**Afrida Faiza**

Cellphone number:+18259454956  
Email ID: [**afaiza95@gmail.com**](mailto:afaiza95@gmail.com)**, afrida.faiza@ucalgary.ca  
  
Linkedin:** [linkedin.com/in/afrida-faiza-6672a4118](https://www.linkedin.com/in/afrida-faiza-6672a4118?lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_profile_view_base_contact_details%3BZl8t1ASiT82Khanmn%2FbTCg%3D%3D)

# ---PERSONAL STATEMENT

A dedicated researcher with two years of research experience in the public health sector and training in anthropology and development studies. Interested in research topics related to vulnerable groups, specifically the elderly, children, youth, women, and people with disability. Her interest lies in the urban slums in Bangladesh and the complex structure of those slums. Has experience as a Research Assistant and Teaching Assistant in the research-based organization BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Swisscontact Bangladesh where she worked for 2 years combined. She also worked briefly at BetterStories Limited as a Research Associate before joining University of Calgary as a full time Masters of Arts in Anthropology student and a Graduate Teaching Assistant.

# ---EDUCATION

* **Fall 2023 – Fall 2025** Masters in Arts in Anthropology
* **Spring 2020 – 2022** Masters in Development Studies, BRAC University, Mohakhali, Dhaka

GPA: 3.53/4.00

* **Spring 2015 – Fall 2018** Bachelors in Social Sciences in Anthropology, Minor in English, BRAC University, Mohakhali, Dhaka

Final Cumulative GPA: 3.8/4.00, Magna Cum Laude

* **2012-2014** A levels **-** Mastermind School, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
* **2001-2012** O levels **-** Sunbeams School, Uttara, Dhaka

# AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS---

* I have a certificate from Aga Khan University London for participating in their Summer School Programme.
* I was on the Dean’s List in 5 different semesters and on the Vice Chancellor’s List in 1 semester during my under graduation.
* Recipient of Vice Chancellor’s Certificate for the Anthropology Program, Department of Economics and Social Sciences, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The certificate had been awarded to the top three students from each department of the university.
* I have completed a thesis for my undergraduate studies at BRAC University named “The Role of Educational Institutions in Identity Development” with a High Distinction grade
* I was a session rapporteur for a 3-day conference titled “**International Conference on COVID-19, 2022**” hosted by BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health and Bangladesh Health Watch.

# ---PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

* BetterStories Limited Jan 2023 - March 2023
* BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health, Dhaka Bangladesh July 2020 – May 2022
* Swisscontact, Dhaka, Bangladesh November 2019 – December 2019

# ---RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE: Research Assistantship

1. **Jan 2023 – March 2023** I worked at BetterStories Limited very briefly as a Research Associate and completed the following tasks:

* Completing Transcriptions
* Interviewing
* Proposal Writing
* Research work

1. **July 2020 – May 2022** I worked as a Senior Research Assistant at BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health on several projects. I was part of the Center of Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. Hence, I have worked on the following projects as mentioned below.

* ***“*Situation Analysis and Design Support for Enabling Digital Financial Inclusion and Women’s Economic Empowerment in Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme in Urban Bangladesh**” ***–*** This project was funded by World Food Programme (WFP) and this was also a subcontract agreement with LightCastle Partners Limited. The project partook in a situational analysis of the most vulnerable women and men in different regions of Bangladesh. The study population consisted of people with disabilities, the elderly, sex workers, transgenders, pregnant or lactating mothers or widows, and destitute or separated poor women.
* Partook in intense fieldwork in Korail Slum, Dhaka, and Thanchi, Bandarban.
* Participated in coding and analysis.
* Communicated with partners and arranged meetings
* Completed IRB submission for this project
* Participated in the tool or guideline development process
* Participated in daily tasks and administrative work
* ***OSUN (Open Society University Network) project “Digital Health and Rights” –*** This project dealt with the Digital Health-related needs of youth focusing on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Mental Health.
  + Was a core member of this project as I was involved in the everyday administrative work
  + Was part of the tool development process
  + Participated in the ethical workshop
  + Conducted pretest interviews
  + Participated in weekly clinics with the whole consortium
  + Participated in writing the inception paper which we did with the University of Andes, Colombia.
  + Conducted Digital Ethnography.
* ***Mobile Financial Services: “****Exploring opportunities to improve health outcomes and enable better health systems delivery through mobile money*” in collaboration with Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
  + Developed qualitative guidelines
  + Completed over 10 transcriptions and translations for this project.
  + Interviewed several Community Health Workers both Shastho Shebikas and Shasthya Kormis
  + Partook in the data analysis section for the documentation process of the BRAC Health, Nutrition, and Population Programme.
  + Involved in the development of Fact Sheets for further dissemination of the documentation.
* ***Right Here Right Now 2:*** This project dealt with the SRHR needs of adolescents of diverse backgrounds (Male, Female, LGBTQI population)
  + Writing literature reviews and report
  + Proofreading and copyediting
* ***Anthropological Study of Face Mask:*** I was involved in this project for a brief time as this was merely a concept note development.
* ***Mental Health during pandemics of university students:*** I was involved in doing literature reviews for this project.
* ***Right Here Right Now 1:***
  + Involved in completing over 20 transcriptions both translating (from Bangla to English) and transcription writing.
  + Involved in the communication process for arranging Qualitative Research training online.
  + Performed administrative tasks

3. **Teaching Assistantship**:

**August 2023 onwards:**I am currently working as a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Calgary. I have contributed in various ways to the courses I have worked in. Starting from attending lectures, providing one on one help to the students, copy checking, making questions and proctoring. Thus far I have worked in 3 different courses.

**July 2020- May 2022**:   
I have also worked as a Teaching Fellow under BRAC University’s Masters in Public Health program during 3 different courses of the program. As a Teaching Fellow, I had to prepare quizzes, check assignments, complete administrative work, and assess students on participation along with assisting the main faculty with the online classes. Additionally, I was the main Teaching Fellow for two of the courses.

1. **Nov 2019 – Dec 2019** I worked as a Research Assistant for Swisscontact’s ASTHA project. During this period, I had been involved in fieldwork, conducting surveys in 4 separate districts in Bangladesh.
2. **Oct 2018 – May 2019** To complete my undergraduate thesis, I completed my research paper named “The Role of Educational Institutions in Identity Development”. I conducted fieldwork in the forms of:
   * key-informant interviews with 6 participants
   * FGD (focus group discussions) in 3 sessions with 12 participants in each session
   * collected a total of 40 surveys from participants
3. **Jan 2017-April 2017** I worked at BRAC University, as a student tutor, in the Speaking and Listening Lab, BRAC Institute of Languages for 4 months.
4. **Aug 2014-Nov 2014** I had previously volunteered at TEDxDhaka - 2014 event “Breaking

Barriers

# ---PUBLICATION

1. Towards digital justice: participatory action research in global digital health – Co-authored Publication

<https://gh.bmj.com/content/7/5/e009351.full>

# UNPUBLISHED REPORTS AND THESIS

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1. Situation Analysis and Design Support for Enabling Digital Financial Inclusion and Women’s Economic Empowerment in Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme in Urban
2. Digital Health and Rights: Context in Two Countries: Bangladesh and Colombia
3. Journey towards Mobile Financial Services (MFS): The BRAC Community Health Worker (CHW) experience
4. Baseline and Needs Assessment Report for the Right Here Right Now 2 (RHRN2) programmes in Bangladesh
5. A Review of Tarunner Konthoshor Initiative of Naripokkho to Improve Access to Adolescent Friendly Health Services in Barishal District, Bangladesh.
6. The Role of Educational Institutions in Identity Development.

<http://dspace.bracu.ac.bd/xmlui/browse?value=Faiza,%20Afrida&type=author>