

No.O-15026/05/2008-SER
Government of India
Planning Commission
(Socio-Economic Research Division)
Yojana Bhawan, Snasad Marg
New Delhi-110001

INVITATION FOR RESEARCH STUDY PROPOSALS
(Year 2011-12)

The Planning Commission has identified thrust areas/topics for various sectors for inviting proposals for carrying out research studies from Universities, eligible Institutions & Individual Researchers under its Socio Economic Research (SER) Scheme to carry out studies.

The SER Guidelines (October, 2009) are available on the official *website* of Planning Commission.

A list of thrust areas/topics of research studies (sector-wise) prioritized in order on which proposals are solicited is *annexed*.

The proposals for research studies may be submitted to the SER Division of the Planning Commission in the prescribed format along with requisite documents, keeping in view the instructions given below. (*At a time only one proposal per applicant will be considered for providing the grants-in-aid under the Scheme*).

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANT:

1. Past relevant experience of the Institution / Researcher to carry out the study in the proposed area / sector of research activity may be clearly mentioned along with copy of report of study, if any undertaken by the Institution/Researcher.
2. For the research study proposals, relevant to specific State/Region of the Country, the Institutions / Researchers belonging to the State / Region would be preferred for entrustment of the Study.
3. Title/ Subject of the Research Study and its Sector should be clearly mentioned on the top of the front page of the proposal- *Forwarding* form.
4. Applicants are advised to ensure themselves that they fulfill eligibility conditions, failing which, they should not apply. Mere submission of proposal will not confer any right for getting grants-in-aid.

5. Proposals submitted in the format other than the one prescribed under the applicable scheme or/and without the documents/enclosures as prescribed under the *GUIDELINES* of the Scheme **WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**. No further query/correspondence will be entertained in this regard by the Commission.
6. The Planning Commission reserves the right to scrutinize and evaluate the proposals as per its requirements and reject the same or ask for modifications.
7. Intimation regarding decision taken on proposals for grants-in-aid shall be communicated to the applicant in due course by post/ electronically. No query / correspondence by the applicant in this regard will be entertained by the Commission.

List of Thrust Areas/ Topics for Research Studies (Sector-wise) to be undertaken under the Socio-Economic Research (SER) Scheme of Planning Commission for 2011-12:

No.	<u>SECTOR</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	
1.	Organic Farming and its contribution in enhancing productivity in agriculture and allied areas – An overview
2.	Impact of Agri-clinic and Agri-Business centers scheme on Extension Services provided by Agri-entrepreneurs to the farmers ➤ The study may include specific parameters to assess constrains, the recommendation thereon to improve the performance of schemes in any North East & Hilly Region (NEHR)
3.	Impact of the ACA (Additional Central Assistance)support extended to States for Development of Agriculture and Allied sectors
4.	Performance of Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector schemes on Fisheries and its effect on Development of Fisheries
5.	Performance of schemes implemented for promotion of small ruminants
6.	Study the extent of Research Extension linkages achieved through support to ATMAs and KVKs and the impact of these linkages on farmer’s knowledge and adoption level
7.	Role of NFSM (National Food Security Mission) and its contribution in improving the Agricultural productivity in selected Districts
8.	Development of Reservoir fisheries through culture based capture activities
9.	Analysis of Sub-sectoral coverage through RKVY (Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana)
<u>COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION</u>	
1.	A Study on various policy initiatives taken by the various Media and Entertainment Units in the Information Communication Technology sector and its implication on the Economic Growth- Special reference to Broadcasting Sector
2.	Analysis of Effective Management of Spectrum in Telecom Sector
<u>HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT</u>	
I. Studies under Elementary Education	
1.	Skill Development of Neo-Literate under Jana Sikshan Sansthan (JSS)
2.	A study on implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in topographically-challenging States/ Region (such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttrakhand, NE States)
3.	A comparative study on impact of Mid-Day meal scheme on schools enrolment in Hilly and Plains States each (such as Himachal Pradesh, Punjab etc.)
4.	A study on Implementation of Mid-Day Meals in flood affected districts of Bihar & West Bengal ➤ Special provision of MDMS during summer vacation may also be included to study the efficacy and impact
5.	Comparative study of teaching learning process and classroom transaction under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in one State each from the hills and plains (viz., Punjab, Himanchal).0
6.	Impact of quality intervention measures under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan on the learning
7.	Study on decline of Govt. School enrolment in Punjab and Haryana on account of private school expansion
II. Studies under Secondary Education	
1.	Achievement level of students (Class IX and XI) in Math, Science, (Physics, Chemistry) and English
2.	Teachers knowledge about their subject, method of teaching and in service training attended during last 5 years
3.	Use of ICT (Information Communication Technology) in Secondary Schools
4.	Bench mark survey on Vocational Education -Suggested Reforms
5.	Role of pace setting Institutions/Model schools and activity design

III.	Studies under Youth Affairs and Sports
1.	A study on role and functioning of NYKS (Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangthan) or NSS (National Service Scheme).
2.	A study on promotion of Sports excellence a) NSFs (National Sports Federations) b) Talent Research and Training Schools
IV.	Studies under Art and Culture
1.	Study on promotion and dissemination of Tribal/Folk Arts and Culture
2.	Study on Maintenance and Conservation of country's heritage, ancient monuments and heritage sites
3.	Study the functioning of Libraries namely (i) National Library Kolkata, (ii) Central Reference Library, Kolkata (iii) Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi (iv) Delhi Public Library, New Delhi (v) Raja Ramhohan Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata
4.	Study on functioning of Academies and NSD (National School of Drama)
5.	Study on functioning of CCRT (Centre for Cultural Resources & Training)
V.	Studies under Higher and Technical Education
1.	Demand & Accessibility of Higher & Technical Education in Rural India
2.	Developing good practices guide for Higher Education
3.	Cost savings and resource use for efficiency in Higher Education
4.	Unit Cost analysis in Higher Education
5.	Evolving and Effective funding mechanism for Higher Education
6.	Developing an academic Performance Management System
	<u>ENVIRONMENT & FOREST</u>
1.	Environmental impacts of policies and programme of Sectoral Ministries
2.	Successful models of implementation by States of Sectoral Policies and Programmes on Environment
	<u>FINANCIAL RESOURCES</u>
1.	Restructuring of Government Expenditure- <i>Details from the FR Division in Planning Commission may be obtained</i>
2.	Contingent Liabilities: State wise Study
3.	To Consider Ways of Increasing Effectiveness & Utilization of funds by States through Suitable Agencies and Timing and Pattern of Releases by the Centre-
4.	Reform of Litigation and Arbitrary Procedures in Tax Matters
5.	Cash/Treasury holdings Management in States – Prospects for Reforms and Reporting
6.	Plan Expenditure Monitoring in States for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Plan Schemes – Challenges and Prospects
7.	Financial Inclusion- <i>Details from the FR Division in Planning Commission may be obtained</i>
8.	Pension for Unorganized Sector- <i>Details from the FR Division in Planning Commission may be obtained</i>
	<u>HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE</u>
1.	Alternative models of Health care under Public Private Partnership/Impact of Public Private Partnership in Health on Public Health Services, Equity and Finances
2.	Reducing Indebtedness due to Catastrophic Ailments
3.	Modalities and impact of Health Insurance
4.	Interventions to address Health Care Issues in Urban Areas especially in Slum Areas
5.	Integration of vertical programmes – Modalities and Health system changes required
6.	Convergence with health related sectors – policy issues at macro and micro level
7.	Health Care System – How to improve performance and equity
8.	Effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Health Care System: Impact of duality and role of bureaucracy in new approaches
9.	Addressing shortages of Human Resources for Health
10.	Linking payment to performance/performance based incentives
11.	Improved strategy for polio eradication/Reasons for increase in cases of polio in Bihar and UP
12.	Community Monitoring - A Role to improve implementation of National Rural Health Mission in the Country

<u>HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT</u>	
1.	Affordable Housing / Housing for Urban Slum Dwellers: * Themes for study: i. Urban land markets for housing the urban poor ii. Public-private-community partnerships for housing the urban poor iii. Micro-finance for the affordable housing sector
2.	Innovative Technologies and use of local resources in urban housing
3.	Provision of basic services to the Urban Poor
4.	Management of Municipal Finances
5.	Development of Integrated City Transport
6.	Urban Solid Waste Management
7.	Urban Land use Planning in Mega cities
8.	Financial and Social Impacts on the city life and future of MRTS in India with reference to Delhi and Kolkata Metro
9.	Some experiences of LIG/EWS Housing in Indian Cities : Municipal interventions in delivering alternate land tenure
10.	Delivering of Security of Tenure, Infrastructure Services and Access to Credit: Community Based Approaches
11.	Managing suburban growth in the NCR Region: Prospect and Introspect
12.	Share of GDP in urban areas for various regions including North East
13.	Renewable energy systems (with low capital and maintenance cost) for EWS/LIG settlements- In Urban Areas
14.	Environmentally sustainable alternatives and management systems for urban settlements in ecologically sensitive areas (hills, coastal zones, etc.)
15.	Land Taxation- Urban areas
<u>INDUSTRY / VILLAGE SMALL ENTERPRISES</u>	
1.	Assessment of skill requirements for rural industrialization and the interventions required for transforming rural surplus labour to meet such requirements
2.	Trends in wages, earnings and employment during the last two plan periods in the: (1) Handloom and Handicraft Sectors, and (2) Decentralized Power Looms Sector
3.	Trend in Technology development in the Indian Capital: Goods Sector and implication for future growth of Manufacturing
4.	Impact evaluation of Package of Special Category States (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and J.K)
5.	Expansion of Food Processing Industry in the North Eastern States –Interventions required between Schemes/Programmes of the State Government and Central Government
6.	Technology requirements in the area of Technical Textiles, especially in Geo-tech, Protect, Build-tech and Medi-tech
7.	Effectiveness of the Consumer Awareness drive in India
8.	Pharmaceutical price control in the context of promoting off patent generic drugs
9.	Disaster Management and Solid Waste recycling in chemical and petrochemical Clusters /Estates/ Socio Economic Zones dumping sites in India
10.	To examine the Feasibility of sustaining Ship Building industry without subsidy
11.	Major trends and determinants of prices in the Iron and Steel Industry
12.	Socio Economic impact of IPR (Intellectual Property Right) regime in industrial design as a tool for competition in the Indian industry –Case studies
13.	North East Industrial & Investments Promotion Policy 2007 & Impact evolution of Service sector Industries in the North East region
<u>INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS</u>	
1.	Impact of FDI: covering impact of FDI in the areas: a) Industrial Development b) Innovation c) Management Practices d) Employment f) Integration with Global markets, and g) Exports

<u>LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND MANPOWER</u>	
1.	Requirement of Skill Development among casual labours to ensure regular employment opportunities
2.	Factors related to migration of labour forces from some particular States and Steps that could be taken to stop migration
3.	Evaluation of the National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986 & Survey of Child Labour etc
4.	Evolving a format of Action Plans on skill development at the State level keeping in view the guidelines emerging from Co-ordinated Action on Skill Development, National Policy on Skill Development and other decisions/ documents
<u>POWER & ENERGY</u>	
1.	Dharavi Electricity Privatization in the Maharashtra State
2.	Impact Assessment of Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana
<u>RURAL DEVELOPMENT</u>	
1.	Impact of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in enhancing the Agriculture Productivity
2.	Development of appropriate and accepted methodology for cataloging asset created under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
3.	Impact of Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) in enhancing the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries
<u>SOCIAL JUSTICE/SOCIAL WELFARE</u>	
1.	Trend of social, educational and political empowerment among women belonging to Minority Communities
2.	Impact of Educational Programmes on SC/OBC Students
3.	Impact of Economic Empowerment Programmes for SCs in raising them above the poverty line
4.	Study on Need of Skill Development to Promote Employment of People with Disabilities
5.	Evaluation of Social Security Programmes for welfare of Senior Citizens
<u>SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY</u>	
1.	Socio Economic impact of IPR (Intellectual Property Right) regime: (i) Impact and Causality of IPR regime on Development in India (ii) Impact of product patent regime on the pharmaceutical industry in India (Category : Industry) (iii) Case studies on select Geographical <i>Indicators</i> (Category: Agriculture/Industry as the case may be) (iv) Benefits to local community from Traditional Knowledge based inventions (Category: Rural Development)
<u>VOLUNTARY ACTION</u>	
1.	The decentralized or other funding mechanism to VOs/NGOs by Central Agencies or other donors and their impact on development
2.	The issues relating to the need for an independent, national level, self-regulatory agency for the voluntary sector and to develop accreditation methodologies for VOs
3.	Feasibility of a new Central Law to serve as an alternative all- India statute for registering VOs
4.	Any Proposed Research studies on contribution of VOs/NGOs to Development in India are preferable
<u>WATER RESOURCES</u>	
1.	Impact of Irrigation on socio-economic condition of the people in the project command of Major-Medium & Minor Irrigation
2.	Sustainability of Minor Irrigation Schemes as compared to Major & Medium in the plains of the Country
3.	Impact of Flood Control Scheme: (i) Embankment Schemes (ii) Reservoir Scheme
4.	Command Area Development and its impact on socio-economic conditions of the farmers
5.	Rural Drinking Water and its impact on health and economic productivity of the people
6.	Sanitation and its impact on Health
<u>WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT</u>	
1.	Performance of Rajiv Gandhi National Crèche Scheme for the Children of Working / Ailing Mothers
2.	Status of the implementation of Child right related laws and status of Child right in various States
3.	Impact/Performance of Micro Credit scheme of RMK (Rastriya Mahila Kosh)
4.	Performance / Impact of Swadhar Scheme and Short Stay Home Scheme
5.	Impacts/Performances of Support to Training and Employment Programme of Women (STEP)
6.	Women in Agriculture
7.	Entrepreneurship Development of Women
8.	Trafficking of Women and Children

9.	Myriads issues pertaining to Women Empowerment: Economic, social & political empowerment
10.	Child related Malnutrition
11.	Child marriage: Prevalence, causes and consequences
