

### **Abstract**

Gender-based violence confronts women throughout the world, but it is a topic that has only come to prominence relatively recently in social science research. While we do know that gender-based violence is prevalent in Bangladesh and in South Asia more generally, we still know relatively little about women's experiences of gender-based violence, how they develop coping mechanisms to survive and resist violence, and how they contend with agencies tasked with protecting them and ensuring their future security and wellbeing. It is onto this under-studied terrain that I have chosen to direct my spotlight with respect to slum-dwellers in Sylhet, Bangladesh. In this paper I argue that, in Bangladesh, gender-based violence in marital life is entangled in a complex web of institutionalized social relations that necessitates a structural and contextual understanding of the production of such violence in family, kinship and gender relations.

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