Research Associate for Management Information System (MIS)

Job opening: One/Two months.

Salary: Competitive, subject to previous experience and expertise. IIMA rules and regulations will be binding.

Location: Online (IIMA visit on the basis of need) or offline.

Submission document: An up to date CV and a brief plan of action.

How to apply: Please send all your application materials to Ms. Shubhangi Sahai - email: **shubhangisahai@iima.ac.in**.

Deadline: Selection on a rolling basis from 15th May 2025.

Note: Applicants must read the following description and conditions carefully.

Principle Investigators: Prof. Jeevant Rampal (IIMA)
Prof. Anindya S. Chakrabarti (IIMA)

Scope of Work

Context and purpose of the study

The Ministry of Rural Development has implemented the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) – a flagship programme of the Government of India, from 1st April 2016. The PMAY-G aims to provide "Housing for All" through the provision of 2.95 crore pucca houses with basic amenities to all houseless households, and those households living in kutcha and dilapidated houses in rural areas by 2024. The Hon'ble Finance Minister had also announced in the Interim Budget Speech for FY 2024-25 that provision of financial assistance to 2 crore more eligible beneficiaries during next 5 years from FY 2024-25 to 2028-29 shall be made to meet the housing requirements of the families in Rural India.

In the view of this Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (MoRD) has selected IIMA to undertake a policy assessment of PMAY-G to evaluate the impact on beneficiaries, examine the implementation and regulation mechanisms for a smoother execution of the scheme, and assess the housing quality by connecting with civil construction experts and to evaluate the MIS aspect of the scheme.

With that in view, IIMA is seeking to employ an MIS expert for one month (with a possible extension of one more month).

Key features of the PMAY-G scheme

1. e-governance: e-Monitoring through MIS - AwaasSoft and AwaasApp: The physical and financial progress are monitored through various reports available on AwaasSoft. All the functions through identification of beneficiaries, sanction, the release of instalments, reporting of completion, etc. are all done on AwaasSoft and using mobile application "AwaasApp". The AwaasSoft reports are available in the public domain.

2. Direct Benefit Transfer: The payment to the beneficiaries utilizes Aadhaar seeding; where possible, the payments are routed through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the bank/post office accounts registered in AwaasSoft MIS.

3. The PMAY-G has completed more than 2.62 crore houses as on 18th June 2024. The beneficiaries are given unit assistance in stages/instalments as per the predefined pattern on the MIS of the Scheme - AwaasSoft as fixed by State/UTs which is linked to the progress of physical construction of houses.

MIS Usage

1. Where possible, release of instalments to the beneficiaries is transferred directly to the bank/post office accounts registered in AwaasSoft MIS through Aadhaar Payment Bridge (APB mode).

2. Evidence Based Monitoring: Implementation of the program is being monitored through end-to-end e-governance model with the help of AwaasSoft, AwaasApp AwaasSakhi and dedicated analytic dashboard. All the functions from identification of beneficiaries, sanction, release of installments, reporting of progress of completion, etc. are done on AwaasSoft and using mobile application "AwaasApp".

3. IT interventions-AI/ML model has been developed for better monitoring and governance: Image analytics on photograph captured during inspection have been used for identification of house attributes and quality and for anomaly detection.

4. eKYC App integrated with Aadhaar uses AI-enabled face authentication technology.

5. Liveliness Detection – Eye Blink /Motion Detection Feature is used in the Awaas App.

6. Geo Referencing in PMAYG.

Specific role of the MIS expert (evaluation of AwaasSoft, AwaasApp and Awaas+):

To examine the effectiveness of MIS implementation of:

• Targeting and coverage

• Financial management practices

• Processes including grievance redressal, monitoring and evaluation

• Overall implementation with respect to stated targets and objectives

For various processes, the dimensions for evaluation and suggesting improvements are:

- Current status of systems (functional or not),
- process mapping,
- bottlenecks,
- issues encountered,
- utilization,
- transparency
- accountability,
- response time,

Evaluate and suggest improvements for new initiatives in PMAY-G – (AI/ML models developed for better monitoring and governance)

- Cloud and open source adoption:
    - Migration to public cloud planned
    - Disaster Recovery Site to be setup on cloud
    - Adoption of Open-source tool for prospective development
- E-KYC using face authentication
    - Capturing of live images (On Eyeblink) to ensure beneficiary presence and real time photo capture
    - Capturing multiple coordinates of the house with direction to enable polygon based geofencing

Deliverable: An interim report in three weeks for feedback from the PIs. The final output would be a well-structured professional report has to be submitted within four weeks from the day of on-boarding, covering the workings of the system along with potential for improvements at every level described above. The report should also identify state-level and district-level best practices and make recommendations.