

CURRICULUM VITAE

Ramakrishna Sharan Mamidipudi (M R Sharan)

I have read the following and certify that this curriculum vitae is a current and accurate statement of my professional record.

Signature _____

Date March 2nd, 2026

M.R. SHARAN

<https://mrsharan.com>

sharan@umd.edu

Date of Birth: April 11th, 1984

Citizenship: Indian

Employment

Assistant Professor, University of Maryland

Jan 2021-

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center for Global Development

Research Associate, JPAL South Asia

Research Assistant, International Growth Center

July 2020 - Dec 2020

June 2012 – October 2013

April 2011 – April 2012

Education

PhD, Harvard University

2014-2020

Thesis Title: “Essays in Development Economics and Political Economy”

M. A., Delhi School of Economics

B. A. (Hons), Hans Raj College, Delhi University

2009-2011

2006-2009

Classes Taught

AREC 869: Political Economy of Development

AREC 365: World Hunger, Population and Food Supplies

AREC 370: From Poverty to Progress: India’s Political Economy in Transition

Published Research Papers

“Women Political Leaders, Corruption, and Learning: Evidence from a Large Public Program in India”
(with Farzana Afridi and Vegard Iversen, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 66(1), pp.1-30.)

“Learning to Govern: The Impact of Politicians’ Peer Networks” (with Apurva Bamezai, Siddharth George and Siddharth Hari, *Accepted under the Phase-1 Pre-Results Track at the Journal of Development Economics*)

Book Chapter

Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Democracies: A Review of Panchayati Raj in India (with Siddharth George and Vijayendra Rao), *Forthcoming at the Cambridge Companion to Indian Politics and Society*

Working Papers

“(When) Do Politicians Govern Better than Bureaucrats? Evidence from a Natural Experiment in India” (with Abhishek Arora, Siddharth George, Vijayendra Rao), **Reject and Resubmit, American Economic Review**

“It’s Complicated: The Distributional Consequences of Political Reservation” (with Chinmaya Kumar)
Revise and Resubmit, Journal of European Economic Association

“Something To Complain About: How Minority Representatives Overcome Ethnic Differences”,
(with Chinmaya Kumar), Submitted

“Who Becomes a Politician? Evidence from India” (with Apurva Bamezai, Siddharth George, Borui Sun)

The Impact of Women’s Self-Help Groups on Electoral Participation: Evidence from India (with Iman Sen)
Submitted

“Collective Action and Public Service Delivery: Experimental Evidence from a Social Movement in India.” (with Niharika Singh)

“Who, Not How Many: Local Council Design and Workfare Delivery in Rural India” (with Siddharth George and Nandini Gupta)

Papers in Preparation

Targeting the Ultra-Poor: An evaluation of a government scale-up (with Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, Jyoti Mukhopadhyay and Shagun Sabharwal)

“Affirmative Action, Attitudes and Social Networks: Evidence from Caste-Based Reservation in India” (with Emily Breza and Arun Chandrashekhar)

“The General Equilibrium Effects of Affirmative Action in Public Service” (with Siddharth George and Shivani Pandey)

“Local Taxation and Development Outcomes” (with Abhishek Arora, Siddharth George, Vijayendra Rao)

Estimating Covid Mortality in Bihar (with Apurva Bamezai, Aashish Gupta and Harsha Thirumurthy)

Other Research Papers

Making the Bihar Caste Census Better, The India Forum, April 2023

Dispute Resolution mechanisms in Bihar (with Sabyasachi Das), Seminar, Feb 2023

“The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Rajasthan: Rationed Funds and their allocation across villages” (with Himanshu and Abhiroop Mukhopadhyay), Economic and Political Weekly, 2015

“Identifying BPL Households: A Comparison of Competing Approaches”, Economic and Political Weekly, 2011, pp.256-262

Public Writings

Bihar’s unrealised potential, The Hindu, Dec 2025 (with Munish Sharma)

Bihar’s got bijli, sadak and pani now, but it’s still missing foundation for prosperity, Indian Express, Oct 2025

Census that has to be more than a headcount, The Hindustan Times, Jul 2025

Nitish Kumar’s survey and history of caste churn in Bihar, Indian Express, Oct 2023

Caste data’s benefits and risks may be overblown, Hindustan Times, Aug 2023

Why we need the Bihar caste census (with M V Swaroop), July 2023

What we don't understand about prohibition in Bihar: It's popular, Dec 2022

Accurate Caste Data Can Propel Progress, Hindustan Times, July 2022

What the Bihar Model Got Right and Where it Missed the Mark, Times of India, Nov 2020.

How Caste Equations Continue to Shape Bihar's Economic Fortunes, Outlook, December 2021.

The particulars of social policy in India: Evidence, State capacity, and policy design (with Apurva Bamezai), Ideas for India, Sep 2018

[Secular Hymns](#), *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 53, Issue No. 47, 01 Dec, 2018

[Remembering and Forgetting in Bihar](#), *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 53, Issue No. 39, 29 Sep, 2018.

Book

Last Among Equals: Power, Caste and Politics in Bihar's Villages, Context, 2021.

Novel

Blue, HarperCollins, 2014.

Grants and Fellowships:

2025-26	Gates Foundation Bridge Grant	\$20,000
2025-26	Notre Dame University Kellogg Institute (with Niharika Singh [University of Notre Dame])	\$20,000
2024-25	ISLA Large Research Grant (with Niharika Singh [University of Notre Dame])	\$20,000
2024-25	BIG Lab's Mezzanine Grant Award (with Niharika Singh [University of Notre Dame])	\$40,000
2024-25	World Bank Research Funding (with Siddharth George [NUS, Singapore] and Vijayendra Rao [World Bank])	\$50,000
2023-24	Ford Program Faculty Research Award (with Niharika Singh [UND])	\$25,000
2023-24	The International Growth Centre (with Apurva Bamezai [UPenn], Siddharth George [NUS], Siddharth Hari [World Bank])	\$82,000
2023-24	Gates Foundation	\$250,000
2022-23	J-PAL Governance Initiative	\$75,000
2022-23	J-PAL Governance Initiative	\$169,510
2022-23	INCITE Grant (with Niharika Singh [UND])	\$19,600
2022-23	Weiss Fund (with Apurva Bamezai [UPenn], Siddharth George [NUS], Siddharth Hari [World Bank])	\$93,427
2022-23	World Bank Research Funding (with Siddharth George [NUS, Singapore] and Vijayendra Rao [World Bank])	\$100,000
2021-22	UPIASI CSR Funding (with Apurva Bamezai (UPenn), Aashish Gupta (Harvard) and Harsha Thirumurthy (UPenn))	INR 4000000
2021-22	Georgetown University Small Grant (with Rajesh Veeraraghavan [Georgetown] and Iman Sen [University of Maryland])	\$21,000

2021-22	Marshall Foundation Grant	\$21,050
2021-22	World Bank Research Funding (with Siddharth George [NUS, Singapore] and Vijayendra Rao [World Bank])	\$180,000
2020-21	The Weiss Fund (IPG 2020)	\$22,000
2019-20	Warburg Fellowship (with Emily Breza [Harvard] and Arun Chandrashekhkar [Stanford])	\$7,500
2018-19	The Weiss Fund (with Chinmaya Kumar [University of Chicago])	\$31,385
2018-20	The Weiss Fund (with Emily Breza [Harvard] and Arun Chandrashekhkar [Stanford])	\$69,810
2018-20	Rockefeller Grant for Technology and Governance (through the IDFC Institute, Mumbai)	\$300,000
2015-16	JPAL GI Travel/Proposal Grant	\$4,500
2014-15	GSAS Fellowship in honor of Amartya Sen	

Research Experience during PhD:

2018-19	IDFC Institute, Senior Research Associate
2016-17	Economist, Office of the Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Professional Activities

Referee

American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, American Economic Journal: Applied, American Economic Review: Insights, American Economic Journal: Policy, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Public Economics, Economic Development and Culture Change, Journal of Politics, Journal of Development Studies

Seminars/Conference Talks

Indian Statistical Institute (2025), NEUDC (Tufts University, 2025). American University Seminar Series (2025), NLSIU Bangalore (2025), SNU Mahabalipuram (2025); IIM Bangalore (2025), IIT Delhi (2025), Azim Premji University (2024/25), National University of Singapore (2024), Georgetown University Economics Seminar Series (2024), World Bank DEC Seminar (2024), NEUDC (Tufts 2025. Harvard University 2023, Northwestern 2019), MWIEDC (University of Chicago 2024), UCSD India Seminar Series (2023), Indian Statistical Institute (2023), Delhi School of Economics (2023), Paris School of Economics (2023), Ashoka University (2022), Centre de Sciences Humaines (2022), IFPRI (2022), John's Hopkins SAIS (2022), NEUDC (2019), ISI Delhi Conference (2018, 2019, 2021), The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute (Harvard)

Media Appearances

NDTV India, Scroll.in, Newslaundry

Languages

English, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi