

Amy Moyer  
AIBS Fellowship Abstract

My dissertation research focuses on teacher training in Bangladesh and the transfer of teaching techniques learned during training to the classroom practice of new teachers. I will focus on primary education and the training most teachers (72%) receive through Primary Training Institutes. Recent educational initiatives in Bangladesh have recognized the importance of teacher training in the efforts to improve educational quality; however, few studies have analyzed teaching methodology in Bangladesh. I hope my study will provide in depth analyses and answers to how teachers teach and what can be done to improved educational quality and outcomes in Bangladesh.

My research will take place from July to December. First, I will conduct research (document analysis, observations and interviews) in the three PTI which serve the Dhaka-city region. Second, I will conduct interviews and observations with three recent PTI graduates that are currently employed in government primary schools within the Dhaka city region. Next, I will code the research findings and identify the emergent patterns in relation to the current literature on teacher training, best practice and theory to practice.

During the summer of 2009 and 2010, I participated in an intensive Bangla language study program at IUB in Dhaka. In the summer of 2011, I began personal tutoring with a special focus on speaking and listening. These activities have prepared me for the language competencies required for this research project. In addition, I am familiar with the Bangladeshi people and culture. I feel comfortable with my ability to live and conduct field work in this environment. In fact, I am very eager to return to Bangladesh which holds a very special place in my heart.

To day, I have completed all of my program course work and passed my comprehensive examination. Currently, I am working on my literature review. I will have the first three chapters of my dissertation ready for committee review b mid-January. After committee approval I will obtain human subjects research approval through Lehigh University's Internal Research Board. Before traveling to Bangladesh in July, I will make contact with the Ministry of Education as well as BRAC University. I feel it is important to have institutional guidance throughout this research project in order to maintain research validity.