

CURRICULUM VITAE (C.V.)**AKASH ACHARYA****CONTACT DETAILS**

Akash Acharya
 Assistant Professor
 Centre for Social Studies (CSS)
 Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (VNSGU) Campus
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URL : www.css.ac.in/aacharya.htm

DATE OF BIRTH AND AGE : December 29, 1974 (34 years)
CITIZENSHIP : Indian
PASSPORT No : B-1424121

FAMILY : Aditi (wife) 29, social worker (MSW) associated with SEWA
 Varij (son) 2 year old

LANGUAGES KNOWN : English, Gujarati and Hindi
DISABILITY : Stuttering (Speech Fluency Disorder)

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

| Degree | University | Year of award | Honour/Awards |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---|
| Ph.D.(Economics)* | South Gujarat University | 2005 | |
| MBA | South Gujarat University | 2000 | Stood first in Finance group |
| BA (Economics) | South Gujarat University | 1998 | Two awards for standing first at University level |

* An evaluation of micro health insurance (MHI) schemes in India: A case study of Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

AREAS OF ACADEMIC INTEREST

- Development Studies (Health, Nutrition and Population-HNP issues, Corporate Social Responsibility-CSR etc.)
- Current interest is **health and population policy research**, issues like role of health in development, health care-seeking behaviour, burden of health care expenditure on poor and coping strategies used by them in meeting out-of-pocket payment, health care financing models for poor in informal sector, old age care taking models etc.
- Current Project is on **social networks and health care-seeking behaviour** in collaboration with **Emory University** and is being funded by the National Science Foundation (**NSF**) under Grant No. **BCS-0753638**

EMPLOYMENT

A] FACULTY, CENTRE FOR SOCIAL STUDIES (CSS), SURAT, INDIA (May 2005 onwards)

Working as an Assistant Professor with [CSS](#) which is [ICSSR](#) (Indian Council of Social Science Research) supported multi-disciplinary social science research institute. The research focus is on health and population related issues. At present I am also involved in a project on health care-seeking behaviour in low income settlements in Surat and in process of starting a study on bird-flu in collaboration with Emory University, USA.

B] GUJARAT INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH (GIDR), AHMEDABAD, INDIA (October 2004 – April 2005)

Worked as a **consultant** to a project on state level population policies funded by Health Watch Trust. The objective of the project is to analyse the impact of **two-child norm** for elected representatives in Indian states of Rajasthan, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. My responsibility included review of literature, preparing interview guides, conducting fieldwork, writing the project report and developing a working paper.

C] LSHTM-SEWA PROJECT (Based at Ahmedabad, India, June 2002 – Feb. 2004)

Worked as Research Associate on a [Wellcome Trust \(UK\)](#) funded action research project jointly carried out by London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine ([LSHTM](#)) and Self Employed Women Association ([SEWA](#)). The project aimed at analysing and improving equity impact of SEWA's micro insurance scheme for the poor and involved fieldwork and intervention in 11 districts of Gujarat. My responsibilities included literature review, developing survey tool, training SEWA's grassroots researchers as investigators, field supervision, analysis of collected data and co-authoring journal papers.

D] CENTRE FOR SOCIAL STUDIES (CSS), SURAT, INDIA (Jan 2000 to May 2002)

At CSS, I worked on a range of development projects like displacement & rehabilitation, seasonal migration, corporate social responsibility and agricultural power subsidy. The main responsibility was planning and implementing research projects which included conceiving and writing a proposal, literature review, preparing research design, sample and questionnaire construction, fieldwork, analysis of collected data, preparing case studies as well as writing the final report.

RESEARCH OUTPUT

A] PUBLICATIONS IN RESEARCH JOURNALS (SELECTED)

Acharya Akash (2007) 'Delivering Health Care Services to the poor: Role of State, Market and NGOs', The Indian Economy Review, 4 (4) pp. 78-88

Acharya Akash and Ratnawali Sinha (2007) 'Ethics in Social Science Research: A Report on National Consultation and Training Programme' Journal of Health and Development, 2 (3&4) pp. 161-169

Devadasan N, Kent Ranson, Wim van Damme **Akash Acharya** and Bart Criel (2006) 'The landscape of community health insurance in India: An overview based on 10 case studies' Health Policy, 78 (2006) pp. 224-234

Bandewar Sunita, **Akash Acharya**, Ratnawali, Biswaroop Das and Sudarshan Iyengar (2006) 'Ethics in Social Science Research: Report of a National Consultation', Economic and Political Weekly, 41 (26) pp. 2702-2705

Sinha Tara, Kent Ranson, Mirai Chatterjee, **Akash Acharya** and Anne Mills (2006) 'Barriers faced by the poor in benefiting from community-based insurance services: lessons learnt from SEWA Insurance, Gujarat', Health Policy and Planning 21 (2) pp. 132-142

Visaria Leela, **Akash Acharya** and Francis Raj (2006) 'Two child norm: Victimising the Vulnerable?' Economic and Political Weekly 41 (1) pp. 41-48

Ranson Kent, Tara Sinha, Mirai Chatterjee, **Akash Acharya**, Ami Bhavsar, Saul Morris and Anne Mills (2006), 'Making health insurance work for the poor: learning from SEWA's community-based health insurance scheme' Social Science and Medicine 62 (3) pp. 707-720

Acharya Akash and Kent Ranson (2005) 'Health Care Financing for the Poor: Community-based Health Insurance Schemes in Gujarat', Economic and Political Weekly 40 (38) pp. 4141-4150

Joshi Vidyut and **Akash Acharya** (2005) 'An overview of the power sector in India', Industrial Researcher 32 (3) pp. 3-7

Acharya Akash (2003) 'Land Acquisition, employment loss, and women's participation in income generation in the coastal belt of South Gujarat' Development in Practice 13 (1) pp. 97-103

Acharya Akash (2002) 'Land Acquisition, Loss of Employment and Women's Participation in Income Generation: A Case study of Coastal Belt of South Gujarat', Man & Development 14 (3) pp.79-86

Acharya Akash (2001) A book titled 'Co-operativization, Liberalisation and Dairy Industry in India', (by Dilip Shah, ABD Publishers, Jaipur) was reviewed in Arthat, Vol. 20, No. 4

Acharya Akash (2000) 'Why Retain Retention Price Scheme?' Vishleshan, 25 (3) pp.33-36

Acharya Akash (2000) 'Migration from Hilly Areas' [letter], Economic and Political Weekly, 35 (34)

Acharya Akash (2000) 'A Bold Film', [letter] Economic and Political Weekly, 35 (25)

Acharya Akash (1998) 'Swadeshi Vs Videshi', Vishleshan 23 (2) pp. 130-131

B] WORKING PAPERS

Acharya Akash (2008) 'Access and Utilisation of Health Care Services in urban low-income settlements in Surat, India' CSS Working Paper No.5, January

Joshi Vidyut and **Akash Acharya** (2005) 'Addressing agricultural power subsidy: A case study of North Gujarat', available on www.esocialsciences.com and as CSS Working Paper No.2, July

C] BOOK CHAPTER

Acharya Akash (2007) 'Micro Health Insurance: NGO Experience in Gujarat', in Mohammad Akram (Ed.) *Health Dynamics and Marginalised Communities*, Rawat Publications, pp.266-276

D] RESEARCH REPORTS

Acharya Akash (2006) 'Health status, health needs and health care-seeking behaviour of people living in 22 slums of Surat city', Centre for Social Studies (mimeo.), November

Acharya Akash, Biswaroop Das, Kiran Pandya and Madhusudan Raj (2006) 'Surat 2006 Floods: A Citizens' report', Centre for Social Studies (mimeo.), October [also available on www.ssrn.com/abstract=940728]

Acharya Akash (2004) 'An evaluation of micro health insurance (MHI) schemes in India: A case study of Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)', unpublished PhD thesis Veer Narmad South Gujarat University.

Ranson Kent, N. Devadasan **Akash Acharya** and RuthAnn Fanstone (2003) 'How to (or how not to) design a community based health-insurance scheme: Lessons learned from a review of Indian schemes', A report submitted to the World Bank, June

Joshi Vidyut and **Akash Acharya** (2002) 'Addressing Agricultural Power Subsidy: A Case Study of North Gujarat', Centre for Social Studies (mimeo.), April

Acharya Akash (2000) 'Women's Participation in Income Generation in Hazira Area', Centre for Social Studies (mimeo.), November

E] IN MAGAZINES/NEWSLETTERS/NEWSPAPERS (SELECTED)

Acharya Akash (2006) 'Micro Health Insurance Models: Lessons learnt and way forward' Health Action, July, pp. 7-10

Acharya Akash (2004) 'Micro Health Insurance: NGO Experience in Gujarat', Silver Jubilee Symposium souvenir, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), Anand, December

Acharya Akash (2004) 'Health Insurance for Poor: NGO experience in India', Conference souvenir, Department of Health Services Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, January

Ranson Kent and **Akash Acharya** (2003) 'Community-Based Health Insurance: The answer to India's risk-sharing problems?' Health Action, pp.12-14, March

Ranson Kent and **Akash Acharya** (2003) 'Increasing health insurance coverage among the poor through partnership between NGOs and private-for-profit insurers', Health Economics and Financing Programme (HEFP) Newsletter, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), London, UK, Spring

Acharya Akash (1999) 'Alternative window for export finance', Indian Express, January 6

More than 100 write-ups in the 'letter to the editor' section and articles published in newspapers like, The Economic Times, The Indian Express, Times of India and also in *Gujarati* (vernacular) dailies and magazines.

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Presented work at places like

John Hopkins University (**JHU**) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (**LSHTM**), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (**TISS**), Institute of Rural Management Anand (**IRMA**), World Congress of the International Health Economics Association (**iHEA** – in absentia), Gujarat Economic Association's (GEA), International Knowledge Millennium Conference (IKMC), Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (VNSGU), Centre for Social Studies (**CSS**), Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (**IGIDR**) etc.

Organised (with Gauri Raje) a workshop on 'Healing, Medical Power and the Poor: Contests in Tribal India' at CSS in collaboration with the Centre for History of Medicine (CHM), **University of Warwick**, UK, March 21-23, 2007

Organised (With Ratnawali) a National Consultation on "Ethics in Social Science Research" at Centre for Social Studies (CSS), Surat, December 2-3, 2005. (in collaboration with Cehat)

Organised (with Kent Ranson) an international workshop on "health related household survey methodology" for Health Economics and Financing Programme (HEFP) of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (**LSHTM**), Ahmedabad, September 21-24, 2004

COMPUTER SKILLS

Well versed with Windows, MS Office (MS-Word, MS-Excel, MS-PowerPoint), basic internet exploration skills and Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

ACADEMIC VISITS ABROAD

- **USA** (2007) – Invited by **JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY** and **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND** on GATES SCHOLARSHIP to present paper in 6th International Conference on Urban Health (ICUH), Baltimore, USA, October 31-November 2
- **Germany** (2005) - Invited by **UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG** ([Department of Tropical Hygiene and Public Health](#)), to discuss academic collaboration in Heidelberg, Germany, during June 8-15
- **England** (2002) - Invited by **UNIVERSITY OF LONDON** (School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine - [LSHTM](#)) to attend a capacity development workshop in **LONDON (UK)**, during December 2-6

CONSULTANCY

- **Gujarat State Aids Control Society (GSACS):** Participated as a member of Joint Appraisal Team (JAT) for field evaluation of NGOs (August 2008)
- **HealthWatch Trust:** Did a study on impact of “two-child norm” for elected representatives of local bodies in three states of India (2004-2005)
- **Indian Concil for Social Science Research (ICSSR):** Have been providing data processing consultancy under the guidance and consultancy scheme

LINKS WITH NGOS

- **Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA)**
Have collaborated on action research projects with public health and micro insurance wings of SEWA.
- **Action Research in Community Health (ARCH)**
Have been associated with a group of medical doctors working on community health in tribal belt of Gujarat in western India

FIELD EXPOSURE

- Apart from most rural areas of Gujarat, conducted fieldwork in villages of Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

REFERENCES

- Available on request (both Indian as well as International)