

Call for expression of interest

Scientific paper writing competition on Adolescent Transition to Adulthood in India

Organized under the aegis of
Population Council, New Delhi

With the support from

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
And
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The Population Council seeks to deepen the knowledge base on Adolescent Transition to Adulthood in India through rigorous empirical and policy research. In this context, the Population Council, India aims to support researchers to write scientific papers on Adolescent Transition to Adulthood, using data from a unique longitudinal study of adolescents (UDAYA – Understanding the lives of adolescents and young adults) conducted by the Population Council in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

The Population Council is currently inviting expression of interest from researchers to participate in the proposed scientific paper writing competition and conduct in-depth analysis of the UDAYA data.

About UDAYA:

“*Understanding the Lives of Adolescents and Young Adults (UDAYA)* in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is a unique longitudinal study of adolescents in two populous states of India – Bihar and Uttar Pradesh that accounts for one-quarter of India’s adolescent population. Launched in 2015 (the period when SDGs are implemented), UDAYA **explores** the extent to which adolescents have acquired assets that can help them make a healthy, safe and successful transition to young adulthood. It **assesses** factors that determine the quality of transition from adolescence to young adulthood.

Over 20,000 adolescent boys and girls aged 10-19 from these two states were interviewed in wave 1 conducted during September 2015 to July 2016 and 16,000+ of these adolescents were re-interviewed in wave 2 conducted during October 2018 to July 2019. More details about UDAYA can be found at www.projectudaya.in and UDAYA wave 1 data can be accessed from our data repository at Harvard Dataverse, <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=doi:10.7910/DVN/RRXQNT>

UDAYA wave 2 study instruments can be accessed at, <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/ZJPKW5>

Wave 2 data will be uploaded soon. UDAYA covered multiple facets of adolescent lives, including:

- Education
- Economic activity, household work and migration
- Mass media and social media exposure
- Growing up
- Aspirations, agency and gender role attitudes
- Awareness of sexual and reproductive health matters
- Romantic and sexual relationships
- Transitions to marriage and parenthood
- Health and health-seeking behaviour
- Dietary habits and nutrition situation
- Community life
- Political participation

The scientific paper writing is envisaged to be completed over a period of 3 months from the date of acceptance of the abstract. The participants are expected to complete their paper and submit it to a journal for peer reviewed publication. We can provide quick copy-editing support before the submission, if required.

Who is eligible?

The competition is designed for individual or team of faculties and researchers with interest in undertaking Adolescent Transition to Adulthood related research. The lead applicant must be associated with academic institutions or research or advocacy organizations; they must hold a post-graduate degree in social sciences, demography, economics, public health, other health sciences and have experience in using large datasets, (longitudinal data sets preferable), and statistical software including STATA/ SPSS/R/Python/MPlus.

How to Apply

Interested applicants are invited to submit:

1. Short CV of the lead author
2. Abstract focusing on any of the themes covered in UDAYA. The abstract should clearly mention:
 - the proposed research questions and justification for choice of variables, including the underlying theory driving the research question and how it responds to existing literature
 - policy and programmatic relevance of the proposed variables and research questions
 - methods and analytic approach planned to undertake for this research
 - proposed team members and their anticipated roles
3. The abstract should be submitted in English, be a maximum of two pages in single spaced text using Font 12pt Times New Roman

Selection process:

The Population Council will follow a two-stage selection process. At the first stage, all abstracts received will be reviewed by a technical advisory committee (TAC) who are experts in the topic areas. Short listed candidates will receive constructive comments from TAC and will be invited to submit the full manuscript. The Population Council will also organise webinars to familiarise shortlisted candidates about the UDAYA data.

At the second stage, the shortlisted candidates will submit their manuscripts to peer reviewed journals with a minimum impact factor of 2. The Population Council will pay journal fee for open access journals. TAC will review the manuscripts and 3 best papers will be selected for the prize. The winners will be awarded prize money (\$2,000).

Timeline:

Please keep in mind that these dates are unlikely to extend and will be strictly followed. The timeline to be followed is:

June 15th:	Abstract submitted to M.A. Jose (majose@popcouncil.org).
July 1st:	Shortlisted candidates informed about the status of their submission
September 30th:	Full manuscript submitted to M.A. Jose (majose@popcouncil.org).
September 30th:	Manuscripts submitted to peer reviewed journal
December 15th:	Relevant correspondence from journals forwarded to M. A. Jose
December 15th:	Winners announced
January 15th:	Acceptance email from the journal forwarded to M. A. Jose