

Economic Growth, Poverty, and Inequality

What is the impact of economic growth on poverty? Is growth accompanied by a rise in inequality within a country effective in reducing poverty? How does a rise in income translate into a rise in an individual's overall well-being?

Shatakshee Dhongde, Associate Professor at the School of Economics, is a researcher who focuses on questions pertaining to poverty, inequality and deprivation. The United Nations member countries adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Goal 1 is No Poverty and one of the targets under this goal is to reduce by 2030, at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty *in all its dimensions*. That poverty should be considered in all its dimensions is the focus of Dr. Dhongde's research. Dr. Dhongde argues that poverty measured in terms of income shortfall fails to adequately capture an individual's quality of life. Several indicators such as education, environment, health, housing, and transportation affect an individual's well-being. Hence poverty needs to be measured in terms of multiple deprivations in these indicators. Dr. Dhongde has published several papers on measuring multidimensional poverty. Her research paper "[Well-being, Deprivation, and the Great Recession in the U.S.: A Study in a Multidimensional Framework](#)," co-authored with P. Pattanaik and Y. Xu, was published in the Review of Income and Wealth (2019).

At Georgia Tech, Dr. Dhongde is one of the [2019 SLS Sustainability Fellows](#). During her fellowship period she continued to actively conduct research on sustainable development. In September 2019, she was invited to join President Angel Cabrera and other Georgia Tech colleagues to participate in the [University Global Compact \(UGC\)'s 17 Rooms-U](#), hosted in partnership with the United Nations in pursuit of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Dr. Dhongde was also invited to present her research at the conference on Sustainability and Development, held at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. More than 500 scholars, from nationally and internationally renowned institutions attended the conference. Scholars with a diverse and interdisciplinary background discussed the best approaches and means to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and assess progress towards them.

Dr. Dhongde presented a paper on "Rapid Economic Growth but Rising Poverty Segregation: Will Vietnam Meet the SDGs for Equitable Development?" Vietnam is widely regarded as a success story for its rapid economic growth and significant decline in poverty in the last two decades. However Dr. Dhongde and her collaborators (Dang-World Bank, Nguyen- National Economics University at Hanoi and Pimhidzai-World Bank) found evidence on rising inequality within provinces in the country. In their research, they found that in the last few years poverty in Vietnam was increasingly concentrated in certain provinces with larger share of ethnic minorities.

In November 2019, Dr. Dhongde was invited to present her research at a special conference at the World Bank on [New Approaches to Defining and Measuring Poverty in a Growing World](#). The conference which brought together scholars working at the frontier of poverty measurement and was jointly organized by the World Bank and the International Association of Review of Income and Wealth (IARIW) in Washington D.C.

Dr. Dhongde also organized the first ever interdisciplinary conference on Challenges in Global Development: A Global-Local Perspective at Georgia Tech. The conference was held in conjunction with

the Atlanta Global Studies Symposium and took place in April 2019. The conference brought together more than 20 invited speakers from a variety of disciplines including economics, geography, political science, and sociology. Invited speakers represented several higher education institutes in the area, including Agnes Scott College, Emory University, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, Spelman College and University of Georgia, at Athens. Conference sessions highlighted research on a broad range of developmental challenges, such as immigrants and refugees, poverty and inequality, elections and provision of public goods, government programs and the role of state.