

My main research interest has been to study issues in health, education, household decision making, poverty and inequality. My current research focuses on the empirical examination of the determinants of health and education, two important aspects of human capital accumulation. Investments in human capital are positively associated with higher economic and non-economic gains in the future for individuals, the households and the economy at the aggregate level. Yet, large sections of populations in underdeveloped nations remain malnourished and uneducated.

I examine the long-term determinants of health and educational outcomes drawing upon micro-level evidence using data from Indonesia (Indonesian Family Life Survey) and Ethiopia (Ethiopian Rural Household Survey). In a separate paper, I also aim to examine the long-run effects of childhood malnutrition on schooling attainments and cognitive development. I am interested in outlining the role played by parents, households and communities in shaping the future of these children from poor nations.

While life expectancy rates have increased over the years, there is sudden fear that it will decrease in developed countries due to problems of obesity. I am interested in studying the role of the household and the community in reducing some of the long-term effects of obesity, particularly among children.

Good policy prescription relies on sound empirical work. My research uses reliable econometric techniques to address issues of omitted variable bias, measurement error in data and selection/attrition related concerns. I enjoy using econometric frameworks and modeling techniques for studying various interesting relationships.

I am keen on evaluating public and private health care programs, educational programs, and nutritional interventions that provide guidelines to governments for the purpose of making sound investments. I also plan to examine the impact of increasing inequality on health and education related outcomes. My research interests are further concerned with answering behavioral questions, such as who is a more effective decision maker – woman or man -- in a household and how does timing of events and shocks affect this decision making process. I am interested in using laboratory experiments to analyze such behavioral relationships.

My long-term plan includes collecting individual level data from India to examine behavioral relationships which bring out the decision making process in households. In particular, I want to address question such as: Who makes the consumption decision in a household as well as who chooses the amount allocated to health care needs, educational investments and savings.