



Namita PRADHAN

Home Country: Nepal

Degree: PhD in Information and Media Studies

Expertise: Information and Media

Research Focus: Communication Technologies for Development

Host University: Michigan State University, United States

Fellowship Awarded: 2016

Namita Pradhan was born, grew up, and educated in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, until moving to the United States for her PhD studies. At high school she was awarded several merit-based full tuition waivers and also won a cash prize for her excellent performance.

After gaining a Proficiency Certificate Level in Science from St. Xavier's College, Kathmandu, Namita was awarded a full scholarship to study at the Nepal College of Information Technology, where in 2006 she received a BEng in Information Technology. She then moved to the Lord Buddha Education Foundation, Kathmandu, which is affiliated with Sikkim Manipal University, India, and in 2011 gained a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in Information Studies.

Namita is fascinated by the multidisciplinary field of Information Communication Technology for Development (ICTD), which aims to provide fit-for-purpose technological solutions to support developing communities and help solve societal challenges. Her PhD research includes an in-depth longitudinal study to understand how to influence marginalized women to use ICTD solutions for societal gain, with particular focus on communities in developing countries such as Nepal. The project is part of Namita's long-term goal to encourage more women and girls in her home country to use information technology and reap its benefits.

After her studies in the United States, Namita plans to join the Everest Engineering and Management College, located in Kathmandu. She hopes to establish herself as a prominent ICTD researcher and work with non-governmental organizations to design and execute development projects that will benefit women and girls in Nepal. She also intends to continue voluntary work to educate and empower women, and to act as a role model to encourage young girls who are considering careers in science and engineering to pursue their goals.