



## **Guidelines for Operational Research Program – Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Program (TNHSRP)**

### **A. Purpose / Objectives of ORP:**

The Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Program (TNHSRP) has initiated an Operational Research Program (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. IIT Madras will serve as the Nodal Agency for implementation of the Operational Research Program.

### **B. Qualifications:**

Researchers may be associated with public or private institutions. Freelance researchers are not considered. A research team may submit proposal for more than one research question/topic. Multiple teams from the same institutions can submit proposals.

### **C. Research Topics:**

**Proposals should consider only the following topics / questions:**

1. Strengths and weaknesses of the existing Mental Health programme to reduce suicide rates in Tamil Nadu.

2. Study on Effect of CoVID-19 on the Incidence and Prevalence of Tuberculosis in Tamil Nadu.
3. A study on Impact of Covid 19 on Utilisation of Maternal, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) services among priority districts of TNHSRP\* (\*priority districts of TNHSRP are Ariyalur, Ramanathapuram, Theni, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Virudhunagar, Dharmapuri, The Nilgris, Tenskasi and Tiruvannamalai).

**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 Review any published or unpublished research reports/articles on this topic and how the proposed research could add to the existing literature.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 10 months)

#### **E. Financial proposal:**

A financial statement showing budget required to carry out your technical research should be submitted. Each research project could be funded from INR 25 lakhs, and additional funds may be provided on a case-to-case basis subject to the approval of the Research Proposal Selection Committee.

#### **F. Ethics committee clearance:**

Approval from Ethics Committee of respective study teams should be obtained within 14 days after the announcement of the selection of research proposals.

#### **G. Submission of proposals**

The proposals should be sent to the following emails:

[vrn@iitm.ac.in](mailto:vrn@iitm.ac.in) (V.R.Muraleedharan)

[aswininachiyar@gmail.com](mailto:aswininachiyar@gmail.com) (Aswini Nachiyar)

[orptnhsrp@gmail.com](mailto:orptnhsrp@gmail.com) (ORP TNHSRP)

#### **For any queries please contact:**

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

Please send an email first.

#### **H. Final Date for submission of Proposal: 30-11-2021 – 5pm**

#### **I. Selection Process:**

1. IIT Madras will screen the Proposals received and submit them to the Technical Committee (TC) for shortlisting. Technical Committee will review the proposals and based on presentations by the Principal

Investigators (PIs) of short-listed proposals, will recommend proposals to the Research Proposal Selection Committee (RPSC). The RPSC will review the proposals recommended by the Technical Committee for final approval and allocation of funds.

**J. Announcement of selected proposals –**

1. You may be called by the selection committee for a presentation during the first/ second week of December 2021.
2. Announcement of selected proposals will be declared by 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December 2021.

**Signed:**



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