# KASIM NAZIR SAIYYAD

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D., Applied Economics and Management**, Cornell University — Expected Dec 2026
Dissertation: *Essays on Social Protection, Labor Dynamics, and Welfare in Rural India*
Committee: Prabhu Pingali (Chair), David R. Just, Donald S. Kenkel

M.S., Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University — 2021
M.P.S., International Development, Cornell University — 2019
M.B.A., Marketing and Finance, ICFAI, India — 2009
B.Sc., Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics, Nagpur University, India — 2006

## RESEARCH FIELDS

**Primary:** Development Economics; Labor Economics
**Secondary:** Social Protection Policy; Platform Work and Labor Regulation; Survey Methodology

## JOB MARKET PAPER

Saiyyad, K. N. "Cash Transfers and Public Employment: Does Recipient Gender Matter? Evidence from Rural India."

Cash transfers across multiple countries report null labor supply effects, but few vary recipient gender, and none operates in a guaranteed-employment setting. We exploit two concurrent transfers in 50 villages of Maharashtra, India: a male-directed transfer to landowners, identified by a cluster-randomized encouragement design, and a female-directed transfer to enrolled women, identified by a natural experiment. The male transfer produces no detectable effect on the employment guarantee for either gender. The female transfer reduces women's days on the program by 3.3 days in the first season and 1.6 per season over five seasons. Recipient gender, not magnitude, drives the asymmetry.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book

Saiyyad, K. N. (2027). *Gone with the Gig: What the App Promised and What the Road Took.* Pan Macmillan. (Under contract.)

### Book Chapter

Saiyyad, K. N. (Forthcoming). "Cash Transfers and Employment Guarantees: Substitutes, Complements, or Both?" In *The Oxford Handbook of Guaranteed Minimum Income Policies.* Oxford University Press.

## WORKING PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

### Social Protection and Rural Labor Markets

Saiyyad, K. N. "The Services That Pay for Cash Transfers to Women: Evidence from Indian State Budgets." *World Development* (under review).

Saiyyad, K. N. and Pingali, P. "Unconditional Cash Transfers, Rural Reservation Wages, and Agricultural Labor Supply: Evidence from Rural India." (Work in progress.)

Saiyyad, K. N. and Pingali, P. "Gendered Cash Transfers, Dietary Diversity, and Intrahousehold Decision-Making." (Work in progress.)

**Platform Work and Labor Regulation**

Saiyyad, K. N. "Flexibility Mortgaged, Flexibility Priced: Two Labour Regimes of Indian Platform Work and the Misfit of the Code on Social Security 2020." *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics* (under review)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Graduate Research Assistant**, Cornell University and Tata-Cornell Institute 2018 – Present

- **Social protection.** Coordinated field execution and econometric analysis for a longitudinal panel of 800 rural households across three survey rounds, evaluating India's employment guarantee and state cash transfer programs.
- **Platform work.** Designed and led a mixed-methods study of urban platform workers in Nagpur, Gurugram, and Pune, combining survey data with more than 50 in-depth interviews analyzed using the Framework Method.
- **Participant observation.** Worked two months as a platform delivery rider, collecting first-hand evidence on algorithmic dispatch, earnings, and working conditions from inside the labor process.
- **Primary data.** Built household and individual instruments in ODK and SurveyCTO; managed IRB protocols, enumerator audits, and high-frequency data checks across multi-round panels.
- **Administrative data.** Assembled and linked administrative sources to survey outcomes: employment-guarantee muster rolls, Reserve Bank of India state finance statistics, Legislative Research budget series, and national Time Use Survey microdata.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Cornell University**

**Teaching Assistant**, AEM 3205: Ethics in Business and Organizations (Prof. John Doris) Fall 2026
Enrollment: 150.

- Co-designed and graded three examinations assessing applied ethical reasoning and business frameworks.
- Graded bi-weekly written assignments on corporate governance cases with structured feedback.
- Held weekly office hours and individual advising sessions.

**Mentorship and Professional Field Training**

**Mentor**, Research Scholars Program, Tata-Cornell Institute 2023 – 2025
Doctoral research design, data management, and econometrics.

**Lead Instructor**, Research Design, Data Collection, and Field Administration 2024
Two-week intensive for 25 field investigators; Tata-Cornell Institute, India.

**Lead Instructor**, Community-Based Nutrition Behavior Change Communication 2017
One-week intensive for 100 field workers; Gujarat, India.

**Lead Instructor**, Health Counseling and Program Implementation 2011
One-week course for 50 counselors; Amravati District Health Department, India.

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Finalist, Cornell University 2025
Mario Einaudi Center International Research Travel Award ($2,000) 2025
Cornell Graduate School Research Travel Grant ($1,600) 2025
CALS Alumni Association Award 2025

Tata-Cornell Institute Doctoral Fellowship ($300,000) 2021 – 2026

Tata-Cornell Institute Graduate Fellowship, M.S. and M.P.S. ($180,000) 2018 – 2021

## PRESENTATIONS

### Conference Presentations

Saiyyad, K. N. (2026). "Cash Transfers and Public Employment: Does Recipient Gender Matter?" 17th Australasian Public Choice Conference, Sydney, Australia.

Saiyyad, K. N. and Pingali, P. (2024). "Effect of Cash Transfers on Household Participation in Employment Guarantee Programs in India." Cash Transfers and Guaranteed Minimum Income Programs Conference, Prague, Czech Republic.

Saiyyad, K. N. (2017). "Community-Based Fortification for Reducing Malnutrition in Tribal Gujarat." Government of India Experts' Group Conference on Fortification Policy, New Delhi, India.

### Invited Talks

"Labor Market Dynamics in the Gig Economy." Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Mohali, India, 2025.

"Evidence-Based Research Design." Nagpur University, India, 2025.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

**Reviewer**, East Asia Forum, Australian National University 2026

Reviewed a submitted article on platform labor and digital labor regulation.

## SELECTED PUBLIC WRITING AND MEDIA

### Policy Articles and Op-Eds

"India's Gig Economy Is Growing Faster Than Its Protections." *East Asia Forum*, April 2026.

"From MGNREGA to VB-G Ram G: A Field Researcher's Take." *Tata-Cornell Institute*, January 2026.

"What I Learnt in Two Months as a Gig Worker." *Scroll.in*, August 2025.

"Twenty Rupees for Twenty Minutes: What I Learned Working in India's Gig Economy." *The India Forum*, July 2025. Republished in three outlets and cited in academic and policy commentary.

"Beyond Wages: Exploring the Impact of an Employment Program on Rural Women." *Tata-Cornell Institute*, May 2024.

"Leveraging Women's Empowerment and Entrepreneurship for Targeting Malnutrition." *Sight and Life* 31(2), 2017.

### Media and Podcasts

Quoted in "India's Thriving Online Delivery Platforms Face a Year of Reckoning." *BBC News*, January 2026.

Featured guest, "My Experience as a Food Delivery Partner in India." *Harkara Deep Dive* (podcast), September 2025.

Interviewed in "Gig Work Heats Up, Disaster Body Steps In with Advisory." *Mongabay India*, August 2025.

Profiled in "From Project Coordinator to PhD: TCI Scholar Kasim Saiyyad." *Tata-Cornell Institute*, August 2024.

## PRE-DOCTORAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Project Manager**, Sfurti Initiative, Tata-Cornell Institute, Gujarat, India 2016 – 2018

- Directed a $200,000 community-based flour fortification program reaching 6,000 households across 15 villages, in partnership with the Government of Gujarat, BAIF, Sight and Life, and DSM; uptake exceeded 70 percent within eight months of launch.

- Designed the program MIS and led the social and behavior change communication campaign.

**Field Research Coordinator**, Tata-Cornell Institute, India 2012 – 2016

- Directed survey implementation, enumerator training, and data collection across Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan, supporting six Cornell doctoral dissertations.
- Trained more than 100 field investigators in data collection, management, and field supervision.

**Chief Administrative Officer**, MAHAN Trust, Melghat, Maharashtra, India 2009 – 2012

- Managed village healthcare and hospital counselor programs across 20 tribal villages; infant mortality fell from 84 to 32 per 1,000 live births over three years.
- Supervised program personnel and coordinated institutional grant compliance; raised approximately $125,000 through CSR partners and crowdfunding.

## SKILLS

**Statistical and computational:** Stata, R, Python
**Survey design and data collection:** SurveyCTO, ODK, Qualtrics
**Languages:** English (fluent), Hindi (native), Marathi (native), Urdu (working), Gujarati (working)

## REFERENCES

**Prof. Prabhu Pingali** (Dissertation Chair)

Professor of Applied Economics and Management; Director, Tata-Cornell Institute, Charles H. Dyson School

Cornell University · plp39@cornell.edu

**Prof. David R. Just**

Susan Eckert Lynch Professor in Science and Business, Charles H. Dyson School

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**Prof. Donald S. Kenkel**

Andrew Dickson White Professor, Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy and Department of Economics

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