



VOLUNTEER - RESEARCH ASSISTANT - ARTSPARKS FOUNDATION

ArtSparks Foundation is an educational not-for-profit organization that works to support the development of 21st century learning and life skills in children, particularly children from under-served communities. ArtSparks also supports the professional development of teachers/facilitators, encouraging them to reflect on their teaching practice, and explore new ways to enrich their students' learning.

What We Do?

At ArtSparks, we believe that a great education should equip children with skills to handle life's complexities — skills such as problem solving, flexible thinking, creative risk-taking, perseverance, collaboration, communication, and so much more. We believe that creativity is a critically important skill for the future with far reaching benefits. And, that visual art & design provide rich and diverse opportunities to help foster meaningful learning. Through our programs, we create vibrant opportunities for learning, through the arts, that help develop essential 21st century learning and life skills in children, Grades 1-8. And, we help build the capacity of teachers/facilitators to create more enriched learning environments for their students.

Why 21st Century Learning & Life Skills?

"21st century learning skills are increasingly being recognized as the skills that separate students who are prepared for increasingly complex life and work environments in the 21st century, and those who are not" (Partnership for 21st Century Learning). In an age where change is the only constant, understanding and applying 21st century learning skills allows children to be adaptive and innovative in responding to new demands and changing circumstances. Life skills on the other hand form the core of children's social and emotional wellbeing. And, the extent to which children are able to apply them can determine how well they adjust and respond to life's myriad experiences. These skills must be nurtured within students.

Why Creativity?

Creativity is recognized as one of the most important skills for the next generation. Its value reaches well beyond the arts to affect every discipline and numerous industries. The ability to dream, take chances, and create the things we imagine. These are the skills of entrepreneurs, innovators, and changemakers. Children are born with these exceptional abilities, but research shows that over time they begin to lose them. We must offer rich opportunities that keep children's natural creativity alive.

Why Visual Art & Design?

Research indicates that robust art & design education contributes to the development of valuable thinking skills and attitudes whose benefits extend well beyond the art room (Harvard University; Wallace Foundation). The ability to pose questions, test ideas, take creative risks, solve problems, think flexibly, deal with ambiguity, collaborate effectively, are just some of the many skills and attitudes that are developed and strengthened through engagements with art. Involvement in the arts is also associated with gains in critical thinking and communication skills. Beyond this arts learning helps improve motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork. In fact, studies show that students with high involvement in the arts, particularly those from low-income communities, stay longer and perform better in schools in comparison to those that receive no arts education.



ArtSparks Foundation presently runs its school-based programs primarily within Govt. schools across Bangalore and beyond. In the 2019-20 school year, ArtSparks has served approximately 4000 students. And, since our inception, ArtSparks has worked with over 400 teachers.

To learn more about ArtSparks, please visit: www.art-sparks.org | facebook.com/artsparksfoundation/

JOB DESCRIPTION

Role: Volunteer - Research Assistant

Minimum Time and Month Commitment: Six hours per week and three months

Purpose: The primary purpose of this role is to work closely under the guidance and supervision of the ArtSparks program team as well as with the Founder & Executive Director to develop research agendas, implement research studies aligned with ArtSparks' research agenda, liaise with the data collection volunteers, codify and analyse data collected and write research reports.

Key Responsibilities:

(Included but not limited to)

- Develop essential research tools as per the current / future needs.
- Liaise with data collection volunteers to ensure their use of established research protocols, procedures and techniques
- Codify and analyse raw data received from the data collection volunteers
- Prepare preliminary summaries of data analysis and/or research findings for internal reviews.
- Establish data-backed evidence for the ongoing intervention and ability to contextualise and develop insights
- Communicate the results of the study through written reports

Education and Experience:

- Graduate or postgraduate or pursuing masters/doctorate (Education, Development Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology or Social Work Preferred)
- Prior experience in the field of research/impact assessment/monitoring & evaluation incorporated either in an academic setting or in a non-governmental organization.

Competencies:

- Fluent in English with strong communication skills and able to succinctly communicate complex information to a variety of audiences both orally and in writing
- Be able to hold space and be sensitive to the needs of the stakeholders/interviewees
- Possess a deep sense of integrity as well as personal responsibility and commitment towards your work as a research assistance bringing about positive change in the education sector
- Be able to navigate unstructured data



- Possesses natural curiosity in exploring data to draw insights and bring outstanding analytical skills
- Be self-motivated and proactive in taking initiative
- Be resilient with a can-do attitude, possessing the ability to adapt and innovate in challenging situations
- Possess excellent attention to detail, and be skilled at following up
- Possess high collaboration skills
- Be willing to work under the guidance and supervision of the ArtSparks team and Founder/Executive Director, and open to constructive feedback
- Ability to maintain confidentiality and adhere to ethical principles in research
- Possess an energetic and sunny personality with a genuine interest and passionate towards social impact in education sector

Location:

This role is for a virtual team with key stakeholders based in Bangalore.

Application:

We're looking for dynamic and passionate individuals to support research at ArtSparks Foundation. If this is you and if this role excites you and aligns with your long-term goals and vision then this is the place for you. We believe that great people with shared enthusiasm, commitment, and hard work, can achieve wonderful things.

To apply please fill out the [Research Assistant Volunteer Application Form](#). Please submit the following along with the application form.

- Relevant writing samples (professional publications/sample of your best previous research work/articles/portfolio/analytical work)
- Resume