

Elisabeth (Libby) Abbott

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Education

- B.A. in International Development Studies** 2002-2006
Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island
Magna Cum Laude. Awarded honors for thesis.*
- College Year in India Program, Varanasi, India** 2004-2005
University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin
Lived and studied in Varanasi for nine months. Two semesters of Hindi language study. Designed and carried out an original research project investigating NGOs and family planning; wrote up findings in a 130 page report.
- Completion of Intensive Hindi Language Program** 2004
University of California, Berkeley, California
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Research Experience

- Research Assistant, Brown University** May 2007-October 2007
- Coded and entered data from research pilot study dealing with tuberculosis treatment in India (see below).
 - Analyzed data for themes and preliminary results.
 - Assisted in the preparation of an NIH (National Institute of Health) research grant proposal. Conducted extensive literature searches on a variety of related topics, prepared data for presentation and helped write the proposal.
- Research Assistant, Brown University, Chennai, India** January 2007-March 2007
- Led a three month pilot study research project investigating optimal treatment arrangements for tuberculosis (TB) patients under India's TB Control Program. Oversaw the completion of 75 interviews of community members, patients, and health workers.
 - Designed, tested, and refined questionnaire. Trained field workers in research methods and monitored implementation.
 - Supervised the research team (three locally-based field researchers selected from partner institutions) and research process and facilitated the translation and transcription of data.
 - Liaised between the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore; Tuberculosis Research Center (TRC), Chennai; and the principal investigators at Brown University.

Research Intern, Shambhunath Singh Research Foundation, Varanasi, India

- Researched family planning, children's rights, women's empowerment, reproductive health and programming for adolescents.
- Designed and implemented original research project investigating a family planning program service delivery model used by local NGO. Interviewed a range of stake holders and conducted a case study of a health worker, with a critical eye to quality of care and equality in service delivery. Wrote up results in 130 page paper.
- Co-developed and ran a twice weekly outreach program for adolescent girls in a slum, with a focus on teaching English, vocational skills and health education.
- Implemented a weekly outreach program based on the above program for adolescent girls in a railway slum, with a greater focus on health and sex education.

September
2004-
April
2005

Work and Volunteer Experience

Human Rights and Advocacy in Nepal Intern, The Advocacy Project, Washington, D.C.

- Coordinating human rights campaigns in Nepal through partnerships with Nepali community-based organizations.
- Researching reproductive rights and healthcare in Nepal for uterine prolapse (UP) campaign; assisting Nepali partner organization in launch of national campaign for the prevention/treatment of UP and helping coordinate launch of international campaign.

February
2008-May
2008

Assistant College Counselor, Sacramento High School, Sacramento, California

- Provided counseling and information to 100+ college bound seniors from a charter school in a socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhood.
- Planned and led a college tour for top-performing students. Contacted admissions officers, arranged tours, lodging, meals, transportation, etc.
- Created a program to assist students in the college essay writing process; compiled and wrote documents to contribute to this program.

August
2006-
December
2006

ESOL Facilitator, English for Action. Providence, Rhode Island

- Facilitated twice-weekly participatory English courses for Spanish-speaking adults according to a Freirian-inspired approach.
- Planned lessons and developed a curriculum in response to learners' needs and desires with a particular emphasis on making course content relative to the lives of learners (through discussion of topics such as immigration and health care).

August
2005-May
2006

"Big Sister" Mentor, Big Sisters of America, Providence, Rhode Island

- Mentored a 15-year old girl who had been referred to the program for academic and social guidance.

October
2003-May
2004

Mentor, Girls Outdoor Responsibility Program, Providence, Rhode Island

- Organized and conducted activities with socio-economically disadvantaged middle schools girls to cultivate environmental awareness and community involvement.

September
2003-May
2004

Intern, San Francisco Department of the Environment, San Francisco, California

June
2003-
August
2003

- Assisted managing a grant program for the department's Environmental Justice team.
- Read and reviewed grant proposals.
- Assessed the environmental needs of minority communities.
- Organized a networking function for community members, academics, activists concerned with environmental justice; contacted speakers, arranged location, networked with activists, etc.

Co-founder and Manager, LiLu Handbags, Sacramento, California

September
2000-May
2002

- Founded an organization in high school to promote peer involvement in community service.
- Created a line of handbags sold at an annual auction to raise money for Sacramento's Works in New Directions (WIND), a center and shelter for homeless youth.
- Applied for and received a \$1,500 grant from DoSomething to host the first annual auction.
- Under my management the organization raised approximately \$6,500 for WIND. It is now a registered 501(c)3 and has, to date, raised over \$40,000.

Languages and International Experience

Languages: Hindi proficiency, intermediate Spanish, beginning French and beginning Nepali

English Teacher, Volunteer Tibet, Dharamshala, India

May
2005-June
2005

- Taught English to Tibetan refugees living under the Tibetan Government in Exile in Dharamshala, India. Crafted lessons to learners' needs as waiters working in an English-dominant restaurant industry.
- Guest teacher in an informal school for slum dwellers. Assisted the permanent English-speaking teacher by working as a Hindi-English translator and teaching the subjects of math, English and Hindi grammar.

Publications

"Local hierarchies and distributor (non)compliance: A case study of community-based distribution in rural North India," Libby Abbott and Nancy Luke. Submitted for publication to Journal of Social Science and Medicine in January 2008.

* "In her hands: A case study of re-interpretation in the community-based distribution model in Uttar Pradesh, India," Libby Abbott. Submitted for BA in Development Studies, Brown University. Awarded honors.

References

Nancy Luke, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Population Studies and Training Center

Relationship: Supervisor in current position, thesis advisor in undergraduate

Contact information: (401) 863-2243, Nancy_Luke@brown.edu

Kaivan Munshi, Professor, Department of Economics, Brown University

Relationship: Principal investigator of current research project

Contact information: (401) 863-9331, Kaivan_Munshi@brown.edu

Sarat Munjuluri, College Counselor, Sacramento High School

Relationship: Previous supervisor in the counseling department of Sacramento High School

Contact information: smunjuluri@gmail.com