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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies

NATIONALITY: Bangladeshi

LANGUAGES: English, Bengali, Hindi, French

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: Women's economic and political empowerment, gender and politics, social/feminist movements, violence against women, rural livelihoods

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Uganda, Ghana, Rwanda

OVERVIEW

Dr. Nazneen has 17 years of research, teaching, policy analysis and advocacy experience on gender and development issues. Her research largely focuses on women's empowerment, gender and politics, feminist movements and violence against women in South Asia and sub Saharan Africa. She has worked as a consultant in South Asia and sub Saharan African countries for agencies such as FAO, UNDP, SDC, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Academy for Educational Development (AED)—designing gender and development interventions, conducting policy analysis and programme evaluations. Dr. Nazneen is well versed in conducting political economy analysis, institutional analysis, political and social ethnography using qualitative and participatory methods.

EDUCATION

2003 – 2008 **PhD in Development Studies**, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, UK

2000 – 2001 **MA in Gender and Development**, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex, UK

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

1999 – 2015 **Professor (on leave)**, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
Previous positions: Associate Professor, (2008–2012), Assistant Professor (2004–2008) and Lecturer (1999–2004)

RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE AT IDS

2020 - PRESENT **Co-Investigator**, Institute of Development Studies, UK
Project: The Gendered Price of Precarity, funded by The British Academy. Lead the design of the comparative analysis framework for exploring gendered vulnerability to workplace sexual harassment in formal and informal sector in Uganda and Bangladesh, input into tool design and training. Co-ordinate research work in Bangladesh, train researchers and produce academic outputs and ensure quality.

- 2020 - PRESENT **Co-Investigator**, Institute of Development Studies, UK
Project: New Community Informed approaches to humanitarian response and restraint-funded by AHRC- DFID. The gender lead for designing conceptual framework, tool developments, training protocols, quality control and analysis frames to explore how communities understand sexual and gender based violence, what types of community level factors trigger restraint and the leadership role played by women in these efforts in DRC.
- 2020 - PRESENT **Workstream lead (Voice)**, Institute of Development Studies, UK
Programme: Countering Backlash and Reclaiming Gender Justice, funded by Swedish Development Co-operation Agency (Sida). Lead the research work with women's rights organisations (WROS) in Bangladesh, India, Uganda, Brazil and Lebanon. Develop country comparative framework for analysing nature of backlash and loss in specific policy areas around sexual and reproductive health, family law reforms, livelihoods for women. Co-ordinate work on with partners and women's rights groups in these countries to develop strategies to counter these specific losses, create spaces for reflections for WROs and global development partners around these issues.
- 2020 - PRESENT **Co-Investigator**, Institute of Development Studies, UK
Project: Sustaining Power: Contemporary backlash against women's struggles in South Asia, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). Lead the framing of understandings around women's struggles in all four countries, selection of cases in Nepal and Bangladesh, co-ordinating all research work with partners in Bangladesh and Nepal, and developing all tools and conducting gendered political economy analysis to be conducted in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.
- 2019 – 2021 **Workstream Lead**, Institute of Development Studies, UK
Women's Social and Political Action, Action for Empowerment and Accountability (A4EA) research consortium funded by DFID, UK. Lead the development of research proposal, provide intellectual leadership on women's social and political action in fragile settings in Mozambique, Nigeria and Pakistan, quality control of output, ensure delivery of products, facilitate cross stream learning and capacity building.
- 2018 – 2020 **Principal Investigator, Gender and Informal Networks in Clientelist Contexts, Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) RPC**, University of Manchester, with partners in universities in Bangladesh, Nepal and Uganda, funded by DFID UK.
Design, manage and lead the research on how informal networks influence gender positive policy outcomes in the following three areas: inheritance law reform, domestic violence, and education policy.
- 2018 – 2019 **Qualitative Lead**, IDRC, Institute of Development Studies, UK
Analysis of qualitative data collected on India, Nepal, Rwanda, Tanzania for evidence review on how childcare affects women's involvement in paid work for low income women; develop codes for analysis, identify trends, jointly draft working paper and organise roundtable.
- 2018 – 2019 **Workstream lead, Access to Justice**, Institute of Development Studies, UK
Evaluation of Stamping out and Preventing GBV programme in Zambia, co-ordinated by OPM. Scoping of various justice interventions around the world; provide expert input into designing assessment tools and frameworks, ensure quality of the analysis and suggest recommendations for program re-design.

- 2016 – 2018 **Political Economy Co-lead, Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) Research Program Consortium**, co-ordinated by the Overseas Development Institute, UK
Designed an analytical framework for political economy analysis (PEA) of Bangladesh, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Nepal country contexts; researched the politics specific legal and policy reforms on GBV and SRHR using PEA provided inputs to the qualitative and quantitative team for designing program interventions for social norm change.
- 2016 – 2017 **Synthesis stream co-ordinator, Accountable Grants Scheme, DFID**, Institute of Development Studies, UK
Collaboratively produce an evidence review of various interventions to reduce unpaid care burden, jointly produce briefings for UN high level panel, lead two workshops with core and affiliate members of the Gender and Sexuality Cluster to identify research and knowledge gaps and to link the work on care, sexuality and violence. Collaborate on producing the new research directions for the Gender and Sexuality Cluster.
- 2013 – 2017 **Principal Investigator, Gender and the Political Settlement, Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID) RPC**, University of Manchester, with partners in universities in Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda, and Bangladesh, India, and South Africa.
Designed the framework, led the research exploring the politics of legal change and policy reform and implementation gaps in two areas: girl's access to primary education and domestic violence Act, in Uganda, Rwanda, Ghana, Bangladesh, India and South Africa using PEA lens and process tracing and qualitative methods.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

- 2012 – 2014 **Country focal point, Gender, Power and Sexuality Program (Unpaid Care Work Network)**, based at the Center for Gender and Social Transformation (CGST), BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University.
Co-ordinated research and policy advocacy work on unpaid care in Bangladesh. BIGD is a part of the Sida funded project co-ordinated by IDS, UK on developing 'policy asks' related to unpaid care and building alliances for promoting these policy asks in national and international fora.
- 2013 – 2016 **Co-Investigator**, Institute of Development Studies, UK
Project: Gender norms, labour supply and Poverty Reduction in Comparative Contexts, funded by ESRC/DFID. Responsible for designing qualitative interview tools, supervisions and analysis of Bangladesh qualitative data and comparison with the Indian data on gender norms on labour force participation and wellbeing and writing. The research areas included coastal areas, char areas (riverbanks), and agricultural belts.
- 2012 – 2013 **Co-Lead, South Asian Secretariat for Women Parliamentarians**, based at the Center for Gender and Social Transformation, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University, funded by The Asia Foundation.
Designed and co-ordinated regional network activities of women parliamentarians around political participation, violence against women and UN resolution of peace and security 1325 in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Sri Lanka.
- 2010 – 2012 **Co-Investigator**, Institute of Development Studies, UK
Project: Women's Empowerment and Intimate Partner Violence; Academy for Educational Development (AED which later merged with FHI 360, Funded by NIH), Washington DC, USA. Designed qualitative data collection instruments, checked data quality, analysed findings and produced academic papers on women's empowerment, gender norms and intimate partner violence in Bangladesh.

2008 – 2011 **Research Fellow, (part time), Pathways of Women’s Empowerment RPC**, based at the South Asia Hub, BRAC Development Institute (BDI), BRAC University.
Worked on designing, conducting and analysing findings on how women’s organisations in Bangladesh mobilise constituencies for demanding gender justice; political parties’ and NGOs’ discourse on women’s empowerment in Bangladesh; and new aid modalities. Edited a book on feminist activism in seven transitional countries.

SELECTED POLICY RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY EXPERIENCE (INCLUDING IDS)

- 2020 **Consultant, Ireland’s Positioning paper on Gender Equality**, Irish Aid
Review evidence on gender impact of Covid- 19, identify critical areas of concern and partnerships that IA should consider in post recovery phase in the following areas: SRHR, GBV, Women’s Economic empowerment, Women Peace and security, Education.
- 2020 **Accountability Research Center**, American University, DC
Write the Country case analysis for Bangladesh of the Domestic Violence law of 2010 using the sandwich strategy framework.
- 2020 **Consultant**, The Macarthur Foundation, USA
Evidence review of whether inclusion of women in social accountability process lead to reduced corruption, identify factors that are critical for designing and implementing such programmes in Nigeria. Write an evidence review paper and a policy brief on gender, accountability and corruption and facilitate learning exchange with the Nigerian team.
- 2020 **Consultant**, Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC)
Evidence review for the paper on Women’s Political Empowerment, to assess current trends, and identify factors that affect women’s ability to run for office and influence institutional change in Parliament and local government, and reflect on types of programmatic interventions and investment options that strengthen women’s leadership in sub Saharan Africa, Central Asia, and South Asia.
- 2018 – 2019 **Consultant**, Development Leadership Programme, University of Birmingham
Review evidence on collective action and social movement, specifically exploring women’s movement and movements by marginalised groups, and write a State of the Art paper for research and programming on collective leadership for policy reforms.
- 2017 – 2018 **Consultant**, Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC)
Evidence review paper on socially inclusive budgeting processes, case studies of gender responsive budgeting at the local level in Bangladesh and Nepal
- 2018 **Country Case Lead**, Act Alliance
Country analysis of closing civic space in Nepal and its impact on SDGs, particularly, inclusion of marginalised groups, including analysis of how women’s rights will be affected by the changes.
- 2017 **Consultant**, Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC)
Thematic review of gender and intersecting inequalities in local government in South Asia.
- 2017 **Gender and political economy advisor**, Wise Development
Project: PROKAS, conduct a gendered political economy analysis of the Bangladesh context, and write briefings on the impact of political economy shifts on migration policy and climate financing for the Government of Bangladesh.

- 2016 **Consultant**, FAO, Rome
Evidence review paper on rural women's voice and agency in agriculture in South Asia, Latin America and sub Saharan Africa.
- 2014 **Gender Expert**, UNDP-Dhaka
Background paper for 'Governance and Accountability: Public Sector Reform and Justice Sector' for the 7th Five year plan for the Government of Bangladesh.
- 2013 **Lead Consultant**, CARE Bangladesh
Researched the political determinants of incentives for local government officials in delivering pro poor inclusive governance in Bangladesh, focusing on women.
- 2011 **Consultant**, OXFAM-GB (Bangladesh)
Developed strategy for designing a programme on Women's Transformative Leadership in Bangladesh.
- 2010 **Consultant**, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, Washington, USA
Review the impact of the Urban Poor Fund International (UPFI) on Slum/ Shack Dwellers International (SDI) and their partner federations in securing low income housing, infrastructure and services for the slum dwellers in Sri Lanka, Philippines, Uganda, Malawi and Zimbabwe.
- 2008 – 2009 **Consultant**, Human Development Report Unit, UNDP Regional Research Centre in Colombo
Background paper on 'Rural Livelihoods and Gender' for the Asia Pacific region for the HDRU report 2009 on 'Power, Voice and Rights: A Turning Point for Gender Equality in Asia and Pacific'

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Edited Books

Nazneen, S., Hickey, S. and E. Sifaki (2019) *Negotiating Gender Equity in the Global South: The Politics of Domestic Violence Policy*, London: Routledge

Nazneen, S. and Sultan, M. (2014) *Voicing Demands: Feminist Activism in Transitional Contexts*, London: ZED Books

Edited Special Issue

Nazneen, S. (2019) Guest Editor, *Contentious Empowerment: Women Development and Power in South Asia*, Special issue in Contemporary South Asia 27.4

Nazneen, S. (2014) Guest Editor, *Researching Women's Empowerment: Reflections on Methodology by Southern Feminists*, Women's Studies International Forum 45

Peer Reviewed Journals

Nazneen, S., Hossain, N. and Chopra, D. (2019) 'Contentious Women's Empowerment in South Asia', *Contemporary South Asia* 27.4

Nazneen, S. (2018) 'Binary Framing, Islam and Struggles for Women's Empowerment in Bangladesh', *Feminist Dissent* 3

Nazneen, S. and Schuler, S. (2018) 'Does Intimate Partner Violence Decline as Women's Empowerment becomes Normative? Perspectives of Bangladeshi Women', *World Development* 101

- Nazneen, S.**, Schuler, S., Lenzi, R. and Badal, S.H. (2017) 'Men's Perspective on women's empowerment and intimate partner violence in rural Bangladesh', *Culture, Health and Sexuality*, doi: 10.1080/13691058.2017.1332391
- Nazneen, S.** and Hassan, M. (2017) 'Violence and the Breakdown of the Political Order: An Uncertain Future for Bangladesh?', *Conflict, Security and Development*, Special Issue on Violence and Political Settlements 17.3
- Nazneen, S.**, and Noor, M. (2016) 'To Connect is to be Influenced: what determines a third party's forgiveness attitudes to conflicting groups violent members', *Asian Journal of Social Psychology* 20.3
- Nazneen, S.**, Sultan, M. and Darkwah, A. (2014) 'Researching Women's Empowerment: Reflections on Methodology by Southern Feminists', *Women's Studies International Forum* 45
- Nazneen, S.** and Sultan, M. (2014) 'Positionality and Transformative Knowledge Production in Doing Feminist Research in Bangladesh', *Women's Studies International Forum* 45
- Nazneen, S.**, Schuler, S., Lenzi, R. and Bates, L. (2013) 'A Perceived Decline in Intimate Partner Violence in Bangladesh: Evidence from Eight Villages', *Studies in Family Planning* 44
- Nazneen, S.** and Tasneem, S. (2010) 'A Silver Lining: Women in Local Government in Bangladesh', *IDS Bulletin* 41.5
- Nazneen, S.** and Sultan, M., Hossain, N. (2010) 'National Discourses on Women's Empowerment: Enabling or Constraining Women's Choices,' *Development* 53.2
- Nazneen, S.** and Sultan, M. (2009) 'Struggles for Survival and Autonomy: Impact of NGOization on Women's Organizations in Bangladesh', *Development* 52.2

Book Chapters

- Nazneen, S.** (2019) 'Building Strategic Relations with the Politics Elites: The Politics of Domestic Violence Act 2010 in Bangladesh', in S. Nazneen, S. Hickey and E. Sifaki, *Negotiating Gender Equity in the Global South*, London: Routledge
- Nazneen, S.** (2018) 'Struggles for Gender Justice: Regional Networks and Feminist Experiences of South-South Collaborations', in E. Fiddian-Qasmiyeh and P. Daley (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of South-South Relations*, London: Routledge
- Nazneen, S.** (2017) 'Negotiating gender equity in a clientelist state: The role of informal networks in Bangladesh', in G. Waylen (ed.) *Gender and Informal Institution*, Rowman and Littlefield
- Nazneen, S.** (2016) 'Subversively Complicit: Negotiating Gender Knowledge Production', in M. Mukhopadhyaya (ed.) *Feminist Subversion and Complicity: Governmentalities and Gender Knowledge in South Asia*, New Delhi: Zubaan
- Nazneen, S.** and Mahmud, S. (2014) 'Gendered Politics of Inclusive Development', in S. Hickey, K. Sen and B. Bakunya, et al. (eds), *Does Politics Matter for Inclusive Development?*, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Nazneen, S.**; Ehsan, I. and Hasan, B. (2014) 'Exceptional Women? Urban Municipal Councillors in Bangladesh', in M. Tadros, (ed.), *Women in Politics: Gender, Power, Empowerment*, London: Zed Books
- Nazneen, S.** and Sultan, M. (2014) 'Reciprocity, Distancing and Opportunistic Overtures: Women's Organisations Negotiating Legitimacy and Space', in A. Cornwall and J. Edwards (eds), *Feminisms, Empowerment Development*, London: Zed Books
- Nazneen, S.** and Sultan, M. (2014) 'Well Chosen Compromises? Feminists Legitimizing Voice in Bangladesh.', in S. Nazneen and M. Sultan (eds), *Voicing Demands: Feminist Voice in Transitional Contexts*, London: Zed Books

Nazneen, S. (2013) 'Men Aboard?: Movement for a Uniform Family Code in Bangladesh', in M. Al Sharmani (ed.), *Feminist Activism, Women's Rights and Legal Reforms*, London: Zed Books

Nazneen, S. and Sultan, M. (2012) 'Contemporary Feminist Politics in Bangladesh: Taking the Bull by the Horns', in S. Roy (ed.), *New South Asian Feminisms*, London: Zed Books

Nazneen, S. (2008) 'Group Discrimination in the Parliamentary Election of 2001 in Bangladesh', in D. Mendis (eds), *Electoral Processes and Governance in South Asia*, New Delhi and London: Sage

Working Papers and Other Publications

Nazneen, S. (2019) *How do Leaders Collectively Make Change?*, DLP State of the Art paper 3, Birmingham: University of Birmingham

Nazneen, S., Chopra, D., Saha, A. and Krishnan, M. (2019) *Are Women not Working?: Interactions Between childcare and women's economic engagement*, IDS Working Paper 533

Nazneen, S., Chopra, D., and Krishnan, M. (2019) *From Survival to a Triple Boon: Women's economic engagement and care*, IDS Policy Brief, Brighton: IDS

Nazneen, S. and Lauridsen, J. (2019) *Socially Inclusive and gender responsive budgeting*, SDC working paper, Bern: SDC

Nazneen, S. and Thapa, D. (2019) *Adolescent Health and Development Strategy*, GAGE Policy Note, GAGE, ODI

Nazneen, S. and Sultan, M. (2019) *Policy and legal analysis notes: Bangladesh*, GAGE Policy note, ODI

Nazneen, S. and Thapa, D. (2019) *Implications of Closing Civic Space for Sustainable Development in Nepal*, IDS and Act Alliance

Nazneen, S. (2018) *Gender and Intersecting Inequalities in Local Government in South Asia*, IDS Working paper 507, Brighton: IDS

Nazneen, S. and Hossain, N., et al. (2018) *What Does Closing Civic Space Mean for Development?* IDS working paper 515, Brighton: IDS

Nazneen, S. and Cole, N. (2018) *Literature Review on Socially Inclusive Budgeting*, SDC, <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/DDLGN/Documents/SIB%20GRB%20Literature%20Review%20March%202018%20Final.pdf>

Nazneen, S. and Masud, R. (2017) *The Politics of Negotiating Gender Equity in Bangladesh*, ESID working paper 76, Manchester: University of Manchester

Nazneen, S. (2016) *A Seat at the Table is Not Enough: Gender and Political Inclusion*, The World Social Science Report on Inequality, UNESCO, IDS and ISSR

Nazneen, S. (2012) *Rural Livelihoods and Gender*, Technical background paper series 2010/08, UNDP

Nazneen, S. and Mahmud, S. (2012) *Gendered Politics of Securing Inclusive Development*, ESID Working paper 13, Manchester: University of Manchester

Nazneen, S., Hossain, N. and Sultan, M. (2011) *National Discourses on Women's Empowerment: Continuities and Change*, IDS working paper 368, Brighton: IDS

REFEREEING ACTIVITIES

Reviewer

American Political Science Review, Politics and Gender, Feminist Economics, Social Politics, Feminist Review, Women's Studies International Forum, Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, Contemporary South Asia, Indian Journal of Gender Studies.