

AGA KHAN RURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (INDIA)



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

1. Instructions

All proposals must be writing, in the English language, and signed and dated by an authorized person of the bidder. Bidders must use the guidelines provided in this RFP.

2. Validity

The proposal validity period should be at least forty-five (45) days following the Bid Deadline. This should be clearly mentioned in both the technical and financial proposal.

3. Costs of preparing bid

No costs incurred by the bidder in preparing and submitting the bid shall be reimbursable. All such costs shall be borne by the bidder. If proposed experts were interviewed or called for presentation, all costs shall be borne by the bidder.

4. Ownership of bid

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) retains ownership of all bids received under this bid procedure. Consequently, bidders have no right to have their bid returned to them.

5. Alteration or withdrawal of bids

Bidders may alter or withdraw their bids by written notification prior to the stated deadline for submission of bids. No bids may be altered after this deadline. Withdrawals must be unconditional and will end all participation in the bid procedure.

6. Opening of bid

The bid will be opened by the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) within 15 days from the deadline for the submission of the bid. Any attempt by a bidder to influence the evaluation committee in the process of examination, clarification, evaluation and comparison of bids, to obtain information on how the procedure is progressing or to influence the contracting authority in its decision concerning the award of the contract will result in immediate rejection of its bid.

7. Submission of bids

The bid has to be submitted as per the prescribed annexure on or before **13th October 2025**, to kanchan.jasmatiya@akdn.org.

7.1 Technical and financial proposals should be submitted simultaneously, with the RFP reference and a clear description of the proposal (technical or financial) by the date and time stipulated in this document. If the emails and email attachments are not marked as instructed, AKRSP(I) will assume no responsibility for the misplacement or premature opening of the proposals submitted.

7.2 Email text bodies should indicate the name and address of the bidder and the description of the proposal (technical or financial). The technical email should not contain any pricing information, nor should the financial email contain any component of the technical proposal.

7.3 The technical proposal should not contain any details of the financial proposal / budget. Any financial information contained in the technical proposal will invalidate the proposal.

8. Request for Clarification

All questions regarding the preparation of proposals must be submitted in writing (by e-mail) to kanchan.jasmatiya@akdn.org by **10th October 2025**. Responses will be provided to all interested organizations by **13th October 2025** through email. The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) is under no obligation to consider or respond to questions that are not received in a timely manner.

9. Content of bids

Each bid must comprise a technical offer and a financial offer, each of which must be submitted separately in a single email. The Technical offer must include the technical proposal must

include detailed methodology and timeline, based on the given project detail and the financial offer should be a separate sheet with financial details.

10. Evaluation of bids

All proposals will be evaluated by the review committee based on the extent to which proposals meet the selection criteria, to the extent that they are deemed necessary, negotiations may be conducted with highest rated bidders. In evaluating proposals, the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) will follow a Quality and Cost Based Selection, using a three-stage value selection procedure. The most economically advantageous bid is established by weighing technical quality including understanding of the scope of work, proposed methodology and approach for completing the assignment, Organization profile, experience of conducting studies, research and publication, timeline against price.

PROJECT DETAILS

IMPACT STUDY FOR YUVA JUNCTION

(Placement Linked Skill Development Project)

About AKRSP(I)

The Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India) [AKRSPI] has been committed to improving the quality of life for rural and tribal communities by focusing on livelihood enhancement, education, and skill development. One of the key challenges faced by rural youth is the lack of access to employability-focused training that bridges the gap between academic learning and industry requirements.

The Yuva Junction Programme was launched to address this challenge in 2012. It is designed to equip youth—especially from vulnerable communities such as landless families, widows, single women, and tribal groups—with market-relevant skills, life skills, and industry exposure, enabling them to secure and sustain decent employment in the organised sector.

Project Background

Geographic Focus:

The project is implemented in **13 blocks** across tribal, drought-prone, salinity-affected, and flood-prone rural districts in:

- **Gujarat:** Dangs, Tapi, Surat, Bharuch, Junagadh, Devbhumi Dwarka, Surendranagar, Morbi
- **Bihar:** Samastipur and Vaishali
- **Target Group:**

The program focuses on **school/college dropouts** aged **18–35 years**, with at least a **10th-grade education**, belonging to **rural and marginalized communities**, especially:

 - Women
 - Minorities
 - Dalits
 - Landless and low-income families
 - Tribals
- **Implementation Strategy:**
 - Training through **13 Yuva Junction centers**

- **Blended learning** using classroom and digital tools
- **Community mobilization** via AKRSPI's existing network and alumni
- **Counseling and assessments** before and during training
- **NSDC certification** upon successful completion
- **Placement support** in cities

Project Rationale

The Skills Development Project by AKRSPI is designed to address the pressing issues of unemployment and underemployment among rural youth in Gujarat and Bihar, particularly those from marginalized communities. These regions face challenges such as limited access to formal employment, high dropout rates, and restricted mobility—especially for women. The project bridges the gap between available job opportunities and the skill sets of youth by offering training in high-demand sectors like retail sales, IT/ITES, beautician, and stitching. It emphasizes gender inclusion, aiming for 50% female participation, and leverages AKRSPI's existing community networks for outreach and mobilization. Through blended learning, counselling, NSDC certification, and placement & post placement support, the initiative provides a structured pathway for youth to transition into formal employment or entrepreneurship.

Objectives of project:

The primary objective of the Yuva Junction Programme is:

To prepare rural and tribal youth or marginalised communities, especially women, with the technical, digital, financial, and workplace readiness skills necessary to secure and sustainable employment in the organised sector, thereby contributing to their socio-economic empowerment.

Key aims include:

- Equipping youth with essential life skills, digital literacy, financial literacy, and work readiness.
- Providing trade-specific, NSDC-approved trade specific training aligned with industry needs.
- Supporting youth in career planning, job search, and placement into the organised sector.

- Ensuring gender inclusivity with a minimum of 50% women participation.
- Building long-term employability through skill–reskill–upskill opportunities.

Project Coverage:

Yearly Participants Count					
States	Name. of Centres	Y1	Y2	Y3	Total Year 3
	From				
	To				
Bihar	Sarairanjan	105	180	165	450
	Kalyanpur	105	180	165	450
	Biddupur	105	180	165	450
Gujarat	Subir	105	180	165	450
	Songarh	105	180	165	450
	Vyara	105	180	165	450
	Mandvi	105	180	165	450
	Vankal	105	180	165	450
	Rajparadi	105	180	165	450
	Manavdar	105	180	165	450
	Jamkhambaliya	105	180	165	450
	Chotila	105	180	165	450
	Wankaner	105	180	165	450
Total		1365	2340	2145	5850

Scope of studies

The consultant is expected to collect both qualitative and quantitative type of data, and the sample size should represent of all levels of household. It is expected that the consultant should develop overall design of the study which include questionnaire preparation, sampling, data collection, data entry, data analysis and report writing.

Key area to focus

1. Training Delivery and Quality
2. Achievement of Project Targets
3. Employment and Livelihood Outcomes
4. Gender and Social Inclusion
5. Beneficiary Experience and Satisfaction
6. Community Mobilization and Outreach
7. Institutional Linkages and Certification
8. Monitoring and Reporting Systems
9. Sustainability and Scalability
10. Documentation and Knowledge Products

Expected outcome:

The third-party evaluation is expected to assess the overall effectiveness and impact of the AKRSPI Skills Development Project by measuring key outcomes such as the number of youth trained and certified, employment and self-employment rates, and improvements in income and livelihood security. It should evaluate the inclusivity of the program, particularly the participation of women and marginalized communities, and the relevance and quality of training provided. The evaluation will also examine the functionality of training centers, the effectiveness of community mobilization, and the sustainability and scalability of the project model. Additionally, it should document success stories, validate reported data, and provide actionable recommendations for future programming and replication.

ANNEXURE: GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL AND BUDGET

The technical proposal should be in the English language, typed, single-spaced, and with each page numbered consecutively. The maximum number of pages for each component of the technical proposal is given below:

A. Technical Approach (not to exceed 5 pages)

The proposal should provide a detailed description of how the agency will approach and complete the scope of work, including:

1. How the agency will develop the sampling strategy and tools.
2. How the agency will ensure data ethics, data control and data rights.
3. Draft analysis plan with respect to project key performing indicators.
4. Detailed timeline for commencement and expected completion of the study including expected time of draft and final endline report.
5. How the agency will ensure quality of data collection (including a description of ongoing monitoring and quality control procedures among interviewers and other project staff).
6. How the agency will ensure the quality of data management, including management of hard copies of surveys, quality assurance of data entry and cleaning of the database.
7. How the interviewers will be selected and what the content of their training will be.

B. Proposed project personnel (not to exceed 3 pages, excluding resumes)

The applicant will propose personnel who will be responsible for carrying out various aspects of the project such as project lead and manager, technical support, interpreters/translators, interviewers, data entry and analysis personnel and other key staff. A current resume for key persons shall be included in the proposal.

C. Management and Supervision (not to exceed 2 page)

The applicant will describe its management, supervision, and administrative arrangements for executing this project, including the functions and responsibilities of the proposed project team.

The applicant should explicitly describe how the project lead will manage the project, how the person responsible for fieldwork will monitor study progress, what the nature and frequency of communication with the data collectors and how data will be managed during data collection.

D. Capability Statement (not to exceed 3 pages)

A statement on company capabilities including:

1. A background summary of the organization outlining areas of expertise.
2. A description of key agency personnel.
3. A current list of clients and any direct experience the agency has working on relevant evaluations.

E. A timeline/implementation plan (not to exceed 2 pages)

As part of the proposal, a Gantt chart illustrating the timeline/implementation plan should be prepared that includes major activities as they relate to the scope of work and demonstrates how the work will be accomplished within the allotted time frame.

F. A detailed budget submitted in INR

This budget should include staff and consultant's salaries, travel/transportation, accommodation, training and any other indirect or direct costs. The proposed budget should include GST/applicable taxes as per government norms.