

Final Report

My entire sixth month stay in SOAS was very fruitful in several ways. In this time period, I was able to synthesis my research in more systematic ways. Not only this, I was also to explore my scholastic views with many international scholars. I regularly gave my progress presentations to my mentor professor, Dr. Lawrence. He gave positive comments on my dissertation drafts during my stay, and I was able to complete the dissertation drafts and collect research data for my dissertation. Moreover, I was able to complete my literature review and able to read various scholars' perspective on Nepali political discourse.

Throughout my stay at SOAS, I have gotten many research materials, books and articles at the Centre of South Asian Studies, the SOAS Library, and the British Library, from which I was able to receive the necessary documents. I myself feel pride to have received access to these amazing resources for my research.

Further, I was able to interact with the Nepali Diaspora, and actively participated with the local Nepali communities in the political and national debate workshop and share my findings with them. Furthermore, I formally and informally discussed with experts on my field of studies. I was able to record some high profile interviews and discussions.

During this period, I was able to build the foundation of my dissertation and collected the necessary articles for my paper. From October to March I actively received supervision from my mentor professor, Dr. Lawrence, and was able to accomplish some notable achievements in my research. I would like to highlight these achievements.

The following papers were accepted to the international conference and I was able to present:

1. Accepted paper, "**Nepal Armed Conflict and Peace Process in the Human Rights Perspective**" at Human Rights in the Aftermath Graduate Symposium, held on March 8th 2012 at University of California Davis USA.

This symposium was held at the University of California, UC Davis. It was about the issue of Human Rights, highlighting key issues such as human rights, reconciliation, justice, public policy, conflict and enforcement. Symposium focuses on conflict in a broad category, especially in the sense of political conflicts, territory, identity, etc. Mostly, the participants were professors, lecturers, and prominent scholars. I had very good opportunity to hear them and received their comments. My paper was about the Nepal conflict:

The paper illustrates the picture of the Maoist armed conflict in Nepal that began in February 1996. It also explores negotiation and peace talks and the conflict's development until the date of the constitution assembly election during which people rights were undermined by both parties: the state and the rebellion.

Further this paper discusses about the two factors of Maoist insurgency in Nepal. One is dealing with the civil history and origin of the Maoist insurgency in Nepal, and the other one

with possible tools for negotiating an ongoing peace process. Aside from this, the paper highlights the human rights issue during conflict and ongoing peace process.

Furthermore, this paper in regards of conflict resolution in Nepali civil war proposes conflict resolution tactics, such as traditional and indigenous Conflict Approaches. It can be useful to minimize the further conflict. Through conceptual analysis, its rights-based approach will be more suitable to reconciliation in a post conflict nation such as Nepal.

Finally, this research finds the cause of the successful communist movement in the 20th century Himalaya nation: inequality, condition of rural economy, and the people's normative understanding of democracy in Nepal. The state actors failed to address the development activities in changing political discourse during 1990s. Therefore, states should look on to the human security perspective to empower people.

2. Accepted paper, “**Kingship in Nepal: Envisioning Contemporary perspective**” at **third** Asian Conference on Arts & Humanities. ACAH 2012 held at the Ramada Osaka Hotel, from April 5-8, 2012.

This conference was an interdisciplinary conference featuring many scholars from different countries and fields. I presented about the Nepali contemporary political discourse and its long time effects. My paper abstract includes:

The aim of this study is to observe the prospect of Kingship in Nepal. It presents an analysis of the people's perspective on the dismissed monarchy and challenges faced by Nepal. There is little voice on Nepali Monarchy system, yet many individuals and researchers expressed the need for the monarchy to build up the nation and keep its culture, tradition and national unity. To promote the democratic system, political parties should practice democratic norms and respect the rule of law in real life, rather than just in talk. For the expression of the people's voice, and to envision a prosperous Nepal, this paper will attempt to contribute to the need to bring the monarchy back to Nepal for its sovereignty and unity.

The paper gives a historical overview of Kingship in Nepal, discusses the incompetence of political parties, and the importance of monarchy in Nepal. The paper begins with the introduction of the Nepali monarch, continues with a historical overview of the monarchy and its role in building nation, and finally discusses the contemporary needs of the nation. It identifies that in order to unite Nepal and the Nepali and to give the nation a social-cultural identity, there needs to be some form of monarchy in Nepal. The past and present, irrespective of political systems, social movement, in practice it has been seen that political parties failed several times to fulfil the peoples' mandate. The fields of discussion in the paper include: apathetic attitude of the political parties towards establishing peace and stability in Nepal.

Finally, this study identifies how the causes of instability in Nepal and of framing the new constitution are the political parties, rather the king and monarchy. In the course of this study of Nepali political history, we find that the political parties have always failed to implement the peoples' mandate. Not only that, but in the contemporary discourse, political parties and the Constitutional Assembly members have failed to implement the peoples'

mandate for three years. Further, the monarchy is at the centre of national unity, and the one who thinks for Nepal and the Nepali. This study finds that current political leader behaviour and vision can invite ethnic and religious conflict in Nepal. Moreover, people are losing the sense of Nepali, and the country is dividing by caste and religion. This might lead the country into more a severe conflict than the Maoist conflict.

3. Accepted paper, “**Constitution Assembly Election and Role of Assembly Members in Nepal**” at South Asian Studies Association’s (SASA) Six Annual Conference April 13-12, 2012 at Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California, USA.

This conference was filled with South Asian scholars and researchers who provided amazing social-political perspective, and gave a South Asian political and economic discourse. I received good comments and was then able to build my network with world scholars who deal with South Asia. My paper highlights the challenges and prospects of the Nepal Constitutional Assembly. It evaluates the members' activities in the peace process in Nepal, where Nepal's Maoist guerrillas moved from bullet to ballet:

Immediately after its election on 10 April 2008, the Assembly was tasked with writing a new constitution within two years, but it failed to meet this deadline, although it has been extended several times. In these circumstances, people are losing their patience. The people of Nepal are still waiting for a new constitution which they might promulgate. Given such a dilemma, informed by intra-party conflict, is the reconstruction of the state possible? Can a new Constitution bring peace to Nepal? These two central questions will be addressed here. I also analyze the nature and actions of the Assembly itself, in both a legal and a social perspective. Finally, this research suggests that the Constitutional Assembly has lost the people's mandate, but, due to special circumstances, it is still functioning. The larger contexts of the 1991 Constitution and the recent development activities of Assembly members point to the severe conflict which will happen in Nepal in the near future.

4. Accepted paper: “**Political Gap between Nepali People**” at (BASAS) British Association for South Asian Studies, Annual Conference ; The Future of Asia held on 12th April 2012, at School of Oriental and African Studies University of London (SOAS) UK.

BASAS is the leading academic society in the United Kingdom. This conference was interdisciplinary and focused on South Asian political social science, issues, and arts .My paper was accepted but I did not present it. My paper abstract is:

The aim of this study is to examine the Nepali political parties, and their relation with the general people. The papers try to briefly analyze and evaluate the political gap between the Nepali People. Since the 1950 and 1990’s, Nepal’s course of political democracy has been that Nepal and Nepali people have a multiparty system and a parliamentary democracy. In

addition, there were several discussions about prosperity and the idea of democracy, as well as the concepts of equality, individual freedom, pluralism, and so on.

Frequently political parties and other organization discussed the empowerment and participation of people, but in the practice of political parties and concern authority, their activities did not show any positive improvement to fill the gap. For all kinds of reasons in the Nepali society, there was class such as caste, poor, rich, elite, etc.

Finally the paper finds that the political gap which brings social movement and revolt were the causes against the regime. Very often the political parties failed to govern the nation. It highlights the civic culture and political leadership as the causes of the gap.

In addition to the above mentioned achievements, I was able to complete my dissertation draft under my mentor Professor Lawrence's supervision. I was able to conduct five high profile interviews with noted researchers, university professors, and Nepali Diaspora organization leaders and political associates. These were recorded. I also was able to conduct six more interviews, but the participants in these interviews were not willing to be recorded. These interviews included people who had been displaced and had left the country during the insurgency. However, I was able to receive their arguments in regards to my research questions.

Overall, during this period, I was fully able to utilize the resources and build my theoretical knowledge, and widen my analytic views and gain more research technique to conceptualize my findings and views. Last but not least, I would like to acknowledge the ITP contribution to my research, and our professors at TUFS, and my mentor Professor Dr. Lawrence who has provided consistent support during my research.