

IDEAS – Research Assistant Job Description

Position: Research Assistant

Project: Crime, Policing and State Building

Start Date: January 2021

Job type: Full-time

Location: Gulberg IV, Lahore, Pakistan

Are you passionate about Pakistan, its economic development and the importance of research and evidence-based policy? Are you looking for an opportunity to work at a policy think-tank led by committed researchers? The Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS), a policy think-tank based in Lahore, is looking for smart and qualified individuals to join the IDEAS team. We are looking for a Research Assistant to work on the Crime, Policing and State Building Project with in Political Economy Program.

Project Description

Policing in Pakistan is under performing in the sense that citizens have low trust in police despite relatively low victimization rates Cheema et al. (2017). And, in Lahore at least, trust in the police is lower for those who have suffered from crime. Contact with the police appears to be a negative experience. This is all puzzling as Pakistan has a relatively professionalized police force and selection into the Punjab Police Service is highly competitive.

This project aims to test the efficacy of two common policing reforms: citizen-centric problem-oriented policing and local alternative dispute resolution and reconciliation forums. These innovations have recently been implemented in several areas in Pakistan and India but never through an RCT.

This RCT examines the impact of two policing innovations in Pakistan: citizen-centric problem-oriented policing (CPOP) and gender inclusive citizen-centric problem-oriented policing (CPOP-G). The CPOP arm incorporates community engagement and problem-oriented policing. The CPOP-G arm engages women in addition to men. Because local social norms prevent mixed-gender meetings, and because women may not be willing to discuss family- and gender-related issues in mixed company, female constables in the CPOP-G arm will conduct woman-only forums.

The Political Economy Program at IDEAS provides an opportunity for highly motivated budding social scientists to work on a set of exciting applied research projects focused on key topics in development, governance, and politics in Pakistan. These projects are being led by faculty and PhD scholars Princeton and LUMS. This is an excellent opportunity to get involved in first-hand field research, interact with academics and policymakers, and is particularly suited for those interested in continuing further studies in economics, political science, public policy, or political economy. Past members of the research staff have gone on for graduate studies in economics and political science at high-ranked institutions.

Job Description and Requirements

A Research Assistant has the following responsibilities:

1. Conduct research and literature reviews on key topics within the research program areas
2. Write policy briefs, reports, notes, summaries, abstracts and blogs as required by senior research fellows;
3. Interview academics, policy makers and important stakeholders for writing of research reports and policy briefs;
4. Collect and analyse information and assemble information from a wide variety of sources, both primary and secondary and synthesize research material;
5. Produce research findings in various statistical formats and creatively represents that data in different charts, tables, and graphs;
6. Responsible for the overall logistics of any seminars, workshops and conferences organized by the research program;
7. Organize, update and maintain work documents for the team and senior research fellows;
8. Offer research and/or administrative support to other research programs as required.

Qualifications:

Essential

- Bachelor's degree in Economics, Sociology, Social Sciences, or any related discipline. Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.
- Excellent oral and written English and Urdu communication skills.
- Thorough knowledge of library and online research resources with capacity to conduct independent research and fieldwork.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team, demonstrating initiative and reliability.
- Strong interpersonal skills, organizational skills, and attention to detail required.
- Willingness to do fieldwork and travel as required.
- Should have a strong command on the statistical software(s) e.g. STATA and R.

Desirable

- Work experience of 1-2 years, preferably in a research environment.
- Additional local language skills e.g. Punjabi.
- Working knowledge of NVivo and GIS is also preferred.
- Should ideally know how to use Urdu keyboard.

How to apply

Interested candidates should fill this [online form](#) AND also send their **CV**, **cover letter** and **transcripts** to jobs@ideaspak.org with the subject line "**IDEAS – Research Assistant**"

Any submissions outside the application guidelines will not be considered.

Deadline for applications is 20th December, 2020