

**MINUTES OF RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE(RAC) MEETING OF MWCD HELD UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SECRETARY,MWCD ON 6.10.2015.**

A Meeting of the Research Advisory Committee(RAC) was held on 6.10.2015 at 10.45AM under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, MWCD to consider various proposals received in the Ministry. The following members of the RAC of the Ministry attended the meeting:

1. Shri V. Somasundaran, Secretary	<i>In Chair</i>
2. Mrs. Preeti Sudan, Additional Secretary	Member
3. Mrs. N.G. Biswas, Additional Secretary	-do-
4. Shri Rakesh Kumar, JS	-do-
5. Mrs. Sharda Ali Khan,JS	-do-
6. Mrs. Kirti Saxena, EA	-do-
7. Mrs. R.S. Saxena, JS	-do-
8. Mrs. Ratna Anjan Jena,SA	-do-
9. Mrs. Vandna Gupta, JS	-do-
10. Mrs.Suchitra Goswami,Consultant Planning Commission	-do- -do-
11. Shri S.K. Deb, DS(Representing JS&FA)	-do-
12. Shri J.P. Arya,JD	
13. Shri Sudesh Kumar,AD	

Welcoming members of RAC, Secretary,MWCD suggested that for consideration of proposals for research work, care should be taken to avoid repetition of study project which had already been completed by the Ministry in the recent past. He also advised that the Ministry should finalise subject wise list of priority areas such as Trafficking/ Empowerment of women , child trafficking and programme evaluation etc. for sponsoring projects under Research Scheme of the Ministry.

2. RAC discussed total 11 study proposals that had been shortlisted for consideration. Decisions of RAC on each of the Study Proposal discussed are as under:

- i) **‘Comprehensive study of Women ITI’s under scheme of Upgradation of Government ITI’s through PPP mode’** - submitted by Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad.

RAC felt that since the subject of the proposal is in the domain of the Ministry of Labour hence the Applicant Agency should be advised to approach that Ministry for consideration of the proposal.

- ii) **‘Assessing gender sensitivity in media organizations and content: Evaluation of selected print media houses in four metropolitan cities of India’** submitted by Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad.

The proposal is approved in principle. However, the Ministry may verify as to whether similar studies had already been done by NCW and assess as to how this study could supplement the earlier findings. Budget provision for this study worked out to be Rs.13,38,435/-. Also, ASCI should be advised to increase the sample size

from 5% of the employees to 10% of the employees constituting key persons, decision makers etc.

- iii) **‘Economic empowerment of women: *promoting skill development in slum area*’** submitted by Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai.

The proposal is agreed to in principle. However, RAC considered this study proposal with a view whether this study could be linked with Ministry’s scheme like STEP and similar scheme(s) of line Departments in States. For this purpose, it is decided that concerned TISS faculty could be invited for discussion to finalise this project for sponsorship of the Ministry. RAC noted financial implication for this study to the tune of Rs.27,61,762/-. TISS can also take up in its sample some of the students of those colleges who are giving courses skill development.

- iv) **‘Violence against women – (Post “Nirbhaya” case- A comparative study of impact of new laws, crime rate and reporting rate, change in awareness level)’** submitted by Bhartiya Stree Shakti (BSS), New Delhi to be taken up *in partnership with* TISS, Mumbai.

The proposal was broadly considered. The RAC desired that this proposal be further discussed in the Ministry with the Applicant Organisation for clarification with reference to its objectives and study areas.

- v) **‘Social Empowerment of Women’** submitted by the Centre for Holistic Advancement and Upliftment of the poor and Landless (CHAUPAL), New Delhi.

The proposal relating to assessment of health care for women and girls was discussed by RAC. The RAC felt that the proposal was too general and there was enough research work available on health related issues of women and adolescent girls. Therefore, the proposal was not approved.

- vi) **‘An Evaluation of Working Women Hostels received Grant-in-Aid under the Scheme to Provide Safe and Affordable Accommodation to Working Women’** submitted by Haryali Centre for Rural Development, New Delhi.

The proposal was approved by RAC with amendment that the study would cover the status of Working Women Hostels in Metropolitan Cities of the country where there had been more demand for safe accommodation. The Applicant Agency should include Bhopal and Dehradun also, and would submit revised study proposal for consideration of the Ministry.

- vii) **‘Malnutrition (Under Nutrition) among Children in Rural Areas and Identification of Community Initiatives to Combat Malnutrition: A Study in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh State’** submitted by Rural Education and Action for Change(REACH), Tirupati.

The proposal was not found suitable by RAC as it did not have adequate scope for fair understanding of the issue of malnutrition being restricted to the study of a small population.

- viii) **‘Violence against Girls in Secondary Schools of Mizoram’** Submitted by Mizoram University, Aizawal.

The study project was restricted to coverage of only 4 districts of Mizoram State (Two high and two low incidence districts) with a project period of 12 months. The RAC approved the proposal for an amount of Rs.8,61,052/-.

- ix) **‘Nutrition Management and infant and young child feeding practices among tribal women in Kerala’** - Centre for Women’s Studies and Development, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kochi, Kerala.

The proposal was discussed by RAC in detail, and, prevalence of malnutrition among tribals in remote areas was considered to be the merit and is approved with project budget of Rs.13,14,180/-.

- x) **‘An empirical study on problems faced by women workers in unorganized sector’** submitted by Himalayan Region Study and Research Institute, Delhi.

The proposal was approved by RAC with project budget of Rs. 9,83,430/- only, with the suggestion that the Institute may also give some coverage in its survey in Almora and Chamoli districts of Uttrakhand.

- xi) **‘Stories behind a hot cup of Assam Tea: listening to the voices of women labourers in the Tea Gardens’** submitted by Women’s Study Centre, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh.

The project proposal to capture oral history of the tea – tribe women was approved by the RAC. However, the Applicant Agency has to spell out the outcomes of the project and should cover 50% of the study work in remote areas. Study should also highlight a comparison of male and female labourers in term of their social and economic life conditions in the selected study area. This study was approved for a project period of only 12 months with budget of Rs.15,80,985/- only.

3. The Research Advisory Committee also decided that after completion of the study projects, the grantee agencies should make presentations of their findings to the subject Bureau Heads of subject concerned of the MWCD for acceptance the draft reports and release of final installment of grant from the Ministry. RAC also desired from the Statistics Bureau that ongoing study projects should be monitored and periodic reports should also be discussed to keep track of study proposals. It is also desired that the research agencies need to give a quarterly report of their progress.

4. It was also suggested in RAC meeting that Ministry may also take up empanelling suitable and competent Organisations/Agencies for assigning regular research work out of the funds of the Ministry under Research Scheme, and, Statistics Bureau may initiate action in this regard. These agencies will be treated as Resource Partners of this Ministry.

5. Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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