

# Manda Tiwari

🌐 [www.mandatiwari.com](http://www.mandatiwari.com) | ✉ [manda-tiwari@uiowa.edu](mailto:manda-tiwari@uiowa.edu) | ☎ +1(417)413-6199

University of Iowa  
Department of Economics  
Iowa City, IA 52242, USA

Placement Coordinator: Renea Jay  
✉ [renea-jay@uiowa.edu](mailto:renea-jay@uiowa.edu)  
☎ (319)335-0830

---

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

**Health Economics, Development Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics**

---

## EDUCATION

<b>University of Iowa</b> <i>PhD in Economics, May 2021 (Expected)</i>	Iowa City, IA
<b>University of Iowa</b> <i>MA in Economics, May 2017</i>	Iowa City, IA
<b>Missouri State University</b> <i>MS in Mathematics, May 2015</i>	Springfield, MO
<b>Missouri State University</b> <i>BS in Mathematics, Dec. 2012</i>	Springfield, MO

---

## JOB MARKET PAPER

**Cash Transfers and Delivery Care: Evidence from the Safe Delivery Incentive Program in Nepal**

---

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

**The Impact of Housing Wealth Shocks over the Life Cycle on Health and Wellbeing**  
*with Padmaja Ayyagari and David Frisvold*

**Women's Land Ownership and Child and Maternal Health Outcomes**

---

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<b>Instructor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Principles of Microeconomics, <i>Spring 2018</i></li></ul>	University of Iowa
<b>Head Teaching Assistant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Principles of Macroeconomics, <i>Fall 2020</i></li></ul>	University of Iowa
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Principles of Macroeconomics, <i>Spring 2020</i></li><li>Principles of Microeconomics, <i>Fall 2019</i></li><li>Statistics for Strategy, <i>Spring 2016 - Fall 2017</i></li></ul>	University of Iowa
<b>Teaching Assistant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pre-Algebra, <i>Fall 2013 - Spring 2014</i></li></ul>	Missouri State University
<b>Grader</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Health Economics, <i>Spring 2019</i></li><li>Intermediate Microeconomics, <i>Spring 2019</i></li><li>Sports Economics, <i>Fall 2015</i></li></ul>	University of Iowa

---

## REFEREE

**Journal of Policy Analysis and Management**

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

---

**Graduate College Summer Fellowship**

*Summer 2018, Summer 2019*

**Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship**

*Fall 2018*

**Math is Fundamental Scholarship**

*Fall 2014*

## PROGRAMMING

---

**Python, R, Stata, Latex**

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

---

**Citizenship:** Nepal

**Languages:** Nepali (native), English (fluent), Hindi (fluent)

## REFERENCES

---

David Frisvold (Advisor)  
Department of Economics  
University of Iowa  
[david-frisvold@uiowa.edu](mailto:david-frisvold@uiowa.edu)  
(319)335-0957

Julia Garlick  
Department of Economics  
University of Iowa  
[julia-garlick@uiowa.edu](mailto:julia-garlick@uiowa.edu)  
(319)335-0847

Suyong Song  
Department of Economics  
University of Iowa  
[suyong-song@uiowa.edu](mailto:suyong-song@uiowa.edu)  
(319)335-0832

Blake Whitten (Teaching)  
Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science  
University of Iowa  
[blake-whitten@uiowa.edu](mailto:blake-whitten@uiowa.edu)  
(319)335-0647

# Manda Tiwari

🌐 [www.mandatiwari.com](http://www.mandatiwari.com) | ✉ [manda-tiwari@uiowa.edu](mailto:manda-tiwari@uiowa.edu) | ☎ +1(417)413-6199

## ABSTRACTS

---

### **Cash Transfers and Delivery Care: Evidence from the Safe Delivery Incentive Program in Nepal**

This paper examines the effects of the Safe Delivery Incentive Program in Nepal, a cash transfer program that conditions benefits on women giving birth in a health facility. The cash transfers reduce the cost of facility deliveries, with greater reductions for women residing in districts with a lower Human Development Index (HDI). I evaluate the effects of this program on delivery care by comparing differences over time between low-parity women, who became eligible at program onset, and high-parity women, who became eligible two years later. Using three waves of the Demographic and Health Survey Nepal, I find that eligible low-parity women in high HDI districts are 8.6 percentage points more likely to deliver in a health facility. These women are 7.5 percentage points more likely to deliver with skilled health personnel instead of giving birth at home without the assistance of skilled health personnel. In contrast, eligible low-parity women in low HDI districts are no more likely to deliver in a health facility but are 5 percentage points more likely to deliver with skilled personnel in the home. Low-parity women in low HDI districts are less responsive despite higher program benefits, suggesting that these women are constrained by barriers beyond cost. Heterogeneous effects show a more pronounced response to eligibility for more educated, wealthier, and empowered women. These results indicate that home deliveries are typical due to high barriers to facility usage and reliance on customs. Moreover, I find that high-parity women show no measurable response after becoming eligible two years into the program. I also show spillovers to other forms of health care utilization, with eligible women increasing childhood vaccination usage in high and low HDI districts. Results suggest that the increase in deliveries with skilled personnel has informational value.

### **Women's Land Ownership and Child and Maternal Health Outcomes**

Land ownership plays a crucial role in empowering women, which can improve the health outcomes of women and children. Nepalese women predominantly depend on agriculture for their livelihoods; however, only a small fraction of them own land. This paper examines the relationship between women's land ownership and child and maternal health outcomes using the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey 2001, 2011, and 2016. The empirical evaluation of the effect of land ownership typically suffers from omitted variable bias. In the absence of plausible instruments, I account for selection on unobservables using an approach that relates selection on the observables with selection on the unobservables to estimate bounds on the causal effects of land ownership (Altonji et al. 2005; Oster 2013). Results show positive associations between land ownership and decision making power of women that are unlikely to be driven entirely by correlations between land ownership and unobservable characteristics. I also find that mother's land ownership decreases the probability of child being underweight, with a result that is robust to selection on unobservables.