

Dr Istikhar Ali

Visiting Fellow

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🎓 EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Center of Social Medicine and Community Health,
Jawaharlal Nehru University

07/2017 – 05/2023 | Delhi, India

My doctoral research, while based in a Public Health department, was inherently interdisciplinary and deeply sociological, focusing on how socio-political structures shape health and health behaviours among marginalised communities.

Visiting Fellow (DAAD)

Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS) -
Georg-August-Universität

10/2021 – 03/2022 | Göttingen, Germany

I had the privilege of attending two courses, 'State and Minority' and 'Poverty and Inequality,' where I was mentored by faculty members who guided my research on minorities and inequality in Europe, with a specific focus on their socioeconomic and health conditions.

Master of Philosophy (M.Phil)

Center of Social Medicine and Community Health,
Jawaharlal Nehru University

08/2015 – 07/2017 | Delhi, India

I conducted in-depth analyses of social stratification, exploring access to healthcare and the intricate interplay between health outcomes, policies, and identity.

Master of Arts (M.A)

Department of Sociology

08/2009 – 06/2011 | Kanpur, India

Specializing in understanding the complexities of societal structures and human behaviour, I have delved into the profound impacts of social dynamics on India's social system.

Bachelor of Education (B.Ed)

Shibli National College

09/2012 – 06/2013 | Azamgarh, India

Specialized in elementary education and training in teaching methodologies.

🏢 PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Institute of Policy Studies and Advocacy (IPSA)

Visiting Fellow

08/2025 – Present | Delhi

My work focuses on social change and economic development through policy research, budget analysis, advocacy, and community empowerment programs.

Venu Geriatric Institute (Research Institute)

Researcher

11/2022 – 07/2025 | Delhi, India

Led the LASI-DAD Project, funded by the National Institute on Aging (USA). Oversaw the end-to-end project lifecycle, including data analysis, report writing, and presentation of findings. Directed strategic planning, stakeholder coordination, and field operations in partnership with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the University of Southern California. Managed program governance, resource allocation, scheduling, and implementation of project activities.

The Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia

Guest Faculty

08/2024 – 07/2025 | Delhi, India

I taught "Ecology and Society," "Introduction to Gender Studies" and "Economy and Society." My teaching experience and my role in guiding PhD scholars in methodological approaches and qualitative software training.

Mathematica

Consultant

06/2023 – 03/2024 | India

I am responsible for evaluating the Stellapps project, which is funded by the BMGF. My role involves overseeing qualitative data collection and analysis. I conduct fieldwork with farmers and public and private health professionals in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, I manage data, write reports, and contribute to the analysis and presentation of findings.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Methodological considerations of diet assessment in an older Indian population in a nationally representative longitudinal study-Harmonised Diagnostic Assessment of Dementia for the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India

Accepted by BMC Public Health

2025

We describe the methodology of the diet sub-study initiative in an ongoing, nationally representative, longitudinal study, the Harmonised Diagnostic Assessment of Dementia for the Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI DAD). LASI DAD focuses on factors influencing late life cognition in older Indians.

Everyday Life of People Living with Dementia and its Impact on Their Lifestyle

The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association

01/2025

This ethnographic study examines the daily lives of people with dementia in India, revealing emotional struggles and social marginalisation due to cognitive changes. Findings underscore the need for culturally sensitive care and improved support systems for individuals and their families.

Navigating Complexity: Challenges and Reflexivity of a Muslim Researcher

Berkeley Journal of Sociology

06/2024

The researcher navigates challenges, adapts methodologies, and emphasizes cultural sensitivity, shedding light on community dynamics.

Inequalities in Health and Nutritional Status in India: A Critical Review of NFHS and NNMB Datasets through a Public Health Perspective

International Journal of Creative Research Thoughts

05/2022

Volume 10, Issue 5 May 2022 | ISSN: 2320-2882

Globalisation, Medical Tourism and Indian Health Care System

A.P.H. Publishing Corporation

01/2018

ISBN- 978- 93-87460-61-4

AWARDS

Madhura Pandit Scholarship

Praxis

30/09/2025

The Scholarship offers both practical tools and reflective space to support my efforts going forward.

The Department of Sociology, SGA Degree College

Lecturer

08/2013 – 08/2015 | Mirzapur, India

I taught various Sociology papers, including "Indian Society: Issues and Problems" and "Social Change and Social Control.", which included research methodology components. Alongside teaching, I took on administrative duties and effectively organized workshops and conferences.

COURSES AND TRAININGS

Policy Development and Advocacy in Global Health

University of Washington

09/2025 – 11/2025 | Washington

This course provides frameworks to analyze problems, develop solutions, and create advocacy strategies to improve health equity and navigate policy implementation worldwide.

Topic in Digital and Computational Demography

Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research

11/2025 – 11/2025 | Germany

The course provided an excellent mix of conceptual grounding and hands-on modelling during the periods.

Training Program for Phase 1 States- LASI DAD Wave 2

University of Southern California (USC), All India

Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) and Venu

Geriatric Institute

11/2022 – 11/2022 | Faridabad, India

Certification Orientation Course on Introduction to European Studies: Concepts, Trends and Opportunities

School of Liberal Education, Galgotias University

09/2022 – 10/2022 | Noida, India

WORKSHOPS

The Praxis International Commune on Participatory Development

11/2025 – 11/2025 | Bangalore, India

The Participatory Action Research (PAR) module, which will include a health research focus, and be rooted in community-led, practice-based learning, including hands-on fieldwork sessions.

Cutting Edge Research in Health Inequities: Concepts and Methods

Ajim Premji University

07/2017 – 07/2017 | Bangalore, India

Geneva Health Fellow

Geneva Health Files

01/07/2024

Reporting and Research Activities: This includes working on specific reporting projects, and conducting in-depth research and analysis

IMISCOE Summer School

University of Central Lancashire

03/06/2024

Migration, Race and Inclusivity

A Bilateral Exchange

University of Bern

01/02/2020

 **SKILLS**

- Data Analysis
- Ethnography
- NVivo
- STATA

 **LANGUAGES**

Hindi	● ● ● ● ●
English	● ● ● ● ●
Urdu	● ● ● ● ●
Spanish	● ● ● ● ●