S Position: Research Associate
Unit: Research and Statistics
Location: New Delhi

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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.

Apart from conducting the ASER survey, the Centre has also conducted several research studies on education ranging from teaching and learning processes in government primary schools, teacher education and training, early childhood education, elementary and secondary education. The Research and Statistics Unit of ASER Centre is responsible for the design and implementation of such studies along with the analysis and reporting of its findings. You can read about the research studies we have done at www.asercentre.org/p/119.html.

In 2018, the Research Unit will be implementing two large-scale research studies in different locations across India and we seek applications from candidates to join this team as a Research Associate.

Job Role and Responsibilities:

The Research Associate will be part of the central team based in New Delhi and will plan and implement research studies in different locations across India. Candidates should be comfortable with frequent and extensive travel to and stay in rural locations across the country, as well as be open to working with a wide variety of stakeholders (state team associates, partner organizations in states, government officials, personnel from INGOs, academicians). The candidate will also work with primary datasets so quantitative research experience would be valuable.

Researchers in ASER often handle multiple projects simultaneously and are expected to be able to prioritize tasks appropriately, whether working independently or in teams. We are looking for candidates who are open and willing to learn and take the initiative to partake in tasks beyond those assigned to them. The primary tasks and responsibilities of a Research Associate would be:

- Designing, piloting and finalization of research instruments (survey questionnaires and other items) based on project goals and indicators.
- Creating process and training manuals on survey methodology.
- Play a key role in recruitment of field teams for the survey.
- Coordination and delivery of trainings to field investigators in project sites.
- Monitoring of data collection and managing teams in the field.

- 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).

Qualifications and competencies:

- **Educational qualifications:** Graduate/Post-Graduate
- **Work Experience:** Candidates with some experience in survey and questionnaire design and quantitative research (data cleaning and analysis) will be preferred.
- **Competencies:** As Research Associates, candidates will be involved in both survey implementation and data analysis. Candidates must be comfortable with frequent travel to the field for various research activities (training, data collection, monitoring etc.). We expect a minimum 2-year commitment from the candidate. Some specific skills include:
  - ➢ Designing and piloting of survey instruments and developing implementation and training manuals.
  - ➢ Proficiency in M.S. Office (Excel, PowerPoint and Word)
  - ➢ Experience of working with datasets)data cleaning and analysis(· Proficiency and experience in conducting statistical analysis on STATA·
  - ➢ 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. 27,000-33,000 per month. The following factors will be considered while deciding the consultancy fees for the candidate: a) academic background b) work experience c) skills possessed d) performance in recruitment assignment.

Application process: Interested candidates should email their CV (not exceeding 2 pages) and a cover letter explaining your motivation and suitability for the position to Purnima Ramanujan at purnima·ramanujan@asercentre.org with the following subject line: Application for the role of Research Associate, Research Unit.

Based on CVs and a short telephonic chat, shortlisted 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.