

AYUSH SHAHI

Email: ayush.shahi@yale.edu | Mobile: +1 (315) 374-3767 | Website: <https://ayu-shahi.github.io/>

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

Yale University

Research Assistant

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

Ashoka University

Research Assistant

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

Bangalore, India

Research Intern

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 Shvildasani 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	Mumbai, India
Summer Treasury Intern	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	Mumbai, India
Summer Intern	June – August 2022
• Created <i>Excel</i> dashboard to collate insights from 10+ client expense datasets for <i>cost optimization project</i> .	

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 Bahujan 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)