



Voices from our Inaugural Fellows- Gender Equity/Gender-based Violence(GBV) Evidence Accelerator Fellowship Program

The Gender Equity/GBV Evidence Accelerator Fellowship Program is a year-long inaugural cohort program offering sponsored mentorship and select coursework at the Johns Hopkins University to practitioners, professionals, and scholars engaged in gender equity work, including those focused on gender-based violence (GBV), particularly in low- and middle-income settings. In 2024-25, the program's inaugural offering, 12 fellows were selected through a competitive process from over 2,000 applicants representing 120 countries.

Almost midway through the year, our inaugural cohort have shared their reflections on how unique, hands-on, and valuable the program is.



“Overall, my experience as a Gender Equity/GBV Scholar has **been deeply rewarding and transformative**. One of the primary strengths of the Fellowship program is its emphasis on practical, hands-on learning. Another key strength is the **collaborative environment** fostered by the program. The program's mentorship structure is also a standout feature. In addition, the **interdisciplinary nature** of the program is a major strength...the Fellowship offers a strong emphasis on leadership development. It challenges participants to think critically about their role as **change-makers** and provides the tools to build **resilience and adaptability**.

- *Lusine Aslanyan, Lead researcher, the Coalition to stop Violence Against Women, Yerevan, Armenia*

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My experience as a Gender Equity/GBV Scholar has been extensively enriching. The fellowship's design was **exceptionally well-developed**, emphasizing on **practical and applicable skills and knowledge**. The program's emphasis on practical and real hand on applications ensures that scholars gain skills which are not only important and valuable **academically** but also **directly impactful and applicable** in real-world situations and for community where they are most needed.

- *Tein Wan, Gender coordinator, Oxfam in Myanmar*



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One of the greatest strengths of the Fellowship program is how **engaging and interactive** it is, even as a distance-learning program. The mix of structured courses like the summer program and interactive elements like seminars and office hours has made this fellowship a **rich learning experience**. As a Gender Equity/GBV Scholar, my experience has been **transformative**. When I first joined, I was quite new to the gendered nuances of research and gender analysis, and I had limited exposure to GBV-specific research. This program has **truly been an eye-opener**, enriching my understanding on so many levels.

- *Omera Naseer, Public Health Physician, National Institute of Health, Pakistan*



“ [The Fellowship has been an] **Unquantifiable pleasant experiences**, full of new knowledge and skills. [Some of the strengths of the program are the focus on] **combined knowledge-, skills-, practice- and policy-based and the interactive/Participatory learning method.**

- *Ayodeji Adebayo, Lecturer, Dept. of Community Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria*



“ The program's outline is **extremely well-thought**. The fellowship is rich yet does not feel heavy to balance with our respective workloads. The program's strength is its **step-by-step process** building up to the final brief as well as the **assistance** provided by the center's team every step of the way including **the mentorship component.**

- *Nada Zeineb ben Jema, GBV Program Officer, UNFPA, Tunisia Country Office*

“ I've deeply appreciated the **supportive and collaborative community** within the fellowship, where sharing diverse perspectives on gender equity has expanded my approach and built **lasting professional relationships**. However, what I appreciated the most is the fellowship's access to **specialized resources, workshops, and expert mentorship** which has been **invaluable** for deepening my research and advocacy skills.

- *Tricia Basdeo-Gobin, Regional Director, The Caribbean Male Action Network, Trinidad & Tobago*



“ This experience has been **both challenging and exciting**, offering a **comprehensive, evidence-based, and practical foundation** in gender and GBV research that has **significantly advanced** my career aspirations as a gender researcher and consultant....[the program has] **empowered** me to approach complex gender issues with a **refined, impactful perspective**, bringing me closer to my goal of making a meaningful difference in the field.

- *Abigael Malelu-Gitau, Research Assistant for East Africa Levy, LTD, Kenya*

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