

Mirza M. Hassan

Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Governance and Politics Cluster

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD)

BRAC UNIVERSITY

Email: mirzahassan@bracu.ac.bd

EDUCATION

PhD in Department of Politics, Institute of Commonwealth Studies

University of London, 2002

Theme: Demand for Good Governance in Bangladesh. The thesis focuses on governance reform, rule of law and corruption issues

EMPLOYMENT

BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD)

- Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Governance and Politics Cluster, 2016-Present
- Lead Researcher (part-time), Politics, Democracy and Governance Cluster, 2013-2016

BRAC UNIVERSITY

- Faculty Member, Masters in Development Studies (MDS) and Masters in Development Management and Practice (MDMP), 2014-Present,
- Faculty Member, Masters in Development Studies (MDS), 2006-2008

BRAC Development Institute (BDI), BRAC UNIVERSITY

- Co-ordinator, Bangladesh Studies program for undergraduates, 2010
- Lead Researcher (part-time), Governance theme, 2008-2013
- Faculty Member, Masters in Development Studies (MDS), 2008-2010

RESEARCH/CONSULTANCY EXPERIENCES

Palladium International Limited, UK (formerly GRM International)

- Consultant, Political economy analysis of the dynamics of civil society and politics in Bangladesh, 2017
- Consultant, Political economy analysis of the dynamics of transparency, accountability and right to information in Bangladesh, 2015

Disaster Management Watch (For Save The Children)

- Team Leader, Baseline Survey, Children on the Move (Children as Floating population in Major Cities), 2017

Disaster Management Watch (For Concern International)

- Team Leader, Baseline Survey for 'Improving the Lives of Urban Extreme Poor (ILUEP)' Programme, 2017

Save the Children International

- Team Leader, Qualitative survey and in depth case study on the impact of social protection on the decision process of parents/adolescents in relation to child marriage, 2015

Manusher Jonno

- Team Leader, Quantitative survey for project entitled 'Social/Citizen Engagement for Budgetary Accountability (SEBA), 2015

CARE Bangladesh

- Consultant, Political Economy of Accountability Relations in Upazila Administration: A Case Study, 2014
- Exploring Political Settlements at the Local Level and Analyzing Political determinants of the Incentives of Local Leaders (UP) in Facilitating Inclusive Governance, 2012-2013

DFID

- Bangladesh Political Economy of Governance of Primary Education: A Mid-term Review of PEDP 3, 2014
- Consultant, Project on Bangladesh Strategic Conflict Assessment, 2009
- Consultant, DFID Institutional Assessment and Political Economy Analysis of Police Reform in Bangladesh, 2008-2009
- Consultant, Impact Assessment of Election Working Group's National Voter Registration Program. The program is being coordinated by The Asia Foundation, 2008
- Consultant, Drafting of Country Governance Assessment for DFID, Bangladesh, 2008
- Consultant, Designing and Drafting of a Programme Memorandum (PM) for Access to Justice Intervention, 2007-2008
- Consultant, Lead Analyst, 'Impact of the political process on development in Bangladesh'. This is a political and risk analysis for DFID, ADB, WB and Government of Japan common support for Bangladesh PRSP, 2005
- Team Leader, Study on 'Islamic Political Organisations in Bangladesh: Implications for Development', 2005

Law and Development, UK

- Political Economy of Investment Climate Reform in Bangladesh The research was conducted for DFID and IFC Bangladesh, 2014.

Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex, UK

- Lead Researcher, Political Economy of Tax Exemption in Bangladesh: A study of three economic sectors, 2012-2013.
- Lead Researcher, Political Economy of Tax Reform in Bangladesh: A Follow-Up Study, 2012.

- Lead Researcher, *The Political Economy of Tax Reform: A Simple Analytical Framework Applied to Bangladesh*, 2011.

Data Management Aid and Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust

- Consultant, Design and Implementation of a National Survey on Human Rights. The survey was carried out for UNDP and National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh, 2011.
- Consultant, Analysis of Impact Survey of Police Reform Project (PRP). The national level survey has been commissioned by UNDP and Bangladesh Police, 2008-2009.

BRAC Development Institute (BDI)

- Team Member, Impact Evaluation of the '*Legal Judicial Capacity Building Project*' of World Bank, Dhaka, 2009.
- Project Lead, *Building Capacities and Creating Communities: Towards a Multi-sector Initiatives in Urban Slums*, funded by The Rockefeller Foundation in partnership with UPPR, UNDP and Wateraid, 2009-2012.
- Country Coordinator (Bangladesh), under *Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID)*, coordinated by the University of Manchester, UK, funded by DfID. Authored a paper on the nature of political settlement in Bangladesh for the project inception phase, 2011-2013.

The World Bank

- Consultant, *Political Economy of Tax Reform in Bangladesh*, 2011.
- Consultant, *Assessment of Community Involvement (social accountability) in Local Government Support Project*, 2008-2009.
- Principal Consultant, *World Bank Market Survey for Developing a Certificate Course on Land Acquisition and Resettlement in Relation to Infrastructure Development*, 2008-2009.
- Lead Consultant, *World Bank Institutional and Political Economy Analysis of Local Government in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Four Union Parishad (lowest tier of local government)*, 2008-2009.
- Consultant, *Analytical Study on Local Justice System in Bangladesh*, 2008.
- Consultant, *Political Economy Analysis of Governance Process of two Key Industry Sectors: Urban Bus and Brick Industry in Bangladesh*, 2007.
- Consultant, *Political Economy of Urban Governance: Stakeholder Analysis*, 2006.
- Consultant, *Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA) Institutional and Sociological Evaluation of Gram Adalat (Village Court) and Shalishi Parishad (Arbitration Council): Quantitative and Qualitative Assessment of 91 Union Parishad*, 2006.
- Consultant, *Social and Gender Assessment of Formal and Informal Justice System in Bangladesh: An Analytical Review*, 2006-2007.
- Consultant, *Political Economy of Decentralization: Stakeholder Perception Analysis*, 2007.
- Consultant, *Political Economy Analysis of Governance Process of two Key Industry Sectors: Urban Bus and Brick Industry in Bangladesh*, 2007.
- Consultant, "NGO Advocacy to Promote Good Governance, Rule of Law and Pro-Poor Development". Background paper for the project entitled '*Economics and Governance of NGOs in Bangladesh*', 2004-2005.
- Consultant, Team Member: *Strengthening Operational Efficiency in the Trade and Transport Sector: Study of Governance Processes of the Chittagong Sea Port*, 2004.

CIDA and The Policy Practice (Oxford, UK)

- Consultant, Multi-donor Country Governance Analysis (MDCGA), 2010.

Atos Consulting (UK) and DFID, Sudan

- Consultant, Sudan Safety and Access to Justice Program funded by DFID, primary research, conducting stakeholder analysis and producing an analytical report on the political economy context of justice sector reform in North Sudan, 2010.

The Asia Foundation

- Consultant, Technical support for Community Policing and Alternative Dispute Resolution related national survey in East Timor, 2008.
- Consultant, Asia Foundation Mapping of Community Based Legal Services Activities in Bangladesh, 2007.
- Consultant, Responsibilities include advising Asia Foundation in designing the pilot project on community policing in three districts, 2004.

SIDA

- Policy and Institutional Appraisal of SIDA Funded Seven NGOs, 2007.

GHK (UK based consulting Firm)

- Consultant, Short term consultancy related to public administration reform in Bangladesh. Responsibility includes providing political economy interpretation of success/failure of government's reform initiatives during the last one decade, 2005.

OECD and Institute Of Development Studies, UK

- Consultant, 'Study on Lessons learned on the use of Power and Drivers of Change Analyses in Development', commissioned by OECD/DAC and Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK, 2005.

SEDF/FIAS and World Bank

- Bangladesh Private Sector Development Support Project: A strategic Analysis of Stakeholder Interests in Economic Zones, 2006.

National Democratic Institute (US based non-profit organization)

- Program Advisor, the program focused on institutional development of Parliament, consensus building among the members of the Parliament and the role of civil society in ensuring accountability of the Parliament. Responsibilities included advising the Resident Representative on political and governance issues of Bangladesh and help developing strategies to build up civil society networks, 1999.

One World Action (UK based non-profit organization)

- Project Consultant, Project title: Local Governance: Bangladesh ", Responsible for Bangladesh portion of four-country study (also included Nicaragua, South Africa and Philippines), 1998.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Article

- Schuler, S. R., Hashemi, S. M., Cullum, A., and Hassan, M. (1996). "The advent of family planning as a social norm in Bangladesh: Women's experiences". *Reproductive Health Matters*, 4(7), 66-78.
- Hassan, M. Prichard, W. (2016). "The Political Economy of Domestic Tax Reform in Bangladesh: Political Settlements, Informal Institutions and the Negotiation of Reform". *The Journal of Development Studies*; Special Issue on Tax Reform, *Journal of Development Studies*, 2017
- Hassan, M., & Nazneen, S. (2017). "Violence and the breakdown of the political settlement-An uncertain future for Bangladesh?". *Conflict, Security & Development*, 17(3), 205-223

Working paper

- Hassan, M. and Pritchard, W. (2012). 'The political economy of tax reform in Bangladesh: political settlements, informal institutions and the negotiation of reform'. *ICTD working paper no 14*, IDS, University of Sussex, UK
- Hassan, M. (2013). 'Political settlement dynamics in a limited access order: The case of Bangladesh', *ESID Working Paper No. 23*, University of Manchester, UK
- Hossain, N., & Hassan, M. (2017). The problem WITH teachers: The political settlement and education quality reforms in Bangladesh. *SSRN Electronic Journal*

Book/Book Chapter

- Hassan, M. (1998), "State, Society and Economic Performance" in R. Sobhan (ed.) *Towards a Theory of Governance and Development: Learning from East Asia*, CPD/UPL, Dhaka
- Hassan, M. (1998), "Leadership, Developmental Vision and Economic Growth", Center for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka (mimeo)
- Hassan, M. & Hashemi, S. (1999), "Building NGO Legitimacy in Bangladesh: The Contested Domain" in D. Lewis (Ed) *International Perspectives on Voluntary Action: Re-Shaping the Third Sector*, Earthscan, London
- Hassan, M. (2017), "Navigating the Deals World: The Politics of Economic Growth in Bangladesh", in Lant, Pritchett et. al. (eds) *Deals and Development*, Oxford University Press, UK
- Hossain, N., Hassan, M., Rahman, M., Ali, K., & Islam, M. (2018). "Politics of Learning Reforms in Bangladesh", in Sam Hickey et al (eds) *The Politics of Education in Developing Countries*, Oxford University Press, UK

Report

- Hassan, M. (1998). Construction of Social Capital at the Grassroots. Program for Research on Poverty Alleviation, *PRPA research paper no 2*, Grameen Trust, Dhaka.
- Hassan, M. (1999). Local Governance Study, Bangladesh. One World Action, London.
- Hassan, M. (2006). Economic Zones: Assessing Stakeholder Interests' in *Bangladesh: Assessing and Addressing Stakeholder Interests in Private Sector Development Reform*, FIAS, IFC and World Bank, Washington D.C.
- Hassan, M. (2006). 'Political governance: the politicization of public life', Chapter 2 in *The State of Governance in Bangladesh 2006*, BRAC Research and Evaluation Division, Center for Governance Studies and BRAC University.
- Hassan, M., Pritchard, W., & Raihan, S. (2012). The political economy of tax exemption in Bangladesh. Mimeo, ICTD, IDS, University of Sussex.
- Hassan, M., and Islam, S., & Zakaria, S.M. (2014). 'Partyarchy and Political Under development' in *The State of Governance Bangladesh 2013*, BIGD, BRAC University.
- Hassan, M. & Nazneen, S. (2014). What are the political determinants that shape UP leader's incentives for inclusive governance in Bangladesh? CARE-Bangladesh.
- Hassan, M. & Mannan, S., (2016). Upazila and Union Parishad Governance: A Study on Institutional Relationships and Linkages, BIGD. Helvetias: Swiss Intercooperation and Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation.
- Hassan, M. (2016). State of Accountability of the Transferred Departments at the Upazila Parishad and its Consequences for Allocations and Utilizations of Resources, BIGD. Helvetias: Swiss Intercooperation and Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation.
- Hassan, M. (2016). A Study on The Effectiveness of Social Protection Program on Child Marriage. *Save The Children*.
- Hassan, M. (2019). Team Leader, State of Governance Report (Dynamics of Social Accountability Practices in Bangladesh), BRAC Institute of Governance and Development.
- Hassan, M. (2007) NGO Advocacy to Promote Good Governance, Rule of Law and Pro-Poor Development" 2007, Background paper for *Economics and Governance of Nongovernmental Organizations in Bangladesh: World Bank Country Study*. UPL, Dhaka.
- Hassan, M. (2007). Legal Empowerment Strategies in Bangladesh. *Background Paper for From Whispers to Voice: Gender Transformation in Bangladesh*. World Bank, Dhaka.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

BRAC Development Institute (BDI), BRAC University

- Team Member, Impact Evaluation of the 'Legal Judicial Capacity Building Project' of World Bank, Dhaka, 2009.
- Project Lead, Building Capacities and Creating Communities: Towards a Multi-sector Initiatives in Urban Slums, funded by The Rockefeller Foundation in partnership with UPPR, UNDP and Wateraid, 2009-2012.

- Country Coordinator (Bangladesh), under Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID), coordinated by the University of Manchester, UK, funded by DfID. Authored a paper on the nature of political settlement in Bangladesh for the project inception phase, 2011-2013.

BIGD

- Team Leader, Citizenship Engagement in Public Procurement Project, BIGD, World Bank and Government of Bangladesh. (Responsibilities: Research Design, Research Supervision, Strategic Planning, and Report Drafting, 2013-2017.
- Country Coordinator (Bangladesh), under Effective States and Inclusive Development (ESID), coordinated by the University of Manchester, UK, funded by DfID. Lead Researcher for the ESID project 'Political Settlement and Social Provisioning: A comparative Analysis of Bangladesh and Ghana.' 2013-2017.
- Team Leader, 'Study on institutional relationships and linkages among LGIs, under SHARIQUE', funded by SIDA, 2013-2017.
- Team Leader, 'Baseline Perception Study of Access to Justice for the Marginalized and Excluded through Community Legal Services', 2013-2017.
- commissioned by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), 2013-2017.