

MANIMALA CHITHAMANAN

Policy Research & Analysis

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Policy researcher and practitioner with a proven track record in bridging the gap between state-level strategic planning and last-mile execution. Experienced in managing complex, multi-stakeholder government programs across 37,000+ units. Currently an IMPRI Data Analytics Fellow (2026), leveraging a multi-disciplinary toolkit—from historical context to quantitative modeling in R and Stata—to analyze structural economic transformations, the platform economy, and federal equity.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

IMPRI Data Analytics for Policy Research Fellow (2026) | Cohort | Policy Analytics & Quantitative Methods

March 2026 - June 2026 (Remote) Delhi, India

- **Quantitative Modeling:** Applying statistical methods to evaluate socio-economic datasets, specifically focusing on State-Level Planning metrics and fiscal indicators.
- **Technical Toolkit:** Developing proficiency in **Stata and R** for econometric analysis, data cleaning, and visualization of large-scale government surveys (like PLFS or NFHS).
- **Policy Synthesis:** Training in translating complex quantitative outputs into actionable Policy Briefs for non-technical stakeholders.

Policy & Partnerships Consultant | Namma School Namma Ooru Palli — Government of Tamil Nadu

May 2024 – August 2025 • Chennai, India

- Contributed to state-level strategic planning by synthesizing partnership data from 30+ CSR entities to align private investment with public education priorities."
- Optimized resource distribution workflows for 37,000+ units, serving as a feedback loop for state-level planners to identify infrastructure gaps.

Research Associate | Apogee Research Forum

January 2024 – April 2024 • Chennai, India

- Contributed to a performance assessment framework evaluating 30+ Members of Parliament across Tamil Nadu using multi-dimensional governance indicators
- Compiled and analysed quantitative data from government sources, parliamentary records, and constituency metrics
- Coordinated TN Youth Parliament event engaging 15 colleges across Chennai

Research Intern | Foundation for Democratic Reforms & Global Madras

September 2023 – March 2024 • Hyderabad & Chennai

- Conducted policy research on democratic reforms, governance frameworks, and international relations
- Authored research summaries and contributed to internal policy notes on institutional strengthening

EDUCATION

Master of Arts (MA) — Politics & International Relations

Central University of Gujarat • 2021 – 2023

Bachelor of Arts (BA) — History & Tourism

Stella Maris College, Chennai • 2018 – 2021

SKILLS & COMPETENCIES

- **Policy Research & Strategy:** Evidence-informed policy synthesis, governance research, strategic reporting, and legislative performance tracking. Expert in translating complex socio-political contexts into actionable policy commentary.

- **Operational Governance & M&E:** Large-scale program management (37,000+ units), Results-Based Management (RBM) frameworks (UNICEF certified), multi-level stakeholder coordination (Government, CSR, NGOs), and SOP design for state-wide initiatives.
- **Data Analytics & Econometrics: Tools:** Microsoft Excel (Advanced: Dashboards, VLOOKUP, Pivot Tables), basic Power BI.
 - **Specialization:** Currently building advanced quantitative capabilities in **R, Stata, and Python** for econometric modeling and impact evaluation.
- **Research Methodologies:** Proficient in both qualitative field research and quantitative secondary data analysis (leveraging datasets like **NFHS, PLFS** for state-level planning).