

**MINUTES OF RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE(RAC) MEETING OF MWCD HELD UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY,MWCD ON 26.02.2016.**

A Meeting of the Research Advisory Committee(RAC) of the Ministry was held on 26.02.2016 at 10.30 AM under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, MWCD to consider various proposals received in the Ministry for financial assistance under Research Scheme. The following members of RAC attended the meeting:

Shri V. Somasundaran, Secretary	<i>In Chair</i>
1. Mrs. Preeti Sudan, Additional Secretary	Member
2. Mrs. N.G. Biswas, Additional Secretary	-do-
3. Shri Rakesh Kumar, JS	-do-
4. Mrs. Ratna Anjan Jena,SA	-do-
5. Mrs. Nandita Mishra, EA	-do-
6. Shri J.P. Arya,JD	
7. Shri Manohar Lal, US(Representing JS&FA)	
8. Shri Sudesh Kumar,DD	

2. Welcoming members of RAC, Secretary,MWCD suggested that for consideration of proposals for research work, care should be taken to avoid repetition of study projects having similar type of subjects which had either already been completed or have been initiated in the recent past by the Ministry.

3. RAC discussed total 8 study proposals, one proposal was for ex post facto approval RAC. Decisions of RAC on each of the study proposal are as under:

- i) **Study proposal on ‘Socio-Cultural Impact on Women with the Implementation of Domestic Violence Act in Kerala’ submitted by Institute of Management in Government, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**

The study proposal was granted *ex post facto* approval by RAC for sanctioning a grant of Rs. 27,55,148/- for this study.

- ii) **Study proposal on ‘Best life style practices prevailing among Paliyar women tribes of Kodaikanal, Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu’ submitted by Mother Teresa Women’s University, Kodaikanal.**

RAC recommended this proposal for financial support of the Ministry. However, the study should also capture information among Paliyar on IMR, MMR, CSR, an child

marriages. The study was approved with a project budget of Rs.8,95,230/- with project period of 12 months.

**iii) Study proposal on ‘Identifying Good Practices in Implementing Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005’ submitted by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, (TISS), Mumbai.**

This proposal was discussed in detail. However, RAC opined that numerous studies were available on the issue of domestic violence, as such, the present proposal did not appear essential. Therefore, this proposal was not considered.

**iv) Study proposal on ‘Prevention of Child Trafficking in India submitted by Department of Applied Psychology’, Pondicherry University, Puducherry.**

Regarding this proposal, RAC did not find the methodology of the study convincing as visiting six states for five case studies in each was not justifiable. Also, it was observed that several studies on causal factors of child trafficking were available. Hence the present study would not yield any useful outcomes.

**v) Study proposal on ‘Assessing and Ascertaining Causes and Consequences of Gender Based Violence and Applying Gender Integrated Strategies and Approaches to Address the Issue in Indian Context’ submitted by Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.**

This study proposal was not found suitable for consideration of the Ministry in terms of its some unviable objectives and methodology for capturing requisite data from the respondents. RAC felt that approaching a large size of sample population, especially those victims of violence was not adequately justified. The proposal was, therefore, regretted by RAC.

**vi) Child Trafficking in the Indo-Myanmar Region: A case study in Manipur submitted by Department of Social Work, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Manipur.**

This proposal was discussed in detail. RAC focused on situation of child trafficking in Manipur during the discussion. Considering that Manipur, being a border state, has growing problem of child trafficking, the proposal was approved for support of the Ministry. In view of low sample size of the study, RAC recommended that the study period be of 8 months with project cost of Rs.7,93,800/-.

**vii) Study proposal on ‘Trafficking in Women and Girl Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation: An interstate explorative study in Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal’ submitted by Social Awareness Institution (SAI), Cuttack, Orissa.**

In view of the grim situation of trafficking prevalent in the selected areas for this study, RAC approved this proposal, in principle. RAC, however, suggested that Stats Bureau

may assess the work experience and capacity of the Applicant Agency and put up on file for consideration. On approval of grant for this project, Ministry may also take up follow up on this study.

**viii) Study proposal on ‘A Situational Analysis of Muslim Widows in Delhi, Bhopal, Lucknow, Hyderabad and Mewat’, submitted by Mewat Development Society, New Delhi.**

Concerning this proposal, RAC broadly realized data gaps on conditions of widows among Muslim population of the country. As such, the proposal was agreed to ‘in principle’ and a final decision on this study proposal would be taken after taking into account the work experience and staff position etc. of the Applicant Organisation and comments thereon will be furnished for consideration/final decision of the Ministry.

**ix) Federation of Industry & Commerce of North Eastern Region, Guwahati (FINER), Assam. Seminar on North East Women Entrepreneurs’ on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 in Guwahati, Assam.**

RAC did not recommend this proposal for financial support in view of it’s mainly being an awareness generation event. RAC also observed that the Applicant Agency had not spelt out specific issues on which awareness was to be created by holding this event and details of women entrepreneurs from NER were also lacking in justification of this proposal.

**x) Study proposal on ‘Punjab’s Drug Epidemic: Women and Children in its Shadow’ submitted by Women’s Studies Centre, Punjabi University, Patiala.**

This study proposal in the present form was not found acceptable by RAC as it lacked relevant literature review and the methodology of the study was also not clear. However, realizing the drug abuse scenario in State of Punjab and its far reaching impact on women and children, RAC made considered views that such a study could be considered by the Ministry, if a proper proposal is received. RAC suggested that the Applicant Agency could recast its proposal involving some Medical Institute/College in Punjab or MWCD could also request the Secretary,WCD, Punjab to suggest some appropriate agency for research work on this issue.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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