YUSUF MUNNA

Development Studies | Social Research | Education & Technology Policy
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RESEARCH PROFILE

Development Studies academic, researcher, educator, and social-impact practitioner with experience spanning university teaching, quantitative social research, education access, public policy, youth engagement, and international development. Currently serving as Adjunct Faculty at Bandarban University and previously a Teaching Assistant at Khulna University. Founder and Executive Director of Reflective Teens Trust, where he has led a transnational team, implemented 37+ programmes and projects, built a network of 1,300+ schools, and supported educational interventions reaching 65,000+ students across Bangladesh and other Global South countries.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Social Science (BSS) in Development Studies 2019–2024
Khulna University, Khulna, Bangladesh

- **CGPA:** 3.69 / 4.00
- **Undergraduate thesis:** "Factors Affecting Health Literacy Levels: A Study on the Students of Khulna University"; supervised by Professor Asma Ul Husna, Head of the Development Studies Discipline.
- **Student of the Year, 2020**, awarded by the Directorate of Student Affairs (DSA) for academic achievement and community contribution.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- **Digital Media, Technology & Mental Well-being:** Quantitative research on social media use and digital media consumption and their effects on mental well-being across age groups, with emphasis on Global South contexts.
- **Technology Policy & AI Governance:** Regulatory, ethical and institutional approaches to governing emerging technologies and artificial intelligence.
- **Artificial Intelligence in Education & Society:** How AI-driven tools and systems are reshaping education delivery, learning outcomes and social institutions.
- **Political Science & Sociology of Development:** Institutional, political and social-structural analysis of governance, policymaking and social stratification.
- **Geopolitical Leverage of Bangladesh:** Bangladesh's soft and hard power potential at the South Asia–Southeast Asia interface, including the Bay of Bengal, Malacca Strait and South China Sea.

ACADEMIC & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Faculty June 2025 – Present
Bandarban University, Bandarban, Bangladesh

- Teach the bachelor-level course *NGOs, Poverty Alleviation, and Development in Bangladesh*.
- Integrate theoretical frameworks with empirical case studies, grassroots evidence and locally generated knowledge to examine development and governance processes.

Teaching Assistant January 2023 – December 2023
Khulna University, Khulna, Bangladesh

- Supported undergraduate teaching in *Urbanization and Development* and *Development Policy and Planning* under the supervision of Ms. Asma Ul Husna.
- Facilitated discussions on local governance, national policy frameworks and development outcomes; conducted tutorials and provided guidance on analytical writing.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & PROJECTS

Co-designer, Global Study on Social Entrepreneur Well-being
Possibilists Council · Funded by SAP and Google

- As a Possibilists Council member, contributed to the Possibilists Council Annual Report study, engaging more than 1,500 social entrepreneurs worldwide.

Co-designer and Lead, First-Time Voters in Bangladesh Study
Funded by The Asia Foundation (TAF) and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

- Co-designed and led a study examining youth perceptions, electoral participation and policy priorities.

PUBLICATIONS & MANUSCRIPTS

- Co-authored. "Lifestyle Predictors of Mental Health: A Comparative Study between Young Adults and Elderly People of Bangladesh." *Awaiting publication.*

PROFESSIONAL & DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

Founder & Executive Director September 2020 – Present
Reflective Teens Trust

- Built and coordinated a transnational team of 50+ members; designed and implemented 37+ programmes and projects on equitable access to quality education across Bangladesh and seven other Global South countries.
- Conducted needs assessments and established a network of 1,300+ schools, developing context-sensitive, frugal educational interventions reaching 65,000+ students across multiple tiers of the public system.

- Secured multilateral and institutional funding/support involving the Government of Bangladesh, US Embassy Dhaka, FCDO, London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Google, Apple, The Asia Foundation and Yunus Center.

Freelance Contributor July 2020 – Present
Dhaka Tribune
- Authored evidence-based editorial columns on development economics, public administration and social policy, connecting academic research with field-level analysis of governance and equitable development.

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC, POLICY & LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENTS

Council Member, Possibilists Council — Berlin, Germany October 2025
- Selected as the first Bangladeshi member of the Possibilists Council; as part of this role, participated in the Possibilists Board Annual Gathering.

Delegate, Global Shapers Annual Summit — Geneva, Switzerland June 2025
- Elected as the Curator of Global Shapers Chattogram Hub, represented the hub at the World Economic Forum's Annual Summit 2025; contributed to discussions on equity, sustainability and youth-led change.

Delegate, BIMSTEC Youth Summit — Gujarat, India February 2025
- Represented Bangladesh at the inaugural regional youth summit, engaging on entrepreneurship, digital connectivity and sustainable development.

Participant, Internet Governance Forum — Riyadh, Saudi Arabia December 2024
- Participated in discussions on internet-enabled governance and youth involvement in policy design.

Observer, COP29 — Baku, Azerbaijan November 2024
- Showcased locally led adaptation solutions developed by high school students through a Reflective Teens and USAID collaboration.

Observer, COP28 — Dubai, UAE November 2023
- Observer representing Bangladeshi youth, advocating for climate resilience and highlighting links between quality education and sustainable development.

Entrepreneur in Residence, Changemaker Exchange — Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia August 2023
- Participated in an international community of social innovators focused on solving social and environmental challenges through collaboration.

RIVET 20 — Boston, United States August 2023
- Recognised by the US-based nonprofit Rivet among 20 innovative social entrepreneurs internationally.

Delegation Leader, Bangladesh Youth Delegation — New Delhi, India November 2022
- Led a delegation of 100 young Bangladeshi leaders and participated in engagements with Indian leadership, including the President of India.

AWARDS & HONOURS

Internet Society Early Career Fellowship March–August 2025
- Selected as one of 15 global fellows for this competitive six-month program focused on strengthening the Internet ecosystem. Mentored by experts including Dr. Laura DeNardis (American University) and scholars from the Oxford Internet Institute; intensive training in Internet governance, policy, advocacy and project management.

The Diana Award, London, United Kingdom 2021
- International recognition for sustained contributions to social change and community development.

Student of the Year, Khulna University 2020
- Recognised for academic achievement and community contribution.

Ashoka Young Changemaker, Dhaka, Bangladesh 2017
- Selected for the Ashoka Young Changemakers network for youth leadership and social change.

RESEARCH METHODS & TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Research approaches:** Quantitative survey research, regression modelling, policy analysis, spatial analysis
- **Software:** SPSS, R, Geographic Information System (GIS)
- **Research management & productivity:** Zotero, Microsoft Office 365

LANGUAGES & INTERESTS

Bangla: Native • **English:** Full professional proficiency • **Hindi:** Professional proficiency
Interests: Reading, writing, travelling, graphic design

REFERENCES

Md. Nasif Ahsan, Ph.D.
Professor, Economics Discipline, Khulna University
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Mir Junayed Jamal
Director, Promoting Effective, Responsive, and Inclusive Governance in Bangladesh (PERI) Program,
The Asia Foundation in Bangladesh
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