

# Nasreen Sultana Mitu

Education Specialist  
Science Communicator  
Cartoonist and Comic Artist



## Professional Summary

A cartoonist and science educator with over 18 years of experience blending art and education. Specialises in creating educational materials that use visual storytelling to explain complex science concepts. Founder of Project Tiktaalik, a science learning initiative using comics-based learning content. Proven expertise in developing national curricula, designing textbooks, and training teachers, with work reaching millions of students.

- **Core Competencies**

- Cartooning and visual storytelling
- Science communication and pedagogy design
- Science comics creation and content development
- Educational illustration and design
- Curriculum and textbook development
- Teacher training and development

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## Career History

- **Assistant Professor, Institute for Teacher Competency and Excellence (ITCE), A Study Centre of Queen's University, Kingston, Canada**  
February 2026–Current
- **Consultant (Designated: Assistant Professor), Institute for Teacher Competency and Excellence (ITCE), A Study Centre of Queen's University, Kingston, Canada**  
November 2025–January 2026
- **Consultant, Bangladesh Medical University, Department of Public Health and Informatics**  
October 2025–December 2025
- **Senior Consultant (Education), UNICEF Bangladesh**  
December 2023–February 2024, May 2023–November 2023
- **Short-Term Education Specialist, UNICEF Bangladesh**  
September 2022–December 2022, May 2022–August 2022, December 2021–March 2022
- **Consultant, UNESCO**  
November 2021–March 2022
- **National Consultant, Education and Skills, UNICEF Bangladesh**  
September 2020–September 2021
- **Consultant, Education and Skills, UNICEF Bangladesh**  
December 2019–March 2020
- **Assistant Professor, Institute of Education and Research, University of Rajshahi**  
January 2016–October 2018
- **Lecturer, Institute of Education and Research, University of Rajshahi**  
January 2013–January 2016

## Career History in Cartoon

- **Associate Editor, Unmad Magazine**, 2014–Current
    - Assistant Editor, Unmad Magazine, 2011–2014
    - Staff Cartoonist, Unmad Magazine, 2006–2011
  - **Executive Editor, Dhaka Comics**, 2013–Current
  - **Political Cartoonist, bdnews24.com**, 2014–2017
  - **Political Cartoonist, New Age**, 2010–2014
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## Education

- **Master of Education (2009)**  
Science, Mathematics and Technology Education  
Institute of Education and Research (IER), University of Dhaka
  - **Bachelor of Education (Hons.) (2008)**  
Physical Science Education  
Institute of Education and Research (IER), University of Dhaka
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## Key Projects and Contributions

- **Curriculum and Textbook Development**
  - Contributed as a working committee member in the development of the National Curriculum Framework 2021.
  - Worked in developing the secondary science curriculum for grades VI-IX. This involved outlining grade-wise competencies, contents, and pedagogical strategies, writing and designing textbooks, and developing teacher guides. (2022–2024)
  - As part of my work with the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), developed training manuals, conducted training for master trainers, designed assessment tools, and participated in monitoring of the national curriculum implementation. Additionally, created an online support platform for secondary science teachers with approximately 6,000 members and provided online training for nearly 20,000 science teachers nationwide. (2022–2024)
- **Book Illustration and Design**
  - **National Textbooks:**
    - Designed Science textbooks by NCTB for grades VI-IX. (2022–2024)
    - Designed and illustrated Science textbooks by NCTB for grades IX-X. (2017)
    - Designed and illustrated Work and life-oriented education textbooks by NCTB for grades VI-VIII. (2012–2014)
  - **Rohingya Children's Educational Materials:** Designed and illustrated a complete one-year core package of English teaching and learning materials (teacher guides, student workbooks, flashcards, posters—across Levels I–IV) for Rohingya children displaced from Rakhine state to Bangladesh, developed by the British Council, in partnership with UNICEF. (2019)
  - **DPEd Resource Books:** Illustrated educational materials for the Diploma in Primary Education (DPEd) programme, supporting teacher education and development. (2018)

- **ETTE Project Module:** Illustrated modules for the “English for Teaching: Teaching for English (ETTE)” project developed by the British Council, supporting English language learning for teachers. (2009)
- Illustrated several children’s books from different genres.

### Science Comics Development

- Created Bangladesh’s first science comic to make scientific topics accessible and engaging for young readers.
- Worked in an educational comic book based on the topics related to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH). This book is a self-learning material aligned with the learning outcomes of the national curricula, developed jointly by NCTB, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary (DSHE), and UNICEF. This comic book is now being piloted in 24 schools to assess its effectiveness as a learning tool.
- Developed science comics for the *Bigganchinta* monthly magazine.
- Developed a series of science comics for the online platform Konnect, catering to around 3 million students nationwide.
- Produced a science comic distributed for free to 5,000 students nationwide, followed by comic book workshops in five districts. Funded by the US State Department.

### • Published Articles

Rahman, S. M. H., **Mitu, N. S.**, & Salimuzzaman, M. (2017). Influence of “lesson study” in promoting students’ scientific literacy: A perspective from secondary science teachers’ professional learning. *Teacher’s World: Journal of Education and Research*, 42(2015), 197-206.

Rahman, S. M. H., & **Sultana, N.** (2016). Reflection of pedagogical content knowledge (PCK) on DPED science curriculum. *Primary Education Journal*, 9(1), 50-56.

Rahman, S. M. H., Sultana, T., & **Mitu, N. S.** (2015). Influence of secondary science teachers’ professional learning communities in promoting students’ scientific literacy. *Teacher’s World: Journal of Education and Research*, 39(2013).

### • Research Projects

- *Access, Barriers and Gender Equality in STEM Education at a Bangladeshi University (2023)*  
Funding Body: British Council  
Role: Co-researcher (with Shrestha, P.; Kotecki, C.; Jahan, R.; Homyara, H.; & Hultgren, A. K.)
- *Situational Analysis on the Uses of Frontier Technologies in Teaching and Learning in Primary and Secondary Education (2021–2022)*  
Funding Body: UNESCO  
Scope: Multi-country study (Bangladesh, China, India, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Thailand)  
Role: Lead Researcher for Bangladesh Case Studies
- *Influence of “Lesson Study” in Promoting Students’ Scientific Literacy: A Perspective from Secondary Science Teachers’ Professional Learning (2014–2015)*  
Funding Body: National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM)

Role: Co-researcher (with Rahman, S. M. H. & Salimuzzaman, M.)

- *Status of School Science Laboratories and Scope to Implement Investigation in Secondary Schools in Bangladesh* (2013–2014)  
Funding Body: National Academy for Educational Management (NAEM)  
Role: Co-researcher (with Rahman, S. M. H. & Salimuzzaman, M.)
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- **Conferences**

- Invited Speaker:**

- Mitu, N. S. (2025, July). *Creative storytelling session*. ComSciCon-Flagship Workshop 2025, Emerson College, Boston, MA, United States. (Hosted by “ComSciCon: The Communicating Science Workshop for Graduate Students”, Harvard University).
- Mitu, N. S. (2016, May). *STE(Arts)M—Science, Technology, Creativity!*. Conference on STEM Education for Innovation—Women in the Forefront, Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw, Poland.

- Presenter:**

- Shrestha, P., Kotecki, C., Jahan, R., Homyara, H., Hultgren, A. K., & Mitu, N. S. (2023, September). *Exploring access, barriers and gender equality in STEM education at a Bangladeshi university* [Co-presented; not in attendance]. UKFIET Conference 2023: Education for Social and Environmental Justice: Diversity, Sustainability, Responsibility, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom.
  - Mitu, N. S. (2018, March). *Science comics as a tool for promoting scientific literacy and its scope in Bangladesh*. IER Conference 2018, University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
  - Mitu, N. S. (2018, March). *Project Tiktaalik: Learning science through fun*. Global Summit on Education 2018, GEIST International Foundation, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
  - Mitu, N. S. (2015, September). *Introducing an instructional tool using a concept cartoon adapted to the POE model: A sample for teaching environmental science in Bangladesh*. International Conference on Geography Education, University of Rajshahi & Freiburg University of Education, Rajshahi, Bangladesh.
  - Mitu, N. S. (2015, June). *Science comics as a tool for promoting scientific literacy and its status in Bangladesh: An exploratory study*. 1st National Conference on Embracing Graphicdemia: Novels and Comics in Academia, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
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- **Solo Exhibition**

“**Meet the Faces**”. Solo caricature exhibition, the first of its kind to be held in Bangladesh, featuring a wide array of celebrity caricatures, 2024.

- **Group Exhibitions**

- “**কাঁটুনে বিদ্রোহ / Cartoon-e Bidroho [Rebellion in Cartoon]**”. A political cartoon exhibition organised by the Bangladesh Cartoonist Association (BANCARAS), Drik Picture Library Limited, and Earki, 2024.
- “**(S)election**”. A political cartoon exhibition organised by BANCARAS, Drik Picture Library Limited, and Earki, 2023.

- **“Politrics”**. A political cartoon exhibition organised by BANCARAS, Drik Picture Library Limited, and Earki, 2023.
- **“The Sharp End of the Pencil: Women’s Rights”**. A touring exhibition organised by Le Crayon in partnership with France-Cartoons and the Press Drawing and Caricature Festival of L’Estaque (FIDEP), 2018.
- **“FemiToon”**. A cartoon exhibition on violence against women, jointly organised by ActionAid Bangladesh and Unmad Magazine, 2018.
- **“40 Years Celebration of Unmad”**. An exhibition celebrating the 40th anniversary of Unmad Magazine, 2018.
- **“BANCARAS-Wacom Cartoon Exhibition”**. An exhibition organised by BANCARAS and Red Apple, 2018.
- **“Bangladesh Cartoon Fest”**. An annual cartoon festival organised by BANCARAS; 2012, 2014, and 2017.
- **“Dhaka Toon”**. The first cartoon exhibition organised by BANCARAS, 2011.
- **“DeshTV Cartoon Exhibition”**. An exhibition organised by DeshTV, 2009.
- **“Exhibition on Right to Education”**. An exhibition organised by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), 2009.
- **“Unmad Cartoon Exhibition”**. An exhibition by Unmad Magazine, 2008 and 2009.
- **“Car Cartoon Exhibition”**. An exhibition at the Auto Expo, 2008 and 2009.
- **“Anti-Corruption Cartoon Exhibition”**. An annual exhibition organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), 2007–2015.

- **Awards and Recognitions**

- **Second Prize**. Children’s Book Illustration Competition, arranged by the Ekhlisuddin Ahmed Trust, Edward M. Kennedy Centre (EMK Centre), and the Child Centric Creative Centre (4C), 2022.
- **Appreciation Award**, for contributions to women’s rights issues as a cartoonist, awarded by ActionAid Bangladesh, 2018.
- **First Prize**. Cartoon Competition on Climate Finance Issues, organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), 2015.
- **Unmad Cartoonist of the Year**, awarded for contributions to political and social satire through cartoons, 2014.
- **Special Mention Award**. National Anticorruption Cartoon Competition, awarded by TIB, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2013.
- **Special Nomination Award**. Right to Education Cartoon Competition, organised by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), 2010.
- **Third Prize**. National Anticorruption Cartoon Competition, awarded by TIB, 2009.

- **Grants Received**

**“Project Tiktaalik: Learning Science through Comics”**, funded by the US Department of State through the Mission Driven Alumni Outreach programme, 2018.

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- **Professional Memberships and Affiliation**

- Member, Executive Committee, Cartoonist Rights Network International
  - Member, Executive Committee, Asian Centre for Inclusive Education
  - Public Welfare Secretary, Bangladesh Cartoonist Association
  - Alumni, International Visitor’s Leadership Program (IVLP) Women in STEM, U.S. Department of State
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