

VARAD PANDE

email: varad_pande@ksg05.harvard.edu

10+ years work experience in strategic roles in government, strategy consulting & multilaterals, driving social impact across India and countries in Asia, Europe and Africa

Experience

2009 June to
2014 May

**Special Advisor (OSD) to the MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT /
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS, INDIA**

Delhi, INDIA

- Implementation of the strategic agenda of Minister, e.g.,
 - Designed and launched the *Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellow's Programme*
 - Helped drive the rural financial inclusion and livelihoods agenda through *Aajeevika*
 - Facilitated the linking of *Aadhaar* – India's Unique ID programme – with G2P payments
 - Set up a *Concurrent Evaluation Office* to encourage evidence based policymaking
 - Co-led design of '*Market-friendly Emissions Trading Scheme*' (PPP) with team from MIT & Harvard
 - Helped launch revamped National Sanitation programme – *Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan*
- Advisor to the Minister on key global/national forums, e.g.,
 - *Sherpa* of Minister on UN Secretary-General's *High Level Panel on Global Sustainability* in the lead up to Rio+20
 - Member of the Government of India's Expert Group on Low Carbon Inclusive Growth
 - Member of India's Climate Change Negotiations Team (Copenhagen and Cancun Climate Summits)
- Other Professional Activities:
 - Policy Advisory Group, Global Financial Inclusion Initiative, IPA, Yale University
 - Advisor to Prof Abhijit Banerjee (MIT) on the UN SG's *High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Agenda*
 - **Fellow of Sustainability Science Program at Harvard University for 2013-14, working on environmental PPPs**
- TEDx Speaker (<http://youtu.be/WvCMvR2QgIE>); speaker at several national/international forums, including World Bank Development Marketplace; Regular OpEd Writer (see next page)

2005-2009
&

Engagement Manager, MONITOR GROUP (*now Monitor-Deloitte*)
(Strategy and Competitiveness Consultancy advising nations, regions and corporations)

London, UK &
Dubai, UAE

2002-2003

Managed projects on economic strategy, base-of-pyramid (BOP) business models in Africa, Europe, Asia incld India

- In Africa, designed and launched an empowered economic reforms agency for a national government
- In India, led a major study to identify market-based inclusive business models that create social impact – assessed their potential to scale; developed business plans for most scalable models
- In Africa, helped a group of Banks design a financial outreach strategy to engage low income citizens
- In South-East Asia, designed cluster strategy for a diversified megacity investment by a sovereign
- In MENA, did a feasibility analysis for setting up a downstream metals Project and find a suitable investor
- In Europe, developed a market activation strategy for a major consumer brand

2004-2005

Consultant, THE WORLD BANK
South Asia Social Development / Rural Development Units

Washington DC &
Delhi, INDIA

Led a major analytical project on '*Making primary education work for India's rural poor: A Proposal for Effective Decentralization*' with World Bank Lead Economist Lant Pritchett.

- Pritchett and Pande (2006), *Social Development Papers: South Asia Series: Paper No.95* - <http://bit.ly/1f7ii70>
- Work cited extensively, e.g., GoI Expert Committee Report (2013)', *Teacher Education' Curriculum*

Internships
2000-2001

INDUCTIS, INC. (Management Consulting)
OXERA Limited (Economics Consulting)
GOLDMAN SACHS ASSET MANAGEMENT

New York, USA
Oxford, UK
London, UK

Education

2003-2005

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Cambridge, USA

MASTERS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (MPA/ID), 2005

A multi-disciplinary program with rigorous analytical methods, field experience, and political and social analysis

- Award for *Outstanding Policy Analysis Thesis*; 'A' grades in 16 of the 18 courses;
- Awarded *Harvard University Merit Scholarship* covering full tuition and a stipend
- GRE scores: Quantitative 800/800; Analytical 790/800
- Course work includes advanced Micro and Macro theory, Econometrics, Negotiation Skills, Finance and Risk Management, Country Competitiveness, Education Policy Reform, and Advanced Program Evaluation
- Teaching Assistant for '*Empirical Methods for Managers*' and '*Economic Analysis for Policymakers*' courses

1999-2001

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, Christ's College

Cambridge, UK

MASTER OF ARTS (ECONOMICS), 2001

- Recipient of the *British Chevening Nehru Centenary Scholarship*, awarded to only 5 Indians
- Graduated with First Class Honors (awarded to ~ top 10 percentile of graduating class)
- Selected Christ's College Scholar for academic excellence; Elected Fellow Cambridge Commonwealth Society

1996-1999

ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Delhi, INDIA

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONORS) IN ECONOMICS, JUNE 1999

- Graduated with First Class Honors; stood among top 5 students in university
- Awarded Rudra Prize for outstanding academic and extracurricular performance

Recent Speaking Engagements

- TEDx IIM Ranchi (2014): **Using Soft Power to Fight Left Wing Extremism:** <http://youtu.be/WvCMvR2QgJE>
- World Bank, Washington DC (2013): **Building Support for Sustainability and Evidence-based Policy in India**
- NYU-Brookings Conference, Abu Dhabi (2013): **India's Moment for Sustainable Energy Security**
- Kotak Investors Meet, New York (2013): **India's Silent Transformations - Identity, Delivery, Connectivity, Capability**
- Global Green Growth Institute, Seoul (2013): **Enabling Green Growth in India - Smallholder Agriculture**
- GLTE Policy Shapers, Amsterdam (2013): **Greening Rural Development - Empowering Women Farmers in India**
- World Bank, Washington DC (2013): **Integrating Approaches to Sustainable Development in India**
- Evaluations Conclave, Kathmandu (2013): **Mainstreaming Impact Evaluation in Policymaking in India**
- Indian School of Business, Hyderabad (2013): **Direct Benefits Transfers in India - An Idea Whose Time Has Come**
- IFC Development Marketplace, Delhi (2013): **Social Entrepreneurship & Role of Government**
- J-PAL and IPA Conference, Bangkok (2012): **Beyond MFIs - Women's Self Help Groups and their Silent Revolution**
- SANDEE, Bhutan (2012): **Evaluating and Greening Rural Development Programmes in India**
- Deutsche Bank, Mumbai (2012): **Unleashing the Potential of Rural India**
- Kotak Investors Conference, Mumbai (2012): **Ecology and Economy: The Twain Shall Meet**

Recent Publications & Writings

(a) International / Strategic Affairs

- 'Changing the Climate of the India-US Strategic Partnership', Business Standard (2013): <http://bit.ly/17zJwz3>
- 'Nurturing Green Growth', in 'GDGs: Leaving no one behind', UN Association UK, 2013: <http://bit.ly/1gMM4IL>
- 'Finance in a Post-MDG World', Business Standard (2013): <http://bit.ly/1gbPQEk>
- 'A New Panchsheel Strategy for India in Negotiations', MINT (2012): <http://bit.ly/1bKounG>
- 'Some Convenient Truths for Green Growth', Business Standard (2013): <http://bit.ly/1f7iC5s>
- 'Rio+20: No Omnibus Solutions', The Hindustan Times (2012): <http://bit.ly/1bC3dJG>
- 'Heard of the Bangladesh Shining story?', with Jairam Ramesh et al, The HINDU (2012): <http://bit.ly/1nmKcAh>
- 'India at Cancun: Dawn of a New Era', Center for the Advanced Study of India, UPenn (2011): <http://bit.ly/1fyIHdl>

(b) India - Domestic Policy

- 'The Challenge is Skilling', Indian Express (2014): <http://bit.ly/1r3YhEy>
- 'India: Not quite poor, neither so well off', Economic Times (2014): <http://bit.ly/OruZTY>
- 'Towards a Greener Estimate of India's Growth Story', MINT (2013): <http://bit.ly/1giTQ4v>
- 'Direct Benefits Transfers: An Idea Whose Time Has Come', MINT (2014): <http://bit.ly/1m6dSFo>
- 'The Good News on Poverty', CNN-IBN (2013): <http://bit.ly/1bgPDAV>
- 'Why the Supreme Court should not make us rethink Aadhaar', Economic Times (2013): <http://bit.ly/1bKr3Gq>
- 'A Business Case for the new Land Acquisition Law', MINT (2013): <http://bit.ly/17P92UB>
- 'Connecting India's Youth with Development', Ideas4India (2013): <http://bit.ly/1cWYCY8>
- 'Aadhaar: No need for hype but certainly hope', with Jairam Ramesh, The HINDU (2012): <http://bit.ly/1lkqCFA>
- 'A Silent Skilling Revolution in J&K', MINT (2012): <http://bit.ly/1lRkqIX>
- 'MGNREGA: A Tale of Rural Revival', MINT (2014): <http://bit.ly/Nxn9sb>
- 'MGNREGA Sameeksha, An Anthology of Research Studies' (2012): <http://bit.ly/1o7ocwp>
- 'A Ray of Light in the Forests of India', Center for Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania (2011): <https://casi.sas.upenn.edu/iit/pandebhandari>
- 'Making Primary Education Work for India's Rural Poor', with Lant Pritchett, World Bank (2006): <http://bit.ly/1f7ii70>
- 'Pakistan: A Lasting Legacy could be in the offing', Hindustan Times (2013): <http://bit.ly/1nmN1RI>
- 'Getting India's Women's Reservation Bill Enacted: How to Make it Work' - Manuscript (2004)
- 'Has Democracy Hindered India's Economic Development?' - Cambridge University Thesis (2001)

Others

- **SPEAKER/FACULTY AT 'INDIAN ECONOMIC SERVICE (IES)' TRAINING PROGRAMME, 2013 and 2014**
- **HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCILOR:** chaired the initiative for Dean's Award for Best Teaching Support
- **EDITOR, WORLD NEWS, 'THE CAMBRIDGE STUDENT' NEWSPAPER, University of Cambridge**
- **HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL DEAN'S AMBASSADOR:** Elected to counsel international students
- **TREASURER, SOUTH ASIA CAUCUS AT HARVARD:** Raised funds, managed budget and coordinated programs
- **PRESIDENT, SCHOOL DEBATING SOCIETY:** Won several inter-school debates, organized annual school debate
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE:**
 - As President of Spic Macay, a society promoting Indian culture, organized national-level conventions
 - As *Interact Club* Secretary, organized blood donation camps annually; wrote university examinations for blind
 - Selected for *Vinod Dikshit Award* for project on '*Medicinal Herbs and Plants of the Himalayas*'
- **RUDRA AWARD:** Awarded Prize for Best All Round Student in School
- **OTHER INTERESTS:** World Politics, Psephology, Indian Classical Music, Cricket