

MUSTAHSIN UL AZIZ

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Career Summary

Innovative Development Practitioner and Applied Microeconomic Researcher with 8+ years of experience in multiple countries. Demonstrates prowess in project management and impactful research, as evidenced by 3+ years of contributions at The World Bank and successful leadership across diverse projects. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. focused on Environmental Economics at West Virginia University, specializing in advanced programming-based econometric and remote-sensed spatial data analysis. Aspiring to leverage data-driven policy-making to empower communities.

Education

West Virginia University

Ph.D., Natural Resource Economics (Expected Graduation: May 2025)

August 2021 – Present

Morgantown, WV, USA

University of Dhaka

Master of Social Sciences (MSS), Economics

2017

Dhaka, Bangladesh

University of Dhaka

Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSS), Economics

2012 – 2016

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Experience

West Virginia University

August 2021 – Present

Graduate Research Assistant – *Division of Resource Economics and Management*

Morgantown, WV, USA

- Undertake comprehensive literature review and research design to explore socio-economic environmental challenges using advanced spatial and econometric techniques.
- Initiate remote-sensing data collection within the department, to better understand the spatial analysis of air, water, and wind dynamics.
- Facilitate training workshops on AI-enhanced research workflows for students and faculty.

Researcher – *The Regional Research Institute*

May 2024 – Present

- Lead the design of an empirical study to better understand the role of Regional Transportation Planning Organizations; including methodology, data collection process and analysis

Instructor – *ARE 150 (Introductory Agricultural & Agribusiness Economics)*

August 2024 – December 2024

- Conduct rigorous instruction of fundamental curriculum in introductory microeconomics for 50 freshmen students. Provide them with real-world scenarios and applications for better comprehension
- 80% of the students found the instructor helpful and 70% of the 41 students found the course beneficial

The World Bank – *Education Global Practice*

January 2019 – June 2021

Short-Term Consultant (*Education Economist*)

based in Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Played a key role in designing the second generation regional Higher Education and Tertiary Education projects with a combined proposed portfolio of \$700 million with the aim of modernizing higher education and developing regional collaboration. Led the development of budget, Environment and Social Assessment, and Economic Analysis, including the drafting of the Project Appraisal Document.
- Developed the Emergency School Sector Response project in response to COVID-19 under a fast-track system to ensure minimal learning loss. Contributed to the project appraisal document and facilitated joint development with the Government of Bangladesh and UNICEF.
- Contributed to the Implementation Completion Report for multiple projects, overseeing logistics and reporting, resulting in a satisfactory outcome rating.
- Organized an Early Childhood Education Global Learning Conference in China under the Beijing office. Coordinated guest logistics and led conference proceedings, engaging 60 government officials from various South Asian and Southeast Asian countries.
- Supported research initiatives by conducting Randomized Control Trials to assess pilot programs, such as the Recognition of Prior Learning Assessment under the skills sector project.

Short-Term Consultant (*Education Economist*)

February 2018 – December 2018

- Managed project operations for national-level initiatives with a combined portfolio of approximately \$500 million, conducting target assessments and providing support to clients in ensuring seamless project execution.

- Organized two International Skills Conferences in Dhaka, overseeing guest management and conference reporting. Engaged over 1000 national and international stakeholders, resulting in the signing of a Joint Skills Development resolution.
- Directed outreach activities, including workshops and seminars with project officials. Published six blogs to showcase project success stories and challenges.
- Coordinated sector-wide development efforts by liaising with government officials and non-governmental stakeholders.
- Supported research data cleaning and analysis for ongoing projects to ensure proper impact assessment of initiatives.

Char Tobacco Assessment Project (CTAP)

2019

Co-Principal Investigator

Bangladesh

- Led grant application drafting and submission in securing a \$10,000 funding from John's Hopkins Institute of Global Tobacco Control.
- Conducted a Randomized Control Trial using nudge-based behavioral economics intervention, resulting in a 14% reduction of tobacco consumption expenditure per household in the study sample of rural Bangladesh.
- Supervised intervention and primary data collection logistics for 1000 survey households and managed a team of 30 enumerators and data analysts to deliver research output in time and within budget.
- Coordinated research design and questionnaire development, data analysis and publication of project research papers.

Publications

- **Aziz, M.**, & Elbakidze, L. (2024). Invisible Barrier: The Impact of Air Quality on Chronic School Absenteeism in the US. *Environmental and Resource Economics*, 1-26. doi.org/10.1596/1813-9450-9644
- Nakata, S., Sharma, U., Rahman, T., Rahman, M., & **Aziz, M.** (2021). Effects of Recognition of Prior Learning on Job Market Outcomes. *Policy Research Working Papers, The World Bank* doi.org/10.1596/1813-9450-9644
- Fakir, A., Karim, A., Mubde, M., **Aziz, M.**, & Ahmad, A. (2020). A single-blind clustered randomised controlled trial of daily record-keeping for reducing smoking tobacco expenditure among adult male household heads in rural Bangladesh. *Journal of Smoking Cessation*, 15(2), 76-83. doi:10.1017/jsc.2020.12

Working Papers

- **Aziz, M.**, & Stephens, H., Nature at Work: The role of Urban Greenspace on Workers' Amenity
- **Aziz, M.**, & Elbakidze, L., Safe Drinking Water Act compliance and nutrient runoff from agricultural production

Academic Presentations

- Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. (2024)
- North American Regional Science Council Conference, Louisiana (2024)
- Southern Economics Association Annual Meeting, Louisiana (2023)
- Agricultural & Applied Economics Association Annual Meeting, California (2022)
- Western Economic Association International (WEAI), Oregon (2022);

Awards & Fellowships

USDA - Graduate Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Partners Fellow

August 2023 – May 2024

Division of Resource Economics and Management - Gempesaw/Alaby Family scholarship

November 2022

Other Experiences

Graduate Resource Economics Club - President

April 2023 – April 2024

Finding Bangladesh - A Documentary - Video Editor

2012 – 2019

COMPUTER SOFTWARE PROGRAMS

STATA, GIS, Python, R, SQL, L^AT_EX, GAMS, Notion, Adobe Creative Suite

Language Proficiency

English – Full Professional Proficiency

Bengali – Native Proficiency

Hindi – Intermediate Proficiency

French – Elementary Proficiency

REFERENCES

Levan Elbakidze, Ph.D. - Professor, West Virginia University

levan.elbakidze@mail.wvu.edu

Tashmina Rahman - Senior Education Specialist, The World Bank

trahman3@worldbank.org

Heather Stephens, Ph.D. - Director, Regional Research Institute, WVU

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