

Dr Binod Bindu Sharma

Email: BinodBindu.Sharma@uon.edu.au, BS819534@gmail.com | Mobile: +977 9856033933
Portfolio page: binodbindu.com.np | Skype ID: [9856033933](https://www.skype.com/user/9856033933) | Office website:
www.mohp.gandaki.gov.np

Education

2014-2018	PhD (Public Health and Behavioural Sciences)	University of Newcastle, Australia
2006	Master of Public Health	State University of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Awarded the prestigious National Medal "Nepal Bidhya Bhushan Kha"
2000	Master of Sociology	Tribhuvan University, Nepal
1994	Diploma in Health Education	Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University, India
1992	Bachelor of Humanities	Tribhuvan University, Nepal
1989	Certificate in Ophthalmology	Council of Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), Nepal

Research Experience

2014 – 2018 PhD Research projects

University of Newcastle, Australia

Research title: Pathways to Improving Maternal Mortality in Rural Nepal.

- Hypothesised that health messages regarding the importance of care during pregnancy and childbirth might be effectively transmitted in rural Nepal through singing.
- Designed and developed a PhD research project based on this hypothesis and obtained ethics approval from the University of Newcastle, Australia and Nepal Health Research Council.
- Designed and carried out an extensive health intervention project in rural Nepal to test this hypothesis, securing the full support and participation of local community leaders.
- Organised statistically valid pre-post and 12 -month follow-up surveys with the cooperation of the community, local and district officials.

Outcomes: Research articles, eBook, abstracts and PhD thesis published (see below).

2006 Masters Research Project

State University of Bangladesh, Bangladesh

Research title: Awareness of Prevention of HIV / AIDS Among Teachers of Government Secondary Schools of Pokhara Sub Metro Politian City, Nepal

- Designed, developed and organised cross-sectional research.
- Coordinated with district education office and government schools and their management committees to carry out the research.

Outcome: Thesis submitted. Thesis accepted and degree awarded.

1999 Masters Research project

Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Research Title: Sociological Study on Effectiveness of Anti-Tobacco Initiatives amongst Women of Traditional Singer (Gandharba) Community of Batulechaur, Kaski, Nepal.

- Designed a cross-sectional research protocol, coordinated with the local government and village leaders to organise the research.

Inference: People particularly, the women in the village environment are out of reach of the anti-tobacco interventions.

1994 **Diploma Research Project**

Tamil Nadu Dr MGR Medical University, India

Research title: Awareness of Primary Eye Care with respect to Prevention of Night Blindness in Children amongst Community People of Dinajpur Village, Andhra Pradesh, India.

- Designed and developed research for community survey.
- Coordinated with local leaders, officials and NGO staff to organise the research.

Research finding: Mothers from the poor economic background learnt greater than those with the higher income.

Employment History

June 2021

Secretary

Hitherto

Ministry of Health and Population, Gandaki province, Pokhara, Nepal

- Overall management of the healthcare programs, human resources, administration and finance (USD 23 mil. annually) of the ministry.
- Lobbied for the policy decision to improve the health and education of girls.
- Lobbied to have an air ambulance dedicated to obstructed emergencies in the province.
- Developed province health policy document in the consultation of the stakeholders.
- Planned for an organisation and management survey of the Ministry of Health and Population, Gandaki Province.
- Coordinated with UN, national and international agencies for effective programme management.

Director of the Health Services

Ministry of Social Development, Gandaki Province, Pokhara Nepal

Dec 2018-

June 2021

- Rolled out the intervention “Community education through singing health messages” in the control population.
- Coordinated with different federal and provincial ministries to implement air retrieval of obstructed women from the remote villages.
- Lobbied for the policy decision for the provision of free sanitary pad for all school going girls in Nepal essential to help continue their education.
- Organised free health clinics in the rural communities

- Worked as a group leader, health promotion thematic group while developing provincial health policy.
- Developed long-term and short-term health program strategies.
- Evaluated cost-effectiveness of the budget.
- Organised consultative workshops for stakeholders and later worked with them for improved program outcomes.
- Organised review and planning workshops at local and provincial levels.
- Managed human and financial resources.
- Recorded program activities and reported progress.

Conclusion: The use of singing bypassed the limitations of literacy in communicating health messages that are key to improving maternal mortality in this rural setting within a developing country. With appropriate sociocultural adaptation to local context, this model of community education may be applicable to improve maternal health outcomes in other low resource communities.

June 2020-
Hitherto

Conjoint Lecturer

University of Newcastle, Australia, Callaghan NSW 2308

- Involved in teaching and research activities.
- Developed research proposals.
- Collaborate with the research team and explore the opportunities for grant application.
- Coordinate with research team to decide the suitability of the grant area.
- Develop the consensus; if approved for applying, develop the grant application.

Dec 2018 -
2019

Student Researcher

University of Newcastle, Australia, Callaghan NSW 2308

Upon submission of the PhD thesis:

- Organised community orientation on enrolling the intervention to the control population.
- Trained local team members on conducting the intervention in a house-to-house environment.
- Engaged local leaders and teachers in the process of development of the intervention materials in the local language.
- Organised pre-intervention community meetings.
- Organised intervention to 72 villages.

2014 -2018

PhD Researcher

- Hypothesised that health messages regarding the importance of care during pregnancy and childbirth might be effectively transmitted in rural Nepal through singing.
- Designed and developed a PhD research project based on this hypothesis and obtained ethics approval from the University of Newcastle, Australia and Nepal Health Research Council.

- Designed and carried out an extensive health intervention project in rural Nepal to test this hypothesis, securing the full support and participation of local community leaders.
- Organised statistically valid pre-post and 12 -month follow-up surveys with the cooperation of the community, local and district officials.

Mar - Oct
2014

Director, National Health Education, Information and Communication Centre,
Ministry of Health and Population, Kathmandu, Nepal

- Developed and implemented national health communication programs.
- Coordinated with national and international agencies for effective and coordinated health communication programs.
- Provided leadership in the national tobacco control program.
- Coordinated with different media and communication experts for coordinated health communication programs.
- Supported and monitored district health communication programs.
- Managed human resources, finance and administration.

Oct 1995 -
Mar 2014

Director, Regional Health Training Center, Pokhara and Surkhet, Ministry of Health
and Population, Nepal

- Organised training needs assessment surveys
- Developed training curricula and training manuals for district health managers and health workers.
- Facilitated training sessions and evaluated training programs.
- Coordinated organisation of international training programs and hosted short term international training tours and visits of the delegates.
- Documented and disseminated the training programs' performance including personnel administration and financial management.
- Managed human resources, finance and administration.

Aug - Dec
1998 and Sep
- Nov 2000

Technical Training Coordinator
Peace Corps/ Nepal

- Coordinated two pre-service training programs for American volunteers before their two years of volunteer assignment in Nepal.
- Coordinated language, cultural, and social interactions, subject specific training and exposure programs in the villages.
- Developed training curriculum.
- Conducted pre-service training to Water Sanitation Coordinators (American citizens) on health, water and sanitation programs.
- Organised sessions on cross cultural adaptation and facilitated cultural learning exposures.
- Evaluated the training program and developed a technical manual.

- Apr - Oct 1995 **Ophthalmic Officer/ Regional Health Educator**
 Swiss Red Cross, Eye Care program, Fateh Bal Eye Hospital, Nepal
- Conducted community eye health needs surveys.
 - Expanded community eye care volunteers' programs in 4 districts.
 - Organised health education management workshops for district eye care managers.
 - Organised and managed community eye care camps through community partnership.
 - Conducted eye health education/ promotion campaigns in communities and schools.
- Aug 1987 - Jul 1993 **In-Charge, Primary Eye Care Centre, Bardia, Nepal**
 Swiss Red Cross, Eye Care Program, Nepal
- Coordinated with local GOs, INGOs and NGOs for effective implementation of eye care programs.
 - Introduced community eye care volunteer program with the help of Red Cross local chapter and community. This later expanded to four districts.
 - Planned and conducted basic training for community eye care volunteers.
 - Organised community eye care camps with the help of trained volunteers through community participation.
 - Supported and managed daily office administration.
 - Performed eye examinations and minor operations.
 - Recorded and reported outreach programs and static clinic events.
 - Managed human resources, finance and administration.

Publications

1. **Sharma BB**, Jones L, Loxton DJ, Booth D, Smith R: Systematic review of community participation interventions to improve maternal health outcomes in rural South Asia. BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth 2018, 18(1):327. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-018-1964-1>
2. **Sharma BB**, Loxton DJ, Murray H, Angeli GL, Oldmeadow C, Chiu S, Smith R: A first step to improving maternal mortality in a low literacy setting; the successful use of singing to improve knowledge regarding antenatal care. American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2018.09.038>. An intervention research video was also published along with the article, link: <https://youtu.be/wMATlewi-ME>)
3. **Sharma BB**, Loxton DJ, Murray H, Angeli GL, Oldmeadow C, Chiu S, Smith R: Use of Songs Leads to Long-term Improvement in Knowledge of Antenatal Care in a Predominantly Illiterate Community. Reproductive Sciences, 2018;25;214A. <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1933719118759999>
4. **Sharma BB**, Loxton DJ, Murray H, Angeli GL, Oldmeadow C, Chiu S, Smith R: In Nepal a Culturally Appropriate Method of Education Regarding Antenatal and Delivery Care was Highly Effective in Changing Behaviour. Reproductive Sciences, Vol. 26, issue:1,suppl, page(s): 62A-390A March 2019 <https://doi.org/10.1177/1933719119834079>
5. Intervention research eBook

Link: <http://au.blurb.com/ebooks/654417-pathways-to-improving-maternal-mortality-in-remote-rural-nepal>

6. PhD Thesis; **Sharma BB**: Pathways to Improving Maternal Mortality in Rural Nepal
The University of Newcastle, Australia <https://nova.newcastle.edu.au/vital/access/manager/Index>
<http://hdl.handle.net/1959.13/1402873>

Conferences/Seminars

- 2019 66th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Reproductive Investigation held in Paris, France (March 12-16, 2019).
- 2018 Attended and presented research findings at the 65th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Reproductive Investigation (SRI) (March 7-10) Hilton, San Diego, USA
- 2014 Participated in the 2nd Meeting of World Health Organisation, National Counterparts for Alcohol (12-14 May) at the WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2014 Participated and presented Nepal's showcase on maternal health issues at the 67th Session of the World Health Assembly (WHA), (19 to 24 May) at the UN Palais Des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2014 Led the Government delegation to observe the Government initiatives to promote Mobile Health (m-Health) in the Philippines organised by Johns Hopkins University Centre for Communication Programs (JHU CCP)
- 2014 Led the team of Senior Officials of the Ministry of Health and Population to observe the WHO Collaborating Center and Primary Health Care training programs in Sri Lanka (Sep 18 -22), in a trip organised by WHO/Nepal

Awards

1. 2010 Awarded the prestigious National Medal "Nepal Bidhya Bhushan Kha" by the then President of Nepal, Dr Ram Baran Yadav, for securing the highest marks (CGPA 4/4) and rank in the University of Bangladesh while studying for the Master of Public Health (MPH).
2. 2019 Travel Awards to participate and present the research findings in the 66th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Reproductive Investigation held in Paris, France (March 12-16, 2019)

Professional Assignments

- Dec 2019 Director/ Spokesperson: Gandaki province government COVID-19 program
- Mar - Oct 2014 Director of National Health Education, Information and Communication Centre
- 2014 Member, National Health Policy Development Thematic Committee, Nepal
- 2014 - 2016 Vice President, Health Promotion and Education Association, Nepal
- 2009 - 2013 Member, Public Health Subject Committee – Pokhara University
- Since 2011 Member, Rotary International, Rotary Club of Pokhara Fishtail
- Jan - 2010 Member, Curriculum Development Committee for Master of Public Health Program, Pokhara University, Nepal
- Feb - 2006 Member, Secretary, International Training Centre Development Committee, National Health Training Centre, Ministry of Health and Population, Nepal

ANNEXURE A

Key Competencies and Influence on Policy Development

Key Competencies

- **Leadership** – Providing leadership for program development, strategy development and advocacy.
- **Training** - Organising the training of trainers on a wide range of health and management issues.
- **Finance** – Development and administration of project budgets and training budgets. Administration of major departmental allocations up to \$18m USD annually.
- **Human resource management**- Twenty-four years' experience in managing human resources, through organisational management, training and development.
- **Coordination** – Coordinating specific training needs through workshops, curriculum development, community health projects, inter-agency collaboration or intervention research, as appropriate.
- **Risk taking** - Transforming work culture in government system environment through a result-oriented leadership development program.

Influence on Policy Development

1. My research into education through dance and singing has been given detailed consideration by the Government of Nepal. At the community level, before the intervention, it was a taboo for males to discuss pregnancy and childbirth issues. Most unexpectedly, after the intervention, this situation has been reversed. Our surveys show that each pregnancy is now discussed and is seen as both a family and community responsibility. As a result, the culture of maternal care has been completely transformed in the intervention villages. For example, pregnancy and childbirth issues are never left undiscussed and it is unusual for any family to remain ignorant and inactive regarding pregnancy and birth. Recognising these positive changes brought about by the intervention, the Government of Nepal has adopted the practice of community education through singing health messages and created a new budgeted program headquartered in Gandaki province

2. As a result of my PhD project and further related work, the Government has also announced the provision of an air ambulance, increased the incentives for institutional delivery, set a requirement of four antenatal visits for expectant mothers and improved the recording and reporting of maternal mortality. The Government has reaffirmed this commitment by making budget allocations to continue these provisions. Within 6 months of these announcements, a total of 46 obstructed women had been airlifted from rural districts to receive skilled care at the provincial hospitals.

Advocacy and lobbying for policy change

In addition to my published work, I am constantly engaged in sharing its results and positive impacts: through improved pregnancy and childbirth practices at the community level; and through advocacy at the government level to influence policy decisions.

For example, after a successful advocacy program, the Government of Nepal adopted a policy I promoted to provide free sanitary pads to all public-school going girls, thus helping girls to continue their schooling and improve their education, health and income potentials, all essential for improved social standing.

Both the government and community were credited for the positive results achieved. A few interviews were featured in national television channels in both Nepali and English.

Please visit the links:

1. English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQXvzIBB9fE> ABC Nepal Television | Discourse with Dr Binod Bindu Sharma
2. Nepali: <https://youtu.be/jU29FR18UPA?t=41> Maternal Mortality: A curse on civilization | Dr Binod Bindu Sharma | Janata Health | Janata Television
3. An in-depth interview along with the intervention “Education through singing health messages” live was aired by the Radio Didi Bahini, Parbat, Nepal.

ANNEXURE B

Collaborations and Partnerships

Collaborations/Partnerships/Achievements

2015 - 2017 Collaborative vision for sustained transformation

- Developing projects to facilitate in the community to improve maternal health outcomes in Nepal with Laureate Professor Roger Smith and Professor Deborah Loxton.

2017 Inter-University coordination

- Assisted the University of Newcastle, Australia and Pokhara University to develop collaborative programs to foster academic interactions that benefit both universities and fellow students. Plans are underway to formalise these inter-University collaborations.

2017 Collaboration for community development

- Initiated with key specialists, including Dr Henry Murray, Head of Department, Obstetrics and Gynecology at John Hunter Children’s Hospital, to organise training for Nepalese rural nurses and a gynecological health clinic in a remote village of Nepal. As a result, a team headed by Dr Murray visited Nepal in October 2017.

2014 Inter-Agency coordination

- Collaborated with all the external donor partners (EDPs) working in the field of health and development in Nepal to implement the “one door” policy for health education, information and communication programs.

2014 International collaboration for development

- Coordinated with Johns Hopkins University Centre for Communication Program (JHU CCP) and national and local stake holders to design, develop and implement the Mobile Health (m-Health) program targeting youths to educate them on sexual and reproductive health issues in Nepal.

2014 Nationwide campaign for policy change on Tobacco Control

- Upon having approval from the government, as a Director of National Health Education, Information and Communication Centre, I issued "Directives on printing warning messages and pictures on tobacco product boxes, packets, cartons, parcels and packaging materials, 2014". The

last directive increased the size of the graphic health warnings from 75 percent to 90 percent of the front and back of all tobacco product packaging, beginning in 2015.

- Organised nationwide campaign to develop national consensus to increase the size of pictorial health warnings to 90 percent of the area of the packaging which is the highest percentage in the Asian continent.

Achievement

- Following my work on tobacco labelling, Nepal was awarded a Bloomberg Philanthropies Award for Global Tobacco Control in 2015 worth 10 Million Nepalese Rupees.

2014 Coordination for public education and sensitisation

- Coordinated the development of a video documentary entitled “Mission Anti-Tobacco” based on the experience of the Minister for Health Mr Khaga Raj Adhikari to educate people on the consequences of tobacco use. Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4mZSGbH6_o

Apr 19-30, 2010 International training

- Coordinated international training on "Programming to strengthen maternal and child healthcare through community participation" in International Training Centre, Pokhara, Nepal.

2009 International program management

- Organised and hosted international observation training programs on community engagement for improved health service utilisation.

Dec 6 -10, 2008 Local coordination

- Coordinated with local Tourism College and local hotels to organise hospitality management training for health care providers and the staff of International Training Centre.

2007 Collaborative initiative for transformation

- Designed and implemented a result-oriented leadership development program, where support staff (cleaners) were trained and empowered to organise training for cleaners of other organisations, and also facilitated helping to manage the general affairs of the organisation.

2006

Teamwork for a shared goal

- Successfully proposed to the Government of Nepal to upgrade Regional Health Training Centre Pokhara as an International Health Training Centre
- Organised advocacy programs to help health executives, Members of Parliament, the National Planning Commission and other stakeholders to understand the national and international significance of the proposed proposal International Training Centre.
- Coordinated the development of a promotional documentary on “Nepal’s Vision to Develop International Training Centre” link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDe43yXXePc>
- As proposed, The Regional Health Training Centre, Pokhara was approved by the government as an International Health Training Centre, the first of its kind in the country.

- Ministerial communications with World Health Organization/ Nepal and South-East Asia Regional Office are underway to develop this Centre as a WHO Collaborating Centre.

2004 National training by international experts

- Coordinated with the Ministry of Health, the British Council and Nuffield Institute for Health (UK) to organise training in “Decentralized Management & Planning for Health” required for the senior health professionals of Pokhara

Aug - Dec 98 / Sep-Nov 2000 Professional experience with the US Governmental Agency

- Experience working with Peace Corps/ Nepal. Coordinated two pre-service training programs for American volunteers before their two-year assignment in Nepal. Coordinated language, cultural, and social interactions, subject specific training and exposure programs in the villages.

1986 – 1995 Developing a model of rural eye care – Thinking beyond the box

- Worked with the Swiss Red Cross Eye Care Project as an ophthalmic professional. Organised free community-based eye care screening and surgical camps with the participation of the community and Junior Red Cross circles.
- Assigned as Head of the first conceptual Primary Eye Care Centre to be extended from city to remote districts. Managed the static clinic and engaged the community in the eye care programs.
- Developed a model community owned eye care program.
- Extended a similar model in the rural districts of Nepal.

1982– 1983 Leading community to achieving higher goals

- Coordinated and led the group of villagers to collect the donation within the remote villages to construct a primary school. A few thousand Rupees were collected sufficient to buy the materials that were not available in the village. The money collected and the sense of community developed helped acquire the land and construct the school. The school named “Jiwan Jyoti Primary School” in remote village of Parbat district of Nepal is well functioning with a total of 49 students.

**ANNEXURE C
Teaching and Training**

Training/Teaching and Community Experiences

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 2016 | <p>Casual Academic
University of Newcastle, Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted educational sessions on sexual and reproductive health for Master of Public Health students |
| 1995 - 2013 | <p>Professional Role - On the job situation
Title: Training Chief, Director
Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health, Regional Health Training Centres, Surkhet and Pokhara</p> |

- Conducted more than 5,000 hours of training sessions for district health managers and health care providers.
- Training topics included: family planning, counselling, gender-based violence, community engagement in health care programs for sustained change, training needs assessments, district health care management, integrated management of childhood illness, logistics and inventory management, communication, resource management, coordination, use of effective training methods and material development etc.
- Organised training needs assessments of health care providers and managers to modify the training curriculum according to changing training needs.
- Managed human resources, finance and administration.

2010 - 2012 **Casual Academic**

Pokhara University, Nepal

- Conducted educational sessions on Public Health and Health Care Management (Casual) for Bachelor of Public Health students

Aug - Dec

Casual / Part-time Professional

1998 and Sep

Title: Technical Training Coordinator

- Nov 2000

Peace Corps/ Nepal

- Coordinated two pre-service training programs for American Peace Corps including language, cultural, and social interactions, subject specific training and exposure programs in the villages.
- Specific roles and responsibilities:
 - Developed training curriculum
 - Conducted pre-service training for Water Sanitation Coordinators (American citizens) on health, water and sanitation programs.
 - Organised sessions on cross cultural adaptation and provided cultural learning exposures.
 - Evaluated the program and developed a technical manual.

Jul 1991 -

Professional Role – On the job situation

Apr 1995

Title: Ophthalmic Assistant, Ophthalmic Officer

Swiss Red Cross, Eye Care program

Fateh Bal Eye Hospital, Nepalgunj, Nepal

- Organised training of trainers in primary eye care
- Organised training to community eye care volunteers
- Conducted training for ophthalmic assistants
- Conducted district wide training for community health workers on primary eye care in Banke district, Nepal
- Organised training needs assessments of health care providers and managers to modify the training curriculum according to changing training needs.

- Managed human resources, finance and administration.

ANNEXURE D

Professional Development, Grants and Scholarships

Professional Development

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2012 | Training on “The Autonomous Health Training Institute”
College of Public Health Sciences, Chulalongkorn University, held in Thailand, March 15-17 |
| 2008 | Training on Regional Field Epidemiology - 3 months
National Institute of Communicable Diseases NICD / WHO / SEARO, held in Delhi, India |
| 2007 | International Training Workshop on Physical Activity and Public Health – 3 days, WHO, CDC, held in Bangkok, Thailand |
| 2007 | Health Executive Development Program (HEDP) - 45 days, Department of Health Services, Nepal Administrative Staff College, WHO/Nepal |
| 2004 | Training Program on Capacity Building of Local Institutions - 42 days, Nepal Administrative Staff College, Nepal |
| 2004 | Training of Trainers Course on Enhancing Competence of Trainers especially on Development of Leadership, Community Participation, Operational Research and Training Evaluation - 11 days, Indian Institute of Health Management Research, (IIHMR) held in Jaipur, India |
| 2004 | Training for Trainers: Decentralized Management & Planning for Health - 11 days, Ministry of Health, British Council, Nuffield Institute for Health, UK |
| 2002 | Training Workshop on Basic Radio Magazine Production - 5 days, National Health Education, Information and Communication Centre, Nepal Safer Motherhood Project, Nepal |
| 2001 | Training on Nepal Advances in Health Communication and Advocacy - 12 days, The Johns Hopkins University / School of Hygiene and Public Health, held in Nepal |
| 2000 | Participated in the Youth Invitation Program for the promotion of understanding amongst youths, held in Japan - 1 month – Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) |
| 2000 | Training of Master Trainers on Strengthening District Health Training Capacity -15 days, Nepal Administrative Staff College |
| 2000 | Training on "Through the Gender Lens - A Practical Approach for Reproductive Health Behaviour Change Communication Programs" - 5 days, The Johns Hopkins University / Population Communication Services, held in Nepal |
| 1997 | International Training of Trainers on District Health Care Management - 3 months
The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands |
| 1997 | Training of Master Trainers on Logistics Management - 5 days, National Health Training Centre, Logistics Management Division, John Snow Inc. |
| 1997 | Training of Trainers on Family Planning Counselling - 12 days, Government of Nepal, National Health Training Centre, Kathmandu, Nepal |

Grants and Scholarships

2018	Project Grant to roll out the intervention in the control population (A novel method of community education through singing health messages developed during the PhD research)	Provider: The University of Newcastle, Australia Hunter Medical Research Institute	AUD 60,000
2016	Project Grant for intervention research in rural Nepal	Provider: Jennie Thomas Project Grant	AUD 20,000
2016	Travel Grant to travel to Nepal for intervention research	Provider: Jennie Thomas Travel Grant	AUD 10,000
2016	Grant for training equipment for training interviewers	Jennie Thomas Special Grant	AUD 1,000
2014 - 17	Scholarship to undergo PhD research program at the University of Newcastle, Australia	Provider: University of Newcastle, Australia	2018- AUD 27,082 2017- AUD 26,682 2016- AUD 26,288 2015- AUD 25,849 2014- AUD 4,382
2005	Scholarship to study Master of Public Health at the State University of Bangladesh, Bangladesh	Provider: UNFPA/ Nepal	USD 12,500
1993	Scholarship to study Diploma in Health Education, India	Provider: Swiss Red Cross, Eye Care Project, Nepal	USD 10,000
1992	Scholarship to undergo training in Health Education at the Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health and Family Welfare Trust, India	Provider: Swiss Red Cross, Eye Care Project, Nepal	USD 4,500
1989	Scholarship to undergo training in Community Eye Care Program Management in Arvind Eye Hospital, Madurai, India	Provider: Swiss Red Cross, Eye Care Project, Nepal	USD 6,000

Additional responsibility during COVID-19 pandemic

Director / spokesperson: COVID-19 prevention and control program, Gandaki province government, Pokhara, Nepal.

Dr Binod has played a crucial role in tackling the COVID-19 outbreak as a focal person in Gandaki province ever since the first case was reported in Nepal. When the outbreak started, he knew that this would be quite an ordeal for everybody involved, and so, as the Incident Commander for the province,

he made sure everyone contributed vigilantly and equally. He was not only the COVID-19 focal person but also the spokesperson for the Province. He has contributed enormous time and effort in curbing the infection in the province.

Dr Binod ensured that coordination was robust among all health and non-health sectors and the ministries and has been lobbying for resources with equal importance. He has been an important figure as an advisor to the Gandaki province government in policy, planning, strategies and program intervention for the mitigation of COVID-19.

He was a vital capacity in bringing the preventive and curative departments together, managing 12 district hospitals, 11 public health offices and 40 isolation centres established in the province. Dr Binod made sure that the technical support to more than 500 quarantine centres was in place. He made sure that every aspect of health was addressed as much as possible therefore he hosted and attended weekly virtual meetings with health offices, Ayurveda offices, District Hospitals and Health Partners (NGO/INGO) where issues were discussed as well as solved. Dr Binod's advocacy led to strengthening of hospitals (establishment of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in the district Hospitals, which had never happened prior and critical care trainings for staffs of all district hospitals). He also made a proposal to the government to strengthen the health sector. As a result of his consistent lobbying, the province as well as the federal government approved NRS 330 million (USD 2.8 million) as a special grant to initiate the health sector reforms.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, he also made sure that other health related issues did not go unanswered. As an outcome of his PhD research inferences and the consistent lobbying, an air retrieval program in Nepal was instituted in the year 2018. This program aimed to airlift the obstructed women of rural remote districts of Nepal. The program has been a wonderfully successful in saving mothers giving life. Dr Binod was able to secure helicopter for rescues of those high-risk pregnant women even when the airports in the province were closed. He also ensured that other regular outbreaks e.g., dengue, scrub typhus, measles etc. were in check.

Working incessantly throughout the outbreak here are some of his achievements:

1. Promptly took the initiative for training health care professionals, particularly lab professionals for sample collection and procuring the types of equipment needed for the diagnostics, quarantining and isolation of the suspected and infected individuals.
2. Lobbied with the province government to have established intensive care units (ICUs) in each (11) district hospital. The province government approved the proposal and provided with the budget for a total of 51 ICU beds in the province.
3. Developed laboratory and case management protocols and organised orientation training to district health teams.
4. Organised training to district hospital teams on critical cases management.
5. Coordinated to organise training to nursing staff working in intensive care unit (ICU) environment.
6. Facilitated fellow officers in taking a proactive approach to disseminate public service announcements (PSAs) regarding different economic and physio-social facets about COVID-19, through different social media platforms. This was instrumental in penetrating the grassroots of the community with key messages to improve individual, family and community practices.
7. Assessed the evolution of the situation at global as well as the local standpoint, Dr Binod stalwartly advised the province government to continue preventive and control measures both in healthcare and community environment.
8. Provided strong leadership in ensuring quality health service delivery.

9. Visited highly vulnerable areas where the diagnosed cases were being managed and monitored. These visits resulted in high level of motivation amongst the healthcare providers and the community leaderships involved.
10. Released interviews and press-releases in FMs and YouTube outlets to inform the residents of the latest updates and efforts being conducted on a daily basis.
11. Also lobbied for special attention to the well-being and encouragement funding for those in the frontlines in the battle against the malady of COVID-19.

Through the position of the Health Director, Dr Binod strives to share his vision of the future health system with the citizens of Gandaki province and to inspire everyone in the health sector. His visionary perspectives have earned him the trust from the Council of Ministers and the whole health team as well as the population of the Gandaki province.

Referees

1. Laureate Professor Roger Smith AM

Relation: PhD Primary Supervisor

University of Newcastle, Australia

Email: Roger.Smith@newcastle.edu.au

2. Professor Deborah Loxton

Relation: PhD Co-Supervisor

University of Newcastle, Australia

Email: Deborah.Loxton@newcastle.edu.au

3. Mr AR Boulter

Relation: Supervisor (Program Coordinator)

Swiss Red Cross Eye Care Program, Nepal

Email: aboulter@aol.com