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Post of Research Assistant (01 vacancy)

Project: Global School Health Survey (GSHS) 2024 – Family Health Bureau

Background of the Project:

The Family Health Bureau is presently conducting the Global School Health Survey (GSHS) 2024 in coordination with WHO. This survey is carried out periodically in many countries across the globe to identify prevalence of important health risk behaviours and protective factors among school students. Findings from GSHS help countries develop priorities, establish programmes and advocate for resources for school and adolescent health programmes and policies through establishing trends in prevalence of health behaviours and protective factors.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. To coordinate survey activities in schools selected for the survey within the country.
2. To coordinate with survey administrators, regional education officials and Principals and teachers of selected schools
3. To develop correspondence paperwork to communicate with relevant education and health officials
4. To organize collation of survey data from survey centres/schools to the centre.
5. To collate and compile all the survey data received at the centre
6. To assist survey coordinator in any other tasks entrusted

The selected candidate should work mainly under the Director Maternal and Child Health and the Survey Coordinator GSHS 2024. He/she would also work under the Consultant Community Physician, Head, School Health Unit of the Family Health Bureau. It is a full time job with working hours as 8.30am to 4.15pm but the candidate may be requested to work extended hours and weekends if needed without additional remuneration. Transport from the Family Health Bureau to survey areas will be provided. Accommodation will also be arranged if/as necessary.

Desired Qualifications and Experience for the Post

- Pre intern Medical officer with MBBS qualifications
- Previous experience of scientific research, data collection, data entry and analysis
- Good command in English and Sinhala languages. Writing/Speaking skills in Tamil language will be an added advantage
- Ability to work with Microsoft office applications (Word/Excel/PowerPoint/SPSS)
- Proven ability to work as a team member

Nature of Duties

Full time/part time: Full time
No of days per week: 05-06 days
Working hours per day: Eight hours (8.30am to 4.15 pm)
Place of work: Family Health Bureau and field duty in relevant districts
Monthly remuneration: Rs 66750,000.00 (a basic salary of Rs 48,950.00 and other allowances worth of Rs 17800.00)
Duration: Four - five (4-5) months beginning November 2024

A Research assistant is not entitled for any other privileges or claims other than the benefits specified above from the ministry of health and/or the funding agency.

Candidates are requested to provide an updated CV with copies of relevant documents and contact details before 18th of November 2024 to School Health Unit, Family Health Bureau, No 231, De Saram Place, Colombo 10.(Tel: 011 2692746 , E mail: sh_fhb@yahoo.com).



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Dr Chandima Siritunga
Director Maternal and Child Health

Dr. Chandima Siritunga
MBBS, MSC, MD Community Medicine
Director Maternal and Child Health
Family Health Bureau



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Dr P V S C Vithana
Consultant Community Physician
Survey Coordinator/GSHS 2024

Terms of Reference (TOR)
Recruitment of Research Assistants
Global School Health Survey (GSHS) 2024 - Sri Lanka

Background

Sri Lanka is presently experiencing an epidemic of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). NCDs are now the leading cause of mortality, morbidity, and disability in the country and it accounts for about three fifths (59%) of total deaths. Further, an increasing trend in hospital admissions due to major NCDs (Ischemic heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes) is being observed over the years (Ministry of health, 2013).

It has been found that most of the risk behaviours for development of NCDs are acquired during adolescent period. Adolescence is one of the critical transition periods within the lifespan of humans. Almost one fifth (19.7%) of the total population of Sri Lanka comprises of young persons between 10 – 19 years (Department of Census and Statistics, 2016). Rapid changes in lifestyle have exposed these young adolescents to many challenges in today's dynamic and complex society. These can impact on their cognitive development, learning capacity and school attendance. Therefore, these challenges need to be addressed promptly with evidence based solutions so that necessary support and guidance could be offered.

Global School-based Student Health Survey or Global School Health Survey (GSHS) was initiated in 2001 by WHO, in collaboration with UNAIDS, UNESCO and UNICEF with technical assistance from the CDC as a regular fact finding mission among adolescents in most Member States. Since then Ministries of Health and Education of many countries have been using the GSHS to periodically monitor the prevalence of important health risk behaviours and protective factors among students. The last GSHS was done in Sri Lanka in 2016.

Findings from GSHS are expected to help countries develop priorities, establish programmes, and advocate for resources for school and adolescent health programmes and policies by establishing the prevalent trends in health behaviours and protective factors. These findings also allow to make comparisons across countries and within countries regarding the prevalence of health behaviours and protective factors among this important population group.

It has been planned to conduct the GSHS Sri Lanka within 2024 and the preliminary work is under way in coordination with WHO. This island wide survey require a large amount of groundwork comprising of development and editing of questionnaires, training material, correspondences with Ministry of Education and WHO and coordination with regional education and health officials. It is essential to ensure adequate human resources to build up a strong team to handle multiple tasks involved. Thus recruitment of two (02) research assistants is required to realize this purpose.

Scope of Work

These research assistants are expected to perform the following tasks under the supervision of the Survey Coordinator of GSHS Sri Lanka 2024.

1. To coordinate survey activities in schools selected for the survey within the country.
2. To assist conduction of the training programme for survey administrators
3. To coordinate with survey administrators, regional education officials and Principals and teachers of selected schools
4. To develop correspondence paperwork to communicate with relevant education and health officials
5. To organize collation of survey data from survey centres/schools to the centre.
6. To collate and compile all the survey data received at the centre
7. To assist survey coordinator in any other tasks entrusted

The selected research assistant will be posted at School Health Unit of Family Health Bureau (FHB) which is the main focal point of the survey.

Duration

For four - five (4-5) months beginning November 2024. The Successful recruit will work 05 - 06 days a week from 8.30am – 4.15pm.


Desired qualification and experience required for the post

- Pre intern Medical officer with MBBS qualifications
- Previous experience of scientific research, data collection, data entry and analysis
- Good command in English and Sinhala languages. Writing/speaking skills in Tamil language will be an added advantage
- Ability to work with Microsoft office applications (Word/Excel/PowerPoint/SPSS)
- Proven ability to work as a team member

The successful candidate will be paid a monthly remuneration of Rs 66750.00 (A basic salary of Rs 48,950.00 and other allowances worth of Rs 17800.00).

The selected candidate will be given a comprehensive training on preparation and implementation of the survey at the FHB.

Candidates are requested to provide an updated CV with copies of relevant documents and contact details before 18th of November 2024 to School Health Unit, Family Health Bureau, No 231, De Saram Place, Colombo 10. (Tel: 011 2692746 , E mail: sh_fhb@yahoo.com).


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