

Sahana Roy Chowdhury

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Employment	INDIAN COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, NEW DELHI	Fellow, 2011-present
	MONETARY RESEARCH PROJECT, ICRA LIMITED, KOLKATA (INVESTMENT INFORMATION & CREDIT RATING AGENCY)	Economist, 2008-2010
Education	INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE, KOLKATA, INDIA. <i>Thesis Title:</i> Wealth Inequality and Economic Performances <i>Major:</i> Development Economics <i>Advisor:</i> Prof. Abhirup Sarkar	Ph. D., 2010
	INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE, INDIA. Honors with First Class <i>Major:</i> Quantitative Economics	M. S., 2001-2003
	UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA, INDIA. Honors with First Class <i>Major:</i> Economics <i>Other Subjects:</i> Mathematics, Psychology	B. Sc., 1998-2001
Research interests	<i>Development Economics:</i> inequality, poverty related issues. <i>Labour Economics:</i> migration, unemployment related issues.	
Teaching interests	Microeconomic theory, Industrial Organization, Labour Economics, Development Economics, Trade theory.	
Academic appointments	CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, NY, USA. Visiting Student, April 2008-June 2008	
Professional appointments	Referee for <i>Economic Modelling</i> (Elsevier)	
Published and working papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Roy Chowdhury, S. (2008), Migration in a model of occupational choice, <i>Indian Growth and Development Review</i>, 1(1): 84 - 94 (Emerald Group). <i>Abstract:</i> This paper provides a theoretical explanation for the empirical observation that the relative migration of unskilled (skilled) labor tends to occur from developing economies that are relatively unequal (equal). Relative to the existing theoretical literature on migration, the	

distinguishing feature of our model is that we have entrepreneurship as an alternative occupational choice. This implies that the incentive to migrate is not affected solely by wage differentials across countries.

- Roy Chowdhury, S. (2010), Technology and outsourcing: an explanation to the rising wage gap, *Economic Modelling*, 27(1): 380-387 (Elsevier).
Abstract: The recent phenomenon of widening skilled-unskilled wage gap in both North and South has been either explained by a technological change or by increasing trade or globalization. The paper provides a new explanation and emphasizes that it is neither technology nor trade alone but both that have contributed to the widening wage inequality. The paper also analyzes some major economic impacts of such a technological upgradation in North on the southern economy.
- Roy Chowdhury, S. (2010), Inducing human capital formation: How efficient is an education subsidy?, *International Journal of Business and Economics*, 9(2): 105-114 (Feng Chia University, Taiwan).
Abstract: This paper presents a two-step job ladder model where a skilled individual faces uncertainty in getting a skilled job and an inferior (unskilled) job down the job ladder is the alternative employment opportunity. When the probability of getting the skilled job is low enough, the model suggests the optimal policy to reach the social optimum is taxing rather than subsidizing human capital investment. The paper analyses the conditions when migration can act as a substitute for subsidizing human capital formation by moving the private optimum closer to the social optimum.
- Roy Chowdhury, S. (2011), Impact of global crisis on small and medium enterprises, *Global Business Review*, 12(3): 377-399 (Sage Publications).
- Roy Chowdhury, S. (2012), Wealth Inequality, Entrepreneurship and Industrialization, *Journal of Economics* (Springer) (Accepted for publication).
Abstract: The paper shows that in a two-good economy with a basic and a luxury good sector inequality is indeed a hindrance to provide sufficient incentive for entrepreneurship to low-wealth economic agents. In contrast to the literature it uses both demand and supply-side explanations for the analysis. An entrepreneurial subsidy policy to encourage entrepreneurship in autarky financed by a lump sum tax on the rich is not very effective in unequal economies since it hardly impacts the welfare. When trade is opened up in the luxury good sector of such an economy the sector might cease to exist. In such a scenario, the rich people being the sole consumers would reap the entire benefits of globalization via low price of the imported luxury good. The paper highlights that the crucial question is: 'how to globalize' rather than 'whether to globalize' and suggests policy measures to make globalization inclusive.
- Wealth inequality and occupational choice (*submitted*).
Abstract: The paper finds the role of wealth inequality of an economy in the occupational choice decisions of the economic agents and shows that the higher the level of inequality, the higher is the skilled labor to entrepreneur ratio of that economy. It obtains a counter intuitive result that education subsidy is not an appropriate policy for a highly unequal economy but may be an optimal policy for highly equal economies.
- Inequality and the size of informal sector (*submitted*).
Abstract: The paper provides a theoretical explanation for the empirical observation that more unequal economies tend to have larger informal sector. It shows in a model of occupational choice how wealth distribution determines the occupational pattern, which in turn determines the size of the informal sector of an economy. The paper also shows, in contrary to the general

belief, that informal sector do not necessarily expand at the time of recession acting as a buffer for the unemployed pool. Rather, it might contract under certain conditions depending upon the inequality level of an economy.

Invited talks

- National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, February, 2010.
- Winter School Conference, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, December 2009.
- Department of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, July 2009.
- Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, August 2008.
- Department of Economics, Cornell University, Ithaca (USA), September 2007.
- South and South East Asia Econometric Society Meeting, The Institute for Financial Management and Research, Chennai, December 2006.
- 2nd International Conference on Issues in Development Economics: Environment, Culture and Society, Burdwan University, Burdwan, February 2006.
- Second Annual Conference on Economic Growth, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi, January 2006.
- XV Annual Conference on Contemporary Issues in Development Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, December 2005.
- Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, 2005 (seminar).

Grants & awards

Senior Research Fellowship , Indian Statistical Institute.	2005–2008
Junior Research Fellowship , Indian Statistical Institute.	2003–2005
Stipend , Indian Statistical Institute.	2001–2003
Prize for Academic Proficiency from Department of Economics, Bethune College, Calcutta University.	2001
Prize for Academic Proficiency from Department of Economics, Bethune College, Calcutta University.	2000
National Merit Scholarship	1998

Projects undertaken

“Department of Economic Affairs (MoF) Research Programme on G20 Issues” [working on G20 Development Agenda] (2011)
 “A study on impact of Foreign Exchange (FE) rate and FII on NSE index through NIFTY” (2003)
 “A study on structural breaks in FE rate and NSE index (NIFTY) and a time series analysis relating them” (2003)

Programming skills

I am familiar with the following packages: E-VIEWS, ITSM, STATA

References

- **Dr. Abhirup Sarkar**
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- **Dr. Uday Bhanu Sinha**
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