

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Research Associates for Pankh Project- India ECD Collective

1. Background and Context

Mobile Creches is working to strengthen the Early Childhood Care/Education and Development (ECCE/D) ecosystem through Project PANKH, which involves collaboration, learning and collective action. We are looking for Research Associates who have supported or co-led work in intersectionality and related thematics within ECCE/D. The Research Associate would be responsible for collecting data from field, develop field immersion tools, conduct stakeholder interviews to strengthen practices and consolidate findings with a specific focus on gender, disability and SEL.

2. Research Associates (2 positions)

Number of positions	2
Engagement type	Consultancy (output/deliverable based, external)
Financial Scope of Assignment	Rs 2,20,000/-
Duration of Contract	20 days across two months (Oct 2026- Dec 2026)
Reporting to	Mobile Creches
Location	Remote, with field travel as required

Job Description: Research Associates will jointly support the design of research tools for Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), organise Stakeholder Consultation, subsequently develop field-based need assessment tools, consolidate and share findings.

3. Scope of Work

- Identify Key Informants for the Stakeholder interviews to inform our research.
- Developing a Field immersion tool along with conducting training and pilot for its final adaptation.
- Facilitate stakeholder consultation and validation discussions on emerging themes, as required by the R&I Team of Mobile Creches.
- Coordination with the resource persons and participants for the consultation
- Contribute inputs to the milestone's consolidated findings and collective dialogue from the stakeholder consultation and interviews.

4. Deliverables

- i. Map and list key stakeholders/ key informants for research
- ii. Consolidated report of the findings from interview
- iii. Concept note for the Round-table consultation with identified stakeholders
- iv. Synthesised learnings from the consultation in a report which will feed into the main research.
- v. Field immersion tool for final adaptation.

5.Required Qualifications & Experience

10-15 years of experience in social science/development research, with demonstrated work on gender, intersectionality, or related equity themes.

- a. Postgraduate qualification in social sciences, education, gender studies, development studies, or a related field.
- b. Prior experience designing qualitative research protocols and field tools, ideally within ECD or child-rights contexts.
- c. Strong academic writing skills in English; working knowledge of Hindi or another regional language an advantage.
- d. Comfort working in a collaborative, multi-organisation collective structure with participatory, practice-informed methods.

6. Selection Criteria

- a. Depth of prior work on intersectionality/gender in the development or education/ECD sector (40%) (Assessed through detailed CV and interview)
- b. Quality of a research protocol or literature review submitted (35%)
- c. Fit for collaborative, field-oriented, participatory ways of working (25%)

7. How to Apply

Submit your application and CV through LinkedIn to aparajita.s@mobilecreches.org before September 30th,2026.