

ASHIK BARUA

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EDUCATION

- Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh 2021
Masters of Social Science in Anthropology (General Group)
Related Coursework: Body & Sexuality; Childhood & Child rights; Civil Society, Governance & Development; Public Policy; Gender, Poverty & Health; Visual Media & Cultural Changes.
GPA: 3.5 out of 4
- Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh 2020
Bachelor of Social Science with Honours in Anthropology
Dissertation: “Context and experience of women labour migration and adaption process in home country after return: A case study of Mohabbatpur village of Bandura Union, Nawabganj Upazila, Dhaka”
Related Coursework: Social & Cultural Anthropology; Economy & Societies; Anthropological Research Methods; Biological Anthropology; Statistics & Computer Application; Gender: Theories & Issues; Anthropology of Development; Applied Anthropology; Urban Anthropology; Medical Anthropology; Environmental Anthropology.
CGPA: 3.44 out of 4
- Dhaka City College, Bangladesh 2016
Higher Secondary Certificate Examination (Science Group)
GPA: 4.83 out of 5

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- University Merit Scholarship, Jahangirnagar University** 2017-2020
- Awarded for outstanding academic performance throughout undergraduate studies, consecutively for four years.
- Academic Distinction, Jahangirnagar University** 2021
- Ranked third in cohort for Masters of Social Science in Anthropology (General Group), Session: 2020-21.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “The Together Project: Implementing and adapting photovoice and participatory analysis to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights research with youth living in a slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh.” Article manuscript in progress, to be submitted for publication in late 2025.

SKILLS

Research: Proficient in qualitative approach & enthusiastic about mixed methods. Experienced at conducting exploratory research, case studies, action research, participant observation, semi-structured interviews, in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, participatory rural appraisal, community engagement and mobilization, participatory learning, deliberative dialogue workshops, photovoice, and participatory arts-based methods, thematic analysis, participatory qualitative analysis, rapid ethnographic assessment and reflexive journaling.

Software & Applications: Microsoft Office Package, ATLAS.ti, NVivo, Canva.

Languages: Bengali (Native), English (Professional Proficiency).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

- BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, Dhaka, Bangladesh January 2024 to Ongoing
Research Assistant
- Contributed to a multi-country participatory research initiative focused on co-creating inclusive and accessible SRHR video content with youth living in urban informal settlements in Bangladesh.
 - Led youth engagement activities, including training and co-analysis workshops with Youth Advisory Board (YAB) members, fostering their involvement in data collection, participatory analysis, and research validation.
 - Conducted qualitative fieldwork using participatory methods such as body mapping, FGDs, and capturing nuanced perspectives on SRHR, digital misinformation, and access barriers.
 - Mapped and audited Bangla-language digital SRHR videos & contents using a youth-centered thematic framework to assess accessibility, inclusivity, and content quality.
 - Supported research tool development, ethics documentation, reflexive journaling, and team learning processes to ensure methodological rigor and youth-led insight integration.
 - Additionally supported other JPGSPH research initiatives and served as a **Teaching Fellow** during the *Experiential Learning Project 2025*, mentoring international & national graduate students through immersive public health fieldwork and systems thinking exercises in peri urban communities.

Longitudinal Study, Vanderbilt University, USA

October 2024 to December 2024

Research Assistant

- Supported a longitudinal study titled “*Water Systems as Climate Justice & Adaptation Strategy in Southwestern Bangladesh*”, examining community-level climate adaptation and water governance.
- Tasked with generating in-depth, context-sensitive insights into how marginalized communities in the region experience and respond to climate-related water challenges.
- Conducted rapid ethnographic assessment, including focus group discussions (FGDs), in-depth interviews (IDIs), key informant interviews (KIIs), and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) mapping to capture lived experiences and collective knowledge.
- Developed a detailed qualitative report synthesizing findings, contributing to the academic and policy-oriented outputs of the research team.
- Findings informed context-specific adaptation recommendations and helped shape equitable, community-led climate justice strategies.

PhD Research Project, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK

May 2024 to September 2024

Research Assistant

- Assisted in a doctoral research project on psychosocial disabilities in informal settlements, focusing on data collection, analysis, and community engagement.
- Conducted in-depth interviews, key informant interviews (KIIs), observational research, and participatory arts-based methods to gather qualitative data.
- Provided accurate translation and transcription from Bangla to English, ensuring cultural and linguistic integrity of the data.
- Managed logistics and participant recruitment, building trust and strong relationships with community members, including vulnerable groups and local leaders.
- Supported data analysis and contributed to research write-ups, demonstrating critical thinking, organizational skills, and attention to detail.

The Together Project, University of Montreal, Canada

October 2023 to April 2024

Research Assistant

- Successfully recruited youth advisory board members and participants in an informal settlement for photovoice and key informant interviews pertaining to adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights research.
- Facilitated and conducted photovoice data collection, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and deliberative dialogue workshops with precision and professionalism.
- Demonstrated proficiency in transcribing and translating discussions and interviews to facilitate analysis and understanding, ensuring youth community mobilization and engagement.
- Contributed significantly to the thematic qualitative analysis process, actively participating in coding, categorizing, and interpreting data to uncover key themes and insights.
- Played an instrumental role in organizing and arranging the photovoice exhibition, ensuring a visually compelling and informative display of participants' perspectives and experiences.

Department of PHI, BSMMU, Dhaka, Bangladesh

September 2023

Coder

- Coded transcripts from FGDs & IDIs as part of a project aimed at developing a Multi-Sectoral Behavioral Change Communication strategy and materials at Department of Public Health & Informatics, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.
- Analyzed qualitative data collected from diverse stakeholders including beneficiaries, decision-makers, influential individuals, vulnerable groups, government officials, health managers, frontline service providers, and partners.
- Applied thematic coding techniques to identify recurring patterns, themes, and insights across the transcripts.

BRAC JPGSPH, Dhaka, Bangladesh

November 2022 to December 2022

Field Research Assistant

- Served as a Field Research Assistant at BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health for the Air & Noise Monitoring Campaign Study.
- Primary responsibility included collecting qualitative data from the field and conducting Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) of stakeholders (Govt. & Non govt Officials) as per study protocol.
- Diligently made detailed notes during KII sessions to capture essential information and observations.

Data Enumerator

- Engaged as a Data Enumerator for the exploration of behavioral determinants of COVID-19 vaccine acceptance.
- Executed responsibilities encompassing the collection of both quantitative and qualitative data in the field.
- Conducted In-depth Interviews (IDIs) with participants to gather nuanced insights into vaccine acceptance behaviors.

Transcriber

- Worked as a Translator at BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health for the project focusing on male youth and their sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Ensured accurate and culturally sensitive translation of study materials, interviews, and discussions.
- Supported the research team in ensuring language proficiency did not hinder the understanding or participation of male youth in the study.

VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCES

- Actively engaged as an active member of Sabuj Shohor Foundation since 2021, participating in initiatives focused on environmental conservation, community support, and urban development, including tree planting campaigns and assistance programs for the underprivileged.
- Attended a workshop on Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights organized by Share-Net in 2022, gaining valuable insights into promoting reproductive health and rights within communities.
- Participated in a workshop on Climate Change arranged by BRAC in 2019, contributing to discussions on climate resilience and sustainability strategies.
- Cooperated in a workshop on Disaster Management organized by CSRL in 2018, acquiring skills and knowledge in disaster preparedness and response protocols.
- Organized and coordinated various events at Jahangirnagar University, including sports competitions, cultural events, and gala events. Responsibilities included planning logistics, coordinating volunteers, managing budgets, promoting events, and ensuring their successful execution.

REFERENCES

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