

Sowmya Dhanaraj | sowmya@mse.ac.in

Madras School of Economics

<https://sites.google.com/view/sowmyadhanaraj/home?authuser=3>

EMPLOYMENT

- 07/2017 – Present Assistant Professor, Madras School of Economics
- 08/2017 – 10/2017 Visiting Scholar, United Nations University – World Institute of Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), Helsinki, Finland
- 08/2014 – 06/2017 Lecturer, Madras School of Economics
- 06/2014 – 07/2014 Project Officer, Department of Management of Studies, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras

HONORARY APPOINTMENT

- 10/2021 – Present Appointed as a member of the expert committee of the State planning commission, Government of Tamil Nadu set up to draft the state employment policy

EDUCATION

- 2010 – 2017 Ph.D. in Economics, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, India
- PhD Research Internship at UNU-WIDER, Helsinki, Finland (Apr-Jun 2013)
 - Recipient of Teaching/Research Assistantship from Reserve Bank of India for Doctoral studies (2010-2014)
- 2008 – 2010 M.S. (by Research) in Financial Economics, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, 2011
- Recipient of Half Time Research/Teaching Assistantship from Ministry of Human Resources and Development, Government of India (2008-2010)
- 2004 – 2008 B.E. (Hons.) in Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS) – Pilani, Goa Campus, 2008
- Recipient of merit scholarship (biannual) (2004-08) from BITS-Pilani Goa Campus
 - Recipient of merit scholarship (2004-08) for graduation studies from GRD School, Coimbatore for securing the 98.1% in higher secondary examination
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TEACHING – Courses taught (Student ratings in parantheses)

- Mathematical Statistics, 1st year MA Economics, (4.81/5)
- Econometrics, 1st year MA Economics (4.61/5)
- Applied Econometrics, 2nd year MA Economics, (4.45/5)
- Advanced Quantitative Methods & Applications, PGDM (Business Analytics/Finance) – 4.89/5
- Exploratory Data Analysis and Visualization (4.53/5)
- Probability Theory, 1st year PGDM (Business Analytics/Finance) (4.70/5)
- Statistical Modelling and Inference, PGDM (Business Analytics/Finance) (4.79/5)
- Applied Multivariate Statistics, PGDM (Business Analytics/Finance) (4.84/5)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Development Economics and Applied Microeconomics spanning domains of employment, mobility, health, education and gender

RESEARCH GRANTS

- Awarded Azim Premji University Research Funding Program 2020 grant to work on informal employment (jointly with Vidya Mahambare and Sankalp Sharma) in April 2021
- Awarded Emergent Ventures Grant from Mercatus Centre, George Mason University in Apr, 2020 to work on circular migration in India (jointly with Vidya Mahambare).
- Awarded travel research grant from Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) in January, 2020 to present a paper in the Australian Gender Economics Workshop, 2020

REFEREED ARTICLES (SELECTED)

- Dhanaraj, S., Mahambare, V. 2022. "Male Backlash and Female Guilt: Women's employment, gender identity and partner violence in urban India", *Feminist Economics*, 28:1, 170-198
- Dhanaraj, S., Mahambare, V. 2019. "Family structure, education, and women's employment in rural India", *World Development*, 115: 17-29
- Dhanaraj, S., Paul C.M., Gade, S. 2019 "Household income dynamics and investment in children: Evidence from India", *Education Economics*, 27(5): 507-520
- Narayanan, S., Dhanaraj, S. 2018. "Child Work and Schooling in rural north India: What do time use data say about tradeoffs and drivers of human capital investment?", *Indian Journal of Human Development*, 12(3): 378-400.
- Dhanaraj, S., Mahambare, V., Munjal, P. 2018. "From Income to Household Welfare: Lessons from refrigerator ownership in India", *Journal of Quantitative Economics*, 16: 573.
- Dhanaraj, S., 2016. "Effects of parental health shocks on children's schooling: Evidence from Andhra Pradesh, India", *International Journal of Educational Development*, 49: 115-125
- Dhanaraj, S., 2016. "Economic vulnerability to health shocks and coping strategies: evidence from Andhra Pradesh, India," *Health Policy and Planning*, 31 (6): 749-758.
- Dhanaraj, S., Gopalaswamy, A. K., Suresh Babu, M. 2013. "Dynamic interdependence between US and Asian markets: An empirical Study". *Journal of Financial Economic Policy*, 5(2), 220-237

REFEREED BOOK CHAPTERS

- "Women and work in urban India", jointly with Vidya Mahambare, in *India Development Report 2021*, Oxford University Press, Forthcoming
- "Tamil Nadu", book chapter in *Socioeconomic Profile of Rural India, Vol I: South India*, sponsored by Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussorie, jointly with Vidya Mahambare, Forthcoming
- "Women's empowerment: SDGs progress in urban India", book chapter in *Sustainable Development Goals: An Assessment of the Challenge Facing Urban India*, sponsored by Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) , jointly with Vidya Mahambare, Forthcoming
- "Employment trends in India (2004-05 to 2019-20): A shift-share analysis", in "*Indian Economy in the 21st Century - Essays for Professor V N Balasubramanyam (Baloo)*", jointly with Vidya Mahambare and Sankalp Sharma

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVISION

- “Travel mobility and women’s employment outcomes in urban India”, jointly with Vidya Mahambare, revised and resubmitted
- “Are India’s farm debt waivers an opportunistic political tool and how do they impact government finances?”, jointly with Vidya Mahambare and Pragati, revised and re-submitted
- “The role of city morphology, transport infrastructure and gender in commuting choice: Evidence from 3 metros” jointly with Vidya Mahambare, Sankalp Sharma, Anita Christopher and Madhumitha Srinivasan, under review
- “Do three-generational households invest less in children? Evidence from India”, jointly with Vidya Mahambare, Submitted
- “Do grandparents matter for schooling? The first evidence from rural India”, jointly with Vidya Mahambare, Submitted

WORK IN PROGRESS

- “Does the ‘plus’ component of conditional cash transfer work: Evidence from India on child health outcomes”, with Vibhu Jain and Vidya Mahambare
- “Female seclusion in India: A latent class analysis”, jointly with Vidya Mahambare and Sankalp Sharma
- “Role of institutions in firm innovation: Evidence from India”, jointly with Vidya Mahambare and Suresh Srinivasan
- “Life trajectories of women workers in a textile in south India”, jointly with Vidya Mahambare
- “The grandparents effect on children’s education investment: Evidence from rural India,” jointly with Vidya Mahambare
- “Sentiment analysis of budget speeches of India’s finance ministers: 1950-2020”, with Akash Gupta and Vidya Mahambare

OP-ED ARTICLES IN PRINT MEDIA

- “Modi govt schemes JSY, PMMVY work only if health workers do. See what data reveals”, (with Vidya Mahambare and Vibhu Jain), *The Print*, 21 Feb 2022
- “Setting the tone: Differences of sentiments in budget speeches” (with Vidya Mahambare and Akash Gupta), *The Mint*, 18 Jan 2022
- “Farm loan waivers are announced in election season. Karnataka worst offender”, (with Vidya Mahambare and Pragati Mitta), *The Print*, 6 Jan 2022
- “What unites Bihar and Kerala young men? It has to do with jobs”, (with Vidya Mahambare and Sankalp Sharma), *The Print*, 22 Nov 2021
- “Do young Indian women work? Gujarat tops single working women, among lowest in married”, (with Vidya Mahambare and Sankalp Sharma), *The Print*, 16 Nov 2021
- “India’s new employment policy ought to focus on young adults”, (with Vidya Mahambare and Sankalp Sharma), *The Mint*, 15 Nov 2021
- “Has crop insurance helped Indian farmers? Many don’t get payments on time” (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Print*, 28 Oct 2021
- “India’s productivity challenge is especially steep in service sectors” (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Mint*, 26 Oct 2021
- “The difference education makes to what salaried earn in India” (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Mint*, 21 Sep 2021
- “Shifts and stagnancy in the caste profile of our asset rich and poor” (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Mint*, 13 Sep 2021

- “Caste, income or mother? As primary schools reopen, we need to decide who gets extra support” (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Print*, 10 Sep 2021
- “TN unemployment due to skills mismatch” (with Vidya Mahambare and Sankalp Sharma), *The Hindu Business Line*, 4 Sep 2021
- “False notions of gender roles should be corrected early”, (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Mint*, 28 Jun 2021
- “Kerala's poor is UP's rich - how access to basic services varies in Indian states” (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Print*, 24 June 2021
- “The effect of a state's prosperity on disparity between groups”, (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Mint*, 14 Jun 2021
- “India's disadvantaged are better off but not nearly enough” (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Mint*, 8 Jun 2021
- “What owning a bike in Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Bihar tells us about India's asset poverty” (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Print*, 31 May 2021
- “A gender gap in ideals of weight reveals lack of progress” (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Mint*, 25 May 2021
- “Tamil Nadu left Punjab, Bengal far behind. Here's what it needs to do now” (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Print*, 31 Mar 2021.
- “Workers are moving off Indian farms, but where are they going?” (with Vidya Mahambare and Sankalp Sharma), *The Mint*, 25 Mar 2021.
- “Working women face more domestic violence” (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Hindu Business Line*, 5 Mar 2021.
- “Education levels of SC, ST, OBC rising. A new study looks at caste gap in jobs, income too” (with Vidya Mahambare and Sankalp Sharma), *The Print*, 9 Feb 2021
- “Manufacturing or high-tech? This is what India's most prosperous states focus on” (with Vidya Mahambare and Sankalp Sharma), *The Print*, 9 Feb 2021
- “In ‘progressive’ Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, only 1 in 5 young urban women in paid work” (with Vidya Mahambare and Sankalp Sharma), *The Print*, 27 Jan 2021
- “More young urban Indian men appear to be studying longer, not looking for jobs: New research,” (with Vidya Mahambare and Sankalp Sharma), *The Print*, 20 Jan 2021.
- “The gender divide in urban mobility”, (with Vidya Mahambare), *The Hindu Business Line*, 3rd Nov 2018.
- “With better and more accessible childcare, more women will join the workforce”, (with Vidya Mahambare), *Hindustan Times*, 14 Nov 2017.

CONFERENCE/ INVITED SEMINARS (SELECTED)

- 2021- 6th International conference on South Asian Economic Development, South Asian University, Delhi, Feb 2021, IIM-Bangalore seminar, March 2021, Department of Economics, Dr. MGR Educational & Research Institute internal seminar, Apr 2021; DSE Winter conference, Dec 2021, Annual conference on Economics and Public Policy, Jindal School for Government and Public Policy, Dec 2021, NCAER Learning @ Lunch Seminar, Jan 2022, NIPFP seminar, Feb 2022
- 2019-20 Australian Gender Economics Workshop, 2020 held in Brisbane, Australia; Musings on the 2019 Nobel Prize, PES University, Bengaluru, India, India Development Report 2020 Workshop, held in IGIDR, Mumbai, India National conference on “Democracy and Development – A social worker perspective” held in MSSW, Chennai

- 2017-18 UNU-WIDER conference on “Think WIDER- Think Development”, Helsinki, Finland, 4th International Conference on South Asian Development held in SAU, Delhi, India, 13th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development held in ISI Delhi, India, IEA-IGIDR international conference on social sector development in India, IGIDR, Mumbai, India
- 2014-16 Annual IGIDR-ISIK Doctoral Workshop held in IGIDR, Mumbai, India
UNU-WIDER conference on “Inequality- measurement, trends, impacts and policies” held in Helsinki, Finland, Invited seminar at MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, India, Joint NiDi-RUG Workshop in University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands
- 2011-13 Annual conference (2012) of Comparative Education Society of India (CESI) held in Jammu, India, Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA) Annual conference held in Jakarta, Indonesia, Annual conference (2011) of Comparative Education Society of India (CESI) held in Hyderabad, India

REFEREED FOR:

Oxford Development Studies (1), Review of Development Economics (1), The Journal of Development Studies (1), Gender and Society (1), Economic Analysis and Policy (1), Journal of International Development (1), International Journal of Educational Development (4), Journal of Quantitative Economics (2), Economics Bulletin (1), Frontiers in Public Health (1), International Journal of Health Economics and Management (1), Education Economics (1), Population Research and Policy Review (1), Arthaniti – Journal of Economy Theory and Practice (1), Asian Women (1)

DOCTORAL COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR:

Ashmy Tom, Madras School of Economics

Shresti Rawat, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research

Narbadeshwar Mishra, IFMR Business School, Krea University

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- PGDM Chairperson July 2020 Onwards
- MSE Seminar Coordinator 2018-20
- Faculty Coordinator, MA Programs, 2016-18

RESOURCE PERSON FOR:

- 03/2021: Advanced Econometric Analysis for Doctoral students of IFMR Business School, Krea University
- 02/2021: Research Methodology course for PhD scholars in Social Sciences organized by Bharathiar University
- 02/2021: Workshop Online Workshop in Research Methodology for MPhil, PhD and Postdoctoral Scholars in Social Sciences organized for Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS)
- 11/2020: Online workshop on Dynamic Panel data models for Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officers
- 10/2020: Online workshop on Advanced Econometric Analysis under Geospatial Mapping Project in International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS),
- 03/2020: Business Statistics and Research Methodology for officers of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India
- 12/2019: Economics for Young Leaders – Great Lakes and PS Senior Secondary School Management & Entrepreneurship Program for high school students

- 10/2018: Multivariate Statistics – Factor Analysis and Principal Component Analysis for Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officers
- 01/2018: Advanced Econometrics – Time series analysis for RBI officers
- 12/2017: Quantitative Methods Used in Early Warning Framework – Logit Regression Analysis for RBI officers
- 05/2017: Econometrics Workshop for PhD Scholars of Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai
- 03/2017: Advanced Panel data econometrics for RBI officers
- 02/2017: Time series econometrics for RBI officers
- 12/2016: Basic Statistics for RBI Officers
- 09/2016: Basic Econometrics and its applications for RBI Officers

REFERENCES

Available on request