

Advitha Thotapalli Arun

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Summary

- Passionate about Development Economics with 2 years of research experience; Actively looking for RA and TA roles.

M.A. Economics | 2017-Date | Columbia University, New York (in progress)

Research Experience | 2015-2017 | IFMR LEAD, India

Education

B.A. Economics | 2012-15 | Stella Maris College (University of Madras)

- CGPA: **8.3/ 10**
- Dissertation: **Impact of exchange rate fluctuations on economic growth: An analysis in Indian context**

Independent Coursework/ Certification

B.Sc Economics and Finance | 2013 - Present | London School of Economics (University of London International Programmes)

- Mode of learning: Distance-learning programme

[Data Analysis for Social Scientists | 2016 | edX: MITx: 14.310](#)

Skills Matrix

Skills	Level of Proficiency
MS Office	Proficient
STATA	Intermediate
R Programming	Beginner
Tableau	Beginner
QGIS	Beginner
Eviews	Beginner

Research Associate | IFMR LEAD | May 2016 – July 2017

- Project title: **Digital Payment Systems for Merchants – A Needs Assessment Study** **January 2017 – July 2017**
- Synopsis: The objective of the project is to ascertain the specific needs of different merchant segments (micro, small and medium businesses) with respect to digital payment systems. The project, a joint initiative of USAID and Government of Rajasthan, aims at understanding the perceived benefits, risks and challenges so as to introduce suitable interventions that will help in increasing uptake of digital payment systems among merchants. Phase – I of the study is being conducted in Jaipur among a sample of 680 merchants.
- Key responsibilities:
 - Designing data collection tools
 - Overseeing implementation of data collection activities by managing field-based staff
 - Ensuring quality of data during data collection
 - Data analysis using statistical methods
- Digital publications (co-authored):
 - [Shifting gears: Randomised Control Trials and the future of development evaluation](#) – South Asia @ LSE Blog Series (July 2017)

- Project title: **Social Impact Assessment of Grantees of Infosys Foundation** **May 2016 – December 2016**
- Synopsis: The objective of the project is to assess the performance of top 30 organizations which have received funding from Infosys Foundation, as a part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). These organizations range from sectors such as education, social welfare, healthcare and so on. The aggregate funding for these organizations stands at ₹160 crores (USD 23.5 million), targeting over 35,000 beneficiaries spread across 14 states in India.
- Key responsibilities:
 - Designing evaluation frameworks and identifying performance indicators based on literature review
 - Conducting field visits, stakeholder interviews and beneficiary surveys
 - Analysis and synthesis of the collected quantitative and qualitative data
 - Preparing comprehensive reports with recommendations for strategic development of organizations and stronger impact creation
- Outcomes:
 - Reference framework for socio-economic impact assessment that comprises of quantitative and qualitative parameters
 - Primary data collected from a sample of 500+ beneficiaries by managing an extended team of 15 field managers
 - Consistent measurement and comparison of progress of organizations across various sectors

Research Intern | IFMR LEAD | October 2015 – April 2016

- Project 1: **Analysis of Impact Investing Industry in India**
- Synopsis: The objective of the project was to analyze the trends in impact investing industry in India, to identify key areas for future full-scale research.

- Project 2: **Impact of Chennai Floods on businesses in the unorganized sector**
- Synopsis: The project was undertaken to evaluate business losses experienced by small-scale businessmen in the informal sector, due to floods that affected the city of Chennai in 2015. Policy recommendations are made, based on the findings, to build resilience of these unorganized vendors against natural disasters.
- Digital publications (co-authored):
 - [A Decade of Impact Investing](#) – IFMR LEAD Working Paper Series (March 2016)
 - [FinTech diffusion in India: Boon or Bane?](#) – Blog post on Development Outlook (February 2016)

Research Intern | Frost & Sullivan | August 2015 – September 2015

- Project: **Market Research on Global Thin-film Metrology Industry**
- Synopsis: The project aimed at conducting a syndicated market research and analyzing the trends of the Global Thin-film metrology market. The market has approximately 30 players with an average revenue of USD 100 million per player.
- Key responsibilities:
 - Collating information from secondary data sources such as market reports, annual reports of companies
 - Conducting primary research by interacting with representatives of market players

Summer Analyst | Goldman Sachs Pvt. Ltd. | April 2014 – June 2014

- Project: **Breaks Analysis for Derivative Trades**
- Synopsis: The project aimed at ensuring that all derivative trades follow the rules set forth by International Swaps and Derivatives Association (ISDA). The objective is to increase compliance rates in case of those trades (listed in Global Trade repository) which do not follow the mandates.
- Key responsibilities:
 - Analysis of volume of trades (13,000+ trades on a bi-weekly basis) to find out the defaulting party of each trade
 - Identify root causes and propose solutions for reconciliation at the industry level
- Contributions:
 - Number of root causes identified: 10

Potential increase in compliance rates after successful implementation of the proposed solutions = 4% on an average; The implications of these findings are very critical as several initiatives have been undertaken to implement the proposed solutions to address the root causes.

Paper Presentations

Energy Economics: A futuristic view of the emerging energy giants | 2015

- Synopsis: The paper deliberates future trends in renewable energy-related investment requirements and cost savings to the emerging economies, namely BRICS nations.
- Conference: Econvista 2015: International Students' Symposium
- Host Organization: Lady Sri Ram College, New Delhi
- Details: One of the 10 shortlisted International-level finalists

Gender in Finance: An Analysis of financial inclusion Status of women in India | 2014

- Synopsis: The paper uses secondary data to analyse the trends in financial inclusion of women in India. An in-depth analysis is made to study the impact of focused government sector schemes as well as the causes and effects of financial exclusion among women in India. Based on these, suggestions are made to improve financial inclusion specifically among women in India.
- Conference: National Young Economist Competition 2014
- Host Organization: Christ University, Bangalore
- Details: One of the 10 shortlisted National-level finalists. **Awarded III Best Paper.**

Dynamics of falling Rupee – Analysis of Indian foreign trade and investments | 2013

- Synopsis: The objective of the paper is to analyse the reasons behind large-scale depreciation of Indian Rupee in the year 2013. The effects of depreciation on the Indian Foreign trade and investments market is analysed. Potential solutions to mitigate the losses faced by the sector during exchange rate volatility is also presented.
- Conference: National Young Economist Competition 2013
- Host Organization: Christ University, Bangalore
- Details: One of the 10 shortlisted National-level finalists

Personal Details

- Date of birth: 07/25
- Languages:

Language	Read	Write	Speak
English	Proficient	Proficient	Proficient
Tamil	Proficient	Proficient	Proficient
Telugu	--	--	Proficient
Hindi	Intermediate	Beginner	Proficient
French	Beginner	Beginner	Beginner