

## Senior Research Associate

---

<b>Organisation</b>	: ASER Centre
<b>Division / Department</b>	: Research, Assessment
<b>Project focus</b>	: Life skills; Socio-emotional skills; Employability skills; Adolescents, Youth; Gender
<b>Reports to</b>	: Director – Research
<b>Work schedule</b>	: Full time
<b>Location</b>	: New Delhi
<b>Applications open</b>	: April 10, 2021
<b>Applications close</b>	: May 1, 2021
<b>Start date</b>	: As early as May 10, 2021, for a minimum 2-year commitment
<b>Selection</b>	: Rolling (Priority)

### Organisation

ASER Centre is the independent research wing of Pratham Education Foundation and aims to use simple yet rigorous methods to generate evidence at scale. 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 measurement that focusses on key outcome indicators. ASER Centre leads the design and implementation of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) surveys, India's largest household survey on children's foundational learning levels in reading and arithmetic. We also conduct other research and evaluation studies exploring issues within early childhood education, primary education, teacher education and training, elementary to secondary transition and vocational education.

### Description of the Project

Life skills is an umbrella term that encompasses a group of psychosocial and interpersonal competencies and skills that help individuals make informed decisions, solve problems, think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, build healthy relationships, empathize with others, and cope with and manage their lives in a healthy and productive manner. These skills are considered critical for developing successful and employable individuals as well as healthy societies. Given this understanding, life skills are not confined to a single subject or domain, but have cross cutting applications in myriad areas of life.

In 2020, Pratham Education Foundation and ASER Centre joined the National Life Skills Collaborative (LSC), a network of 15 organizations working on education and life skills in diverse geographies and contexts in India. The goal of the LSC is to shift the policy discourse by advocating the integration life skills development at all levels of the public education ecosystem, thus facilitating a positive change for all learners. Pratham-ASER is a key anchor partner for a 3-year research and advocacy project. Our role focuses on using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to collect data and insights from a variety of stakeholders to understand perceptions and conceptions of life skills and their importance for children and youth. This project will collect data from diverse stakeholders including children, adolescents, youth, parents, teachers, civil society organisations and government officials. The aim is to generate rich evidence on perspectives and priorities that will be important for developing contextually relevant programs and policies related to life skills development in different states.

### Position Summary

The Senior Research Associate (SRA), in collaboration with other researchers in the team, will be responsible for all aspects of project management, including conducting literature reviews, instrument / assessment design, data collection, analysis and documentation (e.g. project reports and other articles). The SRA will engage in discussions, meetings and workshops with internal teams and external partner organisations across different LSC tracks to develop consensus and coherence with broader collaborative initiatives and goals. The candidate

may have training or experience in quantitative or qualitative instrument design and analysis, but should feel comfortable working on and triangulating between quantitative and qualitative findings.

Broad responsibilities include:

- Develop, test and adapt research instruments for survey and/or qualitative fieldwork
- Analyse data collected through pilots and surveys
- Develop and draft dissemination reports, papers and presentations
- Develop, lead and support trainings for investigators or counterparts in different teams/organisations
- Support and plan the logistical and operational requirements of the project, with internal and external teams
- Liaison and coordinate with internal counterparts and external partner organisations
- Provide updates and lead discussions on project plans and activities in various meetings

The SRA will also provide research support to other projects and teams, as needed. For this project, the SRA will work closely with researchers and program teams in ASER Centre and Pratham and will report directly to Dr Suman Bhattacharjea (Director-Research, ASER Centre) and Dr Wilima Wadhwa (Executive Director, ASER Centre).

This is a central team position, based in Delhi. However, due to COVID-19, remote working options are currently available.

### Qualifications and Skills

- MA/MS in education, psychology, gender studies, sociology, or a related social science field is desirable. Candidates with an undergraduate degree and extensive work experience are also encouraged to apply.
- Work experience of 4-6 years. Candidates with experience in instrument and assessment design for research with adolescents and youth related to life skills, socio-emotional development and gender will be preferred. Experience in rural areas is essential.
- Strong analytical skills (quantitative or qualitative datasets using STATA or NViVO).
- Ability to work independently and with diverse internal and external teams to design and implement the project.
- Willingness to travel across rural India.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and Hindi. Fluency in any regional Indian language desirable.
- Proficiency in MS Word, Excel and PPT

Candidates must commit to a minimum of two years, with the potential for renewal.

Remuneration: Monthly CTC between INR 50,000 – 70,000 per annum; negotiable as per experience and qualifications.

### Application instructions

To apply, please email the following documents to [recruitmentsasercentre@gmail.com](mailto:recruitmentsasercentre@gmail.com)

- Current Resume (File name: *FullName\_CV*)
- Statement of Interest (500 words): Describe motivations to apply, how you are a good fit for this role, mentioning relevant experience and examples that align with the stated requirements. (File name: *FullName\_Statement*)
- 3 professional references (full name, contact number and email address) (File name: *FullName\_References*)
- Please title your email subject line as: 'Senior Research Associate (Life skills)
- Submitted documents should be attached as PDF versions.

***Due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.***