

# AMAN KALEEM

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## EDUCATION

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<b>Master of Design Engineering</b> , Harvard University <i>Co-registered at Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i>	2021–2024
<b>Master of Mass Communication (Film)</b> , Jamia Millia Islamia University	2008–2010
<b>Bachelor in English (Hons)</b> , Jamia Millia Islamia University	2005–2008

## FILMS

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**Girls** – Director 2023

Sci-fi film produced by MIT Media Lab using AI generative models in a gaming engine to create immersive landscapes, architecture, and characters. Pushes boundaries of traditional filmmaking, offering a glimpse into the future of storytelling.

- *Awards (11)*: Madrid International Movie Awards; Seattle Independent Film Festival; Beyond the Curve International Film Festival (Paris); Swedish International Film Festival; 4th Dimension Independent Film Festival (Indonesia); Kalakari Film Fest (India); Onyko Films Awards; Medusa Film Festival; Lily Indie Film Fest
- *Finalist*: NYC Independent Film Festival
- *Selected*: Belgrade International Film Festival; Monthly Indie Shorts (NYC); Winter Leopard International Film Festival; Red Movie Awards (Paris)

**We Shall Have Freedom** – Producer and Creator 2017–2018

Seven-part documentary series with XR exhibition, photo stories, and blogs amplifying dissenting voices across India. Viewed by 1.5 million people.

- Shortlisted for screening at Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard University
- Presented at “In Focus” panel discussion at Harvard with Professor Jinah Kim on “Dissent and Representation in India”
- Selected as most impactful documentary of 2018 by Youth Ki Awaaz
- Screened at six government institutions during Citizenship Amendment Act protests; incorporated into coursework at Mass Communication Research Centre, New Delhi
- *Awards*: Best Pitch by European Documentary Network, DocEdge Kolkata; Best Pitch by European Social Documentary, DocEdge Kolkata
- *Festivals*: Imagine India Film Festival (Madrid); Jagran Film Festival; International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala; Diorama International Film Festival

**Marriage, Sex and Family** – Director 2016–2017

Documentary examining marriage as institution through stories of women from different backgrounds. Reviewed as “a powerful story of four women about the right of choice” (*The Hindu*).

- Government grant of \$30,000 from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- *Finalist*: International Film Festival of Madrid; Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival (Czech Republic); Kabul International Documentary Film Festival (Afghanistan); TIF Video Challenge (Berlin)
- *Selected*: Documentary Tirana International Film Festival (Albania); Ekurhuleni International Film Festival (South Africa); Open Frame Documentary Film Festival (New Delhi)

**Acchi Ladki (The Good Girl)** – Producer and Creator 2016–2017

National campaign redefining the idea of a “good girl” and asserting women’s choices in everyday life.

- Created 250 posters and 35 comic books to shape public discourse on gender issues
- Collaborated with 27 leading feminist organizations across India; reached 2 million women
- Won two national-level awards

**Tata Sky** – Executive Producer 2015–2016

Monitored content for 50 episodes (30 minutes each) produced under various subscription services on

Tata Sky television.

**Angels of Stone** – Producer and Creator 2014–2015

Story of two teenage boys navigating personal and political crisis in Kashmir.

- Awards at International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam and DocEdge
- Government grant of \$15,000 from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

**Eidiyaan** (Fiction) – Director 2008–2010

Story of a mother and daughter awaiting their disappeared son on Eid.

- Screened at more than 15 film festivals worldwide; won three national awards
- Reviewed by three national newspapers as pivotal work on Kashmir's militarization

## ART

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**Smriti-Yi (Memo-ri)** 2024

Interdisciplinary 4D installation at intersection of cognitive science, AI, and brain-computer interaction. Employs machine learning and generative AI to interpret auditory stimuli into dynamic visual memories. *Exhibited: Harvard Graduate School of Design.*

**Body of Memory** 2024

Installation examining how context, vocabulary, ideology, and technologies shape consciousness and memory. Uses machine learning to map individual memory to collective memory. *Exhibited: Harvard Audio Visual Film Sound Open Studio.*

**Precipitation of Life** 2024

Permanent video and image installation at MIT Nano building examining moss specimens under electron microscopes, combined with lightboxes displaying love poems.

**Women's Bodies Through Artificial Intelligence** 2023

Installation examining AI's erasure of women's and trans bodies through rendering felt existence into data points. Employs deep learning algorithms trained on open-source archives. *Screened: Spanish Pavilion, Wrong Biennale.*

**The Way We Walk** 2023

Narrative visualization interpreting human movement through machine learning trained on intentionally flawed dataset, celebrating imperfection of human existence.

**Sensorial Investigation of Orphaned Clothes** 2023

6ft×6ft installation using object recognition and CNNs to create multisensory experience around emotional resonance of clothing. Inquiry into materiality of memory and sustainability in fashion.

**Women in the Shadows of Climate Change** 2021

Digital tool examining climate change's impact on female farmers in India. *Screened: Radcliffe Institute, "Water Stories" exhibition.*

**Curfewed Music** 2019

360-degree VR project portraying sound of protests through ears of Firdaus, a deaf child victim of pellet-firing in Kashmir. *Finalist: Sundance New Frontier Story Lab.*

**Shaping the Ordinary through Love and Dreams** 2018

Digital interactive exhibition featuring 60 diverse stories of love and rebellion in India. Curated by

## COMMISSIONED WORK

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**Kahaani Wale Infotech** – Founder and CEO 2017–2023  
Indian media technology company leveraging behavior change strategies and technology to design communication solutions for social impact organizations.

### Design and Technology Projects

**NITI Aayog (Government of India)** – Campaign for Social and Behavioral Change 2019–2021  
Central government campaign to influence adoption of behavioral practices improving health, education, and economic standards across 112 Aspirational Districts.

- *Service Design*: Partnered with 72 organizations to identify 36 innovative behavioral practices through on-ground research
- *Communication & Behavioral Design*: Led team of 14 to develop and deploy social behavior change communication strategies across 40 districts
- *Data-Driven Design*: Impacted over 100 million people (7.5% of India's population); established robust monitoring framework for real-time analytics

**United Nations Population Fund** – Housing and Digital Enablement Campaign 2019–2020  
Communicated performance of Indian government's housing and digital enablement scheme across six northeast states.

- *Impact Assessment Design*: Partnered with two international research organizations to create survey tools for 10 million beneficiaries
- *Human-Centered Insights*: Identified archetype stories based on impact data to humanize insights and reduce cognitive biases
- *Global Presentation*: Developed narrative stories showcased at G-20 Summit 2020, Riyadh

**Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** – Communications Partner 2018–2021  
Vertical-based communications partner supporting grant-receiving organizations in scaling impact.

- *National Campaign – “Now It's My Turn”*: Promoted change initiatives for adolescents in health, education, and livelihood across 6,000 villages
- *Representation Campaign – “The Initiative”*: Enhanced women's representation across 16,000 village-level governance bodies
- *Health Rights Communication*: Disseminated sexual and reproductive health information to 85,000 adolescents across three states

**MacArthur Foundation** – Climate Change Transition Strategy 2018–2019  
Guided 17 investees toward integrating preventive climate change practices following foundation's strategic shift.

- Designed and communicated \$5 million fundraising strategy contingent on climate change integration
- Onboarded 16 climate change leaders to steward organizations through change management

**Michael and Susan Dell Foundation** – Educational Technology Strategy 2017–2020  
Developed fundraising collaterals to enable foundation to raise additional \$3 million from external funders.

- *Human-Centered Design*: Humanized social impact investment strategy of \$27 million by showcasing beneficiary improvements
- Achieved highest-ever organic social media outreach and engagement for MSDF internationally

**White Ribbon Alliance** – Maternal Health Campaign 2018–2019  
National campaign influencing 35 members of parliament to ensure quality services for pregnant women and new mothers.

- *Information Design Research*: Led team of 23 to research birthing needs and digital media consumption for 400,000 pregnant women
- Shaped public discourse for 1.2 million women across two states to inform government policy on pre/postnatal care

- Developed positive feedback loop contributing to seven recommendations incorporated into central government scheme

**Majlis – Forum for Women’s Rights and Legal Initiatives** 2018–2019

Reestablished spaces for women to share experiences of domestic violence and learn legal remedies.

- *Information Design Research*: Researched 29 years of impact stories to identify behavioral motivators for 50,000 women
- Developed 11 real and 32 virtual safe spaces for 14,000 women to receive legal counsel

**Room to Read – Interactive Digital Comic Books** 2020–2021

- Created and distributed 36 comic books in 7 languages, reaching 2.5 million adolescent girls across 35,000 government schools
- Addressed educational disruption caused by COVID-19 affecting 320 million learners
- Developed content empowering young women with essential life skills

**Aga Khan Foundation – WhatsApp Storytelling Chatbot** 2019–2020

- Spearheaded product development to enhance parental involvement in education for 200,000 children across two states
- Created engaging content simulating an educated parent sharing experiences and motivational stories

**Quest Alliance Foundation – Digital Platform for Youth Employability** 2019–2020

- Led product development of nonlinear online learning platform to enhance employability for 67,000 Indian youth
- Designed 23 animated educational stories with five alternative endings each

**UNESCO MGIEP – Video-Based Lesson Development Platform** 2018–2020

- Led UI/UX design for platform serving 400 K-12 teachers and 6,100 youth educators across 25 countries
- Enabled educators to create, modify, and distribute social-emotional learning content at scale

**Red Stone Films – Co-Founder and Managing Partner** 2012–2017

Award-winning film agency specializing in stories of change. Developed 150 films with 40 artists across South Asia.

**Tata Sky – Executive Producer** 2015–2016

Monitored content for 50 episodes (30 minutes each) under various subscription services.

**International Film Festival of India – Professional Programmer** 2011–2012

Curated World Cinema section (123 films) for Asia’s largest film festival; audience of 10,000+.

## TEACHING AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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**Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences – Teaching Fellow** 2023–2024

ES 96: Semester-long course covering problem definition, research methods, modeling, solution co-design, engineering trade-offs, and communication skills.

**Harvard Business School – Case Writer** 2023–2024

- Collaborating with faculty to write case studies on impact organizations worldwide for EdX
- Collaborating with Harvard Graduate School of Education faculty to develop course on Strategic Finance for EdX

**Harvard Innovation Lab – Media Studio Teaching Fellow** 2023–2024

Providing professional training in media equipment to Harvard Innovation Lab students.

**Kempner Institute, Harvard University – Communications Assistant** 2023

Simplifying complex technical language related to machine learning and artificial intelligence into accessible text and visuals.

**Vedica Scholars Program for Women**, New Delhi – Faculty 2016–2019

- Taught “Thinking Visually,” enhancing visual storytelling, critical analysis, and creative expression among graduate students

- Designed curriculum including lectures, film screenings, workshops, and guest talks

- Engaged consistent enrollment of over 100 students each semester

- Supervised projects in film analysis, visual story creation, and scriptwriting

**Aligarh Muslim University**, Uttar Pradesh – Guest Faculty 2012–2014

- Taught comprehensive scriptwriting course for 50 students covering fiction and non-fiction genres

- Conducted detailed script reviews in workshop settings, promoting collaborative peer learning

- Guided students through practical assignments culminating in professional-ready scripts

## FELLOWSHIPS

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**MDE Merit Scholarship**, Harvard University 2023

*Prestigious award supporting outstanding graduate students demonstrating exceptional academic achievements and leadership potential.*

**Harvard University President’s EDIB Fellowship** 2023

*Employment opportunity for enrolled students supporting equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging initiatives.*

**Visiting Artist Fellow**, Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, Harvard 2018

*One of two visiting artist fellows from South Asia.*

**Hubert H. Humphrey Fulbright Fellowship Nominee**, India 2017

*One of three Indian nominees.*

**Entrepreneur in Residence**, Ashoka University 2017

*One of 3% of applicants selected at Centre for Entrepreneurship.*

**Young India Fellowship**, Ashoka University 2012–2013

*One of 4% of applicants selected for fully funded Post Graduate Diploma in Liberal Arts.*

## AWARDS

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- **Make a Difference Leader**, Government of India and United Nations – Among 25 leaders under 35 selected across South Asia 2015

- **Aspen Emerging Women Leaders Program** – Selected among 20 inspiring women leaders in India 2018

- **Best Experiential Learning Module**, Young India Fellowship 2012

## PUBLICATIONS

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- “Stories of Change 2022,” NITI Aayog, Government of India (February 2023)

- “Systemic Transformation in Government Schools: Roundtable Report,” Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (April 2020)

- “Nationalism in Indian Cinema,” Master’s Thesis, Jamia Millia Islamia (2010). Advisor: Dr. Anandna Kapur

## MEDIA

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- [Harvard University’s Mittal South Asia Institute: Profile](#) 2024

- [Harvard Visiting Artist Fellows](#) 2018–2019

- [The Hindu: “The Right to Choice”](#) 2015

- [Beyond Headlines: “Shaadi, Sex aur Parivaar”](#) 2015
- [VoxSpace: “Documentary on India’s Protest Culture”](#) 2017
- [Youth Ki Awaaz: “6 Impactful Documentaries of 2017”](#) 2017
- [South Asian Today: “Is the ‘Good Girl’ a Feminist?”](#) 2021

## PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

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- Obama Foundation Town Hall, New Delhi – Invited participant, discussions with President Barack Obama 2017
- Google India – Workshops on art and digital storytelling 2017
- Ashoka University – Lectures on art and business 2018
- India Leaders for Social Sector – Speaker on art and social impact 2018
- Udhayam Foundation – Presented on digital storytelling in social change 2020

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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**Led By Foundation** – Board Member 2020–2024  
Cultivating an integrated India where everyone has equal opportunities to contribute to growth.

**Volunteers for Kashmir** – Founding Member 2014–2015  
Awarded Young Leader by State of Jammu and Kashmir for organizing largest voluntary relief operation during 2014 floods.

**Media for Change** – Founding Member 2012–2017  
Conglomerate of 16 media leaders leveraging storytelling for democratic initiatives.

**Shakti** – Founding Member 2017–2021  
National movement for improving women’s political representation in India.

## SKILLS

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**Technical:** Python, Machine Learning, Computer Vision (OpenCV, CNNs), Unreal Engine, Unity, Adobe Creative Suite, Fusion 360

**Design:** Service Design, Communication Design, Behavioral Design, Human-Centered Design, Information Design, UI/UX, Curriculum Development