

Curriculum Vitae

Uttam Sharma

House No. 31, Bhadrakali Basti
Hepali Height, Budhanilkantha-7
PO Box 4201
Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: +9779849243809
E-mail: uttamsharma@gmail.com
Nationality: Nepalese

Education

- Ph.D.** Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, USA January 2012
Field of Study: Development and Trade Economics
- M.A.** Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, USA August 2005
M.A. paper: Identifying Determinants of Corruption
- B.A.** Economics, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, USA May 2002
Senior Thesis: Understanding Determinants of Poverty

Dissertation

Title: Essays on the Economics of Education in Developing Countries
Essay 1: Can Computers Increase Human Capital in Developing Countries?
An Evaluation of Nepal's One Laptop per Child Program
Essay 2: Public and Private Schools in Nepal –A Comparative Perspective
Advisers: Professors Paul Glewwe and Deborah Levison
Committee members (alphabetical): David Chapman, Paul Glewwe, Quiqiong Huang,
Deborah Levison, and C. Ford Runge

Posts held

Research Scientist —Institute for Social and Environmental Research—Nepal, Fulbari, Nepal
August 2017- Present

- Currently, working on a project entitled "Improving Learning: Developing Measures of Accountability and Evaluating their Association with Student's Gains in Achievement in Nepal" funded by UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), UK.
- Working on research projects related to education, migration and other development related issues in coordination with the University of Michigan, USA.

Education Economist (Consultant) —Asian Development Bank, Manilla, Philippines

June 2019- November 2020

- Designed and supervised the study on Out of School Children (OOSC) where children from 6400 households across Bangladesh were surveyed and assessed using Early Grade Reading Assessment and Early Grade Math Assessment (EGRA and EGMA) type items.
- Designed and supervised the evaluation study on phone-based tutoring and tablets with digital contents to Out of School Children in Bangladesh.
- Actively involved in designing low-tech intervention to improve learning outcomes for primary school students

- Conducted *ex post* Economic and Financial Analysis for Teaching Quality Index II (TQI II) in Bangladesh.
- Contributing in the preparation of a report to assess teachers' teaching practices, and designing platforms for teachers' continuous professional development.

Consultant, Education—Global Practice, South Asia Region, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., USA

November 2014- June 2021

- Contributing as a core team member that is preparing the Global Partnership for Education Additional Financing in Bangladesh; tasked with discussions on institutionalizing national student assessments, designing Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs), and supporting background analysis for the Early Childhood Education subcomponent.
- Assisting in the set-up of the Bangladesh COVID-19 School Sector Response Project M&E unit, and conduct an analysis on learning loss from COVID-19
- Provided operational and analytical support to Bangladesh's Reaching Out of School Children (ROSC) Phase II, Primary Education Development Program (PEDP) III and IV, Secondary Education Quality, Access Enhancement Project (SEQAEP), Secondary Education Development Program (SEDP) and Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP), and Nepal's Enhanced Vocational Education and Training II (EVENT II) and School Sector Development Program (SSDP).
- Provided technical support to implement Urban Slums Children Education and pre-vocational training pilots in Bangladesh.
- Actively participated in the Midterm Review (MTR) process for Reaching Out of School Children (ROSC II), where I led the preparation for scaled-up plans for Urban Slums Children Education and pre-vocational training sub-components.
- Supported the government to carry out pro-poor Proxy Means Testing validation, compliance verification activities and tracer study for stipend recipients under SEQAEP.
- Acted as a point person to carry out student learning assessments under PEDP III, SEQAEP and SEDP in Bangladesh.
- Conducted *ex ante* and *ex post* economic and financial analyses of the PEDP IV and PEDP III program, respectively.
- Supported the team in dialogue with the government and development partners on supporting out of school children, institutionalizing learning assessments, and while conducting economic analysis for primary education, all in Bangladesh.
- Contributed as a co-author of the studies on Public Expenditure Review in Education, Early Childhood Education, Higher Education and learning outcomes in Bangladesh.
- Led studies, including designing and supervising fieldworks, to identify skill needs of migrant workers in Nepal and recognizing prior learning under STEP.

Consultant, Education—Myanmar Education Global Practice, The World Bank, Yangon, Myanmar

July 2020- June 2021

- Supporting the capacity development of Ministry of Education in quantitative analysis; led workshops
- Analyzing the EGRA/EGMA data to feed into the impact evaluation report

Co-Principal Investigator for Nepal Education Study, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, USA

April 2016- September 2016, May 2017-January 2020

- Involved as a Co-Principal Investigator to evaluate teacher training intervention within Nepal's School Sector Development Plan (SSDP) under International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)'s policy window by closely working with senior officials

from the National Planning Commission, Ministry of Education, Department of Education, Development Partners and other stakeholders;

- Conducted policy dialogue with diverse group of stakeholders, including central and local level government officials, international organizations and civil society representatives.
- Led impact evaluation workshop for researchers, practitioners and government officials.
- Supervised and mentored Research Assistants involved in the study.

Co-Principal Investigator (Researcher), School of Economics, University of Sydney, Australia

July 2015- April 2019

- Involved as Co-PI in evaluating the impact of training for Banana farmers in Kenya under International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) grant and a study on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) use by farmers in Bangladesh, India and Nepal under Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) grant.
- Supervised and mentored Research Assistants involved in this study.
- Led impact evaluation workshop for researchers, practitioners and university students in Nairbori, Kenya.

Co-Principal Investigator for Uganda Policy Window (Universal Primary Education), Measure Africa Uganda, Kampala, Uganda

September 2016- March 2017, July 2017-June 2018

- Involved as a lead technical person to evaluate the impact of School Facilities Grant (SFG) under International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)'s policy window by closely working with senior officials from the Office of Prime Minister, Ministry of Education and Sports, and other stakeholders.

Postdoctoral Fellow in Development Economics, School of Economics and Dept. of Agriculture and Resource Economics, University of Sydney, Australia

January 2012- December 2014

- Involved in assessing vocational and entrepreneurship skills training in Nepal
- Researched on the viability of a new microfinance arrangement in Bangladesh.
- Conducted groundwork to evaluate the impact of training for Banana farmers in Kenya.

Instructor for Research Methods Course, College of Economics, Hue University, Vietnam

October 2014

- Taught a two-week long course for undergraduate students on research methods that covered topics such as randomized control trial, difference-in-difference, propensity score matching, and regression discontinuity.

Consultant, Poverty--GP and Poverty Reduction and Equity, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., USA

March 2014- June 2014, October-November 2014

- Assisted in preparing questionnaire and conducting survey for the research on perceptions of poverty, prosperity and economic mobility in Nepal.

Impact Evaluation Consultant, Poverty and Gender Group, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nairobi, Kenya

October 2011, July-August 2012

- Reviewed data collection and sampling protocols for baseline studies for the Dairy Goat and Root Crop Production Tanzania project, and implemented the sampling protocol on the ground; played a lead role in cleaning and analyzing baseline data, and prepared the baseline report.

Graduate Research Assistant, Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, USA
May 2006- January 2012

- Analyzed, documented and harmonized large census data sets from more than 50 developed and developing countries for the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series-International Project.

Impact Evaluation Specialist, Africa Education Sector Unit (AFTED), The World Bank, Washington, D.C., USA
July 2011- August 2011

- Acted as a liaison among members of interactive Lagos eReader Assessment Project (i-LEAP), Nigeria Team, as well as with regional stakeholders and the survey implementation agency.
- Prepared evaluation materials for iLEAP.
- Carried out preparatory activities for iLEAP launch.
- Oversaw iLEAP launch and provided support as needed.

Impact Evaluation Field Coordinator (Nepal), Adolescent Girls Employment Initiative, The World Bank, Washington, D.C., USA
February 2011- July 2011

- Reviewed survey design and questionnaires to ensure it is consistent with impact evaluation goals.
- Liaised with the Bank/project and survey team to coordinate field work for household and individual surveys as well as corresponding community surveys.
- Frequent quality assurance checks and tracking of survey progress.
- Statistical analysis and extensive interaction with Training and Employment providers across Nepal to obtain feedback and discuss implement issues and challenges to inform research reports for the Adolescent Girls Employment Initiative in Nepal.

Impact Evaluation Field Coordinator (Nigeria), Africa Education Sector Unit (AFTED), The World Bank, Washington, D.C., USA
October 2010- December 2010

- Helped finalize field work procedures and survey instruments including random sampling of students.
- Prepared for baseline data collection by providing all necessary logistical support and oversaw the baseline student, school and teacher surveys for the interactive Lagos eReader Assessment Project (i-LEAP), Nigeria.

Visiting Instructor, Economics Department, Carleton College, Northfield, MN, USA
March 2010- June 2010

- Taught undergraduate courses in Economics of Education and Principles of Microeconomics.

Evaluation Expert, Open Learning Exchange Nepal, Kathmandu
March 2009- May 2009, January 2010- February 2010

- Prepared student, household, teacher, school and community questionnaires to conduct both baseline and year-end survey in 65 schools to compare the effectiveness of the One Laptop per Child (OLPC) initiative in rural Nepal.
- Trained 38 supervisors and enumerators to administer baseline tests and surveys.
- Visited seven schools in different parts of the country and interacted extensively with government and school officials.

Evaluation Expert, Open Learning Exchange Nepal, Kathmandu
June 2008-August 2008

- Conducted the formative/implementation evaluation of the two test schools implementing the One Laptop per Child (OLPC) initiative in rural Nepal.

Residential Collaborator, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Washington, DC, USA
June 2005-August 2005

- Analyzed both IFPRI's and the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) datasets of 14 developing countries for micronutrient security study.
- Prepared a literature review on estimated food demand systems, and assisted in disaggregating demand/caloric intake by income strata.

Documentation Officer, United Nations Development Program (UNDP)/ National Planning Commission, Kathmandu, Nepal
April 2003- June 2003

- Co-authored the final Report on Sustainable Community Development Program's seven-year experience titled "Reflection on Nepal Capacity 21 Initiative." Traveled to remote areas of the country and interviewed over 100 stakeholders to document their experiences.

Research Associate, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics & Environment, Kathmandu, Nepal
January 2003- March 2003

- Prepared two briefing papers on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and on Nontariff Barriers (NTB); assisted in editing monthly newsletters.

Publications, Working papers and Reports

Schaffner, Julie, Paul Glewwe and Uttam Sharma (2020). "Evaluation of the Design, Implementation and Impacts of SSDP Trainings for Teachers of Secondary Math and Science in Nepal." Manuscript.

Bhatta, Saurav Dev, Tashmina Rahman, Md Naibur Rahman, Uttam Sharma, Lindsay Sarah Adams. 2020. *The Landscape of Early Childhood Education in Bangladesh* (English). Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group.
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/720311583471084983/The-Landscape-of-Early-Childhood-Education-in-Bangladesh>

Chowdhury, Shyamal, and Uttam Sharma (2020). "Assessing the impacts of entrepreneurship and vocational training in Nepal." Manuscript.

Bhatta, Saurav D., and Uttam Sharma (2019). "Whither Quality? What Do Recent National Assessments of Student Learning Outcomes in Bangladesh Tell Us?." Washington D.C.: World Bank Group.

Bhatta, Saurav D., Maria E. Genoni, Uttam Sharma, Buyant E. Khaltarkhuu, Laura Maratou-Kolias, and T. M. Asaduzzaman (2019). "Bangladesh education sector public expenditure review." Washington D.C.: World Bank Group.

Rahman, Tashmina, Shiro Nakata, Yoko Nagashima, Mokhlesur Rahman, Uttam Sharma, Muhammad Asahabur Rahman (2019). "Bangladesh Tertiary Education Sector Review Skills and Innovation for Growth. Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group.
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/303961553747212653/Bangladesh-Tertiary-Education-Sector-Review-Skills-and-Innovation-for-Growth>

Schaffner, Julie, Uttam Sharma, and Paul Glewwe (2019). "Federalism in Nepal: Early Implications for Service Delivery in Education." The World Bank.

Schaffner, Julie, Paul Glewwe, and Uttam Sharma (2019). "Evaluating the Design and Impact of School Sector Development Program (SSDP) Training for 9th and 10th Grade Math and Science Teachers: Telephone Interview Report". Manuscript.

Chowdhury, Shyamal, Elijah Kipchumba, Jane Mariara, Michael Murigi, Muthoni Nganga, Uttam Sharma, and Munshi Sulaiman (2019). "An impact assessment of EAMDA's banana initiative to increase technology adoption by smallholder farmers in Kenya". Final Report submitted to International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie).

Sharma, Uttam (2019). Ex-post economic analysis of Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP)". Submitted to the World Bank Group.

Lovaton, Rodrigo Davila, Dorothy Gondwe, Aine Seitz McCarthy, Phatta Kirdruang and Uttam Sharma (2018). "The Census Data Wealth Index: An Application to Predict Education Outcomes in Developing Countries". Under review.

Schaffner, Julie, Uttam Sharma and Paul Glewwe (2018). "Evaluating the Design and Impact of the Secondary School Teacher Training Initiative under the Government of Nepal's School Sector Development Program: Baseline Study Methodology and Findings." Manuscript.

Sharma, Uttam (2018a). "Report for economic and financial analysis of post-PEDP III program". Submitted to the World Bank Group.

Sharma, Uttam (2018b). "Ex-post economic analysis of Primary Education Development Program- 3 (PEDP3)". Submitted to the World Bank Group.

Chowdhury, S., U. Sharma, P. Singh, M. Abdolrahimi, M.F. Rola-Rubzen, R. Murray-Prior, K. Das, B.R. Joshi, and M. Rashid (2016). "Extent of Use and the Needs of ICT-based Agriculture Extension Tools in the EGP: A Quantitative Analysis". Submitted to Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

Chowdhury, Shyamal, Anu Rammohan, and Uttam Sharma (2013). "Income Inequality and Crime in Rural Indonesia". University of Sydney, Australia.

Sharma, Uttam (2013). "Can Computers Increase Human Capital in Developing Countries? An Evaluation of Nepal's One Laptop per Child Program".

Sharma, Uttam (2012). Public and Private Schools in Nepal –A Comparative Perspective.

Book Review "Food Policy for Developing Countries: The Role of Government in Global, National, and Local Food Systems". Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, 2013 (57): 298-300.

Honors and Awards

Graduate School Thesis Research Grants, University of Minnesota: 2009

Council of Graduate Students Travel & Education Award, University of Minnesota:
2009

International Pre-dissertation and Small Grant, Office of International Programs,
University of Minnesota: 2008

Travel grant, Minnesota Population Center: 2007, 2009

Graduate School Fellowship, University of Maryland, College Park: 2003-2005

Wien International Scholarship, Brandeis University: 1999- 2002

Summa cum laude, Brandeis University: 2002

High Honors in Economics, Brandeis University: 2002

Member of Phi Beta Kappa Society: 2002

Skills

Computer: Extensive knowledge of Stata, SPSS, Excel, MS Word, and PowerPoint; familiar with html.

Language: Nepali (native) and English (fluent).