



ROHITHA EDARA

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EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University (PSU)

Aug 2019 – Aug 2025

Ph.D. in Education Policy and Leadership

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

- My dissertation includes three studies on caste-based school segregation and inequalities using a novel dataset of public and private schools in India.
- The first two studies quantify the extent of caste-based segregation and analyze inequalities in the distribution of educational inputs (such as infrastructural facilities, learning resources, teacher qualifications, etc.).
- The third study uses a difference-in-differences (DiD) approach to evaluate the impact of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 on caste-based school segregation.

Michigan State University (MSU)

Aug 2015 – May 2019

Master of Public Policy

Master of Science in Community Sustainability

Graduate Specialization in International Development

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, Tableau
Quantitative Methods:	Regression analysis, Panel data methods, Causal econometric methods (especially difference-in-differences (DiD)), Spatial data analysis
Survey Design & Analysis:	Qualtrics
Design and Media:	Adobe InDesign, Adobe Illustrator
Languages:	English, French (Intermediate), Hindi, Telugu

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Dr. Erica Frankenberg, PSU

Aug 2023 – Aug 2025

- Assessed racial/ethnic segregation in Early Care and Education (ECE) classrooms and inequalities in the ECE teaching workforce
- Investigated 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

- Conducted a systematic review of the effects of various health policies and programs on children's and adolescents' educational outcomes in the U.S.
- Compiled and cleaned data from various sources including the Common Core of Data (CCD) and the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) survey

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 (Lansing) operations of a national, community-based program 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*

- Led weekly class activities, conducted discussion groups, and graded midterm and final papers.

Learning Assistant Fellow, PPL 806: Policy Evaluation, MSU*Jan 2019 – May 2019*

- Advised students on their program evaluation projects by reviewing assignments prior to submission; coordinated class activities and guest lectures

Teaching Volunteer and Mentor, Make A Difference (NGO)*Aug 2013 – June 2014*

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

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**Program Assistant, School of Public Policy, PSU***Aug 2024 – Aug 2025*

- Facilitated the year-long self-study process of the Master of Public Policy (MPP) program's accreditation with the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA)
- Collected, analyzed, and reported data on student achievement and career progress as well as metrics related to MPP program's implementation and evaluation procedures

Graduate Assistant, Writing Center, MSU*Aug 2016 – 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; collaborated in designing surveys and analyzing results

Education Support Fellow and Trainer, Make A Difference*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 co-design and implement the pilot project
- Led the city in conducting the highest number of classes and improving student scores

PUBLICATIONS

Edara, R., Hollett, K.B., Frankenberg, E. (2025). *Racial/Ethnic Composition and Segregation in ECE* [Research Report]. Center for Education and Civil Rights (CECR).

Edara, R., Hollett, K.B., Frankenberg, E. (2025). *Racial/Ethnic Inequalities in the Teaching Contexts of ECE Workforce* [Research Report]. Center for Education and Civil Rights (CECR).

Edara, R. (2025). Extent, patterns, and geographic scale of caste-based segregation in Indian schools. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 117, 103347. doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2025.103347

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

Cheatle, J., Pebbles, K., Sargent, A., Wansitler, C., Laws, A., Wahl, R., Carroll, M., & **Edara, R.** (2019). Creating a Research Culture in the Center. *The Writing Center Journal*, 37(2), 227–250.

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 (AEPF) 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., 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 (AEPF) 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 (AEPF) 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 (AEPF) 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]

COMPETITIVE AWARDS

Participant, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) - Howard/Mathematica	2023
Semi-finalist (acted as education expert for ClassCollab project), NittanyAI Challenge, PSU	2023
Scholarship Recipient, MSU Master of Public Policy Program	2017 – 2018

SERVICE

Reviewer, International Journal of Educational Development	2025
Treasurer, Comparative and International Education Student Association (CIESA), PSU	2023 – 2024
Volunteer/Project Coordinator/President, Assoc. for India's Development - PSU Chapter	2019 – 2022