

# ANAKA AIYAR

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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<b>Assistant Professor</b> , <i>Department of Economics</i> University of Nevada, Reno, NV	<i>Current</i>
<b>Post Doctoral Associate</b> , <i>Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition</i> Dyson School of Applied Economics & Management Cornell University, Ithaca, NY	<i>2020</i>

## EDUCATION

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<b>Ph.D. in Economics</b> <i>University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA</i>	<i>2016</i>
<b>M.A. in Economics</b> <i>University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA</i>	<i>2013</i>
<b>M.Sc. in Economics</b> <i>Madras School of Economics, Anna University, Chennai, India</i>	<i>2006</i>
<b>B.A. Economics (Hons)</b> <i>Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Delhi University, New Delhi, India</i>	<i>2004</i>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Health, Insurance, Food Security, Applied Microeconomics

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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Postdoc Achievement Award for Excellence in Leadership, Cornell University	<i>2019</i>
Dissertation Year Fellowship, UC, Riverside	<i>2016</i>
Travel Grant, Department of Economics, UC, Riverside	<i>2014 &amp; 2015</i>
Graduate Student Travel Grant, Graduate Student Association, UC, Riverside	<i>2014</i>
Grant in Aid, Taraknath Das Foundation, Columbia University	<i>2013</i>
Dean's Distinguished Fellowship Award, UC, Riverside	<i>2011 to 2016</i>
Merit Scholarship, Madras School of Economics, Anna University	<i>2005 &amp; 2006</i>

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Aiyar, Anaka**, Andaleeb Rahman & Prabhu Pingali. "India's rural transformation and rising overweight burden", *World Development*, 138 (2021)

**Aiyar, Anaka**, and Joseph R. Cummins. "Age-Profile Estimates of the Relationship Between Economic Growth and Child Health" *Journal of Development Economics*, 148 (2021)

**Aiyar, Anaka**, "Unintended consequences of targeted health insurance on intra-household resource allocations." *Journal of Development Studies*, vol 57, no 3, (2021): 502-518

**Aiyar, Anaka**, and Prabhu Pingali. “Pandemics and Food Systems: Towards a proactive food safety approach to disease prevention & management.” *Food Security* (2020): 1-8

**Aiyar, Anaka**, and Srinivas Venugopal. “A Macromarketing Approach to Addressing the Ethical Challenge of Market Inclusion in Base of the Pyramid Markets.” *Journal of Business Ethics*, 164 (2020): 243–260

Pingali, Prabhu, and **Anaka Aiyar**. “Diversity in Development – Inter-state Differences in the India Growth Story” *World Food Policy Journal* 4, no. 2 (2018): 57-78

Pingali, Prabhu, and **Anaka Aiyar**. “Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition Policy: Looking Ahead to 2050.” *Agriculture and Food Systems to 2050*, edited by Prabhu Pinagli & Rachid Serraj. World Scientific Publishing, (2018): Chapter 18

Agarwal, Neha, **Anaka Aiyar**, Arpita Bhattacharjee, Joseph Cummins, Christian Gunadi, Deepak Singhanian, Matthew Taylor, and Evan Wigton-Jones. “Month of birth and child height in 40 countries.” *Economics Letters* 157 (2017): 10-13.

Kathuria, Vinish, and **Anaka Aiyar**. “Link between Exporting and Productivity: Firm Level analysis for Indian Chemical Industry.” *Science, Technology and Society* 16, no. 3 (2011): 309-331.

## BOOKS

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Pingali, Prabhu, **Anaka Aiyar**, Mathew Abraham & Andaleeb Rahman (2019), *Transforming Food Systems for a Rising India*, Open Access: Palgrave Studies in Agricultural Economics and Food Policy, Palgrave macmillan [100,000+ Downloads, Jan 2021](#)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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Structural Determinants of India’s Transition to an Overweight Nation, (with *Sunaina Dhingra & Prabhu Pingali*); *RnR Economics & Human Biology*

A Food Security Kuznet’s Curve? (with *Dennis Wesselbaum; Michael D. Smith, Christopher B. Barrett*); *RnR Nature Food*

The effectiveness of insurance in improving child health: A study from India, (with *Naveen Sunder*)

Processed foods or sedentary lifestyles: What contributes to poor nutritional outcomes among women in peri-urban settings, (with *Anjali Katiganere Purushotham & Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel*)

(Papers can be made available on request)

## REPORTS

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Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (A Study of Karnataka), (with *Prakhya Bhat, Nehal Jain, Jyotsna Jha, Shreekanth Mahendiran, Kavitha Narayanan, Varun Sharma*), *Global Development Network*, (2013)

Review of Processes and Institutional Mechanisms of Programme Implementation and Service Delivery (), , *Government of Karnataka*, 2013

Analysis of Health Expenditures by the Government of Karnataka (with *Achala Yaareseme*), *Centre for Budget & Policy Studies*, (2010)

Case Study: Connecting Rural India with Broadband Wireless, (with *Ashok Jhunjhunwala*), *International Telecommunication Union, Development (ITU-D)*, 2010

Reproductive and Child Health Services - How much do they cost? A Preliminary Analysis of 2 districts in Karnataka, (with *Poornima Vyasulu*), *Centre for Budget & Policy Studies*, (2007)

## BLOGS

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- Rising obesity in rural India, under the growing urban shadow [Read Here](#)
- Migration Mess: Using a Food Systems Lens to Understand India's Migrant Crisis after COVID-19 [Read Here](#)
- Tackling India's Food Systems Challenges in the Era of Climate Change [Read Here](#)
- Examining the Indian nutrition transition: Reducing the risks for obesity by 2050 [Read Here](#)
- Promoting equitable growth for 2050 [Read Here](#)
- Gender Recap in Light of #MeToo [Read Here](#)
- The Incentive Mechanisms of the Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana (RSBY) – are they geared for service delivery? The Case of Karnataka [Read Here](#)
- The Elephant in the Insurance Controversy Room [Read Here](#)
- Mother's Day, a Reflection [Read Here](#)

## PRESENTATIONS

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- Pandemics and Food Systems: Towards a proactive food safety approach to disease prevention & management: Cornell University (2020); USAID brown bag seminar - Pandemics & Food Systems (2020)
- India's rural transformation and rising obesity burden: Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (2020)
- The effectiveness of insurance in improving child health: A study from India - Cornell University; University of Vermont, Burlington; Indian Institute of Management (Bengaluru, Udaipur, Ahmedabad); Madras School of Economics; Winter School of the Delhi School of Economics (2019); Indian Institute of Technology (Kanpur); University of Nevada, Reno; University of Auckland, New Zealand; (2020)
- Transforming Food Systems for a Rising India - Plenary session of ReSAKSS-Asia International Conference in Yangon, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C, Centre for Budget & Policy Studies (CBPS) and Society for Community Health Awareness Research and Action (SOCHARA), Bengaluru, India (2019); Cornell University, (2017, 2018, 2019)
- Unintended consequences of targeted health insurance on intra-household resource allocations - Macromarketing Conference (2019); Annual meetings of the American Society of Health Economists 2019; Indian Institute of Management, Udaipur, India (2019); 14th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development, ISI Delhi (2018); Madras School of Economics, Chennai (2018); University of Vermont, Burlington (2017); Cornell University (2016); University of Southern California, Southern Economic Association 2015 Annual Meeting; UC Riverside; 90th Annual Western Economic Association International Conference (2015)
- Age Profile Estimates of the Relationship between Economic Growth and Child Health - St Michael's College (Colchester, VT), Eastern Economic Association Conference, Boston (2018), North Eastern Universities Development Conference - Tufts University (2017)
- Diversity in Development: Inter-State Differences in the India Growth Story - Cornell University (2017)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- Assistant Professor: Health Economics, Principles of Statistics (II)
- Instructor: International Trade, Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory
- Teaching Assistant: Introduction to Econometrics, Introduction to Statistics, Introduction to Macroeconomics, Introduction to Microeconomics, Macroeconomic Theory
- Invited Speaker: *Implications of climate change on households: China's role in preparing for climate change* - Cornell Summer Program: Session on Crop Nutrition and Climate Change; Cornell University (2018)

## SERVICE

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**Awards Committee Member:** Committee on Women in Agricultural Economics (CWAE) for 2020-2021

**Reviewer:** World Bank Economic Review, Agricultural Economics, Journal of Consumer Affairs, Biological Conservation, Global Food Security, Socio-Economic Planning Services

**Conference Reviewer:** American Society of Health Economists, Annual Conference (2018, 2019, 2020), North East Universities Development Conference (2018)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Post Doctoral Associate *2016 - 2020*  
Tata Cornell Institute for Agriculture & Nutrition (TCI)  
Dyson School of Management and Applied Economics Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

- Lead researcher
  - Designed the book “Transforming Food Systems for a Rising India”
  - Managed and guided project teams for ensuring timely delivery of output
  - Developed promotional material for social media audiences
- Developed and executed research projects that culminated into multiple publications
- Mentored PhD and other graduate students on developing research projects and planning field travel

Research Assistant: For Joseph R. Cummins; University of California, Riverside *Spring 2015*

- Database management for a multi-year RCT measuring the impact of nutrition supplements on maternal and child health in Bangladesh

Research Associate: Center for Budget & Policy Studies *2009 - 2011*

- Designed impact evaluation study of a government run health insurance program
- Managed office staff, field staff, independent contractors and interns during project implementation
- Prepared progress reports and research papers for funders who were supporting the evaluation
- Consulted with policy makers and bureaucrats at the provincial level on ways to improve the program
- Created policy briefs and training workshops to improve implementation of the program
- Represented the organization at international conferences

Manager (Social Research): IITM’s Rural Technology & Business Incubator *2007 - 2009*

- Provided market intelligence and advisory services to social start ups in the domains of health and agriculture.
- Designed and implemented a survey to collect socio-demographic information from 10,000 households across 7 districts in Tamil Nadu
- On field research work included focus group discussions and interviews with stakeholders to understand the role of technology in rural development
- Designed and executed a local newspaper in over 20 villages in South Tamil Nadu to understand the information and marketplace networks

Senior Research Analyst: ICRA’s Management and Consulting Service *2006*

- Consulting assignments for the (State and Local) Governments of Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir to identify high priority investment areas for increasing economic growth.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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American Economic Association, American Society of Health Economists, Agricultural & Applied Economics Association, International Health Economics Association

## RESEARCH GRANTS

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*Enhancing Community Resilience and Food Security in Remote Forest Villages in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic (2019-2020)*, (Principal Investigator - Varun Goswami & Srinivas Venugopal, \$65,000 (at Rs 75/\$))

*Strengthening Institutions to improve Public Expenditure Accountability – Global Development Network, 2010-2011*, (Principal Investigator - Jyotsna Jha, Co-PI – Anaka Aiyar, Subhashansha Bakshi & Sandeep MS), £3000 (at Rs 70/£)

*Review of Processes and Institutional Mechanisms of Programme Implementation and Service Delivery – Government of Karnataka, 2010-2011*, (Principal Investigator – Dr. Vinod Vyasulu, Co-PI – Harini Rajesh, CBPS Team), \$12000 (at Rs 50/\$)

## IN THE MEDIA

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Rising obesity in rural India, under the growing urban shadow	<a href="#">See Here</a>
What is on India's plate? Both undernutrition and obesity	<a href="#">Read Here</a>
It takes a Village	<a href="#">Read Here</a>
Book Launch: Coverage by Cornell Media	<a href="#">Read Here</a>
Book Launch Event: International Food Policy Research Institute	<a href="#">See Here</a>
Transforming Food Systems for a Rising India	<a href="#">See Here</a>
Interstate differences in the Indian Growth Story	<a href="#">See Here</a>
Must- and Should-Reads: September 14, 2017, By Brad DeLong	<a href="#">Read Here</a>
Paying to be Treated Well, By Arathi Mohan	<a href="#">Read Here</a>
Up Goes the Economy, Down Slips Healthcare, Special Correspondent	<a href="#">Read Here</a>