

Curriculum Vitae
SHIREEN AKHTER

Associate, Planning Alternatives for Change, LLC

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Shireen Akhter is a highly motivated, qualified research consultant with experience of working on gender, poverty, water and sanitation, and numerous related development issues

SKILLS HIGHLIGHT

Extensive experience of working in the development sector focusing on gender, the empowerment of women, poverty-related matters.

Have conducted programme evaluation studies on: health, education, water and sanitation, the arsenic problem, and micro-credit.

Strong social research skills, especially qualitative methods, including rapid rural appraisal and participatory rural appraisal methodologies. Experience with statistical surveys.

Ability to work independently or as a part of a team. Experience of working with international development agencies.

Communication skills ranging from report writing to presentation of findings. Fluency in three languages.

EDUCATION

Masters of Science In Anthropology, National University Dhaka, 2000

Masters in Social Science(Sociology)
Dhaka University, Bangladesh, 1988

TRAINING

RRA and PRA, 1993
Grameen Trust, Dhaka, Bangladesh

1991, Developed Methodological discourse for Anthropological Research
Population Council, Dhaka, Bangladesh

LANGUAGE SKILLS

First Language: Bengali
Others: English (fluent)
Basic Command: Hindi, Urdu

WORK HISTORY

Community Development Expert, 2005 to present

Char Development and Settlement project funded by Government of Netherlands and Bangladesh

Sociological Consultant, October 2003 to January 2004

Asian Development Bank funded study on how to provide safe drinking water and improve the health and economic well being of populations exposed to arsenic and other groundwater contaminants

Research Fellow, April-September 2003 & February 2004

Knowledge and Research Study for Gender and Urban sanitation. A study for Southampton, UK. Purpose: to explore and clarify the undefined links between poverty and livelihood environment sanitation and gender amongst the urban people.

Consultant, April 2003

WHO-UNICEF, United Nations Foundation funded arsenic mitigation project, Midterm Evaluation

Coordinator, February-July 2003

Consultative Study with the Girls Working on Street. Study funded by Save the children Sweden and conducted by INCIDIN Bangladesh.

Principal Investigator, October 2002 to January 2003

Unicef funded research. An evaluation of non-formal education programme of working children, funded by Unicef and operated by two local NGO in the two different area of Dhaka city.

Consultant, April-May 2002

Hygiene promotion evaluation study, rural programme, WaterAid Bangladesh

Consultant, August-September 2001, WaterAid Bangladesh (funded by WaterAid UK and DFID).

Evaluation of the WaterAid Bangladesh urban slum programme 2001

Gender Consultant, September 2000

DFID (UK). Content analysis of one week's output of Agricultural Extension service's broadcasting unit.

Anthropological Consultant, September-October 1999. This research was planned and conducted by GBO, AFHR (Government organization, a local NGO,) and funded by UNICEF to find the impact ORTCC on the behavioral change communication campaign targeted to the initial behavioral change with in the society and indigenous health service.

Independent Researcher, July 1999

The research was conducted by ECHO(help Age International UK) and RICK(a local NGO of Bangladesh). To find out impact of flood and cyclone emergencies in two districts.

Senior Researcher, March 1998 to March 1999

JSI(John Snow Institute, Washington). USAID funded Research based on A new family-planing program's approach "From home To Clinic".

Anthropological Consultant, September 1997 to February 1998
Five District Project Socioeconomic Baseline Study

Consultant, May-June 1998
United Nations Development Programme(UNDP)
Title: Support to Capacity Development Programme for Vulnerable Group Development Programme (VGD).

Research Associate, February-March 1997
Women and Water Management
Systems Rehabilitation Project, SRP, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Research Fellow, February 1991 to March 1997
Development Research Centre, DRC, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Evaluation research funded by Population Action International, Rockefeller Foundation, IDRC-Canada, USAID

Senior Researcher, September 1992 to August 1993
Gender Unit Research Associate, evaluation study funded by NORAD in two district programs with two men's and two women's groups in each district on background histories, awareness, action programme, paralegal and education programmes.

Consultant, July-August 1992
DANIDA, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Impact was assessed in terms of attitudinal and behavioral changes in lifestyle of the direct and indirect beneficiaries.

Research Associate, February-June 1992. Programme evaluation research conducted by Wageningen Agricultural Assistance, WAU, The Netherlands and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, on conflict and management issues in 20 irrigation groups.

PUBLICATIONS

Credit Programs, Patriarchy and Men's Violence against Women in Rural Bangladesh. Journal of Social Science and Medicine, Vol. 43; No 12 (1996)

NIRDP Impact Study Report (1993).

Water, sanitation and hygiene in Bangladesh: An Evaluation of the WaterAid-Bangladesh Urban Programme (Co-author). Environment and Urbanization Vol. 15 (2003)

REFLECT Coordination Unit, March 1997
ACTIONAID (UK) Bangladesh,

Attended five-day South Asia REFLECT Practitioners'Forum to Facilitate for the Bangladesh participants. Also participated through observation and discussion and presenting cases for Bangladesh to non-Bengali speakers.