

**MINUTES OF RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE(RAC) MEETING OF MWCD HELD UNDER CHAIRPERSONSHIP OF THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY,MWCD ON 18.12.2015.**

A meeting of the Research Advisory Committee(RAC) was held on 18.12.2015 at 12.05 PM under the Chairpersonship of Mrs. N.G. Biswas, Additional Secretary, MWCD to consider various proposals that had been shortlisted for consideration of grant-in-aid under Research Scheme of the Ministry. The meeting could not be chaired by the Secretary,MWCD owing to some other urgency. However, after discussions on various proposals that had concluded, Secretary,MWCD could be available for the meeting for a short stint whom Additional Secretary briefed about decisions taken in the meeting on different proposals.

2. The following members of the RAC attended the meeting:

1. Mrs. N.G. Biswas, Additional Secretary	<b>In Chair</b>
2. Mrs. R.S. Saxena, JS	Member
3. Mrs. Sharda Ali Khan,JS	-do-
4. Mrs. Ratna Anjan Jena,SA	-do-
5. Mrs. Vandna Gupta, JS	-do-
6. Mrs.Chandni Joshi,Consultant Planning Commission	-do- -do-
7. Shri S.K. Deb, DS(IFD)	-do-
8. Shri J.P. Arya,JD	
9. Shri Sudesh Kumar,DD	

3. Welcoming members of RAC, Additional Secretary suggested that after approval of projects to different grantees, Stats Bureau should also inform to the subject Bureaus while issuing financial sanctions for commencement of the project work. This was considered for possible monitoring and feedback for appraisal of the status of project work of the ongoing research studies and/or for the periodic presentations in the Ministry by these grantees on the pace of progress of their study projects.

4. RAC discussed total 11 study proposals, one proposal of individual scholar added in RAC agenda, at the time of RAC meeting. Decisions of RAC on each of the Study Proposal are as under:

i) **Study proposal on ‘National Research on Human Trafficking in India (NRHTI)’ submitted by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.**

RAC felt need of this study for the Ministry and observed the proposal to useful in bridging information gaps on such issue. While approving this study project, it was suggested that the study should cover information on women and children, specifically and separately, besides exploring the impact /outcomes of the preventive and rehabilitative measures. RAC considered study period of 24 months and project cost of Rs.81,83,815/- reasonable in view of extensive research work involved in this study, being a multicentric social investigation. However, the grantee should involve more of the Indian agencies such as NHRC, NCW etc. and there should be no predominant and direct involvement of UN Agencies except UNODC in this study. To this effect, TISS, the Applicant Agency, should indicate its agreement to the Ministry.

- ii) **Study on the ‘Protective environment for children in the North Eastern States of Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Nagaland’ submitted by Vidyasagar School of Social Work, Kolkata.**

The proposal was deferred till outcome of the ongoing ‘social audit’ of the relevant schemes of MWCD.

- iii) **Proposal for conducting a ‘Qualitative Documentation of Cross Border Trafficking of Bangladeshi Children and Women in West Bengal submitted by Jayaprakash Institute of Social Change, Kolkata.**

RAC opined that Ministry should first obtain comments from MHA and the Government of West Bengal before Ministry takes a view on this proposal.

- iv) **Study proposal on ‘Women’s quest for transitional justice in Post-Conflict Societies: A Socio-Legal Study submitted by Centre for Advanced Study on Courts and Tribunals,47-B Court Road, Amritsar, Punjab.**

RAC discussed this proposal in detail and suggested that the Applicant Agency may be advised to recast this proposal orienting it to Indian scenario only showing relevance to policies and programmes of Indian women, Subsequently, the Organisation may also be invited to make a presentation on the revised proposal in the Ministry for taking appropriate decision on this study.

- v) **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.**

Proposal was deferred for consideration in the next RAC meeting.

- vi) **Study proposal on ‘Performance Appraisal of Women Entrepreneurs in National Capital Region’ submitted by Bharati College, DU, New Delhi.**

RAC observed this proposal to be useful and relevant to the Ministry, however, it was visualised if the scope this study could be extended to other States like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. To take a final decision on this project, RAC desired that the Applicant Agency may be requested to make a presentation on this proposal and have a dialogue with the Ministry for its extendable geographical coverage.

- vii) **Study proposal on ‘Working condition and privileges for women in unorganized sector in India’ submitted by R.G.Foundation, Shakarpur, New Delhi.**

RAC discussed about the expected the outcomes of this study in detail and opined that this study be supported by the Ministry. While approving the study proposal in principle, RAC suggested that this study should also give coverage to child related services available to the women workers. *For this project a time frame of 12 months with project budget of Rs.21,20,100/- was approved.*

- viii) **Study on ‘Women Safety from Sexual Assault at Public Spaces in National Capital Region’ submitted by Indian Society for Integrated Women & Child Development (ISI-WCD), Greater Noida.**

The proposal was approved by RAC in principle in view of felt need of such a study. However, it was deemed appropriate to invite the Applicant Agency for a presentation in which participation of Delhi Police should also be ensured to explore possibilities of making this study more focused in its findings and coverage.

- ix) ***Ex post facto* approval and request for budget for the post research activity for the study titled as ‘Action Research and Training for Local Self Government Institutions in implementation of Women Component Plan through Gender Budgeting’ submitted by Institute of Management in Government, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**

In view of approval of this study by the Ministry on file, RAC granted *ex post facto* approval to this study. However, the request of the Institute for additional budget for the post research activities of the study was not agreed to.

- x) **Proposal of Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi. for organizing an International Congress on ‘Spatial Governance for Development, Planning Smart Cities and Disaster Management’.**

This proposal was regretted by RAC as the proposed event was not considered relevant to the mandate of the Ministry.

- xi) **Study on ‘Psychological Assessment of Traumas of Minor Rape Victims: Redressal and Restoration’ submitted by Dr S.Sanyal, an *individual scholar*.**

RAC discussed this proposal in detail, however, it was observed that the proposal of the applicant scholar was more directly concerned with the Ministry of Health &FW. In view of the subject matter of the study, the Applicant should tie up with Institute like AIIMS, New Delhi etc. for such research work. RAC, therefore, took a considered view that this study was not within the purview of MWCD.

5. The proposals that have been approved in principle by RAC, however, required further discussions and inputs from the Applicant’s and MWCD would be decided after presentations on those study proposals are made in the Ministry by the concerned Applicant Agencies. Sessions having these presentations would be chaired by the Additional Secretary(NGB).

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

\*\*\*\*\*