

Apply today and you could be... A Social Researcher at the SGUP in Lahunipara, India

What's the context and purpose of the role?

India, the country with the world's second largest population, has made impressive progress since it gained independence in 1947. The population living below the poverty line has declined from 60% then to 36% today. However, as India has a population of over 1 billion people, 36% translates into 350 million people living in absolute poverty. VSO works with local government organisations to ensure that the most marginalized groups in society have a voice in decisions that impact upon their lives. SGUP is a local NGO that aims to empower vulnerable people to exercise their basic rights and gain more control of their lives, resources and democratic institutions. As a Social Researcher for this organisation, you'll work to strengthen the documentation systems of SGUP and train staff on the documentation process. In addition to this you'll improve the quality of reports and research documents.

What does the role involve?

- Applying a variety of research techniques to gather relevant information, including document analysis, surveys and case studies
- Training local colleagues in report writing, research methods and documentation processes
- Ensuring that new research topics have clear strategies
- Analysing and evaluating research and interpret data, making sure that key issues are identified
- Preparing proposals for new research topics



What skills, experience and personal qualities are needed for the role?

You'll have a relevant degree with at least 3 years' post qualification social research experience. You'll be confident and able to work independently using initiative and preferably have experience training others. In addition to this you'll have excellent interpersonal and communication skills and be able to work effectively in a cross-cultural environment. You'll be working with limited resources so patience, flexibility and adaptability are essential skills for all VSO volunteers!

And the rest...

Orissa is in eastern India, famous for its magnificent temples (there are around 1000!). The climate is hot with a tropical monsoon as in most other parts of the country. The monsoon generally starts in the extreme south around 1st June, and the much anticipated rains sweep north to cover the whole country by early July. In India, the monsoon is referred to as the Queen of Seasons! You'll be based in Lahunipara, a small, rural town in the Orissa region with a weekly market selling fresh vegetables, fish, meat and chicken. The nearest airport is in Ranchi with daily flights to Delhi and Mumbai. There are also frequent bus services to the larger towns of Rourkela and Lahunipara.

We'll ask you to commit to 12 - 24 months to make a sustainable contribution to our development goals. In return, we'll give you comprehensive financial, personal and professional support. We'll provide you with extensive training before your placement, and our financial package includes a local salary, return flights, accommodation, insurance and more. When you return to your home country, we'll help you to resettle and many of our returned volunteers stay involved with us long after their placement ends. www.vso.org.uk/volunteering