

# Vedarshi Shastry

Work:  
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## Experience

*Short Term Consultant, World Bank (DIME), Washington, D.C., Feb 2023-Present*

- Research consultant at Development Impact Evaluation (DIME); on the World Food Programme (WFP)'s school-based programming window involving meal interventions in Burundi.
- Contributions to all stages of impact evaluation: research design, IRB approvals, policy briefs, programming surveys, data management, causal analysis, and power calculations/feasibility assessments.

*Research Associate / Analyst, Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, Jun 2021-Mar 2023*

- With Shilpa Aggarwal, on the impact of rural roads on market quantities, prices, and welfare distribution in India. Mapped road networks to markets to evaluate general equilibrium effects in a dyadic regression setup.
- With Aaditya Dar, on "Irrigation and the spatial pattern of local economic development in India". Used a regression discontinuity design to look at the effects of canals and dam construction on the long run growth of towns.
- Analyst at Bharti Institute of Public Policy, with Ashwini Chhatre. Managed a team of 10 interns, scraping governance data and curating policy briefs on 6 Centrally funded schemes by the Government of India.
- Digitised historical tables between 1951-1981 from the Census of India, and prepared long socio-economic panels of Census villages and towns between 1951-2011.
- Other projects involved building long panels from the World Bank Living Standard Measurement Surveys (LSMS).

*Teaching Assistant, Indian School of Business, Mohali, Apr-May 2022*

- Teaching assistant to Prof. Ashwini Chhatre for 'The Business of Food', a course discussing policy challenges and complexities in the food system.
- Responsibilities involved developing course outlines, grading coursework, discussion sessions, and co-ordinating academic logistics.

## Education

*M.A. in Economics, Ashoka University, India, 2021*

- Independent research study on "Inequality, Parental & Social Influence, and Institutions". This study proposes a model using inter-generational Markov chains to explain wealth inequalities arising from access to prestigious institutions.

B.Sc. in Economics, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, India, 2019

- Undergraduate thesis on 'Rationality in Keynesian p-Beauty Contests'. Simulated learning models using R, and collected primary data on rationality and learning through classroom experiments with over 100 undergraduate students.

## Work in Progress

*Farmers climate change perceptions and seed adaptations in Latin America* - with Vaibhav Chaudhary.  
Co-authoring primary research, under funding from CGIAR's climate change programme (CCAFS). Studying farmer-centric adaptations to agricultural inputs and practices under climate risk across the Andes' in Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia.

*Decomposing caste inequalities in healthcare utilisation and catastrophic expenditure in India*  
Estimating the incidence of 'catastrophic' healthcare expenditure (greater than or equal to 40% of the capacity to pay) in India. The study explores heterogeneity across caste groups using Blinder-Oaxaca decompositions to trace inequalities not attributable to statistical discrimination.

## Skills and Languages

Advanced: Stata, R, SurveyCTO/ODK, TeX, Linux/UNIX systems

Intermediate: Python, GIS

Basic: SQL, HTML/CSS, C/C++

Languages

Native: English, Hindi

A1: Spanish,

Basic: French, Marathi

## Software

**Stata packages.**

[india-bridge](#). Stata ado programs tracking administrative boundaries in India between 1951-2011.

[misc. \(stata-ado-personal\)](#). Miscellaneous functions/programs for automating tasks in Stata.

## Courses and Certifications

Manage Successful Field Research, Reproducible Research Fundamentals (2023)

*World Bank*

Real Analysis (2021), Graduate Macroeconomics (2022)

*Indian School of Business, Hyderabad*