

## Dr. HRIDAYA RAJ DEVKOTA

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### A. EDUCATION/TRAINING

Degree/Year	University	Discipline
Postdoc, 2018	University of California, Berkeley, USA	Epidemiology & Public Health (Research: Women's Health – Uterine Prolapse)
PhD, 2017	University College London (UCL), UK	Epidemiology & Public Health (Research: Maternal Health, Disability and Caste)
MPA, 1993	Tribhuvan University, Nepal	Public Administration (Public Policy and Rural Development)
BBA, 1989	Tribhuvan University, Nepal	Business Administration and Management
Certificate, 1980	Tribhuvan University, Nepal	General Medicine and Public Health

**Nepal Health Professional Council:** Reg. No. B-1162 Med/GM

### B. EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE

I am a dedicated research and development professional having over two decades of experience in the development sector and more than 10 years in research in the area of health services, women's reproductive health, disability, caste, and health disparities. My research interest and expertise include health system research, maternal and reproductive health research, disability, gender, caste, and health inequality. I have experience and expertise in research design using different methods and approaches, application of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods, and data analysis. Project development, management, networking, coordination, team mobilization, leadership, decision making, scientific and technical report writing, and project evaluation are my proven skills and competencies. Moreover, I have long experience and expertise in community development, social/group mobilization, and participatory approaches in development and research.

### C. KEY POSITIONS HELD

**11/2018 – till now**, ISER-Nepal: Research Associate; & Research and Evaluation Consultant for I/NGOs, Donors and Government Agencies in Nepal.

#### Role and responsibilities:

- Write research and project evaluation proposals for I/NGOs and Donors; Obtain ethical approvals from Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC)/IRB for research implementation; Lead the research and evaluation team (4 – 29 members) providing technical support in planning, implementing and management of research and evaluation cycle; Ensure quality of data collection; Analyze data, and write reports for donor, and articles for journal publication.

#### Key Achievements:

- Completed two studies 1) "COVID-19 and mental health" – **Role: PI**; 2) "Mental health status of Nepalese labor migrants and non-migrants" – **Role Co-I**. Three papers submitted for journal publication.
- Grant application submitted to "The COVID-19 Global South AI and Data Innovation Funding Program, **IDRC Canada**" through a consortium led by McMaster University, Ca (June 2020). Project: "Next Generation Digital Learning for Health Professionals facing COVID-19: A multi-country operational research". **Role:** Grant writing contribution and Nepal lead if successful. (in progress)
- Grant application submitted to **MRC/NIHR UK** for Global Maternal and Neonatal Health Scheme (July 2019), Application No. MR/T009810/1: Project title: "Maternal Depression in Women with Disabilities: Nepal". This was a joint application with UCL and Liverpool J. Moors University. Amount: £ 0.8 m. **Role:** Concept development and contributed in writing. (Unsuccessful)
- Implementation research application submitted to OK International (July 2019). Project: Reducing Health Risk of Pesticide Exposure Among Women involved in Vegetable Farming in Nepal. **Role:** Conceived and wrote proposal (Unsuccessful)
- Provided research and consultancy services to government, Donors/INGOs. Please refer to section D.

**08/2017 – 10/2018**, ISER-Nepal/University of California, Berkeley, USA; Postdoctoral Research Fellow

#### Role and responsibilities

- Conducted research in women's health and disability disciplines; Trained field researchers and enumerators in conducting research; Led a research team, supervised interns and MPH students in their field research; Analysed data, presented results to stakeholders including government; Wrote manuscript for journal publication; Developed research concepts and wrote funding proposals.

**Key Achievement:**

- Completed study. **Research topic:** Bio-mechanical risk factors for uterine prolapse among Nepalese women: A case control study. (Article published)
- Grant Application Submitted to Wellcome Trust Training Fellowship (Ref. No. UNS70408). **Research topic:** A community-based panel study of heavy-load carrying and risk of musculo-skeletal and reproductive disorders among Nepalese women. Amount: £ 375,468. **Role:** Conceived and wrote proposal with inputs of mentor from UC Berkeley (Reached the final stage of assessment)
- Submitted proposal to ESRC/Sheffield University Global Research Fellowship (2019). **Research topic:** A community-based retrospective cohort study of heavy-load carrying and risk of reproductive disorders among Nepalese women. Role: Conceived and wrote proposal. (Reached the final stage)

**08/2010 - 09/2016**, Kidasha UK; Senior Program Manager (PhD Research Fellow)

**Role and responsibilities**

- As **Program Manager**, I was responsible for all programmatic implementation and management, as well as adjunct research. I also contributed to organization policy development and guidance; led the program team in identifying needs, project planning, implementation and management; contracted strategic partners (for funding and project implementation); supported the M&E team to develop participatory monitoring and evaluation systems; conducted feasibility studies, research and project evaluations; wrote proposals, project reports and submitted to donors; represented the organization in a spectrum of meetings and ensured effective channel of communication with partners, government and donors.
- As a **PhD research fellow**, I was responsible for implementing the research project "Improved mother and infant health in Nepal" and acted as **PI** for the following studies: 1) Healthcare access to disabled and Dalit women 2) Societal and healthcare provider's attitude towards disability 3) Caste ethnicity and adolescence pregnancy 4) Disparities in healthcare and quality of care 5) Assessment of healthcare standards at primary care facilities.

**Key Achievement:**

- Successfully implemented both development and research projects (6 peer reviewed papers published).
- Grant application (including PhD research) submitted to BLF UK. Project: "Improved mother and infant health in Nepal (2012–2015)". Budget: £ 542,198. Role: Contributed in project development and grant writing. (Successful)
- Grant application submitted to Maitri Trust, Edinburgh, UK. Project: "Asha Health Care (2013 – 2016)". Amount: US\$ 242,172. Role: Contributed in project development and proposal writing. (Successful)
- Grant Application submitted to UK Charity. Project: "Improving children's learning (2015 - 2018)". Amount: £ 59,923. Role: Led project development and proposal writing. (Successful)
- Grant Application submitted to DFID UK (GPAF). Project: "Promoting gender equity to improve women's reproductive health (2014 – 2017)". Amount: £ 250,000. Role; Contributed in project development and writing proposal. (Unsuccessful)
- Research concept developed and application submitted to NIH/UCB, USA for GHES Fellowship (Sept.2017 – Oct 2018). Amount Funded: US\$ 37,800. Role: Conceived and wrote proposal/application (Successful)

**06/2006 – 09/2008**, Community Support Association of Nepal (COSAN), Executive Director

**Role and responsibilities:**

- Provided overall organizational leadership to fulfill the mission through programs, strategic planning and community outreach; oversaw administration, programs and strategic plan of the organization; identified funding sources, raised fund and ensured resource sufficiency in the organization; managed donor relationship; mobilized > 80 staff members through sectoral management team of diverse background; directed the mobilization, management and accounting of resources.

**Key Achievements:**

- Funding application submitted to Lilian Fonds (The Netherlands) 2006, Project: Community-based rehabilitation – direct assistance, sponsorship and disability rights promotion project. (Successful)
- Proposal submitted to Gov./World Bank Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund. Project: Rural water supply, sanitation and women's empowerment project (2006 – 2007). (Successful)

- Grant application submitted to LFL/DFID UK. Project: Women empowerment and child education (2007 – 2011). Amount: £ 0.5 million. Role: Contributed to develop concept and grant writing (Successful).
- Conceived project and grant application submitted to AIFO, Italy. Project: Promoting disability rights in Nepal (2007 – 2009). Amount: US\$ 253,795. (Un-successful).

**07/2000 – 05/2006**, Handicap International (France) Nepal, Senior Project Manager

**Role and responsibilities:**

- Designed disability program and projects; Co-ordinated implementing “Community Approaches to Handicap in Development (CAHD) – An action research pilot project, in Nepal” as Project Chief; Led the consortium of disability inclusion partners providing technical support for disability inclusion into development initiatives (consortium included 40 organizations – I/NGOs, National federations, DPOs, Training institutes, Specialist Hospitals, Service organizations, CBOs, Govt. and govt. agencies); Managed group of professionals (including clinicians, orthotic engineers, physiotherapists) within and outside organization; reviewed and approved projects submitted by partners, and managed budget and external funding.

**Key Achievement:**

- Contributed in writing CAHD proposal and submitting to DFID (2002 – 2005). Amount: £ 0.4 million.
- Led developing small project writing to submit local embassy funding. Successful winning project grants ranging US\$ 50,000 – 120,000 locally from USAID, SDC and AusAID between 2003 – 2006.

**From 1980 until 6/2000** I held a range of clinical and project management positions with incremental responsibility, within Nepali and international organizations (United Mission to Nepal, MoHP, Plan Nepal, SNV-Netherlands Development Organization).

**D. KEY RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY WORKS RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN**

1. **Team Leader**, Final evaluation of project “Comprehensive Leprosy and Disability Program in Nepal (2014 – 2019)” implemented by The Leprosy Mission. Commissioned by **Social Welfare Council (SWC), Nepal**. March - May, 2020
2. **Team Leader**, Final evaluation of “Mainstreaming mental health and psychosocial disability in Nepal (2015 – 2019)” – project funded by CBM International and implemented by KOSHISH – Nepal. Dec. 2019.
3. **Team Leader**, Evaluation of “Campaign against human trafficking and gender based violence project (2018 – 2019)” implemented by Aafanta Nepal, Funded by Our Daughter USA. Commissioned by **SWC, Nepal**. Nov 2019.
4. **Team Leader**, Assessment of basic health service delivery of public and private health institution and scoping of health services and governance in Dhangadhi sub-metropolitan city, Kailali district, Nepal. Vertex Consultancy Pvt. Ltd. **Commissioned by GIZ Nepal**, October - November 2019.
5. **Research Consultant, Pact Nepal**: Case study research in Social Accountability in the Health Sector (SAHS) - DFID/Nepal – PO 7743 ITT. September – October 2019
6. **Team Leader**, Evaluation of “Improve nutrition condition of children and mother” projects implemented by Chhimeki Sanstha Nepal (1st January to 31st December 2018). **Commissioned by SWC Nepal**, July 2019.
7. **Team member**, Final evaluation of “Stop Girl Trafficking (SGT) program (2016 – 2019) implemented by Rural Health and Education Service Trust, Nepal, funded by USAID Nepal. April – May 2019.

**E. AWARD AND FELLOWSHIP**

1. Global Health Equity Scholars Fellowship (2017 – 2018) for post-doctoral research – NIH/USA
2. Doctoral School Fellowship (2015) – UCL UK

**F. RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS** <https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=mBPsSwAAAAJ>

I published 7 peer-reviewed research articles; 3 research articles recently submitted for publication are under review.

**Google Scholar citation indices: Citations 42, h-index 3, i10-index 2**

**G. ARTICLES REVIEWED FOR JOURNALS** <https://publons.com/dashboard/records/review/>

I am a regular reviewer for peer review journals including

- 1) Health Education & Behavior; 2) BMC Public Health; 3) Reproductive Health Matters; 4) International Health, Oxford (Academic); 5) PLOS One; 6) Devepress – International Journal of Women’s Health; 7) European Journal of Contraception & Reproductive Healthcare; 8) World Development

From 2018 – 2020, I reviewed more than **thirteen** articles for those **eight** international journals.