

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Sahara Basnet

- 📍 East slope residences, University of Sussex
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Development practitioner with five years of professional experience in program management, research & data analysis, and communications on topics related to gender and WASH (waster, sanitation and hygiene). Co-founder and Director of Asha, a gender and MHM in schools social initiative based in Nepal. Currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Gender and Development at the Institute of Development Studies.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2020 – PRESENT

Institute of Development Studies (IDS), United Kingdom

Research Assistant

Support in planning, delivery, and evaluation of the IDS Global Development Policy and Perspectives summer school.

- Facilitation online session using Zoom and assisting speakers during the sessions
- Following up with the speakers and participants on the learnings and discussions held during the sessions.
- Assisting with course evaluations using an online platform

2015 – PRESENT

Asha – Gender and MHM in schools initiative, Nepal

Co-founder

Asha is a social initiative that works towards understanding and supporting to address waster, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) challenges and needs in rural areas of Nepal. Our primary mission has been to reduce gender barriers by supporting adolescent girls to attend school during their menstruation. We have already worked and built six female-friendly facilities in rural schools in Nepal.

Our motto: *We hope to make a difference, we hope for a better Nepal*

Main tasks:

- Conducting field visits to different rural schools of Nepal to identify the schools in need of menstrual hygiene management (MHM) support
- Leading the regular communication with local communities and school officials and conducting need assessment to understand adolescent girls' ground realities regarding WASH and MHM.
- Working collaboratively with volunteers and external parties to construct and maintain female-friendly facilities.
- Managing Asha's social media account and fostering PR
- Coordinating fundraising initiatives and managing overall finances of the program

Main projects:

Six Female-friendly facilities constructed in rural schools:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------|
| - Shree Bidhya Bikash Bidyalaya | Rani | Biratnagar |
| - Lamatar High School | Lamatar | Kathmandu |

2017 – 2019

Buddha Air – Research Officer, Nepal

Research, Sales and Marketing Department

- Market research
- Data Analysis
- Communication (including reporting and managing social media platforms)

2017 **Nepal Cancer Relief Society**
Active campaign advocate (Volunteer)

2016 **Richmond Fellowship Nepal**
De-addiction centre (Volunteer)

EDUCATION

2019 – 2020 **Master in Gender and Development, Institute of Development Studies (IDS)**
University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom
Dissertation - Critical analysis of the Clean India Mission from a Gender Lens

2012 - 2016 **Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA), Kathmandu University**
Kathmandu University School of Management, Nepal

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Awarded the national title **Miss Nepal Asia Pacific International (2017)**

Awarded the national title **Miss Intellectual (2017)**

Recognized as the **Ambassador of The National Trust for Nature Conservation (2017)**

SKILLS

Language

Native Nepali, Proficiency English (*IELTS: 8*), Proficiency Hindi (*speaking*), French (*beginner*)

Soft skills

Public speaking	Leadership
Team management	Communications

Technical skills

Microsoft Office tools	Zotero
Project Planning	Zoom

RESEARCH INTEREST

Water sanitation & hygiene (WASH), sexual and reproductive health and rights, gendered livelihoods, resources and sustainable development