
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ICE, RIC AND DOR RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

of the Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development Operation (AHEAD) AHEAD/RA3/DOR/KLN/SSc/OVAA 1.2

1. BACKGROUND

The development of the higher education sector is of central importance to enable Sri Lanka to make the transition from a Lower-Middle Income Country (LMIC) to an Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC). Recognizing this, the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the World Bank have agreed to support the higher education sector through a Bank Funded Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) operation.

2. THE OPERATION

The AHEAD operation is organized in two components. The first is a Program Component that supports the national Higher Education Development Program. The second is a systems strengthening, capacity building and technical assistance component that will assist GoSL to strengthen the higher education sector and achieve the objectives of the AHEAD program component. This second will also cover monitoring and evaluation, policy analyses, program coordination and communication.

The implementing agency is the Ministry of City planning, Water Supply and Higher Education. The University Grants Commission (UGC) will coordinate the activities of the universities. There will be an Operations Monitoring and Support Team (OMST) which will coordinate and support all AHEAD activities between the Ministry of City planning, Water Supply and Higher Education, UGC, and the universities.

AHEAD has three Results Areas:

Results Area 1: Increasing Enrollment in Priority Disciplines for Economic Development

Results Area 2: Improving the Quality of Higher Education

Results Area 3: Promoting Research, Development and Innovation

3. PROJECT TYPE/TITLE OF RESEARCH

The Impact of Social Protection on Sustainable Development Goals in Sri Lanka: An Empirical Analysis

3.1. OBJECTIVE OF THE TOR

Training a research assistant is an expected research outcome of this project and it will help in improving the research culture. Support of an additional research assistant is required as the research team has come up with new research activities leading to indicators. Further, all the members of this research team have other responsibilities, such as teaching. The current Research Assistant is working on achieving the initially identified research activities. Therefore, an additional research assistant will be hired to assist the research team in achieving new research activities.

4. KEY TASKS

The research assistant should be responsible for new research activities in the research project, such as designing questionnaires for key informant interviews, communicating with relevant government bodies such as Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment, Sri Lanka Police Department, District, and local authorities, conducting key informant interviews, organizing awareness programmes, and engaging in related fieldwork. Conducting key informant interviews, organizing awareness programmes, and fieldwork require traveling. In addition, the research assistant should support all project-related administrative and logistic work, such as attending necessary meetings.

5. REMUNERATION

A monthly allowance of 55,000 LKR (with EPF/ETF), will be paid subject to satisfactory performance. Payments will be made upon submission of the time sheet and attendance with the approval of the Project Coordinator. The budget is allocated under OVAA number AHEAD/RA3/DOR/KLN/SSc/OVAA 1.2.

6. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- A special degree in Economics or any related subject in the field of social sciences with Second Lower Class or above
- Experience in research projects, including fieldwork
- Age below 35 years
- Fluent in English (English communication skills)
- Ability and willingness to travel all over the island when required

7. METHOD OF APPOINTMENT

- Three months on contract

8. REQUIRED PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCIES

- ability to carry out the key tasks effectively and efficiently
- ability to interact with senior academic and administrative staff in the university
- ability to function effectively in a team environment, inspiring trust and cooperation of other team members
- ability to work efficiently and to meet deadlines
- strong communication, negotiating skills, and good interpersonal relations
- ability to speak, read and write fluent English and assist in the production of project reports in English.
- Computer literate

7. REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

- The research Assistant should report to the Coordinator and Deputy coordinator