

Application Guideline for
“Delaying Early Pregnancy in Gaibandha District in Bangladesh,
Intervention Phase I” Commissioned by IDE-JETRO

October 13, 2023
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President, Japan External Trade Organization

APPLICATION GUIDELINE

All of applicants should apply in accordance with this guideline, with recognition about contents of this specification.

1. Proposal Form Submission

Submit the Proposal Form in which all necessary items are filled, following the instruction stipulated above clauses by the deadline shown below by e-mail or mail/courier service.

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Application DEADLINE: 17:00 October 31, 2023 (JST=GMT+9)

2. Evaluation Schedule

Accepting Proposal: October 13, 2023 ~ October 31, 2023
Evaluation Process: November 1, 2023 ~ November 6, 2023
Notification: by the middle of November, 2023
Contract: November 15, 2023

SPECIFICATION

Enclosed Proposal Form shall be submitted following all requirements and conditions specified in the clauses below.

1. Title of the Research

Delaying Early Pregnancy in Gaibandha District in Bangladesh, Intervention Phase I

2. Evaluation Criteria

- 1) Soundness and feasibility of intervention strategy.
- 2) Systematic arrangement for the intervention to submit final results by the deadline without delay.
- 3) Credibility on institutional management experience to establish the team for conducting the randomized intervention, especially by appropriate and sufficient allocation of its personnel. Some experiences in conducting randomized interventions with foreign clients (e.g. universities).
- 4) Experience with randomized interventions on the related subjects.
- 5) Familiarity with the conditions of the study area such as previous intervention experiences, possession of networks/resources.
- 6) Qualifications and competence of the principal researcher. Proficiency in speaking/writing/reading Bengali and English required.

3. Background and Objectives of the Research

IDE-JETRO conducts the research project with an aim to prevent early pregnancy in Gaibandha district in Bangladesh. Gaibandha is one of the most child marriage prevalent areas in Bangladesh, with 70% of girls marry, of whom 64% become pregnant below age 18. In the South Asian context, daughters' marriage is collectively decided by parents, relatives and even the community, and it seems very difficult for parents to refuse a "good" proposal even though they understand the negative consequences of child marriage. We argue that the realistic solution to avoid the most detrimental effect of child marriage is to prevent early pregnancy. Our field observation has revealed that child-married girls usually get pregnant right after the marriage without any reproductive health knowledge. We will conduct the randomized controlled trial (RCT) to explore how providing information on reproductive health knowledge with adolescent girls aged 14–17 delays their pregnancy.

The baseline survey has already started. This research project is about the implementation of the randomized intervention (Phase I. Note that we will conduct Phase II next fiscal year and the content of the Phase II intervention is basically the same as Phase I with some modifications for married girls after the baseline survey). The intervention is providing reproductive health knowledge with unmarried adolescent girls aged 14–17. This research project also includes collecting administrative data such as participation rates of the girls' club where the information will be disseminated.

4. Scope of Work on the Research

A CONTRACTOR will do the following activities:

- (1) Hire two female local community health workers who have the paramedic certificate and at least two years of experience of providing reproductive health and family planning services in the field.
- (2) Conduct the monthly intervention by forming the girls' club in 50 treated villages in Gaibandha district. The village randomization is jointly determined with IDE researchers.
- (3) Collect the administrative data concerning participation rate in the girls' club.
- (4) Submission of the data (computer-based format).

5. Expected Outcome

Administrative data of 500 households in 50 villages.

6. Research Schedule

Term of Research work:

Research work shall be conducted from November 15, 2023 to March 29, 2024.

Making a contract: November 15, 2023

Submission of the reports (specified in clause 8): February 15, 2024

7. Payment method

IDE shall remit the amount of contract in two (2) installments as follows after receiving an invoice from a CONTRACTOR for each payment.

- (1) First payment (50% of total amount): upon the signing of the Agreement
- (2) Second and final payment: upon submission of the Report (as specified in clause 8)

8. Reports

A CONTRACTOR submits to IDE the following by February 15, 2024.

- Data of 500 households in 50 villages (computer-based format, preferably in STATA).
- Summary Report minimum of 1 page in A4 paper.
- Statement of accounts and time sheets.

9. Budget Estimation Guideline

- (1) Total Budget: Maximum budget is JPY 2,076,333 which consists of Direct Expenses and Administrative Overhead.
- (2) Direct Expenses: See clause 10 for details.
- (3) Administrative Overhead: Administrative expenses on the Research activities, such as the cost on facility management and maintenance. 10 % of direct expenses is maximum.
- (4) Amount: Payment is conditional on the completion of submission specified in clause 8. If the data collected is less than 500 households in 50 villages, the amount should be reduced. Methods to reduce the amount shall be negotiated between both parties.

10. General Condition of Expenditure and Account Management on the Research

(1) Expenditure Items

Expenditure items on the Research should be confined to the following items.

a. Honoraria for researchers

Keep daily reports describing the contents of your research to confirm the status of the work.

b. Wages and salaries for research assistants

Upon hiring research assistants, keep daily reports specifying the name of the employee and content of service, to confirm the status of work.

c. Point to Notice on Calculation of Honoraria for Researchers or Wages and Salaries for Research Assistants

A CONTRACTOR shall be required to instruct joint researchers or research assistants to take an appropriate and adequate recess (e.g. noon recess) in accordance with the labor law or the employment practice of your country.

A CONTRACTOR shall be required to exclude the rest period from the working hours of the day when a CONTRACTOR calculates the honoraria for joint researchers or wages for research assistants.

(2) Expenditure such as telecommunication and translation on the Research shall be borne within the amount of Administration Overhead.