

Md Zakaria Siddiqui

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Current position

Economist, Department of Social Services, Australian Government, Canberra, Australia

Previous Post PhD Positions

Associate Professor, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India since January 2021 to June 2023

Research Fellow, Institute of Economics and Peace, Sydney Australia since June 2017 to February 2019

Research Fellow (Level B, Equivalent to Assistant Professor), University of South Australia Business School, June 4, 2012 –June 3, 2014

Assistant Professor of Economics, Institute of Development Economics, Kolkata, August 2010–May 2012

Research Associate, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab., Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT), USA, June 1, 2009– July 31, 2010

Technical Skill Set

Proficient user of large administrative micro datasets and surveys with complex sampling designs.

Proficient in using modern programming environment of R and Stata, for analysis and visualisation of data

Proficient in LaTeX for document building

Advanced econometric applications such as Panel data modelling and Multilevel modelling

Summary of Current Research Interests

Data driven *Applied Economics and Public Policy* research with themes such as Inclusive Growth, Public Health and Nutrition; Informal labour, Women and Work; Political Economy of Energy Sector Policies; Energy Poverty; Skilled Migration and Development; Positive Peace as a predictor of political/social instability; Development and Democracy. Often bringing perspectives from other social science disciplines.

Proficient at using *global data sets* such as Varieties of Democracy(V-Dem), Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), World Value Survey, Gallup, PEW, etc.

Indian Data Sets such as various rounds of **NSS** for household consumption expenditure, employment, landholding, agriculture and other economic activities, informal economy and **NFHS** for nutritional outcomes for children and adults, reproductive health, fertility behaviour, women's empowerment. Longitudinal nationally representative Consumer Pyramid Household Survey data from CMIE.

Education

PhD in Economics (10 January 2005–29 June 2009) at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi, India) including 20 months as a visiting doctoral student at the Center for Operations Research and Econometrics (CORE), Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium

Thesis Title: Power Sector Reforms: Perspectives from New Institutional Economics

MPhil in Applied Economics (16 July 2002–30 June 2004), Centre for Development Studies (Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India), affiliated to Jawaharlal Nehru University

Thesis Title: A Critique of Power Sector Reforms in Orissa: Regulation and its Impacts

MA in Economics (July 1999–April 2001), Jamia Millia Islamia (New Delhi, India), Specialisation: Econometrics and International Economics

BA (Hons) in Economics (July 1996–April 1999), Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India

Qualified University Grants Commission of India's National Education Test (UGC-NET) for eligibility to lectureship positions in India (December 2000)

Impact of Research:

Google Scholar H-Index of 10 with a total of 251 citations

Impressions in Popular Media:

Research cited in popular media by *The Telegraphy*, *The Hindu*, *Business Standard*, *Financial Express*, *Deccan Herald*, *Scroll.in*, *Medical Express*, *True Viral News*, *Quartz*, *Channel News Asia*

Publications

Journal Articles

1. **Siddiqui M. Z.** and Khan, Feroze (2023) “Methodological Issues in SDG India Index: A Critical Assessment” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 58(5)(SJR Quartile Q2: H-index 26)
2. **Siddiqui, M Z**, Mukherjee, S and Donato, R. (2022) "Does public intervention in dealing with problems of mosquitoes/flies in India crowd out private initiatives?." *Applied Economics Letters* 1-8.
3. **Siddiqui, M. Z.**, Biswas S., Jose S. (2021) “Alarming Hunger in India: Real or Methodological Fallacy?” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 55(50), 13-17 (SJR Quartile Q2: H-index 26)
4. Ahamed, S., & **Siddiqui, Z.** (2020). Disparity in access to quality education and the digital divide. *Ideas for India*. Available online: <https://www.ideasforindia.in/topics/human-development/disparity-in-access-to-quality-education-and-the-digital-divide.html>
5. **Siddiqui, M. Z.** and Donato, R., (2020) “The dramatic rise in the prevalence of overweight and obesity in India: obesity transition and the looming health care crisis” *World Development*. 134: 1: 15(SJR Quartile Q1: H-Index 164) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2020.105050>
6. Pritchard, Bill; Lahiri-Dutt, Kuntala and **Siddiqui, M.Z.** (2019) , Explaining Recent Increases in Calorie Intake in Rural India: The Role of Social Policy Strengthening” *India Review*.18(2): 161-183 (SJR Quartile Q2: H-Index 7)
7. **Siddiqui M. Z.**, Donato, R. and Jumrani, J. (2017) “Looking Past the Indian Calorie Debate: What is Happening to Nutrition Transition in India” *Journal of Development Studies*. 55(11): 2240-2259 (SJR Quartile Q1: H-index 66)
8. Ahmad, Irfan and **Siddiqui M. Z.** (2017) “Democracy in Jail: Over representation minorities in Indian Prisons” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 52(44): 98-106 (SJR Quartile Q2: H-index 26)
9. **Siddiqui, M. Z.**, Lahiri-Dutt, K., Lockie, S., and Pritchard, B., (2017) “Reconsidering Women’s Work in Rural India: An Analysis of NSS Data, 2004-05 and 2011-12”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 52(1), 45-52 (SJR Quartile Q2: H-index 26)
10. **Siddiqui, M. Z.** and Donato, R., (2016) “Under-nutrition among adults in India: the significance of individual-level and contextual factors impacting on the likelihood of underweight across sub-populations”, *Public Health Nutrition*, 20 (1), 130-141, (SJR Quartile: Q1, H-index 101)
11. Ghosh, S. and **Siddiqui M.Z.**, (2016) “Role of community and context in contraceptive behaviour in rural West Bengal, India: A multilevel multinomial approach”, *Journal of Biosocial Science*, 49(1), 48-68, (SJR Quartile: Q1, H-index 101)
12. Bhattacharya, P., Mitra S. and **Siddiqui M.Z.** (2016) “Dynamics of foodgrain deficiency in India” *Margin: The Journal of Applied Economic Research*, 10(4), 465-498 (Not listed SJR: A journal National Council of Applied Economic Research, India)
13. **Siddiqui M. Z.** and Donato, R. (2015) “Overweight and obesity in India: policy issues from an exploratory multi-level analysis”, *Health Policy and Planning*, 31(5),582-591, (SJR Quartile: Q1, H-index 66)
14. Ghosh, S., **Siddiqui M.Z.**, Barik, A., and Bhowmik, S., (2015) “Determinants of skilled delivery assistance in a rural population: Findings from a HDSS site of rural West Bengal, India”, *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. 19(11):2470-9, (SJR Quartile: Q1, H-index 58)
15. **Siddiqui, M. Z.** and Lahiri-Dutt, K., (2015) “Livelihoods of Marginal Mining and Quarrying Households in India: Querying the NSS Data”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 50(26-27):27-32 (SJR Quartile Q2: H-index 26)
16. **Siddiqui, M.Z.**, and Tejada, G., (2014) “Development and Highly Skilled Migrants: Perspectives from Indian Diaspora and Returnees” *International Development Policy | Revue internationale de politique*

de développement, 5(2), [Online] <http://poldev.revues.org/1720> (Not listed in SJR: A journal of the Graduate Institute, Geneva)

17. **Siddiqui, M.Z.**, de Maere dAertrycke, Gauthier and Smeers, Yves, (2012) “Demand Response in Indian Electricity Market”, *Energy Policy*, 50(1),207–216. (SJR Quartile: Q1, H-index 123)

Book Chapters

1. **Siddiqui, M. Z.** and Rahman, T (2023 Forthcoming) In the pursuit of an appropriate calorie intake norm for Indian States. In Mahendra Dev, S.; Ganesh-Kumar A. and , and Pandey, Vijay Laxmi *Achieving Zero Hunger in India - Challenges and Policies*, Springer, Singapore.
2. **Siddiqui, M. Z.** (2021). Embeddedness of Economic Reforms in Regional Political Climate: A Case of Delayed Reforms in Bihar’s Electricity Sector. In *Sustainable Development Insights from India* (pp. 165-182). Springer, Singapore.
3. Arora, Akarsh and **Siddiqui, M.Z.**, (2021) “Notion of Standard of Living: Singular, Qualitative, and Composite”, in Walter Leal Filho, Pinar Gökçin Özuyar, Anabela Marisa Azul, Luciana Brandli, Ulisses Azeiteiro and Tony Wall (eds) *Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Reduce Inequalities*, Springer
4. **Siddiqui M.Z.**, Abdullah A.B.M., Murad M.W. (2020) Reducing Fuel Poverty for Sustainable Future Development. In: Leal Filho W., Azul A., Brandli L., Özuyar P., Wall T. (eds) *Affordable and Clean Energy. Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*. Springer, Cham https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-71057-0_44-1
5. **Siddiqui, M.Z.**, (2018) “Disempowerment of Incumbent Elite and Governance: A Case of Bihar’s Electricity Sector” in Dubash, N., Kale, S., and Bharvirkar, R. (eds) *Mapping Power: The Political Economy of Electricity in India’s States*, OUP, Delhi
6. **Siddiqui, M. Z.**, (2017) “Inequality in access to modern energy services in rural India during the era of economic reforms”, in Ismail, S and Ahmed, S., (eds) *Energy Economy and Sustainable Development*, Pages 111-136, Bloomsbury, New Delhi
7. Tejada, Gabriela and **Siddiqui, M. Z.**, (2014) “Transferring skills upon return: Matching aspirations in the host countries with the reality back in India”, in Tejada, G. et. al. (eds), *Indian Skilled Migration and Development: To Europe and Back*, Pages 237-261, Springer, New Delhi.
8. Hercog, Metka and **Siddiqui, M. Z.**, (2014) “Experiences in the host countries and return plans: The case study of highly-skilled Indians in Europe”, in Tejada, G., et. al. (ed.), *Indian Skilled Migration and Development: To Europe and Back*, Pages 213-235, Springer, New Delhi.
9. Ruet, Joel and **Siddiqui, M.Z.**, (2009) “Shaktis Avatars: Which energy for India”, in Jacques Lesourne and William C. Ramsay (eds), *Energy and India’s Future*, Pages 59-139, IFRI, Paris, France.
10. **Siddiqui, M.Z.**, (2008) “Simple dispatch model for power sector of India”, in Hashim, Rao, Ranganathan and Murthy (eds), *Indian Industrial Development and Globalisation*, Pages 169-191, Academic Foundation, Delhi.
11. Sengupta, Ramprasad and **Siddiqui, M.Z.**, (2007) “Power industry in India”, in Kaushik Basu (ed.) *The Oxford Companion to Economics in India*, Pages 416-421, Oxford University Press, Delhi.
12. **Siddiqui, M.Z.**, (2007) “Lessons from regulation power sector in post reform era: A case study of Orissa”, in Jaivir Singh (ed.) *Regulation, Institutions and the Law*, Pages 120-152, Social Science Press, Delhi,

13. **Siddiqui, M.Z.**, (2006) “Regulation of power sector in Orissa: An evaluation”, in S. Debi and V.B. Annigeri (eds), *Sustainable Development and the Indian Economy: Issues and Challenges*, Pages 135-157, Serials Publication, New Delhi.

Research Experience

1. Economist at Economic Analysis Unit, Department of Social Services, Australian Government
 - Economic Analysis of income support payments
 - Mentoring younger team members
 - Providing strategic advice to higher level executive and concerned minister.
2. Associate Professor at Gulati Institute of Finance and taxation
 - Coordinating course work for PhD programme
 - Coordinating Kerala Government sponsored research project on socio-economic impact of COVID-19
 - Supervision of four PhD students
3. Assistant Professor, Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani, Hyderabad Campus
 - Public Health and Nutrition
 - Labour and Migration
 - Energy Poverty
 - Currently in process of supervising three PhD students
4. Research Fellow, Institute for Economics and Peace (June 2017 to February 2020), Sydney. Role required research using variable global level datasets such as WDI, Gallop, World value Survey, UN-Stats, OECD and etc.
 - Quantifying Definitions of Peace: Positive/Negative Peace
 - Systems Approach to Peace and Conflict
 - Development and Peace Nexus
 - Predicting political crisis/instability and outbreak of violence
5. Research Assistant (Casual) (March 2014 to May 2017) at Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University for quantitative data analysis for two Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project grants
 - “Beyond the Resource Curse” to explore informal mining in India; and
 - ‘Farmers of the Future’ focuses on feminization of agriculture and food security in India.
 - Analysing micro level data of Consumption Expenditure and employment-unemployment rounds
 - Examining declining trend in women’s work participation in rural areas
 - Estimating population dependent on informal mining in India
 - Reconciling Calorie Puzzle debate

- Primary survey to analyse livelihood strategy of left-behind women in rural areas after male migration to urban areas.
6. Consultant for a research project titled ‘Mapping Power Sector in India’ funded by Regulatory Assistance Project a non-profit body based in the United States of America. July 2016 to August 2017
- Qualitative field based study to understand the embeddedness of electricity sector local level political environment in State of Bihar
7. Research Fellow, UniSA Business School, University of South Australia, June 2012-June 2014; Worked on the following *Research Projects*:
- Malnutrition in India: Patterns and determinants funded by an internal grant from the University of South Australia;
 - Impact of highly skilled migrants on the development of India funded by the Swiss Network of International Studies (SNIS);
 - Modelling impact liberalisation of electricity market in India on Investment and Prices using non-linear optimisation.
 - Inequality in access to modern energy services in India funded by a competitive grant from the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR);
 - Advising research students on econometric and Quantitative strategies of their research hypotheses.
8. Visiting Fellow at Monash Asia Institute, Monash University for a month during February-March 2012; I worked on inequality in access to energy services in Rural India and presented a paper at the end of my visit.
9. Assistant Professor of Economics at the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, August 2010–May 2012
- Modelling impact of political constraints on electricity market using mathematical Programming approach
 - Government of West Bengal sponsored project on programme evaluation-based research on the universalisation of elementary education
 - SNIS funded project on “[Migration, scientific diasporas and development: impact of skilled return migration on development in India](#)”
 - Supervised two MPhil students in Development Studies (see below in Teaching Experience)
10. Research Associate (1 June 2009–31 July 2010), Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab., Department of Economics, Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT), USA.
- Handled following responsibilities for conducting a longitudinal survey for the randomised evaluation of remedial education programme in government primary schools in Northern Bihar (Bordering with Nepal), India.

- Co-managing Midline and Endline survey involving monitoring of interventions in 270 schools, 5000 household survey and conducting learning test of 12,000 children.
- Liaison with bureaucrats (at state and local level) responsible for the execution of various projects in elementary education and child development, and with partner-NGOs officials implement the programme in survey area.
- Training and management of about 250 individuals from various backgrounds and capabilities for the successful implementation of survey and data entry skills for conducting large-scale surveys
- Developing data collection schedules for households and schools at various stages of the survey
- implementing and monitoring to ensure randomised nature of intervention for one control and three treatment categories.
- Cleaning the data to enable analysis. This required extensive use of Stata programming.

11. PhD dissertation (10 January 2005–29 June 2009): Power Sector Reforms: Perspectives from New Institutional Economics. Supervisors: Professor Ramprasad Sengupta and Professor Yves Smeers. The thesis involved

- Modelling of the liberalised electricity market in India using a non-linear mathematical programming approach to understand the impact of socio-political factors on development of electricity sector.
- Using NSS data to explore inequality in access to modern energy services for cooking and lighting
- Delving into the political economy of the energy sector policy making.
- Visiting doctoral student (November 2006–June 2008), Centre for Operations Research and Econometrics (CORE), Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium to work with Prof Yves Smeers.

12. Assistant Professor (Ad-hoc, 15 May 2006–31 October 2006). Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi

- Full-time research position for researching on competition policy of India

13. Research Assistant (1 September 2005–21 December 2005), Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi

- Worked with Dr Joel Ruet;
- Collected and analysis of textile industry firm level panel data from Prowess database

14. Research Assistant (15 April 2005–30 June 2005), Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi

- Worked with Dr Joel Ruet
- Analysis of primary survey data on vendors of Delhi and Cairo. The study was concerned with the industrial organisation of vending/hawking in developing countries with insights of rural linkage of hawkers.

15. MPhil dissertation (16 July 2002–30 June 2004, one year of course work and one year of research): “A Critique of Power Sector Reforms in Orissa: Regulation and its Impacts”. Supervisors: Dr N. Vijaymohan Pillai and Professor K.P. Kannan. The dissertation focused on
- Review of developments in theories of regulation and competition;
 - evaluation of the regulatory policy and instruments that were used in the power sector of Orissa using tariff order as main source of data
 - ; analysing the incentive effects of regulation
 - Comparing inequality of access to electricity in pre and post-reform period

Teaching Experience

1. Associate Professor at Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation
 - Teaching course on India Economy
 - Teaching Foundations in Economic theory
2. Assistant Professor, Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani, Hyderabad Campus
Instructor in Charge for undergraduate courses namely
 - Development Economics
 - Contemporary India
 - Techniques of Social Research
 - Public Policy
 - Supervising three PhD students
3. Teaching extraction, analysis and handling of large Non-Random Sample Surveys such as NSS on one to one basis depending on need of the researchers across many countries through online medium since 2009 through a [blog](#) and occasional workshops
 - Workshop 1: Aliah University, Kolkata, India, from September 30 to October 2, 2016.
 - Workshop 2: Aligarh Muslim University, Murshidabad, India April 13-19, 2017
 - Workshop 3: Aliah University, Kolkata, India, from December 31, 2017 to January 2, 2018.
 - Close to 33,000 hits on the blog and 600 responses/comments relating to handling and analysis of big data sets of India
 - Providing regular consultation of to learners all across the world through online mediums.
 - R and Stata used as the software tools for dealing with data sets.
4. University of South Australia June 2012-June 2014
 - Lecturer for the unit “Principles of Economics”, 2014, Semester 2
 - Gave day workshops for Econometric Analysis in Stata in a unit designed for doctoral students taught by Professor William E. Becker of Indiana University during June –July 2012.

5. Assistant Professor (Economics) at the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, August 2010–May 2012
 - Taught a sub-unit “Economics of Competition and Regulation” as part of Industrial economy of India in semester1 of 2011 and 2012
 - Co-taught a unit “Research Methodology for Primary Survey Based Studies”, on semester 2, 2011, My responsibility was Survey Design and managing data production(entry, cleaning and integrating several module of the survey schedule) and analysis
 - Co-supervised two MPhil students in Development Studies during 2011-12
 - Manasi Bera, thesis title “Economic development and migration in West Bengal: Characteristics and pattern (1991-2007)”, Completed successfully.
 - Devleena Majumdar, thesis title “Understanding the Effect of Trade and Trade Policies on Environment Around the World”, completed successfully
6. Lecturer on Ad-hoc (September 2005 – April 2006), Dr. Zakir Hussain Post Graduate College (Evening), University of Delhi, New Delhi
 - Taught ‘Introduction to Microeconomics’ to undergraduate Students during academic year 2005-06
 - Taught ‘Indian Economy’ to undergraduate Students during Academic year 2005-06
7. Fellow/Lecturer (November 2004 – March 2005), Institute for Integrated Learning in Management, New Delhi.
 - Designed and taught ‘Industrial Economics’ to three batches of graduate students of management.
 - Taught ‘National Income Accounting and Macroeconomics’ to graduate students of management.
8. Guest Faculty (16th August 2004– 31st October 2004) Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.
 - Taught ‘Indian Agriculture’ to Master level students
 - Taught ‘Introduction to Microeconomics’ to undergraduate students.

Languages Known: English, Urdu, Hindi, can also speak several local dialects of eastern India including *Bengali*