



भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार
कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Indian Council of Medical Research
Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare, Government of India

No: 5/4-4/MH-TG/2023-NCD-II

Date: 16/06/2023

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

For ICMRs Multistate Implementation Research Study on Reduction of treatment gap of Mental Disorders

Overview

India is facing a large treatment gap for mental disorders, including substance use disorders. Many people do not receive the care they need due to various barriers, such as lack of awareness, stigma, and limited access to mental health services. In addition, even those who are in contact with healthcare providers may not receive interventions that are evidence-based.

The aim of this EOI is to identify researchers from across the country to join the team being constituted for ICMR's Multistate Implementation Research Study on the Reduction of the treatment gap of Mental Disorders in the Country. The selected researchers shall be invited to join the research team and shall collaborate to develop a full research proposal and roll out the multisite research project under the guidance of ICMR, Hqrs. The process of development of protocol and research project implementation shall be reviewed by an independent Task Force Committee. The goal is to decrease the treatment gap for mental disorders by increasing access to evidence-based mental health services.

Objectives

- To encourage the implementation of evidence-based approaches for the reduction of the treatment gap of mental disorders in defined populations (block/district) in the country.
- Prioritize the development and evaluation of practical, scalable, and sustainable solutions focusing on the integration of local knowledge and expertise in the design and implementation of research projects.
- Foster collaboration and partnerships between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, mental health professionals, and community-based organizations to address the reduction of the treatment gap of mental disorders in India.

ICMR invites EOIs proposals that address the below-mentioned research question

Priority Research Question

How can the treatment gap of mental disorders, including substance use disorders, be reduced in defined populations (block/district) using necessary approaches to overcome specific barriers including digital technologies?

Expected Outcomes

The following outcomes are expected from the research project that shall be developed and implemented by the team under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs:

- Development of effective strategies for rolling out and scaling up evidence-based interventions to reduce the treatment gap of mental disorders in real-world settings.
- Increased access and better knowledge awareness of access to evidence-based mental health services in defined populations (block/district) in the country.
- Enhanced understanding of the factors that influence the adoption, implementation, and sustainability of mental health interventions in the country.
- Increased collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to facilitate the translation of research findings into policy-ready interventions developed through a defined process that are relevant to the Indian healthcare system.
- Strategies developed through the implementation research process to integrate the strengthening of health care systems and mental health interventions into national mental health programs in a feasible and scalable manner.

Target Population:

Defined populations (block/district) across the country including the underserved; population groups and regions. A mix of urban and rural populations will be preferred. These shall include populations that are not seeking medical help for their mental health problems as well as those already in contact with health care systems.

Research design:

A range of research designs, including qualitative and quantitative approaches, mixed methods design, and implementation science frameworks

Format of Expression of Interest (EOI) to be submitted

A. Rationale of proposed study including the choice of sites (states and districts) to be included where the implementation shall be carried out

The proposal should clearly state the rationale for the study, the recommended sites(which are likely to be relatively more vulnerable due to reasons of geography (remoteness; climate change; disaster-proneness); socio-economic or cultural disadvantage; may be preferentially included. (states and districts) and the likelihood of utilization of the model by stakeholders in the future. The proposal can also provide evidence from previous research on the topic in the county or elsewhere, and describe any district or state-specific challenges related to implementation for the target group(s).

B. Implementation Strategy

Provide a clear and detailed description of the intervention(s) to be implemented, including the target population, the intervention components, and the implementation strategies. You may include preparatory activities, mapping, a timeline, steps of implementation, measures of outcome, data management and deliverables.

C. Address feasibility and scalability

Address the feasibility and scalability of the proposed intervention or policy, including the resources needed for implementation, the capacity of the implementing organization, and the potential for wider adoption and scale-up.

D. Research Team

Summarise and justify the composition of the research team, based on the expertise of the individual team members in designing and implementing the project. Also, highlight the skill set and expertise the members shall bring to the research team that shall be constituted by the ICMR Hqrs for the development of final protocol and research project implementation.

E. Established relationships with state and district health systems and other stakeholders

Operational feasibility would be key for this implementation research study. Include the collaborations that have been established with the potential stakeholders and participants including state and district health systems, local communities, community leaders, and faith healers among others.

Illustrative Budget outline (additional to the 2-page limit)

The final site budgets for the proposal will be developed by the selected research team(s) under the guidance of ICMR. In this EOI, provide an estimated budget outline (no budget justification required at this stage) under the following headings: staff, recurring contingency, data management, travel and equipment.

One-page CV of the principal investigator and other key investigators (additional to the 2-page limit)

Please provide a one-page CV of the PI and other key investigators from each identified area. Each CV should include:

- Academic and professional qualifications
- Current position and affiliation
- Up to five most relevant previous research grants
- Upto five most relevant previous publications
- Experience in undertaking projects on mental health from the public health perspective

Review process:

The EOI documents for the ICMR's Multistate Implementation Research Study on the Reduction of the treatment gap of Mental Disorders will be evaluated and shortlisted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The ICMR team will screen the applications for technical accuracy and eligibility. The shortlisted teams will then collaborate to develop a detailed proposal, under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs, The proposal will be evaluated based on factors such as study design, feasibility, data management capabilities, prior experience, engagement with public health and potential for seamless integration. The feasibility and suitability of integration of the proposed methodology in the final proposal to be developed under the guidance of ICMR Hqrs shall also be considered while shortlisting the EOI.

Who can submit the EOI?

The EOI can be submitted through ONLINE MODE ONLY by scientists/ professionals who have regular employment in Medical Institutes/ Research Institutes/ Universities/ Colleges/ Government and semi-government organizations and NGOs (documentary evidence of their recognition including a DSIR certificate should be available).

Points to be kept in mind while submitting the EOI

1. The EOI must address the specific research question that is mentioned in the call text.
2. Collaborative, multi-centre, interdisciplinary, innovative research initiatives from the applicant will be encouraged..
3. Descriptive studies, systematic reviews and secondary data analysis will not be considered
4. Should focus on outcomes that are translatable into policy.
5. Evaluation of the development of indigenous technologies and solutions relevant to the Indian context may be prioritized
6. Foreign collaboration is not allowed under the call.

Interested parties should fill out the Google form at the below link and submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** as per the Format given above. Only shortlisted PI will be contacted

Link- <https://forms.gle/HZx4MTNpUyFp8JCK6>

Timeline

Activities	Date
Release of Call	16- June-2023
Last date for submission of EOI	20- July -2023
Shortlisting of EOIs	20-August-2023
Proposal Development Workshop	20-September-2023
Submission of a full proposal	30-September- 2023

For any queries related to the call, please contact

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