



## Calcutta Rescue Volunteer Researcher – Background and Job Description

Calcutta Rescue is an award-winning, medium-sized NGO specialising in health, education and standard of living interventions in Kolkata and West Bengal. Following the success of the first phase of its 2019 Multidimensional Poverty Study, CR wants to **recruit several enthusiastic social researchers** (quantitative & qualitative) to continue its information revolution.

After 8 months of work by two young British researchers and their team of research assistants, CR now has the most detailed dataset on Kolkata's non-registered slums ever produced, and the results are set to be published in a UK journal by the end of 2019. The project is an elaboration on the UN's Multidimensional Poverty Index and has been developed in conjunction with leading UK academics.

It has pointed to unidentified problems and considerable heterogeneity across 16 slum areas. Now seeing the benefits, CR wants to continue to deepen and broaden its research to instruct policy changes and inform academia.

This is an opportunity for **promising social scientists** to take on **meaningful projects** with a **high degree of responsibility** and self-direction, with the potential to have a **large impact** on the work of a respected NGO.

Calcutta Rescue is looking to recruit those that can demonstrate:

- **a pro-active & independent attitude**
- **empathy and commitment to our values**
- **a critical mind**
- **quantitative or qualitative research skills** – undergraduate-level training minimum. Our first two researchers had a master's in social research and experience conducting an undergraduate research project between them. We appreciate the vitality of youth and know that experience is hard to come by and are willing to consider candidates without it, as long as they can demonstrate the necessary enthusiasm and commitment to quality of work. The projects assigned to researchers will be determined by experience level, their interests and our priorities.

Following the summer 2019 project there are a few specific projects CR wants researchers to work on:

- **Phase 2 of the Multidimensional Poverty Study** - replicating the study in new slum areas.
- **Policy specific research** – more implementation orientated research on key problems identified in the former – e.g. obesity, health education or school attendance.
- **Qualitative research** – we think it is important to accompany quantitative data with good quality qualitative research. Research should be testimonies, images, films as well as numbers.

This list is not exhaustive and research directions will present themselves as our knowledge and talent base evolves.

We would ideally like people to commit to 6 months (or more!) with CR but will consider those able to commit for at least 4 months. The positions are voluntary and unfortunately no funding from CR is available. However, Kolkata is a cheap city to live in – 6 months here costs less than 2 months in London. The charity *will* assist with finding good accommodation & there is an **established volunteer community** working in other parts of the NGO to help settle newcomers.

To apply, please send a CV and one-page cover letter to [mauricelange@outlook.com](mailto:mauricelange@outlook.com) with the subject: "APPLICATION Calcutta Rescue Research Position - 'NAME'".

For more information, please contact Maurice Lange: [mauricelange@outlook.com](mailto:mauricelange@outlook.com)