

Terms of Reference of study on Assessment of Learning Needs of Youth in Pakistan about HIV&AIDS and Adolescence Education

Context

HIV and AIDS epidemic is a looming threat for the humankind. Presently, over 33 million people are living in the world with HIV. It is estimated that during the last two decades, about 25 million people have died in the world due to this fatal infection. In the year 2008 alone, about 2 million HIV infected people have died. Since the late 1990s, HIV and AIDS have spread rapidly throughout Asia as well. Pakistan, previously, considered a country with a low prevalence rate, has now joined the category of concentrated epidemic countries. From the very beginning, Pakistan has been regarded a high risk country with respect to the HIV /AIDS epidemic, due to a low literacy rate amongst its population, rapid population growth and increased rural-urban migration and swelling share of its young population. Global statistics and studies have shown that young people are more vulnerable to HIV and AIDS. At present, the proportion of young people between the ages of 10-24 is over 40% in Pakistan. At present, about 36 million children and young people are enrolled in schools, colleges, and universities in Pakistan. Unfortunately, there does not exist any mechanism in Pakistani society to provide information and guidance to the adolescents about physical changes taking place in their bodies, and how to cope with various risks and temptations which can harm their physical growth and emotional health. Adolescence Education is an intervention to impart accurate and adequate knowledge about the process of growing up with a focus on reproductive and sexual health in its biological, psychological and socio-cultural dimensions, emotional health and coping with life skills. Most of the developed nations and a growing number of developing countries have integrated Adolescence Education into their curricula.

Prevention Education is an important component of global strategy against HIV and AIDS. Knowledge and awareness about how HIV is transmitted and how infection can be averted, reduces the vulnerability of young people. The international community and member states agreed to promote HIV\ AIDS Prevention Education during the World Education Forum held from 26-28 April 2000 in Dakar, Senegal, and this commitment was reflected in Article 8. VIII. of the Dakar Framework of Action. Ministry of Education, Govt. of Pakistan has demonstrated its determination for AIDS Education by envisaging strategic actions on these issues in the National Education Policy approved on 09 September 2009. However, unfortunately, school curriculum in Pakistan lacks information on prevention against HIV and AIDS. Information about HIV and AIDS is not integrated into the textbooks, and teachers do not discuss this important issue with their students, due to socio-cultural sensitivities and their own personal reluctance. In the absence of sound mechanisms of educating young people about HIV and AIDS, risks of their vulnerability are multiplied.

UNESCO is a member of UNAIDS Programme and is working closely with Ministries of Education for promotion of HIV and AIDS Prevention Education. In collaboration with UNAIDS and other international partners, UNESCO has launched a flagship programme titled 'EDUCAIDS' to strengthen response of the education sector in the fight against the epidemic of HIV and AIDS. UNESCO Islamabad has been working closely with the Ministry of Education, provincial Bureaus of Curriculum, teacher training institutes (PTIEs), and NACP for promotion of HIV and AIDS Prevention Education. Guidebooks for teachers were produced and workshops for orientation of curriculum developers, textbook writers, teacher trainers and education managers were organized in collaboration with Ministry of Education. Recently, United Nations and Govt. of Pakistan have planned to launch School Health Programme, and Reproductive Health Education is one of the components of this innovative pilot project. In the context explained above, UNESCO has planned to assess the awareness level of young people, particularly adolescent students in Pakistan, about HIV and AIDS and their learning needs on this subject and issues related to their adolescence and reproductive health etc. This information is to be gathered through a small scale study, based on direct interaction with educated young people, particularly those who are still studying in secondary schools, colleges, or universities.

2. Goal

To identify and assess the learning needs of in-school youth in Pakistan on HIV and AIDS Prevention and Adolescence Education and preparing them for a safe, secure, and healthy adult life.

3. Objectives

1. To review the existing curriculum and textbooks for students in public sector secondary/higher secondary schools with a view to identify and enlist available content about HIV and AIDS Prevention Education.
2. To measure the level of awareness among adolescent students about HIV and AIDS in general, and their knowledge about modes of transmission and precautionary measures
3. To assess the knowledge of young people about adolescence and reproductive health issues
4. To identify possible challenges Pakistani youth may have to face in their information seeking on their adolescence and reproductive health and discover factors which hinder the transmission of information and guidance to youth about these aspects. ..

5. To identify learning needs of young students on HIV prevention and ARH; and
6. To recommend actions at the policy and curriculum level for the promotion and institutionalization of HIV/AIDS Education in schools and academic institutions and effective mechanisms for guidance and counseling of adolescent students on HIV prevention and ARH.

4. Target Group

The focus will be on educated adolescents i.e. young pupils enrolled in secondary/higher secondary schools, colleges, and universities within the age bracket of 14 to 20 years. Students who have graduated or dropped out during the last one year, may also be included in this study.

5. Nature and size of Sample

It will be a stratified-random sample, representing all provinces, selected districts, rural and urban areas, and both boys and girls. The size of the sample is linked with the financial resources, methodology to be adopted for data collection, key subject area to be covered in the process of data collection, and nature of instruments to be used for collection of data. Interested organizations are expected to indicate possible sample size (number of adolescent students to be covered) in their proposals.

6. Key subject areas to be looked into:

An exploratory descriptive assessment may cover the following key subject areas:

- Awareness level among youth about modes of transmission of HIV/AIDS
- Precautionary measures for protection against HIV and AIDS.
- Adolescence and reproductive health related issues and problems.
- Specific attitudes, behaviours and practices which affect vulnerability of young students
- Level of vulnerability to HIV and AIDS among various sub groups of adolescent students and geographical areas where young people are comparatively more vulnerable.
- Factors or socio-cultural features which hinder or facilitate the sharing/transmissions of HIV/AIDS related knowledge, information, and services to adolescent students
- Possible strategies and measures for improving knowledge and awareness level of young students about subject areas and issues listed above.

Details will be worked out and reflected in the research design which will be prepared by the organization selected for this study.

7. Methodology Data on above aspects will be collected using universally accepted procedures and tools, including interviews using questionnaires and focused group discussions etc. Possibility of partially using new ICT based electronic devices (handsets) for registering responses of young people on various sensitive issues may also be considered. Organizations applying for the award of study are expected to reflect preliminary outlines of the methodology to be used. However, detailed research design including methodology and instruments of data collection will be finalized through mutual consultation and with inputs from other experts and professional organizations in this field.

8. Eligibility: Required Capacity and Skills Research organizations, universities, institutions, private firms, and NGOs, having following competencies/ skills and capacities are eligible to apply for the award of the study.

- In-depth knowledge on Adolescence Education, Reproductive Health, and HIV and AIDS
- Strong background and a minimum of 3 years experience in conducting research activities in the fields of social sciences, health subjects, HIV&AIDS, adolescence or Reproductive Health issues among youth and other vulnerable segments of society.
- Strong analytical skills in both- qualitative and quantitative research models.
- Registered under Societies Act, or Companies Act, or under any other valid legal cover of Govt. of Pakistan.
- As the assessment study has a limited time frame, therefore the selected organization should have the ability to meet with the deadlines, in the form of human resources, logistical support, and outreach in the field.

Individual consultants or experts are not eligible to apply.

9. Socio-cultural sensitivities and Code of conduct During the whole course of the study, contracted agency will strictly follow the code of conduct/ethics and keep in view the socio-cultural sensitivities while developing instruments of data collection, and interacting with the targeted population, or local community members etc. In no case, target group will be approached for data collection during school hours/study hours, or within the premises of educational institutions. School heads, teachers, or other educational authorities should not be asked to identify target group or facilitate in data collection process. In other words, the whole process of data collection will be carried out outside the educational institutions. Organizations applying for this study will indicate

their methodology of data collection in clear terms in their proposals, keeping in view the code of conduct and limitations listed above.

10. Submission of Proposals: Interested and qualified organization may send their proposals, along with following information:

1. **Profile** of the organization
2. **Technical proposal** consisting of:
 - i. Synopsis of research work or survey
 - ii. Overall methodology or strategy of data collection
 - iii. Sample size within indicated total UNESCO budget of US\$ of 25,000/-
 - iv. Human resources available for the research study, including CVs of Research Team, and general profile or category of enumerators to be associated for collection of data in the field
 - v. Time period needed for completion of research study, from the date of release of first installment to the submission of final report, acceptable to UNESCO
3. **Financial proposal** with detailed budget break up of the cost on important components/steps of the research work, including development of research design, data collection tools, data collection process, tabulation, report writing, sharing of report with stakeholders for feedback, editing and finalization of report, and other organizational cost etc.

Proposals on the above lines, sealed in envelop marked: Proposal for Study on HIV and AIDS, addressed to ‘**Administrative Officer**’, should reach UNESCO Islamabad, House No 17, Street No 8, Sector F-7/3, Islamabad, latest by **10 June 2010**. Proposals received after this date will not be entertained.

11. Estimated Financial Range

UNESCO has allocated up to a maximum of **US\$ 25,000/-** for the study. This includes all costs and expenditures on designing and conducting of the study, including development of research design, data collection tools, data collection, computerization of data, analysis of data, report writing, sharing of draft report with stakeholders and finalization of report. Organizations applying for award of this study should keep in view this ceiling while preparing their technical proposals and budget.

12. Collaboration with partner organizations and key stakeholders

Cooperation and support of following key partner organizations will have to be sought by UNESCO as well as selected organization for finalization of research design, data collection, and finalization of report:

1. National AIDS Control Programme
2. UNAIDS
3. Ministry of Education

Selected organization will secure agreement of above listed key partners on important aspects of the study. UNESCO may also form a forum or a technical committee to review various documents and processes.

13. Contract and payment schedule:

An Implementation Partnership Agreement (IPA) will be signed with the selected firm, as per UNESCO rules and procedures. Payment to the selected organization will be made in installments, against agreed upon deliverables and their acceptance by UNESCO. Last installment of funds will be released on completion of work and submission of final report, and its acceptance by UNESCO.

14. Further information and queries

For any queries or further information, following may be contacted on working days and during office hours only:

1. Arshad Saeed Khan, Senior National Specialist (Education), UNESCO, Tele +92-51-2611170 up to 2611173 Extension: 24, Cell No 0333-5205302, Email: as.khan@unesco.org
2. Ms. Mubashara Iram, Project Assistant (Education), UNESCO, Tele +92-51-2611170 up to 2611173, Extension 27

For further reading, relevant pages of UNESCO web link on HIV and AIDS, and/or 'EDUCAIDS' at following addresses may be visited:

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=33437&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=36400&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

UNESCO reserves the right to postpone or cancel the study, or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason. .