

## ***CENTRE FOR MICRO FINANCE – Research Associate***

### **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 policymakers 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.

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### **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 worldclass 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 organizations, 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 in a development-related field preferred
- Fluency in English required
- Flexibility and ability to deal with uncertainty

- Ability to work independently
- Willingness to travel required

### **Preferred Qualifications and Skills**

- Masters degree
- 3 years work experience
- Fluency in Hindi and other local Indian languages
- Knowledge/experience in the microfinance sector
- Familiarity with statistical analysis packages (SPSS or Stata)
- Previous experience in development research
- Experience living/working in rural areas of developing countries

Location will be determined by project assignment. The start date is flexible and we ask for a minimum commitment of 2 years.

### **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 use the subject line CMF\_Research Associate\_2011\_WS. We will contact you after submission if we are interested in interviewing you.