

SEEMA AGARWAL-HARDING

Educational Qualifications

Ph. D	Education and International Human Development. University of London, UK
Post-Doctorate:	Education and Equity. University of Oxford, Queen Elizabeth House, UK. Focus area: <i>Education and its role in combating poverty for women</i>
MA	Education in Developing Countries, with specialization in Primary Education. University of London, UK (Distinction in Thesis: <i>Equity and Primary Education in India</i>)
Teaching Certification:	Post Graduate Certificate in Education with Education, with specialization in Teaching Primary School Level, University of London, UK
BA Honors	English and European Literature, University of Warwick, UK
Diploma:	Proficiency in Italian, University of Pisa, Italy

Country and Regional Experience

Long-term stay countries: USA and UK, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Thailand.

Senior Regional Education Advisor with USAID: Asia Region (South Asia, and South-East Asia, Greater Mekong); Middle-East and North Africa Region; West and Sub-Saharan Africa Region.

Chief of Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Programs with UNICEF: Indonesia, Ghana
United Nations Coordinator for Primary Education Program: India

Short-term consultancy assignment countries: Afghanistan, Bosnia, China (Xi'an, Shaanxi), Egypt, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam.

Professional History

Non-profit and Volunteer work

Leadership Howard County – 2021-22 participant

Community Impact Project Co-Chair, 2022, Luminus - Network for New American, Howard County, MD Over 500 hours completed, and helped initiate the New American Staffing program

Age-Friendly Howard County, Howard County, MD 2020 – 2021 Served as member of three Working Groups of Age-Friendly Howard County Initiative. Completed over 200 volunteer hours

Guidance Coalition for Local Children's Board, Member, over 120 Volunteer hours completed

Chemonics International: 2013 – 2019

Senior Education Technical Specialist, Chemonics International, Washington DC, USA

Fieldwork in South, Southeast and Central Asian countries

- ✦ Analysis, policy, advocacy, and evaluation of basic education programs.
- ✦ Early Grade Literacy and Numeracy programs – technical aspects and analysis, enhancement of quality of instruction, improving reading and math outcomes for students in primary schools.
- ✦ Co-creation of Early Grade Reading & Math projects
- ✦ Co-creation and review of basic education and youth skills development projects.
- ✦ Technical responses for project objectives and concepts development for key intervention areas.

PLAN International: Senior Education Technical Advisor, Indonesia 2013 – 2015

Lead a team to assess the impact of the Early Childhood Care and Education Program including a parenting education program being supported by Australian government, and operating in three districts, NTT, Indonesia.

Catholic Relief Services: Global Education Team Leader/Senior Technical Advisor, Baltimore, USA, 2001-2002

Provided strategic leadership and coordination on education programming in over 30 countries; developing and implementing an education vision, with a clearly defined monitoring & evaluation strategy.

CRS: Belgrade: Keynote speaker, resource person, Regional conference on Early Childhood Development

CRS: Egypt: Education sector assessment

CRS: Baltimore/Pakistan/Haiti: School feeding Project development

CRS: Baltimore: Lead adviser/resource person for education sector retreat with staff from 30 countries.

Consultative Group for Early Childhood Development, South Asia, 1995-1998

Field representative for South Asia, based in India; Duties included conducting extensive participatory research on the young girl child in the region, and presenting the findings at several international conferences.

Creative Associates International, Washington DC, 1998-1999

Director, Education Development and Equity Division

Technical support to field offices in multiple country programs.

American Institutes of Research, Washington DC, 1997-1998

Senior Girls' Education Specialist, providing technical guidance in six emphasis countries (Guatemala, Peru, Egypt, India, Ghana, Morocco) on the identification of country-specific barriers to girls' education; public sector, private-sector, media and institutional roles and responsibilities for addressing the barriers; designing, implementing, evaluating, and expanding cost-effective, state-of-the-art approaches and interventions for increasing girls' primary school attendance, retention, and completion.

Childscope International, Founder and Director, Columbia, MD USA 2000-2001

Developed a Center for World Languages and Cultures, providing language development opportunities for children K-12; Setting up a cross-border training program for Maryland Principals in cooperation with the World Bank/WBI and primary school principals from selected countries in Africa, Asia and Europe.

Ashikha Art and Batik Beyond Borders, 2014 to present

Launched my designer label of couture hand-made batik, which I learnt from indigenous artisans in Bali, Indonesia and at MICA, Baltimore. Researching and documenting the ancient art history of the islands of Java and Bali, and the inherent art and history culture and traditions linking Indonesia and India. My hand made ceramics are inspired by the designs and colors of my native country India and birthplace, Jaipur.

International Development and United Nations work:

UNICEF: Indonesia, Ghana, and Myanmar

Chief, Early Childhood, Education and Adolescent Development Programs

UNICEF/Indonesia: 2010 – 2012; UNICEF/ Ghana: 1992 – 1995

- ✦ Management of programs; donor coordination.
- ✦ Establishing partnerships and good relationships with donors, government, and development actors.
- ✦ Writing analytical studies, reports, proposals, advocacy briefs.
- ✦ Leadership of disaster-risk-reduction country coalition.

Program Planning Specialist, Girl' Education, UNICEF/Myanmar, 1986 – 1988

US Agency for International Development

Senior Regional Education Advisor for Asia,

USAID/Regional Development Mission for Asia, Thailand (2008 – 2010)

Senior Regional Education Advisor for Asia and Near East,

USAID/Asia and Near East Bureau, DC (2002 – 2006 with 6 months break in 2005)

- ✦ Technical support to field Missions in over 15 countries.
- ✦ Design and implementation of regional initiatives (Scopes of Work, recruitment, budget management, monitoring and supervision, quality assurance)
- ✦ Technical review and guidance for in-country education sector programs.
- ✦ Briefings for Front Office, Congress, State Department.

United Nations Development Program, India

Country Coordinator, National Primary Education Community Strengthening Program (1995-1998)

- ✦ Design and implementation of national initiative in coordination with five UN Agencies, National and State governments, and non-governmental organizations.
- ✦ Technical support to field offices across 8 States of India, winning a UN “best practice” award in 2002.

Asian Development Bank: 2014 – 2020

Technical Team Leader Preschool Education Development, Shaanxi Xi’anm People’s Republic of China

Team Leader, Secondary Education Sector Investment Program, Bangladesh

Inclusive Education Specialist, Secondary Education Sector Investment Program, Bangladesh

Senior Education Technical Specialist (Life Skills), Education Sector Development Project III, Cambodia

Senior Education Technical Specialist (Leadership), Education Sector Development Project III Cambodia

Senior Education Technical Specialist, Primary Education & Madrasah Education Program, Indonesia

- ✦ Quality enhancement support for all project activities, including strategic planning, program implementation, budget management, working with national and local government, providing necessary oversight for all program related activities and outputs, supervising a team of national and international consultants, undertaking field trips, managing national project staff, providing technical and operational oversight for results-based monitoring and evaluation.
- ✦ Supervise Program Management Team and individual consultants, including effective planning, management and coordination of all project and program functions.
- ✦ Capacity-development, coaching and mentoring of staff.
- ✦ Develop technical areas of the project for the Resource Teacher Program with focus on ethnic minorities and vulnerable populations, Additional Class Teacher program, School Director Professional Development program, School-Based Enrichment Program using School Improvement Grants, and for the Life Skills program for vulnerable youth, especially for girls and minorities.
- ✦ Design, implementation and monitoring of pilot programs.
- ✦ Action research for policy, planning and project/program effectiveness.

The World Bank

Senior Education Technical Specialist, The World Bank/Indonesia, 2013

- ✦ Analytical and policy advocacy for early childhood development and basic education program.
- ✦ Evaluation/review of parenting programs.
- ✦ Community driven development in support of early childhood development

Technical Specialist, Asia Technical Division and Ghana Resident Mission, 1989 – 1992

Reports, Presentations and Papers

1. *Sector Assessment, People’s Republic of China: Shaanxi Xi’an Preschool Development Program, Draft Report, 2020.*
2. *Intergenerational Volunteerism for Education Support in Howard County, MD – a presentation March 2020; Importance of Early Reading, Columbia, MD - a flyer 2020*
3. *Strengthening Early Grade Reading in Kyrgyzstan – project documents, 2019*
4. *Resource Teachers for Marginalized Youth – a project concept for Bangladesh, 2018*
5. *Gender-gap analysis and review of Disbursement Linked Indicators in Secondary Schools Program, Bangladesh, 2018*
6. *School Director Training Course and Structure, a presentation February 2016*

7. Concept note on Life Skills for Cambodia's Lower Secondary Schools, November 2015
8. *School Improvement Planning Handbook for School Directors and Education Managers*, School-Based Enrichment Program, ESDPIII, ADB/Ministry of Education Youth and Sport, Cambodia, 2014
9. *PLAN's Parenting Education Program-An Assessment in NTT- Indonesia*, published by PLAN Australia, 2014
10. *Lower Secondary School Dropout Issues with Recommendations for Selection of Provinces and Schools with Key Priorities for Interventions for School Based Enrichment Program*, Education Sector Development Program III, ADB/Ministry of Education Youth and Sport, Cambodia, 2014.
11. *Assessment of Early Childhood Care and Development Program in Indonesia*, Plan International, 2014
12. *Madrasah Education in Indonesia: Keeping the Promise of Quality: A Review of Madrasah Education In Indonesia And Madrasah Education Development Program: Lessons Learned and Future Directions ---Executive Summary Expanded Report and Annexes*; ADB/Ministry of Religious Affairs; Indonesia, 2013
13. *Draft Concept paper for Early Childhood Development: Education Sector Review*; Indonesia; The World Bank and National Government (Bappenas); Indonesia, 2013
14. *Early Childhood Education and Development Project, Indonesia; Aide Memoire*: The World Bank and Ministry of Education and Culture; Indonesia, 2013
15. *Background paper and TOR: Holistic Integrated Early Childhood Development: Costing and Financing Study*, World Bank/Indonesia, 2013
16. *Out of School Children Study*, UNICEF and Ministry of Education and Culture, 2012
17. *We like Being Taught: A Study on Teacher Absenteeism in Papua and West Papua*, UNICEF, SMERU, UNCEN, UNIPA and Provincial Education Offices of Papua and West Papua, Indonesia, 2012
18. *Striding Together for Equity in Education in Papua and West Papua: Progress Report and Monitoring Framework for Joint Assistance program to Government, AusAID and USAID*; UNICEF/Indonesia 2012
19. *Disaster risk reduction: capacity development through education*, concept note; UNICEF/Indonesia 2012
20. *Satu-Atap: Concept Note for one-roof schools for expanding transition and improving Life Skills for adolescents and youth*, UNICEF/Indonesia, 2011
21. *Papua Youth Empowerment Program; Proposal: UN Development Program; UNICEF/Indonesia, 2011*
22. *Early Childhood: Challenge and an Opportunity*: Concept Note, UNICEF/Indonesia, 2011

Languages

English (Native); Hindi (Native); Bengali (Beginner/Intermediate); Urdu (Beginner/Advanced – oral only)

Computer Skills

Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), Google apps, Quicken

Hobbies

Walking and Hiking, Pottery, Batik, Knitting, Crochet, Painting, Quilting, Drawing, Cooking, Reading, Yoga, Traveling