Position: Research Associate

Social Sector Unit

ASER Centre, Pratham Education Foundation

Deadline: 15th October, 2019

About ASER Centre: ASER Centre (www.asercentre.org), is the independent research wing of Pratham Education Foundation (www.pratham.org) and seeks to use simple yet rigorous methods to generate evidence on scale, on social sector programs. The aim of the organisation is to strengthen the link between evidence and action by building the capacity of individuals and institutions to design, conduct and understand assessments that focus on key outcome indicators. One of ASER Centre’s main activities is the design and facilitation of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER), one of the largest household surveys of children’s basic learning levels in reading and arithmetic.

About the Social Sector Unit (SSU) at ASER Centre: The Unit explores the broader applicability of Pratham and ASER Centre’s expertise and approach in generating easy to understand evidence with community participation. It focuses on research, capacity building, and communication in the areas of water & sanitation, nutrition, health, and overall early childhood development. The projects under the unit are carried out independently as well as in collaboration with external organizations such as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Institute of Fiscal Studies UK, J-PAL, Centre for Early Childhood Education and Development, UNICEF, UNDP etc.

The Unit is also actively involved in capacity building initiatives and conducts workshops on basic concepts of food and feeding, micronutrient deficiencies, immunization, monitoring child’s growth, and diarrhoea. Two of the current projects are:

- Exploratory study to test the applicability of the ASER approach to the health sector in India.
- Scalable policies for Early Childhood Development.
  - Evaluation of the impact of a stimulation program involving weekly group sessions delivered by local women in 192 villages in Odisha.

Reports of the research studies can be found at www.asercentre.org/p/119.html.

We seek applications from candidates with a strong background in quantitative research to join the team as a Research Associate

As a Research Associate, the candidate will work in a team on research and evaluation studies conducted in different parts of India and are expected to commit for minimum of 3 years. This will entail both overall project management as well as data management and analysis. The candidate will be expected to possess both project management and analytical skills required to lead research studies in the field. Following is a (non-exhaustive) list of tasks that are part of the role:
• Cleaning and analysis of data (most of the datasets that we work on are large primary datasets obtained from field surveys).
• Writing and presenting findings in various forms (reports, policy briefs, presentations, and other related documentation).
• Grant and proposal writing.
• Designing and piloting of tools based on project goals and indicators.
• Creating process and training manuals on survey methodology.
• Coordination and delivery of trainings to field investigators in project sites.
• Monitoring of data collection and managing teams in the field.
• Conducting secondary research on specified domains.

Qualifications and competencies:

• **Educational and professional qualifications:** Candidates with a post-graduate degree in Economics, Statistics or related social science disciplines should apply. Candidates who have an undergraduate degree and work experience in the same field are also encouraged to apply. 1-2 years of experience are preferred.

• **Competencies:** Candidates should possess a strong background in quantitative research and analysis. Candidates should be comfortable with traveling extensively to rural locations across the country and should be able to work with a wide variety of people (state team associates, partner organizations in states, government officials, personnel from INGOs, academicians). We also expect a minimum 2-year commitment from the candidate. Some specific skills include:
  - Experience of working with datasets/data cleaning and analysis.
  - Proficiency and experience in conducting statistical analysis on STATA.
  - Proficiency in M.S. Office (Excel, PowerPoint and Word)
  - Strong communication skills in English and Hindi (written and oral) to effectively correspond with a diverse audience. Proficiency in any other Indian language will be an advantage.

**Consultancy Fees:** Consultancy for this position will be in the range of Rs. 30,000 – 34,000 per month. The following factors will be considered while making the final offer to selected candidate: a) Academic qualifications b) professional experience c) skills possessed d) performance in the interview.

**Application process:** Interested candidates should email the following documents in their application

1. CV (Not exceeding 2 pages)
2. Cover Letter (500 words) explaining your motivation and suitability for the position
Please send completed applications at recruitmentsasercentre@gmail.com with the following subject line: Research Associate application – Social Sector Unit. The deadline for applications to this role is 15th October, 2019.

Selected candidates will be invited for an interview followed by a short test to ascertain skills and aptitude. Candidates invited for a second round of interview will be expected to provide professional references prior to the same.

Please note that due to the high volume of applicants, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.