

Anahita S. Kumar

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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education <i>PhD in Human Development & Quantitative Methods</i> - Dissertation: <i>Three Papers on Poverty and Child Development in Rural Côte d'Ivoire</i> - Committee: Sharon Wolf (Chair), Jere Behrman, Wendy Chan	Philadelphia, PA, USA <i>June 2025</i>
University of Pennsylvania Wharton Business School <i>MA in Statistics and Data Science</i>	Philadelphia, PA, USA <i>May 2024</i>
University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education <i>M.S.Ed. in International Education Development</i>	Philadelphia, PA, USA <i>December 2019</i>
St. Xavier's College <i>BA in Economics and English</i>	Mumbai, India <i>June 2014</i>

SKILLS

Advanced Statistical Analysis, Data Mining, Machine Learning, Econometrics, R programming, Python, STATA, MPlus, MATLAB, ArcGIS, L^AT_EX, Survey Sampling, Survey Development, Proposal and Grant Writing.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CPRE Consortium for Policy Research in Education <i>Research Specialist</i> - Quantitative Researcher on CPRE projects with the Philadelphia School District - Leading the monitoring and evaluation for district-wide projects such as the Philadelphia Academy of School Leaders Program, The Academy at Penn, and the Ongoing Assessment Project (OGAP)	Philadelphia, PA, USA <i>June 2025 - Present</i>
UNICEF Division of Data, Analytics, Planning and Monitoring <i>Quantitative Researcher (Consultant)</i> - Analyzed school-level education data for equity and resource benchmarking across Pacific Island countries using administrative and spatial data from EMIS and MICS databases - Calculated Foundation Learning Skills for 49 countries in numeracy and literacy using population weighted national surveys.	Remote— New York, USA <i>May 2025 - December 2025</i>
University of Pennsylvania <i>Research Associate and Doctoral Student (PhD commenced in Sept 2020)</i> - Researcher; Lead Statistician on two large-scale international RCTs; Principal Investigator for a digital RCT. - Survey Design and Implementation; Conceptualization and lead authorship of academic papers in top 5 journals. - Teaching multiple undergraduate and graduate-level courses in statistical methods and social sciences seminars.	Philadelphia, PA, USA <i>September 2019 – May 2025</i>
U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences (IES) <i>Affiliate</i> Completed multiple statistics training bootcamps, weekly methods workshops, and seminars.	Washington, DC, USA <i>September 2022 – May 2025</i>
UNESCO International Institute of Capacity Building in Africa <i>Graduate Fellow – Early Childhood Development and School Feeding Strategy</i> Project Co-Leader: Play and Resilience (education program with governments of Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and South Africa).	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia <i>April 2019 – September 2019</i>
African Family Health Organization (AFAHO) <i>Program Assistant</i> Early Childhood Care and Education programming for local refugee families.	Philadelphia, PA, USA <i>November 2018 – April 2019</i>
Hunan Province, Ministry of Education, China <i>WorldTeach Fellow at Chang Jun High School and Hunan Agricultural University</i> Kumar, Anahita	Changsha, China <i>August 2016 – June 2018</i>

- English Teacher and Curriculum Developer for high school and undergraduate students.

SNEHA Society for Nutrition, Education, and Health Action

Community Health Worker

Mumbai, India

June 2015 – June 2016

- Data collection, home visits, survey development, and compilation.

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Board Member – *SREE Women in Quantitative Methods* (2026 onward)

AWARDS AND GRANTS (RECENT)

American Psychological Association – *APA Dissertation Research Award* (2024)

Society for the Research on Educational Effectiveness – *SREE Researcher of Color Mentored Award* (2024)

Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) – *CASI Research Award* (2021, 2022; two-time recipient)

Office of the Provost, University of Pennsylvania – *Provost Award for Interdisciplinary Innovation* (2021)

University of Pennsylvania – *Dean's Fellowship; Full merit-based scholarship* (2018; 2022-2024)

Children's Hope India – *Research Grant* (2022)

St. Xavier's College – *Award for Academic Excellence in Undergraduate Studies* (2014)

PUBLICATIONS

Kumar, A., Wolf, S., Bartoli, B., Bala, J., Varma, V., & Zanutto, E. (2026). Supporting early learning: An audio-video program for low-literate parents of young children in urban India. *International Journal of Educational Research*, 137, 102926. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijer.2025.102926>

Kumar, A., Bloomfield, J., Do, H., Lichand, G., Cid, A., & Wolf, S. (2025). Sociodemographic predictors of depression among economically vulnerable mothers in urban Uruguay *Journal of Affective Disorders Reports*, 21, 100978 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadr.2025.100978>.

Kumar, A. (2025). Dimensions of Poverty and Child Development: Evidence From Rural Côte d'Ivoire *Doctoral dissertation, University of Pennsylvania*.

Kumar, A., Chen, S., Jasińska, K., Ogan, A., Kembou, S., & Wolf, S. (2025). Predictors of Harsh Discipline Practices Among Rural Households in Côte d'Ivoire. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 98, 1011785 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appdev.2025.101785>

Kumar, A., Bartoli, B., Lichand, G., & Wolf, S. (2023). Sociodemographic predictors of depressive and anxiety symptomatology among parents in rural Côte d'Ivoire. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 338, 1–9. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2023.05.060>

Kumar, A., & Oduolowu, E. (2019). *Play & Resilience – A Toolkit for Teachers, Caregivers, and other Stakeholders*. Addis Ababa: UNESCO. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000370734>

Wolf, S., Ogan, A., Jasińska, K., Kembou, S., Whitehead, H., Cannanure, V., Tanoh, F., Wortsman, B., & Kumar, A. (2026). Impacts of Targeted Instruction with Mobile-based Support on Teachers and Students in Rural Côte d'Ivoire. *American Educational Research Journal* <https://doi.org/10.3102/00028312261430679>.

Wagner, D., Thapa, T., Nair, T., & Kumar, A. (2025). The Gini Learning Index: A new framework to measure learning inequality across contexts. *International Journal of Educational Development*, 119, 103433 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2025.103433>

PAPERS UNDER PEER REVIEW

Kumar, A., & Wolf, S. (2026). (Under Review). Placing Poverty Metrics in Context: Evaluating Measures for Research, Policy, and Practice in Global Child Development. *Human Development*.

Wolf, S., Jasińska, K., Ogan, A., Kembou, S., Li, C., Tanoh, F., & **Kumar, A.** (Under Review). Two-year cash transfer improves maternal but not paternal reports of economic conditions nor child educational investments. *Journal of Family Psychology*.

PAPERS IN PREPARATION

Brover, E., & **Kumar, A.** (In Progress). Relational Pedagogy Drives Teacher Effectiveness: Evidence from Mexican Primary Schools. *Science Advances*.

Kumar, A., Alam, A., Hu, L., & Wolf, S. (In Progress). Predictors of Cognitive Development using Non-Linear Modeling: Evidence from an Education RCT in Mumbai, India.

Kumar, A., & Wolf, S. (In Progress). Implementing a Neighborhood Quality Index and Poverty Metrics in 140 Villages in Côte d'Ivoire.

Li, N., Ahmadli, S., **Kumar, A., & Wolf, S.** (In Progress). Predictors of Harsh Discipline Practices in Urban India: Evidence from an RCT.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, EDUC 6662: Introductory Statistics for Education Research *Fall 2025*
University of Pennsylvania

Teaching Assistant, EDUC 6462: Monitoring and Evaluation *Fall 2024*
University of Pennsylvania

Teaching Assistant, EDUC 6689: Evaluation of Policies and Programs *Fall 2024*
University of Pennsylvania

Teaching Assistant, EDUC 514: Basic Education in Developing Countries *Fall 2020*
University of Pennsylvania

Visiting Fellow, World Teach *2016 – 2018*
Chang Jun High School & Hunan Agricultural University; Changsha, Hunan Province, China

PAPER REFEREED PRESENTATIONS (RECENT)

Ebby, C., & **Kumar, A.**, (2026, April). Unpacking Professional Development Impact: Dosage, Implementation, and Student Outcomes in Early Math. *American Education Research Association Conference*, Los Angeles, CA.

Kumar, A., & Wolf, S. (2025, March). Decomposing Multidimensional Poverty and Children's Outcomes Using Machine Learning. *Comparative and International Education Society Conference*, Chicago, IL.

Kumar, A., Bartoli, B., Bala, J., Zanutto, E., & Wolf, S. (2024, March). Video messages to parents boost children's socioemotional learning during school closures: Evidence from urban India. *Comparative and International Education Society Conference*, Miami, FL.

Wolf, S., Jasińska, K., Kembou, S., Ogan, A., **Kumar, A.**, Whitehead, H., & Wortsman, B. (2024, September). Promoting learning and reducing child labor in Côte d'Ivoire through family- and school-based interventions. *Society for Research in Education Effectiveness*, Baltimore, MD.

Kumar, A., & Wolf, S. (2024, September). Decomposing household poverty and associations with children's health and education. *Society for the Research on Educational Effectiveness*, Baltimore, MD.

Kumar, A., Bartoli, B., Bala, J., & Wolf, S. (2023, March). A nudge-based phone intervention to promote parent engagement during school closures in Mumbai, India. *Society for the Research on Child Development*, Salt Lake City, USA.

POSTER REFEREED PRESENTATIONS (RECENT)

Kumar, A., Bartoli, B., Bala, J., & Wolf, S. (2023, September). A nudge-based phone intervention to promote parent engagement during school closures in Mumbai, India. *Society for the Research on Educational Effectiveness*, Arlington, USA.

PEER REVIEW CONTRIBUTIONS

Science Advances, International Journal of Educational Development, Early Years: An International Research Journal, Child Development .

LANGUAGES

Native: English, Hindi

Intermediate Fluency (Certified): French

Spoken: Mandarin (beginner)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences (IES).

Society for the Research on Educational Effectiveness.

Society for the Research on Child Development.

Comparative and International Education Society.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: India ; **Permanent Residency:** United States (green card)