

ROHITHA EDARA

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EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University

Expected December 2024

Ph.D. in Educational Theory and Policy

Dual-title Ph.D. in Comparative and International Education

Michigan State University

Aug 2015 - May 2019

Master of Public Policy

Master of Science in Community Sustainability

Osmania University

Aug 2011 - May 2014

Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and Social Sciences (Political Science)

SKILLS

Data Analysis Software:	Stata, R (Including Spatial Data Analysis and rvest), SPSS
Quantitative Methods:	Panel Data and Causal Methods (especially, DiD and event study)
Survey Design & Analysis:	Qualtrics
Design and Media:	Adobe InDesign, Adobe Illustrator, and Avid Media Composer
Accessibility:	Adobe Professional
Languages:	English, French (Intermediate), Hindi, Telugu

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Dr. Erica Frankenberg, PSU

Aug 2023 - Present

- Assessing racial/ethnic segregation in Early Care and Education (ECE) classrooms and inequalities in the ECE teaching workforce
- Investigating center- and community-level mechanisms driving racial/ethnic inequalities in wages and health insurance benefits of ECE teachers

Research Assistant, Dr. Maithreyi Gopalan, PSU

Aug 2019 - May 2023

- Assisted Dr. Gopalan in conducting research on the effects of various health policies on educational outcomes in the U.S.

Research Intern, Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Jan 2019 - May 2019

- Conducted racial equity analysis by analyzing quantitative data to identify patterns of racial discrimination in levied charges, plea offers, court sentences, etc.

Research Assistant, Community Evaluation and Research Collaborative, MSU

Aug 2017 - May 2019

- Evaluated the local operations of a national, community-based effort by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to address historic and contemporary effects of racism, and advance racial equity
- Acted as the lead facilitator for focus groups, designed and administered in-person and online surveys (using Qualtrics), and analyzed qualitative and quantitative data (using SPSS)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, EDTHP 115: Education in American Society, PSU

Jan 2024 - May 2024

- Assisted Dr. Maryellen Schaub in class activities, conducted discussion groups, and graded assignments

Teaching Volunteer and Mentor, Make A Difference

Aug 2013 - June 2014

- Taught Cambridge English language curriculum to a small group of 4th and 5th grade students
- Mentored and assisted other teaching volunteers in curriculum planning; conducted de-briefs to resolve concerns and facilitate discussion on pedagogical improvement

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant, Writing Center, MSU

Aug 2015 - Aug 2017

- Coordinated operations at one undergraduate neighborhood, mentored undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students from various disciplines in refining writing projects
- Conducted research on promoting inclusion and diversity among the writing center clientele: designed surveys, conducted focus groups, and analyzed results

Education Support Fellow and Trainer, Make A Difference (NGO)

Aug 2014 - June 2015

- Led city operations of a pilot project to deliver education support to over 300 children in 7 shelter homes
- Recruited, trained, and managed around 250 volunteers to deliver Math, Science, and English education
- Collaborated with teams in 23 cities to design and implement the pilot project
- Led the city in conducting the highest number of classes and improving student scores

PUBLICATION

Gopalan, M., **Edara, R.** (2023). Health Policies as Education Policies? A Review of Causal Evidence and Mechanisms. *AERA Open*, 9, 23328584231177616.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Edara, R., Hollett, K. B., Frankenberg, E. (2024, March 14-16). *Investigating Mechanisms Contributing to Racial-Ethnic Disparities in Wages and Benefits of ECE Teachers*. Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference 2024. Baltimore, MD.

Edara, R. (2024, March 10-14). *Assessing the Impact of Private School Sector Growth on Caste-based Segregation in India*. Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Annual Conference 2024. Miami, FL.

Edara, R., Frankenberg, E., Hollett, K. B. (2023, November 3). *Racial/Ethnic Disparities in ECE Teaching Contexts*. Penn State College of Education Research Annual Conference. State College, PA.

Edara, R., Gopalan, M. (2023, March 23-25). *Assessing the Impact of India's Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 on Caste-based School Segregation*. Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference 2023. Denver, CO.

Edara, R. (2022, November 17-19). *Assessing the Extent and Scale of Caste-based School Segregation in India* [Student Research Presentation]. Association for Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference 2022. Washington, D.C.

GOPALAN, M., **Edara, R.** (2022, March 17-19). *Teacher Mindsets for Supporting Deeper Learning in High School* [Paper Presentation]. Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference 2022. Denver, CO.

Edara, R. (2022, March 17-19). *Analyzing Caste-based Disparities in School and Teacher Quality in India* [Poster Presentation]. Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference 2022. Denver, CO.

Edara, R. (2020, March 22-26). *Evaluating the Relative Effectiveness of Contract/Para-Teacher Programs in India and the Mechanisms Behind Their Impact* [Poster Presentation]. Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Annual Conference 2020. Miami, FL. [Cancelled]

PROJECTS

Doctoral Dissertation: Caste-based Inequalities and Segregation in Indian Schools

- First study in my dissertation assesses the extent, geographic scale, and patterns of caste-based school segregation in India
- Second study studies caste-based inequalities in the distribution of school inputs (such as infrastructural facilities, learning resources, and teacher qualifications)
- Third study assesses the impact of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 on school segregation using a difference-in-differences methodology

Master's Project: Implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015: A Child Care Institution (CCI) Perspective

- Identified the gap in childcare standards enforced by the Juvenile Justice Act and its implementation in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in India through interviews with administrators of CCIs
- The project was developed and conducted in collaboration with Guardians of Dreams, an NGO working to provide quality life outcomes for children in CCIs in India

Master's Project: Analysis of Food Security Measures and Policies in India

- Evaluated the efficiency and effectiveness of India's largest food transfer program, the Public Distribution System (PDS), in alleviating food insecurity

COMPETITIVE AWARDS

Participant, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS)-Howard/Mathematica	2023
Semi-finalist (for ClassCollab project), NittanyAI Challenge, Penn State University	2023
Learning Assistant Fellowship (Course: Policy Evaluation), MSU Master of Public Policy Program	2019
ICPSR Scholarship Recipient, MSU Master of Public Policy Program	2017 - 2018

SERVICE

Volunteer/Project Coordinator/President, Assoc. for India's Development-Penn State Chapter	2019 - 2022
English Project Teaching Volunteer and Mentor, Make A Difference (NGO)	2013 - 2014