

Request for proposal

Providing technical support to conducting a rapid assessment study
under Model Districts Programme – Rajasthan

ABOUT POPULATION FOUNDATION OF INDIA

Established in 1970 by Bharat Ratna JRD Tata and Dr Bharat Ram, the Population Foundation of India is a national civil society organization, which promotes and advocates effective formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive population, public health, and development strategies, and policies. The Foundation works with the government, both at the national and state levels and with other civil society organizations. The areas of work include family planning, adolescent health and well-being, community monitoring of public health services, and women's rights and empowerment. Population Foundation of India is guided by an eminent governing board and advisory council comprising distinguished persons from civil society, the government, and the private sector. Ms Poonam Muttreja is the Executive Director and she leads an experienced team with specialization in strategic engagement, communication, accountability, program design, monitoring and evaluation, and research.

The website of the organization is: <https://populationfoundation.in/>

ABOUT THE PROJECT

'Astitva (*Humari Pehchan*)', demonstrating districts models under the Rajasthan State Women Policy to promote a transformative, gender-equitable environment for women and girls in Rajasthan.

The Rajasthan Women Policy was launched in the month of April 2021. As such, a comprehensive understanding amongst the key stakeholders on how the policy will be operationalised is still evolving. However, the Directorate of Woman Empowerment (DWE), Government of Rajasthan (GoR) are eager to see select components of the policy become functional on the ground.

Population Foundation of India also has an MoU with the Directorate of Women Empowerment to take forward work related to adolescent health and wellbeing in the state. The organisation will leverage this partnership agreement to implement the proposed work in the districts namely Ajmer, Bharatpur, Dausa, and Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

Purpose of the Study:

Population Foundation of India, under the Astitva project aims to facilitate operationalization of select components of the Rajasthan State Women Policy 2021 in four districts, decided in consultation with the DWE, namely Jodhpur, Dausa, Ajmer and Bharatpur. The project team will engage with DWE, providing technical support strengthening the 'Indira Mahila Shakti Kendra (IMSK)' in all the districts of state. In the four project districts, the team will work at the district level in close collaboration with the District Collector and relevant departments to enable effective convergence and coordination between departments, utilization of existing resources, and a conducive environment for implementing programmes and schemes for women and girls. The evidence from the pilot districts will serve to inform the scaling-up of the operational model in other districts in the state.

Prior to initiating work with the districts, a Rapid Assessment Study was planned under the project, as one of the key deliverables. The deliberations with the Directorate of Women Empowerment, Government of Rajasthan (the nodal department for the project), have also emphasised on the need for such a study, as the first step under the intervention.

Population Foundation of India seeks to hire a research agency to undertake a Rapid Assessment Study in four districts. The study is aimed at providing clear insights for the Astitva programme planning and implementation, including the impact assessment of existing schemes for girls and women in Rajasthan, the role of civil society (with specific leads for each of the four districts), and informing policymakers about the immediate and long-term measures leading to women empowerment and overall wellbeing in the state.

Key objectives:

- To map the current government schemes and provisions for women and girls under various departments in the state.
- Impact assessment of existing schemes for girls and women in Rajasthan.
- To capture the role of Civil Society (with specific leads for each of the four districts).
- Recommendations for immediate and long-term measures for women empowerment.
- To assess the existing mechanisms for effective convergence and coordination at the state and district levels, towards utilization of existing schemes, budget allocations, resources, and the accountability in implementing for women and girls
- To comprehend the current level of awareness among women and girls, about the existing schemes, programmes and provisions meant for them, under the various departments (i.e., listed in the state's women policy, with a focus on Health, DWCD, Education, Skills and livelihood, social justice & empowerment, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, etc).
- To capture views of leadership at the key ministries and the departments on their implementation priorities and the ideas with respect to the operationalization of the Rajasthan State's Women Policy (i.e., interviews with the Ministers and the Principal Secretaries / Secretaries and the District Collectors of 4 project districts).
- The study will use a mixed-method approach involving both primary and secondary data gathering and analysis.

Scope of Work:

Desk review

A review of literature will be conducted to map the schemes and provisions for girls and women in the state. The sources of information included data from the Government department websites and other national and multilateral organizations, Institutional databases (WHO, UNFPA, etc.) related to the specific sectors, published literature, studies and assessment on the programmes and schemes, grey literature and media articles.

1. To map all the schemes and provisions under various departments (i.e., listed in the state's women policy, with a focus on Health, DWCD, Education, Skills and livelihood, social justice & empowerment...) meant for women and girls. Look for overlaps, documentation required to avail benefits, the implementation of various schemes – such as uptake under various schemes.
2. To assess the existing mechanisms for effective convergence and coordination at the state and district levels, towards utilization of existing schemes, budget allocations, resources, and the accountability in implementing for women and girls.

3. To list the potential forums /platforms enabling District convergence mechanism for partnerships ((to leverage for the implementation of State's women policy).
4. To list the existing review and monitoring mechanism at the state and district levels that can be leveraged for monitoring the implementation and progress of women related programmes and sensitive measures under the relevant departments.
5. Assess budgets with a gender lens, annual allocations and utilization under the state budget (with a specific review under each of the listed key departments)
6. Representation of women in PRI, panels that assess and decide women beneficiaries, etc.
7. Impact assessment of existing schemes for girls and women in Rajasthan
8. To capture the role of Civil Society (with specific leads for each of the four districts)
9. Recommendations for immediate and long-term measures for women empowerment.

Quantitative and qualitative interactions

A survey will be undertaken with a sample of girls and women in four districts to understand the level of awareness on programmes, schemes and provisions. A few key informant interviews will also be conducted with an aim at understanding the implementation of various Government schemes and programmes, successes, gaps and challenges; and recommendations for improvement. The selection of the key informants will be purposive.

1. To comprehend the current level of awareness among women and girls, about the existing schemes, programmes and provisions meant for them, under the various departments (i.e., listed in the state's women policy, with a focus on Health, DWCD, Education, Skills and livelihood, social justice & empowerment, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, etc). How many of them have already enrolled under these schemes?
2. To capture views of leadership at the key ministries and the departments on their implementation priorities and the ideas with respect to the operationalization of the Rajasthan State's Women Policy (i.e., interviews with the Ministers and the Principal Secretaries / Secretaries and the 4 district Collectors).
3. To understand the social and political factors that adversely impact/enable women and girls' participation, decision making, and action in Rajasthan. Probe the enablers – who, what, why, how
4. How do girls/ women get information about schemes/ benefits? What is the best way to reach information to them? Where do they go for such information?
5. What according to them would benefit them the most? Education, livelihood, health services, water sanitation, etc. Responses from different age group.
6. Probe phone ownership and usage- feature and smartphones. Also bank accounts, Aadhaar, PAN, Voter Id etc.
7. In each of the project districts, in addition to the general populations, which are the specific and most vulnerable groups of girls and women that should be targeted/ reached out essentially through the services such as
 - counselling regarding health, education and safety,
 - promote the participation of women in skills development and in the workforce,
 - providing a violence-free environment for girls and women by creating safe spaces (these safe spaces will subsequently act as a node for co-funded programmes aimed at women's livelihoods and empowerment.
8. Recommendations for immediate and long-term measures for women empowerment.

DELIVERABLES:

1. Inception Report (Design Document), which will include the detailing of the design, sampling strategy, indicators, tools, work plan, quality control mechanism in data collection and schedule to conduct the study.
2. Final set of the translated interview guide, survey tools/questionnaire after pilot/field testing.
3. Raw data and transcripts of interviews.
4. Draft report, seeking inputs from Government officials and Population Foundation of India.
5. Final Study Report by incorporating all received feedback, along with a presentation on key findings.
6. Dissemination of the study and the key findings to the government officials and then in a state-level stakeholders' conference.

TIMELINE

Three months from the date of signing of the agreement.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL

Please follow the below instructions to send your proposal:

1. Please submit a detailed Technical proposal with bio-data in one file and a separate Financial proposal.
2. Please ensure to put your organization's Legal Name/if the individual - as per your PAN CARD in your quotation.
3. Please submit both the technical and financial proposals in one email to **Mr. Rajesh Surana** at Rajesh.surana@populationfoundation.in **by EOD on May 4, 2022.**
4. While submitting the proposal, please write the email subject as - **"Proposal to conducting a rapid assessment study in Rajasthan (organization's Legal Name/if the individual - your name)"**.
5. In case you have any queries before submitting the proposal, you may write to **Mr. Ritesh Laddha** at rladdha@populationfoundation.in before the last date.