Project Development Summary (2016-2020)

A Fair Chance for Education in Haryana Project





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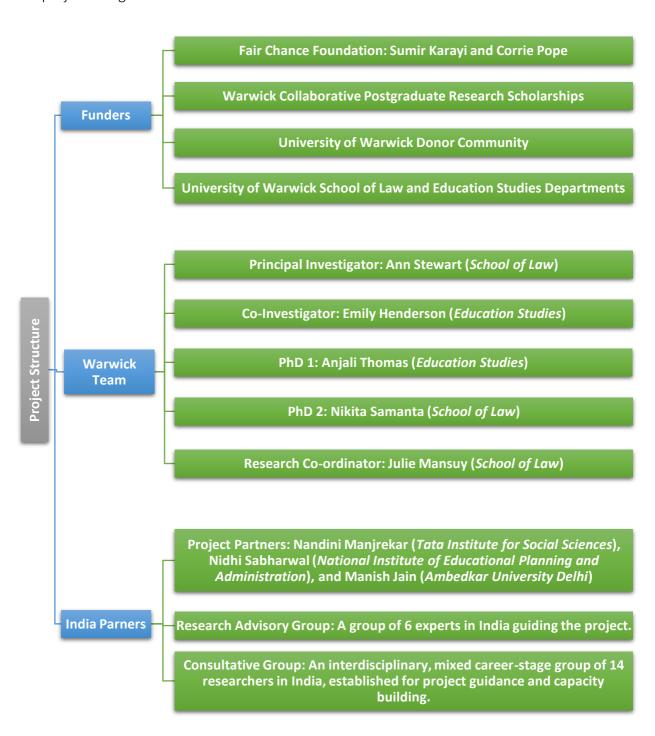
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University of Warwick Coventry CV4 7AL United Kingdom The purpose of this report is to outline the main elements of the project as well as its development from its scoping phase in 2016 until now.

Overview of Project

A Fair Chance for Education: Gendered Pathways to Educational Success in Haryana is a collaborative and interdisciplinary Research Project run by the University of Warwick School of Law and Department of Education Studies.

The project is organised as follows:



Research

Research Areas: Gender, Higher Education and Human Rights

<u>Context</u>: Haryana, India

Haryana is a state bordering on Delhi, which is (i) under-researched, (ii) a state of interesting contrasts as part of it is highly developed within the National Capital Region and part of it is highly rural, (iii) it presents a conundrum as it has relatively high female participation in education, including higher education, and yet demonstrates high levels of cultural conservatism towards women.

The project is focusing on government colleges in Haryana as these are the least expensive and also the most local forms of higher education provision, so tend to focus on those who 'only just' accessed higher education. This helps us to see how the frontier of access to higher education is shifting.

Research Questions:

- (1) Which factors affect young people's progression to higher education?
- (2) How can gender-related barriers to young people progressing to higher education be addressed through evidence-based intervention?

<u>Data collection</u>:

Pilot phase: Case study of three colleges. Quantitative survey with students in government colleges in Haryana; qualitative interviews and focus group discussions with students; qualitative interviews with representatives from colleges; documentary analysis.

PhD1 study: In-depth qualitative study. Qualitative interviews with students and family interviews with students' families from three government colleges.

PhD2 study: Ethnographic case study with action research elements. Ethnographic documentation of the organisation of two outreach days involving two government colleges and neighbouring high schools. Included interviews and questionnaires for evaluation purposes.

Objectives:

- a) To contribute to capacity building in Indian higher education through two funded doctorates, project activities for students and colleagues, project visits in India and UK.
- b) To design, implement and evaluate an intervention that targets obstacles identified in the first stage of the study, thus contributing to the knowledge of 'what works' in the Global South countries' higher education policy landscape.
- c) To produce useful, robust evidence that may bring about social change.

PhD Supervision:

- Anjali Thomas is supervised by Emily Henderson with Ann Stewart
- Nikita Samanta is supervised by Ann Stewart

Project Timeline

Summer 2016

Initial discussions between the University of Warwick and the Fair Chance Fondation for a large-scale project to produce evidence for social change.

Summer 2016

A Literature Review is commissioned from Nandini Manjrekar and Manish Jain on the 'Social Context of Girls' Education in Haryana'.

October 2016

Scoping Meeting in Delhi: Fair Chance Foundation, Warwick team identified (Ann Stewart, Ian Abbott, Emily Henderson), and Project partners (Nandini Manjrekar, Manish Jain, Nidhi Sabharwal).

January 2017

Formal start of the Project which will run for 5 years.

March 2017

Recruitment of fully funded PhD Student 1 (Anjali Thomas) researching the issue of gender and access to higher education in Haryana from October 2017 until March 2021.

April 2017

India visit by Warwick Team and inaugural meeting of the Consultative Group (CG)

October 2017

Formation of the Research Advisory Group (RAG) upon recommendations from the project partners in India.

January 2018

Recruitment of fully funded PhD Student 2 (Nikita Samanta) researching the implementation of an intervention based on the findings of the first studentship from October 2018 until March 2022.

February 2018

India visit by Warwick Team for the Phase 1 research data collection and inaugural meeting of the Research Advisory Group.

September 2018

Ian Abbott stands down from his position as Co-Investigator on the project due to his impending retirement.

October 2018

Anjali Thomas starts her fieldwork in India and some India partners visit the Warwick Team at the University of Warwick.

February 2019

India visit by Warwick Team to advise Anjali Thomas on fieldwork, along with a CG meeting.

April 2019

Anjali Thomas returns from her fieldwork study.

June 2019

Project Partner in India Nandini Manjrekar visits the Warwick Team at the University of Warwick.

September 2019

PhD 2 Nikita Samanta leaves for her fieldwork in India.

October 2019

Ann Stewart visits India for meetings with partners and officials, including RAG meeting, and assists with Nikita Samanta's fieldwork preparation.

January 2020

Nikita Samanta returns from her fieldwork study.

Next Steps

Anjali Thomas

 Anjali is writing up her thesis and aiming to submit by September 2020

Nikita Samanta

• Nikita is in her data analysis stage

Pilot Phase Report

• The report is to be completed this year, along with two planned publications to be drafted.

Dissemination & Impact

- Plans are underway for impact and dissemination. This will include:
 - A research-focused conference at TISS Mumbai
 - A policy-focused event potentially at NIEPA in Delhi
 - A Haryana specific event to be hosted by one of our project contacts.

Follow-up Project

• The team is considering further funding for a follow-up project.