Research Associate – Evidence Synthesis & Use-Case Testing (AI for Health Procurement Project), Koita Centre for Digital Health – Ashoka University

Location	On-site at Ashoka University (KCDH-Ashoka), Sonepat, with hybrid work options available.
Department	Koita Centre for Digital Health at Ashoka
Reports To	Project Head
Role Type	Temporary

ABOUT THE ROLE

Artificial intelligence is increasingly being applied across health systems for clinical decision support, diagnostics, disease surveillance, programme management, supply chains, workflow optimisation and broader health-system strengthening. As governments move from experimentation and pilot deployments to scaled adoption, procurement is becoming an important governance mechanism. It determines not only what technologies are purchased, but also how their safety, effectiveness, equity, interoperability and long-term performance are assessed and managed. Existing international guidance remains dispersed across institutions and technical domains, and is rarely translated into practical resources that government procurement teams can readily apply.

The six-month **AI for Health Procurement Project** is a multicentric initiative aimed at addressing critical gaps in the responsible procurement and adoption of AI solutions within health systems. Bringing together multiple institutional partners, the project will focus on strengthening the evidence base, examining existing procurement practices and regulatory considerations, and exploring practical approaches to support transparent, accountable, and context-responsive AI procurement in healthcare.

Within this broader collaborative initiative, **KCDH-Ashoka** will contribute to advancing evidence-informed approaches to AI-for-health procurement through research, synthesis of national and international experiences, development of practical resources, and engagement with government stakeholders to assess their applicability in real-world public health settings.

Aligned with the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** and the **Strategy for AI in Healthcare for India (SAHI)**, the project represents an initial phase of research, framework development, and practical learning. It aims to generate insights that can inform future policy and procurement practices, strengthen institutional capacities, and establish a foundation for broader government engagement, validation, and potential scale-up of responsible AI procurement approaches across health systems.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the guidance of the designated lead at KCDH-Ashoka, and working closely with the Research Associate and the project partners, the Research Engineer will develop and validate the Computational Procurement Resource. Depending on technical feasibility and user requirements, the resource may take the form of a rule-based decision-support tool or a retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) based system built using the project's evidence base. It will accept structured information on the procurement context, intended AI use, procurement stage and relevant institutional requirements, and generate tailored support such as:

Flexibility: This is a focused, six-month project delivered with international and government partners. Scope, priorities and timelines may evolve in response to partner and government requirements, including the availability of real-world procurement use cases. The responsibilities below are therefore indicative, and the role holder may be asked to take on related tasks across the project as needs arise, sometimes at short notice.

The Research Associate will undertake the following responsibilities:

- **WP1. Project Inception & Governance (Month 1)**
    a. Support project initiation, the detailed workplan, governance arrangements and technical alignment between partners.
    b. Develop the structured search strategy for the evidence synthesis.
- **WP2. Evidence Synthesis (Months 1–2)**
    a. Conduct a focused evidence synthesis using a structured search strategy to identify relevant peer-reviewed literature, grey literature, government procurement documents, standards, policy frameworks and implementation guidance from India and internationally.
    b. Map the evidence across the key AI-for-health procurement domains:
        i. Existing procurement principles, frameworks and practical tools
        ii. Clinical and technical performance and validation
        iii. Safety, fairness, equity and human oversight
        iv. Data governance, privacy and cybersecurity
        v. Interoperability and standards
        vi. Transparency, explainability and accountability
        vii. Regulatory and institutional considerations
        viii. Implementation readiness, contracting and post-procurement performance monitoring
    c. Prepare the **Evidence Synthesis Report.**
    d. Coordinate with the project partners so that the evidence synthesis complements the AI-for-Health Procurement Case Studies & Requirements Synthesis and the Proposed AI-for-Health Procurement Framework.
- **WP5. Computational Resource Development & Validation (Months 2–5)**
    a. Work with the Research Engineer to translate the evidence base and the proposed framework into the content of the **Computational Procurement Resource**: procurement guidance and recommended decision pathways, requirements and due-diligence checklists, evaluation and monitoring considerations, and structured procurement workflows.
    b. Make sure the resource's outputs are traceable to the underlying evidence and framework.
    c. Plan and coordinate internal and expert validation, assessing whether outputs are relevant, complete, understandable, consistent and traceable.
- **WP6. State Government Use-Case Testing (Months 4–5)**
    a. Coordinate focused use-case testing with the partner state government. Identify relevant procurement scenarios or use cases, or simulated scenarios modelled on documented cases if real-world use cases are unavailable.
    b. Plan and facilitate testing sessions with government users.
    c. Assess the relevance, completeness, usability, consistency and traceability of outputs; identify missing contextual requirements or decision points; and document practical considerations for government use.
    d. Prepare the **State Government Use-Case Testing & Validation Report.**
- **WP7. Finalisation (Month 6)**
    a. Incorporate validation and state government testing findings into the final outputs.
    b. Consolidate key findings, limitations and recommendations for a subsequent phase of wider validation, implementation and scale-up.
    c. Contribute to publications and dissemination, subject to approvals.
- **Across the project**
    a. Support regular technical reviews with the project partners, including agendas, minutes and follow-up.
    b. Ensure the Computational Procurement Resource supports, and does not replace, authorised procurement, legal, regulatory or clinical decision-making, and that it does not require personal health data or confidential procurement information for routine use.
    c. Undertake other tasks as required by KCDH-Ashoka, including on other projects of the Centre.
- **Reporting & Supervision**
    a. Take part in regular technical reviews with the project partners.
    b. Submit a short fortnightly progress update to the reporting officer, and other documentation as required by the Centre.
- **Working Arrangements**
    a. Based at Ashoka University (KCDH-Ashoka), Sonepat, with hybrid options at the discretion of the reporting manager.
    b. Travel to the partner state (and elsewhere in India as needed) for use-case testing and stakeholder meetings.
    c. Work outside regular hours may be required around technical reviews, testing sessions and deadlines.
    d. All project outputs, including code, data and documentation, belong to the project and must be handed over in full at the end of the contract. No IP can be claimed by the individual for work done under this contract.
- **Performance Review**
    a. Review at the end of Month 3 and at the end of the contract against the responsibilities in this TOR, covering quality, timeliness and responsiveness.

b. Continuation or extension is subject to satisfactory performance and the availability of funding.

- **Confidentiality & Conduct**
  a. Keep all government, partner and procurement information confidential, during and after the contract.
  b. Do not publish, present or communicate project information externally, including on social media, without prior approval from the reporting manager and KCDH-Ashoka.
  c. Disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest, including links with AI or health-technology vendors.
  d. Abide by Ashoka University's policies and code of conduct.
- **Location & Travel**
  a. Work Location: On-site at Ashoka University (KCDH-Ashoka), Sonepat, with hybrid work options available.
  b. Travel: Travel to the partner state for use-case testing, and occasional travel within India for project meetings.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Qualifications

Essential:

a. A degree in a relevant discipline, at any level: PhD, Master's, MPH, MBBS/BDS or Bachelor's. Relevant fields include public health, medicine, health policy, public administration or procurement, law, economics, life sciences, health informatics and computer science.

Desirable:

b. Training in systematic review methods, health technology assessment (HTA), public procurement or AI governance.

Who You Are

- **Essential:**
  - Experience conducting literature reviews or evidence synthesis, in an academic or professional setting. Recent graduates with strong research experience will be considered.
  - Strong report writing skills, with examples of written work.
- **Desirable:**
  - Knowledge of public procurement in India (e.g. tendering processes, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), the General Financial Rules).
  - Familiarity with health technology assessment, medical device or software-as-a-medical-device regulation, or responsible AI frameworks.
  - Experience working with state health departments or other government bodies.
  - Experience with user research, usability testing or field evaluation of digital tools.
  - Manuscript writing or government document writing.
  - Proficiency in English (reading, writing and speaking) at an advanced level.
  - Working knowledge of Hindi is an advantage, particularly for engagement with state government teams.
- **Skills and Knowledge:**
  - Designing structured search strategies across peer-reviewed literature, grey literature, government procurement documents, standards, policy frameworks and implementation guidance.
  - Familiarity with international guidance on responsible AI, regulation, evaluation and procurement (for example from multilateral agencies, OECD, ISO and national health systems).
  - Translating evidence into practical outputs such as requirements and due-diligence checklists, decision pathways and structured procurement workflows.
  - Planning and facilitating testing sessions with government users, and documenting feedback systematically.
  - **Agility**: comfortable with ambiguity and shifting priorities; able to pivot quickly without losing quality.
  - **Ownership**: self-motivated, takes initiative and follows through.
  - Deadline resilience: delivers polished work under tight and last-minute timelines.
  - **Government readiness**: comfortable working with government officials and international partners; discreet with confidential information.
  - **Collaboration**: works well across disciplines and organisations.
  - **Mobility**: willing to travel within India, including to the partner state for use-case testing.
  - Proficiency in standard office tools and reference managers; comfort using AI tools responsibly for research and drafting.
- **Language Requirements:**
  - Proficiency in English (reading, writing and speaking) at an advanced level.
  - Working knowledge of Hindi is an advantage

ABOUT ASHOKA UNIVERSITY

Ashoka University is India's premier interdisciplinary higher education and research-focused institution, offering world-class opportunities in the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Established in 2014 by leaders, thinkers, academics, and philanthropists from diverse fields, it operates on a unique model of collective philanthropy, integrating exemplary governance standards with cutting-edge pedagogy and a faculty body of international acclaim.

Today, the University has a community of 3000+ students and operates seven Schools imparting industry-oriented education, professional skills, and values-based learning to prepare students for global careers. The University espouses principles of inclusivity and diversity, having more than 57% women, 4% international scholars, 100+ students with disabilities, and over 47% students on scholarships. Since its inception, Rs 723 crores have been awarded in scholarships with over 2,000 students receiving full-tuition fee waivers cumulatively and 5400+ students being supported through scholarships. In addition, nearly 5500 of Ashoka's alumni are pursuing careers of their choice in reputed organisations and leading universities across the world.

Ashoka University continues to reaffirm its commitment to building an inclusive institution of excellence in teaching and research, nurturing responsible leaders for India and the world. In 2025, Ashoka University was honoured with the 'University of the Year (Emerging)' award at the 20th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2025 - one of India's notable industry platforms celebrating excellence in academia and innovation. The University also secured the first position in the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) 2025 in two prestigious categories.

The Ashoka advantage will continue to equip its students with the skills to see the big picture - to critically analyse, question, interpret, craft compelling arguments, and find sustainable solutions. It is a collective effort towards nation-building. This is where tomorrow's leaders are born.

Check out the Ashoka Website to know more: https://www.ashoka.edu.in/

ABOUT KOITA CENTRE FOR DIGITAL HEALTH AT ASHOKA UNIVERSITY (KCDH-A)

Koita Centre for Digital Health at Ashoka (KCDH-A) is an interdisciplinary Centre, offering robust academic and research programmes aimed at advancing and developing a fresh perspective on Digital Health. It focuses on the convergence of healthcare, genomics, information technology, and artificial intelligence revolutions. KCDH-A aspires to nurture a new generation of Digital Health thinkers, innovators, and implementers through a balanced emphasis on education and research.

The Centre offers strong academic programmes in digital health & informatics, drives research in next-generation digital health tools & solutions, and creates strong executive education in digital health.

KCDH-A is a joint centre of the Trivedi School of Biosciences and the Department of Computer Science at Ashoka University, established with support from Koita Foundation, a philanthropic organisation with a mission to accelerate Digital Health adoption in India.

Application Submission Process:

We invite you to embark on this journey by submitting your application to the Koita Centre for Digital Health- Ashoka University. To ensure your candidacy receives the attention it deserves, kindly follow the application submission process outlined below:

Application Requirements:

- Resume (maximum 2 pages)
- Cover letter (maximum 1 page), highlighting your evidence synthesis, writing and any procurement or government experience.
- **Please merge the above into one PDF and share.**

Include Essential Details: Along with your CV, kindly provide the following information:

- Last compensation received: We value your expertise and acknowledge the importance of fair compensation.
- Expected salary: Share your aspirations for growth and remuneration.
- Notice period: Inform us of the time required to transition from your current role, if applicable.

Submit Your Application: Email your CV to communications.kcdha@ashoka.edu.in, head.kcdha@ashoka.edu.in and CC mayank.garg@ashoka.edu.in, resham.sethi@ashoka.edu.in, aura.bhattacharyya@ashoka.edu.in, ensuring the subject line reads as follows: <"Research Associate – Evidence Synthesis & Use-Case Testing (AI for Health Procurement Project)– KCDH-A _ Applicant Name>". This will help us efficiently process your application.

Terms And Conditions:

- This position is temporary only. Employment will terminate immediately upon completion/termination of the project, and neither Ashoka University nor the Principal Investigator nor the funding agency is obligated to offer permanent employment.
- Only interview candidates will be contacted or notified. The date and time of the interview will be communicated via email exclusively.
- Under no circumstances will applications received after the vacancy notification deadline be considered.
- There will be no TA/DA given for attending the interview.
- This will be a Contractual Hiring for six months. Full-time on campus with hybrid work options available.
- Applications with additional attachments other than the merged PDF will not be considered.