



Qualitative Researchers for Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana – Learning Study on Sanitation Livelihoods for Urban Collectives

3ie, New Delhi

1. Background

The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) promotes evidence-informed equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development. We support the generation and effective use of high-quality evidence to inform decision-making and improve the lives of people living in poverty in low- and middle-income countries. We provide guidance and support to produce, synthesize and quality assure evidence of what works, for whom, how, why and at what cost. 3ie is registered as a non-governmental organisation in the United States. It has offices in New Delhi, London and Washington, DC.

3ie, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will be undertaking a study to glean learnings from recent efforts of state governments to provide employment opportunities to urban self-help groups (SHGs) and other vulnerable groups like sanitation workers in the Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) sector. The study will provide important insights to the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) to promote sanitation-linked livelihoods for the urban poor and/or community groups or SHGs. It will help inform the national-level policy and guidelines work at NULM and provide evidence-informed insights to governments in select states (Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana) for scale-up of sanitation-livelihoods models.

We are currently seeking three experienced qualitative researchers to be based in the states of Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana to support the learning study managed by 3ie's evaluation office based in India. The primary responsibility of the qualitative researchers will be to anchor and conduct field work in these states.

2. Key responsibilities

The qualitative researcher will report directly to the senior evaluation specialist and/or the senior research associate and will be responsible for the tasks outlined below:

- Review project documents and study material.
- Assist in designing contextually appropriate tools for qualitative data collection and translating these in the local languages.
- Develop guides or manuals for in-depth interviews (IDI) and key informant interviews (KII), focus group discussions (FGDs) and other participatory exercises.
- Attend training of qualitative researchers on data collection conducted by 3ie.
- Conduct piloting of tools and instruments in the field, through telephonic surveys or interviews or a combination of both, depending on the local travel restrictions in place due to COVID-19.

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- Collect high-quality data in the field through primary qualitative research methodologies, including, but not limited to, FGDs, in-depth interviews, participant observation from the study population and sub population of interest as identified by 3ie, such as SHG/urban collective members, their families and communities, and local government officials at the municipality level in structured and semi-structured format using qualitative techniques.
- Transcribe KII and IDI and produce detailed notes that summarise FGDs.
- Check interview transcripts in English for accuracy and fill in any missing/incomplete information.
- Submit weekly data collection progress report in a designated format to 3ie.
- Participate in regular calls with 3ie staff and consultants to discuss project progress.
- Facilitate other 3ie team members' engagement with stakeholders by scheduling meetings and translating meetings conducted in regional language to English.
- Attend and clear human subjects online training.

3. Qualifications and key competencies

- Post-graduate or graduate degree in Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, Economics, Public Policy, Public Administration or related field with an emphasis on qualitative methods. Masters or PhD students with coursework on research methodologies. A minimum of two years of qualitative research experience, including strong experience in conducting field work. This may include fieldwork conducted as part of PhD dissertation.
- Excellent facilitation and analytical skills for data gathering through diverse research methodologies, including interviews, group discussions and participative exercises.
- Ability to take copious field notes and overall good documentation skills.
- Proficiency in English and ability to work and write in either Tamil, Telugu or Odiya.
- Willingness to travel within the state, including small towns.
- Excellent skills in communication, time management, teamwork, and relationship management.
- Understanding of WASH sector programmes and urban livelihoods, particularly in India, is desirable.
- Knowledge and experience of qualitative analysis software like NVivo or Atlas.ti is desirable.

4. Eligibility

3ie will recruit three researchers to perform the identified tasks. Applications from firms will not be accepted. 3ie is an equal-opportunity employer committed to equality and diversity. We do not discriminate based on sex, age, religion, ethnicity, caste, sexual orientation or for being differently abled. We particularly encourage ethnic minorities and differently abled persons to apply.

5. Terms of employment

Candidates should be available to start work in June 2021. The field work in each state is planned for 25 days (75 in total for three states) spread over three months.

3ie offers competitive remuneration based on experience and qualifications. Candidates will be paid as per an agreed per-day rate. Candidates should be based in one of the states where the study will be conducted.

Domestic travel is expected as part of this assignment, situation permitting. Any actual travel will be in accordance with 3ie's travel guidelines, the latest government advisory and safety protocols.

6. How to apply

Please apply by e-mail to jobs@3ieimpact.org (copy to SLP1@3ieimpact.org) and mention 'Qualitative Researcher – SLP project' in the subject line. The application must include:

- A cover letter
- Curriculum vitae
- Names and contact details of three professional references

Incomplete applications, including applications without a cover letter, will not be considered.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Due to the urgency to fill this role, applications will be reviewed, and shortlisted candidates interviewed, on a rolling basis. Preference will be given to candidates who submit complete applications by 15 May 2021.