

**Project Title:** A large-scale task-based needs analysis in Bangladesh: Findings from higher education, the workforce

**Abstract:**

The purpose of this research project is to conduct a large-scale, task-based needs analysis to identify the numerous, real-world activities for which Bangladeshi high-school students need English in Dhaka, Bangladesh—in other words, those everyday tasks for which Bangladeshi English language learners (ELLs) need English. Although the importance of English has been foregrounded ever since early calls to globalization in the 1990's (Hamid & Baldauf, 2008), very little research has examined the needs or tasks for which English is used by this population of ELLs. This research project is a first step towards designing, implementing, and evaluating a task-based, intensive summer English program for high school students at Notre Dame College in Dhaka, Bangladesh in the summer of 2017. To guide this needs analysis, inquiry into English use is operationalized in five research questions that ask after students' reasons for learning English, perceptions of future English use, current English use venues, current English tasks, and current English task frequency. Following Long (2005), multiple methods and sources are used across three different target areas to triangulate the needs of learners. The three target areas are community members, private and public universities, and job sector/workplace settings. Sources include English teachers, non-English teachers, staff and administration, and members of the community. Methods include interviews, focus groups, in-class observations, participant observations, and survey questionnaires. Needs analysis findings are analyzed and reported by target task type to serve as a practical resource for the design and implementation of the intensive, task-based summer English program. Needs analysis findings are also used to inform our understanding of task-based language teaching (TBLT) and to examine the potential for TBLT to act as an alternative educational endeavor in English language programs in Bangladesh.