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Post of Research Assistant (02 vacancies)

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

Background of the Project:

The Family Health Bureau has planned to conduct the Global School Health Survey (GSHS) in 2024 in coordination with WHO. This is carried out periodically in many countries across the globe to identify the 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 by establishing trends in the 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 assist in developing training material for the training programme of survey administrators to be held before the survey.
3. To assist in conducting of the training programme for survey administrators
4. To coordinate with survey administrators, regional education officials and principals and teachers of selected schools
5. To develop correspondence paperwork to communicate with relevant education and health officials
6. To participate in visits to some data collection sites with the School Health unit staff when necessary
7. To organize collation and dispatch survey data from survey centres/schools to the centre.
8. To collate and compile all the survey data received at the centre
9. To assist the survey coordinator in any other tasks entrusted
10. To assist in drafting technical documents/reports and IEC material development (video, infographics etc.)
11. To assist in carrying out any other activities on school health and adolescent health as assigned by two programme managers (Consultants)

The selected candidate should work mainly under the Director of Maternal and Child Health, the National Programme Manager (NPM) of School Health, and the Survey Coordinator GSHS 2024 (NPM Adolescent Health) of the Family Health Bureau. The position is full-time and has working hours from 8.30am to 4.15pm, but the candidate may be requested to work extended hours and weekends if needed without additional remuneration.

Desired Qualifications 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 languages. Writing skills in Tamil language will be an added advantage
- Ability to work with Microsoft Office applications (Word/Excel/PowerPoint/SPSS)
- Ability in graphic design and IEC material development
- 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 (8.30 am to 4.15 pm)
Place of work:	Family Health Bureau and field duty in relevant districts
Monthly remuneration:	Rs 66750.00

Candidates are requested to provide an updated CV with copies of relevant documents and contact details before **08/07/2024** to School Health Unit, Family Health Bureau, No 231, De Seram Place, Colombo 10. (Tel: 011 2692746 , E mail: sh_fhb@yahoo.com).



Dr Ayesha Lokubalasooriya
Consultant Community Physician
School Health Unit, Family Health Bureau



Dr. Loshan N. Moonesinghe
Deputy Director - Covering up
Family Health Bureau

Director, Maternal and Child Health

Terms of reference (TOR)

Recruitment of Research Assistants

Global School Health Survey (GSHS) 2024 - Sri Lanka

Background

Sri Lanka is currently facing an epidemic of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which are the leading cause of death, illness, and disability, accounting for 59% of total deaths. Hospital admissions for major NCDs like ischemic heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes are rising (Ministry of Health, 2013). Most NCD risk behaviors develop during adolescence, a critical transition period. Adolescents (ages 10-19) make up 19.7% of Sri Lanka's population (Department of Census and Statistics, 2016). Rapid lifestyle changes pose challenges that affect their cognitive development, learning, and school attendance. These issues need timely, evidence-based interventions for proper support and guidance.

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, the 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.

Findings from the GSHS help countries prioritise, develop programs, and advocate for resources for school and adolescent health by identifying trends in health behaviors and protective factors. These findings also enable comparisons across and within countries. The last GSHS was done in Sri Lanka in 2016.

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

Scope of Work

These research assistants are expected to perform the following tasks under the supervision of the National Programme Manager(NPM) of School Health and the Survey Coordinator of GSHS (NPM Adolescent Health).

1. To coordinate survey activities in schools selected for the survey within the country.
2. To assist in developing training material for the training programme of survey administrators to be held before the survey.
3. To assist in conducting of the training programme for survey administrators
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10. To assist in drafting technical documents/reports and IEC material development (video, infographics etc.)
11. To assist in carrying out any other activities on school health and adolescent health as assigned by two programme managers (Consultants)

Selected research assistants will be posted to the School Health Unit of the Family Health Bureau (FHB), which is the main focal point of the survey.

Duration

For six (06) months beginning 01st July 2024. Successful recruits 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 in scientific research, data collection, data entry and analysis
- Good command of English and Sinhala languages. Writing skills in Tamil language will be an added advantage
- Ability to work with Microsoft office applications (Word/Excel/PowerPoint/SPSS)
- Ability in graphic design and IEC material development
- Proven ability to work as a team member

The successful candidates will be paid a monthly remuneration of Rs 66750

Selected candidates 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 08/⁰⁷~~06~~/2024 to School Health Unit, Family Health Bureau, No 231, De Seram Place, Colombo 10. (Tel: 011 2692746 , E mail: sh_fhb@yahoo.com).