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Post of Research Assistant (03 vacancies)

Project: for preliminary work on National Youth Health Survey-2025

Background of the project:

The National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Adolescent and Youth Health (2018-2025) was developed with a strong foundation built upon Sri Lanka's existing policies related to the health of young people and school health. As the validity of the Adolescent and Youth Health NSP approaches its end in 2025, it is crucial to begin the process of reviewing and revising the plan for the period of 2026-2030. The updated NSP will address emerging challenges, incorporate new evidence, and ensure that the health and well-being of adolescents and youth remain a key focus within Sri Lanka's public health agenda.

As part of the revision process, it is vital to assess the risk behaviors and health issues affecting youth within the community, including both school-going and non-school-going adolescents and young adults. The last national youth health survey was conducted in 2012, and the implementation of the second National Youth Health Survey (NYHS) is scheduled for 2025. This survey will focus on identifying health issues and risk behaviors among both in-school and out-of-school youth.

These activities are critical for informing the next NSP and its program implementation. They will allow for the development of targeted strategies that address the unique challenges faced by diverse youth populations in the current context.

To support this important process, it is necessary to recruit three pre-intern doctors to assist in conducting surveys, analyzing data, and contributing to the formulation of the new NSP.

Scope of Work

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

1. preliminary work of NYHS, including literature reviewing
2. Tool development with experts
3. Compilation of NYHS activities
4. Pre-testing & pilot testing of the tools

5. Tool modifications as per pre-testing findings
6. Training of data collectors from districts
7. Data collection, data entry and compilation as per need
8. Contribute for any other activities of AYH Unit

Eg : Process of National Strategic Plan Development

Advocacy video development related to Adolescent and Youth

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

Duration

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

(period will be extended depending on the need)

Desired qualification and experience of 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 Tamil languages
- Ability to work with Microsoft office applications (word/Excel/ PowerPoint etc.), SPSS, Canva and other video producing software, Joomla software
- Excellent communication skills

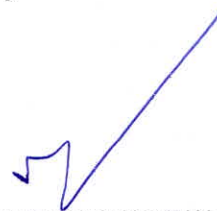
Monthly Allowance: RS.66,750/=

A Research Assistants are 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)

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



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) for Recruitment of three Research Assistant for preliminary work on National Youth Health Survey-2025

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.

The National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Adolescent and Youth Health (2018-2025) was developed by building on Sri Lanka's policies related to the health of young people and school health. It incorporates interventions outlined in the WHO global strategy for women, children, and adolescents, as well as the AAHA! Framework. Implementation of the said NSP was externally evaluated with support from WHO in 2024.

Since the Validity of the AYH NSP is ending in 2025 – It is high time to review and revise the NSP for the period 2026-2030. This updated plan will address emerging challenges, incorporate new

evidence, and ensure that the health and well-being of adolescents and youth continue to be prioritized in Sri Lanka's public health agenda.

In the process of development of NSP, it is essential to assess the risk behaviors and health issues among youth in the community covering non-school going adolescent's addition to school going adolescents and youth

One significant gap identified in the current landscape is the lack of recent data on adolescent and youth health. The last national youth health survey was conducted in 2012, and since then, there have been significant changes in societal dynamics, health trends, and risk behaviors among young individuals after the COVID-19 pandemic and the present economic downturn. To bridge this gap, the Global School Health Survey is being implemented in 2024 end, while steps are planned to implement the 2nd National Youth Health Survey in 2025.

The NYHS survey will focus on identifying health issues and risk behaviors among in-school and out-of-school students. These activities are critical to guide the Next NSP and programme implementation, allowing for the formulation of targeted strategies that address the unique challenges faced by diverse youth populations in today's context.

There is a need to recruit three pre-intern doctors to assist in this process.

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SPSS , Canva and other video producing software, Joomla software
- Excellent communication skills

Monthly Allowance = RS.66,750/=

Candidates are requested to provide a completed CV, including copies of relevant documents and contact details before 10/03/2025.....to Adolescent and Youth Health Unit, Family Health Bureau, 231.de Seram place, Colombo 10. (Tel -011 2699341, Email ayhunitfhb@gmail.com).