

Project Description

Dawa Sherpa 2022

For Summer 2022, I will be working as a Peace Fellow for The Advocacy Project (AP). This non-profit organization is dedicated to uplifting marginalized communities by providing them with a platform to tell their stories, strengthen their organizations, take action, and mobilize new supports. I will be working for 10 weeks in Harare, Zimbabwe, for Women Advocacy Project (WAP). WAP is dedicated to promoting women's socio-economic rights through hands-on projects and campaigns. The central focus of WAP is to develop entrepreneurship projects that can extend educational opportunities for girls. By advocating for education and providing economic empowerment, WAP aims to prevent early marriage, a prominent issue in Zimbabwe.

As a Peace Fellow, I will be working on both the ongoing entrepreneurship project and a potential WAP education fund. For the ongoing entrepreneurship program, I will be working on fundraising and expanding the production, sales, and market for soap produced by WAP girls. For the potential education fund project, I will be gathering baseline information by meeting with local communities and families to profile the beneficiaries, understand the needs, and create a preliminary budget analysis. Additionally, in conjunction with a remote fellow, I will also be working on website development and building international partnerships. Throughout my duration, I will be documenting my work and the development of WAP through photographs, interview diaries, videos, and blog posts. This documentation will help AP with its mission of advocating through storytelling.

I am eager to work on WAP this Summer because it directly relates to my personal and professional aspirations. Growing up in Nepal, a country where gender disparity is still very prevalent, I learned that education is the key to achieving gender equality. WAP's focus on promoting education to advocate for women's rights is what I envision doing after graduate school. I plan to create similar programs that would provide educational opportunities for girls in marginalized communities of Nepal. With WAP's community-based hands-on experiences, I will be able to have a multi-faceted learning opportunity to understand different components of establishing, implementing, and promoting Women Advocacy Projects at a grassroots level.