Annexure – I

GUIDELINES

AWARD OF MINOR RESEARCH PROJECTS 2026-27

VIDYA BHARATI AKHIL BHARTIYA SHIKSHA SANSTHAN

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1 Introduction

Vidya Bharati Akhila Bharatiya Shiksha Sansthan, popularly known as Vidya Bharati, India's largest consortium of educational institutions, was initiated to spread knowledge without compromising the spiritual essence of the Indian value-based system. Vidya Bharati started functioning when a group of right-minded people came together with a vision of providing quality education in a sustainable environment to children, without compromising Bharatiya Values. The success of the first 'Shishu Mandir' established in 1952 at Gorakhpur encouraged many volunteers across the country to come forward and establish Saraswati Shishu Mandirs. Today, Vidya Bharati, with its network of 24 thousand-plus schools spread all over Bharath, where more than 35 lacs students are studying, and a 5-lac workforce, including teachers, volunteers, and full-timers, is in the process of education. The increased workforce across the country led to the formation of a national body, Akhila Bharatiya Shikshan Sansthan of Vidya Bharati, which was formed in 1977 and has its registered office at Lucknow and functional headquarters in Delhi. Today, recognised as a leader in the field of education, Vidya Bharati is completing 75 years, not just successful but also effective. The success story of Vidya Bharati rests on its copious initiatives, which are incorporated as an integral part of its system. Research, being an integral part of the ancient education system followed in India, is encouraged in its affiliated institutions. In the process of expanding research among other enthusiasts, Vidya Bharati is opening new horizons of research to interested scholars.

In line with this, Minor Research Projects are awarded to research scholars residing in India, to contribute to the holistic development of a child, aligning their thoughts with NEP-2020. The Minor Research Projects for the Financial Year 2026–27 shall be awarded in the following areas, with a focus on advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 in the domain of education.

1.1 Guidelines

S.no.	Broad Domains	Priority Areas
1	**Shishu Shiksha**	• Pre-conception counselling to couples desiring to enter parenthood • Children's education from 3- 8 years at school Experiential Learning Methods
2	**Empowering Teachers**	• Methods adopted towards Improving the Subject Knowledge Base (Capacity Building) • Digital Learning and IT Training • Methods of adopting interactive • Pedagogy in the class rooms • Transformational Leadership
3	**School Management**	• Transformational Leadership • Quality Management in School • Moving towards Green Schools
4	**Pancha padi Shiksha**	• Incorporating pancha padi to ensure quality education (method of introduction, Comprehension, Practice, Application, and Extension) • Education towards Character building among children • Skill-Based Education in Schools
5	**Adaptation of Exclusive Initiatives in School Education**	• Yoga for Mind and Consciousness • Yoga in School Education • Advantages of Music in Education • Adaptation Methods of incorporating -Moral and Spiritual values in Education • Exclusiveness for “Balika Shikshan” as a method of girl child empowerment • Experiements of Gurukula system

2 Eligibility

a. Researchers who are employed or retired from any Indian affiliated Universities / Colleges / Recognized Research Centres / Private-Public Educational Institutions / private-public educational institutions, with Ph.D. and experience in the field of research post their Doctoral degree.

b. Exceptional cases, where the person has published prolific research publications / authored books, but does not possess a doctoral degree, can also apply.

3 How to apply

a. The duly filled application in the provided format, comprising a proposal, a brief CV of the researcher, a detailed budget, forwarded by the competent authorities of the affiliating institutions, should be sent to vidyabharati.shodh@gmail.com

b. Research proposals and the final reports should preferably be in English or Hindi

c. Researchers can apply only one project at a time. In case of two applications from the same scholar, Vidya Bharati will make a decision.

d. The scholar has to submit a quarterly report about the progress of work. At the end of 6 months i.e. Second quarter, one publication in an indexed journal is compulsory for the continuation of the project. Minus the publication, the project will not be considered for the extension.

e. The researcher is expected to mention Vidya Bharati as the funding agency in all publications related to the topic of research sanctioned.

f. Vidya Bharati is the sole decision maker in selecting the research proposals. It may accept or reject the proposal without providing any substantial reason.

4 Duration and Budget for the Project

Project	Duration	Budget
Minor Project	12 Months	Up to 5 lac

5 Procedure For Awards

a. The proposals submitted to Vidya Bharati will be evaluated by the expert committee following a blind review process. Selected applicants shall be invited for interactions / presentations at Vidya Bharati Head Office, online / offline.

b. The merit list of selected candidates for the projects will be published on The Vidya Bharati Website

c. The selected candidates only will be individually informed through a provisional award letter

6 Budget and Heads of Expenditure

a. The amount will be disbursed in instalments, depending on the funds, phases and duration of the study, as indicated in the Award Letter. Vidya Bharati reserves the right to disburse the amount in instalments, depending on the funds

b. The researcher will enclose a detailed budget estimate along with the proposal.The budget will be distributed under different Heads of Expenditure.

c. The budget will be prepared by the scholar, and the grant amount cannot be used by the scholar for his/her salary purpose.

d. The scholar can, however, appoint an internee and a stipend amount can be awarded to the internee as part of the budget sanctioned.

7 Allocation of Heads of Account for budget:

a. The remuneration for the Research Staff/Internee (not exceeding 35% of the budget)

b. The proportionate allocation of expenditure for the budget heads, such as Fieldwork (Travel / Logistics / Boarding, Survey Preparation or Consultancy etc.); (not exceeding 35% of the total budget

c. Equipment and Study material (Computer, Printer, books, software, data sets, etc.). Grand Total Not exceeding 10%

d. Contingency total not exceeding 5% of the budget

e. Statistics support not exceeding 10% of the budget

f. Participation in Seminar/conference/publication: 5% of the budget

g. Affiliating Institutional Overhead Charges @10% may be included, depending on the status of the researcher.

h. The Total budget, however, will not cross Rs.5 lacs.

8 Recruitment of Research Staff

Research Staff should be done through an advertisement published on the respective institute's website and a selection committee, duly approved by the Competent Authority of the institution, consisting of:

(1)Project Director / Scholar; (2) One external subject expert (from outside the Institute); (3) Dean of the faculty, in case of University / Principal in case of college and (4) Head of the Department of the Project Director.

9 Record Maintenance

All equipment / books purchased for the project shall be the property of the affiliating institution, and a detailed stock report duly signed by the Head of the Institute / Registrar / Principal has to be submitted to Vidya Bharati. On the equipment purchased, if any, from the grant amount, the name of Vidya Bharati should be displayed.

10 Joining and Release of Grants

a. The date of project beginning will be the joining date for the project.

b. The total awarded grant for the Minor Research Project will be released to the affiliating institution in instalments as indicated in the Award Letter.

c. The Overhead Charges to the affiliating institution will be released after the acceptance of the Final Report, along with the receipt of the final audited Statement of Accounts and Utilisation Certificate, which should be submitted to Vidya Bharati for verification.

d. The project Director/ Research Scholar will ensure that the expenditure incurred by him/her conforms to the approved budget heads and relevant rules.

e. Vidya Bharati will release the amount periodically. The first part of the total grant will be released for the first months of the project. Based on the satisfaction of the six-month report, the second instalment will be released during the second half of the project period. The remaining amount will be released only after the submission of the final report, fulfilling all conditions, attached with the Audited Statement of Accounts with Utilisation Certificate in Form 12A of GFR. The amount remaining will be released only after obtaining a satisfactory review from the expert committee.

11 Monitoring of Research Projects

a. Research undertaken by a Project Director/Research Scholar will be monitored through the submission of periodic progress reports, which should be submitted once quarterly in the prescribed format.

b. In case of project discontinued/unsatisfactory/terminated/closed for any other reason, the project should be refunded to Vidya Bharati.

c. The project may be discontinued/terminated if research progress is found unsatisfactory or if any of Vidya Bharati's rules are violated. In such cases, the entire amount must be refunded with a 10% penal interest.

d. The scholar/awardee must acknowledge the support of Vidya Bharati in all their publications resulting from the project output, such as Research Papers, Journal Articles, and Articles in edited Books, etc., and they must submit a copy of the same to Vidya Bharati as part of their final report.

e. The papers should be published in Scopus-indexed / listed journals that are blind reviewed. Publication in the newspapers is not considered a research publication; however, they can be included as part of the project report.

f. Vidya Bharati may, at any time, ask for verification of accounts and other relevant documents related to the Project.

g. The Project Director shall be personally responsible for the timely completion of the Project.

h. The project proposal/final report cannot be submitted for the award of any University degree/diploma or funding by any institution by any member of the project staff, including the Project Director.

i. However, there is no objection if any member of the project staff utilises the project data for research purposes, with due acknowledgements to Vidya Bharati.

j. The grant amount should be utilised within the stipulated duration of the project. Any amount of the grant remaining unspent shall be refunded to Vidya Bharati immediately on expiry of the duration of the project.

12 Completion of the Project Report

a.The final project report with a minimum of 150 pages or more for a minor project should be sent to vidyabharati.shodh@gmail.com along with 2 sets of spiral-bound hard copies, for evaluation.

b. After receiving the expert's suggestions and approval, clearly indicating the changes incorporated, if any, two hard-bound copies, along with a soft copy, should be submitted.

c. Two copies of around 5000 words, an Executive summary of the final report in publishable format, should be included separately, along with the soft copy. As a policy, Vidya Bharati does not accept reports having similarity beyond 10 per cent on the similarity index. Scholars are required to get their final report checked by their affiliating institutions for the similarity index and attach a certified report of the same at the time of submission.

d. Similarity Index sheet (Plagiarism + AI check) should be included in the final report.

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e. In case the expert suggests any changes in the reports at the time of evaluation, the scholar shall incorporate the changes within the stipulated time and should submit the final modified report, both in soft and hard copies, in addition to an executive summary.

13 Obligations of the Affiliating Institutions

a. The affiliating institution is required to give an undertaking in the prescribed format contained in the Application Form to administer and manage the grant.

b. It is also required to provide the requisite research infrastructure to the scholar and maintain proper accounts.

c. The affiliating institution shall not utilise the grant for any of its institutional expenses.

d. The affiliating institution will be under obligation to ensure submission of the final report and an Audited Statement of Accounts and Utilisation Certificate (in the prescribed Proforma GFR 12-A), duly certified by the competent authority of the institution, including the refund of any unspent balance.

e. The affiliating institution shall make suitable arrangements for preservation of data, such as filled-in schedules, tabulation sheets, manuscripts, reports, etc., relating to the study. The VBABSS reserves the right to demand raw data or such parts of the study as it deems fit.

f. In case a Project Director/Scholar leaves/dies/ discontinues the project before completion of the tenure, the affiliating institution shall inform Vidya Bharati, and refund the entire amount. In case of death, the death certificate should be submitted, and accounts should be settled immediately.

14 Other Related Conditions

a. Generally, the duration of the project includes the time for the Final Report writing. In exceptional circumstances, within three months of the completion date, the project should be submitted. Retrospective extension will not be permitted.

b. The contingency grant may be utilised for stationery, computer typing-related costs, specialised assistance such as data analysis and consultation for field trips, etc., related to the research work.

c. Foreign trip is not permissible within the awarded budget of a project.

d. Any request for additional grant in excess of the sanctioned budget will not be considered.

e. The procurement of equipment/assets for the research project is allowed only if it was originally proposed, does not surpass the permissible amount, and adheres to the regulations of the affiliating institution.

f. The Project Director/Research Scholar cannot make any changes in the research design at any stage.

g. Vidya Bharati will consider transferring the place of the Project from one affiliating institution to another, subject to its satisfaction only after procuring a no-objection certificate from both institutions. However, Vidya Bharati does not suggest changes.

h. No queries will be entertained regarding the application. Vidya Bharati reserves the right to reject any application without assigning any reason.

i. Incomplete applications in any respect will not be considered.

j. The final authority related to the interpretation of these guidelines or any other issue is vested with the Vidya Bharati.

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