

Minutes of the meeting of Research Advisory Committee (RAC) held under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MWCD on 23.8.2011 at 3.30 PM.

The following officers were present in the meeting:

1. Shri D.K. Sikri, Secretary*In Chair*
2. Shri Vivek Joshi, Jt. Secy.
3. Smt. Priti Madan, Jt. Secy.
4. Shri Aditya Prakash, Stats. Adviser
5. Shri G. Debnani, D.S.(Fin.)
6. Shri J.P. Arya, Jt. Dir.
7. Dr. RVP Singh, R.O. (WCD),
Planning Commission
8. Shri Sudesh Kumar, Asstt.Dir.

The Chairman welcomed the participants. A total of 8 proposals were placed before the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for consideration. Decisions taken on different proposals by the RAC were as under:

- (i) The Study proposal of TINNARI, Gurgaon on **‘Action Research Project: Mass Mobilization to save The Girl Child in Selected Districts of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi NCR’**, which had been considered earlier in RAC meeting held on 3.5.2011, was reviewed by RAC. After detailed discussions, it was decided to restrict the project to its research part only. RAC, however, desired that the Study should also make a comparative Study of the State interventions to save the girl child in Punjab and Haryana and people’s response to it. This would involve analysis of policies and programmes which have worked and those that have not worked. The districts in two States would remain the same as were approved in the earlier project. TINNARI would provide details on the sample size of the project to the Ministry. The Study, renamed as **‘Interventions to Save the Girl Child in Punjab and Haryana’**, was approved with the reworked project cost.
- (ii) The revised proposal from MAITRI, Delhi on the subject of **‘Abandoned Widows in Religious Places- an Exploratory Study of Socio-cultural, Economic Factors and Strategic Plans for their Rehabilitation’** was approved by RAC. The Study would be restricted to holy City of Varanasi.
- (iii) The revised Study proposal of Institute for Environmental and Social Affairs, Gurgaon, Haryana regarding **‘Honour Killing- Perception and Practices in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan’** was placed before RAC. Since the objectives of the proposal had been refined in consultation with E.A., RAC desired that the revised proposal be shown to E.A. again before issuing the sanction for the project.

- (iv) The revised proposal of The Kazan's – The Brotherhood Up-lifting CYWO (Children, Youth, Women and Old), Shimla, H.P. on the subject of **'Status of Women Empowerment in Panchayati Raj System - Exploring the problems encountered by women Panchayats while delivering their statutory responsibilities'** was considered by RAC. As suggested in RAC meeting held on 3.5.2011, the revised proposal extending coverage to six districts of Himachal Pradesh under the Study, instead of only one earlier proposed, was approved.
- (v) As decided in the meeting of RAC held on 3.5.2011, the Center for Rural Studies(CRS), Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie had submitted a revised Study proposal on **'Concessions in Registration Charges/ Stamp Duty to Women Property Buyers: A Tool for Empowerment'** , which had been processed for release of funds. Action taken on this project was noted by RAC.
- (vi) The proposal of All India Foundation for Peace and Disaster Management, Rohini, New Delhi on the subject of **'Assessment of Scheduled Caste Women for Disaster Risk and Its Preparedness in Delhi'** was discussed by RAC in detail. The proposal was not found to be well conceived. Further, it was beyond comprehension to focus on SC women only in terms of vulnerability in case of a natural disaster. Therefore, the proposal was not found suitable for recommendation.
- (vii) The proposal of Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad to conduct a three day **'Conference on Reducing Gender Disparities Across States in India: Challenges and Opportunities'** was approved recommending Rs. 2.25 lakh for this activity. However, the Applicant Agency should convey to the Ministry about raising of matching funds for this event from other sources to meet the shortfall in the cost estimates and rescheduling of the proposed event.
- (viii) The proposal for a two day Seminar on **'Women Empowerment: Present Status & Future Projections'** College of Home Science, CCS Haryana Agriculture University, Hissar was deferred for consideration since there was no representative from the College to present the proposal.
2. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the *Chair*.
