

Mid-Term Review

Social Inclusion Research Fund (NPL-2946)

Nepal

NORAD COLLECTED REVIEWS 26/2007

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Norad collected reviews

The report is presented in a series, compiled by Norad to disseminate and share analyses of development cooperation. The views and interpretations are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

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NORDIC CONSULTING GROUP **NCG**
ECONOMICS • FINANCE • SOCIOLOGY • RESOURCE • MANAGEMENT

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All errors in the report are our full responsibilities.

Oslo/Kathmandu 24th October 2007

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ACRONYMS

AG	Apprenticeship Grants
CDSA	Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology
CEDA	Centre for Economic Development and Administration
CERID	Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development
CMI	Chr. Michelsen Institute
CNAS	Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies
CSFW	Civil Society Forum Workshop
GON	Government of Nepal
INGO	International NGO
INS	Independent News Service
ISC	Interim Screening Committee
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MTR	Mid-Term Review
NEPAN	Nepal Participatory Action Network
NHRC	Nepal Human Rights Commission
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NIBR	Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research
Norad	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NPC	National Planning Commission
NUFU	Norwegian Programme for Development, Research, and Education
ODC	Organisation Development Centre
PMT	Project Monitoring Team (SNV)
RCN	Research Council of Norway
RF	Research Fellows
RNE	Royal Norwegian Embassy
S2	Shtrii Shakti
TU	Tribhuvan University
SIRF	Social Inclusion Research Fund
SIU	Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
TOR	Terms of Reference

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To the Non-Nepalese reader, please note the meaning of the following commonly used terms in this report:

<i>Bahun</i>	Nepali word for Brahmin, the highest Hindu caste of Hill origin, priestly caste
<i>Chettri</i>	Second highest Hindu caste of Hill origin
<i>Dalit</i>	“Untouchable” person according to traditional Hindu belief
<i>Janajati</i>	Indigenous nationalities of Nepal
<i>Madheshi</i>	People of Tarai lowland origin

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

1. Promoting critical and high-quality research on causes of social exclusion and ways to accommodate inclusion was the main concept when Norway endorsed the set-up of an independent Research Fund in Nepal in 2004. Recognising that a majority of the population had been left out of decision-making processes and major public arenas from state administration, universities to civil society institutions, the planned Fund aimed to make social science research more relevant for excluded groups like women, marginalised *Janajati*, *Dalits* and *Madheshis*.
2. Mid-way through the five years interim period, an independent team of consultants was contracted to assess the achievements, results, and challenges so far. Members in the team included a leader familiar with priorities in Norway's development cooperation, Nepal and other conflict-affected areas, a Nepalese team member with an in-depth knowledge of the country's socio-political context and ethnic/caste/geographical diversities. The third team member has extensive experience from the higher education and research sector and works in Norad.
3. The scope of the review asked for an assessment of, and to which extent:
 - SIRF has selected research proposals of high quality/critical social science research on causes and effects of social exclusion;
 - SIRF has promoted research of relevance to the excluded groups;
 - capacity building and quality assurance initiatives have been effective;
 - the research funded has stimulated and raised public debate;
 - the administration and management of the secretariat have been efficient;
 - the proposed structure and institutional arrangements of SIRF is relevant in light of the changing socio-economic and political context of Nepal.
4. The external team reviewed programme documents, conducted a field survey from 25.09-5.10.07 in Nepal where more than 100 individuals were interviewed. The data collected from the field and secondary literature was analysed and findings triangulated before a draft report was distributed to key stakeholders.

Key findings

5. The establishment of a Social Inclusion Research Fund can be seen as a direct response to the ten years armed conflict in Nepal. To work directly *on* the root causes of conflict in Nepal, instead of working *around* the conflict, was necessary to bring out new knowledge as to what has triggered and sustained the conflict in Nepal and how diversity has been managed in various parts of the country. A separate stream of scholarship grants was earmarked for apprentice researchers from the excluded groups.
6. Due to the violent situation the establishment of SIRF dragged on for three years. When the Research Fund was formally launched after some delays, it was just two months

before the reintroduction of democracy in Nepal (*jana andolan II* in April 2006). The programme has thus been characterised from the beginning as a highly *relevant and timely initiative*. Many stakeholders can take the credits for the fact that the research fund is a reality today, but the former Norwegian ambassador Ingrid Ofstad, the late Dr Harka Gurung and the late SNV Netherlands Development Organisation director Matthias Moyerson, seem to deserve special mentioning as driving forces through the set-up. Norway provided the funding and SNV was chosen to host the secretariat in the interim arrangement (2005-2008).

7. The programme has succeeded in promoting excluded groups in academic research: 27%, 15% and 11% of the merits-based Research Fellows are Janajatis, Madhesis and Dalits respectively, while for the Apprenticeships which are ear-marked for excluded groups, 42, 20, and 19 percent of the AGs are Janajatis (hill), Dalits (hill) and Madheshis respectively. Only 23 percent of the Research Fellows are women while 40 percent of the AGs are women.
8. One quarter of the ISC members are women and among the SIRF external reviewers there is a good gender balance. In the partner academic institutions, however, there is a strong male domination, including the NIBR and CMI partners. Some of the research themes include challenges particularly related to discrimination against women, but not enough attention is geared towards issues of for example dowry that are critical in Madheshi community and fast spreading in other hill caste and ethnic community. Also women and young girls' situation in post-conflict Nepal is not a research theme so far.

Interim Screening Committee

9. A crucial element in the set-up has been to nominate and find the right members to fill the seats of the Interim Screening Committee (ISC). The composition was meant to reflect not only academic quality and credits, but also Nepal's diversity in terms of ethnicity, castes, gender, and geography (Hill-Tarai) as well as personal skills like team spirit and commitment to inclusion and nation-building were also important. In close dialogue and cooperation, the Norwegian Embassy, SNV, and the Government of Nepal represented by the National Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance, approved the ISC which was constituted in November 2005.
10. ISC has screened and allocated grants for three SIRF streams: a) research fellows, b) apprenticeships, and c) Norwegian institutional cooperation. The third stream was initiated *before* the call for a) and b). In a pilot phase for developing proposals, Norway funded three Norwegian research institutes, which submitted proposals to SIRF. The ISC sent the proposals to external peer review. The selection was more complicated than the two first streams: several of the ISC members withdrew from the discussion due to impartiality clauses since they were affiliated with the universities. The selection of the third stream was the first experience for ISC in choosing proposals. For future - if any, it should be the other way around, after prioritising Nepalese research themes, international research proposals could be funded to complement the Nepalese research.

11. The committee members experienced cross-pressure from SIRF as well from “their” own excluded constituencies demanding their perceived shares in the fund. The presence of two international (including one Norwegian) academicians coupled with a visionary leadership of SIRF’s first chair and the efficient SIRF secretariat probably explains why the ISC succeeded in obtaining a relative consensus in most of the four ISC meetings held thus far. Nobody should be misled to think that there have not been intense and heated debates in ISC. The interesting thing is however that the disagreements seem to have been handled and contained well. This ‘learning-by-doing’ approach adopted by both the secretariat and ISC is summed up under ‘lessons learnt’ (section 4.7).

Secretariat/SNV

12. As SNV did not have any experience with a fund of this type, the secretariat was trained in how to handle research programmes – with substantial input on guidelines and formats from the Research Council of Norway. The secretariat’s efficiency is demonstrated by the fact that it has issued two rounds of calls for proposals, received more than 600 proposals which have been distributed for professional reviews to both national and international reviewers, prepared all documents for the ISC meetings to take decisions on selection of research fellows and apprenticeships grants, and created a roster of reviewers names.
13. SIRF’s review mechanism of two reviewers and one international review per proposals for the research fellows is highly satisfactory. The review team was however more concerned with the review process of the apprenticeship grants. The Peer Review marking system particularly in AGs is not clear as it does not spell out that the highly marginalised group should get more marks. AG reviewers also demonstrated a weak understanding of the impartiality clauses.
14. Clearly defined job descriptions for all functions in SIRF like TOR for secretariat, coordinator, research associate, and role and duties of ISC have greatly contributed to the efficiency of the secretariat.
15. Other success criteria include the fact that an extended group of stakeholders (task force, partner organisations) have been involved in the programme – the Fund does not rest on the personality of one or two people. The real test for ownership and sustainability comes when/if the funding for paying commissioned partner organisations and consultants shrinks or is reduced.
16. The generous availability of funds from Norway and the institutional stability provided by SNV allowed the secretariat and the ISC to focus on the professional contents and obtaining results instead of having to continuously fundraise – something which has been crucial. Obtaining political support and goodwill from the beginning (a letter of ‘no objection’ from the government) as well as participation of National Planning Commission in ISC seem to have been another success criterion.

Conclusions (summary)

17. Social inclusion has become a catchword in Nepal, but the inclusion concept is not fully understood, internalised nor operationalised among large segments of the population. Real inclusion is disturbing because it aims at changing century-olds traditions and it's widely perceived as a win-loose situation: the dominating social groups risk loosing out of positions and power.
18. In that perspective, the set-up of the Social Inclusion Research Fund has by all measurements been a largely successful enterprise; within the two first years, it has completed two cycles of calls for proposals, short-listed, selected, and – finally, awarded 25 research fellows and 149 apprenticeship grants through a rigorous process of three peer reviews per proposals. The completion rates and quality of the research outputs – when they become available in mid-2008 and onwards, will determine how successful the grants have proved.
19. The SIRF programme is found to be highly relevant, as it has succeeded in including excluded groups of Janajatis, Dalits, and Madheshis, but there are still major challenges of ensuring that Madheshi Dalits and females from Dalit, Madheshi and marginalised Janajati background are included.
20. There is a strong male domination among SIRF's partner organisation, including the NIBR and CMI partners. Both have focused on merits for choosing researchers, but NIBR has used positive discrimination to include women and other socially excluded groups.
21. Training and supervision of RFs without links to an academic institution has been weak; there has not been sufficient support and guidance to the research fellows in the various phases of the research, particularly in the data analysis phase.
22. There have been few cases of fraud or misuse among the grantees. Two cases however were discovered where the researchers who received the grant were not doing the research themselves, but had employed people to do it. In these cases, the ISC took action by withholding the fund. This shows that closer supervision during field studies is needed.
23. For the AGs, training and supervision part has also been quite weak. For 2006, 27% of the apprentices had not submitted their reports yet despite repeated requests from SIRF.
24. Relevance and effectiveness of SIRF's information and dissemination strategy which has taken one fifth of the total budget was difficult to assess as it did not have clearly defined goals related to SIRF, but quite broad goals of disseminating information on 'social inclusion' in general.
25. By mid-2007, 79% of the original grants of around two million euros (16 million NOK) has been spent or committed to the three streams of research. The remaining fund is sufficient to keep the secretariat going with low-key activities until 2010, but additional funds are needed if new activities, as suggested in this report, are to be undertaken.
26. Some weaknesses were found with SIRF's administrative and financial management with regards to delayed payments to Nepalese and Norwegian researchers, and an insufficient monitoring of total expenditures of the research fund.

27. Links with civil society, policy makers and representatives of the excluded groups were found to be weak and not fully developed and formalised.

Recommendations (summary)

28. The MTR strongly supports the continuation and further development of an independent, professional Social Inclusion Research Fund Institution along the path that has been drawn up by the Task Force in their report, but with some concerns regards the composition and role of Board, to ensure professional, independent and inclusive staffing, and the volume of grants need to be kept at a realistic level.
29. Donors, especially RNE and SNV are encouraged to keep up support and financial commitment to SIRF and extend the current contract to at least 2010.
30. More efforts are needed towards including Dalits, Women, Janajati and Muslims from the Tarai as beneficiaries of the research fund. Different options like revise the criteria for AGs or open a 4th stream are outlined in the main report, but all options depend on SIRF accessing fresh funds and increasing its administrative efficiency.
31. If SIRF decides to announce for new RFs in for example 2009, we recommend that the ISC do interviews with the candidates in the final selection to assess commitment and motivation of the applicants.
32. For 2008, SIRF is recommended to consolidate research results by creating an inventory or data base of completed and ongoing research projects – including the sub-projects of the Norway-Nepal institutional cooperation, and consider organising a seminar for all researchers under SIRF with the goal of informing each other about their topics, learning, exchanging and reinforcing the new knowledge and themes.
33. Parallel with consolidating the research, SIRF should step up efforts at networking and formalising its relationship and dialogue with policy-makers, development actors, lobby, civil society, and advocacy groups especially the federations and other representatives of the excluded groups.
34. For the Norway-Nepal cooperation the MTR recommends: a) strengthen the links between the three streams to ensure that the Norwegian research projects are known and relevant in Nepal. This can be done by joint activities for exchange of research themes and results, b) explore ways for how to utilise Nepalese and Norwegian researchers from TU/CMI/NIBR in capacity-building and training, and c) assess the results and effects of the cooperation in the SIRF End-of-Programme Evaluation (planned for 2009) before any new calls for this stream are made.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Promoting critical and high-quality research on causes of social exclusion and ways to accommodate inclusion was the main motivation of the Embassy of Norway for endorsing the establishment of an independent Research Fund in Nepal in 2004. Recognising that a majority of the population has been left out of decision-making processes and major, public arenas in Nepal – be it state administration, universities or civil society institutions, due to their ethnic/gender/caste/geographic background, the defined goal of the fund was to promote social inclusion as part of the country's nation-building process.

A two-legged approach was built into the Fund; funding knowledge production on causes and effects of social exclusion and ways to manage diversity while promoting researchers belonging to the social excluded groups on the one hand. On the other hand, research and cooperation between Norwegian and Nepali research institutions was funded.

The Social Inclusion Research Fund (SIRF) was established by the approval of the government of Nepal in 2005. SNV Netherlands Development Organisation in Nepal was chosen to host the secretariat in Kathmandu in the interim arrangement for three years period (2005-2008) while ways for how to institutionalise the fund would be explored. The programme document foresaw a planned review in the second year of the running.

The secretariat of SIRF has handled the review process with the approval of ISC and RNE. The final report will be made available to the public.

1.2 Purpose and scope

Mid-way through the interim period, an independent team of consultants from Nepal and Norway were contracted to assess achievements, results, and challenges thus far. The TOR asked especially for an assessment of to which extent:

- SIRF has selected research proposals of high quality/critical social science research on causes and effects of social exclusion
- SIRF has promoted research of relevance to the excluded groups
- Capacity building and quality assurance initiatives have been effective?
- The research funded has stimulated and raised public debate?
- The administration and management of the secretariat have been efficient.

The team was also asked to assess the relevance of the proposed structure and institutional arrangements of SIRF in light of the changing socio-economic and political context of Nepal.

1.3 Methodology

The Review has been divided in three phases; preparatory, field survey, and analysis/writing up the report. The overall time allocated for this assignment was 20 days for the Norwegian team leader and 15 days for the Nepalese consultant.¹

The MTR has used a combination of qualitative and quantitative tools to cover the four identified review criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and ownership/sustainability.²

Qualitative methods used included:

- **Analysis of secondary data** sources related to SIRC (program documents, progress reports, research documents, publications, financial and audited reports, clips from media, newspapers, etc)
- **Primary data collection** and analysis through semi-structured interviews, focus-group discussions, observation of field research (see Annex II for full list of people and institutions met). An interview guide was used.
- **Analysis of secondary data** sources related to Nepal national policy documents, academic research, and legislations concerning higher education, social inclusion and nation-building.

Quantitative analysis of existing statistics on research awardees and proposals has been broken-down according to caste, gender, ethnicity, and geography as well as a budgetary analysis of how much of the fund is directed towards the various themes and topics. The budgetary analysis included administrative costs per student, costs analysis of the capacity-building, dissemination, and promotion.

For the analytical framework used, see Annex III which outlines a set of key questions developed per each review criteria as well as the data sources and collection methods. During the field survey, the team managed to conduct interviews with 114 individuals, hold seven focus groups as well as an Inception seminar and a Debrief where preliminary findings were presented for discussion among key SIRC stakeholders. Great efforts were made to ensure that interviews and meetings were secured with as many socially excluded groups as possible in addition to university staff, academic researchers, policy makers, and civil society representatives.

In the third phase, collected data was systematised and analysed using triangulation. Some stakeholders were consulted on e-mail or phone to verify findings or interpretations of data. By shifting between the various sources of information, all findings were substantiated by at least three of the following sources before deemed valid and included in the report: programme documents, focus groups meetings, in-depth interviews in field and by e-mail/phone, researchers' observations, inception, and debrief seminar.

The draft report was circulated among SIRC stakeholders: the ISC, RNE, SNV and the Norwegian/Nepalese cooperating partners for feedback and comments. These comments were integrated in the final report.

¹ The total cost of the review was Euro 17,783 or 1,5 million Nepalese rupies.

² The usual fifth DAC-criteria for evaluating development aid, 'impact' was not included in the TOR.

1.4 Review working principles

The review team has adhered to the following main principles when conducting the review;

- **Empowering:** the team has tried to empower those involved in the review (as opposed to making stakeholders subjects to ‘question-answer’ style) by engaging them in open-minded discussions.
- **Designed to lead to action:** the review has attempted to give advice and recommendations that are realistic, feasible, and doable, so that SIRF will take action where there is room for improvement.
- **Evidence-based** and in accordance with ethical standards. All findings are substantiated by documented findings using triangulation.
- **Participatory approach:** To ensure that SIRF stakeholders feel a sense of ownership of the findings and recommendations, the consultants have tried to share and discuss findings along the way and in a debrief to SIRF, ISC, SNV and RNE on the last day of the field survey.
- **Communication and transparency:** The consultants tried to ensure that the review was undertaken in a sensitive and transparent manner towards all stakeholders, in addition to ensuring that information is managed in a sound manner.

1.5 Limitations

No major limitations were experienced during the Review process. Thanks to a highly efficient secretariat and a well-developed archive system, the team was given access to all project documents requested.

The only minor limitation worth mentioning is that there were no programme activities like public debates or dissemination workshops to observe during the field survey, and a few important stakeholders were unavailable for interviews. Standard methodological limitations in a brief review like this apply also in this report: most of the information stems from interviews and focus groups – people expressing their views and opinions about SIRF – in other words qualitative perceptions. The team was however often able to verify from other sources of information. None of these factors had a serious impact on the data collection.

1.6 Guide to the reader

This report is divided into four chapters in addition to the Executive Summary which includes a summary of the Conclusions and Recommendations. Chapter one outlines the background for the review, purpose, scope, and methodology. Chapter two presents a brief overview of the context of social exclusion and research in Nepal as well an overview of the pilot phase of SIRF. Assessments of the findings along the parameters of the TOR are presented in Chapter Three. Conclusions and Recommendations are presented in Chapter Four, followed by References. Finally there are six Annexes on TOR, list of people interviewed, methodology, statistics of awardees according to ethnicity, caste, gender, institutional cooperation Nepal-Norway, roles of Secretariat and ISC.

2 CONTEXT

2.1 Conflict and Social Exclusion in Nepal

Researchers on Nepal have in recent years been busy exploring the links between social exclusion and the conflict – and the potential links between social *inclusion* and peace; will a more inclusive policy lead to peace? Are the grievances that led to a ten year's armed conflict (1995-2006) being properly addressed by the current government?

One problem many researchers came across immediately is the lack of empiric data on the more than 100 different castes and ethnic groups spread across the country. While it's known that the hill high-caste Hindus (Bahun and Chhettris) and Newars dominate the governing authorities in policy-making, decision-making, members in the central committee of major political parties, key political leaders, administration, and foreign services, much less is known about the huge intra-diversities of the various social groups in the Terai, especially with regards to the hierarchical caste system of the Madheshi, the people of Terai, the Muslims and indigenous nationalities.

When riots broke out in the Terai in January 2007, the lack of knowledge in Kathmandu was revealed regarding the causes of the rioting movements. According to Hatlebakk (2007), the relative success of the Maoists, and the new room for political, and military, struggle that has arisen after the peace accord between the government and the Maoists, has been led by the Terai landlords. A factor that exasperated the riots was the lack of inclusiveness in the police forces. According to the UN of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal, "during riots in Nepalgunj in December 2006, the National Police was accused of acting partially". The issue resurfaced again in the January and February 2007 Madheshi Andolan in Terai districts. The recent violence in some Western Terai districts again stresses the need for such inclusive hiring measures."³ UN welcomed the decisions in the Nepalese Cabinet in October 2007 to institute quotas for recruiting women and members of marginalised groups – Janajatis/Adivasis, Madheshis, Dalits and people from so-called "backward areas" – to fill vacant posts in the Nepal Police and Armed Police Force.

Brining up new knowledge about Nepal's diverse ethnic, geographic, and linguistic particularities as well as the country's religious and ethnic minorities is being addressed by the various programmes in SIRC. CMI in cooperation with CEDA and a few other TU researchers explores the structures and processes of exclusion, democracy, and insurgency. The research has been designed to enhance knowledge about the origins and consequences of the conflict in Nepal, and to contribute to a more well-informed dialogue on the nature of the ongoing large-scale and violent conflict *and* possible ways out of it - to identify the 'middle ground' that potentially exists between the different social and political groups.

³ Press Release 22 October 2007 from United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal

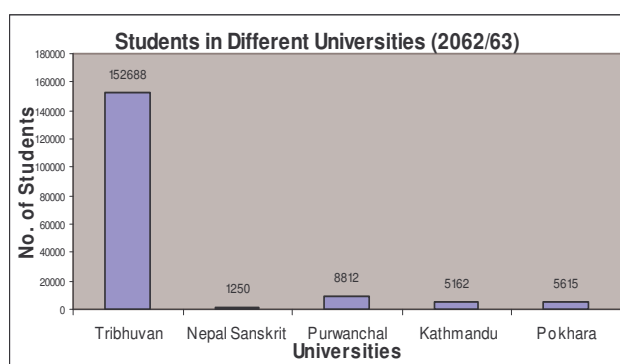
All research that deals with current affairs risk being overcome by events. During the field survey, the Constituent Assembly elections were postponed for the third time and the Maoists broke out of the government. In time of writing, much security is linked to which direction Nepal is heading. However, it seems clear that the process of including social groups excluded on basis of ethnicity, gender, and caste by introducing proportional representation in all state structures is irreversible.

2.2 Research in Nepal

Education was for more than hundred years a privilege that only people from the ruling family in Nepal could access. From 1853 until 1951 when the country was under the control of the Rana family, there was no provision for ordinary people's education, except for a few hundred primary schools that were teaching basics to future civil servants. After the overthrow of the autocratic Ranas, many schools and colleges were established. By 1970, the number of primary schools had reached 7,256 as compared to only 321 in 1951. Similarly, more than a thousand secondary level schools and a few higher level institutions were established.⁴

Tribhuvan University (TU) was established in 1958/9 by a legal act. In 1971, government brought a National Education System Plan, which tried to systematize the whole education system. All the higher education institutions were brought under Tribhuvan University.

Figure 1: University students in Nepal⁵



As seen in figure 1, there are five universities in Nepal today: TU, Mahendra Sanskrit University, Kathmandu University, Purbanchal University, and Pokhara University. Kathmandu University is a private university based on relatively high fees while TU charge a nominal fee (Rs13,000 annually).

All universities were established by separate legal acts, and thus each

university is an autonomous entity. Each university conducts its own entrance test to admit the students in different faculties, and awards its own degrees in the various subjects.

The Ministry of Education and Sports is the responsible governmental body for providing national policies on higher education, and a line ministry that is supposed to coordinate among ministries and foreign agencies regarding higher education. However, since all the universities are autonomous no effective national coordination and planning for higher education are in place. Beside the Ministry, the University Grant Commission coordinates among the universities and university related matters.

⁴ Information in this chapter collected mainly from TU and MoES webpages (www.moe.gov.np)

⁵ Statistics collected from TU's webpage, www.tribhuvan-university.edu.np

Regarding university enrolment, there are around 170,000 students enrolled in higher education, of those 90 per cent are at TU.⁶ For the subjects of concern to this study, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, it had almost 60,000 registered students in 2007 - 35% of the total student mass at TU, but many of those are neither full-time nor active students taking exams.

Universities other than Kathmandu University in Nepal are highly politicised as most political parties use the campuses for active cadre recruitment. Strikes are often observed among students, it was especially frequent during the ten years' armed conflict, something which greatly impeded the effectiveness of the universities' ability to graduate students.

Although the access to higher education has been opened up to a broader scope of the population, the upper castes (Bahun-Chhetri) and Newars dominate. According to recent statistics, Bahun, Chhetri, and Newar constitute 36.7% of the country's population but they have about 73% of graduates and above.

Higher education rate, graduate and above, is 4.2-5.7% in Bahun – Newar group compared to 0.4-0.5% in Janajati/Dalit and Madheshi group.⁷ Female graduates and above are very few in number among caste and ethnic communities (0.15-.2%) other than Bahun and Newar (1.8-2.5%).

The major social science related institutions of TU such as Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology, CNAS, CEDA and CERID have more than 80% professors, lecturers, and administrative staff from Bahun-Chhetri-Newar group. All the caste and ethnic community other than Bahun-Chhetri-Newar group are considered non-dominant or excluded group.

The current Research Fund seeks to redress the inequalities found in ethnic/gender/caste/geographic background by promoting young researchers from socially excluded groups, in the hope that they will in the future be absorbed in the university systems and produce a more inclusive higher education and research sector.

2.3 Research funded by Norway

Norwegian support to research in developing countries and to research on poverty and development issues is funded by Norad and channelled through two main partners, the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU), and the Research Council of Norway (RCN).

SIU is handling several programs on behalf of Norad; the largest ones are NOMA and NUFU. NUFU is the Norwegian Programme for Development, Research, and Education, where higher education and research institutions in Norway's partner countries⁸ are eligible to apply in cooperation with similar institutions in Norway. Proposals for 2007-11 were recently

⁶ According to TU university's webpages, www.tribhuvan-university.edu.np, there are 272,746 students in TU at various levels. Majority of students (61%-167114) are in the 60 campuses spread throughout the country and the remaining (38.73%-105632) in the 416 affiliated colleges.

⁷ Shah, SG (2007). Affirmative Action for Nation Building in Nepal

⁸ Current partner countries: Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

awarded with 220 million NOK. The next round will be called in 2011.

NOMA is Norad's Programme for Master Studies 2006-2010, providing financial support to higher education institutions in the South and corresponding institutions in Norway to develop and run Master programmes. The aim of NOMA is to educate staff in public and private sector, as well as NGOs, in the South. The needs and priorities of the partner countries form the basis for the cooperation. The total budget frame for the current programme period (2006-2010) is NOK 343 million.⁹

RCN administers many programmes within development research, such as "Globalization and Marginalisation - Development Paths in the South", and the "Global Health and Vaccination Research programme." In these programmes, the funding is channelled through the Norwegian institutions. An interesting exception is the research partnership programme between Norway and South Africa which has been ongoing since 2001 (lasts to 2010). Researchers in both countries have been invited to submit joint proposals in a number of thematic areas, ranging from Health and Medicine to Environment and Energy, based entirely on equal partnership. Three calls for proposals have resulted in more than 200 applications and a total of 67 research projects have been financed under the programme so far, based on strict academic scrutiny.

In addition to the above, the Norwegian MFA has a fund for 'Peace & Reconciliation' research¹⁰, and Norad is funding a "Poverty and Peace programme" handled by the RCN¹¹, each of them with a frame around 20 million NOK.

The current research fund in Nepal is funded by Norad and handled by the Royal Norwegian Embassy. This makes it a different model from all the above-mentioned initiatives. At the same time it leaves opportunities for exploring where there are potential synergy effects between the different programmes.

⁹ Information from www.siu.no

¹⁰ www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/selected-topics/Peace-and-reconciliation-efforts

¹¹ Poverty and Peace Programme in www.forskningsradet.no

3 PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

3.1 Planning phase

In 2001, a team of consultants were hired in to assess Norway's support to NGOs and civil society in Nepal. One of the conclusions of the report was that there is a lack of understanding of the role of civil society and "if poverty alleviation is to be seriously addressed in future partnerships, it should be built into the project design with much sharper focus."¹² One of the tools for increasing the focus on poverty through civil society organisations was to set up "a new NGO/Civil Society Fundthat could be managed by the Embassy".¹³

There was thus no mentioning of a research fund in the original assessment report of civil society, this element came two years later, with the new study "*Social Exclusion and National Building – assessment of prospects for enhancing the role of research and research institutions in Nepal.*"¹⁴ This report found that the critical issues of poverty in Nepal are related to "social exclusion and processes of nation-building", and suggested to set up a fund for supporting academic research on poverty, structural inequalities and its implications for building a more inclusive Nepal nation state.¹⁵ As opposed to conventional research in Nepal, the fund should support research that would be defined and relevant to excluded groups' representatives, advocacy, and civil society organisations.

The concept of a Research Fund was endorsed by the Norwegian Embassy in 2004. The important task of locating a suitable institution that could handle the fund in an interim period (defined as the first three years initially) remained as the team addressed the question of institutionalization already then. The afore-mentioned report by Jerve et al (2003) provided an overview and an analysis of the current institutional capacity with regard to the government sector, the university, and the private sector. The team was actively looking for a Nepalese host institution, however was unable to identify one that satisfied the necessary criteria of independence, legitimacy, experience and capacity to take on the task while ensuring the operating principles of the Research Fund.

Three objectives of SIRF were clearly defined from the early start:

1. Produce **high quality and critical research** on causes of social exclusion in Nepal and ways to accommodate and manage diversity
2. Make **social science research more relevant** to excluded and disadvantaged groups and their agendas
3. Ensure that research **contributes more effectively to policy debate** and a deliberative democratic process

¹² Stein Erik Kruse et al (2001) , "A Review of Norwegian Support to NGOs in Nepal", page 24,

¹³ Kruse et al (2001) , page 38

¹⁴ Alf Morten Jerve, Lill-Ann Bjaarstad Medina, Mohan das Manandhar, Michael Thompson (2003).

¹⁵ Jerve et al (2003), page 5

3.2 Secretariat set-up

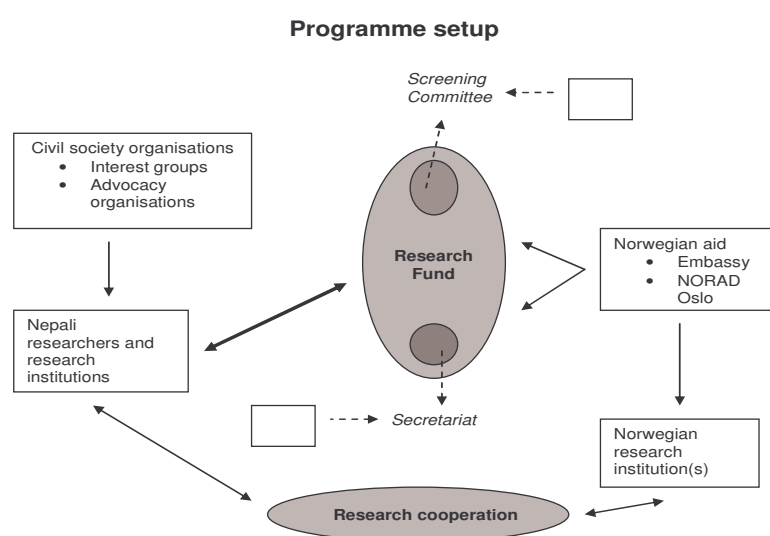
Netherlands Development Organisation - SNV was selected by the RNE after a thorough process of inquiry and deliberation. The choice was surprising to quite a few as SNV – which has a long history of with building capacity in Nepal, did not have experience with handling research programs. This meant that it had to upgrade, train and sensitise its own staff in “research council” type administrative procedures, develop new guidelines and formats for every stage of processing of applications for research grants.

The main bodies in the interim SIRF were:

- Secretariat (3 positions, coordinator 50%, research associate 100%, secretary 50%, effectively 2 full-time positions)
- Interim Screening Committee (ISC, 9 members, meet twice a year)
- Partner organisations: outsourcing of training, capacity-building, and dissemination of research to media and public

The implementing partners like Tribhuvan University, Social Science Baha, and Martin Chautary that are not an explicit part of the structure (figure below), have inevitably fulfilled a key role. The partner organisations were not included in the original model, but ISC quickly realised the need for outsourcing these key activities in order to reach the SIRF objective in the interim phase (see also section 4.6 success criteria for more on this). It seems though that the partners took on a larger role than originally planned.

Figure 2: the planned structure of SIRF¹⁶



The above figure does not give an optimal illustration of the actual roles and relationships

¹⁶ Source: Project Document, April 2005

between the different components and processes of the Programme Setup. In particular, there is no direct arrow linking “Research cooperation” with the Fund as a whole or with the Secretariat. This is a weakness that has been observed as a missing link in reality as well.

The Project Document highlights that the capacity and competence of the Secretariat is an important risk factor. It was correctly concluded that the best quality assurance could be done through a professionally managed peer review process. “Considering that research grants management is a novel field to SNV, it is important that SNV, in the mobilisation phase, gave adequate time and resources to prepare itself for this task, including actively seeking advice from persons and organisations with the relevant experience. Finding the right person for the post of Coordinator of the Secretariat will be a critical factor.”¹⁷ This, SIRF has accomplished successfully as can be seen from the achievements during the pilot phase.

Although SIRF is hosted by SNV, SIRF is not integrated into SNV in terms of the programs and portfolios and acts like a separate unit as regards its secretarial functions and administration of the Fund. The secretariat is responsible for all aspects of program management, marketing of the Fund and communication of results. In the agreement signed between Norway and SNV in August 2005, SNV took on the responsibility for the overall staffing, financial management, and office space and facilities for the SIRF secretariat, while Norway committed the funds.

SIRF “lives its own life” to a large extent within this organization,¹⁸ and its staff has not been included in capacity-building or training that SNV has provided for its ordinary staff.

3.3 Interim Screening Committee

Within SIRF, the Interim Screening Committee is the highest decision-making body, and the composition of ISC has been crucial. Principles to guide the selection of the members of the committee was a great concern, since in the capacity of being members of this board, the member possesses potentially significant power in defining research priorities and awarding grants. These principles¹⁹ first and foremost focused on inclusion of excluded groups in the committee; secondly it was an equally important requirement that they had reputable academic merits. RNE and SNV agreed on the final nomination of nine persons representing all major excluded groups²⁰ and government representatives as well as two international members (of which one is Norwegian). Government participation in the committee was considered necessary in order to enhance government recognition and to create institutional links that could facilitate dialogue on research needs and dissemination and communication of

¹⁷ Project document (p 7.)

¹⁸ Interviews SNV key management and leadership, confirmed by SIRF staff.

¹⁹ It was desirable to have proportionate regional/geographical representation in the committee. All academicians should have experience and background in social science research and actively published books, articles in peer reviewed social science journals, and/ or research papers. All should be independent members of the ISC and operate on their own personal capacity (and not on behalf of any other institute). A certain gender balance must be ensured. Several members should have international academic/professional experience and contacts. Several members should have experience with applied research/making an impact through research (a good understanding of the needs of the public sector and policy making). The International researchers will represent different nationalities, with one member of Norwegian nationality.

²⁰ Ethnic Minorities/Indigenous groups, Dalit groups, Madhesi /Nationalities and Women

results for policy making. NPC and the Ministry of Finance are represented by a member each.

The day to day administration of SIRF lies with the secretariat. As a rule the ISC meets twice a year, however its members are found to be actively involved in many other meetings and activities that is organized by SIRF (such as the civil society workshops, media seminars, presentation of inception reports etc).

3.4 Grants

SIRF has managed three streams of grants for the period 2006-7:

1. Fellowship Grants (RF): facilitates research projects of 2 - 3 years duration allowing the key researcher to spend at least half- time on the project over this period. Nepalese citizen of all social groups (caste and ethnic) with minimum of Masters Degree in relevant field are eligible to apply for the grant. Grants up to 1,5 million rs (85.000 NOK). Deliverable: academic report of high standard approved by Supervisor
2. Apprenticeship grants (AG): provides research apprentice opportunities to candidates from socially excluded groups: dalit, janajati, madhesi and women. They will have an opportunity to be involved in and build their capacity in research under the guidance of experienced researchers/institutions. Grants up to 100.000 rs (6000 NOK) is granted for six months period. Deliverable: report or article approved by Supervisor provided by SIRF.
3. Norwegian-Nepali research cooperation (NNC) – grants for 6 million, see below 3.5

It should be noted that the fellowship grants, labelled ‘research fellows’ by SIRF, are not PhD or post-doc fellowships. There is no formal criterion specifying that the RFs should be conducting a PhD or post-doc studies. However, for the 2007 awardees, all of them were PhD students or higher.

For the Apprenticeship grants, there are no formal criteria regards to candidates holding a BA degree or higher, as the main purpose is to promote and foster students from social excluded backgrounds into academic research. Some students have submitted proposals and their reports in Nepali language, but a majority has written in English. The ISC has discussed whether to allow AGs to use local languages like Maithali (spoken widely in the Madhesh) or the many ethnic janajati languages as they are acutely aware of the fact that language is a major barrier for excluded groups accessing the academic world.

All streams are organisationally integrated: the award of grants to all streams is managed by the SIRF Secretariat and the ISC. The secretariat primarily has a coordinating and facilitating role in the entire cycle of program activities: preparation of calls for proposals, assessing their quality by peer reviews and preparing the ground for processing and final short-listing. Decision-making on the award of grants lies with the ISC. The respective roles of the secretariat and ISC have been fairly clear in the pilot/ interim phase (see Annex 5 for details).

3.5 Nepal – Norway Institutional Cooperation

Since its inception SIRD included a stream of institutional cooperation between Nepal and Norway. This component was prepared and managed with assistance from Norad until ISC was established. Since then, and subsequently the formal launch of SIRD, the institutional cooperation was intended to be a fully integrated component of the research fund as a whole and the responsibility of all related follow-up was transferred to the secretariat and ISC.

In the period mid 2004 – August 2005 Norad was specifically delegated the responsibility from the RNE to administer an open call for “Project preparation grants” of NOK 250,000 (financed by Norad) over a period of approximately six months. This call was announced in Norway in the autumn of 2004²¹ with a deadline for submission of 27.09.2004. The Jerve et al. report (2003) report defined the thematic research focus and suggested guidelines for the cooperation to be followed in the proposal. Nepalese institutions were not targeted in this call.

Five applications were received by Norad from the institute sector: CMI, NIBR, PRIO, NUPI/Noragric and SNF /NHH (Samfunns- og næringslivsforskning, Norges handelshøyskole²²) by the deadline.

A review committee was put together by Norad to decide on three proposals to receive grants to prepare a full proposal for a research project in collaboration with (a) Nepalese partner(s).²³ The committee met end-2004 and reviewed the applications based on the following criteria: a) thematic relevance; b) social science competence and institutional profile including balance between basic research and applied research; c) project coordinator qualifications and experience with capacity building/institutional development in developing countries; and d) other comparative advantages, such as experience with international cooperation, strengths with reference to dissemination/communication. CMI, NIBR and NUPI/Noragric scored highest and each won project preparation grants.

Due to difficulties in making progress in Nepal during a time of political instability an extension of the deadline was granted to all candidates. The full proposals were collected by Norad on August 15. Norad did not have a role in assessing their contents after this date, and sent the proposals to the RNE for further review in the ISC.

The deadline for submission was also open for other proposals as not to exclude the university sector in particular since no proposals thus far had been received from universities. It was envisaged that they could play an important role in building capacity at partner institutions that should also be harnessed by the this stream of the Research Fund. In June 2005 Norad therefore sent a letter to all universities announcing the call again with the same deadline as the pilot proposals with the *Project Document*²⁴ as the guiding document (see Annex 6). One application was received this time from NTNU.

²¹ Announced in Norsk Lysningsblad and on Norad’s web site

²² Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration

²³ The committee was made up of former ambassador to Nepal Ingrid Ofstad (MFA), Espen Lindbæk (conflict specialist/Norad), Lill-Ann Medina (research adviser, member of SIRD preparation team until September 2004/Norad), and Kristi Anne Stølen (external: professor of Anthropology at the University of Oslo). Kristine H. Storholt (Norad) was secretary.

²⁴ “Research Programme on Social Inclusion and Nation Building in Nepal”.

Originally, the idea was to grant only one Norwegian-Nepalese institutional co-operation, however the RNE maintained that the only exception would be if two institutions have activities that clearly complement each other, then it would be possible to share the allocation between the two. This indeed was the basis for the final selection taken by ISC of the two projects led by CMI and NIBR.

3.6 Norwegian Research Council

Formally, there has been one international visit by the Research Council of Norway to SNV (December 2005).²⁵ The contribution from the RCN has been on providing the secretariat with input on making the calls for the proposals, advertisements, proposal formats, reviewers' guidelines including review criteria and impartiality clauses, contracts for researchers etc.²⁶

There are plans to visit RCN by the SIRC Secretariat, but it has not materialised yet. This seems to be related to lack on planning of what should be the purpose of such a visit. According to RCN, clear objectives need to be developed with regards to what achievements are expected, and how these potential achievements can feed into the further institutionalisation process of SIRC.

²⁵ Kristine H. Storholt (member in Review Team) also visited in December 2004. Storholt was at the time seconded by the Research Council to Norad and in the capacity of Norad staff gave input to SNV, while Nina Hedlund continued from 2005

²⁶ Interview Nina Hedlund 19.10.07

4 ASSESSMENT

4.1 Evaluation frame

Criteria	Review topics	Selected indicators ²⁷
Relevance	Research themes Selection process: Screening, reviewers, contents Quality of research (RFs, AGs, Institutional) Researchers' belonging to excluded groups Research results: dissemination, public debate	Excluded groups' involvement in identifying, designing of themes Peer reviewers' assessments, published articles, Extent to which research is 'given back' to communities. Level of outreach in dissemination Media's interest in research results
Effectiveness	Access to fund: advertisement, promotion, marketing Outputs; extent to which objectives have been achieved Quality-assurance: Capacity-building, supervision, monitoring, contact Norwegian Research Council	Perceptions of SIRF as 'accessible'; suitable channels for promotion Increase in applicants from excluded groups; no. of women, Dalits, Janajatis, Madheshi. Completion rates for AGs
Efficiency	Financial management, administrative/finance routines, audits, internal control procedures Program management; communication, archives Outsourcing of services vs. quality, control and monitoring	Satisfaction level of beneficiary students, donors, cooperating partners in Nepal/Norway Human resources sufficient/qualified Administrative cost per student head compared to similar scholarships
Sustainability (ownership)	Current institutional set-up and proposed structure Government accountability re social inclusion vs. preserving free, critical, and independent research? SIRF obtain national impact but not being "politicised" (academics vs. politicians in Board) Volume and size of SIRF regards secretariat & grants	Local ownership and driving force behind process of institutionalisation Govt interest and commitment to SIRF Replication of fund as model Great volume of proposals funded creates momentum in society

4.2 Relevance

For assessing the relevance of the programme, the TOR asked the Review Team to explore as to what extent the three SIRF objectives (see section 3.1) of the programme are still valid, and if activities and results are consistent with the overall goal. The team chose to analyse SIRF's relevance to both the Nepalese context outlined briefly in section 2.1 and national planning processes. Furthermore, we assessed the relevance of the research themes chosen for funding as well as the ethnic/caste/gender/geography origins of the awardees, especially the Apprenticeship grants (AGs) as they were specifically targeting excluded groups.

²⁷ Indicators were adapted from SIRF programme documents (2005)

4.2.1 National relevance

Research-based knowledge is in high demand in Nepal. Indicators of this clearly defined need came from the National Planning Commission (NPC) of the Government of Nepal which is in charge for developing the country's comprehensive development and poverty reduction policies and strategies. While social inclusion was one of the four main pillars of the 10th Plan (2002-07), the 11th Plan [three year interim plan] being worked out now has 'inclusive development' as its main theme. NPC voiced their great support for SIRF, both via their representative in the ISC as well as in direct talks with the vice-chairman of NPC.

In addition to NPC, professionals like lawyers highlighted their great need for authentic and high-quality research reports that might be presented in court cases related to the plights and rights of socially excluded groups. NGOs, advocacy groups and various public interest groups supported the same demands. In recent years, inclusiveness has been included in development activities and the donor communities are in need of social inclusion related data and information relevant to resource use and management and socio-economic development plans.

Social inclusion seems to have rapidly become a "catchword" in Nepal, but there are many indicators that the inclusion concept is not fully understood, internalised or operationalised among many people as well as in government, private or donor organisations. For example, of the 28 people recently appointed to the Ministerial Secretary Posts only three were from marginalised groups. In the Board of the National Commission for Human Rights there are 26 members; among them 24 are Bahun, one Newar and one Dalit. Private companies are profit-oriented and look for people who can deliver results irrespective of gender or caste/ethnicity. Many donor organisations are also not adhering to principles of staff diversity in recruitment.

Social inclusion taken seriously - real inclusive policies are 'disturbing' because it aims at changing century-olds traditions - like Dalits being prevented to enter the temples, not legally, but due to people's religious beliefs. Full inclusion is widely perceived as a win-loose situation because the dominating social groups risk losing out of positions and power. The recent historic government decision in making provisions for including marginalized groups in the police forces and other civil services is one the first practical steps for operationalising inclusion at national level. The research fund is a similar type of practical measure of increasing the number of researchers in the long-term from excluded groups.

4.2.2 Selection - review process

The first goal of SIRF was to promote critical and high-quality research. How has SIRF done that? In the first year, each Research Fellow (RF) proposal was reviewed by three international reviewers. As seen in Table 1 below, out of the 72 proposals received the secretariat screened and selected 41 proposals based on formal criteria (applicants filled in correct formats, theme within announcements, budget), which were sent to three reviewers each.

When the secretariat received the reviews from the international academics in 2006, the results (1, 2,3,4,5 - excellent to weak) were presented to the ISC for decisions, and 15 RFs were awarded with 1.5 million Rupees each for a 2-3 years period. For 2007, results of the reviews for RFs were graded A, B, C (excellent to poor).

Table 1: RF proposals received and approved in 2006-07

Year	Received	Reviewed	Short-listed	Awarded
2006 ²⁸	72	41	16	15
2007	143	130	11	10
Total	215	171	27	25

For 2007, SIRF amended the system slightly and selected one international and two national reviewers for review of the 130 screened proposals. Reducing the number of international reviewers was a decision taken by the ISC in the fourth meeting in January 2007.²⁹ Among the issues discussed in both the 3rd and 4th ISC meetings with regards to the reviewers was the role of the secretariat vis-à-vis the reviewers. There was an agreement that the Secretariat will only check and make sure whether the required basic criteria are met, the opinion on quality is the reviewers' roles. The ISC also expressed a concern that reviewers had not been provided by a list of ISC's priority themes, so how could they grade and weight the proposals.³⁰ It was not clear if this issue had been followed up by the secretariat.

The review process for the **apprenticeship** grants was meant to be less comprehensive than the research fellows, as the grant is smaller (Rs. 100,000). In 2006 the SNV Secretariat did the screening and presented a list of AGs for selection, but due to critics from some ISC-members, the system was changed in 2007 and the ISC delegated for the secretariat to find three national reviewers per each AG proposal.

Table 2: AG proposals received and approved in 2006-07³¹

Year	Received	Reviewed	Approved	Contract signed
2006	71	71	61	58
2007	406	392	95	91
Total	477	463	156	149

For the RF reviewers, the format is standardised (as it was adapted from the RCN), but for the

²⁸ See Annex 4: 1 Research Fellowship for the number of RF applications received in 2006

²⁹ Minutes from 4th ISC meeting 3-4 January 2007, page 6

³⁰ Minutes from 3rd ISC meeting June 2006, page 4.

³¹ See Annex 4 for more details on the AGs and RFs

reviewers for the AGs, many of them had never reviewed academically before. Thus, the team found that the lack of orientation and instruction turned out negatively for some of the national reviewers. Some did not understand how to weight the different criteria, and how to define A, B, and C. Where one reviewer revealed an eloquent and advanced system for calculating the grades of the AGs, another had adhered strictly to the formal criteria of how they had filled the format, how well the research methodology was elaborated, not weighing the relevance of the applicant's research theme nor his/her ethnic/caste/gender origin – even if that was one of the criteria for support. Among the informant reviewers interviewed, the team got the impression that grading was based primarily on the quality of the proposal, and less on how it fitted to the announced research themes. Thus, the idea of having external review of the 392 AG proposals for 2007, seemed like a good idea – and also completely necessary as the small secretariat did not have the capacity to handle and screen the huge amount of proposals. Nobody seemed to have foreseen such a large increase in AG applicants. Still, for later reviews and in order to promote uniformity in the handling of the proposals, AG reviewers would benefit from receiving a brief orientation about SIRF's objectives and the grading and weighing of proposals.

4.2.3 Relevance of the Research Themes

The second objective of SIRF was to make **research more relevant** to excluded groups. The Civil Society Forum Workshop for Research Programme on Social Inclusion and Nation Building organised by SIRF Secretariat on 12-13 February 2006 identified major issues for SIRF research, which were further streamlined to broader research themes.

In 2006, proposals were called for 12 convergent themes and 16 group specific themes for Janajati (4), Dalit (3), Madheshi (4), and women (5). The research themes were same for both Research fellows (2-3 years duration) and Apprenticeship Grants (up to 1 year duration). While 20 themes for Research Fellow and 25 themes for Apprenticeship Grant were allotted for research proposals in 2007, there was no group specific theme.

Main findings with regards to the research themes were that the research themes announced by SIRF are broad and particularly the young researchers from excluded groups find it hard to understand them, and most of the research themes are directed towards socio-cultural and political aspects of excluded groups.

A thorough analysis of RF and AG research currently being conducted indicate that a large number of researches are directed towards finding the causes of social exclusion rather than the effects of exclusion.

There are some common research themes ('duplication') between RF and NIBR/CMI research and in the AG research themes between 2006 and 2007 as well as within 2007. The duplication is not necessary a problem, some would rather argue the opposite: Different researchers should work on the same issues, as they will apply different methodologies and perspectives. However, in a country like Nepal which has relatively scarce resources allotted for research, there were concerns with regards to maximising the effects of the funds available to bring out as much new knowledge of different issues as

possible. The fear of duplication between CMI and NIBR was also mentioned as a concern in the 3rd ISC meeting.³²

A small number of RF and AG research is conducted identifying the causes and effects of social exclusion in Madheshi community including Janajati, Dalit, caste group, and Muslim compared to hill community. The discussions held with people from various fields during field survey clearly indicated that there is lack of data and information on Madheshi community.

Discussion with representatives from Janajati, Dalit, Madheshi and women federations, and SNV, National Planning Commission and other organisations revealed that the research themes need to cover socio-economic development and resource use and management aspects of the excluded groups. As most of the development agencies either government or non-government including donors are emphasising on inclusive development, there is a need to revisit the research themes both for RF and AG. The following additional research themes were suggested from the informants:

- The women issues particularly dowry problems are critical in Madheshi community and fast spreading in other hill caste and ethnic community
- SIRF research can provide policy inputs and the research findings should point out weakness in implementation of development programmes and projects
- Research based knowledge on socio-economic development issues of various castes and ethnic groups living in different geographical area is lacking and these could be the research themes.
 - Study on the effects of inclusive programmes currently being implemented e.g. incentives in the area of education, school enrolment, kerosene etc
 - Leasehold forestry for marginalised community
 - Heavy dropouts from primary school particularly in highly marginalised Dalit, Janajati and lower mid-caste Madheshi
 - Involvement of highly marginalised community in GON or donor driven field programmes
 - Passive character of highly marginalised ethnic and caste community
 - Rights of disabled population



Tradition of Dowry is spreading and need to be better researched.

To ensure systematic contact with and involvement of civil society and to bring relevant research-based knowledge back to the excluded groups a Civil Society Forum was envisaged in the original Project Document as an arena where all interest groups beyond the academic circles to be gathered on a regular basis (twice a year)³³. This meeting place and exchange of ideas and matters of urgency that required to be addressed by research in particular. In the longer run, it would also serve as a forum for dissemination of results.

Since there has not been any civil society workshops after the 2006 event, SIRF have tried to

³² Minutes 3rd ISC meeting 2-4 June 2006.

³³ 1st ISC meeting, presentation of CSF, slide 6.

ensure that there is a close dialogue with socially excluded groups, but has not been in charge of that aspect itself. Rather, the secretariat has encouraged the ISC members to dialogue and exchange information with their respective groups (Dalits, Madheshi, Janajatis, and Women).

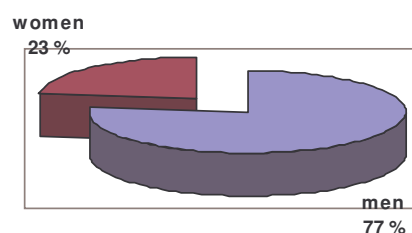
So far, one the above mentioned Civil Society Forum Workshop has been organized by SIRF and there are no plans for any. The MTR heard several times that it would be useful to have such events organised regularly in order to continuously 'adjust' the directions of the research themes to be as relevant as possible for excluded groups.

4.2.4 Ethnic/caste/gender origins of researchers

Related to relevance, the team analysed who has benefited from the research fund. 23 percent of the Research Fellows are women (Figure 3), while for the AGs, there is a better gender balance of 40/60 female/males obtaining the AGs.

Figure 3: Distribution of RFs according to the gender

Looking at the percentage wise chance of obtaining a research scholarship, it seems that SIRF has practised positive discrimination to some extent, for example a female AG from the Madhesh applying will have a 33 per cent chance of receiving the fund similar to a man from the Hill community. However, the chance for Madheshi female RF in obtaining fund has been nil. There has been no discrimination between hill and Madheshi men in receiving the fund for RF, but for the AG, SIRF has practised positive discrimination also for men especially Madheshi, Dalits and Janajatis (only females).



A big difference was found between hill and Madheshi researchers applying for RF and AG. About 82% and 18% applicants were from hill and Madheshi community respectively although the ratio of Madheshi and hill population is 34:66.

The majority of the RF awardees were from dominant group Bahun, Chhetri and Newar (42.4%) followed by excluded groups such as hill Janajati (26.9%), Madheshi (19.2%), and hill Dalit 11.2%. Madheshi Dalit of either sex did not apply for RF and none of the 5 Muslim got awarded. Most of the co-researchers are Bahun-Chhetri-Newar (54%), Hill Janajati (20%), Madheshi (15%) and 11% Hill Dalits. About 40% of the co-researchers including research assistants are women but nearly 2/3rd of them are from Bahun-Chhetri-Newar group. Only one co-researcher is from Madheshi female.

As the hill high-caste male researchers/students (Bahun-Chhetri) were not allowed to apply for Apprenticeship Grants, the majority of the AG applicants as well as awardees were from hill Janajati (41.7%), hill Dalit (19.9%), Bahun-Chhetri females and Newars (19.2), and Madheshi (19.2%).



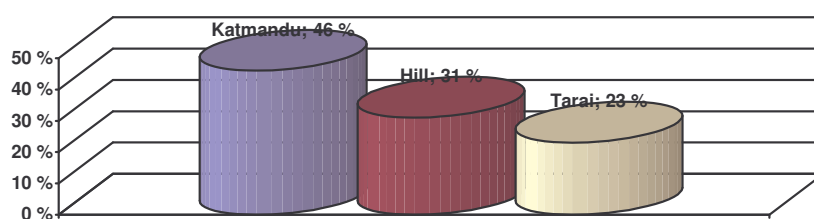
University students come mainly from hill high-caste origin

Gender distribution in AG awardees is more favourable, about 40% AG women researchers compared to 23% RF women researchers.

None of the Madheshi Dalit applied for RF or AG funds. There are very few researchers in Madheshi Dalit community in the country: only 37 men and 2 women with Bachelor and Master degrees and 15 men and 4 women with 10+2 degree, while their population was 886,204 in 2001 (Madheshi Dalit Development Federation, October 2007: Research Areas of Madheshi Dalit Community). Again, none of them are involved in academic research and most of them can not write a good proposal or report in English.

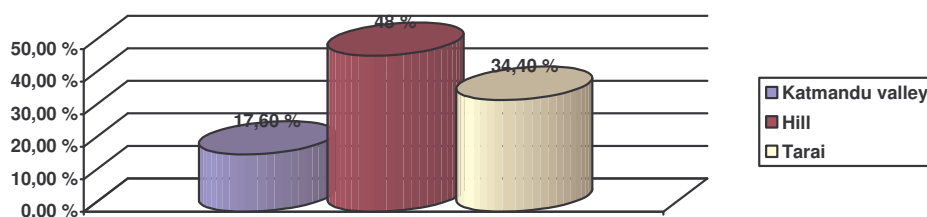
The composition of staff in the Norwegian-Nepalese research composition reflects the same reality: out of a total of 16, 14 are males and two females. A majority belong to the dominating classes, especially those from the institutions CNAS – and to a lesser degree CEDA.

Figure 4: Geographic origin of RFs



As seen in the figure above, about 46% of the RF awardees are from the Kathmandu Valley, 31% from hill districts and 23% from Tarai districts. Majority of the RF awardees- 12 have their research area both in hills and Tarai districts, 5 in hill districts, 4 in Tarai districts and 5 researchers have not specified their research area indicating that they are conducting research at national level.

Figure 5: Geographic origin of AGs



With regards to the geographic background of the AGs, there is a marked difference from the RF proposals; only 17,5 percent come from the Kathmandu valley as opposed to 46% of the

RF awardees. However if looking at the Hill/Lowland distribution, there are more AG proposals from researchers/students living in hill districts (48.0%) than in Tarai districts (34.4%). Out of the total 164 proposals received from Tarai districts, 77 of them (47%) belong to Hill community living in Tarai region.

For the ethnic/caste backgrounds of peer-reviewers, the team interviewed several national and international AG and RF reviewers. The majority of the RF reviewers (81%) are Bahun-Chhetri-Newar (BCN), 3 Janajati, 1 Dalit and 1 Madheshi. 12 out of 26 RF reviewers are females (all BCN). 10 out of 24 AG reviewers are females (3 Janajati, 7 BCN), 2 Madheshi and 8 Janajati, and there were no Muslim reviewers. It should be noted that this is a reflection of the distribution in academia in Nepal in general and not particular for the academics related to SIRC, except for the fact that SIRC has recruited many female reviewers – 46 percent – which is far higher than the female representation at universities or other higher educational institutions.

4.3 Effectiveness

When assessing the effectiveness of the programme we considered to what extent the objectives are likely to be achieved by end of the programme period, and what the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives are.

The team found a high degree of achievement in the programme with regards to implementation of main activities such as the call for proposals, screening, and selecting proposals, contracting with research and training institutions for supervising and guiding the students in their work.

4.3.1 Access and advertising

An important indicator for assessing the effectiveness of the programme is to assess *who* has gained access to the fund. Keeping in mind Nepal's geographic and social context with a strong domination of the peoples of the Kathmandu valley as the hill, higher-castes and a few privileged ethnic groups, the evaluation assessed which efforts were undertaken to ensure that the proposals were advertised in a 'inclusive' manner. How the advertisement was designed, in terms of language, accessibility style of the text, and which media channels were utilised. The team found that the secretariat had exerted great efforts to make the advertisement accessible to as many people as possible. The first SIRC coordinator, who had previously worked for SNV in the far-western region of Nepal, was familiar with the channels for networking and outreach to remote areas. SIRC advertised the call for proposals in two main newspapers, Kantipur and Himalayan, and for 2006, the call was also announced on the radio FM. The call was also distributed through NGOs. However, the secretariat and ISC have concerns that the calls could be reach out even more and have discussed how to 'advertise' broader, especially in the Madheshi areas.

A second issue raised by several informants was their perception of SIRC; most informants reported that they perceived it as a highly professional and efficient secretariat, treating everybody equally, giving all qualified applicants a chance – irrespective of their race/gender/ethnicity or caste. However, some voices were heard saying that because of the sensitivity and highly loaded psychological barriers many socially excluded groups feel, they would not feel

comfortable approaching SIRF – or would not enter except for on an explicit invitation. This has not necessary anything to do with SIRF, but to do with the long history and culture of exclusion that people have got used to.

When a person from excluded group particularly a Madheshi goes to any government office or donor office, the first thought that comes to his or her mind is “do I know somebody working there?”, “does any one belong to my excluded group?”, “will he understand my cause and help me?”

If he does not know somebody there or someone from his community, he gets psychologically defeated and he can not properly communicate thinking that he will not be fairly treated. But if he finds somebody whom he knows or some one from his own community/caste/background, he communicates freely and asks for help or information, and when the work is done he thanks him and feels obliged to him. May be he has not done anything. During our interviews with disadvantaged people, they narrated “we look for people from our own background to get ahead in the system”; “we have no approach to higher government authorities as well as to international/donor offices where most of the people belong to dominant group or to different community, and we do not feel comfortable talking to them and asking for information or getting the job done”; “they never treat us fairly”.

The above illustrates several things; first of all, for socially excluded groups it is very important to get a job in the state administration. Job security is preferred by socially excluded groups who preferred to be employed by government rather than in the private sector or NGOs. This is reflected already in the lower educational levels, according to one informant, low castes and Madheshi wants to finish school as soon as possible and get a job.

Secondly, the story above can illuminate how careful and extremely sensitive the secretariat must be when handling applications. If the review process is not transparent and a proposal is declined it might be misinterpreted as ‘yet another discriminatory measure’ and violation of the oppressed. All socially excluded groups in Nepal suffer from various degrees of an inferiority complex and psychological feelings of lack of self-confidence. The debate surrounding the AGs in 2006 also showed this. Since there was no external selection in 2006, fewer Madheshi (71% of received applicants) were awarded AGs compared to hill people (91% of received applicants).

The fact was however that only 17 of the 71 applicants were Madheshis, and 12 were awarded. As it showed how sensitive and careful SIRF must be in ensuring that the selection process is transparent, the ISC decided to send AGs for peer-reviews the next year. Again, about 43% of RF applicants were screened out by SIRF in 2006 and the rest 57% was sent for peer-reviews; the Madheshi community felt unfairly treated and put pressure on “their” representative in the ISC; Dr. Ram Prakash Yadav (ISC member) expressed dissatisfaction on the process of preliminary screening by the Secretariat and demanded improvement on the process for future screening. In 2007, about 91% of RF applications were sent for peer-reviews.

The question was raised; how can SIRF be made more accessible to those groups who have not yet fully benefited from the scholarships, i.e. Madheshi Dalits, women and Janajati. One informant said clearly that SIRF should not wait for a higher enrolment to take place in the universities, but be pro-active and design a targeted intervention in order to enhance the capacity of eligible candidates. Several informants pointed to the potentials for attempting to recruit for the AG by targeting the regional colleges. When recruited, SIRF bring them to Kathmandu for some months' research training and capacity-building.

Another suggestion that came up was that SIRF can try a two-stage selection process where

local campuses nominate candidates, and SIRF select among the nominated candidates. This will reduce the burden for SIRF. At the same time, professors of local campuses in for example Tarai will know better the most competent students from marginalised groups, and knowing that there will be a selection process in SIRF they will have an incentive to nominate the best qualified candidates, rather than their "own people".³⁴

Regarding participation of Madheshis, the team found an ongoing debate about establishing a federation for Madheshis (and one for Muslims), and demands for a separate commission on line with the Dalit, Women and Janajati commissions.

4.3.2 Information and communication strategy

The secretariat contracted a journalist/analyst³⁵ in July 2006 to produce an "Information and Dissemination Strategy." The main objective for the consultant was to disseminate the research findings for public information and policy debates over three years through radio FM, television programs, news/features, seminars in Kathmandu and outside, media workshops on "issues of social inclusion of the marginalized communities including indigenous Janajatis (minority nationalities/ethnic groups), Dalits, Madhesis and women in the democratic restructuring of the state through the Constituent Assembly."³⁶ The strategy with a three year plan and budget was submitted to the 3rd ISC meeting in June 2006. The strategy was endorsed in principle by the Committee asking the strategy to have a more realistic budget, as well as to test it for six months before approving for the whole three years period.³⁷ On the basis of the experiences, the rest of the programs will be taken up in the remaining period of three years.

Media is paid on project basis, for example, seminars, and TV-programs production, but according to the informants interviewed, SIRF is not paying the actual costs of producing such documentaries citing the risks of going to remote areas for producing shows. For the cooperation with the news agencies, SIRF pays INS per news report which is distributed daily and weekly to newspapers and other media outlets.

According to SIRF annual reports, 118 radio programs in radio FM, NEFEJ, Freedom Forum, eight television programs, and four major seminars on social inclusion had been organised as a result.³⁸

It seems evident that SIRF has succeeded in putting social inclusion high on the agenda for public debate. The number of broadcasts and activities are impressive.

The link to SIRF and the research dimension is however lacking. It was way beyond the scope of this review to assess what the benefits have come from this component, i.e. it was not possible to conduct a survey of what radio listeners or TV audience have learnt about social inclusion. The potential for using media is great but has not been fully explored as the media

³⁴ Input from dr Hatlebakk

³⁵ The media consultant, Mr Aditya Man Shrestha, was out of the country during the field survey, and the team was unable to interview him.

³⁶ TOR media consultants, two contracts (July –Dec. 2006, and Jan-Dec2007) total budget approx 450.000 rs

³⁷ Minutes 3rd ISC meeting, page 2.

³⁸ Progress report from Media Consultant, presented to ISC in February 2007, and SIRF annual report 2006, and progress report August 2007.

activities have not been linked to SIRF until now.

Included in the SIRF Information and Dissemination Strategy' is also a plan of developing a Social Science Network by bringing together researchers from the universities and various research institutions. The consultant who had been contracted for the job reported that so far the efforts had been unsuccessful, as the invited researchers did not seem interested. The team's assessment is that an important success criterion for such networks is that the initiative and ownership must come from the research milieus themselves. Keeping in mind the fragmentation along both political and ethnic/caste lines noted in section 2.2, such initiative seems to be beyond the capacity and prioritised area of SIRF.

The secretariat acknowledges the weaknesses discussed above and have decided to redesign the media component to be more of a "Communication and Dissemination Strategy." The team recommends following inputs to be kept in mind when designing the new strategy:

- With a goal of breaking elite domination in social science research, SIRF could engage in continuous dialogue with TU on how to link research results from SIRF to future research agenda in universities by focusing on disseminating the issues brought up by excluded groups to University/ research milieu. Something which could improve their access to a broader recruitment base of academics from different ethnic/caste/gender backgrounds.
- Link with NPC, and relevant policy processes e.g. the 11th Plan [three year interim plan], as well as links with relevant ministries such as Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and Ministry of Local Development, should form one of the main pillars of communication between SIRF and possible policy implications
- Engage Federations and other organizations (potential users of research knowledge) in systematic dialogue
- Establish Memorandums of Understandings (MoU) with all the above to ensure a form of binding commitment to maintain a dialogue

4.3.3 Capacity building

When assessing the effectiveness of the programme, the team also found that the needs for capacity-building seem to have been greater than originally estimated. A system of building capacity and ensuring supervision through the contracts with two private institutions and one university, have been introduced, yet, there is a lack of follow-up and supervision especially of the Research Fellows after the first six months ie inception report. Weaknesses in the capacity are identified on several levels:

- a) Pre-enrolment of students (need assistance in writing proposals)
- b) During inception period when formulating/rewriting research question and developing the fieldwork methodology
- c) During analysis of data
- d) During write-up of research paper.

e) During dissemination of research: writing results in a presentable form, linking up with media and press, arenas for giving lectures and/or talks – depending on the type of research.

SIRF is currently involved in levels a) and b), but not c) and d) and only to some extent in e) (through the media contracts). Thus, there is need to explore how the researchers can be helped, guided and supervised during their analysis phase and write up. Here, possible synergy effects can be explored in cooperation with the Norwegian-Nepalese researchers.

Another, closely related factor, that seems to be impeding the effective implementation of quality-assurance of the programme is the issue of including the research institutions in the programme. The original programme document (2005) explicitly stated that the only institutions that were to be included in SIRF were those under the Norwegian cooperation. So how did the Project Identification team envisage that researchers would be strengthened/their skills and capacity enhanced without being affiliated to an institution?

The team appreciates the concern that if institutions are too closely involved, there is a risk of 'elite capture' and that research themes and priorities will be those of the universities (as it has been for the last 30-40 years in Nepal), not really reflecting the priorities of people who suffer from discrimination and being excluded from education, housing, land, social and cultural settings – just to mention a few.

Still, the team struggled to come to terms with how the quality of the research conducted can be assured unless institutions are involved. And, how SIRF can contribute towards breaking the 'elite domination' of the universities unless there is a direct interaction between the SIRF 'graduates' and the university institutions? Access to university positions is not facilitated for SIRF researchers unless there is some direct commitment or responsibility taken by the university. ISC has discussed this dilemma in several meetings.

4.4 Efficiency

Efficiency measures the outputs, qualitative and quantitative, in relation to the inputs. The team assessed the activities' implementation and the process leading up to it and the input provided.

The financial input to the Research Fund has been a generous grant from the Embassy of Norway of 16 million NOK for the period 2008-2010³⁹, while SNV Nepal has provided advisory services to the secretariat in the form of one coordinator, one research associate, and a part-time secretary. A Program Monitoring Team (PMT), including the PMT Manager, Finance Officer, and GSO was initiated for monitoring the implementation of SIRF in February 2007 and it has had four meetings until August 2007.

³⁹ First grant was 15 million NOK, ref. contract signed MFA/SNV August 2005. In letter dated 18.08.06 one additional million kroner was granted "to implement two Norwegian research proposals instead of one as originally planned, if there is a need for that towards the end of the project." In a note-to-file dated 16.10.06, it is mentioned that the additional fund will also cover increased costs of 60 instead of 20 AGs and more dissemination and capacity-building activities.

According to SNV, PMT should meet once every two month, or upon a defined need. SIRF approves contracts and reports and forwards it to PMT, which has the responsibility of processing the payments including preparing request letter to the bank, P-Statements and get it signed from members of the PMT.

The MTR found a highly efficient secretariat with regards to the daily operations and keeping files, archives, and documentation. One research associate with some assistance of a secretary has handled a huge work load after the coordinator left in mid-2007.⁴⁰ August is a particular busy time when contracts were prepared for a large number of apprenticeships and research fellows. Adapting to SNV's procedures for payments, the secretariat would prepare supporting documents (contracts, proposal, contact information and details of awardees) in order to start process of payment. SNV's accounting system has procedures of high internal control and met the full satisfaction of the external auditor from J.B.Rajbhandari & DiBins.

The strong internal control, however, seems to have contributed to severe delays in payments, both for the Nepalese researchers as well as the Norwegian research institutions. But, the delay in payments could also be contributed to overload of work on the research associate and the secretary who has been assigned only part-time to SIRF. The fact that the small secretariat was overburdened with work load was observed during the field survey. It should be stressed that they did not complain, but there were clear indicators, like for example the delay of getting the AGs started.

For the AGs who signed their six months contracts in August 2007, but did not receive their funding for starting the fieldwork until September/October 2007, the up-to-two months' delay greatly impeded the implementation of their research. The awardees had requested SIRF to extend the contract so to be six months from funds receipt. This has been declined by SIRF.

For implementing SIRF, the secretariat decided early on – in consultation with the representative from the Norwegian Research Council (RCN) to outsource two main tasks at the core of the Fund: the supervision and training of the student awardees and the media/communication work. It was outside the scope of this review to make an extensive comparison of whether SIRF had chosen to most cost-efficient alternatives within these two areas, but based on the existing knowledge of the national consultant, the price paid for these outsourced activities seemed to be acceptable. However, the type of supervision provided in SIRF is not widely available in Nepal, thus it is difficult to compare.

The use of both national and international reviewers was found to be relatively cost-efficient, but several key stakeholders interviewed raised their concerns regarding the volume, number of applicants. In 2007, the secretariat handled and sent away more than 1500 proposals for peer-reviews. There is already an obvious lack of capacity in the secretariat for processing such large number of applications, in addition to following up the supervision and quality-assurance of the exiting researchers and students. The nature of the programme is dynamic and expanding so that one should plan for the accumulated work load: secretariat had 2 full time and 1 part-time employees in 2006 managing 143 RF and AG applicants, while in September 2007, there were only 1 full time and 1 part-time employee and the number of RF and AG applicants had increased to 549. This meant more than doubling of number of

⁴⁰ The TOR of the research associate does not match her actual tasks and needs updating, see annex for an overview of the tasks.

supporting documents that need to be screened, reviewed, and approved before payments could be issued.

SIRF's standard contracts have been adapted from the Research Council of Norway. According to SIRF, the Secretariat has sent the contract forms, financial guidelines electronically to all the selected awardees to read before the orientation meeting. Regarding the RF contract, the secretariat has organised orientation meeting with each RF individually and for AG in a group of 4 to 5 AG in each. And discussed one 'article' by one and then ask them to send final draft electronically.

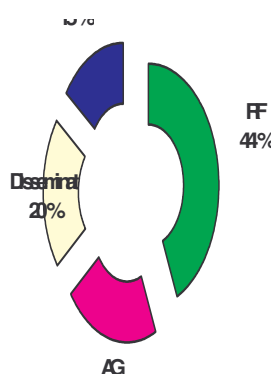
Still, contracts are quite complex and demanding – not what one would expect if the objective is to promote access of social excluded groups not very familiar with elaborate contracts. One informant said: “just to fill-out the forms, one needs to have a higher education.”

AG reviewers are relatively cheaper than the international/national RF-reviewers. For 2007, the ISC decided to increase number of national RF reviewers (to 20) and decrease international reviewers (to 10). According to the secretariat the cost was not the main reason, but the lack of capacity in the secretariat.

Discussing the efficiency of the programme as a whole, we calculated that the administration in SIRF for each AG or RF costs around 13.000 NOK, which is more or less the same as the administrating of the old Norad fellowship programme in Oslo.⁴¹ The comparison is not very relevant as this was administering a fund that gave scholarships from Norway to students from developing countries to come to Norway to study.

With regards to balancing between costs in Nepal related to research grants, capacity-building and dissemination, in the original budget⁴² was planned as follows: 60% for research fellow, 20% for apprenticeships, 10% for dissemination, and 10% for capacity-building.

Figure 6: Percentage distribution of research fund 2007 (excluding Norway-Nepal)



Discussion of how strategically wise it is to outsource key areas like supervision and capacity-building of students is not related to costs and efficiency, but more to what kind of institution SIRF would like to be; purely a financing institution or a fully-fledged research council with professional competence in addition to the pure administrative functions.

⁴¹ Norad, Evaluation Report 1/2005, *Evaluation of Norad Fellowship Programme*, by Stein Hansen et al., NCG

⁴² Project Document (2005)

Assessing how funds have been spent in the two first years, the following distribution is found (see figure 5 below). The major differences from the plans are found to be fewer funds spent on RFs and more on Capacity-building and Dissemination. A doubling of funds has been spent on dissemination, including media activities. This trend is also observed in an overview of the total costs of the programme (see figure 7 below).

One discussion related to the efficiency of the programme has been the bank transactions between Norway-Nepal. The funding for the institutional component comes from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, transferred via the Embassy to SNV, and then back to CMI/NIBR, which again transfers to its Nepalese partners (CNAS, CEDA, S2, and Nepan). This issue was discussed with the involved parties.⁴³

The approval of budgets and accounts has been done through the semi-annual meetings between SNV and RNE, while monitoring the expenditures of the programme was found to be a weaker point. Apart from the PMT in SNV, the SIRF structure does not have a body that closely monitors how much of the fund has been spent so far – so that SIRF can plan for the coming years. Furthermore a PMT for SIRF was only established in 2007. While one could assume that monitoring of costs should be the role of a ‘board’, there is no such task ascribed to the ISC. The main functions of the ISC as a ‘screening committee’ are related to the professional contents of applications and not administrative or financial affairs.

Looking at the total expenditures one and half years into the project whereby 40% of the budget has been disbursed (but 79% committed), we find that one third of costs have been disbursed to the Norwegian-Nepalese Cooperation (NNC), a fifth of the costs has been directed to dissemination activities, 17% to the Research Fellows and nine percent to the Apprenticeships. The costs of the SNV advisory services have amounted to 12% of the total expenses, which is a low administration costs compared to other similar programmes.

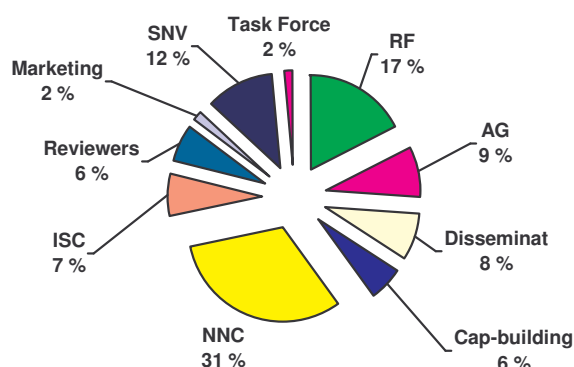
Regarding the fact that almost one third of the research fund has been channelled to the Norwegian-Nepalese cooperation, it should be noted that CMI and NIBR have different models for how much of the fund of three million is channelled to the Nepalese academics and how much is retained in Norway.

For CMI, 23% of the funding is transferred to the Nepalese research partner, CEDA, which in turn transfer to individual researchers based in CEDA and some in the Department of Anthropology. In addition to the 23%, an additional 400.000 NOK is reimbursed to the Nepalese researchers for field-related costs, seminars, and meetings.

For NIBR, exactly half of the total fund of three million NOK is transferred to the three Nepalese partners in the cooperation where CNAS is by far the largest partner with 54% of the budget for the Nepalese researchers, S2 has 30 percent, and Nepan’s share is 16 percent. The distribution is related to the work-sharing in the research project whereby CNAS has the overall responsibility for conducting the large 3000 household survey.

⁴³ In the first year of the programme, and due to a six months delay, CMI requested to have the transfer of funds directly from the Norwegian Embassy. But, after discussion it was agreed that SIRF will administer the transfer from Nepal and transaction costs will be born by the contingency budget. Source: Minutes meeting 14.09.06

Figure 7: Percentage distribution of total expenses up to August 2007



The above represents the actual costs incurred so far. Adding up the various components related to administration, we find that around 25% of the total costs have been diverted to the running of the fund. Here, reviewers' costs have also been included, but not the administration of the NNC component. Capacity-building and dissemination of research results have also been left out, as this is considered activities in itself. Still, it can be considered a relatively cost-efficient secretariat.

Regarding monitoring expenditures versus budget, there were some challenges of accessing the total expenditures. Only in the last phase of the review process, we were able to assess how much of the total grant of 16.1 million NOK has been disbursed and how much is committed to scholarships and research funds out of the total grant.

Table 3: Committed funds and expenditures

Year	NOK
Committed research funds 2006/7 until 2009/10	10,947,304
Expenditure administration to 30.8.07	1,832,768
Total commitments and expenditures	12,780,072
- Norwegian grant	16,185,228
Available funds for rest of contract period	<u>3,405,156</u>

As seen in the table above, by deducting committed funds and incurred expenditures until 31.8.07 from the total grant of 16,1 million NOK, the remaining funds available for administration in the contract period 3,4 million, almost 21% of the fund. This is the amount available for ISC to plan its activities for in the coming years.

The lack of a valid contract between SNV and Norway for the whole period that the programme has made commitments (until 2010) is a weakness that had been pointed out the external auditor in the audited accounts for 2006. This issue has been discussed in the annual meetings between SNV and RNE, but no decision had been taken during the field survey.

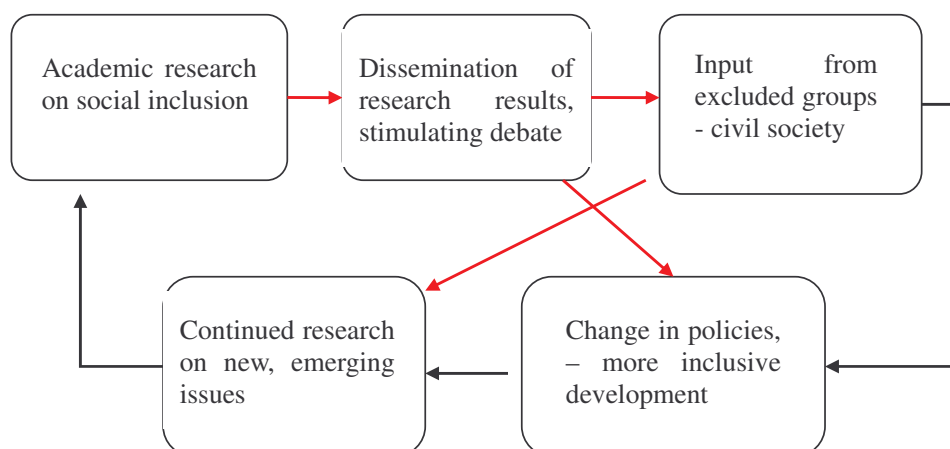
Summary assessment of efficiency:

- Activities were mainly assessed as cost-efficient, some concerns to high fees of the outsourced supervision and training institutions.
- High achievements with regards to implementing objectives in time, except for delays in payments to Nepalese and Norwegian researchers. Delay has impeded implementation of research.
- Personnel in the secretariat not sufficient regards to work load, highly efficient, but overloaded. New coordinator needs to be employed as soon as possible, taking into consideration criteria of staff diversity and inclusiveness.
- Weakness of contract between SNV and MFA: budget not matching duration of contract.
- RF review mechanism is satisfactory, while selection and quality-assurance of national reviewers not clear. National AG reviewers lacked orientation about SIRC.
- Room for simplifying formats for reporting and payment procedures in SIRC
- Low efficiency found on the information and dissemination components, especially with regards to the use of media

4.5 Institutional

The test of ownership in a programme is usually the investment of own resources from those involved. So far, there have been some volunteer contributions from the time invested from the members of the Interim Screening Committee (ISC). The remaining stakeholders such as SIRC partnership organisations e.g. Social Science Baha, Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology, TU, Martin Chautari, media, and the task force members have been contracted as paid consultants. Thus, as long as SIRC has had access to a generous budget, it has functioned well. The real test comes when SIRC has to stand on its own legs.

Regarding the organisational model used by SIRC (see Figure 2), the team believes that a higher awareness need to be raised as what is an efficient model. The main goal of SIRC can be illustrated as in figure 8 below (the red lines indicate where the team suggests improvements).

Figure 8: SIRF model of research and dissemination

After the tragic passing away of one of the founders and former chair, Dr Harka Gurung, the members have rotated the chair responsibility. When Dr Gurung passed away, some predicted that it would deal a severe blow to the institution – and it did, but somehow the ISC and the secretariat managed to rise again and continue the work. Regarding the rotation of the chairmanship, there were diverging views as to how successful the rotation has been, but as for now a majority of the ISC has decided to do it that way.

Currently, the ISC is composed of 25% women (two out of eight members). It was said that SIRF aims at progressive increase of the number of women in the committee, but this would have to be done in the next tenure. In the first phase, the team would emphasise the need for increasing potential female researcher to apply to the Fund more than the female representation in the committee, while both tracks could naturally be pursued at the same time.

The team interviewed all, but one, of the ISC members and found an impressive sense of ownership, consensus, and concern for the management of the research fund. We state ‘impressive’ due to the fact that ISC is composed of people who are ‘cross-pressurised’ – both from the interest groups that they represent, at the same time, they are supposed to think and act in the interest of SIRF, as they have been involved since its inception.

Nepalese ownership has throughout the preparation and set-up been most important to the RNE and SNV albeit the connotations that foreign institutions like SNV may carry. This has been ensured through the leadership by a Nepalese coordinator at the Secretariat and Nepalese chairmanship of ISC. Also naming central bodies like the ISC “interim” was a deliberate choice to signal that this was not a permanent structure.

Generally, they take a sincere interest in SIRF and have strong commitment; however it is a risk factor that most of the members do not have much time to dedicate to committee work

beyond the main meetings.

Legal framework for institutionalisation

In 2006 a Task Force Team commissioned by ISC developed a “Framework for the Institutionalisation of SIRD” including a draft “Social Inclusion Foundation Act 2007 (SIF)”, which was presented to ISC meeting and thoroughly discussed. Initially, the Task Force made consultative process with various stakeholders including relevant government agencies, caste and ethnic federations, media, and donors. The draft SIRD Act describes the legal, administrative and management framework for the proposed institution. The institutional components include social inclusion committee, donor consultation committee, sub-committees on need basis, chief executive officer, and foundation staff.

The Government of Nepal has included social inclusion as development agenda in its 3-years Plan starting from 2007 which would lead to the development of 11th Five Year Plan [three year interim plan], and emphasising the SIRD research related to policy process the Government of Nepal has set aside an initial fund of Rs 200,000 for SIRD. This clearly indicates government ownership of SIRD and its research activities. And, considering the revised scope of SIRD research including socio-economic and environmental aspects, other relevant government agencies, private sector, and donor agencies would financially support SIRD. Now, the immediate need is institutionalising the SIRD.

The Team discussed with various stakeholders including NPC members, ISC members, representatives from caste and ethnic federations, SIRD Secretariat, media, public interest group, and donors on the issues of SIRD institutionalisation. All have acknowledged SIRD as timely initiative and have felt the great importance of SIRD researches for nation building.

The Review Team considers the following scope of work for SIRD and the research programme:

- Short to long-term research to be more relevant to the marginalised excluded groups and their socio-cultural, political, socio-economic and environmental agenda;
- Quality and critical research on causes and effects of the broad social inclusion;
- Timely dissemination of research findings and making them available to relevant agencies;
- Research outputs and outcomes stimulating public debates contributing to development policy and to a deliberative democratic process; and
- Capacity building of researchers particularly from marginalised excluded groups.

The main characters the SIRD institution should have:

- Autonomous and independent having national identity
- Professional Academic organisation
- Government commitment
- Inclusive both physically and in mindset

Some of the stakeholders the Review Team met showed some observations to the proposed institutional mechanism prepared by the Task Force Team which are as follows:

- It is more semi-autonomous, complicated processes and too ambitious
- Very traditional approach with political flavour and excessive government representation in the proposed Social Inclusion Committee, and lacks representation from marginalised caste and ethnic group federations
- Prime Minister chairing the Committee appears to be less practical as he is already chairing 50-60 committees
- It lacks focussing the marginalised excluded groups

The Review Team found the proposed institutional set up in good shape, however, some components need further explanation e.g. composition of Social Inclusion Committee.

Considering the current less stable political situation in the country, it would probably take at least two years to get the Act passed and the institution officially established. The review Team strongly supports the interim stage to be extended with enhanced SNV management support and increased tenure of ISC members until a new organisation is established. The vacancy caused by the untimely demise of Dr Harka Gurung, the Chair should be filled up, so that the ISC will consist of nine members again. Meanwhile, the SNV will organise a workshop in December 2007 on institutional set up of SIRF' and finalising the proposed institutional mechanism would be one of its objectives.

4.6 Lessons learnt

The staff in SIRF has adopted a 'learning-by-doing' approach towards the set-up of the fund and willingly shared some of their experiences in adapting and changing aspects of the Fund in order to maximise the intended effects.

Selection of AGs and RFs: in 2006, the SIRF secretariat received 71 AG applications and following the pre-set criteria, selected 61 applicants for awarding which were approved by ISC. While in 2007, the SIRF secretariat received 406 AG proposals and screened 392 proposals which were sent to national reviewers for grading. The reviewers strictly followed the grading and selection criteria fixed by SIRF secretariat. The selection process was more transparent and fair compared to the first round in 2006. The ISC approved 95 applicants for funding. In 2006, one of the ISC members expressed dissatisfaction on the process of preliminary screening of RF applications and great improvements were done in 2007; about 91% of the applications received were selected for national and international review compared to 57% in 2006.

Duration of AGs: there were no similarities in the duration; in the first round of calls for the AGs, the time for how long they could spend on the research ranged from three months to one year, while in the second round six months duration was inserted in the contract. This was a lesson learnt because SIRF realised that the AGs were not submitting in time.

Result of AG; in the first round, there was no clearly defined goal of what the end-result of the AG should be, the AG was not defined as a research paper at that time. In the second round, through the supervision and assistance of the Department of Sociology/Anthropology, TU and Martin Chautari, the result became defined as a 'research paper' of 25-30 pages.

Payment procedures; in the first round SIRF paid out 60% of the grant to the AGs, but

realising after some time that some AGs took advantage of the system and did not respect their commitments to SIRF. By the time of the Review, 40 of 58 AGs had handed in their final reports. For 2007, the apprenticeship grant will be paid in three instalments (30% upon contract signature, 30% of the inception report, and remaining 40% on the submission of final report).

More training, capacity-building and supervision; probably the most important lesson learnt was to increase the supervision and system around the awardees. Initially, SIRF had made it clear that the main purpose of the Research Fund was “not another training and capacity-building project, if it turns into that, the project should be terminated immediately.”⁴⁴

Information and dissemination: the strategy did not have a clear target with measurable objectives, but a substantial amount of money⁴⁵ has been spent on paying radio and television stations for producing material related to social inclusion. There are no clear achievements arising from this component of the programme. The secretariat has decided to redesign the item to a Communication strategy for SIRF as whole focusing more on how to disseminate the results from the research.

4.7 Success criteria

There are several factors that have contributed to the relative successful achievements two years into the life of SIRF:

- choice of ISC-members, presence of international academics in the ISC, choice of first chair as respected figure
- choice of secretariat, SNV has proved to possess efficient staff (despite some challenges in the administrative and financial efficiency)
- ensure commitment of a extended group of stakeholders (task force, partner organisations) in the programme,
- government commitment and goodwill were obtained from the beginning (letter of ‘no objection’) as well as participation of National Planning Commission in ISC
- adapting guidelines from the Norwegian Research Council gave SIRF a flying start as it did not have to develop guidelines, review criteria, contracts etc from scratch, but adjusting existing Norwegian formats to the Nepalese setting.
- Clearly defined job descriptions for all functions in SIRF; TOR for secretariat, coordinator, research associate, role and duties of ISC
- Availability of funds allowed the secretariat and committee to focus on the contents and obtaining results instead of having fund-raise

⁴⁴ SIRF Programme Document, March 2005

⁴⁵ Until August 2007, 522.000 NOK (65.000 euro) went to ‘dissemination and public debate’.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 For the Research Fund

Overall level:

1. Conclusion: The research fund has successfully completed two rounds of calls for proposals, received 692 research proposals, selected 183 and awarded in total 174 research fellows and apprenticeships after a professional review process, whereby each proposal has been reviewed by three external reviewers, and in the final round selected by the ISC in accordance with what are prioritised research issues relevant for Nepal's future inclusive development process.

Recommendation: The MTR strongly supports the continuation and further development of an independent, professional Social Inclusion Research Fund Institution. SIRF should also document the whole set-up process and offer it for the interest of other donors as a model for developing research funds in other parts of the world.

For ISC

2. Conclusion: The research fund has managed to raise support for social inclusion by reinforcing it as a theme that needs to be mainstreamed in all parts of society. This includes placing the excluded groups of the Madhesh (Tarai) at the center of the social inclusion debate in Nepal, as demonstrated by the Civil Society Forum Workshop in 2006 which contributed to making the Madheshis included among the socially excluded groups.

Recommendation: SIRF should continue to keep a high profile on social inclusion by making the civil society forum an annual, or at least a semi-annual, event.

3. Conclusion: Dalits, women, Muslim and Janajatis from the Tarai belonging to Madheshi community are highly underrepresented among the recipient research fellows and apprenticeship grants. This is related to the fact that there are very few researchers in for example the Madheshi Dalit community; only 37 men and 2 women with Bachelor and Master degree, according to numbers from the Madheshi Dalit Development Federation, and none of those 39 are involved in academic research. There are very few Madheshi women studying at graduate level. Since very few Madheshi people are involved in social science research, writing a good research proposal was perceived as too difficult for many Madheshis interviewed although the AG proposals (but not RF) can be written in Nepali language or in their mother tongues.

Recommendation: More efforts must be geared towards including Dalits, Women, Janajati, and Muslims from the Madhesh as beneficiaries of the research fund if the fund is to have a wider impact. If SIRF decides to raise more funds (see below), three options can be considered:

- a. Opening a 4th stream of mini-apprenticeship grants up to Rs 500,000 per grant

targeting highly marginalised Janajatis, Dalits, lower mid-caste and Muslims in Tarai irrespective of gender, and Madheshi women irrespective of caste. This will build up the research capacity of highly marginalised community studying Bachelor and Master degree.

- b. Revise the current criteria for the Apprenticeship Grants so to allow more access for Madheshi women, marginalised Janajatis and Dalits
- c. Select 25% more RFs than to be awarded and allow ISC to interview them for final selection.

4. Conclusion: the Nepal – Norway institutional cooperation is not sufficiently integrated in SIRF.

Recommendation: ISC needs to consider the institutional cooperation projects a part of the portfolio equally to AGs and RFs, including required monitoring. Tools for improving that could be: a) creating an inventory or data-base of completed and ongoing research projects, including the sub-projects of the Norway-Nepal institutional cooperation, and b) organising a seminar for all researchers under SIRF with the goal of informing each other about their topics, learning, exchanging and reinforcing the new knowledge and themes.

5. Conclusion: 79% of the initial 16 millions NOK granted by the Embassy of Norway/Norad are committed to existing research contracts and/or has been spent and is committed. The remaining 3.4 million NOK is enough to run the secretariat, but not enough to issue new research proposals or a large-scale dissemination campaign as foreseen by ISC.

Recommendation: ISC must establish a dialogue with the main donor, the Norwegian Embassy (and Norad) regarding applying for ‘bridging fund’ for the period 2008-2010. In close dialogue with SNV and RNE, ISC can decide whether to approach other donors.

6. Conclusion: ISC has not actively monitored total expenditures of the research fund and was not informed by secretariat about how much of the total fund had been spent and how much is left.

Recommendation: ISC should ensure that it is fully informed about all SIRF’s expenditures so that it is within the available funds and priorities.

7. Conclusion: The current secretariat after the Coordinator left is overburdened with tasks as it has only one research associate and a part-time secretary.

Recommendations:

Option 1) Employ a new coordinator or ‘senior advisor’ immediately taking into consideration criteria of staff diversity and inclusiveness, so as to continue momentum that has been building up for the last years.

Option 2) Employ a coordinator or senior advisor in 50% position and upgrade the secretary to finance/administrative assistant in 100% for SIRF to reduce the administrative burden on the research associate, especially if there is going to be transition phase and/or another round of calls for RFs & AGs.

8. Conclusion: The volume of received applicants, especially for Apprenticeships 2007, overwhelmed the secretariat.

Recommendation: The ISC must look into ways of reducing the volume of grants (in case it decides to fund-raise to it can issue a new call for grants), by for example target better so as to invite fewer applications (e.g. by selecting certain topics one year, and another set of topics the next year, or by having calls only every other year).

For ISC to delegate to secretariat

9. Conclusion: The current information strategy has not targeted its audience and the contents. There is a need for making a communication strategy rather than dissemination. SIRF should not solely responsible for spreading information about the research.

Recommendation: revise the Information Strategy with a larger focus on consolidating research results and disseminate them to media, development actors, and lobby and advocacy groups by linking up with NPC and relevant policy processes (e.g. the 11th Plan). SIRF should prepare brief reports on RF and AG research findings, discuss them in ISC meeting, streamline and summarise the relevant findings and organise an ISC-NPC meeting for its relevance to government policy. Continue active cooperation with Martin Chautari and other arenas where RFs or AGs can present their papers for a small audience.

10. Conclusion: Coordination and systematic dialogue with representatives of excluded groups is neither sufficiently developed nor formalised.

Recommendation: ISC can engage Federations and the other organizations (potential users of research knowledge) and establish MOUs with all the above to ensure a form of binding commitment to maintain a systematic dialogue on identifying research themes relevant for excluded groups.

11. Conclusion: there is no direct link between the institutional research cooperation Norway-Nepal and the SIRF secretariat

Recommendation Explore ways for strengthening this link, potentially many synergy effects like using Norwegian and Nepalese researchers in the training, capacity-building and supervision of the RFs and AGs, invite selected Norwegian researchers to share their findings in civil society workshops.

Conclusion: It has so far not been explored how AGs and RFs (who were given good reviews, but were not selected for grants for example) could be linked to the research projects

Recommendation: After selection process is completed, the secretariat can make a list of rejected proposals and candidates that received good reviews which can be forwarded to Nepalese researchers at the universities.

5.2 For Norwegian Embassy/Norad

1. Conclusion: The vision and commitment of the Royal Embassy of Norway has been crucial in the set-up of a research fund promoting inclusion in Nepal. Norway is an important partner in making history.

Recommendation: Norway should uphold its moral support and financial commitment to SIRC by extending the current contract between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Norway and SNV to cover the period of current commitments (until 2010).

2. Conclusion: Norway has funded a unique program in SIRC.

Recommendation: It should promote SIRC at home and inform colleagues in the MFA, Norad, and other embassies of the model.

3. Conclusion: As a rule, the Norwegian Embassy would like to see the initiatives that Norway supports in relation to one another rather than as fragmented pieces that operate in isolation. In particular where possible gains and synergy effects can be expected it is important that information is shared and links are made. Currently, there are two other sizable programs supported by Norway that Tribhuvan University for example is involved in: NUFU (university to university cooperation programme) and Norad's Master programme. In addition the MFA and Norad sometimes support individual research projects and capacity building initiatives

Recommendation: The Embassy should keep SIRC informed about relevant research activities funded through the other programmes and vice versa.

5.3 For SNV

1. Conclusion: SNV has played a crucial role by hosting the SIRC secretariat in the start-up years. The efforts and leadership of SNV's coordinator have greatly contributed to the fact that SIRC has successfully gone through two calls for proposals,

Recommendation: Continue to host SIRC until a new institutional set-up is established (see also below).

2. Conclusion: SNV's well established routines for fund management have ensured that SIRC has been able to manage and administer the fund in a transparent way. There is however room for improvement in the efficiency of transferring funds to grant awardees, both Nepalese and Norwegian researchers.

Recommendation: Continue the process started by PMT during field survey of exploring which factors to improve in order to ensure that SIRC maintaining a highly efficient secretariat.

3. Conclusion: SNV has a long-term experience in capacity-building with the goal of making local organisations self-sustained and independent.

Recommendation: SNV is encouraged to utilise its long-term experience in the future transitional process of moving SIRF from SNV to become an independent research fund to complete the ongoing institutionalising efforts.

4. Conclusion: SIRF is suffering from overload of work after the coordinator left.

Recommendation: Maintain the commitment to SIRF by providing necessary human resources as required by the programme cycle.

5. Conclusion: SNV has a wide network of Nepalese partners spread-out all of the country, including in remote geographical areas.

Recommendation: SNV can greatly assist in the process of utilisation and dissemination of the SIRF research result and bringing in new research themes - knowledge brokering of social inclusion for partner organisation and networks of SNV, especially those working in poor and remote geographical areas of Nepal.

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ANNEXES

Annex I Terms of Reference

Mid Term Review of Social Inclusion Research Fund (SIRF)

Introduction

As a follow-up to an assessment of Norwegian support to NGOs in Nepal (2002), the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Kathmandu, envisaged a need to stimulate further research on processes of nation building, social exclusion and poverty, and the role of the civil society in Nepal. A project identification team submitted a report in June 2003 titled "Social Exclusion and Nation Building – Assessment of prospects for enhancing the role of research and research institutions in Nepal".⁴⁶ The Team recommended a two-pronged approach of setting-up a *research fund* in Nepal in one hand while **Financing Research and Cooperation** between Norwegian and Nepali research institutions on the other. The Embassy in early 2004 endorsed this framework and invited members of the identification team to assist in further preparation.⁴⁷ A decision was subsequently made to invite SNV-Nepal to manage a project for establishing the research fund. As a result the **Social Inclusion Research Fund** was established, with its secretariat in the SNV/Nepal premises with the objective to:

- Produce high quality and critical research on causes of social exclusion in Nepal and ways to accommodate and manage diversity
- Make social science research more relevant to excluded and disadvantaged groups and their agendas
- Ensure that research contributes more effectively to policy debate and a deliberative democratic process

As per the project design, the Research Fund is presently being administered through a secretariat housed in SNV, with the Interim Screening Committee (ISC) working on behalf of the Government of Nepal and Norway. This interim arrangement is for a period of 3 years (2005-2007). The Research Fund has completed an initial cycle of launching the fund, calling for the proposals, grant administration and capacity building. The fund has accordingly awarded grants for fellows and apprenticeships, provided support in building the capacity of the researchers and monitored the quality of the research.

In the context, the mid-term Review of the Research Fund (as per the agreement on the project document) helps to assess the Fund against its intended objectives and also helps to explore possible and sustainable future direction/course of action considering (and assessing) its past experiences and lesson learnt.

⁴⁶ Medina, L-A. B. , A. M. Jerve, M. D. Manandhar and M. Thompson. *Social Exclusion and nation Building – assessment of prospects for enhancing the role of research and research institutions in Nepal*. Norwegian Embassy, Kathmandu. May 2003.

⁴⁷ Alf Morten Jerve - Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway, Mohan Das Manandhar - Organisation Development Centre Incorporated, Nepal and Lill-Ann Bjaarstad Medina (NORAD). Hilde Thyne (NORAD) participated as trainee.

Purpose and Objectives of the Mid Term Review

The main purpose of this Review is to assess to what extent the fund has been able to achieve its intended objectives of producing high quality and critical social science research on cause and effect of social exclusion in Nepal. The Review will also examine and explore prospect to identify the suitable structure and subsequent arrangements to institutionalise the Research Fund so as to give the fund an independent autonomous Nepali national “identity” of its own (as envisaged in the project document).

The Review will examine efficiency and effectiveness of the Research Fund with regard to types of research that the fund has granted and the policy debate initiated by the outcomes of the research.

Scope of work

1. Assessment of effectiveness and efficiency of the Research Fund

- Assess to what extent the fund has selected research proposals in order to produce high quality and critical social science research on cause and effect of social exclusion in Nepal
- Assess to what extent the fund has promoted research of relevance to issues of social inclusion and nation building
- Assess to what extent the capacity building and quality assurance initiatives have been effective
- Assess to what extent the fund has been able to promote research that stimulates public debate, and if the research fund has had an impact on the debate.
- Assess which stakeholders that have been exposed to the research findings and the other activities of the funds.
- Assess to what extent the fund has been able to involve disadvantaged and excluded groups in research through research fellowship and research apprenticeship, and in all other activities undertaken by the fund.
- Assess the management aspect of the Fund; assess the administrative and management efficiency of the fund by the secretariat, and also give an opinion if the personnel have been sufficient to handle the administrative tasks.

2. Institutional arrangement, ownership, and sustainability of the Research Fund

- Assess the relevance of the proposed structure and subsequent institutional arrangements with regard to the changing socio-economic and political context of Nepal
- Assess the sustainability aspect of the proposed autonomous institution: Assess the extent to which the autonomous institution will be able to manage, administer, monitor and coordinate the activities.

3. Reporting and deliverables

- The Review team will document their findings, observations, and recommendations in a form of Review report. The report will have a short introduction summarising purpose of study, major findings, conclusions and recommendations.
- The team will present an inception progress to the representatives of Norwegian Embassy and SNV
- The team will present the final findings to the ISC

The Review Team

The Review team comprises of following consultants:

- International consultant (social scientist and have a background of reviewing/evaluating research funds)

- National Consultant (Social scientist and have a background of reviewing/evaluating research funds)
- National Management Consultant
- One Norad advisor with background from research management.

The consultants will base their assessments on review of relevant documents and interview/interaction with ISC members, partner organisations for capacity building and dissemination, discussion with Task Force involved in institutional arrangement of the fund, government bureaucrats, RNE personnel and few research fellows, apprentices and researchers in Nepal – Norway institutional research cooperation projects.

The Review team will define and detailed out scope of work along with detail work-plan, time schedules. The team will develop internal ToR among the members with clear division of responsibilities.

Time Frame

The review will be completed in 15 days with at least 10 days of field work in Nepal. The preferable date for review is 2nd to 4th week of September.

Costs of the review

Items	Amount	Tax	Total (EURO)	Total (NPR)
1.0 Remuneration of consultants				
1.1 Nora Ingdal for 20 days @ 533 Euro (including travel days)**	Euro 8000	Euro 2666	Euro 10666	950,340.60
1.2 Shree Govind Shah for 15 days @150 Euro**	Euro 2250	Euro 397	Euro 2647	235,847.70
1.3 Mohan Das Manandhar for 6 days covered by other contract with SIRF				
2.0 Travel costs of Nora Ingdal ***	Euro 1850		Euro 1850	164,835.00
3.0 Accommodation costs for Nora Ingdal	Euro 25 x 15 days = 375		Euro 375	33,412.50
4.0 Transportation, Field allowances (SNV standards), secretarial costs etc	NRs 200,000 = Euro 2245		Euro 2245	200,029.50
Total			Euro 17,783	NPR 1,584,465.30

Note: 1 Euro = @ NPR 89.10 (rate of 16th July 07)

** Rate is decided by ISC

*** Costs estimated travel from Norway-Kathmandu-Norway

Annex II: List of people and institutions consulted

NAME	INSTITUTION
Social Inclusion Research Fund (SIRF) Secretariat and SNV	
1. Dr. Keshab Man Shakya, Coordination Consultant	SIRF Secretariat
2. Ms. Sita Rana, Research Associate	SIRF Secretariat
3. Ms. Swasti Pradhan, GSO	SIRF Secretariat
4. Mr. Tom Derksen, Director	SNV-Nepal
5. Mr. Huub Peters, Head of PMT	SNV-Nepal
6. Mr. Deependra Joshi, Finance Officer, PMT	SNV-Nepal
7. Ms. Meena Sotang, GSO, PMT	SNV-Nepal
8. Mr. Pravin Dhoj Joshi, External Auditor of SIRF/SNV	J.B.Rajbhandari & DiBins
Norwegian Embassy - Norad	
1. Ms. Elin Gjedrem	Norwegian Embassy
2. Ms. Kamala Bisht, Political and Social Development Advisor	Norwegian Embassy
SIRF Interim Screening Committee (ISC)	
1. Dr. Pushpa Shrestha, Chairperson	SIRF - ISC
2. Prof. Novel Kishor Rai, Member	SIRF - ISC
3. Dr Ram Prakash Yadav, Member	SIRF - ISC
4. Mr. Hira Biswakarma, Member	SIRF - ISC
5. Mr. Teertha Raj Dhakal, Member	SIRF - ISC
6. Prof. Kristian Stokke, University of Oslo, Member	SIRF – ISC
7. Prof. Dr. Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka, University Bielefeld	SIRF – ISC (by email)
Task Force Group Preparing SIRC Institutional Mechanism	
1.Mr. Shambhu Sharan Kyastha, Member	Task Force Group
2. Dr. Sumitra Manandhar-Gurung, Member	Task Force Group
3. Dr. Madan Prasad Pariyar, Member	Task Force Group
4. Mr. Mohan Das Manandhar	Task Force Group, Director, ODC
5. Mr. Purna Man Shakya	Task Force Group
SIRC MEDIA Consultant & Team Members	
1.Mr. Shyam Shrestha, SIRC Media Consultant	Journalist /Editor - Mulyankan
2. Mr. Hem Bahadur Bista	INS
3. Mr. Bishnu Hari Dhakal	Managing Director, Nepal FM Radio
4. Mr. Om Khadka	Nepal Federation of Environmental Journalism
5. Mr. Taranath Dahal	Freedom Forum; Chairman, National News Agency (RSS)
6. Mr. Anuj Mishra	IIDS
Norwegian – Nepalese Collaboration Research	
a) CMI-CEDA Joint Research	
Dr. Ramesh Chitrakar, Project Coordinator, Nepal	CEDA, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu

Dr. Arun Lal Das, Researcher	CEDA, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu
Prof. Chaitanya Mishra, Researcher	CDSA, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu
Mr. Jivan Shrestha, Head of Administration	CEDA, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu
Dr. Magnus Hatlebakk, Coordinator	Chr. Michelsen Institute, Norway

b) NIBR-CNAS/Shtrii Shakti (S2)/NEPAN

Joint Research

Dr. Nirmal Man Tuladhar, Executive Director CNAS, Project Coordinator, NIBR – CNAS Project	CNAS, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu
Prof. Dilli Ram Dahal, Professor Anthropology, Senior Researcher and Team Leader	CNAS, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu
Prof. Dhrub Pradhan, Senior Researcher	CNAS, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu
Dr. Krishna Hachhethu, Senior Researcher	CNAS, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu
Ms. Damini Vaidya, Deputy Administrator	CNAS, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu

Dr. Hari Pradhan, Team Leader, NIBR-S2 Project	Shtrii Shakti
Ms. Indira Shrestha, Chief Executive **	Shtrii Shakti
Ms. Prativa Shrestha, Programme Manager	Shtrii Shakti
Mr. Achut Bhatta, Statistician- Research Methodology	Shtrii Shakti

Mr. Tunga Rai, Program Officer, NIBR-NEPAN Project	NEPAN
Mr. Dal Bahadur G.C.	Network Coordinator, NEPAN
Dr. Marit Haug, Senior Researcher,	Project Coordinator, NIBR, Norway

Research Awardees - scholars

1. Dr. Krishna Hachhethu	CNAS, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu
2. Dr. Keshari Kansakar	SIRF Research Fellow 2006
3. Mr. Bijay K. Singh (Danuwar)	SIRF Research Fellow 2006
4. Prof. Yogendra Prasad Yadav	SIRF Research Fellow 2006
5. Mr. Gopal Dahit	SIRF Research Fellow 2006
6. Mr. Yam Kissan	SIRF Research Fellow 2006
7. Mr. Padma Prasad Khatriwada	SIRF Research Fellow 2006
8. Mr. Uddhav Sigdel	SIRF Research Fellow 2006
9. Ms. Kamala Gurung	SIRF Research Fellow 2006
10. Ms. Jyotsana Tamang	SIRF Research Fellow 2007
11. Mr. Binay Kumar Kushiyat (Yadav)	SIRF Research Fellow 2007
12. Mr. Swyam Prakash JB Rana	SIRF Research Fellow 2007
13. Mr. Uddhav Rai	SIRF Research Fellow 2007
14. Ms. Lumanti Shrestha	SIRF Research Fellow 2007
15. Ms. Sumi Maskey	SIRF Apprenticeship Grantee 2006
16. Mr. Fatik Bahadur Thapa Magar	SIRF Apprenticeship Grantee 2006
17. Mr. Bijay Subba	SIRF Apprenticeship Grantee 2006
18. Ms. Tulsi Dhakal	SIRF Apprenticeship Grantee 2006
19. Ms. Sarojini Sharma	SIRF Apprenticeship Grantee 2006
20. Mr. Prem Phyak	SIRF Apprenticeship Grantee 2006
21. Mr. Abdul Salam	SIRF Apprenticeship Grantee 2006
22. Mr. Subash Nepali	SIRF Apprenticeship Grantee 2007
23. Mr. Suresh Chaudhary	SIRF Apprenticeship Grantee 2007
24. Mr. Rom Bahadur Thapa Magar	SIRF Apprenticeship Grantee 2007

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| 25. Ms. Syaron Basnet | SIRF Apprenticeship Grantee 2007 |
| 26. Mr. Jitendra Kumar Chaudhary (Kalal) | SIRF Apprenticeship Grantee 2007 |
| 27. Ms. Laxmi Tamang | SIRF Apprenticeship Grantee 2007 |

SIRF Research Fellow Proposal Reviewers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Dr. Don Messerschmidt, International Reviewer | Consultant, International Agency, Nepal |
| 2. Dr. Michael Kollmair, International Reviewer | Program Manager, CEGG, ICIMOD, Nepal |
| 3. Dr. Sumitra Manandhar-Gurung, National Reviewer * | Chairperson, National Coalition Against Racial Discrimination ; Member SIRF Task Force Group |
| 4. Dr. Madan Pariyar, National Reviewer * | Agriculture Engineer; Member Task Force Group |
| 5. Dr. Leela Pathak, National Reviewer ** | Transparency International, Nepal; Member NHRC |
| 6. Dr. Ram Bahadur Chhetri, National Reviewer * | CDSA, Tribhuvan University |
| 7. Dr. Pratyoush Onta, National Reviewer * | Martin Chautari (Partnership Organisation)* |
| 8. Dr. Dilli Ram Dahal * | CNAS, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu |
| 9. Dr. Ramesh Chitrakar * | CEDA, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu |

SIRF Apprenticeship Grant Proposal Reviewers

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Mr. Kishore Kumar Jha | MULTI Disciplinary Consultants (P) Ltd. |
| 2. Ms. Ekkun Pun | Department of Language & Mass Communication, Kathmandu University |

SIRF Partnership Organisation**a) Social Science Baha – Capacity Building of Research Fellow**

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Dr. Rajendra Pradhan | Social Science Baha |
| 2. Mr. Hari Sharma | Social Science Baha |

b) Martin Chautari - Research Support and Supervision to Apprenticeship Grantee 2007

- | | |
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| 3. Dr. Pratyus Onta | |
|---------------------|--|

c) CDSA, TU - Research Support and Supervision to Apprenticeship Grantee 2007

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4. Dr. Ram Bahadur Chhetri * | Head, CDSA, Tribhuvan University |
| 5. Mr. Surendra Mishra | CDSA, Tribhuvan University |

Nepalese external resource persons**National Planning Commission, Government of Nepal**

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Chaitanya Subba | Member, National Planning Commission |
| 2. Ms. Indira Shrestha | Member, National Planning Commission |

CERID, Tribhuvan University

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 3. Mr. Shree Ram Lamichhane | Head, CERID, Tribhuvan University |
| 4. Dr. Kishore Shrestha | CERID, Tribhuvan University |
| 5. Mr. Arjun Kumar Pandey | CERID, Tribhuvan University |
| 6. Mr. Jay Ram Thapa | CERID, Tribhuvan University |
| 7. Mr. Jogendra Prasad Lekhak | CERID, Tribhuvan University |
| 8. Mr. Kamal Adikari | CERID, Tribhuvan University |
| 9. Mr. Hari Upadhaya | CERID, Tribhuvan University |
| 10. Mr. Rom Prasad Bhattarai | CERID, Tribhuvan University |
| 11. Mr. Navendra Phuyal | CERID, Tribhuvan University |
| 12. Ms. Renu Thapa, lecturer/researcher | CERID, Tribhuvan University |

Nepal Human Rights Commission, GON

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 13. Dr. Leela Pathak | Member, Nepal Human Rights Commission |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|

Public Interest Group

14. Mr. Kishore Nepal	Journalist, Rupantaran
15. Mr. Prakash Mani Sharma	Executive Director, PRO PUBLIC
16. Ms. Sarmila Shrestha	Public Interest Lawyer, PRO PUBLIC
Federations of Ethnic/Caste Community	
a) Nepal Federation Of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN)	
17. Dr. Om Gurung	Nepal Federation Of Indigenous Nationalities
Planned interview with Ms Soma Rai, Ms Lucky Sherpa, Ms Sangini Rana Magar (National Indigenous Women Federation) was cancelled by them.	
b) Federation of Madheshi Community Nepal (FMCN)	
18. Mr Vijay Kant Karna	General Secretary, FMCN
19. Ms. Ranju Thakur	Member, FMCN
c) Tharu Welfare Society	
20. Thakur Singh Tharu	Vice Chairman, Tharu Welfare Society
d) Dalit Commission and Federation	
21. Mr. Tirth Bishwakarma	Executive Director, Dalit NGO Federation
22. Ms. Durga Sob	President, Feminist Dalit Organisation
e) Madheshi Dalit Development Federation (MDDF)	
23. Mr. Bishweshwar Rajak	Chairperson, MDDF
24. Mr. Chandeshwar Khatbe	General Secretary, MDDF
25. Mr. Ranjit Kanaujia	Secretary, MDDF
26. Ms. Reshma Devi Das	Member, MDDF
27. Ms. Sunita Devi Ram	Member, MDDF
TU Graduate Students	
28. Ms. Milly Joshi	Master Student, CDSA, Tribhuvan University

International

Dr. Lynn Bennett	Social Development Department, The World Bank
Ms Nina Hedlund	Research Council of Norway

* They are involved in more than one SIRD activities

** They are involved in more than one organisation relevant to SIRD

Annex III: Methodology

The MTR will use a combination of qualitative and quantitative methodologies and tools to cover four identified review criteria of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, ownership, and sustainability. The usual fifth DAC-criteria for evaluating development aid, 'impact' has been left out since this is a formative mid-term review and not an impact assessment since it is too early for that.

a. Qualitative Analysis include:

- **Analysis of secondary data** sources (program documents, progress reports, research documents, publications, reports from media, newspapers, etc) related to the Research Fund.
- **Analysis of secondary data** sources related to Nepal national policy documents and legislations concerning social inclusion and nation-building.
- **Primary data collection** and analysis through semi-structured interviews, focus-group discussions, observations of on-going activities (public debates, dissemination workshops etc) interviews with project stakeholders. This will include the following:
 - In-depth interviews with SNV/SIRF Staff.
 - In-depth interviews with members of ISC (also via phone/email)
 - In-depth interviews with SIRF Task Force and SIRF media advisor
 - In-depth interviews with RNE staff
 - In-depth interviews with representatives of Nepali government
 - In-depth interviews with partnership organizations (e.g. Social Science Baha, Martin Chautari, Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology, TU)
 - In-depth interviews selected group of research fellows
 - In-depth interviews with selection from apprenticeship grants
 - Focus group discussions with research fellows and apprentices
 - In-depth interviews with 4 groups each separately (Women, Dalit, Janajati, Madheshi.)
 - In-depth interview with SNV external auditor.
 - In-depth interview with Program Monitoring Team (PMT), SNV Nepal.
 - Individual interviews with other Nepali stakeholders, journalists, media representatives, local organizations, Norwegian NGOs (if relevant) INGOs, donors,
- **Researchers' observations:** The researchers will verify stakeholder feedback by matching those observations with information gathered through other data collection means.

b. Quantitative Analysis will involve analyzing existing statistics on research awardees broken-down according to caste, gender, ethnicity, and geography as well as a budgetary analysis of how much of the fund is directed towards the various themes and topics. The budgetary analysis will also include costs according to administration, fellowships etc. Research will also involve analyzing research proposals received broken-down according to caste, gender, ethnicity, and geography.

c. Participatory approach: a participatory approach will be central to the MTR process. To ensure that SIRF stakeholders feel a full sense of ownership of the MTR findings and recommendations, the consultants will spent the initial few days of the field work briefing key staff on the objectives and methods of the MTR, and will do a debrief to SIRF, ISC and RNE on the preliminary findings prior to submission of the draft report. Moreover, a stakeholder's oral presentation could be organized following the submission of the MTR draft report. A presentation of the draft report will also be offered to Norad.

d. Communication and transparency: Reviews can be stressful for those being evaluated. The consultants will ensure that the MTR to be undertaken in a sensitive and transparent manner: SIRF, ISC and RNE will be consulted throughout the field work, which also will allow for crosschecking of information and findings as they emerged. All will have opportunities, both verbally and in writing, to

comment on the findings. These comments will be integrated into the final version.

e. Analytical Framework:

The following is representing an analytical framework that has been developed to cover the main assessment criteria identified in the TOR, as well as elaborating more. In the below framework a set of key questions have been set per each review criteria identified as well as the data sources and collection method per the set questions. The framework will serve as a broad analytical structure within which to conduct the MTR and to provide useful guiding questions for interviews, and source of data from which to answer such questions.

1 Review Criteria: Relevance	
Key question(s)	Data Sources, collection method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent has the fund promoted research of relevance to issues of social inclusion and nation building? What are the indicators of research being relevant and useful? Which areas of research have NOT been covered in the fellowship themes for 2006-7? How has SIRC been able to involve disadvantaged and excluded groups in research, research fellowship, and research apprenticeship? How has excluded groups been involved in other activities undertaken by the fund? How has the fund been able to promote research that stimulates public debate? What are the indicators that the research fund has influenced or had any impact on the public debate on social inclusion? Who are the stakeholders that have been exposed to the research findings and the other activities of the funds? Relevant questions re. peer-review: a) criteria for selection of reviewers, b) the structure of the review system, e.g. is there a pool/roster? c) how satisfactory (helpful) are the external assessments as seen by Secretariat and ISC? d) how are the external assessments used by the ISC? Has ISC found reviews of low quality and verified reviews? How is that handled? e) Are there examples of disagreements between ISC and secretariat in assessment of candidates? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and analysis of national policy documents and legislations concerning social inclusion and nation-building. Review and analysis of issues of social inclusion and of disadvantaged groups. Review and analysis of (causes and effects of social exclusion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All received research proposals Proposals chosen for funding (Research fellow and Apprenticeship Grants) for the years 2006 and 2007. Rejected proposals – analyse on what grounds rejections are made Quantitative and qualitative analysis of selected research papers and awardees' background, gender, caste, ethnicity & geography Analysis of selection process for choosing candidates, review guidelines and check on implementation. Review media clips, interviews with other Nepalese stakeholders involved Analyze the relevance of mass media and non-media processes adopted and interactive meetings held in dissemination and public debate. Interview with sample of reviewers Interviews with ISC-members Check lists of participants for awareness or other activities funded by SIRC. Structured interviews with project staff Focus group meetings with group of research awardees

2. Review Criteria: Effectiveness	
Key question (s)	Data Sources and collection method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the progress made so far by the project towards achieving the planned activities and realization of project's objectives? Which changes/adjustments have been made in the plans, for project cycle? What are reasons behind changes – what did ISC learn from adjustments in plans? What evidence/indicators are there that project's activity delivery approaches are effective at raising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparative analysis of project's progress reports and plans Analysis of capacity building and research quality enhancement of researchers particularly Apprenticeship researchers. Structured interviews with SIRC and ISC members Interviews with RNE-staff Interview with partners organizations

<p>public debate re issues of social inclusion?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the major factors influencing the achievement or non-achievement of the objectives? What are major deviations from the plans? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview with Norwegian researchers (CMI/NIBR) and Nepalese partners NEPAN, CNAS, S2, TU and CEDA. • Consultations with journalists and other representatives of the media, or possibly public opinion researchers/experts
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3. Review Criteria: Efficiency	
Key question (s)	Data Sources and collection method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the Fund been managed? Are there enough personnel, are the personnel qualified for the tasks given? How is their capacity and ability to deliver quality services? • Are funds available when needed? (Timely disbursement of funds.) • Is the budget large enough to fulfil current obligations? • Has funding from Norad/RNE been stable and predictable? • What systems are in place for financial management and control? • What kind of rules and regulations does SIRC-secretariat/SNV follow in their financial management? • What kind of internal control procedures are in place? • What kind of oversight/external control procedures do they apply? How does ISC monitor the financial management and reporting? (get copies 2006 financial statements and audit report). • Does SIRC provide appropriate, timely and quality reports to the donor (RNE)? • What is the average administrative cost per each beneficiary student and researcher? • Assess the possibility of synergies with other research programs (such as NOMA and NUFU) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative analysis and review of the projects financial and narrative periodic reports • Sample assessment of financial management routines, check payment vouchers and supporting documents • Analysis of monitoring mechanisms • Consultation with external financial auditor • Interview with RNE financial manager and RNE • Structured interviews with SIRC/SNV project staff, including admin/finance • Analyse linkages that exist between SIRC and other relevant, ongoing projects financed by Norway (MFA/Norad or the Embassy) • Analyse different Norwegian scholarship systems (NOMA, NUFU etc) and assess synergy effects.

4. Review Criteria: Ownership and sustainability	
Key question (s)	Data Sources and collection method
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the relevance of the proposed structure and subsequent institutional arrangements with regard to the changing socio-economic and political context of Nepal • Does SIRC have an organizational structure with a clear division of responsibilities and labour between ISC, secretariat, and donor? • Does secretariat have sufficient authority for effective planning and implementation of its work plan? • Are satisfactory systems established for communication and consultation between various levels of the organization? • Assess the sustainability aspect of the proposed autonomous institution: • Assess the extent to which the autonomous institution will be able to manage, administer, monitor, and coordinate the activities. • What are the different management and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth interviews with SIRC project staff • In-depth interviews with ISC • In-depth interviews with RNE and possibly Norwegian Research Council • In-depth interviews with SIRC Task Force, SIRC Advisors and Senior Advisors • Field observations by the researcher • Interviews with Norwegian research institutions of CMI and NIBR Interviews with partner organizations (e.g. Social Science Baha and Central department of Sociology and Anthropology, TU) involved in project activities

organisation options being explored for future set-up of SIRC • What are the positive and negative changes produced by project, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended?	
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Review Time Schedule

As illustrated in table below, the MTR will be carried out in various stages between August and November 2007, including preparatory phases of design and preparation, implementation, presentation, and submission. Most of this time will be spent on collecting field data through interviews, focus groups, project activities observation with SIRC staff, involved researchers, journalists/media, students, and community members.

MTR implementation plan	Comments	Time frame
1. Receiving project documents from SIRC Secretariat	List of MTR requested documents submitted to SIRC-secretariat	August 22, 2007
2. Reviewing project documents & developing Review Methodology	MTR-team	August 22 – Sept 5
3. Send draft Methodology (incl Interview Guide) to main stakeholders, SNV-Nepal, ISC, RNE	MTR-team	September 6, 2007
4. Get feedback & comments on Methodology	SIRC, RNE, Norad	September 13, 2007
5. Plan fieldwork program	MTR in close cooperation with SIRC	September 17, 2007
6. Field Survey	MTR-team	Sept 24 – October 5th
7. Present inception report	RNE/SNV and ISC	Sept 26, 2007
8. Debrief of preliminary findings	MTR-team to SIRC, ISC, RNE	October 5, 2007
9. Draft report submitted	MTR-team to SIRC, ISC, RNE	22nd October 2007
10. Feedback on draft report	SIRC, ISC, RNE, Norad to give written input to draft report	22th November 2007
11. Submission of final report	Comments incorporated into the final report	Two weeks after comments received from ISC, RNE

Annex IV Various statistics of AG and RFs

SIRF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND AWARDED IN 2006 AND 2007

1. Research Fellowship (RF)

Altogether 215 RF applications were received by SIRF in 2006 and 2007 (Table 1). The SIRF secretariat screened 41 applications in 2006 and sent them to International Reviewers who selected 16 research proposals but due to researcher's organisational commitment ISC awarded Research Fellowship to 15 researchers (ISC, 3rd Meeting 2-4 June 2006). While in 2007, SIRF Secretariat received 143 research proposals and screened 130 proposals for International and National Reviewers. The ISC meeting approved 11 and awarded 10 Research Fellowship to 11 researchers (ISC, 5th Meeting 21-22 June 2007).

According to the 3rd ISC meeting held on 2-4 June 2006, altogether 95 RF applications were received and 42 were selected by SIRF Secretariat for international review. This meeting report also gives a list of 46 applications rejected by Secretariat during the screening process. During our field survey, we checked the exact number of RF applications received and the Secretariat could find proposal details of only 72 applicants in their office. The SIRF insisting on 91 applications and the 3rd ISC meeting mentioning 95 applications could not be verified. Secretariat gave us proposal details of 72 applicants which are analysed and discussed here.

Among the research awardees, Ms. Lumanti Shrestha was awarded Apprenticeship Grant in 2006 for her research work on "Domestic violence against women: A study on the causes and consequences of domestic violence against women" and a Research Fellowship in 2007 for "Study of marginalized communities in a mountain district: a comparative study of 4 VDCs of Sindhupalchowk district with differential in accessibility". Similarly, Dr Krishna Hachhethu was awarded RF 2006 for his work on "Nepal: Interface between State and Ethnicity" and he is also a researcher in NIBR-CNAS project. Mr. Tej Kumar Sunar (Dalit-community) was selected for RF in 2007 but he has not yet signed the contract since he started working full time with other organisation.

Table 1 RF proposals received and approved in 2006-07

Year	Received	Reviewed	Awarded
2006	72	41	15
2007	143	130	10
Total	215	171	25

1.1 Ethnicity and Caste Distribution of RF

About 19% of the RF applicants were from the Madheshi community and the rest about 81% from the Hill community; the ratio of Madheshi and hill population was 34:66 in 2001. In both the communities, about 12% of the applicants were awarded (Table 2). Very low level of higher education among Madheshi community could be the main factor for less number of Madheshi people applying for Research fellowship. About 73% of graduates and above are from Bahun, Chhetri and Newar community; Graduation rates in Bahun-Newar community are 4.2-5.7% (females 1.8-2.5%) compared to 0.5% in Madheshi community, females 0.15% (Shah, 2007b). Again, many of the Madheshi community opt for technical education.

The majority of the RF applications received were from hill high-caste Hindu, Bahun and Chhetri (54.4%) followed by Hill Janajati (22.7%), Madheshi community including Madheshi Janajati, Dalit and Muslims (19.5%), and hill Dalit 3.3%. Among the Hill Janajati nearly 44% were Newars who are considered as advantaged community within the Janajati ethnic group (Table 12). Among the Madheshi community, about 77% applicants were from high and mid-caste Hindus, 13% from Muslims and about 10% from Janajati, and none from Dalits. However, 75% of the Janajati applicants were awarded compared to 7% caste-Hindus and none Muslims.

Table 2 Community wise RF proposals received and approved by in 2006-07

Community	Received	Approved
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Hill Community		
2006	56	11
2007	117	10
Sub-total	173	21
Madhesi Community		
2006	16	4
2007	26	1
Sub-total	42	5
Total	215	26

RF Awarded Researchers and Co-researchers

Compared to about 23% women awardees, 40% of the co-researchers including research assistants are women and half of them are from Bahun-Chhetri caste group (Table 3, Annex 1-Table 2). Majority of the co-researchers are Bahun-Chhetri (40%) followed by Hill Janajati (33.9%), Madhesi (15.4%) and 10.7% Hill Dalits. One of the researchers, Mr. Uddhav Sigdel, working on Madhesi Dalit issues has four Madhesi Dalit Research Assistants. Among the 26 RF awardees, 7 of them already hold PhD degree and another four are enrolled in PhD degree.

It appears that even the Janajati, Madhesi and Dalit Main Researchers make options for Bahun-Chhetri Co-researchers and Research Assistants. There are qualified Madhesi caste-group people, but the main researchers did not include them in the list of co-researchers for reasons such as a) less orientation to social science research, and b) less field experience, and c) possibly favouring other communities with whom they have worked earlier and have developed good rapport and understanding.

Table 3 Researchers and Co-researchers in RF awarded in 2006 and 2007

	Main Researcher			Co-researcher including Research Assistants		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Janajati						
Advantaged	3	1	4	4	5	9
Janajati – Hill origin	3	4	7	5	8	13
Janajati –Madhesh origin	0	3	3	1	1	2
Dalit						
Dalit - Hill	0	3	3	3	4	7
Dalit - Madhesh	0	0	0	0	4	4
Madhesi	0	2	2	0	4	4
Bahun-Chhetri (Hill high-caste Hindu)	0	7	7	13	13	26
Total	6	20	26	26	39	65

1.2 Gender Distribution

Gender distribution in applicants was very poor; only 19% of the total applicants were women, however, 14.5% of the women applicants were awarded compared to 11.5% male applicants (Table 4). None of the Hill-Dalit women applied for Research Fellow, while only three Madhesi women applied for RF but none of them was successful as awardees.

The main reasons for very low number of Madhesi women and none Dalit woman could be a) lack of exposure in social science research, b) lack of understanding of social inclusion issues, c) lack of orientation in proposal writing, and in general very low number of research-minded women.

Table 4 Gender wise RF proposals received and approved by in 2006-07

Community	Received	Approved
Men group		

2006	58	11
2007	116	9
Total	174	20
Women group		
2006	14	4
2007	27	2
Total	41	6

1.3 Geographical Distribution of Research Fellow

Majority of the RF applicants were from Kathmandu Valley (45.6%) followed by Tarai districts (29.8%) and hill districts (23.7%), while two of them were from outside Nepal (Table 5). In 2006, about 2/3rd of the total applicants were from Kathmandu Valley, however, the number of applicants from outside the valley increased significantly in 2007 indicating comparatively wide circulation of advertisement in the second year of the programme. In 2006, researchers from five hill districts (Illam, Panchthar, Kaski, Palpa and Gulmi) and five Tarai districts namely Morang, Sunsari, Dhanusha Mahotari and Bardiya applied which increased to 23 districts in hills and mountains and 16 districts in Tarai region. Still there were very few applicants from Mid-Far Western Development region (17.4%) while 82.6% were from eastern to western Development region where most of the educational institutions are located. There are three districts in the Kathmandu valley, 52 in hill and mountain districts and 20 districts in Tarai region.

About 95% of the total Madheshi people live in Tarai districts while the hill people live in hills, mountains as well as in Tarai region; about 36% of the Tarai population belong to hill community (Shah, 2007). Out of the total 64RF applicants in 2006 and 2007 from Tarai districts, 22 (34%) were from the hill community.

Table 5 Geographical Distribution of RF Applicants and Awardees

Geographical Area	Applicants			Awarded		
	2006	2007	Total	2006	2007	Total
Kathmandu Valley	47	51	98	6	4	10
Hill districts	9	42	51	5	4	8
Tarai Districts	15	49	64	5	3	8
Outside Nepal	1*	1**	2	0	0	0
Total	72	143	215	15	11	26

Note: 1* = Applicant is based in London, UK; 1** = Applicant is based in USA (both Nepalese applicants)

Ten of the total 26 RF awardees are from the Kathmandu Valley and another two having permanent address in Tarai districts live more or less permanently in the valley indicating that 46% of the awardees are from the valley where almost all the academic institutes providing higher education and research are located.

Majority of the RF awardees- researchers (46%) have their research area both in hills and Tarai districts and five researchers have not specified their research area indicating that they are conducting research at national level (Table 6; Annex 1-Table 2). Five researchers conducted their field studies in hill districts and four researchers in Tarai districts (Table 6).

Table 6 Research Fellows: geographical area of research

Geographical Area	Applicants			Awarded		
	2006	2007	Total	2006	2007	Total
Not Specified	25	42	67	3	2	5
Kathmandu Valley	4	4	8	0	0	0
Hill Districts	10	22	32	2	3	5
Tarai districts	11	21	32	4	0	4
Hill and Tarai districts	22	54	76	6	6	12
	72	143	215	15	11	26

2. Apprenticeship Grant (AG)

The SIRF Secretariat received 71 Apprenticeship Grant proposals and approved 61 proposals for research funding, however, only 58 researchers were awarded (Table 7). The three researchers in 2006 did not attend the Capacity Building workshop. All the AG proposals were reviewed by SIRF Secretariat and approved by Interim Steering Committee in 2006.

In 2007, SIRF Secretariat received 406 AG proposals and made a final list of 392 proposals which were sent to National Reviewers for grading. Each proposal was sent to three Reviewers. Altogether 95 AG proposals were approved and 91 were awarded by ISC since the four approved AGs had withdrawn the grant because they started full time job in UNMIN (5th ISC Meeting 21-22 June 2007).

Table 7 AG proposals received and approved in 2006-07

Year	Received	Reviewed	Approved	Contract signed
2006	71	71	61	58 *
2007	406	392	95	91**
Total	477	463	156	149

Note: * = Three AG awardees did not attend capacity Building Workshop

** = Four awardees joined other offices and did not sign the contract

2.1 Ethnicity and Caste Distribution of AG

Most of the AG applicants, about 82% were from hill community and the rest 18% from Madheshi community and again the percentage of Madheshi researchers applying for AG declined from 24% in 2006 to about 17% in 2007 (Table 8). In 2006, less number of Madheshi applicants was awarded (70.6%) compared to 90.7% from hill community, and that could probably discouraged Madheshi researchers apply in 2007. Moreover, the call for AG proposals in 2007 mentioned Master Degree students/researchers and/or PhD candidates to apply for Apprenticeship Grant; and as there are very few numbers of such students from Madheshi community not many could apply. Many of them could not understand the meaning of social inclusion research and they also have poor orientation in writing good proposals.

Due to a large number of applicants, the percentage of successful proposals drastically reduced from 70.6% in 2006 to 25.7% in Madheshi community and from 90.7% to 37.5% in Hill community.

Although Hill high-caste male researchers/students were not allowed to apply for Apprenticeship Grants but 15 of them applied, who had attended proposal Writing Workshop organised by Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology, TU and funded by SIRF Secretariat.

Table 8 Community wise AG proposals received and approved by in 2006-07

Community	Received	Approved
Hill Community		
2006	54	49
2007	336	77
Sub-total	390	126
Madheshi Community		
2006	17	12
2007	70	18
Sub-total	87	30
Total	477	156

The majority of the AG proposals received were from Hill-Janajati community (47.8%), followed by high-caste Hindu, Bahun and Chhetri (22.2%), Madheshi community including Madheshi Janajati, Dalit and Muslims (18.3%), and Hill-Dalit 11.7% (Annex 1-Table 4). Among the Hill Janajati about 82% were from marginalised group and 18% were Newars. Among the Madheshi community, 51.7% applicants were from mid-caste Hindus, 23% from Janajati, 17.2% from high-caste Hindus, and there were only four proposals from Dalits and three from Muslims.

Considering Janajati as a broad group, about 92% of the proposals received were from hill community and 8% from Madheshi/Tarai community. Similarly, among the Dalit broad group 93.3% proposals were from hill

community and 6.7% from Madheshi community. This indicates very low number of graduates in Madheshi Dalits and Janajati who are eligible to apply for AG. Under the existing condition of “Call for AG proposals,” an increase in number of applications from Madheshi Dalit and Madheshi Janajati is not expected.

2.2 Gender Distribution

Gender distribution in AG has been quite favourable; 43.8% of the total applicants were women, and 30.1% of the women applicants were awarded compared to 34.7% male applicants (Table 9). However, there was big difference between hill and Madheshi community; about 90% of the proposals received were from hill community and only 10% from Madheshi community. There was no application from Dalit women and although two Muslim women applied for AG none of them was successful.

Table 9 Gender wise AG proposals received and approved by in 2006-07

Community	Received	Approved
Men group		
2006	45	43
2007	226	51
Sub-total	271	94
Women group		
2006	26	18
2007	180	44
Sub-total	206	62
Total	477	156

2.3 Geographical Distribution of Apprenticeship Grant

There were more proposals from researchers/students living in hill districts (48.0%) than in Tarai districts (34.4%) and in Kathmandu Valley (17.6%). Out of the total 164 proposals received from Tarai districts, 77 of them (47%) were from Hill community living in Tarai region. Number of applicants from outside the Kathmandu valley increased significantly from the year 2006 to 2007 indicating comparatively wide circulation of advertisement in the second year of the programme. (Table 10).

In 2006, applicants represented 28 hill districts, 18 Tarai districts and three districts in the Kathmandu Valley while in 2007 applicants were from 22 hill districts and 15 Tarai districts. There were very

Table 10 Geographical Distribution of AG Applicants and Awardees

Geographical area	Applicants			Approved		
	2006	2007	Total	2006	2007	Total
Kathmandu Valley	18	66	84	14	14	28
Hill districts	30	199	229	27	41	68
Tarai Districts	23	141	164	20	40	60
Total	71	406	477	61	95	156

Note: 1* = Applicant is based in London, UK; 1** = Applicant is based in USA (both Nepalese applicants)

The duration of Apprenticeship Grant was 6 months to 1 year in 2006 and 6 months in 2007 and almost all grantees in 2007 are students doing Master degree in social science subjects. Unlike RF research, a large number of AG research is being carried out in hill (35.8%) and in Tarai districts, 33.3% (Annex IV: Table 5). There are few researchers carrying out their research both in Tarai and hill district (Table 11).

Table 11 Apprenticeship Grant: geographical area of research

Geographical area	Applicants			Approved		
	2006	2007	Total	2006	2007	Total
Kathmandu Valley	8	49	57	6	14	20
Hill districts	20	170	190	20	36	56

Tarai Districts	21	136	157	18	34	52
Hills and Tarai	7	18	25	6	4	10
Area not specified	15	33	48	11	7	18
	71	406	477	61	95	156

Table 12: SIRF Research Fellow (RF) Proposals by Ethnic and Caste Community

Community	RF 2006		RF 2007		Total	
	Received	Approved	Received	Approved	Received	Approved
A. Men						
A1. Hill Community						
1. High-caste Hindus	33	4	64	3	97	7
2. Janajati						
Advantaged Group*	4	1	5	0	9	1
Marginalised Group	5	1	17	3	22	4
3. Dalit	1	1	6	2	7	3
Subtotal	43	7	92	8	135	15
A2. Madheshi Community						
1. High-caste Hindus	5	0	11	0	16	0
2. Mid-caste Hindus	6	1	8	1	14	2
3. Janajati	3	3	1	0	4	3
4. Dalit	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Muslim	1	0	4	0	5	0
Subtotal	15	4	24	1	39	5
B. Women						
B1. Hill Community						
1. High-caste Hindus	7	2	13	0	20	2
2. Janajati						
Advantaged Group*	4	2	8	1	12	3
Marginalised Group	2	0	4	1	6	1
3. Dalit	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	13	4	25	2	38	6
B2. Madheshi Community						
1. High-caste Hindus	1	0	1	0	2	0
2. Mid-caste Hindus	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Janajati	0	0	1	0	1	0
4. Dalit	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Muslim	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	1	0	2	0	3	0
TOTAL	72	15	143	11	215	26

Source: SIRF (2007). Data compiled and analysed

- Advantaged Janajati Group = Newar and Thakali

Table 13 SIRF Apprentice Grant (AG) Proposals by Ethnic and Caste Community

Community	AG 2006		AG 2007		Total	
	Received	Approved	Received	Approved	Received	Approved
A. Men						
A1. Hill Community						
1. High-caste Hindus	0	0	15	0	15	0
2. Janajati						
Advantaged Group*	0	0	18	3	18	3

Marginalised Group	21	21	106	21	127	42
3. Dalit	12	12	33	14	45	26
Subtotal	33	33	172	38	205	71
A2. Madheshi Community						
1. High-caste Hindus	0	0	9	2	9	2
2. Mid-caste Hindus	10	8	26	7	36	15
3. Janajati	1	1	15	2	16	3
4. Dalit	0	0	4	2	4	2
5. Muslim	1	1	0	0	1	1
Subtotal	12	10	54	13	66	23
B. Women						
B1. Hill Community						
1. High-caste Hindus	13	11	78	12	91	23
2. Janajati						
Advantaged Group*	4	3	19	1	23	4
Marginalised Group	4	2	56	21	60	23
3. Dalit	0	0	11	5	11	5
Subtotal	21	16	164	39	185	55
B2. Madheshi Community						
1. High-caste Hindus	2	0	4	1	6	1
2. Mid-caste Hindus	1	1	8	2	9	3
3. Janajati	1	1	3	2	4	3
4. Dalit	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Muslim	1	0	1	0	2	0
Subtotal	5	2	16	5	21	7
TOTAL	71	61	406	95	477	156

Source: SIRF (2007). Data compiled and analysed

Table 14: Research Fellows Awarded in 2006 and 2007

S.N	Team Leader	Research Topic	Research Location (District)	Researcher's Origin	Research Assistants
Women					
1	Ms. Anjana Shakya (N)	Social Impact of Armed Conflict in Nepal: Cause, impact and coping mechanism	Bhojpur, Rautahat, Kaski, Mugu, Kailali	Lalitpur	Ms. Nabin Chandra Darlami, Mr. Kumar Rai, Ms. Varsha Gyawali
2	Ms Kamala Gurung (J-H)	Gender, Caste and Ethnicity Dimensions in Sustainable Livestock Production Management Systems: A Case of Three Agro-Ecological Zones in Nepal	Mustang, Lalitpur and Chitwan	Kathmandu	Not mentioned
3	Dr Keshari Kanskar (N)	Study on the Implication of Inter-caste marriage	Kathmandu Valley, Nepalgunj, Bardia, Pokhara, Jhapa and Dharan	Kathmandu	Mrs. Sita Ghimire-Dahal
4	Mrs. Meena Kumari Gurung (J - H)	Buffer Zone Management Policy implications on the livelihood of excluded groups	Two national parks in Tarai districts	Kathmandu	Ms Manohara Khadka, Mr. Kumar Bahadur Darjee-Suman
5	Ms Jyotsna Tamang (J-H)	Nature and extent of violence against women in socially excluded communities of Nepal: Janajatis, Dalits and Madhesi	Surkhet, Baglung, Illam, Makwanpur, Bardiya and Dhanusa	Kathmandu	Eva Pradhan
6	Ms Lumanti Shrestha (N)	Study of marginalized communities in a mountain district (a comparative study of 4 VDCs of Sindhupalchowk district with differential in accessibility)	Keul, Fatakshila, Palchowk and Bhotechaur VDCs of Sindhupalchowk	Kathmandu	Dr Pushkar K. Pradhan, Pabtira Khanal & Shanti Sapkota (Research Assistants)
Janajati (Indigenous people)					
7	Mr. Bijaya Kumar Singh Danuwar (J-M)	Inclusive Representation of Madhesi People in Conservation and Management of Fragile Churia Hills: An Urgent Governance Issue	Dhanusa	Mahottari	Mr. Manish Kosh Shrestha, Mr. Bishnu Shrestha, Mr. Nagendra Bahadur Amatyaan
8	Mr. Gopal Dahit (J – M)	Inventory of Indigenous Knowledge of Tharu	Tarai districts	Tarai (now in Kathmandu)	Mr. Krishna Raj Chaudhary, Ms. Chanda Chaudhary
9	Mr. Kamal Maden (J-H)	Inventory of Indigenous Knowledge of Kirata Nationalities of Eastern Nepal	Sankhuwasava and Dhankuta	Sunsari	Mr. Ramjee Kongren-Yakkha, Ms Tanka Maya Limbu
10	Mr. Yam Bahadur Kissan (J-M)	A Study of Dalit's Inclusion in Nepali State Governance	Not specified	Kathmandu	Mr. Purshuram Ghimire
11	Mr. Krishna Hachhethu (N)	Nepal: Interface between State and Ethnicity	Kaski and Dhanusa district	Lalitpur	Mr. Lal Babu Yadav and Ms. Deepa Gurung
12	Mr Dal Prasad Pun	Social change and the senior citizens in Nepal	Dolakha, Surkhet,	Chitwan	Prof. Bhim Prasad Subdehi,

	(J - H)		Syangja and Chitwan districts		Mr. Rishikesh Panday & Mrs. Shusma Pokhrel
13	Dr Govind Prasad Thapa, Ph.D. (J – H)	Violence against women in different communities: management of the interests, needs and rights of victims of sexual violence in the process of investigation and judicial proceedings	Nepal's criminal justice system	Gulmi	Ms. Vishnu Thapa, Dr. Vikas Raj Satyal , Mr. Nrendraraj Pathak & Ms. Puja Singh
14	Mr. Uddhav Prasad Rai (J-H)	Food security among Chepang community in fragile hills of Nepal	Dhanding and Makwanpur Districts	Kathmandu	Dil Bahadur Chepang
Madheshi Community					
15	Prof. Yougendra Prasad Yadav	The Social Engineering of Janajati and Madheshi Languages in Nepal	Not mentioned	Tarai (now in Kathmandu)	Ms. Sulochana Sapkota & Gopal Thakur (Res. Assistants), David Watters & Mark Turin (Consultant)
16	Mr. Binay Kumar Kushiya (Yadav)	Social exclusion in education: a study of school dropouts in Terai and hill districts of Nepal	1 Hill and 1 Tarai district	Dhanusa	Mr. Santosh Sah
Dalit Community					
17	Mr. Man Bahadur B.K. (D-H)	Inclusion of Dalits in Micro-finance Cooperative in Nepal	Selected cooperatives in Nepal	Palpa	Ms Bansanti Devi Sunar
18	Mr. Shyam Kumar Purkoti (D-H)	Study of reservation for Dalits in Nepal	Saptari, Mahottari, Baglung, Surkhet and Doti Districts	Hill District	Govinda Pariyar, Kiran Bhandari
19	Mr. Tej Bahadur Sunar (D-H)	A study of inclusive representation in political parties in Nepal: dalits perspective	Not mentioned	Hill District	Not mentioned
Bahun-Chhetri (Hill high-caste Hindu)					
20	Dr. Biswo Kalyan Parajuli	Continuity and Changes in Traditional Skills & Technologies among Hill Dalits of Nepal: An Emic (insiders') Perspective	Kaski district	Pokhara, Kaski	Mr. Murari Suvedi, Mr. Dhirgha Man Gurung, Mr. Janardan Thapa, Mr. Parshu Ram B.K.
21	Mr. Padma Prasad Khatriwada	Conflict Induced Internal Displacement in Nepal	Biratnagar, Hetauda, Pokhara, Nepalgunj and Dhangadi	Pachthar	Mr. Janga Bir Rana Magar, Mr Ram Kumar Adhikari, Mr. Harka Raj Dhungel, Ms Mira Dahal, Ms Ahilya Adhikari, Ms. Hem Rani Limbu
22	Dr. Thaneswor Gautam	Mainstreaming People with Disability in Development of Nepal	Gulmi, Parbat and Rupandehi	Gulmi	Mr. Hira Lama, Ms Shobha Thapa, Mr. Anish Shrestha, Mr. Sher Bahadur Parki, Mr. Bhakti Prasad Sharma, Ms Sunita Shrestha, Ms Bidya Bhattarai
23	Mr. Uddav Sigdel	Citizenship Problems of Madheshi Dalit	8 Terai districts	Bardiya	Mr. Chandreshwor Khatwe, Mr.

		Community in Nepal			Ramesh Sunam, Mr. Raju Paswan, Mr. Dipak Soni, Ms. Nilu B.K., Mr. Bishnu Pariyar
24	Dr. Jagannath Adhikari	Access to Land and Empowerment of Marginalized Communities	One VDC from Chitwan/Dhading, one VDC from Dadheldhura and one VDC from Siraha District	Pokhara	Mr. B.B. Nepali, Ms. Radha D. Gurung
25	Mr. Mahesh Pathak	Social-spatial dimension of exclusion and inclusion: A study of Karnali region	Bajhang, Bajura, Humla, Jumla, Mugu, Kalikot and Dopl Districts	Rupandehi	Mr. Meen Bahadur Shahi , Mr. Tibendra Raj Baskota, and Ms. Dil Maya Limbu & Mr. Kesab Prasad Panthi (Res. Assitants)
26	Mr. Swayam Prakash JB Rana	Exclusion issues of Muslims of Nepal and role of education in their school inclusion	15 in Nepal	Kathmandu	Mr. Abdul Quaiyum, Mr. Pasang Sherpa

Source: SNV Secretariat (2007). Information compiled from various Tables

Note: N = Newar community (Advantaged Janajati); J-H = Janajati from hill districts; J-M = Janajati from Madhesh community; D_H = Dalit from hill districts

Table 15: Co-researchers proposed by Research Fellows Awarded in 2006 and 2007

	Main Researcher		Co-researchers including Res. Assistants	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Janajati				
Advantaged	Ms. Anjana Shakya; Dr Keshari Kanskar; Ms Lumanti Shrestha (3)	Dr. Krishna Hachhethu (1)	Ms. Nabin Chandra Darlami; Eva Pradhan; Ms Sunita Shrestha; Mr. Meen Bahadur Shahi (4)	Dr Pushkar K. Pradhan; Mr. Manish Kosh Shrestha, Mr. Bishnu Shrestha, Mr. Nagendra Bahadur Amatyan; Mr. Anish Shrestha (5)
Hill	Ms. Kamala Gurung; Mrs. Meena Kumari Gurung; Ms Jyotsna Tamang (4)	Mr. Kamal Maden; Mr Dal Prasad Pun; Dr. Govind Prasad Thapa; Mr. Uddhav Prasad Rai (4)	Ms Tanka Maya Limbu; Ms. Deepa Gurung; Ms. Hem Rani Limbu; Ms. Radha D. Gurung; Ms. Dil Maya Limbu (5)	Mr. Kumar Rai; Mr. Ramjee Kongren-Yakkha; Dil Bahadur Chepang; Mr. Dhirgha Man Gurung, Mr. Janga Bir Rana Magar; Mr. Hira Lama, Mr. Sher Bahadur Parki, Mr. Pasang Sherpa (8)
Tarai	None	Mr. Bijaya Kumar Singh Danuwar; Mr. Gopal Dahit; Mr. Yam Bahadur Kisan (3)	Ms. Chanda Chaudhary (1)	Mr. Krishna Raj Chaudhary (1)
Dalits				
Hill	None	Mr. Man Bahadur B.K.; Mr. Shyam Kumar Purkoti; Mr. Tej Bahadur Sunar (3)	Ms Bansanti Devi Sunar; Ms. Nilu B.K., Mr. Bishnu Pariyar (3)	Mr. Kumar Bahadur Darjee-Suman; Govinda Pariyar; Mr. Parshu Ram B.K.; Mr. B.B. Nepali (4)
Tarai	None	None	None	Mr. Chandreshwor Khatwe, Mr. Ramesh Sunam, Mr. Raju Paswan, Mr. Dipak Soni (4)
Madhesi	None	Prof. Yougendra Prasad Yadav; Mr. Binay Kumar Kushiyait (Yadav) (2)	None	Mr. Lal Babu Yadav; Gopal Thakur; Mr. Santosh Sah; Mr. Abdul Quaiyum (4)
Bahun-Chhetri	None	Dr. Biswo Kalyan Parajuli; Mr. Padma Prasad Khatriwada; Dr. Thaneswor Gautam; Mr. Uddav Sigdel; Dr. Jagannath	Ms. Varsha Gyawali; Mrs. Sita Ghimire-Dahal; Ms Manohara Khadka; Pabtira Khanal & Shanti Sapkota; Mrs. Shusma	Mr. Purshuram Ghimire; Prof. Bhim Prasad Subdehi; Mr. Rishikesh Panday; Dr. Vikas Raj Satyal ,

		Adhikari; Mr. Mahesh Pathak; Mr. Swayam Prakash JB Rana (7)	Pokhrel; Ms. Vishnu Thapa; Ms. Puja Singh; Ms. Sulochana Sapkota; Ms Mira Dahal, Ms Ahilya Adhikari; Ms Shobha Thapa; Ms Bidya Bhattarai (13)	Mr. Nrendraraj Pathak; Kiran Bhandari; Mr. Murari Suvedi; Mr. Janardan Thapa; , Mr Ram Kumar Adhikari, Mr. Harka Raj Dhungel; Mr. Bhakti Prasad Sharma; Mr. Tibendra Raj Baskota, Mr. Kesab Prasad Panthi (13)
Total	6	20	26	39
				David Watters & Mark Turin (Consultant)

Research Themes of Research Fellow Awarded in 2006 and 2007

A. JANAJATI

1. Inventory of Indigenous Knowledge of Tharu (M)
2. Inventory of Indigenous Knowledge of Kirata Nationalities of Eastern Nepal
3. Food security among Chepang community in fragile hills of Nepal

B. MADHESHI

1. Madhesi people in conservation and management of fragile Churia hills: and urgent governance issue
2. The Social Engineering of Janajati and Madhesi Languages in Nepal
3. Exclusion issues of Muslims of Nepal and role of education in their school inclusion
4. School dropouts among deprived group

C. DALITS

1. Inclusion of Dalits in Micro-finance Cooperatives in Nepal
2. A Study of Dalit's Inclusion in Nepali State Governance
3. Continuity and Changes in Traditional Skills & Technologies among Hill Dalits of Nepal: An Emic (insiders') Perspective
4. Citizenship Problems of Madhesi Dalit Community in Nepal (M)
5. Study of reservation for Dalits in Nepal
6. Existing practices of political exclusion and inclusive representation in the political parties in Nepal: Dalit perspective

D. WOMEN

1. Nature and extent of violence against women in socially excluded communities of Nepal: Janajati, Dalit, and Madhesi
2. Violence against women in different communities: management of the interests, needs and rights of victims of sexual violence in the process of investigation and judicial proceedings

E. CONVERGENT THEMES

1. Gender, Caste and Ethnicity Dimensions in Sustainable Livestock Production management Systems: A Case of Three Agro-Ecological Zones of Nepal
2. Buffer Zone Management Policy implications on the livelihood of excluded groups
3. Access to Land and Empowerment of Marginalized Communities
4. Nepal: Interface between State and Ethnicity
5. Study on the implications of Inter-caste marriage
6. Social impact of armed conflict in Nepal (cause, impact, and coping mechanism)
7. Conflict Induced Internal Displacement in Nepal
8. Mainstreaming people with disability in the development of Nepal
9. Study of marginalized communities in a mountain district (a comparative study of 4 VDCs of Sindhupalchowk district with differential in accessibility)
10. Social change and the senior citizens in Nepal
11. Social exclusion in education: a study of school dropouts in Tarai and hill districts of Nepal
12. Social-spatial dimension of exclusion and inclusion: A study of Karnali region

Research themes of Apprenticeship Grant awarded in 2006 and 2007

	Hill Community
A. Janajati (Indigenous Nationality)	
Hill Janajati	General 1. Issues of representation of Indigenous nationalities in governance: policies and hindrances sociological case study of Baglung District) 2. Insurgency, Institutions and Issue of Inclusion: An analysis of institutions that determine the indigenous communities' access to and control over forest resources of Nepal 3. Inclusive representation of Indigenous nationalities in bureaucracy of Ilam

	<p>4. Study on socially, politically excluded group and their potentials in their own development</p> <p>5. Social Inclusion and role of leaders from indigenous nationalities</p> <p>6. Evaluation of government policies towards excluded group: a case study of Janajatis</p> <p>Language & Education</p> <p>7. Effectiveness of mother tongue education in Limbu language for educational inclusion</p> <p>8. Mother tongue education for indigenous children</p> <p>9. A study of Chintang Mundum/Ritual Language'</p> <p>10. An Inventory of Phonemes in Sherpa Language</p> <p>11. Kiranti-Bayung Grammar, Texts and Lexicon</p> <p>12. Linguistic movement of 2022 BS: a case study of the Newars in Kathmandu valley.</p> <p>13. Enrollment and educational achievement of primary level children from Athpahariya Rai community in Dhankuta District</p> <p>14. Campaign to decrease school drop out rate of the Chepangs at Bhumlichok VDC of Gorkha district</p> <p>Sub-ethnic Groups</p> <p>15. Socio-economic condition of Limbu community in Nepal</p> <p>16. Magic of Limbu Deixis</p> <p>17. Textile and indigenous knowledge in highland Nepal: Limbu community</p> <p>18. Indigenous Knowledge of Limbu on Ecology, Biodiversity and Ethno medicine</p> <p>19. Study of Yakthumba Limbu Mundhum (Proposal in Nepali language)</p> <p>20. A Descriptive grammar of Chhatthare dialect of Limbu</p> <p>21. Social and cultural dynamics of Rai ethnic groups in land management</p> <p>22. An ethno-linguistic observation of Chhulung Rai, an highly endangered language</p> <p>23. Ethnographic study of an excluded group: Yamphu community in the upper Arun valley of Sankhuwasava district</p> <p>24. Socio-cultural status Magar community in Nepal: a case study of Bhedetar VDC, Dhankuta</p> <p>25. Inter-clan relationship among Magars (with reference to Pandhera Thare "fifteen-clan" Magars of Dhorpatan region)</p> <p>26. Indigenous knowledge on the utilization of medicinal plants in the Magar community: a case study of Salija VDC, Parbat</p> <p>27. Indigenous knowledge of Chepang people on non timber products (NTFPs) and its impact on their livelihood</p> <p>28. Inclusive representation of Chepang in political parties of Nepal</p> <p>29. An Inventory of Indigenous knowledge of Raji Community (A case study of Surkhet District)</p> <p>30. Role of Bote and Musahar communities in community based conservation in Nawalparasi district: a study from gender perspective</p>
Madhesi Janajati	<p>1. Documentation of Indigenous knowledge of Darai Communities related to family health</p> <p>2. Documentation of Plant diversity and indigenous knowledge: A key for sustainable development of Tharu community at eastern Nepal</p> <p>3. A study of indigenous knowledge and practice on biodiversity conservation among the Bankariya indigenous people of Hadikhola VDC of Makawanpur district</p> <p>4. Inventory of an indigenous knowledge & practices of excluded Bankariyas of Nepal</p> <p>5. A phonological study of Uranw (Jhangad) language for developing its writing system</p> <p>6. Poverty in Tharu community: A case study of Rautahat District</p> <p>7. Poverty in Santhal Community: present status, causes and consequences</p> <p>8. Sociological Study of Dhimal</p> <p>9. The plight of the ex-Kamaiyas</p>
B. Dalit	
Hill Dalit	<p>Occupation</p> <p>1. Dalit's caste based occupation and it's impact on their socio-economic status and self-esteem</p> <p>2. Potentiality of Dalits' traditional skill related occupation</p>

	<p>3. Traditional occupation in transition: a case study of changing occupation among Damai and Kami over generation in eastern Ilam</p> <p>4. Regenerating musicals: traditional musical pedagogy of the Gandharvas of Tanahu district and its changing forms</p> <p>5. Dalit skill technologies and their perspectives: A case study of dalit community in Chitwan and Tanahu districts</p> <p>6. Dalits' skill technologies and their perspectives: A sociological study of Baglung district</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>7. Understanding Dalits of Nepal from different lenses: A socio-cultural study</p> <p>8. Essence and challenges of special focus policies on Dalits inclusion.</p> <p>9. A study on inclusion of Gandharba in Nepali state governance</p> <p>10. Investigation of social exclusion of dalit people in dairy industry in Far Western Nepal (Dadeldhura district)</p> <p>11. Preparing biography of Late T.R. Bishowkarma; a pioneer personality in Dalit movement</p> <p>12. Hidden issue of inclusion within the Dalit community</p> <p>13. The special policy & challenges for dalit inclusion</p> <p>14. Reservation/Affirmative action of Dalits</p> <p>Social Status</p> <p>15. The effects of intra-dalit untouchability on social harmony in dalit community: a case study of Arghakhanchi district</p> <p>16. A comparative study on intra-dalit untouchability</p> <p>A study of intra-caste discrimination among Dalits</p> <p>17. Quest for new identity: Dreams and Realities: a case study of religion and caste change among Dalits</p> <p>18. Lively Hood Situation of Haliyas and Landless people of Dalit Community</p> <p>19. The process of sanskritization (An anthropological study of hill Dalits of Pokhara)</p> <p>20. Sociological study of dalit ploughers (A case study of Hansapur VDC, Kaski)</p> <p>21. Religious and cultural problems of dalit in Taplejung</p> <p>22. Problems and prospective of Panchai Baja players: a case study of Damai community of Kaski district</p> <p>23. A study on the status of the disabled Dalits.</p>
Madheshi Dalit	<p>General</p> <p>1. Religious and cultural dynamics of Madheshi Dalits: a case study of Dhanusha district</p> <p>2. The empowerment and social inclusion within Madheshi Dalit: a comparative study between Dhobi and Musahar community in Siraha district</p> <p>Caste Group</p> <p>3. Sociological study of Dom</p> <p>4. Educational status of Mushahar community</p> <p>5. A Comparative study on access to and success in primary education of Musahar children</p> <p>6. Ethnographic study of the Musahar community with emphasis on female group</p> <p>7. Causes and process of landlessness in Musahar community of Nepal: a case study of Siraha district</p> <p>8. Landlessness and its impact in the life of Musahar: a study of Madheshi Dalit people at Pothiyahi VDC in Rautahat district, Nepal</p> <p>9. The study of socio-economic & political status of Pattharkatta community</p> <p>10. Ethnographic analysis of excluded groups: a case study of the Halkhors in Rajbiraj municipality</p> <p>11. Ethnographic study of the Halkhor community: a case study of Siraha district, Nepal</p> <p>12. Socio-cultural subjectivities of Landlessness: an ethnographic study of Chamars in Dhangadhi VDC of Siraha District</p> <p>13. Ethnographic study of Chamar (Madheshi Dalit) community of Saptari district</p> <p>14. An ethnographic study of Chamar community in Nepal: a case study of Siraha district</p>
C. Madheshi Community	
	<p>1. Reservation/Affirmation Action</p> <p>2. Environmental governance at local level in Bara District of Nepal</p> <p>3. International labour migration: A rural livelihood strategy of Madheshi community (A case study of</p>

	<p>Saptari district, eastern terai region of Nepal)</p> <p>6. School Dropouts among derived groups</p> <p>A study of untouchability in relation to social maladies: a case study of Lahan Municipality of Siraha district</p> <p>Dialects of Maithali (as spoken in Nepal): a Socio-linguistic study</p> <p>Muslim</p> <p>Problems of Muslim minority in Nepal</p> <p>Adaptive strategies of Nepali Muslims in urban setting: a case study of Kathmandu valley</p>
D. Women	<p>Violence against Women</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic violence against women (A study on the causes and consequences of domestic violence against women) Domestic violence against women (root cause and consequences) Violence against women (root causes and consequences) Sukumbasi bastiharuma mahila birudha hune gharelu himsako awastha: ek adhyan, Sunsari jilla, Dharan nagarpalika (Nepali language proposal) Causes and consequences of Girls Trafficking in Nepal <p>Women Discrimination</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Women's perception of discrimination on Education, employment and decision making: A case study of Gulmi District An assessment of societal discrimination: Women's perspectives Nepalese women's experience and perception on gender-based discrimination in the Kathmandu valley Women's self perception on gender discrimination (a study of women aged 20 above currently residing in Kathmandu valley) Public Discourse on Gender Discrimination among Different Castes of Nepalese Societies Women's self perception on gender discrimination in social sector: a case study of Umlabari VDC of Morang district An empirical study on discriminating factors of the widows in the society <p>Conflict Situation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerability of single women in post armed conflict situation Victims of conflict: a case study of army widows <p>Single Women</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A study of Paradox of Ihi and single womenhood with respect to myths and symbolic meaning in Newar women of Panga Des Assessment of socio-cultural, economic and political situations on single women in Makawanpur and Bara Single women in Bardiya District <p>Others</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Citizenship Problems in Nepal Status of slum dwelling women: a case study of Pokhara valley A Comparative study on inter caste marriage in Bagmati zone from gender perspective Study on Gender Stereotypical Roles and Its Effect on Women – Different Perspectives of Rural and Urban Women Changing Gender Roles in Nepalese Rural Society Women Participation in Civil Service - (Nepali language proposal) Energizing social mobilization of women through Aama Samuha (mothers' group): A Case of Morang district Involvement of grassroots women in peace building measures An Empirical Study on Social Status of the Disabled Women <p>Hill Janajati</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The position of women in Kirat religion Domestic violence: study of Rai women of Chamaita VDC, Ilam **. A study on wife-battering in Magar community in Danda bazar VDC, Dhankuta district Female poverty in Magar community: a case study of Mamling VDC and Wana VDC of

	<p>Sankhuwasava district</p> <p>5. The emerging form of dowry in Limbu community</p> <p>6. A study on early child marriage practices: a case study Ichungu VDC, Kathmandu Valley</p> <p>Madheshi Janajati</p> <p>1. Domestic violence against women in Tharu community Tharu women speaks about domestic violence: root cause and consequences</p> <p>2. Socio-economic status of Kamaiya Tharu women in Dang district</p> <p>3. Post conflict situation analysis of Tharu widows of Beluwa and Bargadi in Dang district</p> <p>Hill Dalit</p> <p>1. Balighare pratha and its impact to Dalit community: a research study in Jaljala VDC, Baglung</p> <p>2. Violence against Dalit women</p> <p>3. Violence against dalit women: a case study of Bhaktapur district</p> <p>4. Gender discrimination in Dalit communities: a case study of Katunje VDC of Bhaktapur district</p> <p>5. Socio-economic condition of Poda Dalit women ***</p> <p>Madheshi Dalit</p> <p>1. Socio-economic factors affecting the health status of Mushar women</p> <p>2. Impact of caste discrimination on Dalit women poverty: a case study of Syangja district</p> <p>Madheshi in General</p> <p>1. A study of the problem of witch accusation in Nepal</p> <p>2. Ethnographic study of the VDCs Padariya and Siswani Districts Siraha Child Marriage in Nepal</p> <p>3. Child marriage in Terai region of Nepal</p> <p>4. A Study on Exploration of the causes of Dowry in Dhanusha district of Nepal</p> <p>5. Women's self perception on discrimination of Dhanusha district</p> <p>6. Violence against women in the marginalized Madheshi community: root causes - consequences and prevention- a case study of Saptari district, eastern district of Nepal</p>
E. CONVERGENT THEMES	
	<p>Resource Management</p> <p>1. Implication of Indigenous knowledge for sustainable mountain development: A case study in selected villages of Chure region of Ilam District</p> <p>2. Status, Prospects of and Challenges for Inclusion of Poor, Women and Dalits in Community Forestry: Social, Economical and Political Perspective: A Study of Multiple Community Forests in Baglung District, Nepal.</p> <p>3. Social implication of community forestry program in Humla</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>4. An Evaluation of government and donor policies towards Excluded groups</p> <p>5. Inclusive representation in local governance (a case study of Triyuga Municipality, Udaypur)</p> <p>6. The ethnic group at the margin of the state and society: a study of historical process of marginalization</p> <p>Migration</p> <p>7. Internal migration in Kathmandu metropolitan city: a case study of Kathmandu Municipality, Ward Number 32, Dillibazar.</p> <p>8. Challenge and opportunities of post conflict on conflict induced victims of Rolpa Implication of Rural-To-Urban Migration in Nepal (A social inclusion perspective)</p> <p>9. The socio-economic impact of internal displacement due to armed conflict: A case study of Rupandehi, Kapilvastu and Nawalparasi districts</p> <p>10. Human rights of conflict-affected internally displacement persons: a case study of Kathmandu valley</p> <p>Others</p> <p>11. Quality of life in the elderly homes for senior citizens in Kathmandu</p> <p>12. Status of senior citizen of Kathmandu metropolitan city</p> <p>13. Social Perspective on HIV in Nepal</p>

Annex IV Comparison of institutional cooperation

	CMI – CEDA, TU (NOK 3 Mill)	NIBR-CNAS/NEPAN/S2 (NOK 3 Mill)
Duration contract	1 July 2006 - 31 December 2008	1 Nov 2006 - 30 Sep 2009
Initiative	Existing partnership/ long term cooperation	Created new partnerships
Proposal	Written in collaboration, edited by CMI	Induced by NIBR, Nepalese partners asked for input
Composition of teams	Highly male dominated 9 males, 1 female CEDA – one Madheshi, 1 hill Janajati, No contract clause on inclusive staff composition	Male dominated except for Norw. team coordinator and S2 researcher CNAS: all males BCN, Nepan: 1 male, 2 more PhD-candidates to be recruited from Madhesh community Contract clause re background of field researchers Grass root links, more inclusive
Topic (innovative, creative, new knowledge)	<u>Social exclusion, democratic inclusion and the insurgency in Nepal: 11 sub projects</u> Using existing data (NLSS1 and NLSS2) New data to be produced: - Migration patterns - Ethnographic study - Land distribution and wages - Cases in District Courts in Morang	<u>Social exclusion and group mobilization: an examination of household and group strategies for overcoming social exclusion</u> New data to be collected: - Household survey (3000 samples) on 'exclusion at household level, incl gender aspect' - Historic-comparative study focusing on gender Developed new survey/ questionnaire

Type of publication, Dissemination,	Planned publications: 8 academic papers (at least) Peer reviewed articles Book 2 PhD dissertations (Gurung & Dhakal)	Planned publications: 1. S2 report, 2. Nepan report 3. Special issue of in Contributions to Nepal Studies, journal published by Center for Nepal and Asian Studies where all institutions will contribute 4. Two articles in international journals 5. Working paper by NIBR summing up results during first part of 2008.
Capacity-building for Nepalese partner, Competence-building for both	Generally an equal partnership CMI teaches - Quantitative methods and regression analysis	Balanced team: some well qualified researchers, some that have potential to improve quality NIBR contribution: - Methods for analysis (qual. and quant.) - Development of questionnaire
Value-added of Norwegian partner	Less sensitive of issues of gender, caste, religion, ethnicity when looking at composition of staff	Bringing Nepalese orgs./institutions that would not otherwise have cooperated. - Some risks attached to cooperation btw 3 parties - potential duplication in data collection Positive with clause of inclusiveness in contract

Annex V: Roles and responsibilities in SIRF

In the below, the roles and responsibilities of three levels of SIRF are described, first the Secretariat as a whole, the second level is the Coordinator (currently performed by the Research Associate) and finally, the duties of the ISC.

The Secretariat has during the interim period:

1. Managed the overall budget of the Fund
2. Managed the operational aspects of the Fund, including administration on behalf of the ISC, including:
 - Identified a maximum ceiling of individual grants
 - Developed formats for applications and criteria for evaluation of proposals
 - Definition of eligible applicants
 - Defined procedures for transfer of funds, financial reporting and accounting before calls for applications are made.
 - Announced call for proposals aiming to reach potential applicants nationwide
 - Provided information to potential applicants
 - Entered into contracts with beneficiaries
 - Reported to the donor on progress/monitoring of research projects (content and findings)
 - Reported to the donor on accounting matters
 - Proposed budget for next period
 - Kept an archive and track record of operations
 - Undertaken marketing and promotion of the Fund
 - Outsourced workshops for public debate and dissemination of research outcomes
 - Commissioned a task force to propose a structure for the establishment of a permanent structure for the Fund after the interim period
 - Maintained an active dialogue with RNE

Coordinator's responsibilities – to some extent by delegation to the research associate:

A. Vis-a-vis ISC:

1. Ensure that the overall responsibilities of the Secretariat (outlined above) are upheld
2. Function as an administrative secretary to the ISC, which includes:
 - Prepare and follow up meetings and decisions made by ISC (including sending out invitations to meetings, write reports/minutes from meetings, follow up on practical and operations matters that the ISC requests,
 - Write action plan on behalf of ISC
 - Announce call for proposal as defined by ISC
 - Maintain a close dialogue with the Chair person of the ISC

B. Vis-a-vis application processing

Prepare and handle the practicalities of application processing

- Register receipt of applications that are received by the deadline and confirmation of receipt letter to applicants
- Undertake first review of applications with the aim of eliminating those do not meet the minimum requirements to apply
- Identify peer reviewers (with the input from the ISC) and handle the soliciting of peer reviews for applications,
- Forward these to the members of the ISC in due time before meeting to decide upon allocation of grants
- Prepare meeting to allocate grants
- Participate in meeting that will decide upon allocation of funds, and have a neutral/ secretarial role in this meeting
- Manage financial matters of reimbursements of fees, allowances, travel costs etc.

C. . Vis-a-vis follow-up of grants

- Write contracts with grant receivers
- Monitor implementation of research projects including ensuring that progress plan is followed

- Solicit progress- and accounting reports once a year for individual projects (in due time to be able to report back to RNE by Dec. 1)
- Monitor budget / accounting reports for individual projects
- Intervene in an appropriate manner in the event that corrective measures must be taken

D. Vis-à-vis stakeholders/an external audience

- Actively inform about the Fund and results
- Ensure that the Fund becomes a platform for exchange on policy debate

E. Vis a vis own expenses

- Authorise and clear expenses (allowances, travel etc) with Chair person and SNV

Roles and responsibilities of the Interim Screening Committee⁴⁸

The ISC has a mandate to allocate grants under the following application categories a) research projects, b) apprenticeships and c) Nepali- Norwegian cooperation project the Research Fund. The specific roles of the ISC in the interim period are as follows:

1. Define an action plan for the period they are appointed based on the guiding principles of the Project Document
2. Approve priorities within the given budget
3. Propose peer reviewers to the Secretariat/ identify a pool of potential reviewers
4. Assess applications for research grants based on scientific peer reviews, input from civil society advise (collected at Civil Society Forum workshop) and own assessment by the capacities of each individual ISC member
5. Allocate grants to applications that it deems worthy of support within the limits of the funds available
6. Handle all categories of applications and grants under the fund, including: research projects, research apprenticeships and Nepalese- Norwegian partnership projects, (and activities that will promote an exchange on policy debate⁴⁹)

Chair person's (director) responsibilities

Vis a vis the operation of the Fund

- Ensure the overall running of the Fund according to priorities identified in the Project Document and guidelines established
- See to that the vision and goals of the Fund are implemented
- Ensure that division of labour between the Secretariat and the ISC is defined and working optimally
- Organise meetings for the ISC on a regular bases (minimum twice a year, or as often as required), and request the Secretariat to administer this
- Inform ISC of their mandate, guidelines and operational procedures to be followed, including rules and regulations pertaining to issues re "conflict of interest" in the handling of applications and that ethical issues are considered

Vis a vis stakeholders and society at large

- Represent and promote the program externally with the aim of making it know to relevant audiences, including potential funders
- Ensure that the Fund becomes a platform for exchange on policy debate

⁴⁸ Criteria for members: see 4.6

⁴⁹ Such as initiatives to organise seminars and workshops, establish or link up to existing (international) research networks

Annex VI: Call for proposals

Utlysningstekst til Norsk Lysingsblad og Norads hjemmeside

Project preparation grants for research cooperation on “Social Inclusion and Nation Building in Nepal”

To prepare for the selection of up to two projects for a Nepalese – Norwegian institutional research cooperation, the Norwegian Embassy in Kathmandu will finance **three project preparation grants of the amount of 250,000 NOK**. Grants will be given for a period of six months to Norwegian research institutions. The purpose is to seek partnerships with Nepalese institutions to prepare joint proposals for social science research on social exclusion and nation building in Nepal. The joint proposal will enter into the competition for long term support from a programme that will be launched in 2005.

Deadline for submitting applications for the preparation grants is 27 September 2004.

Background information:

The Norwegian Embassy in Kathmandu plans to support a programme for social science research on topics related to *“Social Inclusion and Nation Building in Nepal”*. The programme will be composed by two independently organised components;

- one Research Fund for Nepalese researchers
- one or two projects of Norwegian- Nepalese institutional research cooperation.

The Norwegian Embassy in Kathmandu in cooperation with Norad will, by the first half of 2005 invite research institutions in Norway and Nepal to submit joint proposals for research projects. Please refer to the report *“Social Exclusion and Nation Building – Assessment of prospects for enhancing the role of research and research institutions in Nepal”* (June 2003) for further elaborations. This report is accessible on Norad’s web site: [www.norad.no/søke/tilskudd / forskning og høyere utdanning](http://www.norad.no/søke/tilskudd/forskning_og_høyere_utdanning).

The research cooperation may include (optional) institutional capacity building, training, networking, publication and outreach. The Norwegian - Nepalese institutional research cooperation will be funded for a period of four years.

The applications for preparation grants shall be submitted to Norad for review.

One copy is sent online to: Postmottak.arkiv@norad.no

One signed copy of the applications shall be sent to *Norad, Avdeling for Sosial Utvikling, Ruseløkkveien 26, 0033 Oslo*

For more information, please contact: Lill-Ann Medina , tlf + 44 22 24 03 94



Universiteter og forskningsinstitusjoner

Direktoratet for utviklingssamarbeid

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

Postadresse/ Postal address: Pb. 8034 Dep, NO-0030 OSLO, Norway

Kontoradresse/ Office address: Ruseløkkveien 26, Oslo

Arkivkode/ File no:

Vår ref./ Our ref.:

822.1 NPL-2946

200301988-43

Deres/Dykkar ref./ Your ref.:

Vår saksbeh./ Enquiries:

SOS/FOH/KRHS

Dato/ Date:

16.06.2005

Invitasjon til søknader om forsknings- og institusjonssamarbeid med Nepal

Norad har fått i oppdrag fra Den norske ambassaden i Nepal å invitere til søknader om midler til forsknings- og institusjonssamarbeid med institusjoner i Nepal. Tildeling av forprosjektstøtte til den forestående søknadsrunden ble foretatt i desember 2004 og resulterte i tre forprosjekter innenfor programmet.

Det åpnes nå også for andre søknader om institusjonssamarbeid. Samarbeidet må rette seg mot de faglige og øvrige føringene som er beskrevet i vedlagte dokument "Research Programme on Social Inclusion and Nation Building in Nepal".

Ca NOK 5 mill skal bevilges over en periode på fem år. Søknadsfrist er 15. august 2005.

Denne invitasjonen sendes til sentrale postmottak. Vi ber om at dere er behjelpelig med å spre informasjonen til instituttene ved deres fakultet og/ eller relevante forskere ved forskningsinstitusjonen.

For mer informasjon, ta kontakt med Kristine H. Storholt, krhs@norad.no, telefon:

22 24 22 76.

Kristine H. Storholt

Avdeling for sosial utvikling

Gruppe for forskning og høyere utdanning

