

**Priya Nanda, Ph.D.**

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**Summary of Experience and Expertise**

An independent consultant with expertise in research, evaluation, and grantmaking on gender and sexual reproductive health and rights issues. Till April 2023, I was a Senior Program Officer with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation at the India Country office in the Measurement Learning and Evaluation team, for six and a half years, where I led grantmaking for a portfolio on research and evaluations for the Foundations technical assistance to support health systems strengthening and family planning with a focus on gender, social norms and equity. The portfolio encompassed research and evaluation on public sector health systems, digital health programs and reproductive health service delivery with a focus on measuring impact, refining strategies and design and improving indicators and measures. Prior to joining the Foundation in January 2017, I was the Director of the Social and Economic Development group for the International Center for Research on Women's (ICRW) Asia Regional Office in New Delhi, India from 2006 to 2016. At ICRW I led research, policy and programmatic work on issues related to gender equality and poverty reduction, with a focus on the intersections between economic and health issues. My expertise and interests span gender, intersectionality, understanding approaches to shift right- based practices within complex health systems with a focus on gender and structural inequalities. I have led large research and evaluation studies on measurement and evaluation of women's economic empowerment and access to health services, including reproductive and sexual health and adolescent empowerment programs. With deep expertise on designing and evaluating programs for adolescent girls' empowerment, I was also the Co-Director of the ODI led research consortium on Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence from 2014 to 2016. I have also worked at the Center for Health and Gender Equity when it was founded for eight years on issues of accountability to a rights-based agenda from 1998 to 2006. I have a Ph. D in health economics from the Johns Hopkins University, a MIA from Columbia University and a MA and BA in economics from the University of Delhi. I am also an adjunct faculty at the University of North Carolina's Department of Maternal and Child Health.

**Education**

- **Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health**, Baltimore, MD  
Ph.D. in Health Economics
- **Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs**, New York, NY  
M.S. in International Affairs
- **University of Delhi, The Delhi School of Economics**, Delhi, India  
M.A. in Economics
- **University of Delhi**, Delhi, India  
B.A. in Economics

**Professional Experience**

- **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, New Delhi India** **2017-April 2023**  
*Senior Program Officer, Equity and Social Change*  
 Led and co designed investment to measure impact of technical assistance programs to support digital health and health systems strengthening efforts in the public health sector in India. Worked integrally with the family planning team to bring a compelling measurement and evidence building agenda for strategies to address gender norms and contraceptive needs especially for the vulnerable and younger lower parity women and men. Worked collaboratively within organization across program teams to leverage existing and new evidence and shift the needle on new and rigorous evidence as well as carve out a forward-looking research agenda on health systems and gender and family planning and Maternal and Neo Natal Health. Building data collaboratives, team science and right based evidence creation capacities as a core to research investments shaped under these portfolios. Supported the strategy leadership team on insights for strategy refresh for the portfolio. Worked within the external partners ecosystem to push for use of new emerging evidence-based insights for the health portfolio.
- Alumni of the Indian Cohort, Women Lift Leadership Program, 2022
- Current Member of the Advisory Council of IDEAS 42
- **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC** **2010-Present**  
*Adjunct Professor, Maternal and Child Health Department*
- **International Center for Research on Women, New Delhi, India** **2006-2016**  
*Director, Social and Economic Development*  
 Led research, policy and programmatic work on issues related to population, reproductive health and gender equality, with a focus on the intersection between these issues. The work I have led includes research, measurement and evaluation of women's economic empowerment, delayed age of marriage, son preference and other reproductive health outcomes with direct relevance for development programs and policies. Led several large projects including Measurement Learning and Evaluation project in partnership with University of North Carolina to evaluate the impact of a large Urban Reproductive Health Initiative in Uttar Pradesh India and Measurement of the Impact of a Conditional Cash Transfer program of the Government of Haryana in India. Also led the partnership with Gap Inc. where ICRW is a lead evaluation partner for Gap Inc.'s workplace program for female garment workers in seven Asian countries. Developed the adolescent girls' curriculum and program for Gap Inc.' P.A.C.E. program. I was the Co-Director of the ODI led research consortium on Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence when it started from 2014 to 2016. Have continued to serve on the advisory board of GAGE.
- **World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland** **2005-2006**  
*Consultant*
  - Led a situation analysis of equity in access to ARV treatment in eight countries for improved gender sensitive indicators for monitoring treatment programs globally. Evaluated the patient monitoring and tracking system in Uganda to better understand the collection and reporting of data from health facilities to national ministry of health. Conducted a rapid assessment, based on 4 facilities, of barriers and facilitators to HIV testing and ARV treatment for men and women in Uganda

- Developed a monograph on the evaluation framework and strategy for a large HIV prevention program, Avahan, funded by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in India. Developed a database and wrote a monograph on the district demographic and epidemiological profiles to understand the baseline trends in the intervention districts for Avahan. These two documents will be first of the several in the Evaluation Series for the Avahan Program in India.
- **Center for Health and Gender Equity, Washington D.C.** **1998-2005**  
*Director Research*
  - Managed, supervised and provided technical guidance to the program staff for research and advocacy on PEPFAR funded programs in Africa.
  - Monitored, tracked and analyzed funding for US donor policies and programs on HIV/AIDS. Monitoring PEPFAR funded programs on the ground Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania with a focus on equity in access, health system capacity, evidence based analysis of prevention programs and sustainability of treatment.
  - Organized an international conference on “HIV Testing at a Crossroads” to bring the current debates on routine testing into a policy and programmatic context of different high and low prevalence countries.
  - Designed, implemented and managed a multi-site, multi-country research program to monitor the implications of health sector reforms on reproductive health and rights.
  - Overall coordination, oversight of the four studies through project appraisal, mid term assessment and final reviews of the projects.
- **Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi, India** **1991-1993**  
*Health Economist*
  - Conducted assessment of community needs and community financing mechanisms in health care for three pilot community health projects in India.
  - Coordinated and led training workshops on women's health as a part of technical support to member organizations throughout India.
  - Designed, implemented and published a study on patterns of utilization of healthcare in the private medical sector in Delhi.
  - Conducted an analysis of the law banning trade of organs.
- **Columbia University, New York, NY** **1990-1991**  
*Project Management and Design Team Jamaica*
  - Designed a monitoring and evaluation system for a community development project in Jamaica.
  - Designed and carried out a feasibility study and prepared a documentation of the project to be submitted to OXFAM and Caribbean Conference of Churches for their funding decisions on the project.
- **PLAN International, Yogyakarta, Indonesia** **1989-1990**  
*Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant*
  - Conducted evaluations of small scale enterprises funded by PLAN in Indonesia.
  - Developed business analysis of these projects for a training manual produced by USAID. Assessed the enterprise monitoring systems to better meet PLAN's reporting requirements.
- **The Planning Commission, Government of India, New Delhi, India** **1988-1989**  
*Public Policy Analyst*
  - Monitored the budgetary expenditure of the Government of India's Strategic Plan.

- Measured the distributional effects of public and private sector investments and forecasted their budgetary implication for the Plan.
- CREA Sexuality and Rights Global Institute Alumni 2010 and 2022
- Representation on panels for key convenings including Women Deliver, International Family Planning Conference, Health Systems Global Conference, IUSSP, Population Association of America (1998-2021)

### **Project /Evaluation or Research Experience**

- **Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (2015-2010):** Global Research Uptake Co-director for a nine-year initiative to advance the global evidence base regarding what works to improve adolescent girls' wellbeing. Contribute to the design and implementation of research and programmatic strategies and to ensuring both the widespread and targeted dissemination of research results.
- **Impact on Marriage: Program Assessment of Conditional Cash Transfers:** Leads evaluation of the Apni Beti Apna Dhan (ABAD) program, with the primary goal of providing reproductive health and development stakeholders with tangible evidence on the effectiveness of CCT programs as a route to delaying marriage in regions where early marriage rates continue to be high. The ABAD is a CCT program initiated by the Government of Haryana in October, 1994. The scheme targets poor households and disadvantaged caste groups, and eligibility is determined by the birth of a daughter. The program offers two points of transfer: 1) a small cash disbursement to mothers (Rs. 500) within 15 days of delivering a girl; and 2) within three months of birth, the government purchases a savings bond in the name of the daughter which is redeemable at a guaranteed maturity of Rs. 25,000 at age 18, provided she has remained unmarried.
- **Measurement, Learning & Evaluation (MLE) for the Urban Reproductive Health Initiative:** Led project that aimed to promote evidence-based decision-making in the design of urban family planning and reproductive health interventions that target the urban poor in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The MLE project used rigorous study designs and multiple data collection approaches to evaluate the impact of the five-country Urban Reproductive Health Initiative, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), and to build local, regional, and global capacity of partners in monitoring and evaluation for future urban family planning initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. In India, the need for a constant MLE presence in India was identified early by the BMGF and partners, and ICRW was brought on board to help fill this gap by providing technical assistance to University of North Carolina and other MLE partners in the implementation of this project in its six sites in India.
- **Personal Advancement and Career Enhancement (P.A.C.E.):** Served as the evaluation anchor, leading the evaluation activities at both global and regional levels to ensure that results and learning from the expanded P.A.C.E investment are measured in a sound and credible manner. Dr. Nanda also provided strategic input for program development and evolution as well as ensuring synthesis of learning across P.A.C.E program sites. The program targeted select young women; aged 15-25, in factories that produce Gap, Inc. branded products, and it was initially focused in four countries: India, Cambodia, Lesotho, and Turkey.
- **Gender Analysis in Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in India:** Undertaking the first ever field-based gender analysis of MSMEs in India. MSMEs are an important instrument of India's economic growth. The study will identify key opportunities and strategies for improving gender outcomes related to women's ownership of and employment in MSMEs, wages and working conditions as well as access to skills building, credit, technology and markets. This study will be an

important contribution to improved understanding of gender constraints as well as opportunities in the MSME sector.

- **Planning Ahead for Girls Empowerment and Employment (PAGE):** Developed PAGE as a research intervention to create an innovative tested model for enabling in-school girls make an effective transition from education to employment. The proposed model will engage in-school girls in the age groups of 15-17 years from low income communities.
- **Creating a Framework for Conceptualizing and Measuring Women's Economic Empowerment in South Asian Development Projects:** Strengthened capacity of organizations to economically empower women through their programs by developing a general framework to conceptualize and measure women's economic empowerment based on the work and experience of ICRW and others. Assessed how the framework applies to projects in South Asia and, if needed, refine it to better meet measurement needs. Disseminated the framework and solicit feedback through a workshop in the region for researchers and practitioners.
- **Adolescent Girls Livelihoods Program in India - A Scoping Study:** Conducted a two-part scoping review of (1) completed and current adolescent, livelihood programs in India, and (2) a targeted scan in two low-income states of programs that offer comprehensive programs including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and vocational training and financial services. The overall goal of this project is to inform the design of programs and/or interventions to meet the needs of adolescent girls through comprehensive services based on best practice with a particular focus on strategies to effectively deliver vocational training and financial services to girls aged 16-19.
- **Men's Attitudes to Son Preference and Harmful Practices in Vietnam, Nepal and Pakistan:** Led study that sought to conduct a quantitative survey in Vietnam and Nepal, as well as a desk review in Pakistan to understand the dimensions, nature and determinants of men's varying attitude to son preference and sex selection. The purpose of the research study was to contribute to enhanced evidence and analysis of men's and women's attitudes on son preference and sex selection, an area identified as a gap in research. The findings from this research provide insightful data and information for policy and programs that seek address issues of son preference and sex selection.

## Select Publications

1. Nanda, P, P Das and N Dutta. Education, Sexuality, and Marriageability (2022): Overlapping Tropes in the Lives of Adolescent Girls in Haryana, India, *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 70(2022) S28-S35.
2. Lewis, T.N, and **Nanda, P.** (2021, July). Problematic problem diagnostics: why digital health interventions for community health workers do not always achieve their desired impact. *BMJ Global Health*.
3. Joshi, S. et al. (2021, July). Spatial Variation in Contraceptive Practice Across the Districts of India, 1998–2016. *Spatial Demography*
4. **Nanda, P.** et al. (2020, October). Virtual and essential – adolescent SRHR in the time of COVID-19. *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters*, Vol. 28(1): 1831136
5. **Nanda, P.** Lewis, T.N. et al. (2020, October). From the frontlines to centre stage: resilience of frontline health workers in the context of COVID-19. *Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters*, Vol. 28(1): 1837413
6. S Goli et al. Is unintended birth associated with physical intimate partner violence? Evidence from India. January 2020, Journal of Biosocial Science
7. N Dehengia et al. Family planning counseling and its associations with modern contraceptive use, initiation, and continuation in rural Uttar Pradesh, India December 2019 Reproductive Health 16(1):178
8. A Mozumdar Choice of contraceptive methods in public and private facilities in rural India December. 2019 BMC Health Services Research 19(1) DOI: 10.1186/s12913-019-4249-0
9. **Nanda P** and Tandon, S “The Times They Are A-Changin’”: using technology for ASHR in the 25 years since ICPD. December 2019 Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters 27(1):1676023
10. Dondona R et al Deferred and referred deliveries contribute to stillbirths in the Indian state of Bihar: Results from a population-based survey of all births February 2019 BMC Medicine 17(1):28
11. Dondona R et al Distinct mortality patterns at 0–2 days versus the remaining neonatal period: results from population-based assessment in the Indian state of Bihar December 2019. BMC Medicine 17(1)
12. Rajan S, et al. Sex composition and its impact on future childbearing: A longitudinal study from urban Uttar Pradesh .December 2018 Reproductive Health 15(1)
13. Rajan,S, Speizer, I, Calhoun, L, **and Nanda P.** 2017. “Counseling During Maternal and Infant Health Visits and Postpartum Contraceptive Use in Uttar Pradesh, India.” *International Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*.
14. Achyut P. et al. MLE Consortium. Impact evaluation of the Urban Health Initiative in Urban Uttar Pradesh, India. March 2016 Contraception 93(6)
15. **Nanda P.** December 2016. “Shaping Futures: Planning Ahead for Girls’ Empowerment and Employability” International Centre for Research on Women, Asia Regional Office.
16. Nanda P, Das P, Datta N, Lamba S, Pradhan E, & Warner A 2015 – IMPACCT “Making Change with Cash? Evaluation of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program to Enhance the Value of Girls in Northern India.” International Centre for Research on Women, Asia Regional office.
17. **Nanda P**, Datta N, Pradhan E, Das P & Lamba S 2015 –IMPACCT “Delaying Marriage with Cash? Impact of Conditional Cash Transfers on Delaying Marriage of Girls.” International Centre for Research on Women, Asia Regional office.
18. Achyut P., **Nanda P.**, Khan N., and Verma R. Quality of care in Provision of Female Sterilization and IUD Services: An Assessment Study in Bihar. New Delhi, International Centre for Research on Women. March 2015

19. **Nanda P**, Gautam A, Verma R. Masculinity, Son Preference & Intimate Partner Violence And Son Preference in India – A Study. International Centre for Research on Women, Asia Regional office. November 2014
20. Mishra A , **Nanda P**, Ilene S Speizer, Lisa M Calhoun. Men's attitudes on gender equality and their contraceptive use in Uttar Pradesh India. Reproductive Health Journal. June 4, 2014.
21. Ilene S Speizer, Meghan Corroon, Lisa M Calhoun, Peter Lance, Livia Montana, **Nanda P**. Longitudinal Impact Evaluation of Demand Creation Activities in Urban Sites in Four Countries. Global Health: Science and Practice
22. **Nanda P**, Datta N, Das P. IMPACCT- Impact on marriage: Program assessment of Conditional Cash Transfers. International Centre for Research on Women, Asia Regional office. March 2014
23. **Nanda P**, Das P, Singh A. Addressing Comprehensive Needs of Adolescents Girls in India – A Potential for Creating Livelihoods – A scoping Study. International Centre for Research on Women, Asia Regional office. March 2013
24. **Nanda P**, Verma R. Child Marriage in Southern Asia – Policy Options for Action. International Centre for Research on Women, Asia Regional office. October 2012
25. **Nanda P**, Gautam A, Verma R. Study on Gender, Masculinity and Son Preference in Nepal and Vietnam. International Centre for Research on Women, Asia Regional office. October 2012
26. **Nanda P**, Mishra A. A study to Evaluate the Effectiveness of WHO tools – Orientation Programme on Adolescent Health for Health Care Providers and Adolescent Job Aid – in improving the quality of health services provided by health workers to their female adolescent clients in India. International Centre for Research on Women, Asia Regional office. May 2012
27. Speizer I, **Nanda P**, Achyut P, Pillai G and Guilkey K. D. Family Planning Use among Urban Poor Women from six cities of Uttar Pradesh, India. Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine. March 2012
28. **Nanda P**, Mishra A. Exploring and understanding the Barriers to Safe abortion services in Pakistan. International Centre for Research on Women, Asia Regional office. August 2011
29. **Nanda P**, Mishra A. Understanding the Determinants of safe Abortion services in Bangladesh: The Perspective of Users and Gatekeepers. International Centre for Research on Women, Asia Regional office. June 2011
30. **Nanda P**, Kapoor S, Mukherjee S, Hersh M, Basu S and Bhargava R. Delaying Marriage for Girls in India: A formative research to design interventions for changing norms. (India: UNICEF, 2011)
31. Rogan M, **Nanda P** and Maharaj P. Promoting and Prioritizing Reproductive Health Commodities: Understanding the Emergency Contraception Value Chain in South Africa. African Journal of Reproductive Health Mar 2010; 14(1):
32. **Nanda P**. Exploring the Transformative Potential of Medical Abortion for Women in India. International Center for Research on Women, Asia Regional Office. February 2010.
33. **Nanda P** . "I Would Pay, if I Could Pay in Maize: Trade Liberalization, User fees in Health and Women's Health Seeking in Tanzania." Chapter in a book titled "Trading Women's Health and Rights? Exploring the Role of Trade Liberalization and Development"" eds. Grown, Malhotra and Braunstien. Zed Books. July 2006.
34. **Nanda P** Moving towards the 'center': Decentralization and Reproductive Health and Rights. Development. Society for International Development. December 2005.
35. **Nanda P** "Gender, AIDS, and ARV Therapies: Ensuring that Women Gain Equitable Access to Drugs within U.S. Funded Treatment Initiatives." Center for Health and Gender Equity, Takoma Park, MD. 2004.
36. **Nanda P** "Exploring the Links between Health Sector Reforms and Reproductive Health and Rights: Implementation of the RCH Program in Tamil Nadu." Center for Health and Gender Equity

Working Paper. Presented at the National Dissemination Meeting, Global Realities Local Agendas: Implications of Health Sector Reforms on Reproductive Health and Rights, New Delhi, March 2003.

37. **Nanda P** "Political Decentralization and the Primary Health Care System: Examining the Potential for Improving Women's Reproductive Health Care in Kerala." Center for Health and Gender Equity Working Paper. Presented at the National Dissemination Meeting, Global Realities Local Agendas: Implications of Health Sector Reforms on Reproductive Health and Rights, New Delhi, March 2003.
38. **Nanda P** "Gender Dimensions of User Fees: Implications for Women's Utilization of Health Care." Reproductive Health Matters. Elsevier Publications. 2002.
39. **Nanda P** "Rhetoric and Reality of Health Reforms: Implications for Reproductive Health and Rights," in Globalization, Health Sector Reform, Gender and Reproductive Health. Ford Foundation, New York. 2001.
40. **Nanda P** "Women's Participation in Rural Credit Programmes in Bangladesh and Their Demand for Formal Health Care: Is There a Positive Impact?" Health Economics, 8:415-428. 1999.
41. **Nanda P** "Women's Economic Empowerment through Participation in Micro-Credit Programs in Rural Bangladesh: Impact on their Demand for Health Care." Seventh European Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics, Helsinki, Finland. September 1998.