

# Prerna Dokania

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## Professional Summary

Economist with strong analytical and empirical skills, specializing in education, labor markets, and behavioral economics. Eight years of research and data analysis experience across academic, industry, and policy settings, including consulting at the World Bank. Skilled in causal inference, econometric modeling tools, survey design, and program evaluations. Detail-oriented, collaborative, and a self-motivated professional.

## Education

Ph.D. Economics, George Washington University Washington, D.C., 2025  
Research Fields: Economics of education and Development economics, Experimental economics  
Dissertation Title: "Essays on Educational Outcomes"  
Dissertation Committee: Stephen Smith, Stephanie Cellini, Alessandra Fenizia, Elira Kuka  
M.A. Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi, 2016  
B.Sc. Economics (Honors), St. Xavier's College Kolkata, 2014

## Software Skills

Statistical data analysis: STATA, R, Python(basic), Ms. Excel  
Survey Mapping and Instruments: SurveyCTO, QGIS

## Work Experience

*Consultant, South Asia Education Team* *The World Bank, Dec 2024–Present*

Contribute to the design and implementation of a comprehensive survey of private schools in Pakistan to inform education investment decisions and public-private policy debates. (*est. outreach 100K+ students*)

Conduct data analysis on teacher competency and student learning outcomes from multiple rounds of provincial assessment data (60K+ students); frequent collaborations with government counterparts and technical teams to refine test instruments and ensure data quality and comparability between rounds.

Develop project deliverables; analytical presentations and time-sensitive summaries of empirical findings.

*Research Assistant* *George Washington University & Indian School of Business, 2018–2024*

Supported Professors Stephen Smith, Alessandra Fenizia, and Tarun Jain in literature reviews, data preparation, and econometric analysis on projects related to labor markets, gender, and social norms.

Co-designed and implemented lab-in-the-field experiments in India.

Prepared spatial datasets (night lights, migration indicators) using R and QGIS.

*Teaching Assistant* *George Washington University & Indian School of Business, 2019–2024*

Led weekly discussion sections (20+ students). Provided individualized academic support and feedback.  
*Courses:* Microeconomics I, Econometrics I, Intermediate Microeconomics, and Development Economics.

Mentored undergraduate students on research design, causal inference methods, and data visualization.

Developed innovative tutorial videos on core mathematical and econometric concepts to enhance student preparation and engagement; consistently received strong teaching evaluations

*Industry Experience*

*Lead Assistant Manager, Inductis Pvt. Ltd.* *2016–2017*

Built forecasting models to optimize staffing, cutting operational turnaround time by 30%.

Trained analysts and facilitated model integration across verticals, enhancing data-driven decision-making.

*Summer Financial Analyst, Nomura Financial Services* *2015*

Analyzed financial statements and industry trends to support live M&A projects.

## Research

*Working Papers*

[Incentivizing Professional Development in Early Childhood Education \(ECE\): Evidence from a Field Experiment](#) (Job Market Paper)

Effect of Seasonal Migration on Education Outcomes of 'Children Left Behind' (with K. Blanchard)

Math Remediation Course and its Impact on Undergraduate Outcomes (with K. Blanchard and I. Foster)

*Work-in-Progress*

What Teachers Know and Do: Linking Content Knowledge and Teaching Competencies to Student Outcomes (with S. Asad and A. Hasan), *World Bank*

Student–Teacher Gender and Caste Matching: Effects on Student Social-Emotional Learning Outcomes

*Non-Academic Writing*

[“Tracing Back the Memory Lane”](#) Sigur Center for Asian Studies Blog, GWU (2023)

[“India’s Path out of Learning Poverty”](#) Rising Powers Initiative Blog, GWU (2023)

## Awards & Fellowships

Postsecondary Equity and Economics Research (PEER) Project Summer Grant (\$7,000) 2024

Sigur Center Summer Research Grant, GWU (\$5,200) 2023

Roe L. Johns Student Travel Grant, AEFP (\$400) 2023, 2024

Summer school fellowship, Institute for Int’l Economic Policy, GWU (\$500) 2022

Robert M. Dunn, Jr. Memorial Award, GWU (\$3000) 2020-2023

Graduate Assistantship and University Fellowship, GWU	2019–2024
Best Teaching Assistant, Indian School of Business (INR 8000)	2021
Junior Research Fellowship, University Grants Commission (India)	2018

### Conference & Seminar Presentations

Southern Economic Association	2024
Global Labor Organization	2024
AEA-CEE Poster Session, ASSA	2024
Association for Education Finance and Policy	2023, 2024
Microeconomics Brown Bag and Development Tea, GWU	2023, 2024
International Atlantic Economics Society	2022

### Workshop Participation

Causal Inference Online Workshop, Scott Cunningham	2025
Reproducible Research, World Bank	2024
Managing Successful Field Research, World Bank	2023
Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (Mentee)	2023
Multidimensional Poverty Summer School, Oxford University	2022
Committee for the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (Mentee)	2021, 2022
Introduction to Python Programming, GWU	2020

### Professional and Volunteer Service

Journal Referee: <i>PLOS One</i> , <i>International Journal of Theoretical and Applied Papers on Economic Modelling</i>
Mentorship: Research guide to high schools students for economics projects (Polygence, 2024-25)
Leadership: Student Association for Graduate Economics (GWU, 2023); Placement Committee (JNU, 2015)
Non-Profit Volunteer: Pratham Foundation (2021), AnBryce Foundation (2019), Donate an Hour (2017)

### Additional Information

Citizenship: India
Permanent Residence: United States of America
Languages: English, Hindi(native), Bengali

## References

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