

Institute of Development Studies
Library Road
Brighton
BN1 9RE
UK

E: s.aslam@ids.ac.uk
T: +44 (0)1273 606261
W: www.ids.ac.uk

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT: IDS, Cities Cluster

DATE OF BIRTH: 08-06-1992

NATIONALITY: Pakistani

LANGUAGES: English, Urdu

THEMATIC EXPERTISE: Urban vulnerability and poverty, Urban inequality

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPERTISE: Pakistan

OVERVIEW

Saba is currently a Research Assistant at the IDS Cities cluster. She is researching about the role played by local governments, actors, and city networks in advancing the Agenda 2030. Her research interests include examining the sources of marginality and vulnerability across poor neighbourhoods in southern cities, particularly through the lens of infrastructures (like urban land, housing, water, and sanitation). Saba completed an MA in Poverty and Development from the IDS. Her dissertation examined the complex relationships that the urban poor engage in to acquire essential services that often put them in economic, social, and political peripheries. Previously, Saba worked as a researcher at the Collective for Social Science Research (CSSR), a think-tank based in Karachi and is currently a visiting researcher there. At CSSR, Saba assisted in a number of studies spanning across a range of themes including rural women's work in agriculture, social protection, service delivery issues in low-income urban communities. In much of the research, Saba has contributed by co-drafting research tools, collecting data in the field, training field researchers, and analysing qualitative data.

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2019 - 2020 **MA Poverty and Development, Distinction**
Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex (UK)
Dissertation title: *In what ways does the urban land nexus explain human-infrastructure interactions and patterns of peripheralisation in Karachi?*

2011 - 2015 **BBA, 3.4 CGPA**
Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Pakistan

RECORD OF EMPLOYMENT

2020 – Present **Research Assistant, Cities cluster, Institute of Development Studies, UK**
Policy Paper on Local Government and International Development Co-operation, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Researcher (part-time), Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS), Pakistan
Sustaining Power: Women's struggles against Contemporary Backlash in South Asia, ESRC

2020 **Research Assistant, Institute of Development Studies, UK**

Sustaining Power: Women's struggles against Contemporary Backlash in South Asia, ESRC
Identification of country case studies for Pakistan and Bangladesh; literature review and stakeholder interviews

2018 – 2019

**Research Officer, Collective for Social Science Research (CSSR), Karachi, Pakistan
Sindh Social Protection programme, Government of Sindh, Pakistan**

Assisted lead researcher in the design of a provincial-level mother and child support cash transfer programme or rural Sindh; mapped out health services within the province through government data; coordinated with Sindh provincial government's line departments to consolidate health data, conducted interviews with bureaucrats to map out services, coordinated with research team to put forward a bill on the Rights of Women Agricultural Workers in Sindh

Maintaining Essential Services after Natural Disasters (MAINTAINS), DFID UK

Key informant interviews with leads of organisations; literature review to map health services in a disaster context; identified research gaps; contributed in drafting of the country report

2015 – 2018

**Research Assistant, Collective for Social Science Research (CSSR), Karachi, Pakistan
Leveraging Agriculture for Nutrition in South Asia (LANSA), DFID UK**

Designed endline survey using Computer Assisted Performance interview (CAPI); assisted in the design of field research instruments; trained field researchers to survey over 1,000 rural women in 62 administrative villages in Sindh province; conducted quality checks of baseline and endline surveys (10 percent sample coverage); assisted in anthropometric trainings; cleaned, coded and analysed baseline and endline datasets to arrive at descriptive statistics on rural women's health outcomes and work status using STATA and SPSS; mentored 9 community members to collect evidence in their villages as part of the project's Research to Action pilot; contributed to research outputs including country briefs, policy briefs and impact stories; led the organising of a national-level consultation with parliamentarians, activists, and government officials on recognition of rural women's rights as agricultural workers

2017 – 2018

Qualitative study on Public Service Delivery in Informally Settled Areas of Karachi, World Bank

Designed research instruments; conducted key informant and household interviews with over 50 respondents in 5 informal settlements of Karachi; coordinated with the client to provide updates and prepared status reports; consolidated field findings using 'site-level' reports; analysed qualitative data and co-authored the report which was presented to World Bank staff and other stakeholders

2016 – 2017

Political Risk Assessment of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), World Bank

Literature review; archival analysis using relevant news items from the country's largest newspaper (DAWN) to cover news stories pertaining to BISP; assisted lead researcher in report editing and in preparing the presentation for World Bank staff

2017

Misperceptions of India Pakistan trade, United States Institute of Peace

Literature review of the pharmaceutical sector of India and Pakistan, co-authored the study

AFFILIATIONS

Researcher, Collective for Social Science Research, Karachi, Pakistan

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

2019. (with Rebecca Pradeilles, Elizabeth Allen, Haris Gazdar, Hussain Bux Mallah, Azmat Budhani, Rashid Mehmood, Sidra Mazhar, Ayesha Mysorewala, Alan D. Dangour and Elaine Ferguson), "[Maternal BMI mediates the impact of crop-related agricultural work during pregnancy on infant length in rural Pakistan: a mediation analysis of cross-sectional data.](#)" BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.

2018. (with Rebecca Pradeilles, Tom Norris, Elaine Ferguson, Haris Gazdar, Sidra Mazhar, Hussain Bux Mallah, Azmat Budhani, Rashid Mehmood, Alan Dangour and Elizabeth Allen). "[Factors associated with catch-up growth in early infancy in rural Pakistan: A longitudinal analysis of the women's work and nutrition study.](#)" Journal of Maternal and Child Nutrition.

2017. (with S. Akbar Zaidi and Farheen Ghaffar). "[Misperceptions about India Pakistan trade: Beyond Politics.](#)" Peaceworks.

Research briefs and Blogs

2019. (with Sangeetha Rajesh and Jessica Meeker). [LANSA Country Synthesis Brief.](#)

2019. [Value of Collaborative Research Crossing Boundaries](#). LANSA Blog.
2018. [Women agricultural workers and their rights](#). Collective Blog.
2017. [Ag-nutrition policy: Where are the women?](#) Collective Blog.
2017. [Connecting research to ongoing debates](#). LANSA Blog.
2017. [Beyond a shared language](#). Collective Blog.
2016. [When the respondents questioned](#). Collective Blog.
2016. [Caste and I](#). Collective Blog.
-

Research Presentations

Presented the study '*Social Processes and Individual Behaviour: A Qualitative Study of Public Service Delivery in Informally Planned Settlements of Karachi*' to the Cities Research Cluster, Institute of Development Studies

Co-presented, '*Social Processes and Individual Behaviour: A Qualitative Study of Public Service Delivery in Informally Planned Settlements of Karachi*' at a seminar in Collective for Social Science Research. November 2018.

Represented research team at a dissemination event of a study '*When Water Becomes a Hazard: A Diagnostic Report on The State of Water Supply, Sanitation and Poverty in Pakistan and Its Impact on Child Nutrition*' hosted by World Bank in Karachi. November 2018.

Presented video poster on Research to Action pilot programme at the 2nd Agriculture, Nutrition, Health (ANH) Academy Week and Feed the Future Nutrition Innovation Lab Scientific Symposium in Kathmandu, Nepal. June 2017.

Participated and represented CSSR research team at 10th International Conference on Rural Women Day organised by PODA Pakistan in Islamabad. October 2017.
