



## **Sitara Parveen SHAH**

### **Home Country**

Pakistan

### **Degree**

PhD in Geography

### **Expertise**

Geography

### **Research Focus**

Impact of Climate Change on Rural Populations

### **Host University**

University of Bonn,  
Germany

### **Fellowship Awarded**

2010

Sitara Parveen Shah was born in Gulmit Gojal, a village in Pakistan near the Chinese border. She grew up in a big family with eight sisters and one brother. Married with two children, a boy and a girl, she enjoys cooking and reading books.

Sitara completed her undergraduate education in the city of Gilgit, where she obtained her higher secondary education from the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education. She also attended Aga Khan University in Karachi and Punjab University in Lahore before graduating with her master's degree in geography from the University of Peshawar in Pakistan. She is now attending the University of Bonn in Germany, where her doctoral research is focusing on climate change in northern Pakistan.

In her research Sitara is examining how climate change is affecting people living in the high, mountainous regions of northern Pakistan. The vulnerable populations of these areas are suffering from climatic changes due to global environmental problems such as rising temperatures, changes in precipitation, floods, droughts and other extreme weather events. Evidence shows that a trend toward longer winters is causing dramatic declines in agricultural productivity in many high, mountainous areas in Asia, where much of the population depends for survival on agricultural activities.

Sitara is studying the effects of climate change on a local and regional scale because this provides first-hand evidence of impacts and how people must adapt and prepare for an uncertain future – beyond the obvious need to secure critical resources for survival such as water, food, shelter and firewood. Her research will contribute to indigenous knowledge and may help in designing climate-change mitigation programs. Her work will also help create general awareness about the impacts of climate change on rural populations.

Sitara plans to teach at Karakoram International University in Gilgit.