

Call for Proposals

Young People's Perspectives on Upcoming Elections

1. Background

Nepal enjoys a demographic dividend with 40.3 per cent of age 16-40 years according to the 2011 census. These young people are a major resource for the country's development, who can contribute to social change and economic growth with their creativity, and innovation. However, young people are also often sidelined in political decisions, based on a proclaimed lack of 'knowledge and experience'.

Though, young people often have contributed to important changes in the Nepal's political history, their interests tend to be underrepresented in formal institutions and processes. Dialogues and discourse on what the country's youth want and expect from the political parties during election campaigns and after in terms of policy reforms have largely been missing.

Against this background, FES Nepal invites proposals from (a team of) researchers to explore the aspirations and expectation of young Nepalese from federal elections.

2. Objectives of the study and guiding questions

The study will explore the aspirations and expectation of young people from the upcoming federal elections. In doing so, the study will take an intersectional approach to understand the perspectives of young people coming from diverse backgrounds.

For the study, the role of youth in election will be studied in two dimensions: their general attitudes towards politics in Nepal and their policy expectations as voters. The following questions could be considered (among others):

What are young people's attitudes towards politics?

- How do young people see politics in Nepal?
- Do they aspire to become actively involved in politics?
- If they are involved in politics: What is their motivation? If not: What keeps them from getting engaged?
- What would need to change to make engagement in political parties and politics more attractive?

What are young people's policy expectations?

- What do young people look for when they cast votes? What do they expect parties to deliver?
- What do young people expect from their candidates?
- What are the issues that young people want to see addressed by political parties?
- What do they consider as most pressing issues?
- How important are substantial policies for their decisions in elections? (vis-à-vis party affiliation)

- Do young people feel the necessity of policy debates and discussion during the campaign?
- In what ways do such discussions influence/impact their vote/choice?
- Where and how should they be conducted to reach young people?

To answer these questions, FES Nepal is looking to commission an **empirical research** project. Based on the findings the research team should write a report that reflects major findings and formulates recommendations for young people, political parties, and other relevant stakeholders. The research approach needs to consider intersections of gender, class, caste, ethnicity, and religion.

The overall length of the final report should not exceed **25 pages** (between 5000 and 6,000 words). It should be accompanied by an **executive summary** of one page or less. Structure-wise it should include:

- A. Introduction
 - General overview of the topic
 - Description of the objectives, methodology and structure of the paper
- B. Role of young people in Nepali politics
- C. Young people's perspectives on politics
 - Overall assessment of the finding
 - Presentation of highlights of the empirical findings
- D. Young people's policy expectations
 - Overall assessment of the finding
 - Presentation of highlights of the empirical findings
- E. Conclusion and policy recommendation

The paper should be addressed to a non-academic audience and focus on contributing to policy debates and exchange of experiences. The main target group of the study are decision makers, policymakers, as well other relevant professional circles.

3. Timeline

Finalization of the contract	12 th Aug 2022
Delivery of first draft	15 th Sept 2022
Delivery of final draft	15 th Oct 2022
Copy editing, lay outing and publication	30 th Oct 2022

4. Proposal should include:

- a) Written outline of the proposal including a detailed description of the research approach and proposed empirical methodology
- b) Budget plan with breakdown of costs, expected daily fee and estimated number of working days (subject to negotiation and FES regulations)
- c) CV and examples of relevant work experience (including at least one writing example in English)

5. Requirements

- a) Experience in conception, design, and implementation of empirical research projects
- b) Experience in academic and/or policy-oriented writing
- c) At least a Masters' degree in social science or relevant field
- d) Previous work and/or proven knowledge on issues relating to young people is a plus
- e) Ability to successfully work remotely
- f) Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines
- g) Compliance with FES style sheet (will be provided), publication guidelines and academic standards

6. Terms of Payment

For the services rendered, an honorarium will be paid in two installments:

1st instalment (50%) on submission of first draft

2nd instalment (50%) after submission of final draft

Any expenses associated with the fulfillment of this assignment shall be borne by the contractor.

Travel expenses (if any) for the presentation of the outcome of the research will be borne by FES separately.

Please note costs for professional copy editing of the final manuscript, lay outting and printing will be borne by FES separately and should not be included in the project budget. Please also note that FES does not cover overhead costs based on the project budget.

Deadline:

Please send an offer for the project alongside the required documents via email to deepika.dhakal@fesnepal.org by **5th Aug 2022, 5 pm Nepal Time**.

The proposal should be valid until 30th Aug 2022.

Please note: The successful proposal will be chosen based on the quality of proposal (40%), qualification and proven relevant previous experience (30%) and costs (30%).

FES Nepal is committed to promote social justice and aspires to increase diversity among individuals and service providers we are working with. Therefore, we encourage applications from people regardless of gender, ethnical, religious or caste background. FES Nepal especially invites applications from teams with diverse backgrounds.

For questions, please contact:

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