

SCM /Tender Ref #:	DWYPD 01-2022/23
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Request for proposals for:	Outcomes Evaluation of age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education on learners in South African public schools.
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1. BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

In South Africa girls and women face many challenges, among them is the lack of access to sanitary dignity products. This has a negative effect on their education and health status as well as their broader participation within society. Further, this works against the government effort to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

One of the goals Department of Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD) goals under the Mainstreaming Women's Rights & Advocacy (MWRA) programme is to facilitate and promote the attainment of socio-economic empowerment of women and gender equality. Further, the sub-programme Social Empowerment and Women (SEW) aims to provide intervention mechanisms on policies and programme implementation for mainstreaming the social empowerment and participation of women towards social transformation. In order to provide intervention mechanisms for gender mainstreaming for women's social empowerment and participation, the department in collaboration with other government departments developed the Sanitary Dignity Implementation Framework (SDIF) on the provision of sanitary products to indigent persons in an effort to ensure that such persons are afforded the opportunity to manage menstruation in a knowledgeable, safe and dignified manner.

Section 6.4 of the Sanitary Dignity Implementation Framework (SDIF) states that it is of utmost importance that every girl who is approaching puberty, be prepared for menarche. As such a young girl needs to be educated on proper menstrual health management before they experience menstruation for the first time. This is necessary to ensure that such persons are able to manage and cope with challenges of menstruation effectively and in a dignified manner. The teachings must include the following:

- (i) understanding physical and emotional changes during puberty;
- (ii) knowing the biology around menstruation;
- (iii) acceptable hygienic practices;
- (iv) choice and use of sanitary products;
- (v) importance of safety of storage and disposal of sanitary products;
- (vi) demystifying cultural taboos, myths and practices;
- (vii) accurate information on dealing with pain, nutrition and other health aspects; and
- (viii) Empowerment on making choices that will enable girls / women to access opportunities that will lead to a better life (SRHR).

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has instituted a programme on Age Appropriate Comprehensive Sexuality Education in public schools through its Life Orientation subject to sensitise learners about issues of sexual reproductive health rights, menstrual health, gender based violence, teenage pregnancy, etc. in order to create a well-rounded, holistic human being. The department also introduced scripted learning (scripted lesson plans) in order to guide educators so that they conduct lessons uniformly across schools.

The DWYPD developed the sanitary dignity programme to accord free sanitary pads to learners in quintiles 1 - 3, farm and special schools (phase one). It is therefore imperative to find out to what extent girl learners are taught at school about the menstrual process, bodily changes, dealing with menstrual pain, use and disposal of sanitary pads, etc.

It is against this background that the DWYPD is conducting an outcomes evaluation study on the impact of age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education on learners in South African public schools.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT / PURPOSE

The sanitary dignity programme is one of the priorities of government which addresses access to good health. It is not enough to dispense sanitary pads to girl learners without them having a good grasp and understanding of the menstrual process and not being victims of stigmatisation due to lack of thorough knowledge of the bodily changes.

Further, it is critical to evaluate the effectiveness of the subject at school and to determine whether educators at school level are suitably trained and fit for purpose to render such a sensitive and important subject to learners without the prejudice of religion and culture.

3. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF PROJECT

The evaluation exercise will enable the DWYPD to:

- Assess the effectiveness of the Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) subject implemented in public schools;
- Assess if the implementation of the subject matter is well monitored;
- Determine current best practices in the provision of CSE in public schools;
- Identify lessons learnt in the provision of CSE in public schools; and
- Reflect on strengths (opportunities) and weakness (challenges) on implementation of CSE in public schools.

4. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY / APPROACH

The service provider is expected to provide a proposed approach and methodology for the study. The outcomes evaluation should use a mixed methods approach, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methods. The assignment will involve both a desktop assessment of the available

literature including interface with relevant government officials and field study in four provinces to collect primary data with relevant stakeholders.

5. DELIVERABLES AND TIME FRAMES

The service provider will be expected to carry out the following tasks:

- Develop and submit an inception report outlining work plan including literature review, methodology, design/sampling, data collection plan and tools;
- Undertake an analysis of relevant available data, including secondary data, official documents and official statistics;
- Revise/finalize study protocol and tools;
- Undertake data collection in four provinces;
- Undertake data analysis and report writing in narrative and graphic form;
- The service provider is expected to highlight in their findings the existing practices for implementation of CSE in public schools;
- Present the findings for validation and enhancement and make the necessary amendments;
- Develop a final report in both electronic format and in hard copy;
- Provide weekly status reports and update the project plan; and
- Keep records of all data collected for DWYPD's use.

The evaluation study is expected to be conducted over a period of six months (March 2023 to September 2022).

Description	Expected date	% of project (Payment)
Approved inception report with project plan	March 2023	30%
Approved report structure, evaluation matrix, analytical framework, final data collection instruments and other tools	April 2023	10%
Baseline data collected	May – June 2023	
Final data collected	June – July 2023	
Presentation of the documents for validation and enhancement and make necessary amendments	August 2023	25%
Approval of final project plan	August 2023	25%
Power point presentation of the report and provision of all datasets, metadata and survey documentation (including interview transcripts)	September 2023	10%

6. PROJECT MANAGEMENT / REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

The consultant will be guided and supervised by a member from the Social Empowerment of Women Chief Directorate of the DWYPD to ensure that the consultant maintains focus and quality of the study.

7. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- The approach and methodology must be in compliance with the Public Service Regulatory Framework. Prospective service providers must provide a detailed exposition of the procedure that they will use to execute the service.
- It is expected of the service provider to provide personal resources, systems and capital equipment needed for effective and efficient delivery of the service.