ANIKA ALAM

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Assistant Director, EDSI
University of Maryland
Languages: Bangla (native); English (native); Spanish (proficient)

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	University of Pennsylvania, Education Policy, 2025
M.A.	University of Pennsylvania, Statistics and Data Science, 2024
M.A.	Columbia University, Education Policy, 2021
M.Ed.	Lesley University, Elementary Education and Special Education, 2017
B.S.	Cornell University, Policy Analysis and Management, 2015

EMPLOYMENT & AFFILIATIONS

2025 - present	Assistant Director, Center for Education Data Science and Innovation, University of Maryland
2021- present	Research Affiliate, Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education, University of Pennsylvania

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2024 - 2025	AERA – NSF Dissertation Grant
2021- 2025	Institute of Education Sciences Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania

JOURNAL ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

Iqbal, Y.,..**Alam**, **A**. Effects of a Father Engagement Program in Rohingya Camps and Host Community in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh: A Randomized Controlled Trial.

Alam, A. Using Machine Learning to Advance High School Dropout Prediction and Prevention.

EVALUATION REPORTS *Available upon request*

Alam, A., Tatian, P., Gallagher, M., Scott, K. (Forthcoming). Conducting SROI for Promise Neighborhoods: A Guide to Planning Successful Economic Evaluations. *Urban Institute.*

Alam, A., Bowden, A. B., Lee, S., Behrman, J., Iqbal, Y., Yesmin, S., Yoshikawa, H. (2025). Father Engagement Home Visits: a Cost-Effectiveness Analysis. *Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education.*

Alam, A., Bowden, A.B. (2025). Defining and Understanding Vulnerability Using Cross-Sector Administrative Data. *Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education.*

Alam, A., Braga, B., Doromal, J., Greenberg, E., Monarrez, T., Restrepo, L. (2024). How Public PK3 Mitigated School Enrollment Declines during the Pandemic. *Urban Institute.*

Iqbal, Y.,...**Alam, A**. (2024). Impact Evaluation of a Father Engagement Model in the Home Visiting Humanitarian Play Lab (HPL) Program in Rohingya Camps and Host Community in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. *Global TIES for Children - NYU.*

Alam, A., Pullom, K., Bowden, A.B. An Examination of the Resource Implications of the Community Partnership Coordinator at Lea Elementary (2023). *Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education.*

Alam, A., McCrossan, E., Fornaro, E., Weinstein, S. Examining SDP Breakfast in 2021-2022. (2023). *School District of Philadelphia.*

Fink, R., Gray, A., Suwak, K., Bowden, A.B.,... **Alam, A.** (2022). PBIS in Challenging Contexts: Evaluating a Replicable Implementation Approach in Philadelphia. *Consortium for Policy Research in Education.*

WORKING PAPERS

Kumar, A., **Alam, A.**, Hu, L., Wolf, S. Predictors of cognitive development in early childhood among urban low-income families in Mumbai, India.

PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS AT ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

Bowden, A. B., Lee, S., **Alam, A.**, Pullom, K, Using State Longitudinal Data Systems to Improve Cross-Sector Policy in Early Childhood. *Paper presentation at the 2024 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management annual conference.* Washington, DC.

Alam, A., Bowden, A. B. Effects of compulsory schooling age: evidence from a pilot program. *Poster presentation at the 2024 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management annual conference.* Washington, DC.

Alam, A., Bowden, A. B. Advancing high school dropout prediction using machine learning. *Paper presentation at the 2024 Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness annual conference.* Baltimore, MD.

Alam, A., Bowden, A. B. Advancing high school dropout prediction using machine learning. *Doctoral consortium at the 2024 Artificial Intelligence in Education annual conference.* Recife, Brazil.

Alam, A., Bowden, A. B. Advancing high school dropout prediction using machine learning. *Poster presentation at the 2023 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management annual conference,* Atlanta, GA.

Lee, S., Bowden, A. B., **Alam, A.** Defining and understanding vulnerability using cross-sector administrative data. *Poster presentation at 2023 Society for Research Effectiveness in Education annual meeting,* Arlington, VA.

Bowden, A. B., Rodriguez, V., Weingarten, Z., **Alam, A**. The unintended consequences of academic leniency. *Paper presentation at the 2023 Association for Education Finance and Policy annual conference,* Denver, CO.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

IES Apprentice, *The Urban Institute*
March 2024 – January 2025

I lead the causal study estimating the effects of public prekindergarten for 3-year olds on school enrollment during the pandemic; I author guides and resources to provide technical assistance to Promise Neighborhood grantees.

IES Apprentice, *School District of Philadelphia Office of Research and Evaluation*
Sept 2022 – June 2023

I led a descriptive analysis examining varying breakfast delivery models both pre-pandemic and post-pandemic school years.

Graduate Research Assistant, *University of Pennsylvania*
2021 - 2025

I lead the development of a social vulnerability index for the Early Childhood NCLDS project; I support economic evaluation analyses at the Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education (CBCSE).

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Certified Reviewer in Group Design 5.0*, Institute of Education Sciences, What Works Clearinghouse*

Certified Reviewer in Regression Discontinuity Design*, Institute of Education Sciences, What Works Clearinghouse*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania

Inquiry of Fundamentals for Education Policy, Teaching Assistant, 2024

Methods of Economic Evaluation in Education, Teaching Assistant, 2024

Applied Policy Analysis, Teaching Assistant, 2022

District of Columbia Public Schools   Elementary and Secondary Math Educator, 2015-2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis Reviewer
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Family and Child Policy Review Committee, 2025
Association for Education Finance Policy Early Childhood Education Review Committee, 2024
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference Discussant, 2023
UNESCO Peer Reviewer, 2022
Penn Development Research Initiative Affiliate