Applicant Information

Applicant Name: **Sheetal Rana**
Email: ranax006@umn.edu

Project Title: **Frontline Youth Work with Street Children and Youth in Nepal: Edge Work, Boundary Work, Hard Work**

Department: Social Work
College: College of Education and Human Development

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Dean's name: Jean K. Quam
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How did you hear about this funding opportunity? Via email from the Consortium

Funding

| Total amount of funding requested: | **$9,618** |

Executive summary (maximum 200 words)

Millions of street children and youth across the world live in abject poverty, in violent conditions, are subject to harsh and unremitting health, social, and psychological pressures, are exploited by adults and older youth, and forced into sex work and other marginal, temporary, and episodic employment with demonstrable short, longer, and life-long health and human development consequences. This is a public health, child rights, and social development issue. Frontline youth workers are a worldwide, first line of response to moderating the conditions of these street children over short- to long-term, facilitating their safety, access to medical, nutritional, educational, legal, and other services. Little is known about these frontline youth workers, their training, how they are supervised, their employing agencies, and the international non-governmental organizations that fund programs for street children and youth. This qualitative research on frontline youth work and its organizational context in Nepal will examine elements and aspects of frontline youth work practice that are manipulatable and actionable, and thus, have great potential for increasing effectiveness of frontline youth workers in the primary and secondary prevention of diseases and in promoting human rights and human development of these children and youth, a society’s moral compact with these children.

Approvals

Check all appropriate approvals required for your proposal. Approvals must be obtained prior to receipt of funding. If you have applied for approval but have not yet received it, indicate that below.

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<tr>
<th>IRB</th>
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<td>IRB was approved for first and second phases of the field work. I will submit an IRB application for final phase of the study by April 2012.</td>
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## Checklist

- The proposal is 1000 words or less excluding budget, biographies, references and citations.
- The proposal includes a work plan with a specific timeline using months or quarters to identify work to be done and completion dates.
- The proposal includes a 1-2 paragraph biography of the applicant and all co-investigators.
- The budget form is complete including the funds sought for this project, other pending applications for this project, and the amount/source of matching or other funds.
- The applicant’s faculty advisor is copied on the application email. Professional students w/o advisors check NA.
- All necessary approvals are pending or received.
**Background and significance**

There are millions of street children and youth across the world living in abject poverty, in violent conditions, subject to harsh and unremitting health, social, and psychological pressures, exploited by adults and older youth, and forced into sex work and other marginal, temporary, and episodic employment with demonstrable short, longer, and life-long health and human development consequences (Hechts, 1998; Kilbride, Suda, & Njeru, 2000; Baker, 1998; Onta-Bhatta, 2000; Panter-Brick, 2002; Turnbull, Hernandez, & Reyes, 2009). These children and youth, ranging from six to 17 years of age, are victims of both circumstances and choice, typically from poor, marginal, and often troubled families, leave their families for nearby to further away towns or cities where they join the local “street children” subculture of substance abuse, sexual exploitation, and violence (Lave, 1995; Hechts, 1998; Baker, 1998; Kilbride, Suda, & Njeru, 2000; Veale, Taylor, & Linehan, 2000; Teal, 2004; Orme & Seipel, 2007; Fahmi, 2007; UNICEF, 2007). This is a public health, child rights, social development and moral issue long recognized but rarely effectively prevented and controlled.

Frontline youth workers are a worldwide, first line of response to moderating the conditions of individual and small groups of street children over the short- to long-term, facilitating their safety, access to medical, nutritional, educational, legal, and other services (De Oliveira, 1994; Thompson, 1999; Frattaroli, Pollack, Jonsberg, & Croteau, 2010; Karabanow, 2004; Kidd, Miner, Walker, & Davidson, 2007). Over time, frontline youth workers come to play decisive roles in street children’s transition away from full time street life to institutional, familial, or non-institutional congregate living arrangements. Frontline youth workers are the crucial presence of the larger, legitimate society’s moral responsibility and commitment to these children.

Little is known about these frontline youth workers, their training, how they are supervised, their employing agencies, and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) that fund programs for street children and youth. All of these are consequential for how frontline youth workers engage street children and youth. There are elements and aspects of all of these which are manipulatable and actionable, and thus, have great potential for increasing the effectiveness of frontline youth workers in the primary and secondary prevention of an array of diseases, including tuberculosis, hepatitis, HIV, and sexually transmitted infections, and in promoting the
human rights of these children and youth by increasing their access to food, shelter, education, safer living conditions, and other opportunities. All of this is true in general across countries, and true specially in the case of Nepal. Herein lies the multiple significance of the study.

Unlike the many other studies of street children (for example, Hechts, 1998; Baker, 1998; Onta-Bhatta, 2000; Kilbride et al., 2000), the focus of this study is on workers embedded in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) whose training and roles are largely formed (and often times controlled) by funding from international organizations. Frontline youth workers have rarely been studied, and very little work has been published on how the range of larger social structures and situational and other factors influence workers’ direct practice with street children and youth. Nepal is a site for this study because it has typical street children places and responses. Also, I am a native who speaks the language, studied there, and have a citizen’s, a child’s, as well as a scholar’s take on the street children phenomenon. Describing, explicating, and understanding frontline youth workers makes a significant contribution to strengthening a community’s moral and practical responses to these children and youth.

Research questions
1. What is frontline youth work with street children and youth in Nepal?
2. How is it practiced?
3. What determines how it is practiced? (larger structures and practices to situational and other factors)
4. What factors are manipulatable and actionable in frontline youth work to enhance effective evidence-based practice?

Interdisciplinary nature of the study
As shown, the realities of street children and youth cross multiple service sectors - rights (law), communicable and non-communicable diseases (heath), and human development (education and values). So too the realities of frontline youth workers who carry agency “passports” to cross these service sector boundaries. It is reasonable, appropriate, necessary, and just to study worker realities by crossing disciplinary boundaries and research methods to best grasp the structural, cultural, psychological, legal, and philosophical dimensions of this work and these workers.
Data collection and analysis
To date, extensive qualitative field data have been collected from frontline youth workers and their employing agencies using in-depth interviews, a focus group, and non-participant observation in Kathmandu, Nepal. Missing are the street children’s and youth’s experiences and views of the workers and those of funding INGOs. These data will complete the links between and among child, youth worker, employing agency, funding INGOs, and government monitoring. This will be one of the broadest interdisciplinary study done on frontline youth work practice and its organizational contexts. Kathmandu is the study site. Data from street children and youth will be collected using interviews and focus groups. Feedback sessions, a seminar on findings, and opportunities to test conclusions and learn how these several constituencies understand the research will be held for workers, agencies, INGOs, and government. All of these are also data sources for the thesis and for the proposed book.

Research timeline

Completed

Field Visit 1: Data collection and preliminary analysis (Completed)
Dates: June – August 2011 (Completed)
Activities: Interviews and a focus group with frontline youth workers and management level staff
Location: Kathmandu, Nepal

Data translation into English and preliminary analysis (Completed)
Dates: August – December 2011 (Completed)
Location: Minnesota, U.S.A.

Field visit 2: Data collection and analysis (Completed)
Dates: January – February 2012
Activities: Individual meetings with research participants to discuss preliminary findings, and non-participant observation
Location: Kathmandu, Nepal
On going
Data analysis and report writing
Dates: January – May 2012
Location: Minnesota, U.S.A.

Proposed
Field visit 3: Data collection and analysis
Dates: June– July 2012
Activities: Interviews and focus group with street children and youth, feedback sessions, a seminar on findings, and opportunities to test conclusions and learn how these several constituencies understand the research will be held for workers, agencies, INGOs, and government.
Location: Kathmandu, Nepal

Data analysis, final report writing, dissertation defense
Dates: August – Sep 2012
Location: Minnesota, U.S.A.

References


Biography

Sheetal Rana grew up near the research site in Kathmandu, Nepal, where she was educated. Her undergraduate work was in sociology (Delhi University, India), with graduate education in sociology (Tribhuvan University, Nepal). She worked as a social researcher in Nepal before taking up a social development consultant position at the World Bank (USA), where she worked for five years undertaking studies related to youth and social development. She is completing her doctorate in social work, with a focus on youth: Frontline youth workers with street children and youth. This subject brings her back home, to the very road where she grew up, completing a circle of care, interest, and accomplishment – preparatory to an international career in this field.
**Project Title:** Frontline Youth Work with Street Children and Youth in Nepal: Edge Work, Boundary Work, Hard Work

**Category** | **Description & justification** | **Requested funding** | **Matching/other funding** |
--- | --- | --- | --- |
**Personnel** | Salary = 209 hrs x $18.89/hrly wage | 3,948 |  |
Justification: Stipend is for research work - data collection, analysis, and report writing. |  |
Fringe rate (FY 2012 = .2610%) | 1,030 |  |
**Personnel Subtotal** | 4,978 |  |  |
__ speakers x $ ______ honorarium |  |
**Supplies & Services** | Compensation for street children and youth, 20 x $5 ($100), compensation for youth workers 5x3 days x $20 per day ($300), room and meals for focus group and feedback session participants ($1000), data transcription 20 hrs x $15/hrly ($300) |  |
Justification: Twenty street children and youth who participate in interviews and focus groups will receive a meal each in compensation. Five youth workers who will facilitate these interviews and focus groups will receive a per diem of $20 each for 3 days. A meeting room will be rented for focus groups and feedback sessions and meals will be provided to focus group and feedback session participants. A data transcriber will be hired to transcribe interview and focus group data. Translation of interviews and discussions from Nepali to English will be |  |
**Equipment** | Equipment costs are allowable only if the justification clearly shows that the equipment is necessary for the project. Include explanation of what will happen to equipment at completion of project. |  |
**Travel** | Roundtrip airfare to Nepal from June to July 2012 ($1800), Visa ($40), housing (staying with family), meals $20/day for 25 days ($500), taxi and other transportation $20/day for 25 days ($500), phone rental ($100) |  |
Justification: Time will be spent interviewing street children and conducting focus groups with street children and youth, frontline youth workers, management level staff of NGOs and INGOs, and government employees. |  |
| | 2,940 |  |  |
## Budget for Student Proposals

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Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment the Life Sciences