

Curriculum Vitae

SAURABH SINHA

Education:

- 1999: D.Phil. Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex (UK)
Thesis Supervisor: Michael Lipton
Dissertation Committee: Jean-Philippe Platteau, Martin Greeley
- 1983: M.Tech.: Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (India)
- 1981: B.E. (Elect. Engg.): Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (India)

Areas of Expertise:

- **Policy advice** – Extensive policy and advisory experience within the broad field of development economics covering the key practice areas of inclusive growth, poverty and inequality, social protection, employment creation, macroeconomics, demography, migration and human development.
- **Research management** – Extensive experience of research management; preparing knowledge products such as flagship reports, policy papers, briefing notes, etc.; and leading teams for project preparations, and reviews of national development strategies and anti-poverty programmes.
- **Knowledge creation, advocacy and outreach** – Authored numerous policy papers and technical briefs and published extensively internationally. Participated in international conferences, discussions and workshops.
- **Network and partnership building** – Experience of building partnerships and working closely with national governments, UN agencies, think tanks, donors and local researchers in different country contexts.
- **Technical backstopping support** – Experience of providing analytical and advisory support to governments in the Asia-Pacific region (Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam), and in the Africa region on inclusive growth, poverty and inequality reduction, human development, SDGs and population mobility.
- **Teaching** – At various times taught development economics at Sussex University; Hanoi's National Economics University; and IIT, Delhi.

Positions held:

- Mar 2015 – **Chief, Social Policy, UN Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**
Aug 2024 Responsibilities included:
- Leading the preparation of knowledge products that help position UNECA as a leading think tank on the continent on social policy.
 - Advancing research and knowledge on social policy issues in Africa to strengthen evidence-based policymaking and support implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Africa's Agenda 2063.
 - Managing and providing effective leadership to the Social Policy Section.
 - Building and strengthening partnerships with development partners to advance UNECA's contribution to Africa's transformation in line with the development frameworks.
 - Representing UNECA in inter-agency coordination and working in partnership with member States and development partners such as the African Union Commission and UN agencies.
- Nov 2021 – **Head, Policy Unit, UNDP, Kabul, Afghanistan (on secondment)**
Apr 2023 Responsibilities included:
- Managing the Policy Unit and producing the "One Year in Review", the Socio-Economic Outlook and policy papers to guide policy discussion after the fall of government in August 2021.
- Mar 2011 – **Senior Economic Advisor, UNDP, Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia**

- Mar 2015 Responsibilities included:
- Providing cross-disciplinary analytical and advisory support on inclusive growth and policies, in line with UNDP priorities related to the MDGs and MAF, namely poverty reduction, social protection, national development planning, and gender equality and women's economic empowerment.
 - Analysing economic and social trends, drawing lessons, preparing policy papers and policy briefs on relevant topics, and making recommendations to the Govt and UNDP on pro-poor growth.
 - Providing substantive inputs and quality assurance on poverty, governance and environmental sustainability from the perspective of inclusive growth and human development to enhance their policy impact.
 - Developing knowledge products and maintaining knowledge networks and strengthening partnerships with national and regional institutions.
- Jan 2007 – **Independent Consultant**
Feb 2011
- Selected assignments included:
- Finalisation of the MDG Progress Report for Indonesia
 - Process Evaluation of IFAD Project on Securing Livelihoods in HKH Mountains
 - Mid-term review of Lao PDR's National Socio-Economic Devt. Plan (2006-10)
 - Preparation of the MDG Progress Report for Sri Lanka
 - Preparation of MDG Progress Report for Lao PDR
 - Review of M&E system of GTZ's China Rural Pov Redctn and Devt Program
 - Management of Govt of Bihar's M&E Cell for World Bank's Devt. Policy Loan, India
 - Devt. of an M&E framework for the Rural Water Supply sector for WSP, India
 - Review of UNCTs' engagement with PRSP process in Laos, UNDG NY
 - Support to development of a Development Compact for Timor-Leste, UNMIT
- Jun 2005 – **Senior Development Officer, UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Kabul**
Dec 2006
- Responsibilities included:
- Supporting the Govt. of Afghanistan in development and implementation of the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS)
 - Leading the preparation of the first MDG Report for Afghanistan
- Sep 2003 – **Senior Technical Adviser, UNDP, Hanoi, Viet Nam**
May 2005
- Responsibilities included:
- Supporting the implementation of the Govt of Viet Nam's National Targeted Programme on Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction (HEPR)
 - Leading the evaluation of the HEPR programme, managing and supervising a team of national and international consultants
 - Providing inputs on the design of targeted programmes for poverty reduction
 - Strengthening the programme monitoring system
 - Formulating UNDP's position on poverty reduction and MDGs
 - Identifying and addressing knowledge gaps.
- Mar 2001 – **Head, Poverty Monitoring Unit, GIZ, Nepal**
Aug 2003
- Responsibilities included:
- Management of the Unit to monitor the poverty impact of development projects.
 - Provide advisory and training services to NGOs, government and donors on poverty research, analysis and monitoring with special focus on MDGs.
 - Providing advisory service to GTZ Nepal's Rural Development Programme to develop innovative approaches to income generation and employment promotion through small enterprise development in the mountain areas of Nepal.
 - Country Strategic Review of DFID Nepal (2003).
- 1997-2001 **Research Economist, Poverty Research Unit (PRUS), Sussex University, UK**
- Research and teaching. Taught BA and MA (Development Economics). Conducted research and management of research projects. Assignments undertaken include:

- Background Paper (“*Reconnecting Agri Technology to Human Development*”) for HDR 2001
- Rural Poverty Report 2001 (“*The Challenge of Ending Rural Poverty*”) for IFAD (1999-2001)
- Background Paper (“*Damaging Fluctuations, Risk and Poverty*”) for World Bank's World Development Report 2000/2001
- Social Exclusion and Land Administration in Orissa, India for the World Bank
- Land Rights for the Rural Poor in Bangladesh for DFID
- Social Impact of Policy Lending for ADB
- Impact of micro-credit interventions on informal credit borrowings in Bangladesh, DFID
- External Review of the Marchwar Lift Irrigation Scheme in Nepal for UNCDF

- 1989-92 **Senior Research Executive, Economic Development Associates (EDA), India**
- 1984-85 Member of the research and consulting team. Undertook assignments on M&E of rural development and poverty alleviation projects for multi- and bilateral aid agencies.
- 1986-9 **Project Manager, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), India**
Member of the core research and advocacy team. Worked with writing team, editors, graphic designers and printers for timely production of various reports. Established and coordinated the NGO Networking Unit to provide support and information on environmental issues among NGOs.
- 1985-6 **Technical Officer, Afro-Asian Rural Reconstruction Organisation, India**
Coordinated research on agriculture and rural development for member countries.

Selected publications and other writings

At UNECA (2015-2024)

“*Jobs in Africa or Jobs for Africans? Integrating skills migration in national employment strategies*”, UNECA, 2024. [Lead Author], under finalization

“*Preparing for the next pandemic*” Healthcare and Economic Growth in Africa, second report. UNECA, 2024. [Lead Author], under finalization

“*Demographic Profile of Africa 2024*”, UNECA, 2024. [Lead Author], under finalization

“Reaping the demographic dividend requires time, money and effort”, *New African UNGA Special Issue*, No 621, September/October 2024

(Blog post) As Africa’s population crosses 1.5 billion, the demographic window is opening; getting the dividend requires more time and stronger effort, UNECA, 2024

“*Reducing poverty and vulnerability in Africa during the Covid-19 pandemic*”, Economic Report on Africa 2021, UNECA, 2021. [Co-author]. Available at:

<https://repository.uneca.org/bitstream/handle/10855/47592/ERA%202021%20En%20%28b12002963%29.pdf?sequence=10&isAllowed=y>

“*Healthcare and Economic Growth in Africa*”, UNECA, February 2019. [Lead Author] Available at: https://archive.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/healthreport_eng_rev_oct17.pdf

“Have women benefitted from Africa’s growth?”, UNECA Working Paper, 2018

“Why has poverty declined slowly in Africa?”, UNECA Working Paper, 2018

“*Informality and Inequality in Africa: Exploring the linkages*”, Africa Social Development Report, 2018 UNECA, Addis Ababa. [Lead Author]. Available at: <https://repository.uneca.org/handle/10855/43652>

“*Skills, Employment and International Migration - An Issues Paper*”, prepared for the X African Development Forum, UNECA, October 2016.

“*International migration in Africa: Framing the Issues*”, Issues Paper for the Conference of Ministers, UNECA, March 2016.

At UNDP Afghanistan (2005, 2022)

"One Year in Review: Afghanistan 2022, A socio-economic snapshot", UNDP Afghanistan, September 2022 [Lead Author]. Available at: <https://www.flipsnack.com/77777E5569B/one-year-in-review-afghanistan-since-august-2021-a-socio-ec/full-view.html>

[Principal Author] "Vision 2020: Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals Country Report 2005", Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and UNDP, Kabul, 2005.

At UNDP Mongolia (2011-2015)

"Building a Better Tomorrow: Including Youth in the Development of Mongolia", National Human Development Report (NHDR) 2016, Ulaanbaatar. [Lead Author]. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/mongolia/publications/mongolia-human-development-report-2016>

"Growth and Inequality in Mongolia: What role for Policy?" Paper for joint UNDP-ADB research, 2014.

"The challenges of reducing poverty in a changing landscape: Implications for a post-2015 world", (unpublished)

"Challenges of achieving the MDGs: A country-level perspective", Paper presented at the Global MDG Conference, Bogota, Feb 2013.

"Financing of Social Welfare: Options for Mongolia", Presentation at National Forum on Social Welfare in Mongolia organized by the Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection, Government of Mongolia, Nov 2012.

"UNDP support to Mongolia's National Development Planning Framework: Concept Note", Sep 2012.

"Poverty Estimation in Mongolia: Framing the issues", Feb 2012.

[Editor] "From Vulnerability to Sustainability: Environment and Human Development", Mongolia Human Development Report 2011.

Others

[Principal Author] "MDG Progress Report 2010", Govt of Sri Lanka and United Nations, Colombo, 2010.

[Principal Author] "MDG Progress Report 2008", Govt of Lao PDR and United Nations, Vientiane, 2009.

[Principal Author] "Taking Stock, Planning Ahead: Evaluation of the National Targeted Programme on Hunger Eradication and Poverty Reduction (NTP on HEPR) and Prog 135", MOLISA-UNDP Viet Nam, Hanoi, 2004.

"Computerisation of Land Records", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 38 (30 August) 2003.

[main author, with Michael Lipton and Shahin Yaqub] "Poverty and 'damaging fluctuations': How do they relate?", *Journal of African and Asian Studies*, Vol. 37 (2): 186-243, 2002.

[with Michael Lipton and Rachel Blackman] "Reconnecting Agricultural Technology to Human Development", *Journal of Human Development* Vol. 3 (1), 2002.

[with Robin Mearns] "Social Exclusion and Land Administration in Orissa, India, *Policy Research Working Paper* 2124, World Bank, 1999.

"Informal credit transactions of micro-credit borrowers in rural Bangladesh", *IDS Bull.*, 29 (4), 1998.

"Resisting Change? - Adaptations of Traditional Pastoralists to the Rajasthan Canal Project", *Issue Paper* 62, Dryland Programme, Intl Instt for Env and Dev (IIED), London, 1996

"The Conditions for Collective Action: Land Tenure and Farmers' Groups in the Rajasthan Canal Project", *Gatekeeper Series* 57, Sustainable Agriculture Programme, IIED, London, 1996.

[with Sanjay Sinha] "Small Scale Fruit and Vegetable Processing: The Dynamics of Development", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. XXVII No. 26, 1992.

[with Sanjay Sinha] *Indian Leather Industry: The Challenge of Modernisation*, New Delhi, Oxford & IBH, 1991

[with Sanjay Sinha] "Leather Exports: An Illusory Boom?", *EPW*, Vol. XXVI No. 35, 1991.

[with Anil Agrawal, et al] *Wrath of Nature - The Impact of Environmental Destruction on Floods and Droughts*, Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi, 1987.

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