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New Delhi - 110067
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AWARD LETTER

F.No. 21/2nd LSS/2025-1695-GOV/SCD

Date: 19.08.2025

To,
The Registrar
Giri Institute of Development Studies (GIDS)
Lucknow
Uttar Pradesh 226024

Subject: Award of Research Project titled "**Panchayat Governance and Gender Equity: A Longitudinal Study of Aspirational and Non-Aspirational Districts of Uttar Pradesh**" under the "2nd Call for ICSSR Longitudinal Studies in Social and Human Sciences" to **Dr. Animesh Roy, Prof. Harsh Sharma, Dr. Nagendra K. Maurya, Dr. Udai Bhan Singh, Dr. Sushma Mishra, Mr. Manish Kumar Singh.**

ICSSR congratulates you on the award of Research Project under Special Call for "2nd Call for ICSSR Longitudinal Studies in Social and Human Sciences", based on recommendations of the Experts Committee.

1. The ICSSR has approved the award of **Research Project** under 2nd Call for ICSSR Longitudinal Studies in Social and Human Science. The Research Project is submitted by **Dr. Animesh Roy** of your Institution.

The study, as proposed by the researcher, is to be located at and financially administered by your institution as per the guidelines of this award.

2. The ICSSR has awarded a grant-in-aid of **Rs. 1,20,00,000/-** for the above research project and the grant will be released as follows:

First Year	First Instalment (40 % of sanctioned grant-in-aid):	Rs. 48,00,000/-
Second Year	Second Instalment (20 % of sanctioned grant-in-aid):	Rs. 24,00,000/-
Third Year	Third Instalment (20% of sanctioned grant-in-aid):	Rs. 24,00,000/-
Fourth Year	Fourth Instalment (20% of sanctioned grant-in-aid):	Rs. 24,00,000/-
Total :		Rs. 1,20,00,000/-

3. Please note that the approval of ICSSR is subject to fulfillment of eligibility criteria and other conditions of ICSSR. The Sanction Order will be issued after uploading the following original documents in ICSSR portal.

- a. Duly notarized undertaking on non-judicial stamp paper of Rs.100/-
- b. Duly notarized declaration on non-judicial stamp paper of Rs.100/-
- c. Acceptance of the Awarded Project with the Date of Commencement.
- d. Original forwarding Letter duly signed/ stamped by statutory authority.
- e. Grant-in-aid bill (Pre-receipt) duly filled in for the first instalment.
- f. Letter/ certificate regarding status of the affiliating Institute and a proof of institution's eligibility to receive the grant of ICSSR.

[Signature]

g. Approval of Ethical Committee/ Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)/ Research Development Committee.

h. Duly filled PFMS form.

You are once again required to review the eligibility criteria as per the guidelines of the **"2nd Call for ICSSR Longitudinal Studies in Social and Human Sciences"** and ensure that you fulfill all requirements as per the guidelines, both as an individual and as an institution for the studies. If you or your institution is not eligible to receive ICSSR grant as per the guidelines, please recuse yourself from receiving the award. Concealing any information or violation of any guideline will not only cancel the project but ICSSR may further take action against the institution or individual.

4. If you have been awarded another project under any other program of ICSSR, and the Sanction Letter for that project has been issued, you are requested to proceed with the earlier sanction and inform us accordingly. In such situation, the current award will not be considered operational.
5. If you have already been awarded a project, and the sanction letter has not been issued yet, you may choose between the two awards and inform us which project you would like to proceed with.
6. All the Payments and Transfers are to be done through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS). The institution has to open a dedicated account and link the same with the PFMS account of ICSSR. The institutions whose existing bank account is already registered under PFMS must ensure that their account is linked with the **ICSSR scheme- 0877 at the PFMS portal**. You are requested to inform ICSSR in case of any issues/ problems being faced by you in this regard.
7. The **First installment** of the approved grant-in-aid will be released after receiving the grant-in-aid bill duly filled in, stamped and signed by the Project Director as well as the affiliating organization and its competent authority.
8. The entire project team must attend regular review meetings organized by ICSSR to ensure timely progress and completion of projects.
9. The **second Installment** of the approved grant-in-aid will be released after receiving (a) the grant-in-aid bill, (b) first-year progress report, (c) one research paper published in a peer-reviewed journal, (d) statement of expenditure till that date and (e) utilization certificate duly filled in, stamped, and signed by the Project Coordinator as well as the affiliating organization.
10. The **third Installment** of the approved grant-in-aid will be released after receiving (a) the grant-in-aid bill, (b) second year progress report, (c) one research paper published in a Scopus-indexed journal, (d) statement of expenditure till that date and (e) utilization certificate duly filled in, stamped, and signed by the Project Coordinator as well as the affiliating organization.
11. As the study involves extensive research, the finalized schedules/questionnaires, designed to elicit information should be sent to the ICSSR (2 copies) as per the following schedule.
 - a. If the schedule /questionnaire for eliciting information is as per the standard questionnaire, these will have to be sent to ICSSR immediately.
 - b. If the schedule /questionnaire for eliciting information are to be designed afresh keeping in view the requirements of the project, these will have to be sent to the ICSSR **two months** before starting data collection. If there is a change in the schedule/questionnaire of previous years then before the implication of such schedules it shall be duly informed and approved by the monitoring committee of ICSSR.
 - c. Standard rules and regulations related to research ethics shall be applicable throughout the conduct of research. If at any point of time, a violation of research ethics has been observed or brought to the notice of ICSSR, in such cases ICSSR may cancel the research project and shall be bound to initiate strict action against the research team and affiliating Institution.
 - d. Institutions shall have a dedicated Lab Space, designated for conducting research on 2nd call for Longitudinal Studies in Social and Human Sciences.



12. The **Final Instalment** will be released on receipt of following documents: -
- (a) Satisfactory book length of the Final Report (One Soft Copy in Pen-Drive) in the publishable form after incorporating all corrections, suggestions of the expert.
 - (b) The draft final report shall be submitted four weeks prior to the project's completion to ensure it can be reviewed by the expert.
 - (c) Two hard copies and a soft copy of the Executive Summary of Final Report.
 - (d) Audited statement of accounts (AC) in prescribed format with utilization certificate (UC) in form 12A of GFR, for the entire approved project amount duly signed by the Finance Officer/Registrar/Director of the affiliating Institution. The utilisation certificate of institutions whose accounts are not audited by CAG/AG, will be signed by the Finance Officer and Statutory Auditor of the Institute.
 - (e) At least one published research paper in the Scopus Indexed journals.
 - (f) A detailed stock report duly signed by the Head of the Institute / Registrar / Principal with details of assets and books purchased out of the project fund has to be submitted to the ICSSR.
13. Research undertaken by a Project Coordinator and his/her team shall be reviewed by the Monitoring and Advisory Committee constituted by ICSSR and the project may be discontinued/ terminated, if research progress is found unsatisfactory or any ICSSR rules/ guidelines are violated by the Project Coordinator of the affiliating institution.
14. The ICSSR reserves all rights to publish the project funded by it, provided the work is recommended for publication by the ICSSR appointed expert/experts. In case, ICSSR approves the publication of the research work, the scholar should acknowledge that the project has been sponsored by the ICSSR, in all publications resulting from the project output (Research Paper, Books, Articles, Reports, etc.) and should submit a copy of the same to the ICSSR.
15. The Contingency Grant may be utilized for research and office assistance, books, stationary, computer cost, research assistance and the field work expenses of Project Coordinator, Project Directors and research personnel connected with the research work.
16. The University/ Institution of affiliation will provide office space including furniture, devices, library and research facilities and messenger services to the scholar. For this, the ICSSR shall pay the affiliating University/Institution, **overhead charges @ 10%** of the total expenditure incurred on the project after the successful completion of the project, with a ceiling of maximum Rs. 5,00,000/-
17. The Project Coordinator of the research project will be **Dr. Animesh Roy**, who will be responsible for the completion of the research project in four years from the date of commencement of the project, which is **17.07.2025**, as intimated by the scholar.
18. Progress reports shall be submitted to ICSSR every **4 months** by the project coordinator. There shall be a minimum 11 progress reports clearly reflecting landmarks that have been achieved in research during the scheduled period of progress report.
19. In case, the Project Coordinator fails to submit the periodic / final project report as per schedule with adequate justification duly accepted by ICSSR, the scholar will be debarred from availing all financial assistance from ICSSR for this project and all future projects of ICSSR.
20. All grants from ICSSR are subject to the general provision of GFR 2017 and in particular with reference to the provision contained in GFR 209, GFR 210, GFR 211 and GFR 212.
21. The Project Coordinator will ensure that the expenditure incurred by him/her conforms to the approved budget heads as per the guidelines of "2nd Call for ICSSR Longitudinal Studies in Social and Human Sciences" published by the ICSSR on its website www.icssr.org.
22. The grant-in-aid is subject to all the conditions laid down in the **Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) Research Projects available in the ICSSR website www.icssr.org**. The expenditure on this account will be debited to the **Budget Head-ICSSR (Scheme Code 0877); OH 31.09 Research Projects**.
23. All instalments will be transferred through the Public Finance Management System (PFMS) and ICSSR shall implement the EAT module for ensuring transparency of expenditure at all levels and to ensure that there is no parking of funds.
24. As per the instruction from MoE, the amount of grant sanctioned herein is to be utilized by **the end of the project duration**. The unspent amount shall be refunded to the ICSSR immediately on the expiry of the

duration of the project. If the grantee fails to utilize the grant for the purpose for which the same has been sanctioned/or fails to submit the audited statement of expenditure within the stipulated period/ or fails to submit the final report within the stipulated time, the grantee will be required to refund the amount of the grant released with a penal interest thereon @ 10% per annum.

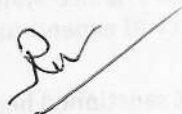
Yours faithfully,



(Dr. Richa Sharma)
For Member Secretary

Encl: as above. Copy to

1. **Dr. Animesh Roy**
Professor
Room No. 114, First Floor.
Giri Institute of Development Studies
Sector - O, Aliganj, Lucknow
Uttar Pradesh 226024
2. **Prof. Harsh Sharma**
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3. **Dr. Nagendra K. Maurya**
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Lucknow - 226007
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4. **Dr. Udai Bhan Singh**
Professor & Head
Department of Sociology
Feroze Gandhi College
Raebareli
Uttar Pradesh - 229001
5. **Dr. Sushma Mishra**
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
University of Lucknow
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh - 229001



6. **Mr. Manish Kumar Singh**
National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
(NIRD&PR)
Rajendranagar
Hyderabad - 500030, Telangana

7. **Record file**

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PROJECT BUDGET

Title: "Panchayat Governance and Gender Equity: A Longitudinal Study of Aspirational and Non-Aspirational Districts of Uttar Pradesh".

By: Dr. Animesh Roy

Detailed budget breakup for the proposed allocation		
S.No.	Heads of Expenditure	Value (Rs.)
1	Research Staff: Full time/part time	Not exceeding 45% of the total budget
2	Field work	Not exceeding 35% of the total budget
3	Research Equipment and study material (Computer, Printer etc.)	Not exceeding 10% of the total budget
4	Contingency	Not exceeding 5% of the total budget
5	Workshop/ Seminar/Publication *This will be decided by the ICSSR depending upon the requirements of the project.	Approx. 5% of the total budget
Grand Total		100%

➤ Remuneration and Emoluments of Project Staff

- Project staff could be engaged by the Project Director on a full/ part-time basis during the research work and the duration/ consolidated monthly emoluments of their employment may be decided by the Project Director within the limits of the sanctioned financial allocation and as per the ICSSR rules. The remuneration and emoluments of the Project staff are to be paid as per following scales: -
- Research Associate @ Rs.47,000/- p.m. (Post graduate in any social science discipline (55% minimum) with NET /M.Phil. / Ph.D. and 2 years research experience as a Research Assistant in any Project.).
- Research Assistant @ Rs.37,000/- p.m. (Post graduate in any social science discipline (55% minimum) with NET /M.Phil. / Ph.D.)
- Field Investigator @ Rs.20,000/-p.m. (Post graduate in any social science discipline with minimum 55% marks).
- Re-appropriation: The project Investigator may, with the permission of the institution, re-appropriate expenditure from sub head to another, subject to a maximum 10% of the particular budget heads. If the study necessitates re-appropriation beyond 10%, it may be done only after the approval of the ICSSR.
- Selection of Research Staff should be done through an advertisement and a selection committee consisting of (1) Project Coordinator/ Project Director; (2) One outside Expert (other than the Institute where the project is located); (4) Head of the Department/Dean of relevant faculty.
- **For all field work related expenses** of Project Coordinator/Project Director, Co-Project Director and project personnel, rules pertaining to affiliating institutes shall be followed.
- **All equipment and books** purchased out of the project fund shall be the property of the affiliating institutions. On completion of the study, the Project Coordinator/ Project Director shall submit an undertaking in this regard. The ICSSR, however, reserves the right to take charge of equipment and books, if it deems necessary.
- **Purchase of equipment/ assets** for the Research Project is permissible only if it is originally proposed and approved by the ICSSR and does not exceed the permissible amount.