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EDUCATION

2017-2022	Ph.D. (Economics), Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
2015-2017	M.Phil. (Economics), Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
2013-2015	M.Sc. (Economics), Madras School of Economics, India
2010-2013	B.Sc. (Hons), Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi, India

EXPERIENCE

July 2025 – Present	Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India
April 2023 – July 2025	Senior Research Associate, Research & Statistics Unit at ASER, Pratham Education Foundation, India
May 2022 – March 2023	Post-Doc with Prof. Ricardo Sabates at REAL Centre, Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, UK and Senior Research Associate, Research & Statistics Unit at ASER, Pratham Education Foundation, India
Jan.- April 2022	Guest Faculty at USME, Delhi Technical University, India

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Development Economics, Economics of Education, Public Policy & Impact Evaluations

PUBLICATIONS

- Kumar, D., Sunder, N., Aysa, R. S., & Wadhwa, W. (2024). "Improving children's foundational learning through community-school participation: Experimental evidence from rural India". *Labour Economics*, 91, 102615.
- Tyagi, M., Kumar, D., Hussain, M. A., & Khan, M. T. (2025). "Flushed with success: How participation in social schemes influences toilet adoption in rural India". *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 57(2), 315–329.
- Kumar, D., Pratap, B., & Aggarwal, A. (2023). "Children's early foundational skills and education continuation in India: Heterogeneous analysis by caste, gender and location". *World Development Perspectives*, 30, 100502.
- Kumar, D., Padhi, D., Pratap, B., & Aggarwal, A. (2022). "Corporal punishment and praise in Indian schools: Caste-based heterogeneity on children's cognitive skills". *International Journal of Educational Development*, 89, 102554.
- Kumar, D., & Choudhury, P. K. (2021). "Do private schools really produce more learning than public schools in India? Accounting for students' school absenteeism and the time spent on homework". *International Journal of Educational Development*, 83, 102395.

- Kumar, D., & Choudhury, P. K. (2024). "Do parental resources reduce the gender gap in math for primary school-going children?" *Education 3-13*, 52(8), 1071-1088.
- Kumar, D., Pratap, B., & Aggarwal, A. (2022). Gender differences in students' progress from elementary to secondary education in India: Who are performing better? *Educational Research for Policy and Practice*, 21(2), 217-241.
- Kumar, D., & Choudhury, P. K. (2021). "Determinants of private school choice in India: All about the family backgrounds?" *Journal of School Choice*, 15(4), 576-602
- Kumar, D., Pratap, B., & Aggarwal, A. (2021). "Public trust in state governments in India: Who are more confident and what makes them confident about the government?" *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*, 6(2), 154-174.
- Kumar, D., Pratap, B., & Aggarwal, A. (2020). "Affirmative action in government jobs in India: Did the job reservation policy benefit disadvantaged groups?" *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 55(1), 145-160.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Banerji, R., & Kumar, D. (2025). "Evidence and Effective Interventions: What Do Studies Tell Us About Improving Learning Outcomes in India?" Forthcoming in "*Improving Learning Outcomes in Schools*" volume of the Human Development book series by Bharti Institute of Public Policy (ISB)
- Kumar, D. (2020). "Tracking the Progress of a Child from Enrolment to Completion of Secondary Education in India" in *Universal Secondary Education in India: Issues, Challenges and Prospects*, Springer Singapore.

WORKING PAPERS

- Patel, U., & Kumar, D. (2020). "The Indian energy divide: Dissecting inequalities in the energy transition towards LPG". *Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) Working Paper 401*
- Tyagi, M., Kumar, D., & Hussain, M. A. (2023). "STEMming the dowry tradition: Empowering girls in India". GMU Working Paper in Economics.
- Hussain, M. A., Tyagi, M., & Kumar, D. (2023). "Religious diversity and provision of public goods in rural India: Evidence from village level data". GMU Working Paper in Economics.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- "Leveraging remote interventions to support foundational learning in crisis: Experimental evidence from rural India", *UKFIET Conference*, University of Oxford, UK, 16 to 18th September 2025.
- "Improving children's foundational learning through community-school participation: Experimental evidence from rural India", *18th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development* at ISI Delhi, New Delhi, 18 - 20 December 2023.
- "Impact of interventions aimed at strengthening community engagement to raise children's foundational learning in India", *REAL Centre Seminar Series*, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, 8th November 2022.
- "The Indian Energy Divide: Dissecting inequalities in the energy transition towards LPG", *Environment for Development Initiative 14th Annual Meeting*, 16-20 Nov 2020.

- “Explaining Gender gap in the Employment and Earnings of Graduates in India: Evidence from PLFS Data”, 10th Annual International Conference 2019, organized by Comparative Education Society of India at JNU, New Delhi, 9-11 December 2019.
- “Vocational Education and Labour Market Outcomes in India: Evidences from NSSO Data”, International Conference on "Vocational Education in India and China: Sharing Experiences", organized by Institute for Chinese Studies at IIC, New Delhi, 23-24 January 2019.
- “Changing Pattern and Determinants of Household Expenditure on Higher Education by Courses of Study: Evidence from NSSO data”, National Seminar on Shifting Paradigms in Education Financing: Concerns on Quality, Equity and Employability at NIEPA, New Delhi, 13-14 Dec 2018.
- “Tracking the Progress of a Child from Enrolment to Completion of Secondary Education in India”, National Seminar on Universalization of Secondary Education at Centre for Social Development, New Delhi, 14-15 July 2018.

BLOG & OPINION ARTICLES

- “Youth’s digital readiness in rural India” (2025), published in [Ideas for India](#) (I4I)
- “Enhancing foundational learning through parent-teacher collaboration” (2025), published in [Ideas for India](#) (I4I)
- “Smartphone skills growing as digital divide gets bridged across rural India” (2025), published in [Asian Age](#) and [Deccan Chronicle](#)
- “Involving the community in raising children's foundational learning outcomes: Evidence from India” (2022), published at [UKFIET](#) & [PAL Network](#) platform

REFERENCES

- **Prof. Ricardo Sabates:** Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, UK
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- **Dr. Archana Aggarwal:** Faculty of Economics, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
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- **Dr. Rukmini Banerji:** Chief Executive Officer, Pratham Education Foundation
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