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Made in Bangladesh: The Other Face of Globalization

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“The global economy empowers some women and disempowers others,” she says.

Over the past few years, not just Akhter and Saiful Islam but a number of other students from Bangladesh have come to SIUC to work on master’s or doctoral degrees. A grant from the Research Institute for the Study of Man enabled Ward to take several students back to Bangladesh to do fieldwork for their master’s and dissertation projects.

Ward herself plans to continue studying women’s work histories and developing more job alternatives for disadvantaged women. Despite the summer heat, the periodic flooding, and other hardships, she keeps returning to Bangladesh.

“The people I meet and work with there are incredible human beings,” she says.

Dr. Kathryn Ward held a 2004-05 Fulbright Senior Scholar Award to teach and do research in Dhaka. For more information, contact her at the Dept. of Sociology, (618) 453-7626 or kward@siu.edu. For more information about the Nari Jibon center, domestic violence project, and/or her other research go to: www.siu.edu/~narijibon. Kathryn Jaehnig, Media & Communication Resources, contributed to this article.

Since 1982, Bangladeshi graduate students in Sociology at SIUC have included: Mizan Miah, Aion Mizan, Abdul Qddus, Zakir Hossain, Shaheen Ahmed, & Shymal Das, (Ph.Ds), Rifat Akhter & A.K.M. Saiful Islam, (current ABDs), and Fahmida Rahman & Reshmi Chowdhury (MAs).

Some selected recent publications, website, and papers from the Nari Jibon project and an earlier book:

www.siu.edu/~narijibon (see esp.: www.siu.edu/~narijibon/DADV.htm)

Akhter, Rifat, Saiful Islam, and Kathryn B. Ward. 2005. “Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices on Domestic Violence Against Women in Bangladesh.” Paper presented at American Sociological Association, Philadelphia on August 2005.

Ward, Kathryn, Fahmida Rahman, A.K.M. Saiful Islam, Rifat Akhter, and Nashid Kamal. 2004. “The Effects of Global Economic Restructuring on Urban Women’s Work and Income-Generating Strategies in Dhaka, Bangladesh.” *Critical Sociology* 30:1-40.

Rifat Akhter, A.K.M. Saiful Islam, Kathryn B. Ward, Aion N. Mizan, and Mahmuda Islam 2005, “Assessment of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Domestic Violence Against Women in Dhaka, Bangladesh” ALO/USAID Grant, “Removing Barriers of Domestic Violence from Women’s Full Participation in Civic Society and Democracy in Bangladesh” December 2002-July 2005, Kathryn Ward and Aion N. Mizan (Co-PIs, SIUC).

Reshmi Chowdhury. 2004 “Resisting Brothel Eviction: Injustice and the Sex Workers’ Movement in Bangladesh.” Unpublished M.A. paper. Department of Sociology, SIUC.

Aion Mizan. 1994. *In Quest of Empowerment: The Grameen Bank Impact on Women’s Power and Status*. Dhaka: University Press Limited.