSE OR SOME SORT OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.
- THE YOUNG GENERATION IS THE FUTURE OF THIS COMMUNITY, THEY MUST TAKE ACTIONS TO PREVENT CLIMATE CHANGE.
- IT'S VERSATILE. CANNOT BE DESCRIBED ONLY IN TERMS OF CLIMATE ISSUES, IT'S HUGE.
- ADULTS ARE NOW ACTING MORE IMMATURELY THAN THE YOUTH. YOUTH IS POWER. SO, THEY NEED TO COME FORWARD FOR BETTER CHANGE.
- ENCOURAGING THE YOUTH TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE OF ADDRESSING PRESSING ISSUES FROM A YOUNG AGE.
- TAKING STEPS TO PREVENT THE REST OF THE WORLD FROM DOOM AND MAKING THE WORLD KNOW ABOUT THOSE STEPS, STARTING FROM A YOUNG AGE.

FINALLY, HOW CAN A NEWSPAPER LIKE THE DAILY STAR HELP IN ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

- EDUCATE READERS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.
- TEAM UP WITH INSTITUTIONS OR RESEARCH GROUPS. MASS ANALYSIS OF THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS IS NEEDED TO SEE HOW MUCH DAMAGE THEY'RE CAUSING.
- PUBLISH RESEARCH ON POSSIBLE CAUSE, EFFECT AND THE SOLUTION OF POLLUTION IN DHAKA TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUS THESE ISSUES ARE.
- AS THE BEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN OUR COUNTRY, INTERNATIONAL FIGURES READ IT A LOT. SO HAVING NEWS INCLUDING CLIMATE ISSUE WILL CATCH THEIR EYES.
- BY MAKING PEOPLE AWARE, BRINGING NEW CAMPAIGNS AND COMPETITIONS, PUBLISHING INSPIRING NEWS.
- INCLUDE THE DAILY AIR QUALITY INDEX OF DHAKA IN THE NEWSPAPERS SO THAT MORE PEOPLE BECOME AWARE OF WHERE WE'RE REALLY LIVING.
- IN MY OPINION NEWSPAPERS CAN PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL SUBJECTS FOR EVERY UNIVERSITIES THAT WILL HELP INDIVIDUALS TO GROW INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT.
- COVER BANGLADESHI ACTIVISTS AND REGULATORY LAWS AGAINST POLLUTION, PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION AND EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT THE LAWS.