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Primary Academic Position

Assistant Professor of Economics, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2015–present

Other Positions and Affiliations

Associate, South Asia Institute, Harvard University, 2024-25
Assistant Professor, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, 2013–15
Research Fellow, Public Health Foundation of India, 2012–13

Education

Postdoctoral Fellow, South Asia Institute, Harvard University, 2023-24
Ph.D., Economics of Education, National University of Educational Planning and Administration, 2013
M.A., Economics, University of Hyderabad, 2006
B.A., Economics, Fakir Mohan University, 2004

Peer-Reviewed Publications

“School choice in rural Odisha, India: Understanding from a multi-stakeholder perspective.” *Prospects*, 2024, OnlineFirst. [Link](#) (Co-authored).

“Vocational education, skill training and self-employment: evidence from the non-farm sector in India.” *Journal of Vocational Education & Training*, 2024, OnlineFirst. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Impacts of industrial actions, protests, strikes and lockouts by health and care workers during COVID-19 and other pandemic contexts: a systematic review.” *Hum Resour Health*, 2024, 22, 47. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Socioeconomic inequality in accessing professional higher education in India: New evidence from a household survey.” *The Indian Economic Journal*, 2024, OnlineFirst. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“What drives demand for private tutoring in secondary education? Evidence from India.” *Journal of Social and Economic Development*, 2024, OnlineFirst. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Analysing inequalities in access and household investment in market-based supplemental educational services in India: A case of post-compulsory school education in Haryana.” *Research in Post-Compulsory Education*, 2024, 29 (1): 87-116. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Regional and socioeconomic inequalities in access to pre-primary education in India: evidence from a recent household survey.” *International Journal of Child Care and Education Policy*, 2023, 17, 13: 1-25. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Neoliberalism, Compulsory Education and Compulsion to Pay: Magnitude, Patterns and Determinants of Household Expenditure in Indian Punjab.” *Review of Development and Change*, 2023, 28 (2): 245-67. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Policies and Practices of Managing Higher Education in India: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic Experience.” *Journal of Development Policy and Practice*, 2023, OnlineFirst. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Household Expenditure on Secondary Education in Haryana (India): Levels, Patterns and Determinants.” *Millennial Asia*, 2022, 14 (4): 605-35. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Do parental resources reduce the gender gap in math for primary school-going children? Evidence from India.” *Education 3-13*, 2022, 52 (8): 1071-1088. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“An analysis of school shifting patterns in India: what do recent data tell us?” *Journal of Social and Economic Development*, 2022, 24 (2): 295-318. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“How Much do Households Spend on Professional Higher Education in India? Results from a National Survey.” *Indian Journal of Human Development*, 2022, 16 (1): 77-96. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“An Empirical Analysis of Household Expenditure on Engineering Education in Odisha.” *Millennial Asia*, 2022, 13 (3): 442-469. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Who all access private coaching in higher education and how much do they spend? Evidence from India.” *Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy*, 2021, 28 (4): 1433-55. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Do private schools really produce more learning than public schools in India? Accounting for student’s school absenteeism and the time spent on homework.” *International Journal of Educational Development*, 2021, 83, 102395. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Determinants of Private School Choice in India: All about the Family Backgrounds?” *Journal of School Choice*, 2020, 15(4): 576-602. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Computer science skills across China, India, Russia, and the United States.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2019, 116 (14): 6732-36. [Link](#). (Co-authored)

“Student assessment of quality of engineering education in India: evidence from a field survey.” *Quality Assurance in Education*, 27 (1): 103-26. [Link](#)

“Role of Private Sector in Medical Education and Human Resource Development for Health in India.” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2016, 51 (3): 71-79. [Link](#).

“Growth of Engineering Education in India: Status, Issues and Challenges.” *Higher Education for the Future*, 2016, 3 (1): 93-107. [Link](#)

“Explaining the Role of Parental Education in the Regional Variation in Infant Mortality in India.” *Asia & the Pacific Policy Studies*, 2015, 2 (3): 544-572. [Link](#)

Other Publications

“COVID-19 and Education in India: Impact on Access, Inclusion and Learning.” 2025, Routledge, UK. [Link](#). (Co-edited volume).

“Contextualising Educational Studies in India: Research, Policy and Practices.” 2021, Routledge, UK. [Link](#). (Co-edited volume).

“Financing of Teacher Education in India.” In: Panda, Pranati (ed.), *Teacher Education Landscapes in India: Governance and Quality Management*, 2024, Routledge, UK. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Data sources for higher education research in India: availability, gaps and requirements.” In: Mishra, P.K. & Pachauri, A. (eds.), *India Higher Education Report 2023: Higher Education Research*, Routledge, UK. (Forthcoming).

“COVID-19 and Digital Learning in Higher Education in India: Unpacking the Inequity in Students’ Experiences.” In: Bhushan, S. (ed), *The Evolving Landscape of Higher Education in India: Post-Pandemic Policies and Transformations* Springer, Singapore (Forthcoming). (Co-authored)

“Unravelling the Policy-Practice Gap in Education in Post-Colonial India.” Review Essay. *Social Change*, 2024, 54(3), 433-439. [Link](#). (co-authored).

“Envisioning the role of philanthropic and corporate social responsibility contributions to education in India.” In: Policy Insights: Models of Philanthropy in Education, NORRAG, 2024, Geneva. [Link](#).

“Gender gaps in employment preferences among university graduates in India.” In: Mishra, R.K., Kujur, S.K., Trivikram, K. (eds.), *Higher Education, Employment and Economic Development in India: Problems, Prospects, and Policies*, 2023, Routledge, UK. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“In the Middle of Hope and Crisis: What Union Budget 2022-23 Offers for Education?” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2022, 57 (25): 18-23. [Link](#) (Co-authored).

“Changing Face of Higher Education and Development in Asia-Pacific.” In: Lee, W.O., Brown, P., Goodwin, A.L., Green, A. (eds), *International Handbook on Education Development in Asia-Pacific*, 2022, Springer, Singapore. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Policies and Practices of Financing Higher Education in Asia-Pacific Countries.” In: Lee, W.O., Brown, P., Goodwin, A.L., Green, A. (eds), *International Handbook on Education Development in Asia-Pacific*, 2022, Springer, Singapore. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Engineering Education in India.” In: Chattopadhyay, S., Varghese, N. V. & Marginson, S. (eds), *Changing Higher Education in India*, 2021, Bloomsbury, UK. pp. 187-210. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Changing Landscape of Professional Higher Education in India: What Do We Know and What Do Recent Data Tell Us?” In: Mani S. & Iyer, C.G. (eds), *India’s Economy and Society: Lateral Explorations*, 2021, Springer Nature, Singapore, pp. 287-324. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Paradoxes and Contradictions in the Growth of Engineering Education in India: Challenges and Prospects.” Working Paper No. CSD 1/2021, Council for Social Development, 2021. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Expanding Education Market and Parental Choice for Secondary Schools in India: Evidence from IHDS Data.” In: Tilak, J.B.G. (ed), *Universal Secondary Education in India: Issues, Challenges and Prospects*, 2020, Springer, Singapore, pp. 113-35. [Link](#)

“Taxation and Domestic Financing of Education in India.” NORRAG Special Issue 05 on Domestic Financing: Tax and Education, 2020, pp. 34-37. [Link](#)

“Parental Choice for Schools in the Changing Context of the State and Market in India.” In: Babu, S. (ed), *Education and Public Sphere: Exploring the Structures of Mediation in Post-Colonial India*, 2020, Routledge, UK. pp. 109-128. [Link](#)

“Inequality in Access to Higher Education in India between the Poor and the Rich.” In: Haque, T. & Reddy, D.N. (eds), *Social Development Report 2018*, 2019, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, pp. 187-202. [Link](#). (Co-authored).

“Pattern and Determinants of Household Expenditure on Higher Education: Evidence from Rural Odisha.” In: Bhushan, S. (ed), *The Future of Higher Education in India*, 2019, Springer, Singapore, pp. 165-180. [Link](#)

“NEET for Medical Education: Finding a Balance.” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 2016, 51:35, 16-19. [Link](#)

Fellowships and Recognition

Jamnalal Kaniram Bajaj Visiting Research Fellowship, South Asia Institute, Harvard University, 2023-24

Mentor, Association for Mentoring and Inclusion (AMIE), 2024-25

China-India Visiting Scholar Fellow, Ashoka University, 2021-22

Advisory Member, Delhi Knowledge Cluster, Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the Government of India & IIT Delhi, 2020-24

Member, Internal Quality Assurance Cell, NIEPA, New Delhi, 2020-present

Research Guide for IAS Officer Trainees, LBSNAA, 2022-23

Expert Member, Project Appraisal Committee, DIET, Moti Bagh, Delhi, 2022-24

Invited to write a report on “Educational Status of Minorities in Karnataka.” Directorate of Minorities, Government of Karnataka, 2022-23 (report submitted)

Research Funding and Collaboration

“Effects of Smartphone Bans on Student Outcomes.” Collaboration with University of Pennsylvania, USA; University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 2023-25.

“Women and science, gender inequalities in higher education and scientific careers: The examples of engineering and medicine in India.” Chair for Women and Science, Paris, France, 2023-24.

“To conduct living systematic reviews of the literature to collate evidence on priority policy areas that guide health workforce monitoring, impact assessment, and normative guidance.” World Health Organisation, 2021-22.

“Assessing and Improving the Quality of Higher Education: An International Comparative Study.” Stanford University, 2017-19.

“Effectiveness of Selected Scholarship Schemes for the Improvement in Access and Retention of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Students in Odisha.” ICSSR, 2015-17.

“Students Loan as the Alternative to Costly Higher Education: Evidence from Odisha.” UGC, 2016-19.

“Regulatory Frameworks and Accountability Mechanisms Governing Private Sector Engagement in Education in India National Coalition for Education, Delhi, 2018.

Professional Activities

Referee Journal of Development Studies, Oxford Development Studies, Population Studies, International Journal of Educational Development, Economic and Political Weekly, Educational Studies, Journal of School Choice, Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies, Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy, Millennial Asia, Social Change, Higher Education for the Future, Journal of Social and Economic Development, Indian Journal of Human Development, Indian Economic Journal

Manuscript Reviewer Oxford University Press and Taylor & Francis (Routledge)

Conference Paper Reviewer International Association for Feminist Economics, American Educational Research Association, Comparative & International Education Society, Globelics, Comparative Education Society of India

Participation in International Conferences & Workshops (in person)

Keynote Speaker, XV International Conference on Higher Education, HSE University, Moscow (Russia)

Keynote Speaker, International Summer School on Higher Education 2024, HSE University (Kyrgyzstan)

ASSA Annual Meeting 2024 (USA)

NBER Program on Economics of Education (USA)

NEUDC 2023 Conference (Harvard University, USA),

India Conference 2023 (Cornell University, USA),

5th Annual Philosophy and Theory of Higher Education Conference (University of Gdańsk, Poland)

South Asia Economic Policy Network Conference of the World Bank (Bangladesh)

5th AfricaLics Research Conference (University of Yaoundé II, Cameroon)

30th IAFFE Annual Conference (Graduate Institute in Geneva, Switzerland)

4th Annual Philosophy and Theory of Higher Education Conference (Uppsala University, Sweden)

5th SANEM Annual Economists' Conference (Bangladesh)

PEGNet Conference (Germany)

Eighth Meeting of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (PSE, France)

International Symposium on ageing policy (France)

African Programme on Rethinking Development Economics (South Africa)

Asia Research Institute International Conference (NUS, Singapore)

14th Development Dialogue (ISS, Netherlands)

Young Lives Conference (University of Oxford, UK)

50th Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association (University of Ottawa, Canada) IZA/DFID

Short Course on Program Evaluation (Bangladesh)

Summer course on Innovative Financing for Education (Central European University, Hungary)

Education and Gender (EdGe) Research Group Conference (Izmir University of Economics, Turkey)

UNESCAP and Leonard Cheshire Disability Conference (Thailand)

DSA and EADI Annual Conference (University of York, UK)

8th GLOBELICS International Conference (Malaysia)