

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Request for Proposal (RFP) Bids are invited By The American India Foundation Trust for Endline Assessment of Digital Equalizer (DE) Program

Ref: AIFT/RFP/DL/2026-27/26

I. Summary of Deadlines:

Release of Request for Proposal	28 th September 2026
Pre-Bid Meeting Registration – Prebid Meeting Date & Time: - 5 th Oct-2026 at 4:00 PM to 4:30 PM	https://forms.gle/8VbvjgLmY6xQaXY6 Prebid Meeting Link https://meet.google.com/wzs-qzpj-fii
Bid Submission Closing Date	10 th October 2026 (23:59 Hrs. IST) Link for submission of proposals: 1. Technical: https://forms.gle/5DZ6pcFiDxDMGEvw5 2. Financial: https://forms.gle/77KuEFkQwiEvqvXD9
Technical Bid Opening	12 th October 2026
Financial Bid Opening	TBD
Finalization of Contract	TBD (to be intimated to the awardee only)

Please note that The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)) reserves the right to modify this schedule as needed. All prospective bidders who have confirmed interest by the due date as above, will be notified of any changes simultaneously by email.

II. The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)) Statement of Business:

The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIF)) is registered as a public charitable trust in India. And is committed to catalyzing social and economic change in India and building a lasting bridge between the United States and India through high-impact interventions in education, livelihoods, and public health.

III. Scope of Work/ Specifications/ Configuration:

1. ABOUT THE PROJECT

AIF's implementation strategy aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and is anchored in strategic partnerships and close collaboration with the Government of Uttarakhand. Digital Equalizer 2.0 is initiative that aims to improve learning outcomes and strengthen STEM readiness among students in Grades 6–12, with a particular focus on girls. The project also seeks to prepare students for competitive examinations and facilitate their transition to STEM-focused higher education.

The overarching goal of the project is to “bridge the gender divide in the workforce by promoting STEM careers among underprivileged girls. “The project has been implemented across 40 schools in five districts of Uttarakhand—Almora, Champawat, Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar, and Pauri Garhwal—with eight schools covered in each district.

Specific objectives of the Project

1. Strengthening STEM School Education in Rural Government Schools
2. Improved performance of underprivileged girls' students from govt schools in competitive examination
3. Building Institutional Capacity of 05 DIET on STEM Learning, Techno pedagogy, and preparing Students for the competitive exam.
4. Institutionalized best practices for sustainability through the creation of a playbook in partnership with the Government and sharing evidence of the same.

Theory of Change

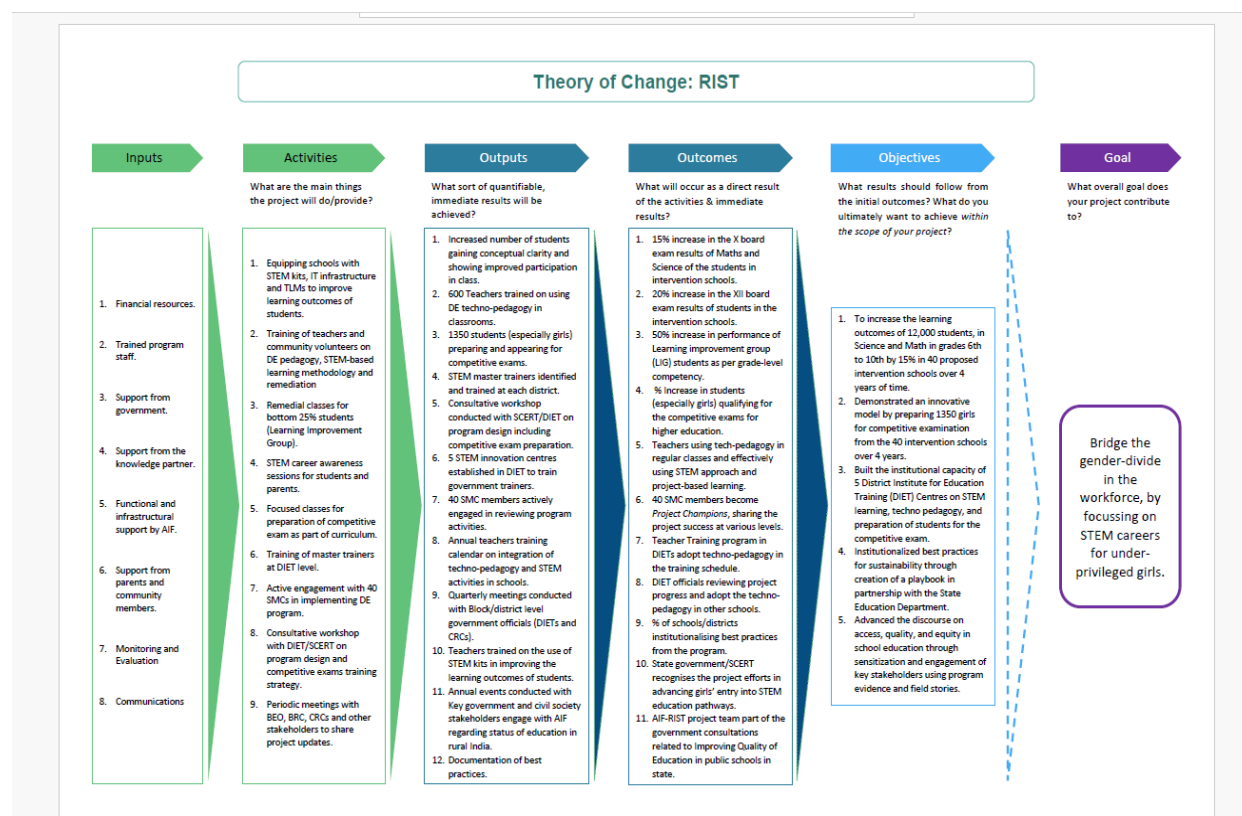


Table.1: Outcomes of the project

S. No.	Outcomes/objectives	Measuring Indicators
1	All students including LIG (Learning improvement group) taught using the STEM learning kits and pedagogy to enhance their learning abilities.	1. % trained teachers regularly using STEM kits while taking Mathematics and Science sessions.
2	Improved performance of underprivileged girl students from government schools in competitive exams.	2. % increase in students qualifying for competitive examinations, disaggregated by gender 3. % increase in Class XII Board Examination results among selected students in residential and non-residential schools, disaggregated by gender
3	Built the institutional capacity of 5 District Institute for Education Training (DIETs) on STEM	4. Teachers' training programs in DIETs adopt techno pedagogy in the training schedule. 5. % teachers trained on DE Core Techno-

	learning, techno pedagogy, and preparation of students for the competitive exam over 4.5 years.	Pedagogy and STEM learning integrating the same in classrooms. 6. State government/SCERT recognizes the project efforts in advancing girls' entry into STEM education pathways.
4	Institutionalized best practices for sustainability through creation of a playbook in partnership with the government and sharing evidence of the same.	1. No. of districts institutionalizing the best practices around STEM education and Digital Learning 2. No. schools integrating the best practices around STEM pedagogy and Digital learning.
5	Best practices identified and institutionalized by the district administration.	1. Best practices identified by the government to be institutionalized in the classroom transactions/schooling plans.

INTERVENTION APPROACH:

Direct Intervention:

Across the five districts, 40 schools are being covered as direct intervention schools, with eight schools in each district, including one residential school per district. From each school, one Mathematics teacher and one Science teacher are being supported and trained, covering a total of 80 PGTs under the direct intervention component. Under the competitive domain, one Spoke Teacher from each school is being supported, covering an additional 40 PGTs. The project is targeting approximately 7,500 students in Grades 6–10, including newly admitted Grade 6 students. For competitive examination preparation, students in Grades 11–12 are being selected through a screening test, with a total target of 450 students.

Target Group – Direct Intervention

Table 2: Coverage through Direct Intervention		
Target Group	Coverage (Number)	Explanation
Direct School	40	8 schools in each district
Direct teachers' group (Grade 6th - 10th)	80	1 Mathematics + 1 Science teacher from each school
Direct teachers Group (grade 11th -12th)	40	1 Spoke teacher for competitive domain from each school
Students of grade 6th -10th	7500	Grade 6th students will be new admissions
Student of 11th and 12th	450	Students selected from total enrolled students

Indirect/Cascade Intervention:

In addition to the direct intervention schools, 200 schools (40 schools in each of the five districts) are being supported through a cascade model in collaboration with the DIETs. Under this model, one Mathematics teacher and one Science teacher from Grades 6–10 in each school are being trained, covering a total of 400 TGTs. The training is being delivered through DIET-led programs facilitated by the project team. In addition, project team members and 50 Master Trainers are facilitating activities such as MANAK (Model and Idea Present–National Award) and laboratory establishment in the cascade schools.

Table 3: Coverage through In-Direct/Cascade Intervention		
Target Group	Coverage (Number)	Explanation
In-direct Schools	200	40 schools in each district
Direct teachers' group (Grade 6th -10 th)	400	1 Mathematics + 1 Science teacher from each 200

Students of grade 6th -10th	28000	140 students from each of the 200 schools
Master Trainers	50	10 in each district

Overview of the Cascade Model selection criteria

Table 3: Cascade model selection criteria			
No. of Districts for cascade mode intervention	No. of Master Trainers engaged for the cascade model	No. of cascade schools in all 05 districts	No. of teachers covered through the cascade model
05	$05 \times 10 = 50$	$05 \times 40 = 200$ 100 in year 2 100 in year 3	$2 \times 200 = 400$ (200 teachers in year 2; 200 teachers in year 3)

Cascade school selection criteria

- Cascade schools were selected in collaboration with the DIETs and CEOs.
- Schools were prioritized where female student enrollment exceeded male enrollment.
- Schools were required to have adequate digital infrastructure.
- Supportive principals and school staff were prioritized.
- Schools were required to have Mathematics and Science teachers/faculty in place.
- Schools were required to have functional Mathematics and Science laboratories.
- Preference was given to PM SHRI and GGIC schools.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

The American India Foundation Trust (AIFT) seeks to engage an evaluation agency to conduct the endline evaluation of the Digital Equalizer 2.0 project across 5 (five) intervention districts in Uttarakhand. The study will assess the effectiveness of the project's intervention model and its key components in generating cumulative gains in students' learning outcomes and STEM readiness, through both curriculum-aligned and competitive examination-focused interventions.

The endline evaluation will generate robust evidence on the project's contribution to student learning outcomes and assess changes across the intervention and comparison groups.

Rationale of the Endline Evaluation:

The evaluation will examine changes in students' learning outcomes, STEM interest and career aspirations, use of STEM-based and techno-pedagogical approaches by teachers, and preparedness of selected students for competitive examinations. It will also assess the extent to which DIETs, teachers, schools, and district education systems have adopted and sustained project-supported practices.

The study will provide evidence on the effectiveness, reach, and sustainability of the intervention, with particular attention to girls and students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Findings will help AIF and government stakeholders identify successful practices, implementation gaps, and opportunities for institutionalizing and scaling effective STEM education approaches.

Purpose Endline Evaluation

The endline evaluation of Digital Equalizer 2.0 will assess the extent to which the project has contributed to improved STEM learning, increased readiness for competitive examinations, and stronger institutional capacity for STEM and technology-enabled education in government schools across the five intervention districts of Uttarakhand - Almora, Champawat, Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar, and Pauri Garhwal

Specific Objectives

1. Assess changes in student learning outcomes in Mathematics and Science among Grades 6–10

- students, with a focus on girls and students requiring learning support.
2. Assess students' STEM orientation and aspirations, including their interest in STEM subjects, awareness of STEM careers and scholarships, and intention to pursue STEM-related higher education.
 3. Assess competitive examination readiness among Grades 11–12 students, including academic performance, preparation practices, and participation/qualification in relevant competitive examinations.
 4. Assess changes in teachers' practices and competencies, particularly the use of STEM kits, experiential learning, digital content, and techno-pedagogy in classroom teaching.
 5. Assess the institutional capacity of DIETs to support STEM learning, technology-enabled pedagogy, teacher training, and competitive examination preparation.
 6. Assess the adoption and sustainability of project-supported practices at school, district, and state levels, including the use of best practices and their integration into existing education systems.
 7. Identify implementation lessons and good practices that can inform future programming, government convergence, and potential scale-up.

Key Evaluation Questions

A. Student Learning and STEM Outcomes

- a. To what extent have students' learning outcomes in Mathematics and Science improved by the end of the project?
- b. Are there differences in learning outcomes between girls and boys and across districts/school types?
- c. To what extent has the project influenced students' interest, confidence, and aspirations towards STEM subjects and careers?
- d. Are students more aware of STEM-related higher education opportunities, scholarships, and career pathways?

B. Competitive Examination Readiness

- a. To what extent has the project improved the academic preparedness of selected Grade 11–12 students for competitive examinations?
- b. What proportion of supported students participated in and/or qualified for relevant competitive examinations?
- c. Has there been improvement in the Grade 12 board examination performance of targeted students, particularly girls?

C. Teacher Capacity and Classroom Practice

- a. To what extent are trained teachers using STEM kits, project-based/experiential learning, digital content, and techno-pedagogical approaches in Mathematics and Science classrooms?
- b. What changes in teachers' knowledge, confidence, and classroom practices can be observed as a result of the training and ongoing support?
- c. To what extent has the cascade model enabled DIETs and master trainers to extend project-supported practices to additional schools and teachers?

D. Institutional Capacity and Sustainability

- a. To what extent have the five DIETs developed the capacity to support STEM learning and techno-pedagogy?
- b. To what extent have project-supported practices been incorporated into teacher training, school plans, classroom practices, or district education processes?
- c. Which project practices are likely to continue after project support ends, and what factors support or constrain sustainability?
- d. To what extent have government/SCERT and district stakeholders recognized, adopted, or institutionalized project-supported best practices?

E. Implementation and Equity

- a. What factors facilitated or constrained the implementation of the project across the five districts?
- b. To what extent did the project effectively reach girls and students from disadvantaged backgrounds?
- c. What differences, if any, are observed between direct-intervention and cascade schools in terms of teacher practices and student outcomes?
- d. Which project components and implementation approaches appear most effective and feasible

for future scale-up?

3. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

The endline evaluation will adopt a quasi-experimental study design using a mixed-methods approach to generate project-level findings and assess the difference in outcomes between intervention schools (Direct and Indirect Intervention) and matched control schools within the intervention districts. The endline assessment will be designed to ensure comparability with the midline evaluation. The selected agency will be required to work closely with AIF to finalize the study design and obtain all requisite ethical and operational approvals prior to commencement of the survey.

A robust and statistically defensible sample size should be proposed to generate reliable project-level findings, as well as grade-level findings, across intervention and control schools. The analysis should disaggregate findings by gender, school type (direct and indirect schools), and grade level.

A Difference-in-Differences (DiD) approach will be adopted to compare changes in outcomes between intervention and control schools from baseline to midline to endline periods. This will help assess the project's contribution to improvements in students' learning outcomes, while accounting for changes that may have occurred over time in both groups.

SAMPLING

1. Quantitative Sample (Proposed):

For quantitative data collection, the study will employ a proportionate sampling strategy, whereby the number of schools randomly selected from each district will be proportional to the size of the school population in the respective district. Probability Proportional to Size (PPS) sampling will be applied to select schools from the intervention group (Direct and Indirect Intervention Schools), using the available finite population of eligible schools as the sampling frame. This approach will ensure that districts with a larger number of eligible schools receive a proportionately greater share of the sample, while districts with fewer schools receive a correspondingly smaller share.

The endline sample size was calculated using Cochran's formula for sample size estimation: $n_0 = Z^2 \cdot p(1-p)/e^2$. The calculation assumes a 95% confidence level, a 5% margin of error, and an estimated proportion ((p)) of 0.5, which provides the maximum required sample size under conditions of maximum variability. Given the multistage and clustered nature of the sampling design, a design effect (DEFF) of 1.5 was applied to account for the potential loss of statistical efficiency arising from clustering and to determine the required endline sample size.

The resulting sample size was subsequently adjusted for finite population coverage, separately considering the eligible student populations under the Direct and Indirect Intervention groups. This adjustment ensures that the final sample remains statistically appropriate while accounting for the size of the available intervention population.

Table 4: Proposed Estimated sample distribution by intervention type		
Type of Intervention	Students Population Coverage	Estimated Sample Size
Direct Intervention (Grade 6-12)	8000	538
Indirect/Cascade Intervention (Grade 6-10)	28000	565
Comparison Schools	NA	573
Grand Total		1676

The sample size, sampling strategy, and selection of schools for the proposed sample will be finalized by the selected research agency in consultation with the AIF team during the inception phase, taking

into account the intervention's geographical spread, evaluation objectives, and field-level feasibility.

Qualitative Sample:

The endline evaluation will also include a contribution analysis of the qualitative data collected from key stakeholders at the state, district and block levels. The qualitative data analysis will determine to what extent and how the interventions contributed to the system-level changes and also exploring the contextual factors, mechanisms, and pathways through which these contributions occurred.

The qualitative assessment will adopt a purposive maximum variation sampling strategy to generate in-depth insights into the effectiveness, implementation, and sustainability of the Digital Equalizer 2.0 project across the five implementation districts (Almora, Champawat, Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar, Pauri Garhwal) of Uttarakhand. The proposed approach seeks to capture diverse perspectives across direct and indirect intervention schools, residential and non-residential settings, gender, grade groups, and socio-economic backgrounds, and students from economically disadvantaged households.

The study will employ a purposive sampling strategy to select relevant project stakeholders and capture diverse perspectives based on their roles, levels of engagement, and geographic location. Since the study covers all five intervention districts—Almora, Champawat, Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar, and Pauri Garhwal—the qualitative sample will ensure representation across all five districts and state level officials. The proposed qualitative methods include:

- **In-depth Interviews (IDIs)** with Parents and community members.
- **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)** with School Management Committee (SMC) members.
- **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** with STEM pedagogy teachers, School Principals, and relevant stakeholders, including government officials district and state level.

The estimated sample distribution has been provided in Table below.

Table 4: Estimated Qualitative Sample Distribution				
Target Group	Method	Direct Intervention	Indirect Intervention	Total
Parents	IDIs	5	5	10
STEM pedagogy teachers	KII	8	8	16
School Principals	KII	3	3	6
SMC Members	FGDs	3	2	5
Chief Education Officer (CEO)	KII	-	-	5
DIET Principals	KII	-	-	5
State level Officials - SCERT/SSA	KII	-	-	2
Total		19	18	49

Note:

The proposed sample size and distribution are indicative. The final sample size, sampling strategy, and school selection will be finalized by the selected research agency in consultation with the AIF team during the inception phase, considering the intervention's geographical spread, operational feasibility, and methodological requirements.

4. EXPECTED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AGENCY

The selected agency will be responsible for finalizing the draft tools, the data collection as per the

sample, data cleaning, analysis, and report writing in alignment with detailed specification and the timeline mentioned in the RFP. The agency will be responsible for conducting the following activities.

- a. **Review and finalize the data collection tools:** The AIFT team will share the draft tools with the selected evaluation agency. The agency should review the tools for their understanding, check the translations and consult the AIFT team for any inconsistency.
- b. **Develop qualitative tools:** The selected agency will be responsible for drafting and finalizing the qualitative tools in consultation with the AIF team.
- c. **Review and finalization of the sample:** The selected agency will have to review the samples and propose the more appropriate sampling comparable with baseline and midline studies.
- d. **Selection and Training of investigators:** The agency will be responsible for identifying the investigators and supervisors for the data collection and in-depth face to face training of investigators on the various tools, methods, and ethical processes. The AIFT team will provide necessary support to the agency in conducting the training of investigators, moderators and supervisors.
- e. **Conducting the data collection on time and quality:** The agency will be responsible for collecting quality data using the finalized tools. The agency will be responsible for ensuring the quality of the data collected by the investigators and will be required to share the raw data on a weekly basis with the AIFT MEL team for quality checks.
- f. **Reviewing and cleaning of data set:** The agency is responsible for sharing the final cleaned anonymized (quantitative) data in STATA, SPSS, and Excel form and the anonymized interview transcripts (qualitative data) with the AIFT team.
- g. **Analyzing the data and report:** The agency will be responsible for developing a baseline-to-midline analysis plan in consultation with the AIF MEL team. The analysis will compare baseline and midline findings, with all results disaggregated by gender (girls and boys). The agency will also be responsible for submitting both the draft and final evaluation reports.
- h. **Drafting Presentation:** The agency will also be responsible for drafting thematic presentations based on reports of the Endline survey. The outline of the presentations will be shared by the AIF MEL team.

The AIFT team will provide the following information to the selected agency.

- 1) Draft data collection tools
- 2) Midline reports and other data.
- 3) List of intervention (direct and indirect schools)
- 4) Approval letter from the Department of Education at State Level to conduct the survey in the state.
- 5) Outline for final evaluation report and the presentation of the results.

5. KEY DELIVERABLES

- 1) **Inception Report:** A detailed report outlining the proposed approach and methodology for the evaluation, workplan for data collection, analysis and reporting; tools to collect data; clarity on roles and responsibilities of team members; detailed plans for submission of draft and final reports.
- 2) **Draft Evaluation Report:** The selected organization is required to submit a detailed outline of the evaluation report for review and approval prior to drafting the full report that includes methodology, finding, conclusions and actionable recommendations.
- 3) **Presentation:** Key findings presentation to AIFT program and MEL Team
- 4) **Final Evaluation Report and other documents:** The organization selected is required to submit a final report incorporating feedback from AIFT. Final data collection tools, transcriptions.
- 5) **Five-Pager Executive Summary/Learning Document:** The selected agency will also provide a two-page summary/learning document with relevant infographics of the findings and lessons for wider communication purposes AIFT.

Note: The selected agency will ensure that all the deliverables are high quality, thoroughly proof-read, and free of any language and formatting errors.

6. KEY DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINES

S. No.	Key deliverable	Scope / Description	Submission Timeline
1.	Inception Report	Proposed approach and methodology for the evaluation, workplan for data collection, analysis and reporting; tools to collect data; clarity on roles and responsibilities of team members; detailed plans for submission of draft and final reports	25 th October 2026
2.	Data Collection/ Fieldwork Completion Report	Data Collection Completion report with Sample Coverage	14 th November 2026
3.	Analysis Plan/Reporting format	Detailed analysis plan and reporting format	17 th November 2026
4.	Draft Evaluation Report	Approximately 50 pages, excluding annexures	27 th November 2026
5.	Presentation (ppt)	Slide Deck Including methodology, key findings, Conclusion, and actionable recommendation	30 th November 2026
6.	Final Evaluation Report	Revised based on AIF feedback, with an executive summary and recommendations.	5 th December 2026
7.	Executive Summary/Learning Document	Approximately 4-5 pages	10 th December 2026

IV. Bidding Process:

Bidders are advised to study the RFP Documents carefully. Any bid shall be deemed to have been submitted after careful study and examination of all instructions, eligibility criterion, terms and conditions and required scope of work/ technical specifications Bids not complying with all the given aspects in this RFP Document or submission of a bid not substantially responsive to the RFP Document in every respect will be submitted at bidder's risk and may result in the rejection of the bid.

V. Bid Submission:

Bidders are advised to submit bid online in Google forms link -

1. **Pre-bid meeting interest submission-** <https://forms.gle/AYPNC6WesEx1pDc46>
2. **Technical Bid Submission Link-** <https://forms.gle/ueYmUp8dWnuiMyiM7>
3. **Financial Bid Submission Link-** <https://forms.gle/znL6EyTEkKpgocZN6>

Technical bid and financial bid are to be submitted separately in the separate link.

Following points are to be kept in mind while submitting the bids-

1. All Bid must contain the complete address of FIRM/COMPANY/PROPRIETORSHIP etc., including contact number/ email ID of the person who is authorized to submit the bid under their signatures.
2. All bids must be signed on all pages by the bidder. Unsigned bids will not be entertained/ accepted.
3. Bids not submitted as per the specified format and nomenclature or ambiguous in nature are liable to be rejected.
4. The interested bidders may submit their bid to The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)) on or before the time mentioned in this RFP Documents. Any bid received by The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)) after the prescribed deadline for submission of bids will be rejected and no further correspondence in this regard will be entertained.

5. Financial bid should be prepared as per **Annexure II** given in the RFP Documents. The same is to be uploaded in google forms too.
6. Bidders shall indicate their rates in clear/ visible figures as well as in words. In case of a mismatch, the rates written in words will prevail.
7. At any time prior to the last date for submission of bids, The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)), may, for any reason, whether at its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a prospective bidder, modify the RFP Documents by an amendment and publish the revised version of the RFP.
8. Printed terms and conditions of the bidders will not be considered as forming part of their bid. In case terms and conditions as given in the RFP Documents are not acceptable to any bidder, they should clearly specify the deviations in their bids.
9. NO conditional Bid will be entertained and will be rejected.

VI. Financial Requirements:

The Financial proposal/ quotation should contain prices of all services and Items, and transportation etc. with all the terms & conditions inclusive of payment terms.

VII. Proposal Requirements – Technical & Financial:

The technical proposal should cover at least below areas:

A. Applicant eligibility requirement(s):

1. The bidder organization should be registered as a legal entity for doing business in India.
2. The applicant must have proven experience in successfully executing assignments relevant to the scope of this RFP.

B. Technical Requirements:

The bidder should provide information on overall qualifications, including:

1. Profile of organization
2. Past experience, clients handled and completed assignments.
3. Services and support available post-delivery of Services

C. Attachments/ Enclosures for Technical Bid:

Bid must be submitted in English language only and should contain:

1. Covering letter with reference to all enclosures or attachments.
2. Copy of registration documents/ certificate and most recent renewal as a legal entity.
3. License or permission if any for doing business with computers.
4. Copy of PAN & TAN.
5. Copy of GST Registration.
6. Copy of MSME registration certificate (if registered)
7. Copies of last three years ITR. (exempted for startup raised within last two years)
8. All Bid must contain the complete address of firm, including contact number/ email ID of the person who is authorized to submit the bid under their signatures.

9. Technical bid form as per Annexure I

D. Financial Bid

It is to be submitted separately as per **Annexure II**. No conditional price is to be quoted.

VIII. Proposal Evaluation Process:

A. Application evaluation process:

1. Applications received by The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)) will be reviewed to determine completeness of application (based on application guidelines detailed above) and eligibility of applicants. Applications that do not meet eligibility requirements will be eliminated following this review and shall not be considered further.

2. All bids received by the stated closing date and time for bid submission will be evaluated, according to the conditions described in selection criteria below.
3. The final selection would be based on the technical evaluation of the bids followed by evaluation of financial proposals.
 - a. The bids conforming to the technical specifications, terms and conditions stipulated in the bidding document and considered to be responsive after subjecting to Bid Rejection Criteria will be considered for further evaluation as given below:
 - b. Bids shall be evaluated both in terms of 'Quality' as well as 'Quoted Price' i.e. Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) methodology. The weightage for the 'Quality' is 70 (seventy) and the weightage for the 'Quoted' price is 30 (thirty).
4. A bid shall have to meet the Minimum Qualifying Marks of 50 (fifty) marks in 'Quality' Criteria. Bids not meeting the minimum qualifying marks in 'Quality' Criteria shall be rejected. The Bids meeting the minimum qualifying marks shall be called 'Qualified Bids' and shall be eligible for financial evaluation of the bid.
5. 'Qualified Bids' (meeting the minimum Qualifying Marks in Quality Criteria) and conforming to the technical specifications, terms and conditions stipulated in the bidding document and considered to be responsive after subjecting to Bid Evaluation Criteria shall be considered for further evaluation as per the Evaluation Criteria given below:
6. Price Bids shall be evaluated taking into account the Price quoted for all services including applicable GST (CGST & SGST / UTGST or IGST).
7. Quoted price must include all liabilities and taxes including statutory liabilities but excluding GST, which shall be quoted separately in the Price Bid format.
8. To ascertain the Inter-se-ranking of the bids, the Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) methodology as mentioned below shall be adopted:

To ascertain the Inter-se-ranking of the bids, the Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) methodology as mentioned below shall be adopted:

- a. An Evaluated Bid Score (B) will be calculated for each bid, which meets the minimum Qualifying marks of 50 (fifty) in 'Quality' Evaluation Criteria, using the following formula in order to have a comprehensive assessment of the Bid price and the Quality of each bid:

$$B = (C_{\text{low}}/C) \times 100 \times X + (T/T_{\text{high}}) \times 100 \times Y$$

where,

C=Evaluated Bid Price of the bidder

C_{low}=The lowest of the evaluated bid prices among the responsive bids

T=The total marks obtained by the bidder against "Quality" criteria

T_{high} = The highest mark scored against "Quality" criteria among all responsive bids

$X = 0.3$ (The weightage for 'Quoted price' is 30 %)

$Y = 0.7$ (The weightage for 'Quality' is 70 %)

Note: The Evaluated Bid Score (B) shall be considered up to two decimal places.

- Contract shall be awarded to the bidder with the highest Evaluated Bid Score (B).
 - In the event of two or more bids having the same highest Evaluated Bid Score (B), the bid scoring the highest marks against 'Quality' criteria will be recommended for award of contract. Even if there is a tie, draw of lots' will be resorted to arrive at the recommended bidder.
 - To ascertain the inter-se-ranking, the comparison of the responsive bids will be made subject to loading for any deviation.
9. Successful bidder(s) will be notified in writing by email (or by telephone, in cases where the bidder cannot be reached by email). The bidder must confirm acceptance in writing within the time specified in the email communication.

10. QCBS Grading System

Grade	Range	Marks
Outstanding	91-100	100
Excellent	81-90	90
Very Good	71-80	80
Good	61-70	70
Very Fair	51-60	60
Fair	41-50	50
Average	31-40	40
Below Average	21-30	30
Poor	11-20	20
Very Poor	1-10	10
Zero	0	0

B. Evaluation criteria:

1. The bids that substantially meet the "Bid Requirements – Technical" (**Section VII, A-D above**) shall fall in the category of technically qualified bidders.
2. The unit prices quoted by such technically qualified bidders shall be evaluated and compared.

IX. Instructions and Deadlines for Responding:

A. The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)) **Contact:**

Any communication must be sent to: procurement@aif.org.

B. Confirmation of interest:

Please send a statement acknowledging receipt of this solicitation and your intent to respond or not respond no later than the due date given in Section-I. Send the confirmation to the contact listed above.

C. Request for clarifications:

Requests for clarifications/ questions on this solicitation will be accepted via email at the mail Id listed above by the due date given in Section – I. Clarifications will be provided to all prospective bidders who would have expressed their interest. Please note that responses will not be confidential except in cases where proprietary information is involved. Any enquiries after the specified date would not be entertained.

D. Due date and time of Bid Submission:

1. As Detailed above, Subject line of the email should read: “**Endline Assessment of Digital Equalizer (DE) Program - RIST AIFT/RFP/DL/2026-27/26 [FIRM/COMPANY/ PROPRIETORSHIP etc__name]**”. We advise that you send files in commonly recognized Microsoft formats. **The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT))** will not take responsibility for resolving technical transmission problems with bids.
2. Submission of hard copies of the proposal is not required.
3. The bid should only include information specific to accomplishing the “scope of work”. Additional information submitted outside of the proposal requirements will be reviewed at The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT))’s discretion only.

E. Selection of the Bidder:

The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)) reserves the right to negotiate the rates with selected suppliers from among the bids received. The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)) has the option to interview and discuss specific details with those bidders who have submitted their bids.

F. Receipt, Evaluation and Handling of Bids:

Once a bid is received before the due date and time, the American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)) will:

1. Log the receipt of the bids and record the business information.
2. Review all bids and disqualify any non-responsive ones (that fail to meet the terms set out in RFP Documents) and retain the business details on file with a note indicating disqualification.
3. Evaluate all bids objectively in line with the criteria specified in the RFP Documents.

G. Conflict of Interest:

1. The bidders must disclose in their bid details of any circumstances, including personal, financial and business activities that will, or might, give rise to a conflict of interest. This disclosure must extend to all personnel proposed to undertake the work.
2. Where bidders identify any potential conflicts, they must state how they intend to avoid any impact arising from such conflicts. The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)) reserves the right to reject any bid which, in The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT))’s opinion, could potentially give rise to a conflict of interest.

3. With respect to this condition, please be advised that the organizations that may fall within the scope of this clause will include those with which The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)) has any present association.

H. General Disclosures:

1. Bidders must disclose:
 - i. If they are or have been the subject of any proceedings or other arrangements relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or the financial standing of the bidders including but not limited to the appointment of any officer such as a receiver in relation to the Bidder personal or business matters or an arrangement with creditors or of any other similar proceedings.
 - ii. If they have been convicted of, or are the subject of any proceedings, relating to:
2. A criminal or other offence involving the activities of the organization or found by any regulator or professional body to have committed professional misconduct.
3. Corruption including the offer or receipt of any inducement of any kind in relation to obtaining any contract with The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)), or any other contracting body or authority.
4. Failure to fulfil any obligations on account of payment of any taxes.

X. Terms and Conditions of Solicitation:

A. Notice of non-binding solicitation:

The American India Foundation Trust (THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST reserves the right to reject any and all bids received in response to this solicitation and is in no way bound to accept any proposal.

B. Confidentiality:

All information provided by THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST as part of this solicitation must be treated as confidential. In the event that any information is inappropriately released, THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST will seek appropriate remedies as allowed.

Proposals, discussions, and all information received in response to this solicitation will be held strictly confidential, except as otherwise noted.

C. Communication:

All communications regarding this solicitation shall be directed to appropriate parties at THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST indicated in Section VII. A. Contacting third parties involved in the project, the review panel, or any other party may be considered a conflict of interest and could result in disqualification of the proposal.

D. Acceptance:

Acceptance of a proposal does not imply acceptance of its terms and conditions. THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST reserves the option to negotiate on the final terms and conditions. We additionally reserve the right to negotiate the substance of the finalists' proposals, as well as the option of accepting partial components of a proposal if appropriate.

E. Right to final negotiation:

THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST reserves the option to negotiate on the final costs and final scope of work, and also reserves the option to limit or include third parties at THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT)'s sole and full discretion in such negotiations.

F. Third Party limitations:

THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST does not represent, warrant, or act as an agent for any third party as a result of this solicitation. This solicitation does not authorize any third

party to bind or commit THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT) in any way without our express written consent.

G. Quotation Validity:

Proposals submitted under this request shall be valid for **03 months** from the date the proposal is due. The validity period shall be stated in the proposal submitted to THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST

ANNEXURE – I
LETTER OF BID

To,
The American India Foundation Trust
Ground, Plot no. C-103, First Floor, Okhla Phase III
New Delhi – 110020

Sub: Bid for Endline Assessment of Digital Equalizer (DE) Program - RIST

Dear Sir,

1. Having examined the RFP Documents and appendix thereto, we, the undersigned in conformity with the said document, offer to provide the said goods and associated services as given in the RFP Documents and the terms of reference to be signed upon the award of contract.
2. We undertake, if our bid is accepted, to “**Endline Assessment of Digital Equalizer (DE) Program - RIST**” the time frame specified, starting from the date of receipt of issue of Work Order/ Purchase Order/Service Agreement (WO/PO/SA) from THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT).
3. We agree to execute a PO/ WO/SA in the form to be communicated by THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT), incorporating all agreements with such alterations or additions thereto as may be necessary to adapt such agreement to the circumstances of the standard and notice of the award within the time prescribed after notification of your intention to accept this bid.
4. We would like to clearly state that we qualify for this work based on all the eligibility requirements indicated by you in the RFP Documents.
5. We certify that all the information mentioned in Annexure I in this covering letter is true and correct.
6. We understand that if the details given in support of the claims made above are found to be wrong or untenable or unverifiable our bid may be rejected without any reference from us. We further clearly understand that THE AMERICAN INDIA FOUNDATION TRUST (AIFT) is not obliged to inform us of the reasons for rejection of our bid.
7. It is certified that the information furnished herein and as per the document submitted is true and correct and nothing has been concealed or tampered with. We have gone through all the conditions of the bid and are liable to any punitive action for furnishing false information/ documents.

For and on behalf of

(mention name of your FIRM/COMPANY/PROPRIETORSHIP etc.)

Signature:

Name*:

Designation:

(Company Seal)

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2026

All Bid must contain the complete address of firm, including contact number / email ID of the person who is authorized to submit the bid under their signatures.

* The person should be duly authorized to sign the bid for an on behalf of the FIRM/COMPANY/PROPRIETORSHIP etc.

ANNEXURE – I (Cont.)
TECHNICAL BID

1	Name of the Supplier	
2	Address:	
3	Email ID	
4	Phone No.	
5	Incorporated as: (Company, State Registered Firm, Co-operative Society or Partnership Firm)	
6	Date of Incorporation	
7	Whether any Legal Arbitration/proceeding is instituted against the bidder or the bidder has lodged any claim in connection with works carried out by them (Yes/ No)	
8	If yes, please provide details	
9	Whether the bidder complies with the requirement of Registration under the Contract Labor (Regulation and Abolition) Act (Yes/ No)	
10	Bidders Profile:	
10.1	Name of the top executive:	
10.2	Designation	
10.3	E-mail ID	
10.4	Mobile Number	
11	Staff Strength – Technical	
12	Staff Strength – Administrative	
13	Bidder's Turn Over (₹)	
13.1	FY 2021-22	
13.2	FY 2022-23	
13.3	FY 2023-24	
13.4	FY 2024-25	

Documents in support of the above may be furnished with page numbers indicated in the index. Please use separate sheets wherever necessary.

For and on behalf of
(mention name of your FIRM/COMPANY/PROPRIETORSHIP etc)

Signature:

Name*:

Designation:

(Company Seal)

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2026

* Note all fields are mandatory.

All Bid must contain the complete address of firm, including contact number/ email ID of the person who is authorized to submit the bid under their signatures.

....Cont

ANNEXURE – I.2

TECHNICAL BID

Standard Assessment

Purpose: The agencies shall provide a technical proposal fulfilling below criteria.

Criteria
Proposed Technical Proposal Requirements 1. Understanding of the Assignment - o Demonstrate clear understanding of the Digital Equalizer 2.0 project, its objectives, intervention model, target groups, and the purpose of the endline assessment across five districts of Uttarakhand. 2. Proposed Evaluation Methodology - o Provide a detailed methodology using a mixed-methods and quasi-experimental approach, including assessment of intervention and comparison groups and alignment with the baseline and midline studies. 3. Sampling Strategy and Sample Size - o Propose a statistically robust sampling design for quantitative and qualitative components, including justification for sample size, selection of schools/respondents, and appropriate representation across districts, intervention types, gender, and grades. Agencies may suggest improvements to the proposed sample. 4. Difference-in-Differences (DiD) and Data Analysis Plan - o Explain the proposed approach for analysing baseline, midline, and endline data, including the use of Difference-in-Differences, comparison of intervention and control groups, and appropriate statistical techniques. 5. Assessment of Student Learning and STEM Outcomes - o Explain the approach for assessing changes in Mathematics and Science learning outcomes, STEM interest, confidence, career aspirations, awareness of scholarships/career pathways, and differences by gender and student groups. 6. Assessment of Competitive Examination Readiness - o Describe the methodology for assessing Grade 11–12 students' academic preparedness, preparation practices, participation/qualification in competitive examinations, and changes in Grade 12 board examination performance. 7. Qualitative Research Approach - o Provide a detailed plan for conducting IDIs, FGDs, KIIs and student case studies with teachers, principals, SMC members, students, parents, community volunteers, DIET representatives, government officials, and other stakeholders. Include the approach for contribution analysis and data saturation.

8. Teacher, DIET and Institutional/Sustainability Assessment

- o Explain how the agency will assess changes in teacher competencies and classroom practices, use of STEM kits and techno-pedagogy, DIET capacity, cascade intervention effectiveness, and institutionalization/sustainability of project-supported practices.

9. Fieldwork Plan, Team Composition and Training

- o Provide the proposed fieldwork plan covering all five districts, including team structure, qualifications and experience of the Team Leader/Principal Investigator, researchers, investigators, moderators and supervisors, along with the plan for investigator training and ethical processes.

10. Data Quality Assurance, Data Management and Analysis

- Explain mechanisms for ensuring data quality, supervision and monitoring during fieldwork, weekly sharing of raw data with AIFT, data cleaning, anonymization, secure data management, qualitative transcription, and submission of datasets in **STATA, SPSS and Excel** formats.

11. Work Plan, Deliverables and Reporting Approach

- Provide a detailed work plan covering inception, tool finalization, fieldwork, data analysis, draft and final evaluation reports, presentation, and executive/learning document, with the ability to meet the specified timelines from November–December 2026.

Documents in support of the above may be furnished with page numbers indicated in the index. Please use separate sheets wherever necessary.

For and on behalf of

(mention name of your FIRM/COMPANY/PROPRIETORSHIP etc)

Signature:

Name*:

Designation:

(Company Seal)

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2026

* Note all fields are mandatory.

All Bid must contain the complete address of firm, including contact number/ email ID of the person who is authorized to submit the bid under their signatures.

ANNEXURE – II
FINANCIAL BID

Ref. No.:

Date:

Name of the Agency:

Details of pricing:

Sl. No.	Name of the Item	Unit Price (₹)	GST (₹)	Total Price Inclusive of GST	Unit (₹) of	Remarks
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E) (C+D)	(F)	
1	Endline Assessment of Digital Equalizer (DE) Program - RIST					
	Total (₹)					

Note(s):

1. The rates quoted should be as per industry standards.
2. Bids quoting zero or incredibly low rates compared to the industry prevalent rates will be rejected.
3. The rates finalized will not be changed throughout the period of empanelment/ extended empanelment.
4. The empaneled agencies will provide service all over India.
5. The FIRM/COMPANY/PROPRIETORSHIP etc shall provide needed service support during the agreement period, as well as related claims arising during that time after the end of the agreement.

Additional Information by bidder (if any):

1.

Thanking you,

Yours Truly,

For and on behalf of

(mention name of your FIRM/COMPANY/PROPRIETORSHIP etc)

Signature:

Name*:

Designation:

(Company Seal)

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2026

All Bid must contain the complete address of firm, including contact number/ email ID of the person who is authorized to submit the bid under their signatures.