

Vishakha Sharma

Current address: Plot Number 91/153, Gigiri, Nairobi 00606, Post Box 1195/Odensegade 2,2, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark

Permanent address: A-27, Aditya Enclave, Sector 23A, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, India

Current phone: +254742840339

Email: vishakhasharma@icloud.com

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/vishakhasharma1994/>



As of October 2018, I have graduated as a Master of Science in Global Development from the University of Copenhagen with a focus on sustainable development issues, reflected in my master's thesis on the role of faith and society on sustainable development in the wider cultural context of India. Formerly, I studied B.A. Honours Economics at Amity University in India. Starting April 2019, I acquired the role of an environmental affairs intern at the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya under the Poverty-Environment Action Project for the SDGs. Earlier in 2018, I held a research position with the SDG team at the Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries at the Ministry of External Affairs of India. I also have experience in academic and market research, which I undertook at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies at the University of Oxford, UK in 2017. These positions and my studies have allowed me to pursue my passion for sustainable development issues, combined with practical skills like research and analysis. I am looking to apply and expand my knowledge and passion for sustainable development issues within the context of societies that consist of people who play the significant role of consumers. I find this to be an increasingly important yet under-researched theme, especially in developing countries that are experiencing complex and dynamic cultural and behavioural change.

Skills and Languages

- Econometrics, ethnography, desktop research, literature review
- Written and verbal communication, such as writing and presenting research papers, policy briefs, concept notes
- Project coordination
- Microsoft Office, STATA, NVivo
- English (native), Hindi (native), Danish (elementary)

Work experience

April 2019 – September 2019: Environmental Affairs Intern, Poverty-Environment Action Project for the SDGs, United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya

- Conducting research on the Multidimensional Poverty Index in Africa (Rwanda, Malawi) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico, Chile, Ecuador, The Dominican Republic, Panama), investigating existing methodologies to measure multidimensional poverty and comparing them to understand regional and global commonalities and differences
- Drafting a brief on SDG 10 i.e. reduced inequalities for the High-Level Political Forum in July, 2019
- Contributing to an indicator framework for SDG 17 i.e. partnerships for the goals
- Developing independent research project on measuring multidimensional poverty in India with a focus on environmental aspects in rural communities of Madhya Pradesh

March 2018 – May 2018: Researcher, Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries, Ministry of External Affairs of India, New Delhi, India

- Undertaking rapporteur duties for national consultation on SDG 1, which included liaising with workshop organizers to produce outcome document by providing main conclusions related to reviewing progress, identifying challenges under the relevant theme and making links to key concepts
- Developing course structure for Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC)/Special Commonwealth African Assistance Programme (SCAAP) on SDGs
- Writing and publishing a research paper on Sustainable Development Goal 12 i.e. sustainable consumption and production in the context of India, which outlined interlinkages between sustainable consumption and the economy, identified gaps in policy and practice, investigated the scope of alternative markets and the role of nudging as an economic technique to encourage pro-environmental behaviours, assessed the significance of

traditional knowledge for good ecological practices, and examined the case of circular economies and lifecycle approaches to business

- September 2017 - January 2017: Researcher, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
- Academic and market-based research on faith-consistent investment for sustainable development
 - Co-writing of Dharmic investment guidelines for publishing in the 'Faith in Finance' book, with a particular focus on negative and positive screens in investment practices ranging from human rights to environmental exploitation and animal welfare
 - Delegate at the UN Sustainable Development Goals – Faith in Finance meeting in Zug, Switzerland in November 2017
 - Academic research on the relationship between faith and development
 - Researcher and project coordinator of an ongoing project that maps existing research on faith and development and attempts to create an accessible database for open use
 - Assistance in other ad hoc administrative tasks on a daily basis

- 2014 - 2016: Administrative Assistant, Coxwell Domes Engineers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, India
- Assistance in daily administrative tasks such as handling emails, calls and other communication
 - Assistant to the company's export manager, looking after his client relationships, supply chain managers, etc.
 - Developing meeting proposals and presentations for initiating sales relationships with clients
 - Developing and coordinating the company's overseas presence, through exhibitions and conferences, which thereby entailed further client management and communications
 - Other ad hoc tasks, such as file and data management, desktop research, etc.

Education

- 2016 – 2018: MSc Global Development, University of Copenhagen, Denmark; GPA 9.2
- Focus on developing research methods, both quantitative and qualitative, through software such as STATA and NVivo as well as conducting fieldwork in Denmark, India and Tanzania
 - Master's thesis on determinants of sustainable development through an examination of faith and society on sustainable consumption patterns in India

- 2012 – 2015: BA Honours Economics, Amity University, Delhi, India; First Division GPA 7.5
- Focus on research methodology, public finance, industrial economics, public policy and analysis, money and financial markets, entrepreneurial resource management, mathematical and statistical methods in economics
 - Bachelor's thesis on gender disparities in economic participation in urban, rural, male and female cohorts in India

- Senior secondary education: International Baccalaureate (IB), G. D. Goenka World School, Delhi, India (A-levels equivalent); 32 points
- Economics (6/7), Business & Management (5/7), and English (5/7) at higher level
 - French (5/7), Environment and Societies (5/7), and Mathematics (5/7) at standard level

- Secondary Education: Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Basava International School, Delhi, India (O-levels equivalent); GPA 7.8
- Mathematics 10/10 or A1 grade
 - English communication 9/10 or A2 grade
 - Introduction IT 9/10 or A2 grade
 - Science 7/10 or B2 grade
 - Social science 7/10 or B2 grade
 - French 6/10 or C1 grade

References

Available and can be obtained by appointment:

- David Smith, Programme Manager, Poverty-Environment Action for SDGs, david.smith@un.org
- Shaunaka Rishi Das, Director, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, shaunaka@ochs.org.uk
- Prof. T. C. James, Visiting Fellow, Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries, tcjames@ris.org.in