

Biographical Statement (200 words)



Bala Raju Nikku is currently serving as the Senior Visiting Lecturer at School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, and is the Founding Director of the Nepal School of Social Work (www.nepalschoolofsocialwork.org). His vision is to seek state and society's recognition to social work as a profession in Nepal by strengthening social work education. He is currently serving on the executive board of International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and served in the past on the board of Asian and Pacific Association of Social Work Education (APASWE).

Dr. Nikku's research interests include social work education in post conflict and transition countries, disasters, children, ageing, international social work, comparative social policy in Asia and University Community engagement.

Dr. Nikku published articles and chapters in a variety of social work and social science journals and books. Some recent publications include Nikku, B.R & Hatta, Z.A (2014 editors). *Social Work Education and Practice: Scholarship and Innovations in the Asia Pacific (Primrose Hall Publishing Group: Australia)* *Social Work Education in South Asia: Diverse, Dynamic and Disjointed?* in *Global Social Work : crossing borders and blurring boundaries (Sydney University Press)*; *Building Social Work Education and the Profession in a Transition Country: Case of Nepal (Asian Social Work and Policy Review)*.

Dr Nikku currently serves as a member of the editorial advisory boards of *International Social Work Journal (Sage)*; *Journal of International Social Issues (Winona State University)*; *Practice: Social Work in Action (Routledge)* and as associate editor of *Social Work Education: The International Journal (Routledge)*.

Vision for the IASSW

Teaching social work is a science, an art form and has become a passion for me since I had the opportunity to found the Nepal School of Social Work together with my wife Pranita Bhushan Udas in 2005. I have been playing an instrumental role in building social work education and profession in Nepal in particular and the South Asia in general. My motivation to work further to strengthen social work education in Asia doubled when I had the unique opportunity to serve on the executive board of the IASSW (2012-2016). In the last 5 years of my work with IASSW and colleagues all over the globe, am able to see the larger connections between *a robust social work education that helps students to acquire real skills and help them to do responsible jobs.*

As an organisation of schools of social work and individual social work educators, IASSW has a unique role and greater responsibility to raise and invest human and financial resources to strengthen social work education especially in the post conflict and transitions countries like the Nepal, Srilanka, Afghanistan and Iran to name a few.

I see my role as the Member at Large to contribute further to these goals and vision of the IASSW and also voice the concerns and difficulties of social work educators from the transition countries in which social work is struggling to survive.

I would like to commit my time, skills and resources to continue to contribute to this area of work through the IASSW if given the opportunity. I am also interested in continuing my work on Social Work in Disasters, especially the post social work interventions after the recent mega earthquakes in Nepal and other countries in the region. There is a need for more proactive role for social work educators and schools of social work to nurture students armed with right skills to work with families and assist them to rebuild lives.

This is my vision for the IASSW and happy to contribute my time and energy as a Member at Large. Thanking you all for your support.