Research Associate

erdc

Project: Punjab Leadership & Development Initiative

Location: Mohali

Role Type: Full-time (in-office)

About the Initiative
This initiative is a people-centric platform dedicated to rebuilding Punjab's social strength through dialogue, research, and collective service. We are committed to strengthening the region's social fabric and civic values by bringing together individuals and institutions. Our work focuses on addressing 17 key challenges shaping the region today, including unemployment, education, environment, and governance, through structured community dialogue and rigorous research.

Role Overview
The Research Associate will serve as a foundational member of the knowledge development team, responsible for generating data-driven insights to inform the strategy and constructive action of this leadership initiative. This role involves bridging academic research with grassroots realities to develop Punjab-specific solutions. The Associate will play a critical part in translating complex socio-economic data into clear, accessible narratives for community engagement.

Key Responsibilities
1. Research and Data Collection
   - Conduct primary and secondary research on Punjab's social, economic, and cultural landscape.
   - Gather data through surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, and participatory observation.
   - Analyze historical and current trends across 17 focus areas (youth, agriculture, gender, governance, environment, etc.).
2. Analysis and Knowledge Development
   - Translate complex data into clear, evidence-based insights for policy and community dialogue.
   - Prepare research briefs, concept notes, and thematic reports to inform the initiative's strategy.
   - Support the design of indicators to measure the progress and impact of local projects.
3. Collaboration and Coordination
   - Work closely with universities, think tanks, NGOs, and government departments for data validation and partnership building.
   - Engage with field volunteers to document local stories, best practices, and emerging issues.
   - Contribute to the development of a digital knowledge repository on development indicators.
4. Communication and Outreach
   - Present findings through infographics, presentations, and short publications.
   - Support awareness campaigns by translating research insights into accessible narratives for digital and print media.

Preferred Background and Skills
   - Education: Postgraduate degree in Social Work, Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Development Studies, or Public Policy. (Not mandatory)
   - Experience: Demonstrated experience (academic, NGO, or government) in research, data analysis, or field documentation.
   - Communication: Strong written and verbal communication in English and Punjabi. Proficiency in Punjabi is required.
   - Technical Skills: Familiarity with tools such as MS Excel, SPSS, Google Sheets, or qualitative data analysis software.
   - Attributes: Ability to work independently, manage timelines, synthesize large volumes of information, and a deep interest in Punjab's development.

What You'll Gain
   - Be part of a statewide citizen initiative grounded in service and dialogue.
   - Learn from social researchers, academicians, and field practitioners working at the intersection of culture and development.
   - Opportunity to design and publish your own research outputs.
   - Field exposure in diverse communities—rural, semi-urban, and institutional—across Punjab.

Visit www.erdc.org.in/workwithus or submit the form : https://forms.gle/g1pUqt9XLL2R56nJ6