

TISS – BSDMA RESEARCH PROJECT

Advertisement for Individual/ Institutional Consultants/Consultancy firm for Flood Resilient Village Initiative and Social Vulnerability Assessment

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (www.tiss.ac.in), established in the year 1936 is a Deemed to be University, fully funded by the University Grants Commission, Govt of India. TISS is a Grade I University with NAAC score of 3.89/4 and is ranked 60 under NIRF University Rank Category for 2024.

With four campuses at Mumbai (main campus), Hyderabad, Guwahati and Tuljapur (rural campus), TISS currently offers 05 Undergraduate programmes, 47 Masters' Degree programmes and 20 Ph. D. programmes in a range of socially relevant inter-disciplinary areas of applied Social Sciences including 32 Bachelor of Vocational degree programmes.

Freedom and autonomy shape the positive work ethos and culture of the Institute and facilitate strong linkages between teaching, research, field action and policy engagement. The Institute encourages and supports researchers to engage in foundational, applied, field and action-oriented research, and it also nurtures research collaborations nationally and internationally, with a commitment to creating a just society through education, generation of knowledge and field action initiatives.

The Jamsetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, a pioneer in disaster education and research, offers cutting-edge interdisciplinary disaster management programmes at the Doctoral, Master's, Diploma and Certificate levels. The School engages with national and international Universities, Organization, Corporates and Government Institutions to address the pertinent global challenges of environmental degradation, increasing disasters, climate change and sustainable development. The school contributes to research, publications, policy action and innovative practice through its research and field action projects.

The state of Bihar experiences multiple hazards in the form of floods, drowning, lightning, fire, road accident, erosion, drought etc. Given the population density and the extent of poverty among the (predominantly rural) populace, a large section of the – vulnerable – population are exposed to these hazards. As a result, the state of Bihar faces high disaster risk. Since its establishment, the BSDMA has undertaken multiple activities, from formulations of plans, road maps and guidelines to engaging in training and capacity building across various stakeholders with the overall aim of Disaster Risk Reduction and Building Resilience.

To bridge the gap between academia and governance, the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA) and Jamsetji Tata School for Disaster Studies, TISS signed an MoU in Oct 2024 to work on the following specific areas as agreed upon by the two esteemed institutions. The project proposes 1&2. To evaluate two flagship programmes of the BSDMA: the Mukhyamantri School Safety Program (MSSP) and the Road Safety Programme. 3. Conduct Training Needs and Competency Assessment for public sector actors in the field of Disaster Management, 4. Prepare a Social Vulnerability Assessment Framework for a select district, and 5. Explore the interface between Social Vulnerability and Psychosocial Well-Being.

Background of the Specific Consultancy – Flood Resilient Village Initiative and Social Vulnerability Assessment

As part of the BSDMA-TISS research project, a pilot exploration for the Flood Resilient Village Initiative and Social Vulnerability Assessment is proposed. The Flood Resilient Village Initiative involves consultations with experts, community, and district to local government level functionaries of various line departments to develop a hybrid blue print of the Flood Resilient Village Initiative for a particular gram panchayath. Building on the hybrid blue print an assessment of training needs and competencies of public sector functionaries required to operationalize the same will be arrived at. As part of the Social Vulnerability Assessment, a framework is to be developed for social vulnerability assessment at the village level, combining existing secondary indicators available at the village level, spatial data and the priorities of village representatives (Mukhyas, Pradhans, Ward Members and Communities). Towards completing the above sub-projects the consultants are required to undertake the following tasks

Task to be undertaken:

1. Design the methodology and guide the project staff, to develop the technocratic blue print for the flood resilient village initiative
2. Design and execute the consultations with village representatives in multiple blocks to elicit their understanding of village level vulnerability and local priorities to develop a social vulnerability framework
3. Develop a Social Vulnerability Framework at the level of a village combining secondary indicators, spatial data and village representatives knowledge and priorities.
4. Design the methodology and oversee the development of social vulnerability indicator for a particular district
5. Guide the project staff with regard to report preparation, finalisation and presentation of the final report to relevant government departments.

Desirable Qualifications

The consultant/consultancy firm/ institutional consultants should have a demonstrated background in relevant substantive areas of Disaster Management/ Climate Change /Social Vulnerability Assessment/ Data Analytics and related fields. Proven competency in handling consultancy assignments from government and private organisations on related subject area is preferred.

Timeline

The overall assignment will comprise of 25 days of engagement spread over five months (to be completed by September 2025). Two trips to Bihar and all related costs incurred for field work and attending meetings would be funded by the project.

Number of vacancies: 01

Remuneration: Rs. 200000 (2 lakhs) + 18% GST

Applications from interested individuals/ institutions are sought on or before 26th April 2025.

Submit a brief description of the nature of past consultancy on related subject and the suitability for the current assignment.

Applicants are requested to submit their application at <https://forms.gle/MQZFawNS2Kf6gojGA>

The last date for application is 10 days from the date of advertisement on the TISS website.