



## **Indian Institute of Banking & Finance**

### **Research Project on Unclaimed deposits and Pathways for banks** **(Funded by Reserve Bank of India)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established “The Depositor Education and Awareness Fund” in 2014. Under the provisions of Section 26 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the amount to the credit of any account in India with any bank which has not been operated upon for a period of ten years or any deposit or any amount remaining unclaimed for more than ten years shall be credited to the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF), within a period of three months from the expiry of the said period of ten years. The depositor, however, is entitled to claim from the bank his/her deposit or any other unclaimed amount or operate his/her account after the expiry of ten years, even after such amount has been transferred to the Fund.

The Indian Institute of Banking & Finance (IIBF) has been entrusted by RBI to establish a research scheme to undertake a study on “Unclaimed Deposits” in order to identify the factors contributing to such unclaimed deposits in banks and to find pathways to reduce the quantum of such deposits in the banking system and arrive at the suitable methods for returning such deposits to their rightful owners / claimants.

The Indian Institute of Banking & Finance (IIBF) hereby invites research proposals to study Unclaimed Deposits and provide actionable suggestions. The study will be undertaken by three different academicians / researchers under the same caption. Each researcher will exclusively focus on one of the following entities.

1. Public Sector Banks
2. Private Sector Banks
3. Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)

Therefore, there will be a total of three studies comprising of three different researchers and each study will be based on one of the above three categories of banks.

#### **Objectives of the Study**

Objectives of the study shall be to:

- (i) Identify major underlying factors that contribute to unclaimed deposits.
- (ii) Identify the hurdles faced by banks in implementing the existing strategies/ practices.
- (iii) Based on the outcome of comparative analysis, suggest best practices/ strategies which could be adopted by banks.
- (iv) Suggest and recommend leveraging of technology and innovation to deal with inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits in banks.

**Who can participate?**

Full-time regular employees of banks, faculty members of colleges/ universities, and other academic and financial institutions. The individuals applying under this scheme should not be more than 58 years as on 30.06.2023.

The employees of IIBF & RBI are not eligible to undertake the proposed study.

**Methodology:**

The study will aim to identify the factors contributing to unclaimed deposits in banks and suggest strategies for reducing them. The study may be conducted using a mixed-methods approach, that combines quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis.

- **Quantitative Analysis**

The research proposal should clearly specify the requirement & nature of data that will be utilised for undertaking the research work. Data available with banks and DEA Fund Section may be shared for quantitative analysis. Only relevant (& masked) data will be shared and shall be treated as strictly confidential. Further, the data will not be attributed to individual banks or the Reserve Bank of India. Factor analysis of the data could be used to identify underlying factors that contribute to inoperative accounts/ unclaimed deposits. This could help to identify specific areas that banks need to focus on to reduce such accounts/ deposits. The study could also conduct a comparative analysis of the practices/ strategies employed by different banks to reduce inoperative accounts/ unclaimed deposits. This could help to identify the most effective strategies and best practices that can be adopted by other banks.

- **Qualitative Analysis**

The study may use qualitative data based on inputs collected through a survey/questionnaire from cross-section of sample banks and experts in banking industry. The survey would aid in gathering information about the challenges being faced by banks in implementing present day strategies and help in gathering suggestions to further improve upon it.

**Expected Outcomes from the Study:**

- (i) Eliciting the causative factors for accumulation of unclaimed deposits.
- (ii) Furnishing of various strategies and methods which could be adopted by banks to deal with the unclaimed deposits.
- (iii) Recommending innovative solutions to reduce the quantum of unclaimed deposits.

**Evaluation:**

The Research proposals will be evaluated in terms of its objective, relevance and methodology. Action points flowing from the research for policy making, should be clearly listed out in the final research report to be submitted. All the research proposals will be prima facie considered for suitability and further scrutiny will be done for shortlisting the proposals. The final selection will be done based on the presentation of the shortlisted proposals to the members of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of IIBF and representatives from RBI.

**Research Grant:**

The selected research project carries an award of Rs 10 lakhs. The award money will be released only after the approval of the final project report.

**Time frame:**

After completing the research work, the final research report should be submitted within a maximum period of three months from the time the project is awarded. **In case of delay in submission of report, the award may be forfeited.** The copyrights of the report will lie with RBI. The report in part or full, cannot be reproduced in any form without prior approval from the RBI.

Applicant research organizations/researchers are required to submit proposals neatly typed in English along with a forwarding letter from their employer. The research proposals should clearly indicate the objectives of the study, research methodology & possible outcomes. The front page of the proposal should contain following details:

Name	
Designation	
Address	
E-mail	
Phone No./ Mobile No	
Title of Research Proposal	
The study will focus on which bank type	
List 3 major outcomes of proposed Research	

The last date for submission of the proposal is **30.09.2023**.

The soft copy of the proposals can be sent at [kratika@iibf.org.in](mailto:kratika@iibf.org.in)

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