

Resume of

NISHATH SULTANA

**Deputy Director- Advocacy and Justice for Children
World Vision Bangladesh**

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PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY AT A GLANCE:

Nishath Sultana is a development professional, human rights activist, columnist, and author from Bangladesh. She has fifteen years long professional experiences with government and non-government organizations of Bangladesh in the field of education, public administration, advocacy, networking, communications, gender and development and community empowerment. Currently she is working as the **Deputy Director- Advocacy and Justice for Children at World Vision Bangladesh**. Prior to joining World Vision Bangladesh, she worked as the **Head of Communications, Advocacy and Gender Mainstreaming at Educo Bangladesh**. She also contributed to BRAC as the **Programme Coordinator- Advocacy, Networking and Communication under BRAC Gender Justice and Diversity Programme**. Before joining BRAC she led “Innovation for Improving Early Grade Reading Activity” project funded by USAID. During her first journey with BRAC she led the Quality Assurance Unit (BRAC Primary and Pre-primary Education) under **BRAC Education Programme**. She was also responsible for **Aflatoun** (Social and Financial Education) and **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)** programme. She has the experience of working as an **Assistant Commissioner and Executive Magistrate under the Ministry of Establishment, People’s Republic of Bangladesh**. She started her career as a **full time Lecturer of the Dept. of English at Daffodil International University** in 2007 and worked there for a couple of years. She is a columnist at the leading Bangla Newspaper of Bangladesh; the **Prothom Alo, Samakal** and **Amader Somoy**. She writes story books for children and contributes regularly in the national children’s magazines. She received **Unicef Meena Media Award 2018 and 2019** for her creative writing for children. In 2019, BRAC awarded her as ‘**Gender Innovation Champion**’ for an innovative project; ‘Reducing Violence in Public Transport Using Behavioral Science’. She dreams for a world where every child gets the opportunity to realize and flourish their full potentials.

From July 2021 – Present:

Employer	:	World Vision Bangladesh
Position	:	Deputy Director, Advocacy and Justice

Responsibilities

- Lead the process of development and implementation of an integrated national Advocacy strategy in line with regional and global advocacy strategy for building a high-performance advocacy function in WVW that is managed, structured, focused and adequately staffed for productive and quality work;
- Represent Extended Senior Leadership Team (ESLT) as Advocacy Lead and engage National Director, Senior Management Team (SMT) in strategic advocacy planning and process that support to address organizational objectives and promote the ministry’s child well-being aspirations;
- Pro-actively engage with key policy makers, donor, partners and audiences to enhance World Vision’s credibility and influence changes of policy and practices to ensure child wellbeing of most vulnerable children;
- Lead the proper implementation process of Global Campaign It Takes a World Campaign (ITAW) and guide issue-based campaign and research at local, national and global level in line with global and national strategy.
- Develop linkages with national and regional media actors, research and academic institutions and facilitate collaboration as well as policy development and influence within the region
- Involve and engage relevant stakeholders for analyzing legal framework, identify the gaps/limitations and recommend to the policy makers to change and amend public laws and policies towards the well-being of children;

- Enhance organizational positioning through ensuring and increasing evidence based advocacy and campaign success in line with contribution to SDGs target achievement that influence donors for issue based funding;
- Ensure Child, Adolescent and Youth Voice in local, national and global discourses and policy influence through their increased participations in these platforms.
- Design and implement Behavior Change Campaigns to change harmful social structure and practices incorporating SBC materials and initiate evidence based social dialogue engaging parents and community
- Ensure the capacities of WVB Child and Youth Forum members so that they can claim their rights for education, protection, health, WASH, SRHR and skill development issues.
- Ensure proper implementation of social accountability through CVA (Citizen Voice and Action) and programme accountability in WVB programming to influence policy aiming at improved equitable services for child wellbeing and protection;
- Ensure evidence based and quality reports, social media contents, success stories, website contents, magazines, donor appeals, media releases and other communication materials are produced on advocacy initiatives;
- Represent WVB in networks/platform/alliances e.g. Child Rights Advocacy Coalition-Bangladesh, Joining Forces – Child Rights Now platform, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, National Girls Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF), Civil Society Platform on SDG;
- External engagement through effective communication with Government relevant ministries, Public and Private sectors, Government agencies, Local Government institutions and Administration, UN agencies, donors, embassies, INGO, different Government and non-government Child rights and protection alliance and coalition;

From March 2020 – March 2021:

Employer : **Educo Bangladesh**
 Position : Head of Communications, Advocacy and Gender Mainstreaming

Responsibilities

- Lead Educo for high level policy advocacy and campaign, negotiate and lobby with relevant ministries, directorates, relevant parliamentary caucus and strategic partners keeping aligned with national and organizational advocacy strategy;
- Represent Educo in networks/platform e.g. Child Rights Advocacy Coalition-Bangladesh, Joining Forces – Child Rights Now platform, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, National Girls Child Forum, Bangladesh ECD Network, Education Cluster;
- Develop and maintain partnership with child rights and gender focused networks, partnerships and alliances, CSOs to promote social movements/ campaigns on VAWC, Child Labour, Child Marriage, at regional and global level;
- Lead the planning process of children, adolescent and youth empowerment in Educo's Country Programmatic Framework (2021-2025) keeping it aligned with the Educo's global strategy;
- Develop research and collaboration initiatives to generate evidence, capture and document lessons learned, good practices and innovations in all advocacy initiatives and facilitate organizational learning;
- Lead sector specific gender mainstreaming design, scale-up plans and methodologies to achieve Gender Equality and Adolescent & Youth Empowerment programmatic goals as well as ensure support for strengthening gender responsive organizational development, promote gender friendly work environment and redressing sexual harassment at workplace;
- Represent in the Senior Management Committee(SMT) as a member and take part in the decision making for the country programme and operation;
- Lead in effective application of Results Based Management tools, establishment of management targets and monitor achievements;
- Update communication strategy, liaise with global communications teams, brand team, digital and social media team to promote the brand and activities of Educo while ensuring effective internal and external communications according to the Educo brand and standards;
- Lead documenting best practices, lesson learned, and experiences for effective advocacy;

- Strategic lead towards the use of media (print, electronic and social) to communicate with larger audience to advance a gender focused social and public policy to influence attitude and behavioral change;

From September 2017- March 2020

Employer : **Gender Justice and Diversity Programme, BRAC Bangladesh**
 Position : Programme Coordinator, Advocacy, Networking and Communication

Responsibilities

- Lead and provide technical support in developing and implementing viable gender advocacy work plans for Gender Justice and Diversity keeping aligned with BRAC Gender Strategy;
- Develop result-based advocacy strategies relevant with gender integration initiative in sectoral programmes and enterprises;
- Develop policy briefs/position papers on gender within organization, programmes, as well as at national level through a process of critical analysis and reflection;
- Lead gender mainstreaming in education of BRAC Education Programme;
- Lead Gender Justice and Diversity for high level policy advocacy, negotiate and lobby with relevant ministries, directorates and strategic partners and represent BRAC in different national, regional and international meetings/workshops/ seminars;
- Develop and maintain partnership with right based organization/ platforms/ alliances and CSOs to promote social movements/ campaigns focused on VAWC, Child Marriage, and Engage Men and Boys (EMB);
- Coordinate the Secretariat role for Girls' Not Brides (GNB) and Engage Men and Boys Network(EMB) networks;
- Lead 'Promoting Gender Justice, Strengthening Engage Men and Boys Network for Reducing Violence Against Women and Children in Bangladesh' project funded by Amplify Change, implemented by 21 partner organisations of EMB Bangladesh Network;
- Provide technical support to BRAC Road Safety Programme and lead 'Reducing Violence in Public Transport Using Behavioral Science' Project implemented jointly with British Behavioural Insights Team(BIT) and Social Innovation Lab of BRAC;
- Strategic lead towards the use of media (print, electronic and social) to communicate with larger people to advance a gender focused social and public policy to influence attitude and behavioral change;

From September 2015 – August 2017

Employer : **United Purpose (Formerly known as Concern Universal)**
 Position : Programme Coordinator, USAID funded 'Innovation for Improving Early Grade Reading Activity' project

Responsibilities

- Develop strategic plan and monitor proper implementation of the project activities;
- Maintain regular coordination with two other project partners (i.e. BRAC Education program and BIED-BRAC University) and other project actors' i.e. DPE, relevant govt. primary schools, relevant government education offices, Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council etc;
- Supervision of project staff and strengthen capacity of BRAC staff through arranging training, and workshops;
- Provide guidance in designing of manuals, materials and training modules;
- Develop and ensure proper project information, documentation using monitoring tools, beneficiary feedback, and lessons learned;
- Oversee and support budget management and ensure project activities and results are reflected in the monitoring system;
- Ensure the best practices, lessons learnt, and constraints are consistently captured and shared across the project and develop strategies for addressing the constraints;

From 9 June 2009 – August 2015

Employer : **BRAC Bangladesh**
 Position : **Manager, Quality Assurance, BRAC Pre-primary and Primary Education**

Responsibilities :

- To ensure the quality of BRAC Pre-primary and BRAC Primary Schools and to enhance the learning outcomes of BRAC School children keeping aligned with national primary level competencies;
- To provide technical assistance and monitor the subject based Master Trainers and core Master trainers (English, Math, Science) all over Bangladesh for implementing more participatory and exploratory teaching learning in BRAC primary schools and ensure proper use of materials in the classroom;
- Develop plan, budget and implementation of 'Social and Financial Education: Aflatoun' programme
- Developed operational guideline, teachers' guide and students' workbook for 'Aflatoun-Social and Financial Education Programme' ;
- Lead Aflatoun (Social and Financial Education) and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) initiatives of BRAC and plan capacity building activities for program personnel and guide developing training materials;
- Initiate and developed a new programme named 'Deepshikha' programme (initiative to mainstream co-curricular activities in the curriculum of BRAC School);

From November 2008 – March, 2009

Employer : **Ministry of Establishment, Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh**
 Position Held : **Assistant Commissioner and Executive Magistrate (Administration)**

Responsibilities :

- Magisterial functions
- License and certificates
- Social welfare

From January 2007 – November 2008

Employer : **Daffodil International University**
 Position Held : **Lecturer, Department of English**

Responsibilities

- Prepare lectures, teaching materials, presentations, handouts, tutorials and examinations
- Student counseling
- Research in relevant subject areas

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND:

Name of Degree	Year	Result	Name of Institution
MA in Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching(ELT)	2004	2nd Class Score: 54.00%	Department of English, University Dhaka
Bachelor of Arts in English	2003	2nd Class Score: 52.28%	Dept. of English, University of Dhaka
Higher Secondary School Certificate	1999	1st Class Score: 74.3%	Naogaon Govt. College
Secondary School Certificate	1997	*1st Score: 80.7% (8th position)	Naogaon Govt. Girls' High School

TRAININGS:

- 2-month professional certificate course on 'Early Childhood Care and Development' by Institute of Child and Human Development (ICHD) and Light of Hope, March 2021-April 2021
- Masculinities and Working with Men and Boys towards Gender Justice, SAMYAK, India, September 2019
- Effective Leadership Training (BRAC Leadership Academy), December 2018
- Achieving Team Excellence (BRAC Learning Division) November 2018
- Gender, Development, Human Rights and Peace Training (Sangat, Swayam and Pragroshor, India), November 2017
- ToT on 'Aflateen: Social and Financial Education for the Adolescents' at Amsterdam, the Netherlands (Aflatoun Network), April 2016
- ToT on Pre-primary Professional Development (Aga Khan Foundation, Bangladesh) February, 2016
- Pre-primary Teaching Method (Teacher Development Institute, Bangladesh) March 2015
- Professional Certificate Course on Business Writing Essentials (British Council Teaching Centre, January, 2010)

OTHER INVOLVEMENTS:

- Columnist at the daily Prothom Alo, the leading Bangla newspaper of Bangladesh
- Author of story books for children and contributor for child magazines of Bangladesh
- Regular artist of Bangladesh Betar, Dhaka for Tagore song

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **Unicef Meena Media Award 2018 and 2019** for her creative writing for children by **UNICEF**
- **'Gender Innovation Champion- 2019'** by **BRAC**
- Panelist for the Regional Dialogue on **'Engaging Youth for Education and Justice in South Asia'** hosted by **UNESCO** and **UNODC, 2021**
- **EFA Global Monitoring Report Launching** Event panel discussant at Oslo University Norway, 2015

PERSONAL PROFILE:

Father's Name : A.K.M. Nuruzzaman
Mother's Name : Selima Banu
Date of Birth : 1 June 1981
Nationality : Bangladeshi (by birth)
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REFERENCES:

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