Position: Research Associate
Project: Women's Voting in the 2018 Election
Start Date: April 01, 2017
Project Duration: 18 months

IDEAS is recruiting a Research Associate for a new project on mobilizing women's vote in the 2018 general elections. This is a full-time position based at the IDEAS office in Lahore and will require occasional travel to other urban and rural locations. The position will involve frequent liaising with partners including civil society organizations and political actors. You will also have the opportunity to engage with leading economists and public policy experts who are based at or visit the CERP / IDEAS / CDPR office complex.

Project Description:

Reducing the gender gap in electoral participation in developing democracies is an important and acknowledged challenge for global policy. The exercise of the right to vote is a key requirement of political accountability and equal participation in the electoral process is also a pre-requisite of women's empowerment. Pakistan is a particularly "hard case" for this challenge because the wide gender gap in political participation has shown considerable resilience compared to other countries in the region, such as India, which have seen a narrowing of this gap since the 90s. The magnitude of this challenge in the Pakistani setting is well recognized by donors, parliamentarians and civil society.

In light of the upcoming general elections in Pakistan and persistent gender inequalities in political participation, we are starting a research project aimed at designing and evaluating the effectiveness of strategies to increase women's voter participation in the upcoming 2018 General Elections. This project will be run as a randomized controlled trial (RCT) in collaboration with multiple implementation partners.

The principal investigators for the project are Ali Cheema (IDEAS / LUMS), Sarah Khan (Columbia University), Asad Liaqat (Harvard University) and Shandana Mohmand (University of Sussex).

Job Description:

Your tasks will include:

- Coordinating between the research team and the implementation partners through strong relationship building and timely and concise reports
- Developing comprehensive reports on the past activities by civil society organizations and political actors in mobilizing female voters
- Assisting with survey design and overseeing survey piloting
- Working with survey firm to plan and manage survey activity; providing timely and concise reports to research team at every stage
- Assisting in the design, piloting and development of the experimental interventions

- Assuming primary responsibility for managing the relationship with implementation partners during the intervention rollout and supervising monitoring activities
- Assuming primary responsibility for cleaning and management of all data related to the project including administrative, survey and experimental data
- Assisting with data analysis
- Administer project calls with local and remote members of the research team
- Assisting in preparation of proposals, reports and presentations for grant-making bodies and public dissemination
- Other duties as assigned by the Principal Investigators

The IDEAS project teams are small, and the amount of work we accomplish is significant. The position is challenging but rewarding – only apply if you are the type of person who takes charge and responsibility, can do good work with little supervision, and are not afraid to learn new things in order to get the job done. A willingness to travel and the ability to take on challenges are essential. This position is an ideal stepping stone for those who wish to pursue a career in development policy and practice in Pakistan and for those who wish to pursue a PhD in the social sciences.

Salary ranges from PKR 75,000 – 100,000, commensurate with experience.

Job Requirements:

- Master's degree in economics, political science, public policy, or a related discipline from an internationally recognized university. Well-qualified Bachelor's candidates with significant related work experience will also be considered.
- Preferably 1-2 years of relevant experience in research/program design and/or evaluation, including the design and execution of surveys, focus groups, and interviews
- Ability to work closely in a small team and take direction
- Ability to take a well-defined problem and come up with a response based on an independent analysis of the data
- Intermediate data analysis skills
- Familiarity with various research and evaluation design concerns
- Willingness to travel to urban and rural locations in Pakistan for fieldwork
- Demonstrated ability to manage various tasks effectively and coordinate between project members
- Comfortable communicating with key stakeholders in the public and private sectors as well as with a wide range of urban and rural populations in Pakistan
- Fluency in English and Urdu required. Proficiency in Punjabi and/or Pashto preferred but not required
- Willingness to take on added responsibility as the project progresses

How to apply:

If interested, please send a CV and a cover letter (up to 1 page, single-spaced, 11-point text) addressed to HR Head at admin@ideaspak.org by the 15th of April, 2017.