

## Pratibha Gautam

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### EDUCATION

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**Harvard University, T.H. Chan School of Public Health**, Boston, MA May 2023

*Master of Science (SM) in Global Health and Population; Concentration: Health Economics*

Master's Thesis: *Feeding Minds and Fueling Futures: An Economic Evaluation of School Feeding Programs in Malawi*

**University of Massachusetts Lowell**, Lowell, MA May 2020

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Economics and Psychology, Honors

Thesis: *HIV Infections and Nightlight Luminosity*

### CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

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**Human Development Report Office, UNDP**, New York, NY Feb 2024 - Present

*Research Consultant*

- Research and Contributions to HDR 2025: Contribute to the content of the Human Development Report 2025, with a focus on harnessing digital transformation to advance human development. Conducting original analysis using household surveys, ITU data, and other sources to provide data-driven insights and policy recommendations with a focus on emerging inequalities and its implications on capabilities and agency.
- Consultations: Draft concept notes, prepare background papers, and document expert reflections to guide thematic explorations and inform HDR research and development.
- Outreach and Organizational Support: Engage with researchers and experts, participate in events to support outreach and advocacy efforts, and develop content and presentations for research dissemination.

**Nick Simons Institute**, Lalitpur, Nepal Sep 2022 – Sep 2023

*Consultant*

- Analyzed data from the Minimum Service Standards survey using Stata to assess the readiness of district hospitals in Nepal, identifying gaps and opportunities for improving the quality of hospital services.
- Collaborated with various stakeholders, including government officials, to craft white paper on the findings, and presented data-driven recommendations to the Ministry of Health with an overall vision guiding the development of the National Hospital Standardization System in Nepal.

**Curta Consulting**, Seattle, WA Jun 2020 - Jul 2021

*Research Analyst*

- Conducted health economics analyses by analyzing economic and healthcare data from various sources, including administrative claims databases, clinical trial data, and scientific literature. This supported cost-effectiveness analysis, indirect cost comparisons, and budget impact models for market access and commercialization, ultimately leading to FDA approval of two drugs (PADCEV and Ruxolitinib).
- Synthesized qualitative and quantitative information from various sources to draft studies, model descriptions, and visual presentations for clients in biopharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health**, Boston, MA June 2023 – Dec 2023

*Research Assistant*

Project: Impact Evaluation of Digitizing Payments for Polio Campaign Workers in Sub-Saharan African Regions

- Synthesized qualitative and quantitative information from various sources to craft a manuscript, supporting WHO AFRO's digitization initiatives, and informing broader health strategies.
- Analyzed survey responses, and digital payment records using Stata to evaluate the impact of digitizing health worker payments on worker satisfaction, and campaign effectiveness to understand the relationship between payments and key outcomes in the context of routine immunization.

**Brigham & Women's Hospital**, Boston, MA March 2022 – Oct 2023

*Research Assistant*

- Led research tasks, including manuscript submission, data collection, and quantitative and qualitative data analyses, literature review, emphasizing on improving health systems in low- and middle-income countries.

- Collaborated with the team in Nepal and cross-departmental colleagues on projects related to improving health systems and human resources in low- and middle-income countries, leading to co-authored publications such as "Novel on-site follow-up and enhancement program (FEP) improves knowledge, clinical skills..." and "Ulcerative Colitis in Low and Lower-Middle Income Countries: A Scoping Review".

**Center for Global Development, Washington, D.C.**

Feb 2023 - May 2023

*Research Assistant*

Project: Strategic Investment in Surveillance for Pandemic Preparedness: Rapid Review and Roundtable Discussion

- Reviewed and synthesized qualitative data from various academic sources to identify effective surveillance approaches for pandemic preparedness, focusing on cost-effectiveness and economic outcomes.
- Drafted, in partnership with a senior fellow, a policy paper outlining “best buy” intervention for pandemic preparedness and presented key findings and policy recommendations to diverse stakeholders, including officials from WHO, the World Bank, and other relevant organizations.

**Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, MA**

Feb 2022 – March 2023

*Research Assistant*

Project: Measuring the return on investment from school feeding programs in Malawi. (Funded by World Food Programme)

- Developed an economic evaluation model based on Extended Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (ECCA) framework to assess the value-for-money of school feeding programs. The model estimated the costs and benefits of school feeding programs across health, education, and social protection, disaggregated by socioeconomic status, sex and geographic location.
- Conducted data analysis using R, integrating household surveys and grey literature. Employed advanced techniques, including Monte Carlo simulation to address uncertainties arising from heterogeneity in inputs and highlight the equity implications of program impacts on diverse socioeconomic groups.
- Presented the findings to the Malawi government, the World Food Programme, and other stakeholders, advocating for the expansion of school feeding programs by highlighting substantial returns on investment, particularly for the poorest segment of the population.

**Social Changemakers & Innovators, Kathmandu, Nepal**

Sep 2020 - March 2022

*Research Associate*

Project: COVID response for socio-economic rehabilitation: Strengthening Maternal and Child Health through Integrated Nutrition and Livelihood Interventions

- Designed a survey to evaluate the program's short-term effectiveness in meeting the immediate health and nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating mothers and children. The survey also assessed the long-term impact of training provided to women for establishing sustainable agro-businesses, aimed at improving socio-economic outcomes for marginalized groups.

Project: Skills training to urban poor communities in Nepal: Interventions and Outcomes

- Collaborated with Authentic Leadership Institute Nepal to analyze the survey on impact of COVID-19 on urban poor communities.
- Created visual presentations for the local government, detailing the communities' socioeconomic status, including income sources, remittances, savings, debt, land ownership, and the overall impact of COVID-19 on their financial stability.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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- Verguet S, **Gautam P**, Ali I, Husain A, Meyer S, Burbano C, Lloyd-Evans E, Coco M, Mphangwe M, Saka A, Zelalem M. Investing in school systems: conceptualising returns on investment across the health, education and social protection sectors. *BMJ global health*. 2023 Dec 1;8(12):e012545.
- Thapa R, Nikolli K, McMahon D, Blakemore S, Tamang S, Bhatta S, **Gautam P**, Shrestha R, Rajbhandari R. Novel on-site follow-up and enhancement program (FEP) improves knowledge, clinical skills and enabling environment of skilled birth attendants in Nepal. *Plos one*. 2023 Aug 22;18(8):e0285653.
- Fan VY, Smitham E, Regan L, **Gautam P**, Norheim O, Guzman J, Glassman A. Strategic Investment in Surveillance for Pandemic Preparedness: Rapid Review and Roundtable Discussion. *Policy Papers*. 2023 Jun 20(298).
- Prajapati D, Bhandari N, **Gautam P**, Dhital R, Shrestha A. Coronary Artery Disease in Nepal: Current Perspective, Challenges, Need for National Practice Guidelines, and Potential Solution. *Kathmandu University Medical Journal*. 2022 Dec 31;20(4):505-13.
- **Gautam P**, Li BG. HIV infections and nightlight luminosity. *Economics Letters*. 2021 Jul 1;204:109887.