



The Simeen Mahmud Memorial Fund

January 2020

1. About GAGE

GAGE is a nine-year (2015-2024) mixed methods longitudinal research and evaluation programme following the lives of adolescents in diverse Global South contexts. GAGE aims to generate new evidence on ‘what works’ to transform the lives of poor adolescent girls to enable them to move out of poverty and fast-track social change. The programme is funded by UK Aid from the UK government.

GAGE aims to understand what programmes are most effective in transforming adolescent girls’ lives at specific junctures during the second decade of life. We will generate unique cross-country data following 18,000 adolescents (including approximately 12,000 girls and 6,000 boys), along with their families and peers, across the course of the critical transition from early adolescence through to adulthood in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal, Rwanda, Jordan and Lebanon.

The results will support policymakers and implementers to develop policies and programmes to effectively reach adolescent girls and boys to advance their well-being and what is needed to meet the ambitious targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Please see the [GAGE Conceptual Framework](#) for further information on the programme.

2. GAGE Simeen Mahmud Memorial Fund

What is the Simeen Mahmud Memorial Fund?

To commemorate the life and achievements of our partner Simeen Mahmud, the GAGE Political and Legal Analysis lead for Bangladesh, GAGE has created a £20,000 flexible fund in Simeen’s name. Simeen Mahmud began her career as a researcher in 1974 with the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and continued working till the day she died in March 2018 when she was Cluster Head, BRAC institute of Governance and Development, BRAC University. She was a prolific writer and was a mentor, a colleague, a friend, a sister and a role model for many.

Focus of the Fund

The fund will focus on one of Simeen Mahmud’s research interests- the role of gender norms in the economic empowerment and reproductive choices of young women in Bangladesh.



Funding streams

The Simeen Mahmud Fund will cover funding streams 1-3 outlined below.

1. **New research studies drawing on GAGE panel data as well as additional underexplored datasets** with adolescent-relevant data, with the aim of shedding light on gendered adolescence experiences in diverse contexts;
2. **Thematic evidence synthesis work responding to emerging questions around what works**, especially as, over time, an increasing volume of new evidence becomes available;
3. **Demand generation and strategic research uptake outputs**, to improve the accessibility, relevance and usefulness of evidence, through collaboration and engagement with decision-makers and other key stakeholders (outputs will include tailored learning products and events).

Proposals may include, but not be limited to the following:

- **analysis of unmined impact evaluation datasets** on capability domain dimensions where change was not observed to tease out what factors explain disappointing results;
- **evidence synthesis work** designed to plug evidence gaps in terms of what does not work in supporting adolescent girls' development trajectories vis-à-vis one or more capability domain;
- **process evaluations or a review of evaluation data** about an intervention or group of interventions that have not been as effective as hoped and why;
- **a research methodologies lessons learned essay or reflective article/ paper** on what has not worked, aimed at improving understanding of what works to support adolescent wellbeing;
- **a research uptake/ engagement lessons learned essay, reflective article/ paper or event** on what has not worked, in terms of improving policy and practice of what works to support adolescent wellbeing

Key principles

- We expect the highest standards in research ethics.
- Proposed methodologies must demonstrate academic rigour and the highest academic standards.
- Prospective awards must be gender sensitive.
- Prospective awards should build the capacity of early career researchers.
- Prospective awards must demonstrate value for money. This is defined as demonstrating economy, efficiency and effectiveness within your proposed budget. Any in-kind or matching funding will also be positively assessed.

Eligibility criteria

The following eligibility criteria need to be met in order to be assessed.

- **Duration and commencement:** Awards are to be carried out and completed within a 6 to maximum 12 months period, anticipated to start no later than March 2020 (following a prior contracting process).



- **Budget size:** We expect to fund 4-6 projects of up to £5,000 per project. .
- **Financial and non-financial contributions:** Contributions to the proposals in form of financial resources or in-kind contributions are encouraged, but are not a requirement.
- **Geographic scope of research:** Proposals should focus on Bangladesh.
- **Eligible organisations/ individuals:** early career researchers (below 35) may apply individually or through their organisations.
- **Contractual mode:** Contracts will be signed with BIGD on behalf of the GAGE consortium.
- **Language of proposals:** Applications must be completed in English.
- **Number of applications permitted:** A maximum of one award will be made per organisation or to an individual.
- **Organisations and individuals not permitted:** Existing GAGE institutional partners will not be eligible to apply.

3. Application Process

We invite applicants to submit original, solution-oriented proposals for research/ research synthesis/ evaluation / essays and research uptake which reflect expertise and experience in researching and/or working with adolescents in Bangladesh on the themes identified.

The call launches on January 7, 2020.

Applicants are required to submit a completed application form, outlining their proposal, in response to this Terms of Reference (TOR), and demonstrating eligibility and experience.

The deadline for submitting applications is 30 January 2020 5 PM BDT time. Any applications received after this time will be discounted and will not be eligible for consideration.

Completed application forms must be submitted to GAGE-Simeen-Mahmud-Fund@bracu.ac.bd . Please title your email 'Simeen Mahmud Memorial Fund application - name of organisation'.

We expect to notify applicants of the preliminary outcome of their full proposal submission by end February, when funding offers will be made subject to any clarifications and requested modifications.

The GAGE Bangladesh team will review all applications to ensure they meet eligibility requirements. An Advisory Group including a representative of GAGE Management Team and an external researcher will review all eligible applications and note those that are particularly complimentary to planned GAGE research. The Advisory Group will make recommendations on which proposals should be funded. The Management Team will make the final decision on which projects are to receive an award, based on the recommendations of the Advisory Group.

All qualifying applications will receive feedback on their proposals.



Inspiring Excellence



4. Contact

For any queries please contact sahida.khondaker@bracu.ac.bd

Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE) is a nine-year longitudinal research programme building knowledge on good-practice programmes and policies that support adolescent girls in the Global South to reach their full potential.

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