

Soma Dey

https://www.du.ac.bd/faculty/faculty_details/WOS/1127

Biography

The areas of my research interest include gender, environment & natural resource management, indigenous society, migration, and women's role in the economy. I am particularly interested in examining how the natural environment and gender relations are being reconstituted in contemporary societies through development interventions. In my PhD study, I have used feminist political ecology theory to analyse how the enclosure of forests imposes severe constraints upon indigenous people's lives and generates new gendered meanings, values, and use of nature. Focusing on the shifting livelihoods, I have shown gendered resistance to centric power and the influence of patriarchal culture on the matrilineal Garo community in Bangladesh. The thesis concludes that the Garos in Bangladesh can no more be considered a simple nature-oriented matrilineal community.

I am also interested in the field of gender and migration. I conducted my first academic research in this area on marriage migration. Later I worked on the trafficking of women & children from Bangladesh and turned the focus on international migration. I am also working on examining the gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. While studying in Thailand, I participated in several field investigations to gather practical experience on gender roles in agriculture, land, forest, and water management. I had the opportunity of visiting several Thai government-supported projects for sustainable resource management. I researched on behalf of HomeNet South Asia (HNSA) Trust, a regional network of home-based workers, to explore the socio-economic constraints of women home-based workers. I was also involved in several projects of development organisations, including USAID-funded research on empowering women farmers and Plan International's project that examined the sexual violence against women and girls. Besides guiding students' research at the university, I am currently associated with various research programs of the Government of Bangladesh.

I teach courses on research methodology, poverty & livelihoods, demography and gender, and environment & natural resource management. In the future, I would like to conduct more gender-specific research on climate change, disaster management, domestic & sexual violence, agricultural transformation, economic globalisation, and migration. I have published research articles in various

peer-reviewed national and international journals, including Routledge, Springer, Taylor and Francis, SAGE, Green Economics Institute, UPL Bangladesh etc.

Teaching Experience

September 2020 onward	Associate Professor (Women & Gender Studies)	University of Dhaka
March 2015 -September 2020	Assistant Professor (Women & Gender Studies)	University of Dhaka
January 2014 – March 2015	Part-time Faculty (Environmental Science)	Stamford University Bangladesh
Jan 2006 – Aug 2009	Lecturer (Women & Gender Studies)	University of Dhaka, Bangladesh
Oct 2003 – Dec 2006	Lecturer (Environmental Science)	Stamford University Bangladesh

Educational Qualification

2009 – 2013	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Gender and Development Studies <i>School of Environment, Resource, and Development (SERD)</i> <i>Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand.</i>
2000 – 2001	Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Geography and Environment <i>University of Dhaka, Bangladesh</i>
1997 – 1998	Master of Science (MSc) in Geography and Environment <i>University of Dhaka, Bangladesh</i>
1994 – 1997	Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Geography and Environment <i>University of Dhaka, Bangladesh</i>

Research Projects

- Consultant: **Gender Gap in Financial Inclusion in Bangladesh (GGiFI)** (ongoing), Centre for Research and Development (CRD), with funding support from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).
- Co- consultant: **The gendered impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh** (2020-2021), under the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka.
- Consultant: **Home-based Workers and Women Entrepreneurs during COVID-19 Pandemic: A Situational Study** (2020), Grassroots Women Entrepreneurs Society.
- Co-consultant: **Scoping Study of New BDRCS-SRC Resilience Program in Bangladesh** (2017), Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS).
- Team Member: **Baseline study of Youth Perception on Sexual Violence against Women and Girls** (2016), Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka, Funded by Plan International.
- Team Leader: **Women's Empowerment and Child Nutrition: Reducing the Gap with Dairy Cow Rearing** (2016), USAID/INGENAES.
- Team Leader: **Extending Civic Amenities for the Home-based Workers in Dhaka City** (2014), HomeNet South Asia (HNSA) Trust.
- Team Leader: **Mapping Homeworkers and their Organisations in Dhaka City** (2012), HomeNet South Asia, (HNSA) Trust.

Journal Articles

- **Dey, S.**, Akhter, S. & Fariha, T.N. (Forthcoming). Disaster Perceptions, Experiences and Responses to COVID-19: A Gender Analysis. *Perspective in Social Sciences*, University of Dhaka
- **Dey, S.**, Akhter, S. & Fariha, T.N. (2021). Diminishing inequalities? A study on the reconstituted gender relations in the Bangladeshi households during COVID 19 crisis. *Journal of International Women's Studies*. 22(12), 62-81.
- **Dey, S.** (2021). Book Review: Climate Change, Gender Roles, and Hierarchies: Socio-economic Transformation in an Ethnic Minority Community in Viet Nam, *Gender, Technology & Development* 25(3), 376-378.

- Sultana, N. & **Dey, S.** (2021). From Vulnerability to Resilience: A Study of the Livelihood Struggles of Tiger Widows in Bangladesh. *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*, 27(1), 2-21.
- Laila, R., & **Dey, S.** (2020). Women's status and fertility: Realities of matrilineal Garo women in Bangladesh. *Empowerment*. Vol.27, 23-40. Dhaka: Women for Women.
- Akter, K., **Dey, S.**, & Hasan, S. (2019). Riverbank erosion and its impact on rural women: Case study of Ulania village in Bangladesh. *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*, 25(1), 76-95.
- Akhter, S., **Dey, S.** & Chowdhury, K. (2018). Immigrant Bangladeshis in Australia: Reorganisation of Gender Roles and Power Relations. *Social Science Review*, 35(2), 1-12. Dhaka: University of Dhaka.
- **Dey, S.**, & Basak, P. (2017). Out of the shadows: Women and wage struggle in the RMG industry of Bangladesh. *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*, 23(2), 163-182.
- **Dey, S.** & Basak, P. (2017). Rana Plaza Disaster and Thereafter: Evaluating Efforts to Manage Safety and Social Security in the RMG Workers in Bangladesh. *Perspective in Social Sciences*, 12, 67-85, Dhaka: University of Dhaka.
- **Dey, S.** (2016). New Agriculture, New Knowledge and New Gender Roles: Sharing the Experience of an *Indigenous* Community, *Social Science Review*, 33(2). Dhaka: University of Dhaka.
- **Dey, S.** (2015). Resource Enclosure, Land Rights and Gender: A Case Study of the Matrilineal Garo Community of Modhupur *Sal* Forest, Bangladesh. *Empowerment*, 22. Dhaka: Women for Women.
- **Dey, S.** (2015). An assessment of the situation of women home-workers in Dhaka city, Bangladesh. *International Journal of Green Economics*, 9(1), 24-34. UK: Inderscience Publishers.
- **Dey, S.**, Resurreccion, B. P., & Doneys, P. (2014). Gender and environmental struggles: voices from Adivasi Garo community in Bangladesh. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 21(8), 945-962. UK: Routledge.
- **Dey, S.** (2012). Market and Malthus: Population, Gender, and Health in Neo-liberal Times. Book Review, *Gender, Technology and Development*, 16. Bangkok: Sage Publications.
- Parveen, I. & **Dey, S.** (2009). Gender Discrimination in the Construction Industry of Bangladesh. *International Journal of Green Economics (IJGE)*, 3(2), 223-233. UK: Inderscience Publishers.
- **Dey, S.**, & Sultana, S. (2009). The socio-cultural impacts of economic changes to matrilineal Garo society in Bangladesh. *International Journal of Green Economics*, 3(2), 184-198. UK: Inderscience Publishers.
- **Dey, S.** (2008). Deforestation and the Garo Women of Modhupur *Garh*, Bangladesh. *Asian Women*, 24(3), 57-81. Korea: The Research Institute of Asian Women.

- **Dey, S.** (2007). The Commercialization of Indigenous Economy and its Impact on the Environment of Modhupur *Garh*, Bangladesh. *International Journal of Green Economics*, 1(3/4), 465 - 477. UK: Inderscience Publishers.
- **Dey, S. & Ahsan, R. M.** (2006). A Geographical Analysis of Degraded Modhupur *Sal* Forest. *Journal of Geography and Environment (Bhugol O Poribesh Journal) (in Bangla)*, 5(Special Issue). Dhaka: Bangladesh Geographical Society (BGS).
- **Dey, S. & Basak, P.** (2003). Trafficking Routes of Women and Children near Border Areas of Jessore and Chapai-Nawabganj Districts. *Journal of Geography and Environment (Bhugol O Poribesh Journal) (in Bangla)*, 3, Dhaka: Bangladesh Geographical Society.

Book Chapters

- **Dey, S.** (Forthcoming), Gender, Environment, and Natural Resource Management: Existing Gaps in Forest Management and the Challenges of Indigenous Women in Bangladesh. In *Women & Gender Studies in Bangladesh: Contributions, Challenges and Future Pathways*, S. Akhter & A. Banu (eds.), University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- **Dey, S. & Laila, R.** (2016). Reconstruction of Women's Role in *Jhum* Cultivation & the Shift in the Gendered Division of Labour among the Garos. In *Lives, Livelihood and Leadership: transformation of gendered roles in Bangladesh*, M. Guhathakurata, & A. Banu (eds.), The University Press Limited (UPL), Dhaka: Bangladesh.
- Ahsan, R.M. & **Dey, S.** (2005). Marriage Migration of Muslim and Hindu Women of Galachipa Pourashava in Patuakhali District: A Comparative Study. In *Gender Geography: A Reader, Bangladesh Perspective*, R. M. Ahsan, N. Ahmad & H. Khatun (eds). The Bangladesh Geographical Society, Dhaka: Bangladesh.
- **Dey, S. & Ahsan, R.M.** (2002). Marriage Migration Process of Women: A Proposed Model. In *Nagarayane Bangladesh (in Bangla)*, N. Islam & A. Baqee (eds). Dhaka: Department of Geography & Environment, University of Dhaka.

Conferences

- Organising Committee Member, "International Conference on Women (Women 2022)", to be held virtually on 20-21 August 2022.
- "Future of Higher Education in the 'Digital-First Economy'", held virtually on 12th April 2022, organised by India Didactics Association.
- Keynote Lecture, "International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals & Gender Perspective" (ICSDGAGP) (Virtual mode), organised by Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (SVNIT), India(25 October 2021).

- Keynote Speaker, “International Virtual Research Conference”, organised by Quirino State University, Philippines (29 June 2021).
- “International Conference on Gender, Diversity & Development”; organised by Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka (March 2015).
- “International Conference on Future of Asian Feminisms”. Organised by *Kartini* Network, Bali, Indonesia (2008).
- “1st International Indian Geography Congress”, organised by Department of Geography, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India, October 5-7, 2006.
- “International Conference on Geography and Environment: Issues and Challenges”, organised by Bangladesh Geographical Society (BGS), Dhaka, 9-11 December 2005.

Workshops, Seminars & Webinars

- Resource Person, ‘Teachers Training Program of Sociology’, organised by the National University of Bangladesh, 26 April 2022.
- Keynote Speaker, ‘Safety and Gender Equality for Girls in Sustainable Development Challenges & Way Forward’, Webinar organised by National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, 14 December 2021.
- Discussant, ‘Importance of Care Economy to reduce Domestic Violence against Women & Girls’, Roundtable discussion organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation, 8 December 2021.
- Facilitator, ‘Climate change & gender perspective’, Staff Capacity Building Training, BARCIK, 13 July 2021.
- Facilitator, ‘Climate Crisis & Gender’, Staff Capacity Building Training, BARCIK, 14 June 2021.
- Keynote Speaker, ‘Women’s (unaccounted) work during COVID- 19 pandemic: what do we need to know and do?’ Webinar organised by the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka and *Manusher Jonno* Foundation, Bangladesh, 27 July 2020.
- Keynote Speaker, “COVID-19 Pandemic & Violence against Women in Bangladesh”, Webinar organised by the National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, Bangladesh, 11 July 2020.

- Keynote Speaker, “Girls’ Empowerment in Bangladesh: Challenges and Way Forward”. Seminar Organised by AusAID & Dept. Women & Gender Studies, University of Dhaka, 9 October 2018.
- Workshop on “Integrating Gender and Nutrition into Agriculture Extension Programming”, organised by BIID & USAID, Dhaka, 5 August 2015.
- “Expert Consultation Workshop on Disaster, Land Tenure & Gender”, organised by AIT and FAO, Bangkok, 14-15 November 2013.
- “Workshop on MDG Analysis and Operational Indicators for Gender Mainstreaming and Equality”, Organised by AIT, Bangkok, 28 - 29 January 2010.
- “Seminar for Young Geographers”, organised by Bangladesh Geographical Society (BGS), Dhaka, May 2001.

Research Reports

- Karim, R.M., Islam, S., & Dey, S., (2017). *Scoping Study of New BDRCS-SRC Resilience Program in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS)*.
- *Women’s Empowerment and Child Nutrition: Reducing the Gap with Dairy Cow Rearing*, (2016), With Abu Saleh Mohammad Sowad & Mynul Islam, USAID/INGENAES.
- *Mapping Homeworkers and their Organisations in Dhaka City* (2012), HomeNet South Asia (HNSA) Trust.
- *Extending Civic Amenities for the Home-based Workers in Dhaka City* (2014), HomeNet South Asia (HNSA) Trust.

Thesis/Dissertation

- Dey S. (2013). *Shifting Livelihoods and Gender in the Matrilineal Garo Community of Modhupur Sal Forest, Bangladesh*, PhD Thesis.
- Dey, S.(2004). *Degrading Forest Environment and Local Garo Women in Modhupur Garh, Bangladesh*, MPhil Thesis.
- Dey, S. (2001). *A Comparative Analysis of Marriage Migration of Women from Two Religious Groups in Bangladesh*, MSc Thesis.

Awards

2009	PhD Research Fellowship, ISS, Netherlands & AIT, Thailand
2003-2004	MPhil Research Fellowship, University of Dhaka

Membership

Since 2005	Life Member, Bangladesh Geographical Society (BGS).
Since 2010	Member, Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID),
Since 2013	Canada.
2019	Member, AIT Alumni, Thailand.
	Member, Compliant Committee for Preventing Sexual Harassment,
	Health Economics Unit, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,
Since 2021	Government of Bangladesh.
	Editorial Board Member, Social Science Review Journal, University of
	Dhaka.