



Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA)

Vergheese Kurien Policy Lab (VKPL)

The Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) is a premier, national-level Institute for Post Graduate, Fellowship and Mid-career/in-service education, research, and consulting in rural management. Founded in 1979, IRMA's mission is to promote all-around sustainable rural development through professional management.

The Vergheese Kurien Policy Lab (VKPL) at IRMA was established in 2015 in collaboration with the Michigan State University, USA. The lab's objective is to promote policy-relevant research and develop a culture of rigorous evidence-building in India. The technical team at the lab consistently works with researchers of international repute. Such collaborations have enabled the lab to design and implement complex field experiments related to health, financial inclusion, women's entrepreneurship, agricultural practices, and local governments. The lab has been able to attract research staffs who have graduated from top ranked economics and public policy schools in India, viz., Delhi School of Economics, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, JNU, and Madras School of Economics.

The methodological focus of the lab is on Field Experiments, Randomized Control Trials, and Quasi-experiments. VKPL is committed to sharing its research and field-level findings as well as developmental strategies with policy-makers and implementing agencies. The central research themes of the lab include problems related to livelihood strategies, decentralization and governance, empowerment of women, financial inclusion, the relationship between rural households and markets, provision of public services, and the impact of rights-based schemes and programs.

VKPL is inviting applications for the post of Research Fellow (RF, 1 position), and Research Associate (RA, 1 position). We expect to attract exceptional candidates for all three positions and the successful candidate(s) will undertake research activities along with the VKPL faculty team. The lab is headed by Dr. Vivek Pandey.

The RF will provide technical and managerial support for designing and implementing large-scale household and community surveys and coordinate field experiments. The RA will work alongside RF to design surveys, train the survey team, and work with the CAPI team to implement surveys using hand-held devices and implement High Frequency Checks (HFCs). The RA will work closely with the RF, and the survey team for the data management, designing CAPI-based surveys. More recently, we have initiated the use of Machine Learning and Natural Language Processing in our work. Therefore, the RA and RF will have the opportunity to work on some exciting problems that relate causal inference with data science.

This is an excellent opportunity for those interested in undertaking empirical research work in the future. The projects associated with lab will expose the RF and RA to various surveys and experimental methodologies, data handling and analytical tools. In recent past, most of the RFs and RAs from the lab have joined PhD programs in Economics, and Applied Economics in top ranked departments in North America. Others have taken up research positions at World Bank, IFPRI, JPAL, and other policy think-tanks. We encourage those candidates to apply who are keen to pursue doctoral studies.



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**Verghese Kurien Policy Lab (VKPL) at IRMA requires Research Associate (RA)
in Experimental Development Economics**

RA JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Research Associate

Organization: VKPL at IRMA

Experience: Fresh post-graduates can also apply for the position.

Application Deadline: This is a rolling position but please apply by 22nd July 2022 for consideration in the current cycle of recruitment

Start date (earliest): 1st August 2022

Roles and responsibilities:

1. Writing research grants as a part of the lab in collaboration with the lead PI.
2. Design and manage the implementation of the field experiments and surveys.
3. Peer review and quality assurance for the VKPL authored research and grant reports.
4. Collaborate for the research ideas with the professors associated with the VKPL and research associates.
5. Assist in teaching of courses taught by VKPL faculty.

Education:

1. Post-graduate in Economics (including applied, agricultural, and mathematic economics), statistics, public policy, or other relevant social science field with a strong quantitative focus.
2. Basic econometric skills.
3. Introductory knowledge of statistical software packages (STATA or R).
4. Excellent oral and written communication skills in English.
5. Preferably less than two years of work experience beyond post-graduate studies in relevant fields. Candidates who have just recently or about to finish their post-graduate studies will receive equal weightage.

Remuneration:

Candidates should be available to initiate the work at the earliest. VKPL offers a consolidated remuneration of Rs. 37,000. This is a contractual position for 24 months (with probation of 6 months) with a possibility of extension of one or two years, based on the performance and conduct of the candidate. The general terms and conditions of employment at IRMA will be applicable.

Please ensure that the application contains detailed curriculum vitae and Statement of Purpose (maximum 350 words). Completed applications must be sent by email: vkpl@irma.ac.in. The email subject line must read as follows: Application for RA Position at VKPL.