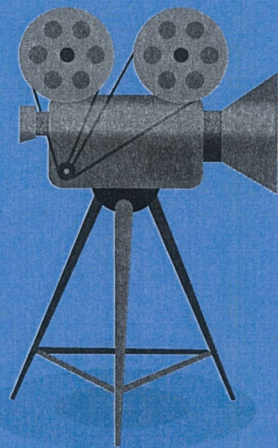




**BANGLADESH INSTITUTE
OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT (BIIT)**

*MONOGRAPH
SERIES
ON
SOCIAL
RESEARCH*



FILM **Censorship** **ACT**

**A Comparative Analysis of
Malaysia and Bangladesh**

Dr. Md. Zahidul Islam

Monograph Series on Social Research

Human Resource Development
through Research Project 2019 of BIIT

FILM CENSORSHIP ACT
A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF
MALAYSIA AND BANGLADESH

Dr. Md. Zahidul Islam



Research Division

**BANGLADESH INSTITUTE
OF ISLAMIC THOUGHT**

In collaboration with IIIT USA

Film Censorship Act: A Comparative Analysis of
Malaysia and Bangladesh

By Dr. Md. Zahidul Islam

Copyright © BIIT 2019

Published in December 2019

Published by

Research Division, Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thought (BIIT)

H # 4, R # 2, S # 9, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230

Phone: +88 02 58954256, +88 02 58957509

E-mail: researchbiit@gmail.com, biit_org@yahoo.com

Website: www.iiitbd.org

ISBN: 978-984-8471-71-5

CONTENTS

Chapter One	
Introduction	5
Chapter Two	
Film Censorship Laws in Malaysia and Bangladesh	11
Introduction	11
Legal History of Film Censorship Laws in Malaysia and Bangladesh	13
Legal history of Film Censorship Laws in Malaysia	13
Legal History of Film Censorship Laws in Bangladesh	16
The Framework of Film Censorship Laws in Malaysia and Bangladesh	20
The Frameworks of Film Censorship Laws in Malaysia	20
The Frameworks of Film Censorship Laws in Bangladesh	27
The Process of Film Censorship in Malaysia and Bangladesh	34
The Process of Film Censorship in Malaysia	34
The Process of Film Censorship in Bangladesh	39
Comparison of Film Censorship Laws in Malaysia and Bangladesh	41
Similarities	41
Differences	44
Conclusion	45
Chapter Three	
Film Censors' and Practitioners' Opinion and Experience Regarding Film Censorship	47
Introduction	47
Film Censorship Board is a Barrier of Freedom of Speech and Expression	47
Competency and Suitability of the Members in the Film Censorship Board	53
Independence of Film Censorship Board in Censorship Decisions	57

The Discretionary Power of Minister or Government to Override Censorship Decisions	60
Suitability of film Categories	63
Screening of Foreign Films	66
Strictness of Censorship Board for Local Films	70
Comparison of Film Practitioners' Opinion and Experience of Malaysia and Bangladesh	73
Conclusion	74
 Chapter Four	
Conclusion and Recommendation	75
Introduction	75
Conclusion	75
Recommendations	77
Suitability and Competence of the members of the film censorship board	78
Independence of the members of the film censorship board in making censorship decisions	78
Absolute discretionary power for the Minister or Government	79
Censorship guidelines	79
The provision of reasons for censorship decisions	81
 Bibliography	83
 Appendix A List of Interviewees of Malaysia	85
Appendix B List of Interviewees of Bangladesh	85
Appendix C Question Guide for Semi-Structured Interviews of Selected Film Practitioner of Malaysia	86
Appendix D Question Guide for Semi-Structured Interviews of Selected Film Practitioner of Bangladesh	87



Dr. Md. Zahidul Islam

Md. Zahidul Islam has completed MCL (Master of Comparative Law) and Ph.D (Doctor of Philosophy) from Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah (faculty) of Laws, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). He received his legal education both in Bangladesh and Malaysia. He achieved a good experience in research while he studied in IIUM. Based on his research and academic performance, he was honored with Postgraduate Niche Area Scholarship (2013/2014) and President Scholarship (2014/2015) at IIUM. He has written a good number of articles on Human Rights law, Film Censorship Law and Media & Communication law which published in local and international journals. He also attended in a number of Conferences at local and international level. Currently he is teaching as an assistant professor at Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah (faculty) of Laws, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). Prior to joining IIUM, he was a lecturer at Kulliyah of *Shari'ah* and Law, Islamic University of Maldives. He can be reached through his email: zahidul@iium.edu.my.

ISBN: 978-984-8471-71-5



9 789848 471715