



The Akanksha Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide children from low-income communities with a high-quality education, enabling them to maximize their potential and transform their lives. Akanksha works primarily in the field of education, addressing formal education by initiating school reform through its School Project. Currently, Akanksha reaches out to the 8000 children and 2000 alumni through its 21 schools in Mumbai and Pune.

Job Description

Position: Senior Associate, Research and Advocacy

Function/Team: Organization Effectiveness

Location: Mumbai

Compensation: Based on skill sets, experience and sector standards

Position Summary: As the Senior Associate, Research and Advocacy you will be responsible for designing and implementing research projects (both internal and external) that will lead to an understanding of the impact of Akanksha's intervention on its students, parents and communities at large. You will work closely with internal stakeholders as well as collaborate and build strategic relationships with academic institutions, corporates, NGOs, research & grant making bodies as well as the government to drive the research and advocacy agenda.

Reports to: Senior Director- Organization effectiveness

Overview of the Team: The team engages in research projects that lead to an understanding of the impact of Akanksha's intervention on its students, parents and communities at large. The team also works with internal stakeholders with research (interviews, desk research, literature review) on organizational priorities to assist in informed decision making.

What your role will entail

- Assisting internal stakeholders with research (interviews, desk research, literature review) on organizational priorities to assist in informed decision making
- Developing and implementing a comprehensive and robust framework that will enable Akanksha to assess the outcomes and impact of their programs and make an informed assessment of the effectiveness of different types of interventions
- Strengthening and broadening Akanksha's use of methods of evaluation and incorporating quantitative and qualitative data into its work

- Identifying initiatives within Akanksha that could be valuable research subjects for external researchers and designing and executing research studies as appropriate
- Collaborating with colleges and institutions to identify opportunities for the organization to engage with graduate/postgraduate students interested in research
- Leading efforts with individual or group of researchers to gain research grants
- Identifying, studying and sharing relevant external research as is appropriate across the organization and driving visibility at State and National level for advocacy based on research
- Developing strategic relationships in the government, private sector, advocacy organizations and other NGOs to drive the advocacy agenda

What you need for this Position

Experience:

- 2-3 years of research experience in an academic or business setting (Preference will be given to candidates who have handled social research projects from beginning to end)
- Experience analyzing large data sets using statistical software such as Stata, SAS, SPSS or R
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills with proven ability to explain complex concepts in a crisp, clear, concise and graphic-rich style, using appropriate analytics and visualization tools

Knowledge/Skills:

- Strong research and analytical skills and ability to pay attention to detail
- Strong time management skills, a keen sense of urgency and an ability to accommodate multiple projects simultaneously with tight deadlines
- Ability to coordinate with different functional teams and stakeholders
- Proficiency in the use of the MS office toolkit

Education:

- Master's degree or above in a related field such as education, statistics, development studies

Please send your resume to archana.apte@akanksha.org & krati.tolani@akanksha.org