

Fizza Saghir, MSW

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RESEARCH INTERESTS & AREAS OF WORK

Human rights; Forced migration; War & Politics; International Social Work; Child rights (education, health, abuse); Governance & Policy-making; Peace-building; Conflict transformation; Refugee rights; Mental health

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work** August, 2022-Present
School of Social Work
University of Connecticut (UConn), USA
- Master of Arts in Social Work (Gold Medallist)** 2018
Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMI), New Delhi
Thesis Title: A Study of Psycho-social Status of Rohingya Women Refugees (With special reference to Kalindi Kunj Refugee Camp, New Delhi)
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Ashvini K. Singh, PhD, Professor
- Bachelor of Science (Zoology Hons.)** 2012
Hindu College, Delhi University, New Delhi

LANGUAGES

Fluent **English, Hindi and Urdu**; Basic **Arabic and Chinese (Mandarin)**

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Graduate Assistant** August, 2022-Present
School of Social Work, UConn
Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Rebecca L. Thomas, PhD, Professor
-Research on challenges to Karen Refugees in the United States-Literature review, compilation, and drafting
-As Lead Student Researcher at International Advisory Committee for Center for International Social Work Studies (CISWS):
>Leading research projects at CISWS
>Mentoring MSW students in development of activities, designing programmes, and organisation of events
- Associate Fellow, Delhi Assembly Research Centre, Delhi Legislative Assembly** April, 2022-July, 2022
Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi
Deputed at Office of Hon'ble MLA of Kondli Constituency, Shri Kuldeep Kumar
-As Project Lead of Anganwadi Revamping Project, worked to bring reforms in 149 Anganwadis of the constituency on parameters like infrastructure, hygiene, use of technology, attendance of beneficiaries, training through research, monitoring & evaluation, and stakeholder coordination
-Led inspections of 8 Mohalla Clinics of the constituency to understand grievances of the beneficiaries and other stakeholders to bring about improvement in provision of primary healthcare services of the government
-Handled public grievances from the constituency and worked to resolve them through stakeholder coordination, bridging of resources etc.
- Fellow, ALLY Fellowship by European Union** May, 2021-August, 2022
(For Peace-Building & Preventing Violent Extremism in South Asia)
-As Indian representative, conducted regional advocacy for transforming conflicts and designing & implementing youth-led peace initiatives
-Leading Social Action Project 'Paigham-e-Mohabbat/Message of Love' to break stereotypes and preconceived

notions (associated with hatred and violent extremism) of the youth across India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, through regional peace dialogues

Child Protection Officer, Garden Public School, New Delhi

April, 2021-March, 2022

- Provided psychosocial support to the school children
- Worked to formulate guidelines for child safety & security and shall supervise its implementation

Honorary Advisor, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi

February, 2021-April, 2021

- As Member-Secretary of Expert Committee, led formulation of Delhi Government's Child Protection Policy for all schools & other institutions of Delhi
- Managed Project Smile Club with 10 grassroot NGOs for rehabilitation, re-integration child sexual abuse victims
- Handled grievances related to violation of rights of children under Right to Education, 2009 and managed all cases of corporal punishment and mental harassment in schools & rights of Children with Special Needs, pushing policy changes and enabling to reach a resolution rate of 75% from 20% and reducing grievance resolution time from 3 months to 1 month
- Led inspections of schools on issues of child rights violations, drafted reports, assisted in taking appropriate action
- Led Community Awareness Initiative on Child Sexual Abuse & Safety in most vulnerable areas of Delhi

Chief Minister's Fellow, Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights,

Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi

January, 2019-January, 2021

- Worked as part of core team of School Development Index Project of Govt. of Delhi- comprehensive evaluation of nearly 6,000 schools of Delhi on safety, teaching & learning, social inclusion, to improve quality of education in schools, impacting 4.5 mn+ children
- Assisted in compilation and drafting of a study on implementation & impact of Mission Buniyaad, Government's flagship programme for enhancing foundational learning skills of school children aiming to improve foundational literacy in 2,500+ government schools
- Managed COVID-19 Counselling/Mental Health Helpline initiative of Government to provide psychosocial support to children and adults during COVID pandemic, touching nearly 20K lives
- As a representative of Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, worked in the riot-affected areas of Delhi, documented on-ground situation, pushed to enhance relief compensation and rehabilitation of more than 3,000 victims of communal riots of 2020 in Delhi
- Led and managed a team of 12 for inspection of 55 Mid-Day Meal Kitchens of Delhi and 275 schools being supplied Mid-Day Meals, monitoring the food quality, hygiene & infrastructure, impacting health of children
- Worked for developing Early Warning System for Identifying & Predicting Child Adversity for Timely Intervention in schools of Delhi
- Managed data collection from a sample of 3K+ school children for Children's Education & Well-Being Survey, conducted to understand children's well-being & their access to learning resources during COVID-19 outbreak
- Organized numerous capacity-building workshops and consultations with stakeholders in collaboration with partner organizations on socio-emotional well-being, counselling, gender-sensitization, adolescent health etc.
- Appointed as the Nodal Officer for all media & communication of the Commission (Including social media management, drafting of press releases etc.)

Project Officer, ModiCare Foundation

June, 2018-January, 2019

Conducted training and awareness sessions for children on health & nutrition, adolescence, menstrual hygiene, gender sensitization, child sexual abuse & provisions under Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and life skills, covering more than 40 schools and Child Care Institutions along with outcome analysis

Intern, Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders

January, 2018-July, 2018

Assisted in increasing outreach and awareness generation on sexual and gender-based violence, child sexual

abuse and domestic violence as part of Ummeed Ki Kiran project

Trainee, Society for Participatory Research in Asia

August, 2017-April, 2018

-Engaged in qualitative research, conducted Focused Group Discussions with 300 women domestic workers, used Participatory Research Approach to mark unsafe spaces, leading to enhanced security with the help of local police, designed collaterals for advocacy campaign on rights of domestic workers & conducted interviews of stakeholders

-Analyzed responses from government bodies across India on adherence to Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013

-Conducted Participatory Safety Audit of Satyanarayana Evening College, Delhi University

-Engaged in qualitative research through developing case studies of domestic workers and conducting interviews of stakeholders

Trainee, The Hope Project

August, 2016-April, 2017

Provided life-skills education to about 80 early adolescent boys and girls of urban slum in Nizamuddin Basti & assisted in upskilling in language & communication as part of livelihood generation initiative for the youth

Intern, National Human Rights Commission

December, 2016-January, 2017

-Analyzed and made recommendations on National Food Security Act: Provision for Lactating Mothers & Child Implementation Issues. Overall performance was adjudged as 'Excellent'.

-Critically analyzed provisions for prisoners in Tihar Jail and Dasna Jail and conditions of police stations

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & PRESENTATIONS

-Status of Anganwadis in Kondli: A Step towards Transforming Early Childhood Care & Education in Delhi, 2022

Conducted quantitative research study, on assessing status of 149 Anganwadi centres of Kondli constituency of Delhi on parameters of infrastructure, hygiene, use of technology, educational curriculum, attendance of beneficiaries, and training of workers

-Status of Adolescent Afghan Refugees Settled in Delhi, 2021

Conducted a mixed research, focusing on education & health status, awareness level and future aspirations on adolescent Afghan refugees

-Child Rights & Role of Government Agencies in Protecting them, 2020

Presented at Takshasila IAS Academy, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India

-Impact Evaluation of Mission Buniyaad, the Foundation Literacy Programme of Govt. of Delhi, 2019

Presented at Multi-Stakeholder Meet, Government of NCT of Delhi

-A Study of Psycho-social Status of Rohingya Women Refugees, 2018

(With special reference to Kalindi Kunj Refugee Camp, New Delhi)

Master's Dissertation under Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Ashvini K. Singh, PhD, Professor, JMI

Presented research paper at Fachhochschule University of Applied Sciences, Germany; Selected for presentation at International Conference on Rohingya Crisis, 2019 by University College London, UK; 20th International Conference on Rights of Refugees & Migration Law, France and International Conference on Forced Migration & Refugee Studies (2018) by International Islamic University, Malaysia

-Collectivizing for Change: Dignified Workplaces for the Unorganized, 2017

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. L.H.M. Gangte, PhD, Assistant Professor, JMI

Presented field work experiences & research work vis-à-vis rights of domestic workers to dignified workplaces before faculty & students of University of North Carolina Charlotte and Winston-Salem State University, USA

TRAINING, WORKSHOPS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

-Course on Continuous Professional Development Training "Educating for Peace-Social Work Practice in Conflict Areas"

March, 2022-June, 2022

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| International Federation for Social Work -Certificate in Translation & Conversation in Chinese (Mandarin) Jawaharlal Nehru Academy of Languages, New Delhi | 2022 |
| -SEL for Youth Waging Peace UNESCO MGIEP (Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development) -Certificate in Modern Arabic Language & Translation Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi | 2021 2020 |
| -International Summer School for International Social Work Days, Fachhochschule University of Applied Sciences, Erfurt, Germany -Certificate in Translation & Conversation in Chinese Sem-I (Mandarin) Jawaharlal Nehru Academy of Languages, New Delhi | 2018 2017 |
| -Second International Conference on 'Migration and Diasporas: Emerging Diversities & Development Challenges', Organised by Indira Gandhi National Open University | 2017 |
| -International Conference on 'Social Work Education and Practice Organised by Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi | 2017 |
| -Rural Camp, Village Bisru, Dstt. Mewat, Haryana, India 2016 Organised by Department of Social Work, JMI Conducted community work, group work and focused group discussions with the village population, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders; Analyzed caste and religion dynamics of the village, sources of livelihood and other social-economic-cultural issues; Applied many Participatory Learning Tools like Transect Walks, Problem Trees, Venn/Chapati Diagrams, Resource Mapping, Daily Activity Schedule, Trend Analysis, Service & Opportunity Mapping etc. for analysis and reporting | |

AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Selected as Fellow for receiving grant under Amplifying Leadership of Local Youth (ALLY) Project of European Union for peacebuilding & preventing violent extremism in South Asia, 2021
- Awarded the Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship, a prestigious fellowship of the Delhi Govt., 2019
- Gold Medalist with distinction in MSW, 2018
- Merit Scholarship awarded by Jamia Millia Islamia University (Topper of MSW First Year)
- Selected on merit for Students Exchange Programme and International Summer School for International Social Work Days at Fachhochschule University of Applied Sciences, Erfurt, Germany
- Organized *Seher*, Annual Fest of Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia University on celebration of Golden Jubilee of making of the department
- Winner of Child Rights Debate Competition on "Lowering the age of juvenile delinquents will increase vulnerability of children" organized by NGO ActionAid India in coordination with Department of Social Work, UGC Centre of Advanced Study, JMI, 2017
- Winner of Anchoring Competition organised by Purple Rose Arts & Media Institute, 2011
- Felicitated by Delhi Sanskrit Academy, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for exceptional performance in Sanskrit language, 2006
- Selected for 'Students Scientific Interaction with Astronaut Sunita Williams' on the basis of exceptional merit in Physics, 2006
- Awarded with numerous trophies and certificates for meritorious academic performance throughout, winning and participating in debates, symposiums, extempore

POSITIONS & AFFILIATIONS

- Volunteer, CodePink, a women-led grassroots organisation working internationally for peace and human rights and advocating to end wars, 2021-present

- Member, Indian Coalition for Youth, Peace & Security, 2021
- Member, NGO Afghan Shelter Organization, involved in social activities, education and skill development of Afghan refugees settled in New Delhi, 2019-present
- Member-Secretary, Expert Committee on Formulation of Guidelines for Prevention of Child Abuse, 2021, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, 2019-2021
- Vice-President, Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia University, 2017-18
- Head of Editorial Board, *Dastak*, Magazine of Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia, 2017-18
- Member, Gender Sensitivity Team, Jamia Millia Islamia University, 2016-18

PUBLICATIONS

- Teotia, A., Gupta, B., Mishra, R., **Saghir, F.**, Goswami, A., & Rahul, C. (2019). *Mission Buniyaad: A Case Study*. Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. https://drive.google.com/file/d/13DfTKq3x7wspcnFP4mvZhzm46_L7sMg/view
- Saghir, F.**, et al (2021). (In process) *Guidelines for Prevention of Child Abuse 2022*. Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- Chooramani, A., **Saghir, F.**, Sehgal, N., Teotia, A., Bansal, R., et al (2021). (In process) *School Development Index*. Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.