

Tarana Chauhan

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References: Christopher B. Barrett Brian M. Dillon Andrew Foster
Cornell University Cornell University Brown University
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Employment **Brown University** Providence (RI), USA
Postdoctoral Research Associate 2024 -

Education **Cornell University** Ithaca (NY), USA
Ph.D. Applied Economics and Management 2024
M.Sc. Applied Economics and Management 2022

Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai, India
M.A. Development Studies 2016
Thesis - Government Regulations in the Intermediate Public Transport sector: Study of a Metropolitan City

University of Delhi New Delhi, India
B.A. Economics 2014

Fields Applied Microeconomics (Development, Labor, Gender); Political economy

Job market Paper **[Agricultural Credit and Women's Agency: Experimental Evidence from India](#)**

(with Berber Kramer, Patrick Ward and Subhransu Pattanaik)

Women-focused programs aimed at increasing their income and agency are costly and difficult to implement. Evaluations of cash transfers and loans find that resources are often appropriated into assets and enterprises not controlled by women. We hypothesize that improving liquidity constraints for households increases household consumption and residual income for individual members, and improves women's welfare. We test this using a randomized provision of collateral-free loans to over 1,300 small and marginal farmers across 80 villages in India. Employing ANCOVA and IV estimations, we find that women in loan-receiving households report independent access to banking services through debit cards and mobile phones, and allocate more time towards leisure. The households increase ownership of productive capital and consumer durables in response to the program but there are no impacts on agricultural productivity or income. Although the program did not target women's financial autonomy or time use, it produced unintended positive effects, highlighting the potential for individual-level gains in household-level economic programs that do not increase the risk of resource appropriation.

Publication	Raghunathan, K., Kumar, N., Gupta, S., Chauhan, T. , Kohli, A. and Menon, P. (2023). “Learning together: Experimental evidence on the impact of group-based nutrition interventions in rural Bihar”. <i>World Development</i> , 168: 106267.
Working Papers	<p>Chauhan, T. (2025). Accounting for Empowerment? Examining Women’s Financial Inclusion in India. <i>Under review</i>.</p> <p>Women’s Agency and Intra-Household Efficiency (2025) with Carolina Castilla & David Murphy</p> <p>Chauhan, T. (2023). Extreme Temperature and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa</p> <p>Chauhan, T. (2022). Political incentives and flood recovery in India</p>
In progress	“Worker sorting and retention in Indian manufacturing” with Natasha Jha
Teaching experience	<p>Instructor (Brown University) Spring 2026, 2025</p> <p>ECON 1330: Gender and Development</p> <p>Co-instructor and Teaching Assistant (Cornell University) Summer 2024, 2023 & 2020; Fall 2021 & 2020</p> <p>AEM 2350: Introduction to the Economics of Development</p> <p>Course Assistant (Cornell University) Spring 2024</p> <p>AEM 6480: Food and Consumer Packaged Goods Industry Dynamics</p> <p>Visiting lecturer (Colgate University) Fall 2023</p> <p>ECON 443: Seminar in Policy Evaluation</p> <p>Guest Lecturer and Teaching Assistant (Cornell University) Fall 2023</p> <p>AEM 2600: Managerial Economics</p> <p>Teaching assistant (Cornell University) Spring 2023, Fall 2019</p> <p>AEM 4140: Behavioural Economics and Managerial Decisions</p>
Research experience	<p>Research Assistant for Carolina Castilla, Colgate University 2021-22</p> <p>Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) 2021</p> <p>Research Assistant for Christopher B. Barrett and Katie Fiorella, Cornell University 2020</p> <p>Graduate Research Assistant for Brian M. Dillon, Cornell University 2020</p> <p>Research Assistant for Vrinda Kadiyali, Cornell University 2019</p>
Past Employment	<p>Senior Research Analyst 1, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) 2016-18</p> <p>Consultant, Population Council Summer 2016</p> <p>Research Assistant, Centre for Policy Research Winter 2014</p> <p>Research Assistant, (Former) Planning Commission of India Summer 2013</p> <p>Research Assistant, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) Winter 2011</p>
Awards & Fellowships	<p>BIG Lab Mezzanine Grant (University of Notre Dame), USD 14, 560 (co-PI) 2025</p> <p>Amit Bhatia’01 Global PhD Research Scholar: Grant for International Field Research (Cornell University), USD 10,000 (PI) 2022-23</p> <p>Cornell University Fellowship Fall 2022</p>

GRA Fellowship (Cornell University)	2018, 2023
Adlerbert Graduate Assistantship	Summer 2021, 2022

Invited talks	‘Accounting for Empowerment? Examining Women’s Financial Inclusion in India’	
	Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore	2025
	Kania School of Management, University of Scranton	2024
	Colgate-Hamilton Economics Seminar, Colgate University	2023
	Economics Department Research Seminar, Lafayette College	2023

Conference Presentations

2024	North East Universities Development Consortium (Northeastern University); 19th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development (Indian Statistical Institute Delhi); Third Biennial Conference on Development (Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research); Eastern Economic Association Annual Conference
2023	European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (University of Manchester); Researcher Gathering hosted by Innovations for Poverty Action and Global Poverty Research Lab (Northwestern University); Agricultural & Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting Washington D.C.
2022	100 Years of Economic Development (Cornell University); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) International Conference Rome; AAEA Annual Meeting Anaheim; CSAE Conference on Economic Development in Africa; Pacific Conference for Development Economics (University of San Francisco)
2021	European Economic Association - Econometric Society European Meeting; Western Agricultural Economics Association Joint Annual Meeting; International Conference in Development Economics (University of Bordeaux)

Academic Service	Refereeing
	Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Population Economics; Review of Economics of the Household; Eastern Economic Journal; Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics; Economics of Education Review; Review of Social Economy

Mentoring

Research Assistants, Brown University

Megan Ball	2025
Yaxuan Shi (First placement - Altman Solon, Boston)	2024

Structural Transformation of African and Asian Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAAARS+) Fellows Program

2022-23
Peer mentor for Post Doctoral Research Fellows at the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research

Faculty adviser: David Stifel, Lafayette College

Peer Mentor for Undergraduate students, University of Delhi

2022
Mentored research study improving women’s menstrual hygiene in India
Faculty adviser: Christopher B. Barrett, Cornell University

	Reading Group for undergraduate students in India Spring 2023 Organized discussions on papers covering finance, industrial organization, health, gender and development topics Seminars promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusion <i>Panelist</i> , “Application and experience of post-graduation in the US”: Attended by over 200 students from University of Delhi February 2023 <i>Organizer</i> , “Seminar culture in Economics”: Panel discussion of female faculty and graduate students in Economics at Cornell University September 2021
Selected Workshops	GLO Virtual Young Scholars Program (GLO VirtYS) 2023-24 <i>Mentor</i> : José Alberto Molina, University of Zaragoza Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE) 2023-24 <i>Mentors</i> : Upasak Das, University of Manchester and Lelys Dinarte Diaz, The World Bank Everyday Adaptations to Climate Change Workshop, Sustainability and Development Initiative (University of Michigan) 2021 <i>Mentor</i> : Arun Agrawal, University of Michigan Successfully Navigating Economics PhD (CSWEP American Economic Association) 2020 <i>Mentors</i> : Victoria Baranov, University of Melbourne and Sarojini Hirshleifer, University of California Riverside Women in Economics (Boston University) 2020 <i>Mentor</i> : Pinar Keskin, Wellesley College
Skills	Software Python, STATA, MATLAB, R, QGIS, Google Earth Engine, Julia, SurveyCTO, ODK, CSPro Training Certifications Survey Design and Experimental Methods in Applied and Agricultural Economics (Arizona State University) 2021, 2020
Other	<i>Languages</i> : English (fluent), Hindi (native), French (beginner) <i>Citizenship</i> : Indian