SANDEEP YADAV

Assistant Director, National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development (NILERD)

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EDUCATION

Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai 2021–Present

Ph.D. (Development Studies)

Status: Synopsis Completed (April 2026); Degree Expected in 2026

Thesis Supervisor: Prof. S Chandrasekhar

Thesis Committee Members: Prof. Rajendra Vaidya and Prof. Tushar Agrawal

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 2019–2021

M.A. in Development and Labour Studies

Dissertation Topic: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): Assessment of 15 Years of its Implementation

Ewing Christian College, University of Allahabad, Prayagraj 2015–18

B.A. in Economics and Med. History

DOCTORAL RESEARCH

Thesis: Informal Enterprises in Developing Countries: Entrepreneurial Motives, Productivity & Measurement Issues

Chapter 1: Entrepreneurial Motives and Prior Occupation: Evidence from Informal Sector Enterprises in Asia

Examines how prior occupational experience is associated with entrepreneurial motives among informal sector entrepreneurs across four major Asian economies - Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, and Indonesia - using the World Bank Informal Sector Enterprise Survey (2022–24). Departing from the conventional binary of opportunity versus necessity-driven entrepreneurship, the chapter finds that most entrepreneurs report a combination of opportunity and necessity as reason to start a business. Prior self-employment experience is associated with substantially more opportunity-driven entry. Among those who transitioned from wage employment, those who remained in the same type of business activity were significantly less likely to report necessity-related motives than those who switched activity upon entry. Similarly, those who did not change the type of business activity in the successive self-employment were less likely to cite necessity as a reason to start the business. Together these results indicate that domain-specific human capital, rather than general entrepreneurial experience, accumulates and improves alertness to opportunity recognition.

Chapter 2: Spatial Differences in Productivity of Informal Enterprises in India: A Decomposition Analysis across the Settlement Hierarchy

Investigates spatial variation in the productivity of informal enterprises across India's rural–urban settlement hierarchy using the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) 2022–23. Consistent with agglomeration theory, mean productivity rises with settlement size, confirming that informal enterprises benefit from urban scale and density. However, between-location differences account for less than eight percent of total inequality in log productivity per worker, indicating that spatial differences are not the primary driver of overall dispersion. In the regression-based decomposition, gender of ownership emerges as the single largest identifiable contributor to productivity inequality, exceeding the combined contribution of all spatial variables. Female-headed enterprises exhibit substantially lower mean productivity and higher variance than male-headed enterprises across every settlement category.

Chapter 3: Measuring Returns on Assets of Unincorporated Household Enterprises in India

Estimates the sensitivity of Return on Assets for Indian household enterprises to alternative definitions of income and assets, using ASUSE 2022–23 and the Unincorporated Non-Agricultural Enterprises Survey 2015–16. The chapter finds that the choice of income definition matters considerably more than the choice of asset definition. The largest sources of sensitivity arise from the inclusion of gifts and transfers from other households and the government (2022–23), and utility expenses (2015–16). Notably, the ranking of definitional sensitivities is unstable across the two survey rounds. These findings point to the need for greater standardisation in enterprise survey design.

TEACHING ASSISTANT/RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Research Assistant to Dr. Sargam Gupta
Macroeconomics I July 2022–July 2024

Research Assistant to Prof. Jayati Sarkar
Institutional Economics August 2024–December 2024

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Sarat Kumar Malik
Corporate Credit and Risk Appraisal January 2025–July 2025

Teaching and Research Assistant to Prof. S Chandrasekhar
Indian Economy August 2025–July 2026

Lectures/Hands-on Sessions for Prof. S Chandrasekhar August 2024–July 2026
Indian Economy: Self-Employment and Informal Sector; Entrepreneurial Opportunity Identification and Development–Concept, Measurement, and Correlates Indian Economy: Hands-On Session for Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises using STATA.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

Papers Presented

- Effect of Enforcement of Labour Regulations on the Provision of On-The-Job Training by Firms, at Towards Industrial Transformation of India: Opportunities and Policy Lessons for building a Competitive Manufacturing, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi; October 2023 (Received travel and accommodation grant from ISID)
- The Role of Labour Regulations in Firms' Human Capital Investments: Evidence from Developing World, at 5th Annual Conference, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat; January 2024
- Prior Occupation as a Determinant of Entrepreneurial Motives in the Informal Sector: Evidence from Developing Economies, at 65th Annual Conference, Indian Society of Labour Economics, Bengaluru, Karnataka; January 2025
- Measuring Returns on Assets of Household Enterprises in India, at Emerging Trends in Economics and Finance, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Goa and Indian Institute of Technology Goa; March 2026

Discussant

- Effects of Backward GVC Participation on Labor Market: Micro-Level Evidence from India by Deepali Gupta, at 5th Annual Conference, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat; January 2024

Workshop

- Virtual Training Program on Quantitative Tools for Economic and Policy Research, Organised by Asian Development Bank, September 2024

SKILLS

Software and Programming Languages: STATA, Python, LaTeX, MS Office
Languages: Hindi (Native), English (Fluent)

REFERENCES

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