

CALL FOR CONSULTANCY

UNESCO New Delhi

1. Background

International mobility of students in higher education has been a prominent phenomenon in tertiary education across the world. International mobility of students contributes to revenue generation, cultural exchange, knowledge acquisition, technology transfer and innovation and quality enhancement (UNESCO, 2013). India has been attracting substantial number of foreign students especially from the SAARC region. Especially, Nepalese students form the biggest group, with almost 7,000 students studying in India in 2013. However, the share of SAARC students choosing India as the destination remains small. Except Bhutan, all SAARC countries send far more students outside the SAARC region, ranging from 76.8% of Nepal to 99.8% of Pakistan.

Using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies, this study will analyze the issues facilitating/hindering the SAARC intra-regional student mobility, using the Nepal-India mobility as a case study. The finding of this study will be useful for introducing and /or revising policy options to both Nepal and India to improve the quality of higher education in their respective countries and beyond.

2. Assignment and work objectives

The contractor will design the analytical framework, coordinate, collect and analyze the data from the existing studies and identified resource persons, prepare an analytical synthesis report, and develop a set of policy recommendations for enhancing inter-regional student mobility in higher education in India and Nepal.

The contractor is expected to perform the following tasks:

- a. Identify and categorize, through a thorough literature review, existing higher education policies that aim to facilitate student mobility;
- b. Collect additional data and information as necessary from existing research, questionnaire and interview from Nepalese students who are currently studying or have studied abroad (3-4 states from India and 1 site from Nepal to be selected for the field data collection, each involving 40-50 Nepalese students); and
- c. Analyze the collected data and produce an analytical report with a set of policy recommendations, ensuring that all information and its sources are correctly mentioned;

In line with UNESCO's overall gender mainstreaming strategy, the contractor is expected to integrate a gender perspective in all activities and apply gender mainstreaming concepts whenever feasible.

3. Key Research Questions

1. What are the trends in inward and outward mobility from the SAARC countries?
2. What factors are important and contributes more to select countries and institutions?

3. What attracted students who are currently studying in India for their tertiary education? What barriers did they face?
4. What is the academic, demographic, economic and social profile and career goals of students (prospective and currently) who are studying or wish to study in Indian universities/institutes?
5. What policies, regulations, frameworks or guidelines are in place in the India to promote student mobility within in the SAARC region?
6. What are the barriers/obstacles perceived by students who are studying in India?
7. What can be done to encourage potential students to consider regional options especially India?

4. Deliverables and timeline

The assignment will be completed during the period from 1 March 2018 to 30 September 2018. The consultant is expected to submit all the deliverables to UNESCO New Delhi:

- a. Inception report for UNESCO's review, based on initial desk review and detailed planning of the study, which contains the objectives, scope and description of the study methodology, analytical framework, draft survey questionnaire, data analysis methods, key informants and a work plan with timing of activities and deliverables – **by 1 April 2018**
- b. Draft analytical report and policy recommendation – **by 31 August 2018**
- c. Final report with an executive summary of maximum 4 pages and annexes – **by 30 September 2018**

5. Specifications

- All reports and correspondence related to this regional study are to be written in English. The aforementioned deliverables should be prepared as single-spaced documents, using Microsoft Word.
- Final report: maximum 45 single-spaced pages excluding an executive summary, annexes and references.

6. Qualifications, experience and competencies

The consultant (individual) will demonstrate extensive experience in producing high-quality, analytical reports on themes related to youth and adult literacy, with relevant experience in education planning and financing.

Qualifications and skill areas which would be considered as assets include:

- Advanced degree (Master's degree or higher) in a field related to education, economics, technical and vocational training, development studies or social sciences;
- At least 10 years of experience in conducting professional/academic research related to education or other social sector policy, especially in the areas higher education policies, as well as student mobility;
- Experiences in preparing policy recommendations and options in the field of education;
- Strong quantitative and qualitative research skills and demonstrated analytical skills.

- Knowledge of and working experiences in education in developing countries, particularly in South Asia;
- Excellent written and oral communication and report writing skills in English.

7. Submission of expression of interest

Interested individuals are invited to submit to UNESCO New Delhi Office the specific requirements as stated below:

- An expression of interest to undertake the assignment in writing;
- An up-to-date CV(s) stating details of educational qualifications, work experience including prior experience of similar work (e.g., policy review, programme evaluation, impact studies), and contact details.
- A list of past similar work or publications written by the applicant (independently or as a team member) with hyperlinks to access such papers if they are available online, or samples of such papers if they are only available offline;
- A proposal discussing the approach/methodology that will be adopted in carrying out the tasks in the TOR with a workplan;
- A financial proposal (may include travel costs which must be shown separately).

The application package should be sent to Ms Satoko Yano (s.yano@unesco.org) no later than Friday, 16 February 2018.