

Call for Research Associate

The Equity Equation Project: Predictive Modeling of Policy Impact on School Enrollment

Project Summary

The Equity Equation Project aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing school enrollment in Pakistan. This project recognizes the importance of combining quantitative modeling with qualitative insights to gain a holistic perspective on the challenges faced by out-of-school children and their families.

About the Project

This project will utilize a mixed-methods approach, combining advanced computational modeling with in-depth qualitative research. While the quantitative component will focus on developing an agent-based model to simulate policy impact, the qualitative component will delve into the lived experiences of out-of-school children and their families, exploring the social, economic, and cultural factors that shape their educational choices.

Position Overview

We are seeking a passionate and skilled Research Associate with a background in education and qualitative research to support the qualitative component of this project. The Research Associate will:

- Design and conduct qualitative research, including interviews, focus groups, and observations, with out-of-school children, their families, and community members.
- Develop interview protocols and data collection tools.
- Analyze qualitative data using appropriate techniques, such as thematic analysis and narrative inquiry.
- Identify key themes and patterns in the data to understand the lived experiences of out-of-school children.
- Collaborate with the quantitative research team to integrate qualitative findings into the overall project analysis.
- Contribute to the development of policy recommendations based on both quantitative and qualitative insights.
- Prepare reports, presentations, and publications based on the research findings.

The position will be based in Lahore, with some local travel within the Lahore division and four trips to Islamabad required.

Desired Qualifications and Skills

- Master's degree in Education, Sociology, Anthropology, or a related field with a strong emphasis on qualitative and mixed-methods research.

- Proven experience in conducting qualitative research, including data collection and analysis.
- Knowledge of qualitative research methodologies and approaches and the ability to connect qualitative and quantitative data.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills to build rapport with research participants.
- Sensitivity to the ethical considerations involved in working with vulnerable populations.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team.
- Fluency in local languages spoken in Punjab, including Urdu and Punjabi, is highly desirable.

Application Process

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CV and a cover letter highlighting their relevant skills and experience to careers@mathsandscience.pk. Please include "Research Associate - Equity Equation Project" in the subject line of your email.

Deadline

The deadline for applications is January 21, 2025.

We strongly encourage individuals from marginalized or underrepresented groups to apply.