

Program	Program name	Begum Rokeya Shakhawat Hossain's "Sultana's Dream": An Interdisciplinary Analysis
	Category	B5 (Innovation in Culture/Values)

Summary of Program		
Program Name		Begum Rokeya Shakhawat Hossain's "Sultana's Dream": An Interdisciplinary Analysis
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Abstract of Program		Innumerable literary corpus has been published on Bangladeshi Writer Begum Rokeya Sahkawat Hossain, one of the pioneering feminist writers of colonial India of the early 20 th century. These narratives mainly exhibit the subaltern, marginalization, suppression, oppression and desubjectivization of non-existent women in the male-dominated Bangladeshi society which allows no autonomy, status, agency as well as identity of females. "Sultana's Dream" depicts the power of women emancipation which leads to scientific, social and political welfare of a nation. Although Eco critical, Feminism, Psychoanalytic and Ecofeminist lenses have been examined in this text, Marxism and postcolonial theories are not studied. To fill in this gap, I have applied these theories in this text. In this regard, I have studied how women of Bangladesh are suffering under patriarchy. How her novella elucidates the concepts of colonizer, colonized, Eurocentrism, subaltern, and othering as the men who act like bourgeoisie as well as colonizers control on women who are the second subsidiary colonized proletariat gender is researched in this article in succinct details with emphasize on the progress of Indian women specially after 120 years of the publication of this short story today.
Details of Program		
Planning		
Objectives	Long-term Goals	To explore postcolonial theory through technological practice – grounding Begum Rokeya's feminist utopia in a modern digital context.
	Short-term Targets	To empower students to critique and reclaim cultural narratives digitally – reimagining Ladyland through films, podcasts, and zines.
	Rationale	To promote Global South perspectives using digital tools – positioning Rokeya's vision within broader postcolonial feminist discourse.
Subject (Leader)	Initiator(s)	Shama, Mahbuba Sarker
	Champion(s)	Shama, Mahbuba Sarker
	Major team member(s)	Shama, Mahbuba Sarker
Environment	Nature/Society	Inspired by Lady land, the project imagines a society where women lead through knowledge, education, and peaceful innovation. It empowers youth to re-think gender roles, resist patriarchal narratives, and re-shape cultural memory through

		the utopian ideals of Begum Rokeya.
	Industry/Market	Reimagining women-centered industries—education, science communication, publishing, digital storytelling, gender rights advocacy, and eco-friendly innovation.
	Citizen/Government	Partnerships possible with Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Education, cultural festivals, feminist organizations, digital heritage archives, and human rights groups.
Resources	Human resources	One faculty mentor (gender studies/postcolonial studies), two student production assistants, and 8–10 student creators engaging in literary analysis, digital storytelling, and feminist activism.
	Financial resources	Tk 120,000/- for software, digital archiving, short-film production, research exhibitions, and women's empowerment workshops
	Technological resources	Smartphones, audio/video equipment, editing software (Cap Cut, In Shot), digital archive server, projector/screen for exhibitions.
Mechanism	Strategy (Weight/Sequence)	→ <i>Lady land Digital Storytelling Contest</i> (students reimagine <i>Sultana's Dream</i> in films, zines, or podcasts) → <i>Online Archive of Feminist Utopias</i> (student projects stored as a lasting resource) → <i>Open-access Exhibition on Rokeya's Vision</i> (art, digital storytelling, feminist science posters)
	Organization	Training → Text Reading → Discussion → Audio Interview → Workshop → Article production
	Culture	World University of Bangladesh is a university for quality and utilitarian Education. Hence, the university always supports to promote different skills among students.
Doing		
Launch date		15 th August 2025
Responsible organization		World University of Bangladesh
Program content and process		This project reinterprets <i>Sultana's Dream</i> for the digital age. Instead of limiting it to literary essays, students will critique patriarchy, colonialism, and gender injustice by creating feminist utopias inspired by Rokeya—through podcasts, zines, visual storytelling, and digital archives. Students will highlight themes of women's education, peaceful science, ecological balance, and justice.
Key highlights of the content/process		→ Digitizing Rokeya's feminist utopia → Reclaiming cultural memory of women's struggles and dreams → Merging literary analysis with digital creativity → Encouraging student-led feminist discourse → Building career portfolios in education, media, and advocacy
Differences from traditional approaches		Instead of only reading <i>Sultana's Dream</i> as a feminist text, students live the vision by using modern media to reconstruct Ladyland.

	Traditional courses remain theoretical, but this project connects utopian imagination to real-world storytelling, activism, and innovation.
Progress as of today	→ Reading of articles is going on
Problems in implementation	→ Limited professional editing licenses → Students' lack of prior experience in digital feminist archiving → Balancing academic workload with creative production
Approaches to solve the problems	→ Provide beginner-friendly training in digital feminist storytelling → Purchase affordable tools/software → Integrate the project into curriculum for academic credit
Completion date, if completed	December 2026
Seeing	
Impacts on students	→ Critical understanding of Rokeya's feminism → Development of digital storytelling + research skills → Empowerment to rethink gender equality in South Asia
Impacts on professors	→ New pedagogy based on feminist utopia & digital tools → Institutional recognition for innovative gender studies
Impacts on university administration	→ Visibility in South Asian postcolonial and feminist networks
Responses from industry/market	Feminist publishers, NGOs, media houses, heritage groups interested in digital archives of <i>Sultana's Dream</i> .
Responses from citizen/government	N/A
Measurable output (revenues)	→ 10–12 digital projects reimagining <i>Sultana's Dream</i> → Public engagement (exhibition visitors, online archive views, downloads) → Student self-reflections and project portfolios
Measurable input (expenses)	→ 20 Research article printing, workshop cost
Cost-benefit analysis for effectiveness	→ Relatively low cost compared to impact on feminist discourse → Long-term value through reusable feminist digital archive
Future Planning	
Where does the project go from here?	→ Extend to other departments (Law: women's rights; → Development Studies: gender and education; Media Studies: feminist journalism) → Build an inter-university <i>South Asian Feminist Utopia Archive</i> → Develop online courses on Rokeya and feminist digital storytelling
Addendum	

Exhibits, pictures, diagrams, etc.	Digital art of Lady land, posters of solar-powered women's universities, feminist zines, podcast screenshots, and student films.
Reports, mimeos, monographs, books, etc.	Publish a digital flipbook, feminist digital zines, and a mini-documentary showcasing student interpretations of <i>Sultana's Dream</i> .
Others which may help explain the program (including website links)	https://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/sultana/dream/dream.html