

Baseline of “Engaging with girls, life skills, livelihood and digital literacy project”

Request for Proposal

Background

Centre for Catalyzing Change (C3), formerly CEDPA India, began its investment in youth in India in 1987 with the launch of the Better Life Options Program (BLP) to help adolescent girls make “better life choices”. C3 works to mobilize women and girls to achieve gender equality. C3’s vision is a future in India where women and girls are fully empowered and equipped to realize their rights, access opportunities and achieve gender equality and are able to fulfil their dreams free from the constraints of poverty and inequality.

Gumla, is one of the most marginalised districts in India - high on trafficking of young girls for domestic labour and sex work. A large number of adolescents in the state are outside the formal schooling process. A recent C3 assessment showed that 3 out of 10 girls are currently out of school, 10% said they left school due to early marriages and only 29% could take decisions on how much education they should have. Gumla is reported to have 24% prevalence of child marriage among the girls (15-19 years) and an adolescent pregnancy rate of 10%. Only 37% of unmarried girls between 15-21 and 38 % of those already married felt that they could participate in decisions with regard to marriage. Agency of girls is restricted with only 38% girls in comparison to 92% boys between 15-21 years shared that they could go unescorted to a shop outside their village. In Gumla, young girls are victims of ‘information poverty’ and the ‘digital divide’ and the COVID-19 pandemic brought out the digital divide like never before.

Target Area & Beneficiaries: The proposed project intends to work with girls from Tribal and Dalit communities in Gumla, Jharkhand. C3 intends to work with 15, 000 young Tribal /Dalit girls (12-19) the district. Most of these young girls have either never been part of formal schooling or are school dropouts.

Goal: Enable disadvantaged adolescent girls in Gumla, Jharkhand, India, to make informed decisions through imparting life skills, digital literacy, and entrepreneurship education in order to build self-confidence, increase their economic power and independence, by leveraging available scalable platforms.

Objectives:

1. Build self-confidence, increase knowledge and critical life skills to enable young girls to overcome the pressures of discontinuation of education, early marriage and early pregnancy: C3 will leverage government platforms to deliver at scale the tested curriculum life skills and create safe spaces/enabling environments where girls can gather to learn new skills, form friendships, expand their social networks
2. Build knowledge around adolescent health issues related to reproductive and sexual health, information on appropriate services and skills to access the services: Sessions with girl groups, peer educator platforms, adolescent friendly health clinics will be leveraged to build knowledge among adolescents and promote interface between the services providers and adolescents.
3. Address the gender digital divide and disrupt gender asymmetries by helping young girls learn to use technology: Social norms, inadequate education, lack of self-confidence and severely restricts access to the internet and gender bias prevent young girls from using the opportunities offered by digitalisation. We will enable access to technology and the internet to strengthen young girls’ ability to access information and opportunities
4. Enable greater economic opportunities through digital ICTs: C3 will work to enable girls to have greater control over their own lives by accessing skilling opportunities. Community

entrepreneurship models will be explored and girls will be trained to link their enterprise with online platforms.

5. Support young girls to become Community Advocates and change agents to champion issues, which disproportionately affect young women: C3 will build a cohort of Young Community Advocates who will challenge stereotypes that dissuade girls from accessing digital and pursuing careers in these sectors. We propose to promote role models and mentors for girls so that they can grow up knowing and believing that their gender should not be a barrier to anything they want to become.

Outcomes

1. Improved decision-making, problem solving, and critical thinking with better skills to negotiate and mediate challenges and risks in their lives, enabled productive participation in society.
2. Improved knowledge and decision-making related to their health, wellbeing, and improved health seeking behaviour
3. Gender asymmetries disrupted by girls accessing information, greater access to public policies and services relating to entitlements and resources, such as employment opportunities, welfare/scholarship schemes, and educational and economic opportunities.
4. Adolescent girls emerge as change agents for girls and young women and form a building block for more voice in civic and political life.

Implementation strategy and sampling:

Solution and strategies in programs with young girls needs to have a holistic approach to address the gender gap continuum and build aspects like agency, critical life skills, sexual and reproductive health information, and skilling. These will reap enormous social and economic benefits like enabling girls to take ownership of their lives, and making their own life choices, plus drive real change in their lives like preventing early and forced marriage and greater participation in the paid workforce. Similarly, increasing access of girls to the internet, mobile phones and communication technological services yield higher access to knowledge and information. **We would like to propose a multi-pronged approach to build adolescent girls' agency, by providing knowledge and skills to unleash their power through pathways of critical life skills building, digital literacy, and alternative pathways of entrepreneurship.**

The project will be implemented in 3 blocks namely Sisai, Kamdara and Raidih of Gumla district of Jharkhand state.

C3 has planned to conduct the baseline at the beginning of the project in the month of June 2021 and the endline at the end of the project. The key respondents are the adolescent girls aged 12-19 years and the assessment will be done to understand the status of schooling, life skills and entrepreneurship. The survey also intends to understand their current knowledge and skills about the digital tools or apparatus and its importance in different sphere of life.

The baseline survey followed a multistage probability proportional to size systematic random sampling to select the requisite number of samples. C3 is planning to conduct the endline survey with the same adolescents in the baseline or using the same methodology as in baseline.

In the first stage, all three implementing blocks namely Sisai, Kamdara and Raidih in Gumla district were selected. The blocks were selected based on the criteria

1. Blocks with Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)
2. Presence of livelihood mission
3. Significant proportion of rural and adolescent girls

Similarly, for comparison blocks, agency will select 2 blocks in Gumla district.

In the second stage, the villages or AWCs will be selected from each of the block to enlist the number of adolescent girls in the age group of 12-19 years - which was the universe for each selected block.

In the third stage, a total of 300 Adolescent girls from intervention and 150 from non-intervention blocks will be selected using probability proportional to size systematic random sampling to conduct structured interviews.

The sampling methodology can be suggested by agency in the proposal.

Tools and Data collection:

The study intends to measure the present knowledge and skills of adolescent girls regarding Schooling status, knowledge on SRHR, life skills, decision making, mobility, agency, digital apparatus and its use in quantitative terms. Thus, only structured interview schedule will be used to measure the requisite indicators quantitatively. Household characteristics, personal attributes, career objectives, entrepreneurship skills, market related knowledge, skills on any of value-added services, knowledge on government schemes and programs on micro entrepreneurs, accounting skills, banking knowledge, knowledge about digital apparatus, its use and cost will be main domains in the interview schedule. The baseline tool will be used to with some additions based on the program team's requirements. Based on the present scenario of COVID, C3 has planned to conduct telesurvey. C3 should be consulted while drafting and finalizing the required tools. The final tools will be translated into local language or Hindi for its use in the final data collection process.

Data quality mechanisms: During the data collection, the agency will be responsible for conducting 10% of the spot checks and 10% of the back checks by using the spot check and back check formats. The filled in the spot check and back check formats will be analysed and discussed in the investigator's meetings.

ROLE OF THE RESEARCH AGENCY

- Identification, recruitment and training of investigators and other field level staff.
- The training will be arranged and conducted by the agency through Online. C3 team members will participate in the training.
- Approval from Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the baseline
- Planning, launch and implementation of data collection ensuring data quality mechanisms
- Scrutiny of questionnaires, coding of responses, data entry of quantitative questionnaires.
- Digitization of all qualitative interviews.
- Submission of quantitative data in .XL and .SAV format and qualitative data in .doc transcripts.
- Submission of all the survey materials (filled-up questionnaires and data sets) to C3.

Data Quality Assurance, Data Processing and Report Writing

- The research agency will be required to undertake scrutiny of questionnaires, data coding and entry and clean the data and submit the data into Excel and SPSS format to C3.
- The research agency will submit a daily report on data collection and quality assurance.
- The final responsibility of ensuring data quality rests with the agency; C3 maintains the right to reject the data, if there are inconsistencies or inaccuracies observed in quality of the data gathered. Any inconsistencies identified will lead to repeat survey entirely at the cost of the research agency.
- The research agency would **ENSURE DATA CONSISTENCY** before submitting it to C3.
- All data and results of this evaluation are the property of C3 and cannot be published or disseminated elsewhere by the research agency.
- The research agency will carry out **DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORT WRITING.**

- The research agency would provide C3 with a detailed analysis plan/framework and two reports- a detailed report of the study and an abridged version of the report in the form of an executive summary.

ROLE OF C3

C3 will proactively assist the research agency in the following:

- Provide list of adolescent girls in the implementation blocks with contact numbers
- Participate in the training of investigators.
- Support to monitor the data collection processes.
- Guide and assist in preparing analysis plan, tabulation and report writing.
- Review and provide feedback on report.

CRITERIA FOR SHORT-LISTING OF AGENCIES

- Agency should possess essential infrastructure facilities to conduct research.
- Adequate experience, past record, expertise, good reputation and credibility of research agency in conducting social research and surveys in the field of education, SRHR of adolescents, assessments of digital literacy projects and livelihood projects.
- Agency should provide indicative evidence that they have experience needed to take similar surveys.
- Quality of proposals should be good and it should follow the guidance provided in this ToR.
- The clarity of proposal, soundness of field implementation plan, budget, adherence to timelines and approach.
- Proposals reaching C3 within the specified timelines.

Deliverables:

The final products submitted by the agency towards the successful completion of this assignment would include:

- Baseline Report
- Presentation of the baseline methodology and results
- Final tools used during the baseline survey
- Report on the training of investigators, team composition and data quality checking
- Raw data sets and the syntax
- Lessons learned and recommendations

Timeline – June 10th to July 31st, 2021

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR DETAILED PROPOSALS WITH TIMELINE AND BUDGET IN THROUGH EMAIL mmanoranjini@c3india.org BY 5:00 PM on June 8th, 2021:

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