

Research Associate Opportunity for Bihar Law and Governance Study

Prof. Ashwani Kumar and Aaditya Dar*

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Description: We are looking to hire two full-time Research Associates (RAs) to conduct a study examining the politician-contractor-criminal relationship in Bihar. Responsibilities include:

- Conducting fieldwork by traveling to various blocks and interviewing bureaucrats, journalists, contractors and politicians (RAs are required to be based out of district headquarters for at least 3 weeks every month);
- Writing field notes and providing regular updates to the research team;
- Assisting with the preparation of reports and presentations.

Qualifications: Masters degree in Economics, Political Science, Sociology or any other relevant discipline in the arts/social sciences, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Students planning to apply to graduate school or those transitioning between jobs may also apply for this position. The successful applicant would have the following skills:

- Resourceful, detail oriented and capable of taking ownership of the study;
- Strong interpersonal skills including tact and diplomacy;
- Proven ability to work independently in challenging contexts;
- Excellent organizational skills with demonstrated ability to multi-task and meet deadlines;
- Fluency in reading and speaking in Hindi; ability to work remotely and travel to the field;
- Applicants with work experience (conducting qualitative research) will be preferred.

Benefits and timeline: This is a paid position and compensation will be commensurate with experience. You will work in close collaboration with an experienced research team and learn about the operational aspects of an academic study. This is a long term assignment: the timeline is 12 months, starting immediately. This study is part of a larger agenda and RAs will also be considered for future project requirements, depending on quality of work and performance.

How to apply? Interested candidates should email a copy of their CV and a brief cover letter to aadityadar+poleco@gmail.com with “RA position – Bihar Law and Governance Study” in the subject line. CVs should be emailed as PDF and the filename should be in the following format: lastname_cv.pdf (everything in lower case).

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