

## Doctoral School Research Award Report

Project: Digital Labour Platforms and the Future of Work for Female Informal Workers in Bangladesh:  
The Social Shaping of Technology

The Royal Holloway Doctoral School Research Awards 2022/23 facilitated my PhD fieldwork in Bangladesh. The award covered my travel expenses to and from Bangladesh and some other expenses during my three months stay there. The award served not only as financial support for my empirical research but also as a recognition of their endorsement for my research goals.

My PhD research aims to explore the future of work for female informal workers such as, delivery riders and domestic workers who use digital labour platforms for work in Bangladesh. Digital labour platforms are predominantly comprised of male workers, especially in the Global South and there is a notable gap in research exploring women's experiences in platform work. Consequently, the factors leading to the limited participation of women in platform work, the challenges they encounter, and the consequent implications for their future opportunities remain largely under-explored. Through my research, I hope to shed light on the opportunities and challenges platform works present for women in shaping their future of work.

During my fieldwork I interviewed 40 informal workers who work through digital labour platforms. With the financial support from doctoral school research award, I was able to visit the workers in person and engage with them. It gave me a unique opportunity to observe their lives and lived experiences closely and develop an empathetic connection to their work. I believe this experience will significantly help me when interpreting the collected data and writing my thesis. With the generous support of the doctoral school research award, my research endeavours to produce evidence that is expected to contribute positively to the lives of women engaged in informal work in Bangladesh.

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