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 (L&MICs). We provide guidance and support to produce impact evaluations and associated formative evaluations; systematic reviews and syntheses, evidence gap maps and support for using that evidence in decision-making and capacity development. 3ie is registered as a non-governmental organisation in the United States. It has offices in New Delhi, London and Washington, DC.

3ie is partnering with the H&M Foundation on a project to assess the effectiveness of the Collective Impact (CI) Initiative targeted at wastepickers in Bengaluru, India. Piloted in the United States, the CI approach has been replicated in various contexts and involves a consortium of partners who enter into a highly structured collaboration to implement a common agenda with the aim of solving a specific social problem—in this case the conditions of wastepickers in Bengaluru. The proposed study is an impact evaluation which will ascertain if the CI approach worked to improve the lives of wastepickers and their families, factors that facilitated or inhibited impact and what might be the areas to focus when scaling up the programme or replicating it in another context. It will also try to identify if (and how) the programme impacted different sub groups differently and what might be the associated factors for these observed differences.

To support its work, 3ie is inviting applications from qualified professionals to join the team as a research assistant based in Bengaluru.

The evaluation office supports impact evaluations to increase the availability of high-quality evidence on the impact of development assistance. Four key areas of work include, increasing evidence on what works, why and at what cost in development programmes, especially those using innovative approaches; generating lessons learned through syntheses of high-quality evidence on programme effectiveness in a particular development sector; building capacity of programme implementers and donors to use evidence; and, ensuring that evidence is available to policymakers in policy-friendly formats.

2. Responsibilities and tasks

As a member of the team, the research assistant will undertake the following tasks.
• Support the principal investigators in design of evaluations, including building the programme theory of change and identifying research questions;
• Develop and pilot survey instruments and participate in primary data collection;
• Where data collection is by a survey firm, implement data quality control measures, including conducting field visits to monitor the survey team;
• Clean and analyse quantitative and qualitative data and conduct data quality and consistency checks;
• Liaise with project partners to ensure regular communication with all stakeholders; and
• Organise capacity building, training and dissemination workshops, as needed.

The research assistant will report to an evaluation specialist who will provide regular guidance and mentoring. Subject to the approval of supervisors the position includes professional development opportunities, such as attending relevant courses, participating in research with leading impact evaluation experts and/or publishing 3ie’s in-house publication series or external publications.

3. Qualifications and skills

3.1 Education and work experience
• A Master’s degree preferably in Economics, Social Sciences or Development Studies or related fields and a minimum of two to three years of experience in the development sector.

3.2 Skills
• Experience in managing large-scale surveys in developing country contexts;
• Knowledge of statistics and/or econometric methodologies;
• Strong data analysis skills using STATA and ability to work with large data sets;
• Excellent writing skills in English is required;
• Working knowledge of Kannada is required as well;
• Previous experience in organising workshops and conferences is desirable; and
• Ability to work in multi-stakeholder settings and demonstrated ability to deliver under pressure with strict deadlines.

4. Eligibility

3ie will recruit one individual who is a resident of India and has the right to work. 3ie is an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, ethnicity or sexual orientation. We particularly encourage women and minorities to apply. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

5. Terms of reference

Candidates should be available to start on or before 1 September 2020. The contract would be for a period of one year with a possibility of renewal. 3ie offers competitive remuneration based on experience and qualifications. Our policies and procedures reflect our commitment to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults from abuse. We follow a zero-tolerance policy for any form of bullying or harassment in the workplace.
6. How-to apply

Please apply by e-mail to jobs@3ieimpact.org with a copy to stripathi@3ieimpact.org mentioning 'Application: Research Assistant, Bengaluru' in the subject line. All applications must include the following:

1. A cover letter;
2. An updated curriculum vitae highlighting relevant experience; and
3. Names and contact information of three references.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. However, applications received by 7 August 2020 will be given priority. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview. Incomplete applications will not be considered.