

## **I. General Information**

- a. Name: XXXXX
- b. M#: MXXXXXXXXXX
- c. Department: Political Science
- d. Project title: An In-depth Study of Migration of Women from Nepal for Domestic Work.
- e. Project Location: Kathmandu, Nepal

- f. Probable Results of a Grant (such as publications, working papers, and presentations):

Based on the analysis of this research field work project, I intend to present a paper at the TAFT Humanities NOW Conference next year. I also intend to present it at other conferences. Furthermore, this field work project is an essential part of my dissertation research.

- g. Have you already or will you in the future apply for other grants for this travel, including departmental support?

I do not intend to apply for any other grants yet.

## **II. Taft Grant History**

I have not received any grant from TAFT yet.

### III. Project Narrative

Women from developing countries migrate on a large scale to developed countries, seeking employment in domestic work. The migration of women for domestic work is undeniably mediated by gendered norms and expectations. The differential gender roles in developing countries perpetuate women's role in the domestic household, which is generally expected to be the women's domain. In situations of deprivation, women more so feel the need to take care of the family and the household. They seek opportunities to fulfill their responsibilities and when livelihood opportunities are not available and accessible to them, they choose to migrate as a last resort. Exacerbating this is the current system of neo-liberal globalized world economy, which places an increasing demand for labor, especially unskilled labor.

My dissertation research will focus on the migration of Nepalese women to foreign countries for domestic work. Nepal is one of the developing countries from where migration of women for domestic work is quite prevalent. Domestic work falls under informal work and is precarious with no social protection and there is no job security. The women who migrate for domestic work are generally not educated and do not speak the native language of the foreign country to which they migrate for work. Due to this, the Government of Nepal has frequently regulated the movement of women by imposing bans and restrictions on women's migration for domestic work. In my research, I will assess the factors that push Nepalese women to migrate even with such precarity of the work and uncertainty of the future. Furthermore, I will analyze the government's interaction with the migration of women to foreign countries for domestic work.

To perform my research, I plan to travel to Nepal to conduct fieldwork over this summer in the months of June and July. Using an interpretive framework in my research dissertation, I will conduct in-depth interviews of Nepalese migrant women who have permanently or briefly returned after engaging in domestic work abroad. To conduct these interviews, I will utilize my existing network (while reaching out to more) in Nepal. Furthermore, I have made a list of non-governmental organizations that work to support and rehabilitate returnee migrant women. I plan to reach out and schedule interviews with women through these organizations prior to traveling to Nepal.

The in-depth interviews will mostly take place within Kathmandu, the capital, and a few surrounding areas near Kathmandu. The interviews will be one on one and will involve a few prompts for open-ended questions. These questions will be flexible in the sense that they may change or be molded after gaining new insights upon interviews with the women. I will interview the women only after getting their full consent and after describing the scope of the research to them and will maintain confidentiality and anonymity. I will also be receiving approval from the Institutional Review Board, University of Cincinnati before embarking upon the fieldwork in Nepal.

The in-depth interviews will form a significant part of my dissertation research. Based on these interviews, I will be analyzing the principal causes that lead to the migration of these women and get a closer in-depth look at the story of these migrant women and their lived-in reality. The interviews being in-depth may reveal many nuanced, hidden and unknown aspects about the migration of Nepalese women for domestic work and their experiences. Based on the analyses of these interviews I will be able to make

interesting and fruitful inferences in my dissertation that explain the phenomena of migration of Nepalese women for domestic work.

As part of my fieldwork, I also plan to visit the Ministry of Labor and Employment in Kathmandu and interact with the ministry officials or the office staff. During these visits, I plan to get access to the Nepal government's reports and documents pertaining to the migration of women for domestic work. The information derived from these reports will serve an important purpose for my dissertation research in being able to analyze the role of the state in the migration of Nepalese women for domestic work. Due to the country's reliance on remittance as a big contributor to its economy, it is crucial to analyze the economic as well as the political aspects of the part that the government plays in relation to this migration.

Another part of my research is using secondary sources: the literature on the international migration of women for labor and the feminist critiques on the failings of the global political economy. Using secondary sources, I will assess the unsustainability of the neo-liberal globalized economic architecture that has increased poverty, led to a job crisis and a decline in agriculture and has forced women to find labor in a foreign country under precarious conditions. I plan to make a case that the plight of the Nepalese migrant women exemplifies the distortions of the global system that harms the world's marginalized. My research will make an important contribution to the literature on the international migration of women for labor and gender and international political economy. It will add to the limited literature currently available on the migration of Nepalese women for domestic work. Being a Nepalese myself, this dissertation research will not be an outsider's view but rather a closer reality.

Being a Ph.D. student, this dissertation research serves an instrumental purpose toward earning my degree. I am currently in my third year of the Ph.D. program, have fulfilled the required credits for the coursework and I am scheduled to complete my comprehensive exams this April. My dissertation committee is set, and I am working on my dissertation proposal with feedback from my advisor. I have attained the background knowledge and skills for this research by taking research methods courses including interpretive methods and a number of workshops. I also attended the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) at Syracuse University this past summer. In the institute, I had the opportunity to obtain extensive training in qualitative research methods. I have also presented my paper with the preliminary research on the migration of women from Nepal for domestic work in many conferences including the National Women's Studies Association Annual 2018 Conference and the TAFT Humanities NOW Conference 2018.

Through the course of my graduate studies, I have received the theoretical knowledge and training to pursue research. I have learned immensely about the effective application of tools and techniques to produce valuable insights. I have learned how to design fieldwork, plan for interviews and manage and protect the data. However, since this has been more at a theoretical level, with the field work, I hope to gain practical experience in the real world of conducting interviews. This practical experience will develop my skills and knowledge further and will enable me to learn more about the different aspects that are involved in research. Gaining a combination of both theoretical and practical knowledge will certainly lead to my intellectual development. I am excited about pursuing this field work and about the incredible value that it will add to my research.

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August 2016 - Current

2014

2011

Fall Semester 2018

Spring Semester 2018

Fall Semester 2017

Spring Semester 2017

Fall Semester 2016















