

## *Centre for Micro Finance - Research Associate*

### Introduction

The Centre for Micro Finance (CMF) in India is a young, fast growing organization focusing on improving access to financial services for the poor through cutting-edge research, knowledge dissemination and outreach to policy makers and practitioners. CMF's strategy is to use rigorous, empirical research 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 this goal, CMF aims to facilitate a process where research questions emerge from the local policy context and policy and programmatic decisions are guided by research outcomes.

### Duties and Responsibilities

CMF's Research Associates are at the heart of our work. They independently supervise various research projects on behalf of our partners—India's microfinance institutions such as SKS and Spandana and world-class universities such as MIT, Harvard, and Yale. Research Associates report to a Programme Head, who supervises a number of research projects in a given subject area such as Insurance or Credit & Savings.

### Key responsibilities of the Research Associate:

- In association with our partner organisations, oversee implementation of impact evaluations on various topics of microfinance, such as repayment schedules or bundled health insurance
- Maintain relationship with partner microfinance institutions at both headquarters and field levels
- Maintain relationship with partner academic institutions located overseas
- Recruit, train, and supervise a field team of 10-20 surveyors and other staff
- Oversee relationship with data entry contractors
- Ensure quality of data during data collecting and assist with data cleaning
- Disseminate preliminary and final research results through publications, conferences, and/or innovative methods such as Podcasts or blog articles

### Qualifications and Skills

- Bachelors or Masters degree in development-related field preferred
- Fluency in English required; fluency in Hindi and other local Indian languages preferred
- Previous experience in development research preferred
- Familiarity with statistical analysis packages (SPSS or Stata) preferred
- Flexibility and ability to deal with uncertainty
- Ability to work independently
- Willingness to travel required

### 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 Research Associate position. We will contact you shortly after submission if we are interested in interviewing you.