

# ***CENTRE FOR MICRO FINANCE – PROGRAMME HEAD***

## **Introduction**

The IFMR Centre for Micro Finance (CMF) in India has quickly grown since its inception in 2005 to become one of the largest organizations in the world dedicated to research on access to financial services for the poor. Through rigorous empirical research, knowledge dissemination and outreach to policy makers and practitioners, CMF's aims to:

- **Inform practice:** The microfinance sector is evolving rapidly, and practitioners experiment with new products and new programmes. Through research, CMF provides evidence on what works and what does not.
- **Inform policy:** The policy environment for microfinance has important implications for its expansion and its impact. CMF documents and informs policy debates with empirical data and analysis, and provides further insight to policy-makers from its field experience.

Towards these goals, CMF facilitates a process where research questions emerge from the local policy context, and policy and programmatic decisions are guided by research outcomes.

## **Duties and Responsibilities**

The CMF Programme Head manages a portfolio of 4-6 research projects with our partners—India's leading microfinance institutions such as SKS and Spandana and top academics at world-class universities such as MIT, Harvard, and Yale. The Programme Head will:

### *Be responsible for a broad research portfolio*

S/he initiates and supervises multiple projects relating to access to financial services for the poor, which involves designing research projects, preparing research proposals, identifying sources of funding, and designing program interventions for partner organizations. As part of this task, the Programme Head is responsible for managing a dynamic team of Research Associates working on these projects.

### *Be responsible for dissemination and policy outreach*

The Programme Head is responsible for ensuring that research results are effectively translated into practice and policy decisions. This involves conducting workshops, producing innovative dissemination material and actively engaging with practitioners, policy makers, banks and international organizations involved in the sector.

### *Contribute to the Centre overall strategic visioning*

The Programme Head will work closely with the other Programme Heads at CMF and the Executive Director of the Centre on overall management and strategic visioning for the

Centre. S/he will be responsible for representing the Centre at seminars, conferences, the press, and meetings with various key sector stakeholders. While taking complete ownership of a sub-unit within the Centre, the Programme Head is an integral part of defining the direction of the organization.

### **Qualifications and Skills**

- A graduate degree or higher in economics, finance, international development or related fields.
- Strong quantitative analytical skills and a solid understanding of quantitative research methodology
- 2 to 3 years of professional work experience in international development or related fields. Experience in India and/or South Asia is an advantage.
- Management experience
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English. Indian language skill is preferred.
- Independent worker; takes initiative to lead and manage tasks and propose solutions.
- Willing to translate research into practice for highest impacts on the ground.
- Motivated to travel to various places in India.
- Strong interpersonal skills, and willingness to interact with a wide range of individuals ranging from MFIs and NGO leaders to bankers and finance regulators.
- **This position is based in Chennai, but requires travel at least 50% of the time.**

### **Compensation**

CMF provides a highly competitive salary in the industry.

### **To Apply**

Please send your resume, cover letter, and a writing sample to [cmfhr@ifmr.ac.in](mailto:cmfhr@ifmr.ac.in). Please indicate in the subject line that you are applying for the Programme Head position. We will contact you shortly after submission if we are interested in interviewing you.