



Terms of Reference (ToR)

Study on

'Violence against women (VAW) including girls of Dalits and Adibashis who are living in the plainlands and affected by the COVID pandemic situation'.

Background:

In the backdrop of long-term systemic barriers to legal recourse, protection, and social services, Dalit and Adibashi women and girls are already vulnerable of violence against them by the local goons who want to grab their lands. Moreover, they face violence within their family, because they have become victims of domestic violence while locked down with their abusers, as unpaid caregivers in families and communities. Also, in the pandemic, as the local security agency's concentration is more focused on COVID response and enforcing lockdown, the thug and goons have become more aggressive towards the Dalit and Adibashi communities especially against the women and girls. The levels of violence and insecurity that Dalit women experience in home and outside are rarely matched with others. Dalit women face discrimination, exclusion, and violence as a result of both their caste and gender.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, violence and harassment against plainlands Adibashis and Dalits women has taken a violent shape as D/A communities in Bangladesh are having hard times due to the absence of work, income, food. . The pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on people, especially because of their gender, disabilities, ethnicities, socio-economic class, race, age, etc. Dalit and Adibashi women are now facing a great challenge because the violence against women and girls has been increasing during the Covid-19 pandemic though the Government of Bangladesh has already formulated the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, and Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010 on this regard. During the pandemic, a large number of both village and less privileged urban women and Dalit teenage girls have been forcefully married off.

HEKS/EPER intends to commission a study of which the overall purpose is to understand the scenario in detail on the violence against women/girl's situation during the pandemic and in the context of Dalit and Adibashis living in the plainlands.

Specific objectives of the study:

The study will be commissioned with the following purposes but not limited to –

- Prepare a narrative report finding impacts of 'Violence against women/girls considering the context of D/A and suggest recommendations targeting long-term development commitments made by the Government of Bangladesh.

- Depict the scenario and risk factors that have devastating impact of violation on women/ girls emerging due to COVID-19 pandemic and find out the protective factors so, the study report can be used as the model for the future interventions. in details on ‘Violence against Dalit and Adibashi women and girls living in the plainland’ with the presence of facts and figures;
- Having specific recommendation on sensitizing the Government and to advocate the relevant Govt. authorities to take tangible and necessary actions for ethnic minorities and Dalit communities particularly for women & girls.

Methodology:

It is anticipated that the study will combine a quantitative and qualitative survey. The quantitative survey will collect data from people of concerns (if necessary) as per subject of the study. The quantitative data will be analysed to identify patterns of rights violation. Afterwards, qualitative data will be collected through methodologies such as in-depth interviews at both households and individual level, FGDS or community meetings, participatory methods, and direct observation.

Consultant having relevant expertise and experience should adopt interactive and cutting-edge methods to capture facts-figures, ground reality, reviewing constitution, relevant country laws and policies and pinpoint causes of violence and negative impact on D/A women and girl’s education. From that expectation consultant will select Literature review, Focus Group Discussion (FGD), KII, Trend Analysis, PRA, case study/Most Significant Changes (MSC). Upon developing the first draft of the report, Consultant needs to solicit feedback from relevant personnel to present the final report.

Scope of work:

Ensuring active participation of people of concerns (PooCs), consultant needs to reach D/A community and its different sub-committees within project locations. To capture diverse insights from stakeholders working in that field, team should choose respondents from Adibashi, Dalit, mainstream people and elected representatives. In addition to that, to make the report national, Consultant needs to talk with relevant people, Media personnel, and Government high officials and local representatives. During working with community, consultant must reach out to the development practitioners who have been working with D/A people since long.

After completion, a draft report needs to be submitted to concern desk for getting their feedback. After incorporating feedbacks, Consultant will be eligible to submit its final version.

Expected Outputs and deliverables

- Desk review of existing laws, policies (Govt. & other civil society organizations) and another relevant research.
- A complete impact study will be submitted to the HEKS/EPER.



- An inception report will have to be submitted 07 days after the award notification and initial meeting for concept sharing with HEKS/EPER. After discussion and agreement on the proposed methodology, all tasks must be achieved within the specified schedule.
- The consultants will set the deadline of respective tasks and submit to HEKS/EPER country office.
- The study report will be submitted to HEKS/EPER with a standard research reporting format.
- The final study report is expected to contain maximum 30 pages and not less than 20 pages (without attachments) and be delivered in the electronic and hard version. HEKS/EPER will review the draft report and give feedback to the consultant within 10 working days after receiving draft report.
- The results of this study will be made available to any interested third parties and be presented in appropriate form in relevant networks. It will be the property of HEKS/EPER.
- FGD, KII, interview pictures, graph and chart, data table should be provided as annexures with the final draft of report.

Timeline:

The entire process supposed to be completed within **one month (1-30 July) from signing date.**

Selection criteria and hiring process:

HEKS/EPER will review the proposal in accordance to the following criteria-

- Individual/firm having at least five years' experience in the field of development particularly in human rights, comprehensive approach for developing research on marginalized specially Dalits and Adibahsi ethnic minority community.
- Proven record in the area of using interactive and qualitative research methods and produce high quality report.
- Having hands on experience to work with INGOs and donors.
- Convincing financial proposal.

Based on above criteria individual/firms will be selected for the assignment.

How to apply:

Interested individual/Firm must submit the following documents along with Technical & Financial Proposal :

- Technical & Financial Proposal.
- Consultant's CV (maximum 2 pages) highlighting related assignment completed, roles in the completed assignment, contact person with e-mail & mobile number or Maximum 2 pages firm profile highlighting related assignment completed including client name, contact person, e-mail, and cell number.
- Individual Profile (maximum 300 words).
- Copy of NID, TIN Certificate, trade license, VAT registration.



Location of the assignment:

Thakurgoan, Dinajpur, Noagoan, Rangpur, Rajshahi & Dhaka where most Dalits and plainlands Adibasi people lives under Rangpur, Rajshahi & Dhaka divisions.

Financial Budget and Payments: Payments will be based upon the following:

a total Budget of the work BDT**600,000 (BDT Six Lacs only)** including **vat and taxes**. Whereas,

30% will be paid upon signing of the contract.

30% will be paid upon submitting the first draft.

40% will be paid after completion of the assignment.

Application Instruction:

Interested person/ agencies/ consultant firms are requested to submit the proposal (both technical and financial) and documents in a sealed envelope on or before 5:00 PM, 24 June 2021 to:

HEKS/EPER, House # 28, 2nd Floor, Road # 11, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209

The Envelop must be marked with the title of the assignment. Complete applications should also be submitted electronically.

For any query please contact:

saibun.nessa@heks-eper.org