

Terms of Reference

Research on the consequences of LSBE and SRHR during the covid19 crises

1. **Background:**

ITA is running a project entitled “RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW”.

Right Here Right Now

Right Here Right Now (RHRN) is a five-year programme and global strategic partnership that is active in ten countries, and the Caribbean sub region. This partnership envisions a world where all young people are able to access quality and youth-friendly health services, and are not afraid to openly express who they are and who they love. We believe that young people, everywhere, have the inalienable right to make their own choices, and lead happy and healthy lives.

Young people for sustainable development and change

The world is home to 1.8 billion adolescents - some 88% reside in developing countries. Not long ago, young people were considered passive recipients of knowledge and services. This changed in December 2003; when the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on youth involvement. Today, there is a strong drive to involve young people as partners for change.

Harnessing the power of inclusive partnerships

The five-year partnership commits to:

- Strengthening cooperation within and across national, regional and international levels to undertake concerted advocacy for a progressive and inclusive SRHR agenda; and
- Advocating and holding governments accountable for their adoption of progressive and inclusive policies (and budgets thereof) for the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education and youth-friendly SRH services, including safe abortion.

Under RHRN, ITA desires to conduct a research focusing on LSBE and SRHR issues during this uncertain situation of COVID-19 crises. This research aims at highlighting the gaps and challenges currently being faced during COVID-19 and which steps should be undertaken once the pandemic comes to an end. This research is to be conducted by young people aged (15-30) in district Lahore with the help of telephonic interviews, online questionnaire and face to face questionnaire (where possible).

COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic rages around the globe, governments are taking unprecedented measures to limit the spread of the virus, ramping up health system responses and announcing movement restrictions affecting millions. But amid these efforts, governments, policymakers and decision makers must not lose sight of the vulnerabilities of young people especially the young girls and women, which have been exacerbated by the crisis.

Covid-19 and Gender Based Violence:

In Pakistan, mental health professionals providing online therapy sessions reports that they have seen a rise in the cases of domestic abuse in the wake of the COVID 19 lockdown in Pakistan. 'Domestic abuse has already been a haunting problem in Pakistan; more cases are surfacing in this time of anxiety and depression for all.

A pandemic deepens economic and social stress coupled with restricted movement and social isolation measures, increasing gender-based violence exponentially. Evidence suggests that financial, domestic and health pressures during the lockdown increase domestic abuse and other forms of gender-based violence. Pakistan is no exception where incidents of domestic violence have been occurring at an alarming rate.

2. Scope of work

Given the complexity and consequences related to **Life Skills Based Education (LSBE)** and **Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** there is a need to undertake a research which can further shed light on the challenges and can suggest actions that need to be undertaken. The primary research will hence be undertaken to generate evidence on challenges regarding gender-based violence during COVID-19 and provide advice on the most suitable and sustainable interventions that can address these challenges during and after COVID-19 crises. This study will help us to strengthening the LSBE and SRH rights-based programmers' planning and implementation targeting the adolescents and youth of Pakistan (Adolescents = 9 to 17 and Youth = 18-29).

OBJECTIVES of the research are to identify and highlight:

- ❖ What is the impact of Covid-19 on gender-based violence?
- ❖ Whether youth especially girls and women are facing any kind of problems with regards to menstrual hygiene, child marriages during this pandemic?
- ❖ Identify the sustainable interventions to address these issues during and after Covid-19.

What can be possible solutions to prepare the society for dealing with such crisis?

A mixed methods research is preferred with evidence of some online and live interviews (ensuring identity protection/safeguarding protocols)

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The specific tasks will be the following:

- Research report highlighting the gaps, challenges and way forward to address the issues related to SRHR i.e GBV, Child Marriages and menstrual hygiene, during and after COVID-19 crises;
- It will also suggest recommendations for designing new projects and opportunities for youth to be well-aware of LSBE and SRHR to deal with these challenges;

Terms of Reference:

The consultant/s will undertake research on the above-mentioned subject

3. Outputs:

- Holding preliminary meeting with ITA team to discuss the ToRs, scope and timelines of consultancy.
- Questionnaire, to be reviewed and finalized by ITA
- Amended questionnaire, to be approved by ITA
- Draft report on the research submitted for comments
- Submission of the Final Research Report with all comments fully addressed

4. Financial:

The payments will be disbursed in three installments:

- 30% payment upon submission of research plan and the draft tool/ instruments
- 30% upon submission of draft report of the research for comments
- 40% upon satisfactory approval of research report

5. Timeline:

Preliminary meeting with ITA	August 30 th
Sharing Questionnaire	September 5 th
Amended questionnaire	September 8 th
Submission of Final Research Report	September 25 th

Proposal should include:

- Organizational profile
- Previous experience of conducting surveys
- Survey methodology at the district level
- Task division plan for survey conduction
- Potential timeline for all activities
- Proposed Budget

Guidelines for proposal submission all proposals should reach the following address in a sealed and signed official envelope, no later than 5PM (Pakistan Standard Time) on 28th August, 2020:

Manager Admin

Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA)
1/A Canal Park, Gulberg II, Lahore

For any clarifications regarding this call for proposal, you may contact Mr. Qazi Ehsanullah at qazi.ehsan@itacec.org.

For general queries, you may reach us at our phone number (+92) (42) 35711107-9