

THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL WORK

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Research plays an important role in promoting socio and economic transformation around the world due to its ability to suggest practical, relevant and low-cost policy interventions. In this case, the Institute of Social Work is calling for the research proposals that will contribute to both social transformation and economic transformation. Based on this fact, the Institute has identified key research areas that the research proposals should focus on. The identified research areas are in line with the Institute Research Agenda (2023 – 2027). These areas are as follows: -

Building an Inclusive Economy

In this case, the research proposals may have to focus on the following subthemes: -

- a) Economic Empowerment
- b) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) development and growth
- c) Creation of Decent Employment
- d) Mediation and Arbitration
- e) Human Capital Development
- f) Labour Migration

Social Welfare Enhancement

The Institute research proposals have to focus on the following issues in order to promote social welfare in the country and around the world through evidence-based interventions:-

- a) Rehabilitation services
- b) Family and child welfare and,
- c) Juvenile justice and correctional services.

Social Protection Systems

Under social protection systems, the research proposals have to focus on the following areas:

-

- a) Gender Equality
- b) Child Protection System
- c) Elderly Protection
- d) Social Protection for People with Disability
- e) Social Security
- f) Anti-Human Trafficking Strategies

Cross Cutting Issues

The Institute has prioritised the cross-cutting issues that may influence both social and economic transformation. In this case, the research proposals have to focus on the following areas: -

- a) Social Policy Process
- b) Cultural Practices
- c) HIV/AIDS
- d) Information and Communication Technology
- e) Governance and Accountability

FORMAT OF THE SUBMITTED RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The submitted research proposals should comply with the following format: -

Title: The research title has to be attractive, relatively short and reflect the current issues as indicated in this call for proposal.

SECTION ONE

Chapter one has to include the following subsections: -

Introduction: It has to meet the following qualities but not limited to: -

- Provides the background of your study starting from a broad picture narrowing in on your research focus
- Tells why there is a need for the study (justification of the selected research issue (e.g. social protection) that is concerned with questions related to your research interest
- Guides the formulation of the research question(s) or the problem(s) you want to address as clearly as possible.
- Explains how you came to this question/problem based on previous studies
- Clearly explains the research gaps i.e. theoretical, methodological or practical research gaps.

Statement of the Problem: The problem statement has to answer the following questions: What ought to be? What is the current practice or existing situation? What is the gap (mainly focusing on the practical gap and knowledge gap)? How can your study address such research problem? **Note:** There must be a connection between the introduction and the problem statement.

Research Objectives

The research objectives have to be categorised into two groups i.e. the general objective and specific objectives. There must be a link between the general objective and title of your research proposal. The variables included in the specific research objectives must be briefly discussed in the introduction section and address the problem statement once achieved.

Research Questions

Research questions have to be connected with the research objectives. In case, it is a quantitative study and focus on the cause-effect relationship, the researcher is not required to prepare research questions but the researcher will be required to prepare the hypotheses. The mixed studies and qualitative studies must have the research questions. In case, it is a descriptive quantitative study, the researcher must develop the research questions and s/he is not required to develop the hypotheses.

Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is required to show the theoretical contribution (s), methodological contribution (s) and practical contribution (s).

SECTION TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review must have the following sections: -

Introduction: Brief explanations on the contents of the chapter

Conceptualisation of key terms: In this subsection, the researcher is required to conceptualize the definitions of different study variables and select the operational definition of the proposed study

Theoretical Literature Review: The researcher is required to discuss different theories that will be used in his/her study. The discussion should focus on the following issues: -

- Name of the author (s) who have introduced the theory and year
- Key statement and assumptions of the theory
- New development that have occurred in the theory (i.e. improvement of the theory by other authors or the same author
- Application of the theory in relation to your specific objectives
- Limitation (s) of the theory

- How do such limitations affect the use of the theory in your study or justify the use of another theory?

Empirical Literature Review: The empirical literature review must show the following: -

- Name of the author and, title and year of the reviewed publication
- Objectives and methodology or methods of the reviewed publication
- Findings of the reviewed publication and to what extent they inform your study
- Deficiency (ies) of the reviewed publication

Synthesis of the Literature Review: After reviewing all empirical literature, the researcher has to synthesize and highlights on the key issues observed during the review of prior empirical studies

Conceptual Framework: In case it is a quantitative study or mixed study, the research will be required to prepare the figure that shows the influence of the selected independent variables on the dependent variable (s). But, before the presentation of the figure, the researcher must write brief explanations on the conceptual framework. In the qualitative study, the researcher may not be required to present a figure that shows the relationship among study variables.

Hypotheses Development: The researcher that whose study is quantitative or mixed and focus on examining the cause-effect relationship has to develop the research hypotheses. However, qualitative studies and descriptive quantitative studies are not required to include the research hypotheses.

SECTION THREE: RESEARCH METHODS

The subsections in this chapter include the following: -

- Introduction: Brief explanations on the contents of the chapter
- Research design
- Research strategy
- Study area
- Population of the study
- Sampling design and procedures
- Types of data
- Data collection methods
- Reliability (Trustworthiness) and validity (Authenticity) tests
- Data analysis techniques
- Operationalisation of variables (In case it is quantitative or mixed study)
- Ethical consideration

SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The research proposals have to be submitted within one month from the date of this call (i.e. from 01st April to 01st May, 2026). The proposals should be submitted through the following email address: research@isw.ac.tz. For further information, please contact the following: -

Director of Research, Consultancy and Publications

Institute of Social Work

Mobile Phone: +255 754762541

Email Address: research@isw.ac.tz, dominic.mkolimwa@isw.ac.tz

Note: This call is for ISW staff only.