

## FARZANA SARKER

406-920-9919 | Farzanamahin8@gmail.com | linkedin.com/in/FarzanaSarker | Auburn, AL -36832

### EDUCATION

---

<b>Ph.D in Applied Economics</b> Auburn University	January, 2026 - Present Auburn, Alabama
<b>MS in Applied Economics</b> Montana State University	May 2025 Bozeman, Montana
<b>Bachelor of Science (BS) in Economics</b> United International University (UIU), Dhaka, Bangladesh	October 2019 Dhaka, Bangladesh

### KEY QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS

---

- 4+ years of research experience, including sourcing relevant datasets, conducting data analysis, and compiling reports to identify bottlenecks and success stories, with a focus on exploratory research, longitudinal analysis, log frame analysis, hypothesis testing, and mixed methods approaches.
- 2+ years of experience in program monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), including program planning, implementation, and evaluation; skilled in providing actionable feedback to teams, designing and managing MEL frameworks and tools, conducting baseline and end-line surveys, ensuring quality monitoring, and handling contract and asset management.
- 3+ years of experience as a Teaching Assistant at Montana State University and in Bangladesh, which has developed strong skills in communication, mentorship, and educational assessment.
- 3+ years of experience with advanced technical skills in RStudio, Stata, SPSS, and data management tools, Microsoft Office, Kobo Toolbox, USAID Teams.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Graduate Research Assistant   Auburn University</b>  | <b>January 2026 – Present</b><br><b>Auburn, AL</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contribute to the Healthy Fluid Milk Incentive (HFMI) Add Milk project, a SNAP based nutrition program designed to encourage healthier milk purchases through point of sale discounts for low income households.</li><li>• Perform systematic validation of retailer transaction data, ensuring completeness, consistency, and accuracy across multi store monthly submissions.</li><li>• Develop weekly and monthly reports to track program progress, summarize key trends, and support data driven evaluation of outcomes across participating retailers.</li><li>• Support ongoing evaluation efforts by translating transaction level data into actionable insights for program improvement.</li></ul>                           |   |
| <b>Graduate Teaching &amp; Research Assistant   Montana State University</b>  | <b>August 2023 – May 2025</b><br><b>Bozeman, MT</b> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assist in delivering lectures and facilitating classroom activities, enhancing instructional effectiveness and student engagement.</li><li>• Ensure fair testing environments, developing organizational and detail-oriented skills.</li><li>• Evaluate assignments and provided feedback, improving accuracy and time management.</li><li>• Perform literature reviews and sourced relevant data sets to support project objectives, contributing valuable insights and information.</li><li>• Contribute to the development and writing of research proposals while supporting projects through data analysis, cleaning, and organization, improving skills in project planning, analytical precision, and data handling.</li></ul> |   |
| <b>Young Professional   Plan International Bangladesh</b>   | <b>July, 2022 – June 2023</b><br><b>Bangladesh</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planned, Implemented, Monitored, and documented projects, Asset Management, Stock Management, Auction bidding process and its disposal, Contract Management, Anti-Terrorism screening for the project.</li><li>• Conducted field Visit with a checklist covering all aspects of interventions of the project to monitor and evaluate project implementation and share regular feedback and recommendations for actions to the project team based on the monitoring findings.</li></ul>  |   |

- Ensured proper documentation, dissemination & application of learning in project cycle management through proper selection of case studies, stories, data, photographs, and videos as per the requirement of the project and instruction from donor.
- Assisted in developing documentation plans and preparing reports by performing data analysis using statistical software (SPSS, STATA, Excel) and interpret statistical and qualitative data according to the project objective.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Intern | Counterpart International**

**January 2021 – July 2022  
Bangladesh**

- Assisted in the design, decision-making, and implementation of programs, including the development of MEL frameworks and tools aligned with budget and fund allocation, while ensuring accurate tracking of data through appropriate databases.
- Proactively supported the development and maintenance of appropriate databases to accurately track data collected from various interventions across program activities.
- Conducted baseline and end-line surveys, process tracking, post-distribution monitoring, and quality assessments to evaluate project outcomes and measure discrepancies and learning.
- Performed frequent field visits to ensure quality assurance of data collection exercises and management, while compiling regular reports from operational locations to identify bottlenecks and success stories.
- Facilitated capacity-building training to review project progress, lessons learned, and challenges, providing recommendations to project staff while maintaining regular coordination on MEL issues.

---

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **Master's Thesis**

- ‘Exploring the Effects of Rohingya Influx on Female Workforce Participation in Bangladesh’ examines how the influx of the Rohingya population, has impacted women's labor force participation rates in the host communities in Bangladesh by using a nationally representative panel dataset with a triple difference model. The initial hypothesis suggests that the influx has led to an increase in women's labor force participation, reflecting changes in economics opportunities and social structures.

### **Undergraduate Thesis**

- ‘Factors Affecting Labor Productivity in Service Sector (Bangladesh)’ focuses on the possible factors that play a crucial role to accelerate and shrink the labor productivity in Bangladesh.

### **Professional Paper**

- Need Assessment Report: Conducting a survey on flood hazard, indigenous adaptation, and needs of flood victims including adolescent girls and young women in Kochakata, Kaligonj and Bollobherkhas unions of Nageshari sub-district of Kurigram, Bangladesh.

---

## **SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS**

- UIU Merit Scholarship throughout the 4 Year's Study of B.Sc. Economics in United International University (UIU).
- Achieved Undergraduate University Dean's Award for the brilliant result.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> position in “Research Methodology” Workshop, organized by Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC).

---

## **WORKSHOPS**

- Organized “Refreshers on Program Management and Financial Compliance along with Collaborating, Learning & Adapting (CLA)” Workshop by Counterpart International on 2022, under Promoting Advocacy and Rights (PAR) project.
- Participated in “Capacity Building Workshop on Career Options for Economics Graduates” on 2017, organized by South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Presented Paper in the “Research Methodology Workshop” organized by Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), Bangladesh on “Factors affecting labor productivity of Bangladesh”.
- Attended “Women in Digital Workshop on HTML & CSS, Graphic Design, Content Develop and Digital Marketing” on 2015 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Attended Course on “Financial Education for the Youth with a View to Implementing SDG” on 2018 by Islami Bank, Bangladesh.