**Call for Academic Research Scholarship**

Kathmandu University School of Education (KUSOED) in collaboration with Stromme Foundation (SF) invites applications from students pursuing their Master, MPhil, and PhD studies in KUSOED to receive one grant of up to a maximum of NPR 100,000 (maximum 10 grants) towards fieldwork expenses and/or research articles for PhD/ MPhil levels and dissertation/articles for master’s level students. This **Research Scholarship**was established to strengthen the link between research and practice, particularly in the field of Adolescent/ youth empowerment and development including community development. The primary objective of the scholarship is to support a student studying at KUSOED to write a well-researched and original dissertation.

**Area of research**Selected students are expected to carry out their study in SF’s programme-implemented area (see table 1). The subject of the research can be **any field of the targeted Adolescent/ Youth (A/Y) empowerment and development** dealing with the Nepali social world. More specifically, the areas of research include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Strong civil society and public sector
* Inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for marginalized and disadvantaged groups
* Improved livelihoods for the rural poor through enhanced income generation

More specifically, the research questions can be around the following questions:

* What (socio-cultural and other) factors affect and/or promote the empowerment of adolescent girls?
* What are the challenges in measuring empowerment at different levels? (i.e. family, community etc.)
* What are the gaps and challenges in empowerment theory and field applications (focusing on adolescent girls)?
* What are the factors affecting/contributing to the mental well-being of adolescent girls?
* How do gender, caste, and other social identities influence adolescents' life and their empowerment?
* How participatory approaches can ensure meaningful participation of children/adolescents when they lead the community development processes?
* What are the factors affecting/contributing to the children/adolescents to effectively participate in the decision-making process on aspects that affect their lives?
* How do the Mind management approaches (MMA) affect Adolescent empowerment and the education process?
* What are the effects of Cyberspace and social media addiction in the lives of adolescents/Youth and their families?
* What are the contributions of the Career Development Plan (CDP) to Adolescents’ life performances?
* What are the contributions of Non-formal education in changing the Family’s behaviour/ practices?
* What are the Adolescents’ reactions/ responses to the Physical/ biological Changes and Emotional Changes?
* How can adolescents influence Parental & Social functions/ behaviours?
* What kind of social issues/ ill practices can be addressed by Adolescents in the local community?
* How can adolescent girls initiate Preventing Teenage Pregnancy?
* What are the effects of life skill training on behavioural changes in adolescent girls and boys?
* What are the Reproductive Health Stigma in the areas?
* Who are and how are the adolescent girls/ boys addicted to Drug abuse and use of Alcohol?
* What are the impacts of improved life skills and self-esteem in the lives of adolescents?
* What are the knowledge, belief and attitude toward gender/caste-based discrimination and its effect on individual behaviour of adolescent girls and boys?

Along with a small grant, the selected candidate(s) will be facilitated by the designated researcher(s) [supervisor(s)] at KUSOED and SF will also offer support as per their specialties and need in the study area. The successful candidates are strongly encouraged to publish research outcomes in an academic journal.

**Application**Interested and eligible students should submit their applications by email to depart.deveducation@kusoed.edu.np .
Applications should include the following:

1. A one-page personal statement (stating why the applicant should be funded);
2. A complete proposal following KUSOED standards for dissertation and concept note for article; and
3. Evidence (e.g., a letter from the department) showing that the applicant is a current student enrolled in any of the departments (**Department of Educational Leadership, Department of Development Education, Department of Language Education, and Department of STEAM Education**)

at KUSOED.

Shortlisted candidates for the interview will need to submit the following before attending the interview:

1. A budget of breakdown of the expenses to be incurred (not more than one page). The budget should itemize all expenses as accurately as possible, even if the total comes to more than NPR 50,000. However, the maximum amount provided to the successful candidate will be limited to NPR 100,000.
2. A curriculum vitae (not exceeding two pages).
3. A supporting letter from the department indicating the name and consent of the proposed supervisor(s).

All applications will be evaluated by a committee consisting of faculties from KUSOED and invitee members from SF, and short-listed candidates will be interviewed either online or face-to-face at KUSOED.

**Timetable**

Application deadline: **20 March 2023**Notification to shortlisted candidates: **25 March 2023**Interview: **To be confirmed**Grant period: **April 2023 to August 2023**

***An open house will be conducted on 10th March, 3 PM at KUSOED where interested students can meet with the faculties and staff and learn more about the scholarship.***

**Stromme Foundation (SF)** Nepal practices holistic, integrated, and Right based approach (RBA) and results-based management (RBM) programming in the community, which ensures the participation of all family members since the “family as a unit” approach ensures the success and sustainability of the programme. SF Nepal is implementing adolescent empowerment and development programs/projects since 2011 called SAMVAD. This program has been a flagship and game changer for individual empowerment and social transformation. At present, the SAMVAD process -empowering adolescents - is the entry point for and foundation of the SF’s programme which fosters the critical engagement of adolescents in leading the process of organization, empowerment and mobilization of families, and communities for their own development.

At present, SF Nepal has programmes in the selected wards of rural municipalities as mentioned in the table below:

Table 1: List of working areas

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SN | Districts | Name of the working Rural Municipal/ Municipality  |
| 1 | Pyuthan | Airawati Rural Municipality (RM) |
| 2 | Kapilbastu | Banganga Municipality (MC) |
| 3 | Shivaraj Municipality and Buddha Bhumi municipality  |
| 4 | Dang | Rajpur Rural Municipality |
| 5 | Rolpa | Lungri Rural Municipality |
| 6 | Sunil Smriti Rural Municipality  |
| 7 | Rupandehi | Kanchan, Suddhodhan and Gaidahawa RMs and Sainamaina and Lumbini Sanskritik MC  |
| 8 | Nawalparasi (West) | Sarwal and Palhinandan Rural Municipalities |

**Frequently Asked Questions(FAQ)**

##### How do I apply for the application?

* The application opens on 7th March and you can submit via email.

##### Who are eligible for the scholarship?

* Students who are pursuing Master, Mphil, and PhD at any of the departments Department of Educational Leadership, Department of Development Education, Department of Language Education, and Department of STEAM Education in KUSOED.

##### Can I write a paper instead of a dissertation?

* Yes, if your course requirement is paper. However, you need to write both thematic and methodological papers according to KUSOED standard guidelines.

##### Is KUSOED looking for a particular methodological approach?

* We do not subscribe to a preferred methodology. All methodological perspectives used in the social sciences are welcomed.

##### Can I select my study area myself?

* Yes, you can but need to select from SF working areas mentioned in table 1.

##### What is the timeline?

* It is expected to be completed by July 2023.

##### How much funds do I receive?

* The successful candidates will receive a minimum NRs. 50000 and maximum NRs.100000. Student’s travel cost, the intensity of field engagement, and nature (time and resource) of the proposed work will be the basis for receiving the maximum amount.

##### Can I apply for the Scholarship although I received another dissertation fellowship?

* Yes, you can but we want to make sure our funds go to students who need our support.

##### Can I submit two applications for the fellowship competition?

* No, you may submit only **one** application.

##### Am I eligible if I am close to completing my doctoral dissertation?

* No, you are not eligible to apply for the scholarship if you are close to completing your dissertation. You are only eligible when you are in the planning phase of the study.

##### Is there a template or writing guide available to write a proposal for the scholarship?

* Although we do not have any kind of template, we highly recommend that applicants use the [KUSOED proposals](http://www.ssrc.org/publications/view/7A9CB4F4-815F-DE11-BD80-001CC477EC70/) standard.