

Title: Full-Time Field Research Assistant (Based in India)

Duration: 12 months (with probation and possibility of extension)

Location: India (within-country travel required)

Length of Commitment: One year

Earliest start date: Feb 1, 2026

Latest start date: March 1, 2026

About the role

We are hiring a **full-time Field Research Assistant** to support ongoing academic research projects in India. The role involves on-the-ground coordination, interacting with stakeholders and community members, documenting field work, as well as supporting data collection and survey teams. Please note that this is a field-intensive and travel-intensive role, not a desk job. The current fieldwork location is **Uttar Pradesh**, but the role may also involve other areas within India.

About the Principal Investigator (PI)

Professor Ronak Jain is the Assistant Professor of Economics of Development and Child Welfare at the University of Zurich. Her work sits at the intersection of development and behavioral economics. She has deep field experience—designing and running many field projects (RCTs, lab-in-the-field, large surveys, and structured observation) across different developing countries, including Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania, and India. Previous projects in India include studying street vending markets and how correcting misperceptions around mental health boosts community engagement in Delhi. The research team additionally consists of the PI's RA team based in Zurich.

Key responsibilities

- Conducting focus groups and semi-structured interviews
- Supporting data collection, training, and supervision of surveyors
- Refining research instruments and protocols
- Ensuring accurate translation of surveys and transcription of discussions
- Outreach and liaison with important stakeholders and members of the public
- Maintaining clear field logs and documentation
- Capturing videos or photos for research use
- Traveling locally as required
- Reporting to the PI's team on all of the above-mentioned activities

Required

- Available full-time (not currently studying)
- Fluency in Hindi and English, and strong interpersonal skills are required
- Comfortable speaking to strangers and authority figures
- Flexibility to travel and work flexible hours
- Self-motivating, able to manage multiple tasks efficiently
- Prior experience in surveys or fieldwork
- Reliable and organized
- Strong sense of ethics and professionalism
- BA in Public Policy, Communications, Media, Journalism, Economics, Business, Sociology, Anthropology, or related disciplines
- The candidate must have work authorization in India.

Desired

- Excellent smartphone literacy (WhatsApp, videos, social media)
- Have lived in or travelled independently in rural areas
- The ideal candidate has a desire to understand the social world around them and possesses a thirst for answering research questions about economic development

What we offer

- Monthly salary: competitive depending on experience
- Probation period of 2 months and transparent renewal process
- Opportunity to work closely with Prof. Ronak Jain at the University of Zurich

How to apply

Please fill in this [Google form](#). Only completed applications will be considered. Detailed instructions for your submission are on the Google form. The application materials consist of:

- CV (1–2 pages)
- A short cover letter (max 500 words) explaining why you are interested in field-based research work in Uttar Pradesh, and your availability to travel
- A short video (max 3 minutes total) introducing yourself, responding to all the prompts mentioned on the application form.
- Academic transcripts (optional)
- Two references. We will only reach out to referees if you are shortlisted for the position.

We will accept applications on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted with the next steps. If you have any questions about the process, you can email applications.ronakjain@gmail.com.