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Education

- 2014 - 2020** Ph.D. in Economics, Georgetown University
M. A. in Economics, Georgetown University
- 2010 - 2012** M. A. in Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
- 2007 - 2010** B. A. (H) in Economics, Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi

Research Fields

Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics

Dissertation Committee: Garance Genicot, Shareen Joshi, Martin Ravallion

Awards

- 2019** Maloof Fellowship, Department of Economics, Georgetown University
- 2019** Conference Travel Grant, Georgetown University
- 2017** Summer Research Fellowship, Georgetown University
- 2014 - 2020** Graduate Scholarship, Georgetown University
- 2012** National Eligibility for Lectureship in Economics, University Grants Commission in India
- 2011** Krishna Raj Summer Research Fellowship, Delhi School of Economics

Teaching

- 2019, 2018,** *Head Teaching Assistant*, Georgetown University
- 2017** Poverty and Inequality (Undergraduate)
- 2015-2018** *Teaching Assistant*, Georgetown University
Senior Honor Thesis in Political Economy (Undergraduate)
Program Evaluation (Undergraduate)
Introduction to Econometrics (Undergraduate)
Econometrics (Graduate)

Publications

[*A Retrospective Impact Evaluation of the Tamil Nadu Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation \(Pudhu Vaazhvu\) Project*](#), The Journal of Development Studies, 51(9): 1210-1223 (with Nishtha Kochhar and Nethra Palaniswamy)

Job Market Paper

[*The Precocious Period: Impact of Early Menarche on School Enrollment in India*](#)

This paper studies the impact of early onset of menstruation (menarche) on school enrollment in India, where menarche has immense socio-cultural importance. Estimates based on a difference-in-differences model show that starting menses before age twelve decreases school enrollment by 13%. While understanding the role of menarche—a universal biological event for all women—in determining education is a critical end in itself, it also has implications for the effect of early nutrition on girls' well-being. Better-nourished girls typically reach menarche earlier, and if menarche impedes schooling, their gains due to better nutrition may be undercut. The effect of menarche on school enrollment is higher if girls live in communities with a low average perception of safety among children, or if they belong to social groups with restrictive gender norms. Therefore, policy responses to higher dropout rates among adolescent girls should address their safety concerns and challenge gender-based cultural norms. At the same time, dropout rates are lower in communities with higher expected wages for female-dominated professions. The findings of this paper indicate that it is the interaction between cultural norms and the local economic opportunities that drive female education.

Working Papers and Research in Progress

Does Marriage Market Respond to Natural Disasters? The Impact of Flooding of River Kosi in Bihar, India (with Nishtha Kochhar) [Draft available upon request]

[*The effect of direct facility financing, autonomy, community engagement, supervision, and performance-based payments in strengthening primary health care: a large scale quasi-experimental trial in Nigeria*](#) (with Eeshani Kandpal, Benjamin Loevinsohn, Elina Pradhan, Opeyemi Fadeyibi, Kevin McGee, Oluwale Odutolu, Gyorgy Bela Fritsche, Emmanuel Meribole, Christel MJ Vermeersch)

[*The intra-household allocation of children's time in four developing countries*](#) (with Milan Thomas)

Conference and Seminar Presentations

- 2019** WGD (VTech), MEA (St. Louis), WADES (CGD), SAGE (GWU), MWIEDC (UW, Madison), GCER (Georgetown), IDInsight (New Delhi), Brookings (New Delhi), Towson University, EMCON (UChicago), SDC (UM, Ann Arbor)
Upcoming: SEA (Fort Lauderdale)
- 2018** 2018: SDC (UM, Ann Arbor), SANEM-World Bank North America Discussion Forum (Washington DC)

Work Experience

- 2019** Research Assistant, Department of Economics, Georgetown University
Research Manager: Garance Genicot
- 2017 - 2018** Consultant, The Development Research Group, World Bank
Project Manager: Eeshani Kandpal
- 2016, 2012 - 2014** Consultant, The Development Research Group, World Bank
Project Manager: Vijayendra Rao
Social Observatory for Rural Livelihoods Projects in India

Professional Activities

Co-chair of Economics Graduate Student Organization, Georgetown University (2017-18)
Reviewer: Economic Development and Cultural Change, Journal of South Asian Development, Review of Labour Economics and Industrial Relations

Other Information

Computer Skills: Stata (Advanced), MS Office (Advanced), ArcGIS (Intermediate), LaTeX (Intermediate), Survey Solutions (Intermediate), Lives Saved Tool (Intermediate), R (Basic), CSPro (Basic)

Languages: English (Native), Hindi (Native), Punjabi (Spoken), Urdu (Spoken)

Field Work Experience: Chhattisgarh (India), Delhi (India), Haryana (India), Odisha (India), Rajasthan (India), Tamil Nadu (India), Uttar Pradesh (India), Campeche (Mexico)

Personal: Indian citizen on F1 (student) visa

References

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