

Call for Proposals

Assessing Economic Impacts of Covid-19 on Nepali Women

1. Background

In Nepal as well as many other countries the COVID-19 pandemic and the crises it induces threatens to roll back gains made in the past decades in regard to gender equality. The pandemic is deepening pre-existing inequalities, exposing vulnerabilities in social, political, and economic systems which are in turn amplifying the impacts of the pandemic.

Countries like Nepal with a weak public health system have faced enormous challenges to cope up with devastating impact of COVID-19 in day-to-day life. Growing evidence of the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed multidimensional issues of inequalities and unveiled women's vulnerabilities in social, political, and economic systems.

The ongoing COVID crisis has disturbed the livelihood of people. Women are at greater risk of experiencing the consequences of rising poverty and food insecurity, increased unpaid care work and gender-based violence. Constructive steps to address the systemic implications of this unprecedented crisis are needed and an important task for building a more just society.

2. Guiding questions

Against this background, FES Nepal is looking for a (team of) researcher(s) to analyse the immediate and potential long-term economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on Nepali women and formulate policy recommendations. For the purpose of the study, the following questions need to be considered:

- How has the pandemic impacted economic well-being of women in Nepal? Have there been commonalities and differences in the way pandemic affected women in formal and informal sector?
- Has the pandemic affected the presence of women in labour market? Has it widened or shrunk women's access to economic opportunities? What kind of structural inequalities in the economic sector have been reinforced by the pandemic?
- Has there been a positive impact of pandemic in the economic life of women (this could include new business ideas, strategy, and networking opportunities etc.)? Has the pandemic been a blessing in disguise for women's economic participation?
- How effective have the government responses been in mitigating the economic effects of the pandemic? Was there a gender-sensitive response?
- How does the post-COVID economic world look like for women in Nepal? How can the economy be shaped into the direction of a more 'gender just new normal'?

Components and length of the paper

The study should have an analytical perspective regarding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Nepali women and formulate practical recommendations. While doing so, it will be important to keep in consideration the intersections of women with class, caste, ethnicity, religion, so on and so forth. The overall length of the paper should be of **maximum 25 pages** and should be between **7,500 and 10,000 words**. It should be accompanied by an **executive summary** one page or less. Structure-wise it might include:

- A. Introduction
 - a. General overview of the situation
 - b. Description of the objectives, methodology and structure of the paper
- B. Economic impacts (and opportunities)
- C. Analysis of the policy responses from a gender perspective
- D. 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 contract	Mid of Sept' 21
Delivery of first draft	Mid of Oct' 21
Delivery of final draft	Mid of Nov' 21
Copy editing, lay outing and publication	November' 21

4. Proposal should include:

- A. Written outline of the proposal including 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 a writing example)

5. Requirements:

- Close and regular communication and collaboration with FES program officer
- Experience in research relevant to the project
- Proven knowledge of issues of gender justice in Nepal
- Ability to successfully work remotely
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines
- Compliance with FES style sheet (will be provided), publication guidelines and academic standards
- FES Nepal especially invites applications from teams with diverse backgrounds

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 outing and printing will be borne by FES separately and should not be included in the budget.

Deadline: Please send an offer for the project alongside the required documents via email to pabitra.raut@fesnepal.org by **10thSeptember, 5 pm Nepal Time.**

The proposal should be valid until 30th September 2021.

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

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

For questions, please contact:

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