

AYUSH SHUKLA

MPA/ID CANDIDATE
HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL

CONTACT DETAILS

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EDUCATION

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government

Master in Public Administration in International Development

2023-2025*

- **Co-Chair, India Conference at Harvard 2025:** Led a team of 100+ graduate students to organize the annual conference with 1000+ attendees with senior leaders from India and the world.
- **Vice President, Impact Investing Club:** Managed programs at Harvard Kennedy School to assist students in pursuing careers in impact investing and development finance.
- **Course Assistant** for 'Managing the Private Delivery of Public Value' & 'Politics and Policies: The Impact of Data and AI', 'Sports Economics', and 'Math Camp' for the incoming MPA/ID class.
- **Teaching Fellow** for ECON 70 (Personal Finance and GOV1737 (RCTs) at Harvard College.
- **Coursework:** Courses in Advanced Macroeconomics and Microeconomics, Advanced Quantitative Methods, Development Economics, Growth Strategy, Finance, Entrepreneurship Ecosystems

K.J. Somaiya College of Engineering, Vidyavihar

Electronics Engineering

2014 - 2018

- Founding Member, Debate Society
- Co-founder & Lead Organizer, TEDxSomaiyaVidyavihar
- Literary Secretary, Students' Council

Delhi Public School

2014

- Head Boy, Students' Council of the complete academic body of the school from grades 1-12
- Captain, Hockey Team

WORK EXPERIENCE

Asian Venture Philanthropy Network

Sustainable Finance Associate June 2024 - Aug 2024

- Building and executing the market entry strategy for AVPN's blended finance practice and portfolio.
- Liaised with multinational organizations like the World Bank, International Finance Corporation, Development Finance Corporation, Millenium Challenge Corporation, and USAID to create an AVPN-managed blended finance funding facility.

Senior Programs Associate, South Asia | Dec 2022 - Aug 2023

- Led investment activities - building thesis, and company pipelines in the financial inclusion sector in South Asia.
- Managed 5 accelerator programs for 50+ startups - sourcing and evaluation in South/Southeast Asia.
- Conducted due diligence on startups involving sector research, application evaluation, and interviews.
- Built an Asian network of 150+ investors and industry experts to support startups, catalyze venture funding.

Programs Associate, South Asia | Nov 2020 - Dec 2022

Village Capital | Deepak Menon (Chief Program Officer – EMEAA)

- Managing external communication and point of contact for all entrepreneurs in South/Southeast Asia region.
- Leading the investment activities - building thesis, company pipeline in financial inclusion sector in South Asia
- Sourcing and due diligence of startups involving sector research, application evaluation, and interviews.
- Researched and drafted reports/studies on the domestic and international migrant trends within Asia.
- Forged partnerships with regional entities in Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India for building a coalition to run accelerator programs for women entrepreneurs.
- Drafted an internal DEI-focused regional action plan for engagement with entrepreneurs.
- Promoted to Sr. Programs Associate, effective Jan '23 onward.

Chief Minister's Fellow (Selected in a cohort of 45 from >8,000 applicants) | Sep 2019 - Aug 2020
Maharashtra State Innovation Society | Sujata Saunik (IAS) (Chief Executive Officer)

- Managed the Operations and Outreach efforts for Maharashtra Startup Week 2020.
- Worked on and provided inputs on draft Maharashtra State Startup Policy 2020.
- Designed monitoring and review mechanism for 16 technology business incubators across Maharashtra.
- Led partnership between the Vocational Education Department and Udhyam Foundation to include entrepreneurial thinking in the curriculum benefiting close to 140K students every year
- Devised framework for implementation of the state Intellectual Property Rights Support Scheme for Startups.
- Initiated and lead the impact assessment study for Startup Week 2018 and 2019 along with Centre for Technology, Innovation and Economic Research (CTIER)

COVID-19 Relief Efforts

- Facilitated donations of ~ INR 33cr to government hospitals across districts for COVID relief efforts as liaison with SBI Foundation, Capgemini, HT Parekh, CII, ESSAR, ATE Chandra Foundation, among other organizations.
- Streamlined daily patient data collection processes with MCGM War Room for 120 COVID facilities across Mumbai. Led adoption of tech platforms - Bed & Supplies Management App across all COVID facilities.
- Prepared recommendation reports for COVID relief measures undertaken in NMMC, capacity augmentation in govt hospitals, ambulance service improvement, patient triaging.
- Set up social media teams for the Medical Education and Drugs Department, and Cyber Cell for countering misinformation around COVID with more than 2 million average impressions per post.
- Collated and created daily dashboard reports for migrant transfers across Maharashtra,

Program Manager, Startup Incubator | Aug 2018 - 2019

riidl (Research Innovation Incubation Design Labs)

- Designed course, evaluation scheme, and launched Startup School India - program for aspiring entrepreneurs.
- Planned & executed a visit to innovation and incubation centers in China for the top 2 students of the program.
- Created innovation pipelines through Maker Mela, and Project-Based Learning for student innovators.
- Building Design Thinking Capacity in university, conducting workshops and joint programs with on-campus institutes and faculty members to imbibe the spirit of problem solving in curriculum and methods of teaching.

SELECTED AWARDS

- *First Runner-up, Samvad - Inter-college debate competition (2016)*
- *Winner, Gadflys - Inter-college quiz competition (2015)*
- *Winner, Somaiya Crucible - Intra-college quiz competition (2015)*

VOLUNTEERING

Investment Committee Member, Nidhi Prayas, riidl (Jan 2022 - Present)

- Part of a 7-membered investment committee to deploy seed capital in early-stage companies.

Operations and Strategy, Tinker Qubits (earlier Gyanada Foundation) (Nov 2021 - Present)

- Currently providing pro-bono advisory services to help with strategic partnerships, and refining the go-to-market, financial, and fundraising strategies for the NGO.

Fellow & Pro-bono advisor, Gyanada Foundation (Aug 2018 - Oct 2021)

- Taught underprivileged students from classes 7th and 8th - mathematical concepts, computer operations and programming on Scratch - block based visual programming language
- Designed curriculum for students in Phase 2 of the program to work on Raspberry Pi using Scratch.

Co-Founder, Green Teens

- Formed a team of 8 teenagers that organized plantations & awareness drives, nature walks, conservation march, campaigns for reducing plastic usage.