



26 February 2021

Professor V R Muraleedharan,
Indian Institute of Technology (Madras),
Chennai - 600036.
[Coordinator, ORP – TNHSRP]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Call for research proposals, under the Operational Research Programme of The Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Program (TNHSRP)

The TNHSRP has initiated an Operational Research Programme (ORP) to encourage researchers from across the country working in public or private institutions interested in carrying out empirical research that will contribute to strengthening healthcare delivery system in Tamil Nadu. Each year, under the ORP, we shall propose a set of research questions on which the research proposals would be invited. These questions would be arrived through a series of consultative process amongst various divisions of the Department of Health and Family Welfare of the GoTN.

Given your expertise and interest in healthcare sector, we wish to invite you to submit research proposals and take part in this pioneering initiative of the TNHSRP in promoting Operational Research with a view to enhance the overall efficiency and effectiveness of TN healthcare system. I have attached a brief note (with this letter), which provides specific research questions for which research proposals are invited and details to be provided while submitting your research proposal.

IIT (Madras) will function as the nodal agency (on behalf of TNHSRP) to coordinate the Operational Research Programme. On behalf of IITM, and TNHSRP, I am glad to invite you to join this effort in building a consortium of researchers to contribute to strengthening health systems in Tamil Nadu.

Most sincerely

Professor V R Muraleedharan

Attachment: Guidelines for submission of Research Proposals

Operational Research Programme – TNHSRP

The Tamil Nadu Health System Reforms Program (TNHSRP) has initiated an Operational Research Programme (ORP) to encourage researchers from across the country working in public or private institutions interested in carrying out empirical research that will contribute to strengthening healthcare delivery system in Tamil Nadu. Each year, under the ORP, we shall propose a set of research questions on which the research proposals would be invited. IIT (Madras) will function as the nodal agency (on behalf of TNHSRP) to coordinate the Operational Research Programme.

Guidelines for submitting Research Proposal

A. Purpose / Objective of ORP:

Operational research (OR), which are primarily context specific, have the potential to (a) identify and solve problems in a timely manner, (b) help policy-makers and program managers to make evidence-based program decisions (c) help program managers and staff understand how their programs work. The Proposed guidelines for implementation of the ORP will contribute significantly in transforming Tamil Nadu (TN) healthcare system in desirable directions in the future. ORP mainly supports OR, however implementation and health system research can also be supported in special circumstances.

B. Qualifications:

Researchers may be associated with public or private institutions. Freelance researchers are not considered during this round. A research team may submit proposal for more than one research question, but no team will be funded for more than one proposal. Multiple teams can apply from the same institution.

C. Proposals should consider only the following topics:

1. Challenges in providing quality care in health facilities

Research Questions

1. Challenges in adopting patient safety measures in secondary and tertiary hospitals in accordance with National Patient safety implementation frame wok
2. Are antibiotics appropriately used in public health facilities as per the treatment guidelines for Antimicrobial use in common syndromes? (ICMR guidelines 2017)
3. Operational challenges in adopting Bio medical waste management protocols in public health facilities

II. Constraints in provision of NCD services in Tamil Nadu

Research Questions

1. Challenges in effective utilisation of 108 emergency ambulance services in the State
2. To identify strengths and gaps in the execution of TAEI programme in the state.
3. To identify reasons for poor acceptance of women to undergo screening for cancer cervix and cancer breast.

D. Technical Evaluation Criteria:

While writing your proposal on any of the above research questions, elaborate the following:

1. Explanation of the problem statement: Explain briefly the importance of this topic and how an empirical analysis (contextually) will help strengthen the delivery system. Review any published or unpublished research reports/articles on this topic and how the proposed research could add to the existing literature.
2. Approach and Methodology: Provide a detailed technical design of the proposed research. Typically, it should include: sampling method, data collection plan, details of instruments to be developed, analytical tools to be applied.
3. Proposed Project Team: Individuals to be engaged in this project, their qualification, experience. Name of the Principal Investigator, and Co-PI and their experience.
4. Timetable – Gantt Chart – implementation plan: Provide details of activities to be carried out over time (show week-wise/month-wise milestones).
5. Duration of the project: (6 to 8 months)

E. Financial proposal:

A financial statement showing budget required to carry out your technical research should be submitted along with the research proposal. [The overall budget should not exceed Rs.25 lakhs per project. Exceptions may be considered.]

F. Ethics committee clearance:

Research proposals should be approved by the ethical committees of your institution/ relevant procedures followed in your institution in this regard.

G. Submission of proposals

- A. The proposals should be sent to the mail id s given below:

vrm@iitm.ac.in (V.R.Muraleedharan)

aswininachiyar@gmail.com (Aswini Nachiyar)

For any queries please contact:

V R Muraleedharan (9176166536) / Aswini Nachiyar (6381849517)

Please send an email first.

H. Final Date for submission of Proposal: 25 March 2021 – 5pm

I. Selection Process:

1. Proposals would be screened by IIT, and then sent to the Technical Committee for shortlisting. IIT (M) will convene meetings of the Technical Committee which will review the received proposals and recommend selected research proposals to the Research Proposal selection committee (RPSC). A brief presentation should be made by the researcher before the technical committee in the same format in which the proposal was submitted. The RPSC will review the proposals recommended by the technical committee and approve the research projects and allocate funds.

J. Announcement of selected proposals – 20th April 2021. You may be called by the selection committee for a presentation during the first/ second week of April 2021.

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