Dr. Altaf Ghani

Assistant Professor of Anthropology | Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Pakistan

+92 300 7487630 • altafghani@bzu.edu.pk • altafghani71@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Anthropologist and development professional with more than twenty-five years of experience in research, teaching and development practice across government, private-sector and university settings, with academic and professional training in Pakistan and abroad. Currently Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, and holder of a PhD in Anthropology from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). Brings more than fifteen years of experience in project planning, implementation, management and research, including monitoring, supervision, community mobilisation and coordination, with specialised expertise in population and social development: reproductive health, family planning, maternal and child health (MCH) and non-formal education.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Development and implementation of projects
- Design of effective outreach programmes for underserved communities
- Data analysis
- Training and development of human resources
- Organising and managing events, trainings, seminars and talk shows
- Monitoring and evaluation

EDUCATION

PhD in Anthropology 2024
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Malaysia
Thesis: *Influencing of Cultural Factors in Women Maternal Health Care: A Case Study in Tehsil Jampur, District Rajanpur of Punjab, Pakistan*

M.Phil. in Sociology 2008
Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Pakistan

M.Sc. in Anthropology 1997
Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Pakistan

Assistant Professor (Permanent) 13 May 2014 – Present
Department of Anthropology, Institute of Social and Cultural Studies

Assistant Professor (Deputation) 28 Dec 2013 – 12 May 2014
Department of Anthropology, Institute of Social Sciences

Lecturer (Deputation) 3 Dec 2012 – 28 Dec 2013
Department of Anthropology, Institute of Social Sciences

Key responsibilities

- Teach and conduct research in anthropology.
- Lead thematic projects and social interventions in the Southern Punjab region.
- Conduct focused research on anthropological and other social issues in the region.
- Network with government and non-government organisations to promote anthropology in research and service delivery.
- Supervise M.Phil., M.Sc. and BS theses in Anthropology, Sociology and Social Work.

DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH SECTOR

Regional Officer Nov 1999 – Dec 2012
National Trust for Population Welfare (NATPOW), Government of Pakistan

- Monitored and supervised NGO and CBO projects, and planned and implemented projects.

- Advised NGOs on financial and personnel management, and identified training needs of project personnel for orientation and refresher courses.
- Maintained close coordination and liaison with NGO coordinators, allied agencies and the village-based Population Welfare Programme.
- Examined and analysed monthly progress reports from NGOs and service outlets, comparing them with plans and targets to identify problems and resolve discrepancies.
- Managed field-office administration and financial accounts, including field-office expenditure and the quarterly expenditure of NGOs.
- Maintained records on the population welfare programme and allied activities, including women's development, income-generating activities, and communication and promotional materials.
- Ensured the proper use and maintenance of medicines and equipment at NGO service centres.

Field Supervisor Oct – Nov 1999

Population Council of Pakistan, Islamabad, Pakistan

- Supervised a field study in the northern areas and NWFP (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), with surveys in Gilgit, Hunza, Diamer, Kohistan and Mansehra, to evaluate the Prime Minister's Programme for Family Planning and Primary Health Care.

Field Investigator Sep 1999

ASIANICS Consultant (Pvt.) Ltd., Islamabad, Pakistan

- Conducted a survey in District Haripur, NWFP (Tehsil Ghazi and Topi) to assess the impact of the Tarbela Dam on affected communities, covering environment, tourism and fisheries.

Programme Officer Mar 1997 – Aug 1999

SYCOP, Muzaffargarh, Pakistan

- Monitored and supervised NGO projects, including non-formal education and Buniad Literacy programmes.
- Maintained close coordination and liaison with NGO coordinators, allied agencies and district education departments, and managed general office administration.
- Prepared, examined and analysed monthly, biannual and annual progress reports of non-formal schools.
- Designed and implemented projects; organised teacher-training workshops, seminars and awareness-raising activities; and served as a trainer in the non-formal education programme funded by the Prime Minister's Literacy Commission.
- Organised and took part in human rights programmes held under the organisation's banner.
- Formed village-based education committees and mobilised communities, especially parents, to increase school enrolment through community-based and school-based awareness campaigns that improved community participation in education.

Field Investigator Oct – Nov 1996

Semiotics Consultant (Pvt.) Ltd., Islamabad, Pakistan

- Conducted a survey in Tehsil Mirpur, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), collecting primary data through interviews with heads of institutions under the proposed Northern Project, and contributed to the Phase 1 school-mapping exercise.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION WELFARE PROGRAMMES

- Implemented family planning and reproductive health (RH) projects in South Punjab funded by UNFPA and the World Bank; conducted appraisals, monitoring and evaluation; and provided training, equipment and development support to NGOs in the region. (1999–2001)
- Built and developed a network of 77 NGOs in South Punjab, working with them on capacity building and awareness activities. (2002–2009)
- Organised trainings for health care providers, Lady Health Visitors (LHVs) and traditional birth attendants (TBAs), and implemented an outreach programme addressing the RH package. (2003–2008)
- Organised training and refresher courses for more than 200 private-sector health care providers to improve mother and child health care in Multan, Muzaffargarh, Layyah, Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Bahawalnagar and Khanewal. (2004–2009)
- Implemented outreach programmes to raise awareness of reproductive health among groups such as mothers, teachers, women councillors, housewives and social workers in Multan, Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Layyah, Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan and Khanewal. (2004–2009)
- Organised events, seminars, walks, community gatherings and health shows to raise awareness of contraceptive methods and reproductive health. (2005–2009)
- Trained more than 100 health care providers and TBAs in childcare, neonatal care, antenatal and postnatal care, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Khanewal, Dera Ghazi Khan, Layyah and Rajanpur. (2006–2008)

- Organised seminars in Multan on RH unmet needs and poverty (2007) and on male involvement in RH for safe motherhood (2008).
- Implemented the NATPOW-funded project on Reproductive Health and Family Planning Services in Southern Punjab. (February 2010)
- Organised flood-relief medical camps and the distribution of food and non-food items in Layyah, Muzaffargarh, Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur and Bhakkar, with support from Pak-Turk (Kimse Yok Mu).
- Organised an Eid celebration with flood-affected people of Jampur, District Rajanpur. (12 September 2010)
- Supervised the "WASH KAP Baseline Survey: Rural Sanitation in Flood-Affected Districts" (Multan, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur, Bahawalpur and Rahim Yar Khan), a joint study by NATPOW and NIPS funded by Plan International, Islamabad.
- Planned, implemented and managed a three-month pilot study, "Religious Leaders Mobilization at Grass Root Community Level to Promote Responsible Parenthood and Eradicate Extreme Behavior," in Tehsil Rajanpur, funded by CIDA. (September–November 2011)

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP, RESEARCH AND EVENTS

- Supervised more than 150 MSc and BSc theses in Anthropology, Criminology, Sociology and Social Work, and 8 M.Phil. theses in Anthropology, Sociology and Public Administration.
- Director Student Affairs, Institute of Social Sciences, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan. (2012–2014)
- In-charge of Examinations, Institute of Social Sciences, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan. (2012–2018)
- In-charge of Examinations, Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan. (2023–Present)
- Programme Coordinator for Anthropology, Public Finance and Library Science.
- Executive Member, Anthropological Association of Pakistan, Islamabad. (2013–Present)
- **ORIC Research Grant** for the project *Effects of Early Marriage on Women Reproductive Health: A Case Study of Union Council Shar Shah Multan*. (2023–2024)
- Organiser, International Conference on Gender, Human Rights and Islam, Bahauddin Zakariya University, in collaboration with the Department of Sociology and the Punjab Higher Education Department. (23–24 November 2017)
- Organised a conference on crime against women at the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, Bahauddin Zakariya University, with the Punjab Bar Council, the Violence Against Women Centre and the district police department.
- Organised a workshop for the 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women at the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, Bahauddin Zakariya University, in collaboration with Hope Alive Welfare Organization, Multan. (25 November – 10 December 2024)
- Volunteer, Bhottai Social Watch and Advocacy (BSWA). (2015)

PUBLICATIONS

1. **Altaf Ghani**, Muhammad Nazuk Shahzad and M. Sheraz Shafi Khan. Pet Theft as Victimization: Lived Experiences, Emotional Distress, and Help Seeking in Multan, Pakistan. *Journal of International Law & Human Rights*, Vol. 5, No. 7, 2026, pp. 217–227.
2. **Altaf Ghani**, Muhammad Nazuk Shahzad and Hassam Ahmad Hashmi. Legal Responses Toward Air Pollution-Related Environmental Crimes: An Analytical Study of District Multan. *Journal of Social Prism*, Vol. 3, No. 3, 2026, pp. 480–496.
3. Muhammad Amir Sohail, Muhammad Sajid Nadeem and **Altaf Ghani**. The Influence of Gender Equality, Access to Environmental Resources, and Climate Change Awareness on Community Climate Resilience: A PLS-SEM Approach. *Contemporary Issues in Social Sciences and Management Practices (CISSMP)*, Vol. 4, No. 4, December 2025, pp. 28–41.
4. **Altaf Ghani**, Mahnoor Adnan and Hassam Ahmad Hashmi. Modern Trends, Youth Choices, and the Silenced Voices of Women in Kinship and Marriage: A Socio-Cultural Analysis. *Pakistan Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol. 13, No. 4, 2025, pp. 276–284.
5. Shagufta Hamid Ali and **Altaf Ghani**. Book review: Davide Battisti, *Procreative Responsibility and Assisted Reproductive Technologies* (New York: Routledge, 2025). *TPM*, Vol. 32, No. S9, 2025.
6. **Altaf Ghani**, Muhammad Sajid Nadeem, Aqsa and Dure Sadaf. Effects of Early Marriage on Women Reproductive Health: A Case Study of Union Council Shar Shah Multan. *International Journal of Linguistics and Culture*.
7. Hassam Ahmad Hashmi, Wan Nor Jazmina Wan Ariffin and **Altaf Ghani**. Societal Disapproval of the Hybridization of Indigenous Islamic Values among Youngsters: A Qualitative Study of Community Responses. *Al-Hidāyah*, Vol. 7, No. 2, 2025.
8. Hassam Ahmad Hashmi, Wan Nor Jazmina Wan Ariffin and **Altaf Ghani**. Modern Hybridization Trends and Their Impact on Pakistani Traditional Islamic Culture: An Ethnographic Study of the Young Generation. *International Journal of Linguistics and Culture*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 2025.
9. Sara Hamid, Syed Mustansar Munir Bukhari, **Altaf Ghani** and Tanvir Kayani. Public and Private Teachers' Perspective on Privatization of Schools at Primary Level in Punjab. *IUB Journal of Social Sciences*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 2024, pp. 197–206.

10. **Altaf Ghani**, Dure Sadaf and Shagufta Hamid Ali. Religious/Spiritual Beliefs and Practices Regarding Maternal Health: In Village of South Punjab. *Pakistan Journal of Islamic Research*, Vol. 25, No. 1, 2024.
11. **Altaf Ghani**, Dure Sadaf and Shagufta Hamid Ali. Cartoons: Source of Construction or Destruction? *Global Mass Communication Review*, Vol. IX, No. I, 2024, pp. 135–145. https://doi.org/10.31703/gmcr.2024(IX-I).12
12. **Altaf Ghani**, Hassam Ahmad Hashmi, Dure Sadaf and Muhammad Sajid Nadeem. Exploring Cultural Hindrances: A Thorough Examination of Men's Views on Family Planning, Decision-Making Authority, and Use of Contraception. *Pakistan Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol. 12, No. 2, 2024.
13. **Altaf Ghani**, Hassam Ahmad Hashmi and Dure Sadaf. A Study on the Economic Strategies Employed by the Nomadic Moor Community Residing along the Chenab River Bank from an Anthropological Perspective. *Global Sociological Review*, Vol. IX, No. I, 2024, pp. 123–132. https://doi.org/10.31703/gsr.2024(IX-I).11
14. **Altaf Ghani**, Muhammad Sajid Nadeem and Dure Sadaf. Exploring the Indigenous Remedies for Maternal Health in South Punjab. *IUB Journal of Social Sciences*, Vol. 5, No. 2, 2023.
15. **Altaf Ghani**, Dure Sadaf and Muhammad Sajid Nadeem. Exploring Perceptions and Experiences about Maternal Health Services: A Community-Level Initiative in Jampur. *Pakistan Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol. 11, No. 4, 2023.
16. **Altaf Ghani**, Hassam Ahmad Hashmi and Dure Sadaf. Prevailing Government Maternal Health Care System and Challenges Faced by Health Professionals: A Case Study in Tehsil Jampur. *Pakistan Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol. 11, No. 3, 2023.
17. Salma Malik, Muhammad Adnan Maqbool and **Altaf Ghani**. College Teachers' Satisfaction regarding Human Resource Management Practices in Private Sector Colleges. *Journal of Development and Social Sciences*, Vol. 4, No. 3, July–September 2023.
18. **Altaf Ghani**, Zamri bin Hj Hassan and Dolly Paul Carlo. Decision-Making Autonomy and Health of Women in Reproductive Age in Pakistan. *Pakistan Journal of Social Research*, Vol. 5, No. 2, June 2023, pp. 342–351.
19. **Altaf Ghani**, Zamri bin Hj Hassan and Dolly Paul Carlo. Cultural Beliefs and Practices Regarding Maternal Health: A Case Study of Rural Areas of Punjab. *Pakistan Journal of Social Research*, Vol. 4, No. 3, September 2022, pp. 1208–1219.
20. Shagufta Hamid Ali and **Altaf Ghani Bhatti**. Indigenous Healing Practices of Mental Illness in Southern Punjab. *IUB Journal of Social Sciences*, Vol. 4, No. 2, December 2022, pp. 75–87.
21. **Altaf Ghani Bhatti**, Hassam Ahmad Hashmi and Tayyaba Batool Tahir. An Analysis of Socio-Economic and Health Issues of Aged Construction Workers as Perceived by Them. *Journal of Law & Social Studies (JLSS)*, Vol. 4, No. 3, pp. 481–491.
22. Shagufta Hamid Ali, **Altaf Ghani Bhatti** and Abid Ghafoor Chaudhry. Cultural Perception Regarding Mental Illness: A Case Study of Domestic Carers in Jalalpur Pirwala, District Multan. *Global Social Sciences Review (GSSR)*, Vol. VI, No. III, Summer 2021, pp. 159–167.
23. Abid Ghafoor Chaudhry, Aftab Ahmed, Shaheer Ellahi Khan, Mahwish Zeeshan, **Altaf Ghani Bhatti** and Haris Farooq. Active Ageing and Elders' Health: An Anthropological Perspective of Older Persons. *Anthropologist*, Vol. 20, No. 3, 2015, pp. 714–718.
24. Abid Ghafoor Chaudhry, Aftab Ahmed and **Altaf Ghani Bhatti**. Older Persons, Medical Care, Social Protection and United Nations Principles: An Anthropo-Gerontological Approach on Geriatric Health. *The Professional Medical Journal*, 17 January 2015.
25. Abid Ghafoor Chaudhry, **Altaf Ghani Bhatti** and Aftab Ahmed. Skills Mapping of Rural Women in Southern Punjab: An Anthropological Perspective. *Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences (PJSS)*, Vol. 34, No. 1, 2014, pp. 311–331.
26. Abid Ghafoor Chaudhry, Aftab Ahmad, Haris Farooq, **Altaf Ghani Bhatti** and Mehwish Zeeshan. Health, Marital Status and Mode of Living: An Anthropological Study of Aging Community in Rawalpindi. *Medical Forum Monthly*, Vol. 25, No. 5, May 2014.
27. Aftab Ahmad, Abid Ghafoor Chaudhry, **Altaf Ghani Bhatti**, Mehwish Zeeshan and Humera Dinar. Prevalence of Ghutti and Breastfeeding: An Ethnographic Study of Lactating Women of Khewayaali, Wazirabad. *Medical Forum Monthly*, Vol. 25, No. 4, April 2014.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL

12–24 Apr 2004	**Gender Mainstreaming in Reproductive Health** DSW (German Foundation for World Population), Kampala, Uganda

NATIONAL

11–13 Nov 2025	**Level 1 Training Programme, Cohort III** Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan
22 Nov 2017	**Workshop on Women's Rights in Pakistan** Department of Sociology, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan
Dec 2015	**Workshop on Child Labour and Human Rights (served as Trainer)** Ministry of Human Rights, Islamabad; held in Multan

14–15 May 2015	**Academic Research Writing and Publishing** Institute of Social Sciences, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan
13–15 Jun 2012	**Integrated Project and Portfolio Management (3 days)** LUMS, Lahore
13–17 Feb 2012	**Project Cycle Management (5 days)** WPF, Islamabad
14–16 Jul 2011	**WASH KAP Baseline Survey: Rural Sanitation in Flood-Affected Districts (3 days)** Plan International, Islamabad
4–7 Dec 2010	**Child Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (4 days)** WPF, Islamabad
29–31 Mar 2010	**Monitoring and Evaluation and Development of M&E Tools (3 days)** NATPOW / JSI PAIMAN, Islamabad
7–8 Dec 2009	**Project Implementation and Governance, Infrastructure Sector (2 days)** Pakistan Planning and Management Institute, Islamabad
26–27 Nov 2007	**National Conference (attended)** LDM Programme, Karachi
Sep 2007	**Foundation Course on Leadership (2 weeks)** LEAD, LEAD House, Islamabad
Nov 2005	**Reproductive Rights and Equity; National RH Policy and Religious Perspective; Leadership Challenges and Strategies in RH in Pakistan; Key Issues in RH; Advocacy Framework and Action Plan (4 days)** LDM Programme, Islamabad
Jun 2004	**Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) and Use of Media for RH Advocacy (3 days)** LDM Programme, Islamabad
Oct 2003	**Organisational Management and the LDM Programme (2 days)** LDM Programme, Islamabad
May 2003	**Reproductive Health Package (3 days)** NATPOW, Islamabad
Nov 1999	**Staff Development (1 week)** NATPOW / PWTI, Karachi
Feb 1998	**Training Course on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN-CRC)** NCCWD / UNICEF, Islamabad
Nov 1997	**Workshop on Child Sexual Abuse (1 week)** BADARI Organisation, Islamabad

LANGUAGES

English • Urdu • Punjabi • Saraiki