

Shaily is a geographer turned policy researcher, currently working with the Energy Access team at The Council. She is working on understanding the interlinkages between poverty, inequality, and access to energy. She believes that though access to energy is conventionally viewed in terms of technology deployment and adoption, there is a need to focus on the socio-cultural factors that influence access. Her research interests lie in understanding how deeply rooted social structures like caste, class, gender, tribe, religion and location play a critical role in determining access to energy and consequential development outcomes.

Prior to joining The Council, Shaily was at Oxfam India where she worked with the tribal communities in the cyclone-affected district of Balasore and other vulnerable areas of the Subarnrekha river basin. She has also worked with UNDP India on analyzing the existing disaster recovering interventions for the upcoming Government of India guidelines on Disaster Recovery. Her previous work experiences in rural areas of three states in India have helped her develop a deep understanding of the issues at ground-level.

Shaily holds a postgraduate degree in Disaster Management from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Her thesis focused on understanding caste-based social exclusion in post-disaster housing reconstruction in Kosi flood-affected areas of Bihar. She has an undergraduate degree in Geography Honors from Miranda House, University of Delhi.