

ALIN Solutions Fellowship: A Comprehensive Model to Engage and Empower LMIC Youths in Meaningful Nation-building Projects

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In Nepal, high youth unemployment rate, lack of affordable quality education, nepotism, corruption, etc. run deep in the system, turning millions of youths pessimistic about themselves and the country, or simply pushing them abroad. Youths need to be shown that collaborative, interdisciplinary, intersectional problem-solving approaches are important, and how they can play a critical role in comprehensive nation building themselves.

Complex problems can be solved not only by bright, meritorious individuals, but also by individuals who have been othered by various discriminatory societal stringencies. Positive discrimination on applicants' geographical backgrounds, minority ethnicities, and other life challenges are intentional during fellowship selection process. Similarly, the diversity of sectors, genders, backgrounds, nationalities of the mentors, advisors, and other speakers invited to the fellowship platforms had to be thoughtfully scrutinised. The next phase of the fellowship is to expand to various provinces, to smaller marginalised and indigenous groups, and to customise similar programs for academic and corporate entities, in and outside of Nepal.