

### **Final Essay Assignment**

You have recently joined the staff of an International NGO as an Assistant Program Officer. Your primary responsibilities are to assist on projects in South Asia that focus on local capacity building within partner NGOs, particularly on projects that focus on good governance, the empowerment of women, and the promotion of educational institutions that can promote transparent, democratic processes. You are also to assist governments in South Asia to meet the SDGs.

You are excited about the prospects of working in an arena you studied while pursuing your degree at the University of Oregon, and can't wait to try out tips for conducting participatory appraisals that you also studied about in a recent class. You hope that your knowledge of Hindi will be sufficient for an upcoming tour of India and Pakistan that your organization is in the process of planning. You think that your experience as a volunteer on a UO IE3 internship in south India helped you land the job with this INGO along with your experience doing an internship with Mercy Corps in Portland.

Your immediate supervisor has just entered your office. She hands you an assignment: you are to prepare to depart for Dhaka, Bangladesh (where the national language is Bangla) within a week. Your INGO has just found out about a new RFP (Request For Proposals) that has been put out for bidding by a UN multilateral donor organization (no need to name it) to promote environmental stewardship, post-Covid health concerns, democratization, and hence human security. Your agency wants to develop a proposal with two separate, distinct goals in response to the RFP:

- i. Create a mass transit system consisting of minibuses, incorporating a community organizing component, to enable women working in manufacturing units in Dhaka and other peri-urban centers in Bangladesh to commute to their workplaces;
- ii. As a secondary element, develop a civic education project to promote democratization and involve urban commuters in their own government in a constructive way.

The projects you would assist in developing would augment your agency's overall efforts to enhance the capacity of local partners in South Asia as they rebuild and seek to regain local communities' trust following the COVID-19 pandemic. This project will target economically and politically marginalized areas in various peri-urban areas (spaces where a city meets the countryside) of Bangladesh; you have heard that there are U.S. Peace Corps volunteers stationed in some areas where they are focused on sustainable agriculture projects with local farmers.

You are authorized to spend 10 days in-country; the proposal is due in one month from today.

In 4-5 pages (double spaced), based on what we have discussed in this course, identify:

- To what extent do you anticipate that this sort of project can contribute to Bangladesh's meeting of some of the SDGs? Which ones, in particular, are being addressed by this proposal?
- What would be your 3-4 most immediate concerns in developing a proposal around these objectives in Bangladesh?
- In particular, what might you emphasize that would address program assistance options (given that the primary donor is a multilateral agency)?
- What would you need to do in advance of your departure for Bangladesh?
- What kinds of people (be as specific as possible) would you need to meet while in-

- country?
- What other kinds of research would have to be undertaken prior to finalizing your proposal, while in Bangladesh and after returning from Bangladesh?
  - How would you determine the feasibility of combining these two goals into one proposal (i.e., does it make sense to combine these two goals into one proposal or not, and how are you reaching this conclusion)?
  - What positive outcomes can you envision may result from a project like this?
  - What problematic outcomes can you envision may result from a project like this?

**Final essay is due uploaded to CANVAS by 6 pm on Friday June 9<sup>th</sup>**

P.S. Remember, you are being asked about what research you will need to do; you are not being asked to *do* that research for this assignment. Include only those references cited in your essay; no need for a lengthy bibliography.