

Head, Sector Wide and Policy Unit (SWAP)

Centre for Micro Finance (CMF)

The Centre for Micro Finance (CMF) in India is a young, fast-growing organization focused on improving access to financial services for the poor through cutting edge research, knowledge dissemination and outreach to policy makers and practitioners. Through research, CMF provides evidence on what works, and what does not. CMF supplements policy debates with empirical data and analysis, and provides further insight to policy-makers from its extensive field experience. We aim to facilitate a process where research questions emerge from the local policy context and policy and programmatic decisions are guided by research outcomes.

About the Position

The Centre for Micro Finance (CMF) is currently seeking a highly motivated individual to join us as the Head of the Sector Wide and Policy (SWAP) Unit. This position provides a unique opportunity for those who interested in research and policy issues in the Indian microfinance sector. The SWAP Head would be working with a team of SWAP policy analysts and knowledge management professionals. The SWAP Unit aims to develop deep expertise on issues involved as well as the skills and materials required to influence policy at regional, national and international levels.

Core Competencies

The Head of the Sector Wide & Policy Unit will work closely with the CMF Executive Director and his/her team in the following activities:

- Conduct sector wide and policy studies
- Institutionalize CMF's microfinance and financial inclusion policy expertise
- Work on select studies and provide guidance/ leadership to others
- Responsible for monitoring budget and fund raising for specific studies
- Responsible for systematically understanding the regulatory and policy context
- Knowledge dissemination and outreach
- Disseminate CMF's impact evaluations and research knowledge to relevant stakeholders
- Ensure and manage team involvement in KM initiatives and sustenance
- Contribute to proposal development and project management with research ideas

Qualifications and skills

- Masters degree or undergraduate with compensatory relevant work experience of 3+ years
- Education and research background should be in Economics, Public Policy, Development Studies/ Finance, International Development or disciplines of equal distinction.
- 3 plus years of experience in International Development with focus on developing countries
- Excellent communication, formal English writing skills, documentation and budgeting skills
- Demonstrated ability to set ambitious and achievable medium to long term targets
- Ability to analyze quantitative and qualitative data and convert them into meaningful information
- Team player with flexibility to absorb and disseminate best practices based on innovations and field experience combined with leadership ability to provide directions
- Self starter with passion and willingness to rollup sleeves for making a difference
- Extensive experience and exposure to the best practices within the development industry
- Experience in working with a microfinance research set up would be a definite asset
- Excellent entrepreneurial, leadership skills and strategic thinking ability
- Knowledge of local language is highly desirable but not mandatory

To Apply

Please send your resume and a covering letter which should give a detailed account of synergy between your profile and the position and a writing sample of any of your previous works to babu.vittal@ifmr.ac.in. Please indicate in the subject line that you are applying for the SWAP Head position. After validating your profile and relevant documents, we would contact you within reasonable time.