

# ROHITHA EDARA

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## EDUCATION

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### **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

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

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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### **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

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### 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

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### 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

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

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**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

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### **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

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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

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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