

**Community Empowerment and Support Initiatives (CESI)- UK
Greenwich Nepalese Integration Project
Youth Employability Skills Enhancement Training**

Focus Group Discussion Report



Venue: CESI, Training hall, Plumstead, London

11 March 2014

Introduction

Community Empowerment and Support Initiatives (CESI)-UK organised a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on 11 March 2014 involving 11 trained youths, 5 male and 6 female.

The FGD was a part of the ongoing monitoring process to record the distance travelled by the beneficiaries compared to the baseline information.

The purpose of this FGD was to discuss with the youth beneficiaries and get their clear perceptions on the services and support provided by the project in the following area:

1. Increased employability opportunities through training and support provided by the project.

Therefore, this report contains analysis of the beneficiaries perceptions on the quality of the services and their level of confidence in their job search skills for employment through making job applications.

Methods

Altogether 11 participants took part in the Focus Group Discussion which was facilitated by the project staff. A set of structured questions were used to facilitate the discussion and solicit information from the participants. The first couple of questions were engagement type questions followed by 6 exploratory questions and finally some exit questions. The engagement questions mainly focused on how the beneficiaries came to know about the project activities. The exploratory questions were qualitative in nature aiming at collecting participants perceptions on the services and support provided by the project. The exit questions were for anything else they wanted to say.

Outcomes of the discussion

The initial couple of questions were to find out what and how the participants knew about the Project. In response, majority of the participants said that the advert in the Nepali TV was the main source of their information about CESI and this project. One third of the participants also had seen the project leaflets posted on the walls of the high street shops.

The following questions were used to lead the discussion and to solicit information:

Questions:

1. *How has IT and job search training helped to improve your knowledge and skills to explore the job market?*
2. *How has the training helped you to prepare an effective CV for making a successful job application?*
3. *How has the knowledge of writing job application and cover letter increased your chances of being called for an interview?*
4. *What interview facing techniques/ skills have you learnt from this training? How confident are you to face job interviews?*

Response:

All participants said that the three days long IT and job search training was really helpful in improving their knowledge and skills to explore the job market. They reported that that was the first time they learned how to read the advertisements and understand the meaning between the lines.

All participants said that the tips on interview facing technique were very helpful and supportive in building their confidence. Two third of the participants said that this was the first time they learned about writing a good 2 page CV which had always been a challenge. They said that this training had taught them about what to put in the CV and in what order. On the other hand, all participants reported that, even though their English was good enough, they had experienced difficulties in writing the application and did not know what exactly to mention therein. They said that, from this training, they learned what to mention and in what order.



All participants reported that with the knowledge and the skills acquired from the training had considerably increased their chances of being called for an interview.

Finally, participants were asked the following questions aiming at getting their feedback regarding future activities that would help improve their chances of getting a job.

- 1. What else you would like to say about this training?*
- 2. What further support do you need to improve your chances of getting a job?*

The following were the responses of the participants:

All participants said that this training was very good. However, they thought that the duration of the training was too short. They suggested to run the training for at least a week.

One third participants thought that internships would help them to gain practical knowledge and skills to go to the competitive job market. Others said that if CESI could find organisations to do voluntary work that would give them an opportunity to brush up their knowledge and skills preparing them for a job.