

AYUSH SHAHI

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EDUCATION

YALE UNIVERSITY

M.A. International & Development Economics

New Haven, CT

August 2025 – May 2026

- Courses (grade): *Micro* (H), *Growth & Macro* (H), *Metrics* (H), *Economic History: Western Europe* (H).

ASHOKA UNIVERSITY

Post Graduate Diploma in Advanced Economics (4.0/4.0 CGPA)

Delhi, India

August 2024 – May 2025

- Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*. Awarded Economics Department **Merit Award** for securing 1st batch rank.

B.Sc. (Hons.) Economics & Finance (3.85/4.0 CGPA, 3.85/4.0 Major CGPA)

August 2021 – May 2024

- Graduated with *Magna Cum Laude* Latin Honors. Awarded **Dean's List** in all 6 semesters (SGPA \geq 3.65).

Summer Semester: London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE)

June – July 2023

- Attended the *International Economics* elective: **1 of 4** from 50+ international students to receive grade A+.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

ECONOMIC GROWTH CENTER | *PI: Prof. José-Antonio Espín-Sánchez*

Research Assistant

Yale University

November 2025 - Present

- Creating dataset on rebellions in 17th-20th century Latin America by scraping historical text sources using R.

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT | *PI: Prof. Ashwini Deshpande*

Research Assistant

Ashoka University

June 2024 – March 2025

- Collated, cleaned & visualized **10+** datasets for gender norms study on India in historical & global context.
- Visualized cross-caste heterogeneity using **3 datasets** with STATA for piece published in [The India Forum](#).
- Matched synonymous jati names for study on cross-jati religious variation with Prof. Rajesh Ramachandran.

GOOD BUSINESS LAB (GBL) | *Non-profit Labor Research Organization*

Research Intern

Bangalore, India

June – August 2024

- Supported data analysis for *Worker Diary* app intervention. Created *High Frequency Checks* for app data.
- Wrote STATA code to automate financial reports for **~40** workers in Kannada, saving **10+** hours of effort.

AWARDS & HONORS

- Inlaks Scholar** | *MA-IDE Yale University, The Inlaks Shvidasani Foundation* **June 2025**
 - Full-ride at Yale (~\$74,000) as recipient of scholarship awarded to exceptional young Indian graduates.
- Merit Award** | *Economics Department, Ashoka University* **May 2025**
 - Felicitated with Merit Award for securing **top rank** in the Advanced Economics diploma cohort.
- Best Paper Award** | *Paper Presentation Competition, Ramjas Economic Review* **February '24 & '25**
 - Our papers on orphans' health and UPI-crime link [won](#) **1st place** in consecutive years from **60+** entries.

PUBLICATIONS & PROJECTS (UNDERGRADUATE)

- Work in progress: Gender and Caste Norms.* With Ashwini Deshpande.
 - We explore heterogeneity in gender norms, caste norms, and how the two interact, across India.

- **Can Digital Payment Adoption Reduce Crime? Empirical Evidence from India.** With Hiba Hasan and Sahil Garud. *Ramjas Economic Review*, 7(1), 1-10. ISSN: 2582-6093 (Online).
 - We use **DiD** strategy to show evidence of falling economic crime in early UPI adopting Indian districts.
- **Can Orphanhood Explain Nutritional Disparities? Empirical Evidence from India.** With Rishika Jain. *HRC Journal of Economics and Finance*, 3(1), 25-47. ISSN: 2583-8814 (Online).
 - We use **NFHS-5 data** to show mechanisms responsible for disparities between orphans & non-orphans.
- **Culture, Institutions, and the Child Penalty: Empirical Evidence from Developing Countries.**
 - I use microdata from **~70** developing countries to show how policies and norms impact child penalty.
- **Ctrl+Aid+Delete: Regime-Contingent Effects of Foreign Aid on Internet Freedom.**
 - I provide evidence that foreign ‘internet’ aid does not improve internet freedom, across regime types.
- **In Delhi’s Bawana, This NGO Is Fighting Crime by Making Education Accessible.** With co-authors.
 - Our findings from **30+** interviews & analysis of student attendance & test scores published in *The Wire*.

NON-ACADEMIC INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

IDBI BANK LTD. | 9th Largest Indian Bank by Market Cap
Summer Treasury Intern

Mumbai, India
July – August 2023

- Reviewed monetary policy to prepare daily bulletin for **80+** Treasury officers & presented capstone [project](#).

ERNST & YOUNG (EY) | Global Strategy Consulting Division of ‘Big 4’ Firm
Summer Intern

Mumbai, India
June – August 2022

- Created *Excel* dashboard to collate insights from **10+** client expense datasets for *cost optimization project*.

POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Teaching Assistant | Department of Economics, Ashoka University

August – December 2024

- Supported grading for **40+ students** in Urban Economics (3000-level) course taught by Dr. Lalit Contractor.

Club President & Finance HoD | Social Impact Club, Ashoka University

March 2022 – December 2023

- Led **40+ member team** in holding events like field visits, sector talks, etc. and set up the club’s website.

Research Intern => Research Analyst | Centre for New Economic Studies

July 2022 – August 2023

- Published **3** Issues as [student journal](#) editorial member and assisted [qualitative study](#) at an NGO in Haryana.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Mentor | Bahujaan Economists

July 2025 - Present

- Mentoring students from marginalized backgrounds with their applications to economics masters abroad.

Student Mentor | Eklavya India Foundation

December 2024 – May 2025

- Supporting students from marginalized backgrounds with their application to Ashoka’s undergrad program.

Peer Mentor | Ashoka University Economics Society (AUES)

August 2023 – May 2025

- Dedicated **60+** hours in mentoring **~20** freshmen & sophomores on economics & extracurriculars at Ashoka.

SKILLS & STANDARDIZED TESTS

- **Technical Proficiency:** STATA [Proficient], R [Intermediate], Python [Basic], LaTeX Overleaf [Proficient]
- **Languages:** English [Proficient], Hindi [Native], Bhojpuri [Novice]
- **Standardized Tests:** GRE 334/340 (169 Quant; 165 Verbal)