

Vinitha Rachel Varghese (She/Her)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, Illinois USA
Ph.D. Candidate, Economics 2017 - (expected graduation year: 2023)
M.A Economics, 2019

United Nations University - WIDER, Helsinki, Finland
Visiting PhD Fellow, April - June, 2022

University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, Telangana, India
M.A Economics, 2013

St.Stephen's College, University of Delhi, Delhi, India
B.A (Hons.) Economics, 2010

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Impact Of School Consolidation On Enrollment and Achievement: Evidence From India”
I study the impact of school consolidation on enrollment and achievement, using its staggered roll out in the Indian state of Rajasthan. Across the years 2014, 2016 and 2017, Rajasthan merged many of its grade 1-5 schools to grade 6-10 schools to create grade 1-10 ‘model’ schools. 23% of the government schools got eliminated in the process. Media reports suggested that consolidation led to declining enrollment levels and teacher layoffs. Combining the government orders on consolidation and administrative data on schools, I rule out that consolidation had a negative impact on enrollment or number of teachers. I find that consolidation decreased the number of schools in a village by one, increased the proportion of children studying in a school with a principal by 0.1 and increased the number of teachers in a village by 0.7. I also find that consolidation increased school enrollment in a village by 2%, in particular girls’ enrollment by 2%. I further show that consolidation decreased the proportion of high scorers among grade 5 students by 0.08 and did not decrease the proportion of high scorers among grade 8 students by more than 0.02. School consolidation is a policy worth pursuing in contexts which are concerned about a large number of schools.

PUBLICATION

“The Impact Of An Adult Education Program On Mothers: Evidence From India”, with Ashwini Deshpande, Christopher Ksoll and Annemie Maertens at *Economic Development and Cultural Change*

WORKING PAPERS

“Impact Of Right To Education On School Enrollment Of Children With Disabilities: Evidence From India” at *UNU-WIDER Working Paper*

“Elementary Education In India Versus China: Guidelines For NEP Implementation” with Naveen Kumar at *UNU-WIDER Working Paper*

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, Illinois USA
Instructor (Evaluation score: 4.72/5)
Econometrics (Undergraduate)

Spring, 2022

	Statistics for Economics (Undergraduate)	Summer, 2019
	<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	
	Econometrics (Undergraduate)	Fall, 2021
	Econometrics II (Ph.D) and Behavioral Economics (Undergraduate)	Spring, 2019
	Econometrics I (Ph.D) and Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate)	Fall, 2018
	Statistics for Economics (Undergraduate)	Summer, 2018
	Introductory Microeconomics (Undergraduate)	Spring, 2018 and Fall, 2017
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<p>2022: AEFP; APPAM; Midwest Economics Association; Helsinki GSE; Canadian Economics Association; Aalto University, Helsinki; UNU-WIDER, Helsinki; Missouri Valley Economic Association Annual Conference; Economic Graduate Students' Conference, Washington University at St.Louis</p> <p>2021: Bavarian Young Economists' Meeting; Illinois Economics Association, Chicago; Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi, India</p> <p>2020: H2D2 at University of Michigan; AEFP; Western Illinois University</p> <p>2019: Illinois Economics Association, Chicago</p> <p>2018: Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi, India; Economic Graduate Students' Conference, Washington University at St.Louis; Illinois Economics Association, Chicago.</p> <p>2013: Crossland College, Brahmavar, Karnataka, India.</p> <p>2011: Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India.</p>	
FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS	<p>Mitch Krask Award for excellent performance in coursework and comprehensive exams, Department of Economics, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2019</p> <p>Graduate Winifred Geldard Memorial Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching, Department of Economics, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2018</p> <p>National eligibility test for lectureship of the University Grants Commission, India, 2013</p>	
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	<p>School of Public Health, University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, Illinois USA</p> <p><i>Research Assistant</i> 2019-2021</p> <p>Oxford Policy Management, Delhi, India</p> <p><i>Research Assistant</i> 2017</p> <p>International Food Policy Research Institute, Delhi, India</p> <p><i>Senior Research Assistant</i> 2016</p> <p>Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, India</p> <p><i>Research Assistant</i> 2014-2015</p> <p>Primary Education Needs & Community Initiated Learning (PENCIL), India</p> <p><i>Founder</i> Since 2013</p> <p>IILM Institute for Higher Education, Delhi, India</p> <p><i>Faculty Associate</i> 2010-2011</p>	
LEADERSHIP & SERVICE	<p>Co-organizer of PhD - Economics Virtual Seminar (PhD-EVS) Series 2021 - 2022</p> <p>Economics department representative at UIC Graduate Student Council 2019 - 2021</p> <p>Co-organizer of UIC Economics Department Graduate Student Seminars 2019 - 2020</p>	
PERSONAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country of Citizenship India Languages English, Malayalam (native), Hindi Computer skills STATA, R, Microsoft Office, LaTeX 	