

Payal Soneja

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Jan/2020 – **Co-Founder, SurveySights Research & Development, Delhi.**

- Present SurveySights specializes in field research by applying sector-agnostic expertise to facilitate data collection and management on the ground, and render solutions to critical challenges within the development sector.
- Lead SurveySights's initiatives to develop long-term growth strategies. Identify and catalyze opportunities for potential collaboration across India to improve data quality and survey workflows in primary research.
 - Oversee strategic planning, undertake review and analysis of innovation at the nexus of SurveySights's focus areas.
 - Develop, implement, and evaluate digital strategy in line with the vision. Spearhead content creation based on the organizational information through white papers and blogs to highlight research and impact.
 - Manage and execute projects, and establish goals and deadlines to monitor the progress.

Jan/2019 – **Research Manager, Tata Centre for Development at University of Chicago, Delhi.**

- May/2020 Led the implementation of a randomized controlled trial that examines the long-term effects of air pollution on the formation of human capital: Experimental Evidence from Delhi schools.
- Oversaw the research process from study design to data management, and providing technical oversight on key research activities.
 - Provided implementation and administrative support, financial oversight, grant and budget coordination, and ethics compliance for the evaluation .
 - Established and maintained stakeholder relationships in the government and non-profits; liaised with government officials for data and operational support.
 - Employed data extraction tools to scrape and consolidate data from administrative sources; investigate trends in pollution and education data. Used R to summarize and visualize trends on air pollution and education.
 - Led the project on multiple fronts; designing and implementing surveys, designing data collection and research management protocols to ensure study fidelity, and personnel recruitment and management.
 - Entrusted with the projectâŽs documentation process and composed technical reports including sampling procedure, training workshops and field reports.

Oct/2017 – **Research Associate, Urban Energy and Environment Lab, University of Chicago, Delhi.**

- Dec/2018 Led the on-field implementation of a randomized controlled trial that examines the impact of passive cooling technology in reducing heat stress in low income communities.
- Oversaw the implementation of the study, from field logistics to data collection and analysis. Ensured adherence of intervention to research design for smooth integration and timeliness of deliverables.
 - Coordinated and conducted training of field agents; monitored data collection activities, led a team of 15 field agents and liaised with them to resolve data issues.
 - Designed and piloted survey instruments on SurveyCTO, ran high frequency checks on raw data to ensure high quality of incoming data.
 - Used Stata to write well-documented, reproducible code for compiling and cleaning of electricity of consumption data, produced descriptive statistics, and ran regression analysis as per project needs. Used the same data from different time periods to determine trends over time.
 - Provided timely updates and progress reports to PI's and project partners.

Feb/2017 – **Research Assistant, Paris School of Economics, Paris.**

- June/2017
- Worked with Prof. Oliver Vanden Eynde on one of his projects that focused on confluence of civil conflict, economic development, and the role of the military and police in developing countries.
 - Cleaned and analyzed violence and survey data sets to perform statistical analyses and accuracy checks.
 - Researched existing literature to supplement new research. Built a panel data set that combines information on different caveats and dates of security transition ceremonies to study large-scale security transition from western troops to local actors in the context of the ongoing civil conflict in Afghanistan.

July/2016 - **Consultant**, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris.

- Nov/2016
- Co-authored a working paper on cross-country analysis to test the ‘doing well by doing good’ hypothesis and its impact on firm-level financial performance and labour productivity.
 - Contributed to the OECD Economic Survey of 2017 on the analysis of total factor productivity and misallocation in Mexico.
 - Built a panel data set on the determinants of labor productivity of firms in Mexico using firm-level databases such as Thomson Reuters, Orbis, and Bloomberg.
 - Tasks varied from conducting literature review to identifying and cleaning financial data from varied sources, and performing complex data analysis using statistical techniques and multivariate regression models to assess the link between labor productivity and firm’s financial performance.

EDUCATION

Aug/2014 – **Toulouse School of Economics**, Toulouse, France,

Sep/2016 M.Sc Economics, Majors in Public Policy and Development.

Recipient of Eiffel Excellence Scholarship by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to pursue higher studies in France.

Aug/2010 – **Amity University**, Noida, India,

Sep/2013 Bachelor of Arts in Economics.

PUBLICATIONS

Gabriel Mabel, Lenain Patrick, Mehrez Mirna, Reynaud Julien, Soneja Payal (April, 2017), “Doing well by doing good: The role of Mexico’s firms in achieving sustainable and inclusive growth”, *OECD Economics Department Working Papers*, No. 1383, OECD Publishing, Paris.

ACADEMIC PROJECTS

Aug/2019 – **Independent project, Air Pollution and Sentiments.**

Investigating the link between high air pollution levels and human sentiments. Used R to scrape and clean unstructured tweets, and perform sentiment analysis to find patterns and correlation between PM levels and sentiments of Delhi residents.

Sep/2015 – **Term Paper, Gender and Skill Composition in Migrants Remittances.**

Dec/2015 I estimated a gravity model to investigate the relationship between remittance flows and the gender and skill characteristics of the migrants by using annual data on bilateral migration and bi-lateral remittances between 20 OECD sending countries and 22 receiving countries from ECA over the period 2010-2012.

Dec/2014 – **Capstone Project, Applied Econometrics, Why US gives Aid?.**

March/2015 The project studied US’s strategic aid allocation behavior using panel regression analysis and difference-in-differences model on UN voting affinity and military expenditures of the recipients.

CORE COMPETENCIES AND SKILLS

Competencies A machine learning enthusiast with hands-on experience in primary and secondary research, strong analytical skills - worked with quantitative data using econometric methods, familiarity with impact evaluation, and sharp project management skills.

IT Skills Stata, R, Tableau

Other SurveyCTO, L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office, QGIS (Beginner)

Language **English** (Fluent), **French** (Beginner), **Hindi** (Native)

VOLUNTEERING AND SERVICE

March/2013 – **Volunteer, Teach for India**, Munirka, New Delhi.

Aug/2013 Volunteered as a teaching assistant to a class of Grade 3 underprivileged children in a government school run by NDMC in New Delhi. Assisted fellows in providing classroom support and organize extra-curricular workshops.

March/2013 – **Volunteer, Leaders for Tomorrow**, New Delhi.

Aug/2013 After-School Assistance volunteer program to work with children from underprivileged communities. Planning and execution of innovative and engaging lessons on a day to day basis for a cohort of 4 children aged 10-12 years.