

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
To conduct Opinion Analysis
under the project ‘Scoping for expansion of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in India’

1. ABOUT POPULATION FOUNDATION OF INDIA

Population Foundation of India is a national civil society organization, which promotes and advocates effective formulation and implementation of gender sensitive population, health and development strategies and policies. Bharat Ratna JRD Tata founded Population Foundation of India in 1970.

Population Foundation of India addresses population issues within the larger discourse of empowering women and men, so that they are able to take informed decisions related to their fertility, health and well-being. We work with the government, both at the national and state levels, and with other civil society organizations. Our areas of work include the following:

- Family planning
- Adolescent health, particularly sexual and reproductive health
- Community monitoring of public health services
- Women’s rights, and especially ending violence against women
- Social and behavior change communication

2. BACKGROUND

Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), in India, has always been argued as against the country’s socio –political environment, culture and morality. Moreover, inhibition and fear layered by misconception and stigmas around sexual health and sexual health rights, especially for the unmarried have further created controversies making CSE a journey of ups and downs in the country. However, there have also been some advances by the national government to recognise the need of young people and adolescents for correct and age appropriate information on Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR). One such initiative is launching of the National Adolescent Health Programme, *Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram* (RKSK), to reach adolescents with comprehensive health services and information including SRH and most recently a School Health Programme curriculum launched under *Ayushman Bharat*.

While such initiatives and commitments by the government are promising, thorough analysis of the information provided, especially on SRHR, is camouflaged to adapt to the socio-cultural norms, widely influenced by the political controversies and strong objections and apprehensions from parents, teachers and society that surround CSE. The community backlash is mostly triggered by lack of understanding of CSE, stigma and shame encompassing SRH and SRHR, lack of awareness around adolescent health and reproductive needs and misconceptions and fear of greater sexual promiscuity, irresponsible behaviour and experimentation among adolescents. As a result of these, exists huge gaps in the approved and rolled out curriculum by the government and the international framework and standards (UN Framework and UNESCO guidelines) for CSE.

CSE enables adolescents to make informed life choices and equip them with life skills that are crucial for addressing the gamut of issues that concern adolescents such as SRH, delaying age at marriage and first childbirth, avoiding unintended pregnancies and safe abortion services, reducing intimate partner violence, improving mental health, prevention from sexually transmitted diseases and infection and fighting /reporting abuse among others. Uttar Pradesh, in India, has low health and development indicators especially amongst adolescents. According to recently published NFHS 4 data, there is around 21% women age 20-24 years who married before age 18 years¹. Further the data highlights, there are 4% of women age 15-19 years who were already mothers or pregnant at the time (2015-16) of the survey. Only 27% of women (15-19) availed the facility of institutional delivery². In terms of nutritional status, 50 % of young women and 24 % of young men (15-24) are anemic. Violence faced by young women is also high in UP, with more than one-third young women (15-24) faced spousal violence (sexual/physical). Only 23 % of adolescents aged 15-19 heard about RTIs/STIs³

Population Foundation of India is implementing a project titled, '**Scoping for expansion of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) in India**'. The aim of this initiative is to create new narratives around CSE, to mainstream CSE in India and institutionalise the high impact models of CSE delivery by appropriate integration of CSE within existing and new government schemes.

3. PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Population Foundation of India, as a first step towards its objective to mainstream and integrate CSE in existing state and national level schemes and programmes, wants to understand and assess the current environment around CSE in the country. For this, we propose to conduct an **Opinion Analysis** across four states – (Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Delhi and Manipur) and at national level. The objectives of the study are as below:

1. Identification of key stakeholders from the list developed by Population Foundation of India and understand the knowledge, attitude and perceptions on ARSH and CSE among them.
2. To identify potential influencers among stakeholders who can act as a champions of ARSH and CSE in the selected four states
3. To understand the key barriers and challenges restricting- mainstreaming & expanding ARSH and CSE related programmes and services in selected four states
4. To provide recommendations for mainstreaming & expanding ARSH and CSE in selected four states based on this exercise

The findings from the study will help us understand the current status of adolescent health and well-being at the state and national levels, identify key stakeholders and their opinions on CSE and map current initiatives and programmes on CSE

¹ http://rchiips.org/NFHS/pdf/NFHS_4/UP_FactSheet.pdf

² http://rchiips.org/nfhs/youth_report_for_website_18sep09.pdf

³ <http://www.jsk.gov.in/dlhs3/upradesh.pdf>

4. SUGGESTIVE METHODOLOGY

- Literature review
- In-depth interview (IDI) with key stakeholders

5. SCOPE OF WORK

1. Identification of key stakeholder's in consultation with Population Foundation of India
2. Understand knowledge, attitude and perception (KAP) assessment of key stakeholders on ARSH and CSE
3. Identification of potential stakeholder's basis the KAP assessment, who can act as champions on ARSH and CSE
4. Plan and coordinate the necessary logistics to collect the data in accordance with finalized methodology
5. Pilot testing of the tool.

6. DELIVERABLES

1. Inception report, including detailed methodology and work plan
2. Transcripts of interviews
3. Final report and presentation (including key recommendations, stakeholder map and key messaging deck for CSE mainstreaming and integration in existing schemes and programmes)

7. DURATION

The study should complete within 60 days of contract signing with agency.

Suggestive timeline for each activity –

Sl. No	Deliverable	Timeline **	Remarks
1.	Final set of tools	10 th Day	
2.	Chapterization plan	30 th Day	
3.	Completion of data collection	45 th Day	
4.	Draft report submission to PFI	50 th Day	
5.	Final report along data base (transcripts)	60 th Day	

** From date of contract signing

8. REQUIREMENT TO APPLY:

Submit the Technical proposal along with company profile and team profile in one file and Financial proposal in separate file. Both files should be sent in one email to Ms. Sushmita Shankar, Email Id: sshankar@populationfoundation.in. Last date for submission of proposals is April 22, 2021 EOD.

For any concerns/questions before the submission of proposal, you may write to Ms. Monica Wahengbam, Email id: monica@populationfoundation.in.