

Position: **Program Officer/Manager – FLN (Policy & Advocacy)**

Location: New **Delhi**

Nature of the Employment: **Full time**

India's Learning Crisis

With over 1.5 million schools and 260 million students, India has one of the largest and most complex education systems in the world. Through effective public policy, tremendous progress towards achieving universal primary education has been made. However, the pressing challenge of improving learning outcomes still remains. OECD'S PISA, Pratham's ASER, NCERT's National Achievement Survey all conclude that learning levels of students are well below age-appropriate levels. For instance, the ASER 2018 report found that only half of grade 5 children could read a grade 2 level text correctly.

Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

The National Education Policy (NEP) – 2020 is a major milestone in India's education reforms- shifting from increasing access to education to ensuring quality of education. The NEP makes a strong pitch for the National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) Mission, setting a deadline for 2025 to ensure universal acquisition of critical FLN skills (reading with comprehension and basic Math) among children. The policy states that achieving universal foundational literacy and numeracy in primary school and beyond is the highest priority for all the states and upon which, the achievement of all other goals are contingent on. Language and Learning Foundation (LLF) is uniquely poised to contribute to the FLN mission and has been recognized as a partner for supporting this Mission at the national level and in several states. LLF, therefore, is at a pivotal stage of its growth with a mission to improve foundational skills for 30 million Indian children in Grades 1 to 3 by 2025.

Language and Learning Foundation (LLF)

Language and Learning Foundation (LLF) was founded in 2015, with a vision to develop strong foundational language and literacy among all children, to facilitate thinking and reasoning, through capacity building of teachers and teacher educators. LLF works with various state governments and has been recognized as a domain leader in language and literacy learning and multilingual education. LLF is also implementing India's first CSR-funded education Development Impact Bond (DIB) through its Learning Improvement Program in Haryana.

LLF's work has garnered support from leading education philanthropies including Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Central Square Foundation, Tata Trusts, HT Parekh Foundation, and UNICEF. With the support of their partners, LLF now works with the state governments of Haryana, UP, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Odisha in various capacities to design and deliver state-led foundational learning programs. Further details available in LLF's website www.languagenadlearningfoundaton.org

About the founder

Dr. Dhir Jhingran is an ex-IAS Officer, whose deep interest in primary education led him to a PhD in the subject and eventually become a social entrepreneur. He has worked in the primary education sector for over two decades, within and outside the government. Within the government, he has served as Principal Secretary, Education with the Government of Assam, as a Director in the Ministry of Human Resource Development among others. Dr. Jhingran has also been associated with UNICEF India and Room to Read in various leadership and advisory capacities. He has made significant contributions to the development and implementation of early grade reading programs in several countries in Asia and Africa and several states in India.

Position Summary

The FLN Coordinator will work directly with the Executive Director focusing on the new National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) with a specific focus on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) Mission. The FLN Coordinator will play a pivotal role in drafting reports and presentations relating to policies and strategic approach at national and state levels. This is a critical cross-functional role aimed at addressing dynamic needs across all major FLN related projects, ensuring agility and quality of response.

Key Responsibilities

- Provide support in articulating LLF's strategic approach for various aspects of NEP 2020 and FLN.
- Be part of state level NEP committees and support state team units in preparing responses to documents for committee meetings.
- Draft reports and presentations on LLF's over-all initiatives to contribute to the national agenda of the FLN Mission.
- Work with the leadership team in developing strategic roadmaps related to FLN and multilingual education. These could include supporting the development of strategic fundraising for FLN-related projects.
- Support documentation for FLN programs including monitoring data, developing case studies, best practices, success stories and collating evidence about outcomes to share with donors and governments
- Lead organisational learning by interpreting data and identifying patterns and trends across multiple state programs
- Represent LLF in meetings and workshops on being invited by the Government and other organizations
- Interact with the Ministry of Education, NCERT, other partners like Central Square Foundation on FLN Mission related work at national and state levels.

Qualifications, Skills, and Abilities:

- Master's degree or equivalent in relevant field of education
- 3-5 years of working experience with 2 to 3 years of experience in primary education/social sector
- Excellent drafting skills in English for policy and strategy-related documents.
- Outstanding skills in preparation of pitch decks
- Excellent presentation, communication and writing skills in English
- Ability to set priorities, create workplans with timelines and monitor them on regular basis
- Ability to work independently and proactively, without or with little supervision
- Strong in MS Office (Excel, Word, Power Point, etc.) and computer skills
- An analytical mindset with problem-solving skills
- Strong interpersonal skills, with experience in building & managing relationships
- Prior work experience in the education and development sector strongly preferred

Desired Qualities:

- Strong understanding of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission and NEP 2020
- Good understanding of policies regarding early grade literacy and language development (ELL) and multilingual education (MLE).
- Entrepreneurial spirit and 'can-do' attitude and openness to feedback.
- Operating style suited to working in a small-organization setting, where teamwork and resourcefulness are highly valued
- Ability to manage multiple tasks at a time
- Demonstrate a good level of emotional stability, intelligence and social and self-awareness.

Compensation:

- Remuneration will be competitive with Indian philanthropy pay scales and will depend upon the candidate's experience level

Apply:

- Interested candidates may please apply through following link by 25th March 2021 (latest CV and writing samples in English required). Please indicate current salary (CTC):
<https://forms.gle/yCnK5EiTS3DhJ6Uk9>