

Priya Bhagowalia  
Preferred Name: Priya

Statement For position of “Asia Director, (South, West and Central Asia)”

I am an Associate Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. I teach graduate courses on Development Economics, examining the relationship of economic theories with macro and micro aspects of development, especially health. I supervise PhD students, design curricula, and use different pedagogical approaches, for effective delivery of Masters and Doctoral programs in Economics.

Using theoretical and empirical approaches from Health & Development Economics, my research focuses on health & nutrition, catastrophic health expenditures, environmental health, and impact of price policies, cash transfers, credit on women’s empowerment, household’s health seeking behavior in South Asia. I work with panel and cross-sectional data and have used more than 130 Demographic & Health Surveys, National Sample Survey, ICRISAT village level studies, India Human Development Survey, World Bank’s World Development Indicators.

Besides teaching at prestigious universities in India and abroad, I have been a consultant to the International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC and conducted studies on malnutrition in India and Bangladesh. I am a member of the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (USA), International Association of Agricultural Economists and a reviewer for international journals including *Social Science and Medicine*, *Economics and Human Biology* and *World Development*.

My engagement with IHEA, particularly the annual congress, special interest groups, membership of scientific review committees for the congress and LMICs, has exposed me to several health-related research and issues faced by Health Economists. Living and working in multicultural environments and analyzing issues applicable to several developing countries has given me a unique perspective and training.

Given my experience, I would strive to increase participation of early and mid-career economists, especially women from South, Central and Western Asia and facilitate events to share their work throughout the year and provide them with feedback to promote high quality publications. I would effectively encourage preparation of teaching materials in the context of region-specific problems such as the triple burden of nutrition in South & West Asia, environmental health, chronic & infectious disease in Central Asia, inequities and inefficiencies in health care access & utilization, and financial barriers across all of Asia. Against the backdrop of climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic, I envision IHEA as a powerful platform to disseminate research, brainstorm ideas and collaborate on established and emerging issues.

While recognizing that the problems of poor health, and international development cannot be solved within a short span of time, I believe that it is of crucial importance that economic strategies constantly evolve, and new evidence drawn from systematic and rigorous analysis of household surveys. I expect to use this insight and my understanding of underlying cultural and socio-economic contexts in doing health related research and policy analysis, throughout my career.