

INDICATIVE LIST OF PROJECTS

Project Idea #1: Strengthening Community Libraries in Aspirational Districts

Background and Rationale

It is well acknowledged globally that free public library services contribute to improved outcomes across all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One of the Government of India's attempts to support public libraries has been the National Mission on Libraries. In addition, several State Governments have enacted legislation to make provisioning of public libraries a legal mandate, including, in some cases, provisioning for taxation to support them. 69 out of the 112 Aspirational Districts fall in such States.

Several Aspirational Districts have already utilised award funds based on monthly ranking for library projects. While District Administrations have successfully executed civil works and procurement-based activities, they have found it challenging to realise the full potential of libraries to serve community interests, due to various ground realities. In light of this, NITI Aayog is proposing a multi-district project to support free community libraries in Aspirational Districts. Providing curriculum support through a team of curriculum experts, building capacity through Training of Trainers method, and implementing library management programmes to establish models of excellence will be the core components of this project. The scope of the project may include additional components based on feedback received from the Districts, and shall take different shapes in different Districts.

Project Objective

To establish safe and open to all spaces, at the heart of the community through free libraries (at district/block/panchayat/ village level) in Aspirational Districts through:

- Providing free access to educational and recreational resources (diverse range of books, subscriptions, periodicals, recreational materials, etc.) to promote literacy and education.
- Addressing lack of educational resources and opportunities in the community, particularly among low-income households and marginalized groups, special groups like children, differently abled, elderly people, and ethnic minorities.
- Fostering a sense of community ownership by providing a welcoming and inclusive space for residents to gather, interact, and engage with each other.
- Providing curriculum support to welcome those who have been historically excluded from reading by addressing components like access, choice, and a strong circulation program. For instance, introducing hesitant readers to a fluent reading experience through read alouds and fostering independent reading and critical thinking skills.

List of Key Activities

- a. *Identifying status quo of community libraries in the District*
 - i. Identifying existing libraries which can be leveraged by the District Administration to create excellent free libraries at the district/ block/panchayat/ village level.
 - ii. Taking stock of the available librarians and support staff for the project.

b. Formation of a Core Committee for monitoring and maintenance of the Library(ies)

May comprise members from Civil Works Committee; District Education Department; Internal Complaints Committee, Child Protection Committee; Panchayati Raj Institutions; District Planning Office, with DM/ DC as Chairperson. NGO/ Implementing Agency (Affiliated to a team of library curriculum experts, ideally networked to models of excellence & open curriculum) may be involved.

c. Capacity building to operationalise the Community Library(ies)

Guidelines for Capacity Building (including curriculum and policy design, safety and inclusivity policies, implementing best practices) will be shared by NITI Aayog.

Estimated costs (Indicative estimates for reference only)

S.No	Activity	Responsibility	Financial Outlay (In lakh)			
			Dist	Block	Panch	Vill
1.	Training of Core Committee members/ Library Staff (includes curriculum design, facilitation, material costs; may differ with no. of trainees, periodicity of trainings and other requirements of District)	District Admin in partnership with Implementation agency/ NITI Aayog	3	2	2	2
2.	Hiring staff (Librarian, Curriculum Director, Maintenance, based on UNESCO Guidelines)	District Admin	Will differ from State to State			
3.	Library Programming to enhance user participation, education & engagement	District Admin	4.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
4.	Books/Recreational Material/Magazines/ Subscriptions (may include recurring costs, based on UNESCO Guidelines)	District Admin in partnership with implementing agency	5.50	3.00	1.20	1.20
5.	Internet facility/Link up to Digital Library	District Admin	Convergence with existing schemes/ Institutionalisation of Free and Open Source library management software			
6.	Renovation/ Upgradation/ Goods	District Admin	As per District requirement			
7.	Contingency Fund		10%	10%	10%	10%
	Total*		13.00	6.00	5.00	5.00

**Final totals may increase depending on actual units as finalised by Districts.*

Project Idea #2: Strengthening ECCE via Anganwadis preferably in PVTG/ST blocks

Background and Rationale

This project aims to strengthen Early Childhood Care and Nutrition (ECCE) in the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in the most hard-to-reach blocks with a high share of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) population.

Project Objective

This project will aim to ensure universal access to Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in AWCs in blocks with PVTG/ST population in Aspirational Districts.

List of Key Activities

1. Provisioning for child development by creation of spaces within AWCs provision of Made-in-Bharat toys for cognitive development of children
2. Capacity building of Anganwadi Workers (AWW) to implement ECCE and provide counselling services
3. Increasing awareness on the importance of ECCE
4. Interior as well as exterior painting in line with Building as Learning Aid (BALA)

We encourage districts to implement this project in the hard-to-reach blocks with ST and/or PVTG population.

Monitoring Plan

Indicators related to learning abilities and social protection will be impacted. Additionally, the nutrition indicators monitored by Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) will also be impacted through the project:

Type	Name
Indicator	Proportion of AWCs with own buildings
Indicator	Percentage of pregnant women regularly taking Supplementary Nutrition under the Integrated Child Development Scheme programme
Indicator	Percentage of breastfeeding children receiving adequate diet (6-23 months)
Indicator	Percentage of underweight children under 6 years
Indicator	Percentage of Severe Acute Malnourishment (SAM) in children under 6 years to total children under 6 years
Indicator	Percentage of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in children under 6 years to total children under 6 years

Indicator	Percentage of Anganwadis/Urban Primary Health Centres reported to have conducted at least one Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition day / Urban Health Sanitation & Nutrition day outreach in the last one month
Indicator	Percentage of low birth weight babies (less than 2500g)

Estimated costs (Indicative estimates, for reference only)

Sr no	Task	Units	Per Unit Cost (in Rs.)	Total Cost (in Rs.)
1.	BaLA Painting	1	50,000	50,000
2.	ECCE Material	1	50,000	50,000
3.	Toys	1	10,000	10,000
4.	Nutri-garden	1	50,000	50,000
5.	Quarterly training and Capacity building of AWW	1	3,000	3,000
Cost for 1 Anganwadi Centre				1,63,000
Cost for 500 Anganwadi Centre				8,15,00,000
Cost for 1000 Anganwadi Centre				16,30,00,000

Project Idea #3 : Inclusive Livelihood issues

Background and Rationale

This project aims to help ultra-poor households build sustainable livelihoods and exit extreme poverty. It involves a multi-dimensional package of interventions that are tailored to the specific needs of each household. These interventions may include-

1. Livelihood support: providing productive assets such as livestock or tools, or supporting income-generating activities such as small businesses.
2. Financial services: providing savings and credit services to help households build assets and manage cash flow.
3. Skills training: providing training in areas such as agriculture, entrepreneurship, or financial management.
4. Coaching and mentoring: providing regular coaching and support to help households stay on track and overcome challenges.
5. Basic social protection: providing access to health services, education, and other basic needs.

Such a programme is typically implemented over a period of 18-24 months, and includes regular monitoring and evaluation to ensure that households are making progress towards sustainable livelihoods and exiting extreme poverty.

Project Objective

The objective of the project is to help people living in extreme poverty to build sustainable livelihoods and escape the cycle of poverty.

List of Key Activities

Under the Aspirational districts program, this approach could be implemented via two options- Target participants in rural, peri-urban and urban areas could be identified by district collectors either via community organisations or household surveys conducted by the administration. The program could be tailored to specific target groups such as the PVTGs within districts that have a density of PVTG population. For the PVTG population, the choice of livelihoods needs to be further emphasised. Participants should be able to pursue traditional livelihoods such as NTFP (non-timber forest produce) marketing or training for skills-based, vocational employment.

Broadly, these would be the components of the program:

1. Develop a cadre of Livelihood Coaches for every target area
2. Identification of households

3. Enable access to government programmes
3. Create a Livelihood Ecosystem in every district
4. Skills, Assets, Employment, and Financial Inclusion

Estimated costs (Indicative estimates, for reference only)

Illustratively, if a District identifies 500 households, the estimated cost would be around Rs. 3.5 crores. The cost of implementing this program is estimated at Rs. 1,20,000/- per household over a period of two years. Productive Assets (micro-enterprise, livestock, agriculture) transfer of an average value of Rs.60,000 is given in 2-3 tranches with a limit of Rs. 100,000/-

For one household over the program period of 24 months	
Activity	Indicative Cost (in Rs.)
Livelihood Investment	1,00,000
Livelihood Gap Assistance	10,000
Health care Support	Funds for covering the family under PMJAY

Project Idea #4 : Rejuvenation of Water Bodies

Background and Rationale

Many districts in India are water-stressed due to lower rainfall, over-exploitation of groundwater and frequent droughts. Water bodies across the country are partially (or completely) filled with silt, limiting their water storage capacities and recharge. Rejuvenation of water bodies is a scalable model that addresses immediate water needs of communities through large-scale people's participation. It is critical that communities are mobilized and encouraged to participate and take ownership of their water resources development actions through in-village water conservation measures. Rejuvenation of water bodies with people's participation has proven as an effective, time and cost-efficient intervention that supplements other watershed interventions by enhancing/restoring storage capacities. The objective of rejuvenation of water bodies is to alleviate water-stress in districts through increased storage and ground water recharge capacities.

Estimated costs (Indicative estimates, for reference only)

Particulars	Cost per cubic meters (in Rs.)
Cost of machine rental including diesel*	30
Carting Cost	75
Project Management and Admin Cost	10
Total cost per unit	115
On average, 10000 cubic meters per water body is desilted, so the total cost per water body will be Rs. 11.5 lakhs of which government expenditure will be Rs. 3 lakhs.	

**Approximate as cost of diesel varies by state*

Project Idea #5 : C-DoT 5G Solution suite : 5G solutions to bring digital transformation in key social sectors

Background and Rationale

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) is accelerating digital transformation across socio-economic verticals, through telecom startups, MSMEs mission and 5G vertical engagement partnership programme. This includes collaborating with startups, SMEs and industries to potential user communities viz. State Governments, Aspirational Districts, Smart Cities, etc. Under this initiative, Center for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) has initiated 5G solutions in Vidisha (Aspirational District in Madhya Pradesh) in community and district health centres, model schools, agri and dairy farms, and skill development centres.

Project objective

1. eHealth Solution Suit

The CDOT eHealth product suite enables the government to provide medical services including interfacing with empaneled government Doctors/Expert support, and Pathology/Testing/examination facilities, at Remote/ Rural Locations of India. The AI Enabled consultation platform in conjunction with Remote Testing machines, that can be operated by unskilled/semi-skilled persons at the CHC, together serve the required medical facilities in the remote/ rural locations. An All-in-One Medical Testing and Video Consultation platform will be installed at the CHC of a Remote Location and with the help of an Anganwadi worker, a Patient will get medically tested and will be able to consult with a Doctor/ Expert in a city. The pricing will include Operational & Service support up to 1 Year (from the date of deployment).

2. eLearning, Awareness and Learning Solution

The CDOT eLearning product suite enables the government to render educational content to the students in remote villages. This solution also comprises a local content delivery system that is able to stream downloaded educational and awareness videos to the villagers, while the internet connectivity is down in the village. The solution can also fetch Free-To-Air channels through a DTH service and can transmit it to the villagers over a WiFi network. The solution comprises of following components:

1. Satellite TV Services: It captures the Free-To-Air channels through a DTH service and makes them streaming ready.
2. Local Content Delivery Services: It performs the task of streaming the locally stored educational content and the DTH content, to the devices of the villagers.
3. Mobile App: It helps in rendering the streamed video content, on the mobile phones of the villagers.