

Mahendra Jamankar

Department of Economics

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EDUCATION

- **Ph.D. in Economics** Expected May 2028
University of Oklahoma
- **M.S. in Economics** 2021-23
University of Nevada, Reno
- **M.A. in Applied Economics** 2019-21
Pennsylvania State University, State College
- **B.Tech in Chemical Engineering** 2014-17
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Tech. University, India

RESEARCH INTEREST

Public Economics, Environmental Economics, Development Economics

WORK IN PROGRESS

- **The Impact of the Free Sanitary Pads Scheme on Schoolgirls' Dropout Rates.**
This paper evaluates the effectiveness of a free sanitary pad distribution program on female education outcomes in India. Using household-level data and an Intention-to-Treat Difference-in-Differences approach, I compare educational outcomes in Uttar Pradesh (treatment state) with Madhya Pradesh (control state). Results show that the program significantly reduced female dropout rates by 4.6 percentage points. The benefits extend beyond retention, as girls exposed to the program demonstrated improved learning outcomes: their arithmetic skills increased by 8 percentage points and reading skills by 5.2 percentage points. These findings suggest that addressing menstrual health needs can substantially improve girls' educational attainment and learning outcomes in developing countries.
- **Rural Health Outcomes and Digital Infrastructure: Evidence from the USDA ReConnect Program.**
I examine the rollout of the USDA's pilot broadband ReConnect program as a source of exogenous variation to assess the impact of improved Internet speed on health outcomes. Using census tract-level data on Internet speed from the Federal Communication Commission and health metrics from CDC Places: Local Data for Better Health (2017–2020), I estimate the program's effects. A difference-in-difference (DID) econometric approach reveals that broadband grants and loans increased average Internet speeds by 40 Mbps in treated rural and underserved counties. Furthermore, improved broadband access is associated with reductions in obesity rates and improvements in mental health outcomes.
- **Beyond Volatility: Key Factors Driving Renewable Energy's Impact on U.S. Wholesale Electricity Prices.**

- **Spatial Correlation of Renewable Forecast Errors: Impact on Balancing Costs and Price Formation in the Southwest Power Pool.**

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

May 2021-July 2021

Department of Economics, University of Nevada, Reno

- Worked as Data Analyst under Professor Sankar Mukhopadhyay on research investigating how Economic Impact Payments decreased food insecurity. Cleaned and merged USDA and Census Bureau datasets, calculated food insecurity rates by demographic groups, and ran regression analyses to quantify the causal effect of stimulus payments on household food access. Served as Data Analyst for another research on how Medicaid expansion protected mental health during pandemic job losses. Combined state-level employment data with health insurance claims, built panel datasets tracking mental health indicators pre- and post-expansion, and conducted difference-in-differences analyses to measure Medicaid's protective effect on mental health outcomes.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

◦ Lecturer

Spring 2023

ECON 103: Principles of Macroeconomics

◦ Teaching Assistant

◦ University of Oklahoma

ECON 1123: Principles of Microeconomics

Aug 2023-May 2025

◦ University of Nevada

* Labor Economics

Fall 2021

* Intermediate Microeconomics

Fall 2021

* International Macroeconomics

Spring 2022

* Comparative Economics Systems

Spring 2022

* Principles of Statistics II

Fall 2022

* Principles of Macroeconomics, Microeconomics

Fall 2022

HONORS AND AWARDS

2025: Zee & Madge May Vincent Scholarship, University of Oklahoma (\$3000)

2024, 2025: Robert E. and Mary B. Sturgis Scholarship, University of Oklahoma

2024: Chong K Liew Graduate Award (Outstanding first year student- Runner-up), University of Oklahoma

2021-2023: Graduate Assistantships , College of Business, University of Nevada.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.