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AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY IN AUTISM RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Position Overview

Role: Research Associate Number of Position: 02

Project: COMPASS Longitudinal Follow-Up

Location: East Delhi, India

Reports to: Senior Research Associate

Tenure: 12 Months

Time: Full time (5 days a week)

Remuneration: 3.60 - 4.20 LPA (All staff benefits including EPF, health insurance and gratuity will be

additional as per organizational policy)

Grade: E1 - Senior Officer

About Sangath

Sangath (www.sangath.in) is one of India's leading mental health research non-profit organisation. It was founded in 1996 with its headquarters in Goa; major hubs in Delhi and Bhopal, and programme sites in many parts of the country. Sangath's mission and expertise lies in developing and evaluating mental health interventions to be delivered through existing public systems. Its major thematic areas are: Child development and disability; adolescent health; mental disorders; and ageing. Sangath was awarded the prestigious MacArthur Foundation International Prize for Creative and Effective Institutions in 2008 and the WHO Public Health Champions Award for India in 2016. It has completed a number of randomized controlled trials for mental disorders in India, including the only two autism trials in the country.

About the Project

COMPASS Longitudinal Follow-Up aims to understand the long-term impact of a parent-mediated intervention for children with autism in India. Building on the original COMPASS trial South Asia's largest autism study the follow-up will track children and families over time to assess lasting changes in autism symptoms, communication, and quality of life. The intervention, known as PASS Plus, was delivered by non-specialist government workers and focused on empowering parents to support their child's development at home. This phase will also evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the intervention, generating vital evidence for scalable, community-based autism care in low-resource settings.

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About the Role

Sangath is seeking to recruit a **Research Associate** for the COMPASS Longitudinal Follow-Up Project. The Research Associate will play a key role in ensuring the quality and integrity of research activities conducted at the New Delhi site. This role involves supporting data collection, analysis, and documentation, as well as coordinating closely with the site research team, Site Coordinator, and Principal Investigator. The ideal candidate will demonstrate strong attention to detail, a commitment to research ethics, and the ability to work collaboratively in a dynamic team environment.

Roles & Responsibilities

- Ensure the quality and accuracy of all research activities, including data collection and analysis, at the research site.
- Support the effective functioning of the research team based in New Delhi.
- Assist the Site Coordinator and Principal Investigator in designing data collection tools and standard operating procedures, including data processing workflows.
- Participate in training programs for outcome evaluation and demonstrate competency in all relevant evaluation measures.
- Contribute to the translation and documentation of research and evaluation tools from English to Hindi
- Ensure timely and accurate data entry and maintenance of collected data.
- Uphold data confidentiality and ensure secure and timely transfer of data to the Data Manager.
- Draft scientific reports and activity updates in line with research protocols and project requirements.
- Participate in team meetings, academic discussions, and joint project activities with the broader research team.
- Report regularly to the Site Coordinator, providing and receiving feedback to enhance team performance.
- Maintain regular coordination and communication with team members, including site staff and leadership.
- Undertake any additional project-related responsibilities as assigned.
- Participate actively in all Sangath activities, particularly those organized by the Child Development Group (CDG).

Qualifications & Experience

Essential Criteria

- Minimum Bachelor's degree in any discipline (preferably in Social Work, Psychology, Education, Public Health, or related fields).
- Minimum of 2–3 years of relevant experience in research, including data collection, data entry, and supporting field-based studies.
- Demonstrated ability to maintain high-quality research documentation and adhere to research protocols.
- Proficiency in spoken and written Hindi and English.
- Competency in using computers and digital tools for data collection, entry, and management (e.g., MS Office, Google Forms, or survey tools).
- Experience with data confidentiality, ethical research practices, and informed consent procedures.
- Strong organizational skills with attention to detail and ability to multitask in a team environment.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills for working with diverse populations.
- Willingness to travel locally for data collection and support field operations.
- Commitment to the goals and values of the project, with willingness to work flexible hours based on project needs.

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Desirable Criteria

- Prior experience in supporting longitudinal or evaluation-based research projects.
- Experience in translation and back-translation of research tools (English-Hindi).
- Familiarity with child development, mental health, or public health programs.
- Experience in scientific writing or drafting research reports.
- Residence in or willingness to relocate to East Delhi or nearby areas.
- Prior experience working with Sangath or similar research-based organizations in the development sector.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should email their Resume to <u>sahili.saxena@sangath.in</u> with the subject line: 'Application for Research Associate, COMPASS' by 5:30 PM on 4th September, 2025.

Equal Opportunity

Sangath is an equal-opportunity employer committed to building a diverse and inclusive team. We value all employees, regardless of gender, caste, religion, disability, or sexual orientation, and encourage applicants from all backgrounds to apply. For this position, we strongly encourage applications from people with disabilities, and these applications will be prioritized given the participatory nature of the project.