

Advertisement (Version 11)

Post of Research Assistant (04 vacancies)

Project: Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Service (AYFHS) assessment in Sri Lanka

Background of the project:

Adolescence, typically spanning from 10 to 19 years, and youth, ranging from 15 to 24 years, collectively encompass those aged between 10 and 24, often referred to as young persons. Globally, the youth population exceeds 1.8 billion, with a significant 90% residing in developing nations. In Sri Lanka, the 2012 census reveals that out of a total population of 20.4 million, 4.8 million are young individuals, comprising 3.3% adolescents. The mortality rates for these age groups in 2010 stood at 66 and 166 per 100,000, respectively.

Adolescence marks a critical transitional phase, characterised by rapid development and a mix of opportunities and health risks. Recognising the importance of investing in this demographic, Sri Lanka has launched the Yowun Piyasa initiative, setting up 40 hospital-based centres to provide Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services (AYFHS). Additionally, the Family Health Bureau has undertaken an assessment of AYFHS, funded by the UNFPA Annual Workplan 2024. This evaluation aims to gauge the current state of AYFHS centres, pinpoint strategies to address gaps, and evaluate the quality and coverage of these services. The insights derived will be instrumental in formulating evidence-based policies to enhance AYFHS's availability, accessibility, and quality of AYFHS and way forwards.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. To coordinate project activities in the selected district Hospitals, Schools and MOH Offices
2. To Collect data by using the assessment tool developed by Family Health Bureau based on the eight Sri Lankan standards for AYFHS
3. To collate and compile all the data received and collected at select hospitals, communities, schools and MOHs
4. To enter collected data into a database
5. To assist NPM in analysing the data

6. To assist NPM in documentation/preparing reports based on the collected data
7. Focus group discussions and assist in consultative meeting
8. To develop brief videos, text, graphics, and posters on adolescent and youth health based on the findings and unit requirements and upload them to the web or social media
9. Support maintenance of Yowun Piyasa website and social media
10. Attend any other activities arranged by the Director/MCH or head of the Adolescent and Youth Health.

Research assistant should work under Director Maternal and Child Health and Consultant Community Physician of Adolescent and Youth Health Unit Family Health Bureau. It is a full time job and usual working hours on week days 8.30am-4.15pm. But he/she will be requested to work extended hours and weekends if need arises without additional payment. Transport from Family Health Bureau to project areas will be arranged. For the Data collection outside the Western province accommodation will be provided within the province as applicable.

Desired qualification and experience for the post

- Pre-intern medical officer with MBBS qualifications
- Previous experience in scientific research, data collection, data entry and analysis
- Good command of English and Sinhala OR English and Tamil languages
- Ability to work with Microsoft Office applications (word/Excel/ PowerPoint/ SPSS /etc.)
- Ability to develop digital content -videos, graphics, text and ICT knowledge
- Excellent communication skills

Nature of the work

Full-time/part-time: Full-time for six months

No of days per week: 05/06 days

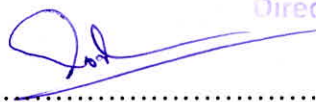
Working hours per day: Eight hours /8.30 am to 4.15 pm

Place of work: Family Health Bureau and field duty in the Yowun Piyasa centers of DH Madulla, DH Mathurata ,BH Muththur, TH Anuradhapura ,DH Thalawa ,DGH Nawalapitiya ,BH Hingurakgoda, TH Polonnaruwa ,DH Mathugama, DH Diwulapitiya ,DH Pimbura, BH Wathupitiwala and BH Kiribathgoda)

Monthly remuneration: RS.66,750/=

(Basic Salary-RS.48,950/=+ Cost of all-Rs.17,800/=)

A Research Assistant is not entitled to any other privileges or claims other than the benefits specified above from the Ministry of Health or the funding agency.



Director Maternal and Child Health

Family Health Bureau

231, de Seram Place,

Colombo - 10.

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Director
(Maternal and Child Health)



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Dr.P.V.S.C.Vithana
Coordinating Consultant

Dr. P.V.S. Chiranthika Vithana
MBBS (Sri Lanka) MSc MD (Community Medicine)
S.L.M.C. No. 15965
Consultant Community Physician
Family Health Bureau

Terms of reference (TOR) (Version 11)

Recruitment of the post of four Research Assistants for Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Service (AYFHS) assessment in Sri Lanka (Component 11)

Background

Adolescence spans the period from 10 to 19 years of age, while youth is considered to be between 15 and 24 years. Collectively, those aged between 10 and 24 are referred to as young persons. Globally, there are over 1.8 billion young people today, with 90% residing in developing countries (UNFPA, 2016).

The 2012 census in Sri Lanka indicates that out of a total population of 20.4 million, 4.8 million are young people, and 3.3% are adolescents (Department of Census and Statistics, 2016). The mortality rates for adolescents and youth 2010 were 66 and 166 per 100,000, respectively (Department of Census and Statistics, 2016).

Adolescence is a transitional phase where individuals are no longer children but not yet adults. During this time, rapid development occurs, presenting both opportunities for progress and risks to health. Investing in today's youth paves the way for tomorrow's global growth. Therefore, addressing adolescents' health and developmental needs is crucial (WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, 1997).

Investing in the health and well-being of young people is vital, as these issues can have long-term effects on their lives and future generations. To ensure that young people have the necessary knowledge and skills to promote their health, Sri Lanka has established a specific healthcare delivery system for adolescents and youth through the Yowun Piyasa initiative. This initiative has established 40 hospital-based centres, with all MOHs providing Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services (AYFHS).

The Family Health Bureau has planned an assessment of Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services (AYFHS) in Sri Lanka by the UNFPA Annual Work Plan 2024. This assessment aims to evaluate the current state of AYFHS centres, identify strategies to address existing gaps and challenges and assess the quality and coverage of AYFHS in Sri Lanka. The findings will

contribute to developing evidence-based policies and programmes to enhance the availability, accessibility, and quality of AYFHS.

Therefore, it is necessary to recruit four research assistants to assess AYFHS centres successfully. This assessment is essential for streamlining AYFHS in the country to ensure that adolescents and youth benefit optimally from these services. It will help optimise the delivery of AYFHS, ensuring that young people have access to the best possible care, thereby reducing the negative impact of health-related challenges and threats on their lives and future generations.

Scope of Work

Under the Supervision of the National Program Manager (Adolescent and Youth Health Unit of the FHB), the research assistants will perform the following.

1. Coordinate project activities in the selected district hospitals, schools, and MOH offices.
2. To collect data by using the assessment tool developed by Family Health Bureau based on the eight Sri Lankan standards for AYFHS
3. Collect and compile all the data received and collected at select hospitals, communities, schools, and MOHs.
4. To enter collected data into a database (SPSS) excel .
5. To assist the National Program Manager in analysing the data
6. To assist the National Program Manager in documentation/preparing reports based on the collected data
7. To conduct Focus group discussions and assist in consultative meetings
8. To conduct key informal interviews as per requested
9. To develop brief videos, text, graphics, and posters on adolescent and youth health based on the findings and unit requirements and upload them to the web or social media
10. Support maintenance of Yowun Piyasa website and FB
11. Attend any other activities arranged by the Director/MCH or head of the Adolescent and Youth Health.

Selected research assistants will be posted to the Adolescent Health Unit of the Family Health Bureau.

Duration

For six months (05/06 days a week from 8.30 am-4.15 pm)

Desired qualification and experience for the post

- Pre- intern Medical officer with MBBS qualifications
- Previous experience in scientific research, data collection, data entry and analysis
- Good command of English and Sinhala or English and Tamil languages
- Ability to work with Microsoft Office applications (word/Excel/ PowerPoint/ SPSS /etc.)
- Ability to develop digital content -videos, graphics, text and ICT knowledge
- Excellent communication skills

Monthly remuneration : RS.66,750/=

(Basic salary -RS 48,950/=+Cost of all -RS-17,800/=)

Selected candidates will be given comprehensive training on implementing research data collection at the FHB.

Candidates are requested to provide a completed CV, including copies of relevant documents and contact details before 31.05.2024 to Adolescent and Youth Health Unit, Family Health Bureau, 231. de Seram place, Colombo 10. (Tel -011 2699341, Email ayhunitfhb@gmail.com).

Deputy Director General (planning)

Ministry of Health Care & nutrition, Colombo 10