Md. Abdul Aahad

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Profile

I am an economic research enthusiast with nearly four years of experience working with leading think-tanks, research organizations, and international affiliates such as SANEM, Gates Foundation, Economic Relations Division, BIDA, UNDP, and BIDS. I have rigorously worked on investment, trade, gender, financial inclusion, and various macroeconomic issues. My passion lies in analyzing complex data sets to uncover actionable insights that can drive positive societal change.

Research Interest

International Trade, Applied Economics, Behavioral Economics, Labor Economics, Gender

Work Experience

South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM)   *December 2022- Present*
Research Associate

Overall Responsibilities
- ✓ Survey Design, Survey Management, Data Cleaning, Data Analysis, Conducting KII & FGD, Proposal Writing, Report Writing, Writing Policy Brief, Conducting Enumerator Training, Organizing Webinars and Seminars and International Conferences.

Specific Responsibilities
- ***Project Involvement:*** 9th Five Year Plan Technical Framework (*March 2024- Present*)
  Collaboration with: General Economic Division, Ministry of Planning
  Responsibilities: Conducting an enterprise survey, calculating poverty, updating the Input-Output Table (IOT) and Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) for Bangladesh, Data Analysis from Labor Force Survey (LFS) and Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), survey management, writing report
- ***Project Involvement***: Investment diversification of priority sectors after LDC graduation (*December 2023- Present*)
  Collaboration with: UNDP and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)
  Responsibilities: Study design, survey design, survey sampling, questionnaire preparation, survey management, Data cleaning, data analysis, report writing
- ***Project Involvement:*** Budget analysis of National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN-2) (*October 2023- May 2024*)
  Funded By: CARE Bangladesh
  Responsibilities: Study Design, Field Visit, Conducting KIIs, Report Writing, Questionnaire Preparation
- ***Project Involvement***: Has the COVID-19 pandemic worsened multi-dimensional poverty and vulnerability? Evidence from a unique national longitudinal household survey dataset in Bangladesh (*July 2023- March 2024)*
  Funded by: University of Manchester collaborating with The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

Responsibilities: Designing survey questionnaire, managing the survey of 10500 households, data cleaning, field visit, conducting KII and FGD across Bangladesh, writing report

- *Project Involvement*: To explore a sustainable pathway for Bangladesh's energy transformation towards green and clean energy *(December 2022- August 2023)*
  Funded by: Tara Climate Ltd
  Responsibilities: preparing questionnaire for KII, writing research reports, organizing seminar and webinar on renewable energy
- *Project Involvement*: Study on Expanding Private Investment in the Context of LDC Graduation *(January 2023- March 2024)*
  Funded by: Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Finance
  Responsibilities: Providing key policy suggestions for the government on expanding private investment, analyzing the data using STATA and Excel, writing research reports, conducting KIIs and FGDs, preparing questionnaire for the FGDs and KIIs, conducting desk review
- *Project Involvement*: Study on Matarbari Port - Bangladesh & Northeast India Connectivity *(December 2022- April 2023)*
  Collaboration with: Asian Confluence, India
  Responsibilities: Analyzing data using SAM, field visit, writing research reports

Centre for Research and Development (CRD)   *December 2021- Present*
Research Assistant (Part-time)

- *Project*: Business success of SMEs in Bangladesh
  Funded By: Gates Foundation
  Key Responsibility: Questionnaire Preparation, Survey Data Cleaning, Dataset Preparation, Survey Data Analysis

- *Project:* Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion in Bangladesh
  Funded by: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
  Key Responsibilities: Questionnaire Preparation, Survey Data Cleaning, Dataset Preparation, Survey Data Analysis, Writing Research Chapters, Field Research, Research Design, Questionnaire Design (Including Survey, KII, FGD, And IDI), Literature Review, Monitoring Field Survey, Field Visit

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)   *August 2022- December 2022*
Research Officer

- Key Responsibilities: Analyzing survey data using STATA and Excel, preparing survey questionnaire, and field visit.

International Labor Organization(ILO)   *December 2021- May 2022*
Research assistant to Mahtab Uddin, post graduate researcher, University of Manchester and assistant professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka

- Project: Diagnostic Brief on the Informal Sector in the Pacific Island Countries
  Funded By: ILO
  Key Responsibility: Data analysis, writing research reports

Biz Data Insights   *August 2020-December2020*
Economics and Business Data Analyst Intern

- Key Responsibilities: Analyzing economic data, and writing articles on the different economic activities

Bureau of Economic Research (BER)   *August 2020- September 2020*
Research Assistant

- Project: Public trust, public compliance with issued guidelines and the linkage in between Pandemic evidence from Bangladesh
  Collaboration with: Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
  Key Responsibilities: Questionnaire preparation, tele survey, and interview

Large-Scale Survey Experience

Enterprise Survey on Investment Diversification (Ongoing)
- Conducting a nationally representative enterprise survey on "Investment diversification of priority sectors after LDC graduation" with a sample size of 1100 firms.
- Spearheaded the sampling process for the survey to ensure representativeness.
- Currently engaged in designing the questionnaire using **Survey CTO** for effective data collection.
- Will play a pivotal role in survey management and field visits to ensure the success of the study.

Household Survey on COVID-19 Impact and Multi-dimensional Poverty
- Conducted a nationally representative household survey on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on multi-dimensional poverty and vulnerability.
- Oversaw the preparation and design of the survey questionnaire using **Kobo Toolbox**.
- Contributed significantly to survey management, including nationwide field visits.
- Played a key role in data cleaning and conducted data analysis using **STATA** for insightful findings.
- Worked with a substantial sample size of 10500 households, ensuring a robust dataset for in-depth analysis.

Household Survey on Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion
- Orchestrated a nationally representative household survey addressing the "Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion in Bangladesh."
- Participated in the formulation and design of the survey questionnaire using **Kobo Toolbox**.
- Actively contributed to survey management, coordinating field visits across the country.
- Applied expertise in data cleaning and conducted data analysis using **STATA** to derive meaningful conclusions.
- Managed a substantial sample size of 3300 households, ensuring statistical significance in the study.

Educational Qualifications

Masters of Social Sciences (MSS) in Economics   *Jan 2022- Dec 2022*
University of Dhaka | CGPA: **3.91/ 4.00**

Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSS) in Economics   *Jan 2017 –Dec 2021*
University of Dhaka | CGPA: **3.77/ 4.00**

Higher Secondary   *Jul 2014 –Apr 2016*
Notre Dame College | GPA: **5.00 / 5.00**

Secondary   *Jan 2008 –Feb 2014*
Ideal School and College | GPA: **5.00 / 5.00**

Certified Courses

International Capacity Building Training Program on Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modeling for Economic Policy Analysis
Organized By: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and SANEM at ICAR-IARI, Pusa, New Delhi, India

Economics of Clean Energy Transition   *July 2023- September 2023*
Stanford School of Engineering, Stanford University (Online)
- Passed the course with 87 per cent marks

Advance course of PowerPoint Presentation   *August 2018- September 2018*
Skill Hunt, University of Dhaka
- Successfully completed the course

Research Works

Empowering Bangladesh's Future: Unleashing Youth's Tech Adaptation for Transformation *(August 2023- November 2023)*

- The research is done under the study titled "Situation Assessment and Qualitative Survey on Technological Change and its Implications for Policies for the Young Generations in Bangladesh" in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The paper is co-authored by Dr Selim Raihan, University of Dhaka and Dipa Das, Research Associate, SANEM.

A study on climate change and gender in Bangladesh (CCGB)   *(July 2023- Ongoing)*

- The research is funded by the Planning commission, Ministry of Planning . Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) in conducting the study across the coastal-region. The project is supervised by Dr Azreen Karim, Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Assessment of Other Government Agencies (OGAs) and Infrastructure for Clearance of Perishable Cargo at the BCPs of Akhaura, Tamabil, and Sonamasjid   *(April 2023- August 2023)*

- The research is funded by Asian development bank. I worked under the international consultant Dr Selim Raihan in the project.

Stimulating Growth and Employment Through the Matarbari Deep Sea Port *(January 2023- April 2023)*
- The paper is co-authored by Selim Raihan, Md. Abdul Aahad, and Omar Raad Chowdhury. The paper has been submitted to North South Journal of Peace and Global Studies and it is currently under review.

Understanding the Status and Challenges of Financial Inclusion in Bangladesh: Indexing Financial Inclusion *(July 2022- December 2022)*
- The paper was written for my Master's thesis under the supervision of Professor Farzana Laiju, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka. I obtained seventy-five percent marks on my thesis.

Silver Lining Amid the Turmoil: Unlocking the potential of RMG RVCs in South Asia in the light of the COVID-19 Pandemic *(November 2020- July 2021)*
- The paper was written under South Asian Economics Students Meet Group Research Project. I collaborated with undergrad students from seven South Asian Countries where I lead the team. I also presented the paper at the 2nd SANEM International Development Conference (SIDC) 2021 "COVID-19 Recovery: Contexts and Priorities.

Assessing the Fault Lines Of Bangladesh's Healthcare Sector: Implications for Future Policy Response *(July 2020- September 2021)*

- The research report was written by the Economics study center's research team. I led the team and also was one of the executive editors of the report. We have done a few In-Depth interviews (IDI) and Key informant interviews(KII) for the project. The report was published in the ESC blog and a presentation was held in front of the honorable health minister.

Publications

- Raihan, S., Bidisha, S. H., Islam, K. M., Hossain, I., Ahmed, M. T., Chowdhury, O. R., Asaduzzaman, M., and Aahad, MA. (2024). Estimating Costs of LNG-based Power Generation and Devising Alternatives Pathways towards Green and Clean Energy. SANEM Publications, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Aahad, M. A. & Ahmed, R. (2024). Miles to go to develop a healthier Bangladesh. *The Business Standard*.
- Raihan, S., Uddin, M., Hossain, I., Sharmin, E. and Aahad, MA (2023), "Expanding Private Investment in Bangladesh in the Context of LDC Graduation", A report prepared for the Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, the Government of Bangladesh.
- Ahmed, M. T., & Aahad, M. A. (2023). Potential risks and vulnerabilities associated with heavy reliance on LNG import and strategies to reduce them. *The Financial Express* *https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/views/views/heavy-reliance-on-lng-import*
- Chowdhury, O. R. & Aahad, M. A. (2023). AI, the future of work, and beyond. *Counter Current* *https://countercurrents.org/2023/10/ai-the-future-of-work-and-beyond/*
- Raihan, S., Aahad, M. A., & Chowdhury, O. R. (2023). Growth and Employment Potential of the Matarbari Deep Sea Port . *Thinking Aloud* , *9*(12).

Editorial Positions

- Executive Editor, Bangladesh Students' Digest on Economics and Development, Vol 03, September 2020
- Associate Editor, Ceteris paribus, Vol 03, October 2019
- Associate Editor, Bangladesh Students' Digest on Economics and Development, Vol 02, August 2019

Volunteer Experiences Or Leadership

Economics Study Center   *November 2019 –November 2020*
General Secretary

Bangladesh Economics Students Network   *October 2019 -October 2020*
Chairperson

Technical Skills

- **STATA** (Advanced), **Excel** (Advanced), **MS Office** (Advanced), **R** (Good), **Kobo Toolbox** (Good), **Survey CTO** (Good), **NVivo** (Good), **GIS** (Good), **Tableau** (Good), **SAM** (Good)

Large Dataset Handled

- Labor Force Survey (LFS)

- Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)
- Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)
- Bangladesh Household Integrated Survey (BIHS)
- World Development Indicators (WDI)
- Verities of Democracy (V-Dem) Dataset
- World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS)

Language Proficiency

- **English** (Writing- Advanced, Speaking- Advanced), **Bangla** (Writing- Excellent, Speaking- Excellent), **Spanish** (Speaking- Intermediate)

Awards & Honors

- Got Governor Scholarship for academic achievement from the Department of Economics and Standard Charter Bank in the years 2018,2019, and 2020.
- Ranked 35th in Sunrise Junior Star Exam where above 10000 students of Secondary level participated.
- Got SEL scholarship for Secondary level academic achievement from Structural Engineering Limited.
- Finalist at Banglalink IT Incubator 03.

References

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