

Request for Proposal: Participatory Qualitative Research

Assessment of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Needs and Access to Services of Young People from Marginalized Communities

Adolescence is a significant transition period and a unique window of opportunity to shape the healthy and successful development of future generations. The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown led to a disruption of schools, routine health services and community-level centres which have hampered adolescents and young peoples' access to accurate SRHR information and services, which can have a long term impact on their development and opportunities.

The findings from the UDAYA Wave 2 are disconcerting and clearly underpin the criticality of accessible services and information for young people. With one in every four pregnancies resulting in either still birth, miscarriages, induced abortion, or child death; and a large proportion (>80%) of young married girls across states never using any modern method of contraception, the need for such services is imperative. Further, adolescent and youth, especially adolescent girls and young women, who already tend to face very high levels of domestic and intimate partner violence, may have experienced even higher levels of violence driven by quarantine and isolation. For young people belonging to historically marginalized communities, or those whose parents may have lost their livelihood, COVID-19 and the lockdown may mean an end to their engagement in formal education, with a shift to unskilled employment, or even early marriage.

Given this, C3 proposes to conduct a needs assessment with young people from excluded and marginalized communities, to understand the impact COVID-19 and containment measures have had on their health and well-being, and access to essential services, with a specific focus on their sexual and reproductive health and rights. The findings of this needs assessment will yield specific strategies to target information and services to this cohort, to address the concerns that have emerged in this crisis.

This assessment will include two components – Quantitative deep-dive analysis of secondary data, and Qualitative FGDs with young people.

- I. An analysis of existing secondary data, from the UDAYA Wave 2 survey will be completed. UDAYA Wave 2 data covers about 17000 adolescents between ages 13 and 22 (boys & girls, unmarried & married, rural & urban). The focus of this analysis would be to highlight the differences, if any, among adolescents' SRHR knowledge, practices, aspirations, access to services including SRH, vocational courses, media etc. based on their caste and religious identity and economic circumstances. This will provide a quantitative estimate on gaps in service access, knowledge, and individual confidence, aspirations etc. that can form the basis for future programmatic investments with these marginalized young people.
- II. The qualitative portion of this assessment, will serve to supplement the secondary data analysis with nuanced insights into the social barriers, time use, and aspirations of young people from these marginalized groups. The impact of COVID-19 on their health and well-being, and access to essential services, with a specific focus on their sexual and reproductive health and rights will also be explored via 10 Focus Group Discussions with young people between the ages of 18-20. These young people will be approached through partnerships with grassroots organization.

Tasks for Qualitative Research Team

Design a Qualitative study using appropriate participatory methodology to:

- i. Understand the consciousness of community members related to behaviors and practices associated to SRHR, drawing from the quantitative data analysed

- ii. Explore the diversity associated to perceptions, beliefs and practices to SRH across socioeconomic and culturally diverse communities.
- iii. Map specific needs and resources available and used pertaining to maintaining sexual and reproductive health.
- iv. Understand the challenges and barriers associated in realizing SRHR
- v. Explore the vulnerabilities and coping strategies of various sections of the community associated due to identified gaps and barriers.
- vi. Understand awareness as well as access to various schemes and programs run by State and other agencies towards improving SRH situation.
- vii. Explore effective platforms/networks or medium available for the adolescents for accessing relevant information and sharing of experiences.
- viii. Research team will be expected to lead activities, with some support from C3 India's state team.

Expected Deliverables

- Inception Report
- Final Report
- PPT with findings

Interested agencies may send a detailed proposal including draft study design, sampling methodology, and budget to Madhuparna Das Joshi mjoshi@c3india.org and Devaki Singh dsingh@c3india.org by 5.30 pm on Thursday, 15th July 2021.