

DETAILS REGARDING PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH STUDIES

Topics for research

Major Studies

1. Psychological analysis of marital problems
2. Sex trafficked female victims

Minor Study

1. Problems faced by women during COVID 19 Pandemic

The area of focus for each topic is given in detail. This should be used to prepare the proposal. **Applications are in hard copy only.**

Funding – Rs. Two lakh per major study, Rs. One lakh per minor study.

Time frame – Major study should be completed and report submitted to the Kerala Women's Commission within Eight months. Minor studies should be completed and report submitted to the Kerala Women's Commission within Four months.

Last date of receiving applications – **24-12-2020**

Address to which applications are to be sent-

The Secretary

Kerala Women's Commission

Near Lourde Church

Pattom P.O. TVM 695004

Specifications - Applicants should have at least PG in Social Sciences/other qualifications relevant to the topic. Previous research experience is a must.

Format of application

The application should contain the following

1. Bio data of applicant (including research experience)
2. Application expressing willingness to do research in select topic (should be dated and signed)
3. Detailed research topic containing –
 - Topic of research
 - Objectives of research
 - Research methodology
 - Sampling design
 - No of samples
 - Universe of study
 - Budget
 - Time frame

MAJOR STUDIES

1. Psychological analysis of marital problems

Conflicts and disagreements are inevitable in every close relationship, including marital relationship. Although conflicts in a marriage are inevitable, the need to be able to handle them appropriately especially as a couple is extremely important. A troubled marriage is itself a prime source of stress while simultaneously limiting the partner's

ability to seek support in other relationships (Coyne & DeLongis, 1986). For happy, healthy and satisfactory family life, husband and wife should understand and accept each other. The impact of a turbulent marriage is substantial. Couples getting into divorce due to marital problems are increasing day by day. Marital relationships of any kind, be they love marriages or arranged marriages can face issues and when the problems become intolerable and unable to manage, divorce is the option that many Keralites are taking. The great changes that have taken place in Kerala society in recent times have led to changes in the lives and behaviour of the people. Urbanisation, industrialisation, and globalisation have weakened the structure of family and marriage institution. The change in the social and familial structure of Kerala increased the rate of divorce. Kerala is considered as the divorce capital of India. Divorce of couples who have lived together for 15 to 20 years has been seen in Kerala society in recent times. There are many reasons for marital problems. Characteristics of individuals and changes in society play an important role. Both interpersonal and intrapersonal factors can influence marital relationships. Social support from family and significant others are important in improving marital tactic. Marital problems can be solved by effective counselling. Intervention at the right time, that is, when the marital relationship begins to fall apart, can reduce marital problems to some extent. But professional help is sought only when matters become complicated for anybody to handle or when there is threat of immediate divorce or separation. Kerala Women's Commission is providing free family counselling and pre-marital counselling to reduce marital problems and to reduce the rate of divorce. The majority of complaints received by the KWC each year are related to marital problems. That is why the KWC has chosen this topic for research. The main objective of the study is to analyse the psychological factors of the growing marital problems in Kerala and its adverse effects on family environment.

Sample should be taken from the following categories;

- Those who have been divorced for more than 5 years (Female 25 Male 25)

- Those who have been divorced for 1-5 years (Female 25 Male 25)
- Those who have been divorced for less than a year (Female 10 Male 10)
- Those who have filed complaints in family courts for getting divorce or settling marital problems (Female 50 Male 50). Sample should be taken from under 55 years of age.

The data should be representative of the whole of Kerala.

The major areas should be covered as follows;

Self esteem

Self concept

Emotional quotient

Stress tolerance

Attitude

Socioeconomic and educational background of respondents

Marital adjustment

Causes of Marital problems

Influence of in-laws and relatives

How marital problems affect children

Life satisfaction

Suggestions and recommendations to reduce marital problems

Sex trafficked female victims

Sex trafficking is a criminal offence under Article 23 of the Constitution of India, Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, and the Indian Penal Code (IPC) regardless of the consent of the victim. Trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation continues to be a significant issue in India. It is estimated that 16 million women are victims of sex trafficking in India a year; 40% of them are adolescents and children.

Women, especially those from poor families, are most vulnerable to trafficking. Unlike many other states where economic vulnerability is one of the main causes of trafficking, in Kerala reported cases indicate consumerism as one of the main causes. Most of the victims have been trafficked with promises of jobs, better career prospects, role in films and television serials, modeling or promises of love and marriage. Research suggests that a significant number of girls rescued from commercial sexual exploitation are re-trafficked. Non-acceptance by families and communities of girls who return home, lack of alternative sources of income or livelihood options and increasing demand for young girls from brothel owners contribute to the re-trafficking of victims. The rescued sex trafficked victims are invariably penniless, physically ill and psychologically broken. Poor rate of conviction of perpetrators of sexual violence and sex trafficking encourages such criminal activities. The KWC is committed to protect victims of sex trafficking and to take steps to prevent women from falling further into such rackets. Such a study may be of help to the government in formulating policies for the betterment of these categories. The study should be exploratory and descriptive in nature. This study should reveal what kind of support should be given to women who have escaped from such rackets and what precautions should be taken to prevent girls and women from falling into these traps. This study should be done through case study method. Data must be collected from at least 15 respondents.

Data should be collected in the following manner based on age.

40-50 yrs	- 5
30-40	- 5
20-30	- 5

The major areas should be covered as follows;

- Exploitation and violence faced by victims
- Which type of vulnerable groups are usually trapped into sex rackets
- The attitude of the society towards victim and culprit
- Things to watch out for women and girls not to fall into this racket
- Precautions to be taken by family, community, police etc.
- Existing support system

Objectives

To determine the factors for trafficking

To examine the socio-economic background of the victims at the time of trafficking and the current life situation

To identify the social issues confronted by the victims

To examine rehabilitation of the victims

To suggest policy recommendations

Problems faced by women during COVID 19 Pandemic

Kerala, India and the world today are going through a special period. Everyone knows that the COVID 19 pandemic is the catastrophe of this century. It can be seen that the social life of the human being was most affected by this pandemic. The COVID 19 pandemic was also reported for the first time in India in Kerala, which ranks first in literacy, education and health. The state is using innovative and comprehensive approaches to handle the situation. The impacts of crises are never gender-neutral, and COVID-19 is no exception. Women are immediate and direct victims of any pandemic. The challenges women face are complex and interrelated. Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence increases during crises. It was also the first experience for the people

when a complete lock down was announced across the country in March, April and May 2020. Lockdown measures and school closures affect girls and women differently and may have long-term negative consequences. Globally, 58 per cent of employed women work in informal employment, and during the first month of the pandemic, informal workers globally lost an average of 60 per cent of their income. 72 per cent of domestic workers have lost their jobs. Most of the single parents are women. With the loss of jobs, the only source of income for these families ceased. During lock down, some women were stuck with violent partners. Women who are poor and marginalized face an even higher risk of COVID-19 transmission and fatalities, loss of livelihood, intensification of work and increased violence. During the lockdown period, the KWC supported women through programmes such as tele counselling. It was then decided to conduct a study on the problems that women faced during COVID19 pandemic. This study should analyse the problems faced by women in the particular period of today's COVID 19 pandemic and to suggest recommendations to cope with this pandemic and similar situations. Data should be collected from women in different fields of life. The data should be representative of the whole of Kerala and hence sample selection should be done accordingly and it should not be less than 500. Age should be between 18- 80 years. The targeted population for the study should include the following –

A) Kudumbasree activists B)MGNREGS workers C) Domestic workers D)Fisher women E)Tribal women F) Self employed women G) Elder women H) Single mothers I) Women working in unorganised sector J) Sales girls K)Casual labourers.

The major areas should be covered as follows;

Problems faced by women in the lock down period

Financial problems in families following COVID 19 pandemic

Women who lost their jobs

How COVID19 affects social relations

Domestic violence during lockdown

School closures pose for girls

Role of kudumbasree

Role of Anganwadi workers

Revival strategies

Suggestions and Recommendations

Terms and conditions.

1. Progress of the study taken up must be intimated and review of the study will be conducted before finalizing it.
2. A draft should be submitted for approval before submission of final report.
3. Final report submitted will be scrutinized by an expert committee constituted by the Kerala Women's Commission and random checks of the data collected will be conducted.
4. Short comings if any, pointed out by the expert committee have to be rectified.
5. An abstract of the study and the findings and recommendations arrived at should be presented before the Kerala Women's Commission as PPT for acceptance and approval by the Kerala Women's Commission.
6. The final payment will be made with in a period of three months after the scrutiny and acceptance of the report by the Kerala Women's Commission.
7. The publication as well as copyright of the reports are vested with the Kerala Women's Commission once it is accepted. Due acknowledgment will be given to the individuals and institutions who have conducted the study.
8. The responsibility of factual errors, if any found in the report will be vested with the institution or person who conducted the study, which have to be rectified as directed by the Kerala Women's Commission.

9. When the research proposal is accepted, the head of the organization or the person responsible for the study has to sign an agreement in prescribed form, on a stamp paper for the value of Rs.100/- .
10. Connected Registers, Bills, Vouchers must be handed over to the Kerala Women's Commission along with 3 copies of the report with CD.
11. Final report of the major study must have a minimum of 150 pages and that of minor studies must have 100 pages. Photos/pictures should be given as appendix only and will not be treated as part of the research study report.
12. In addition, a summary report consisting of only the findings of the study along with the recommendations should be submitted separately, both in English and Malayalam.
13. 25% of the total cost will be released in advance as soon as the research proposal on the entrusted study is submitted and approved.
14. The duration of each research study is 4 months for minor studies and eight months for major studies from the date of execution of the agreement. The report should be submitted to the Kerala Women's Commission within the above period. Time schedule stipulated must be strictly adhered to.