

MASTER THESIS REVIEW

Author: Semhal Tsegaye
Thesis: Evaluating the Integration of Conflict Sensitive Approaches in Climate Change Response: Bangladesh and Nepal
Reviewer: Lenka Dušková

Content

The theoretical part of the thesis as well as the methodological part is well elaborated making way for the analysis of the stated problem. The goal of the thesis (i.e. examining the cases of climate change response plans in Bangladesh and Nepal), reflected into the main research question (i.e. How are conflict sensitivity principles and approaches reflected in national climate change response plans and their implementation?) is clearly and explicitly stated. The thesis has a logical structure and is coherent in leading the reader to the enhancement of his/her knowledge with respect to the thesis objective. The student also well rationalizes the choice of the two selected case studies, i.e. Bangladesh and Nepal; and explains the relevant concepts that are used in the research allowing more comprehensive understanding of the researched phenomena.

Literature and references

Despite the limitations related to the number of accessible data sources, the author of the thesis works with relevant resources, which are cited in a correct way.

Formal requirements

The stylistic and grammar level of the thesis is excellent and adhering to the general standards of an academic text. The text is clear and reads well.

Topics for discussion

Many of the supervisor's questions have been answered already during the process of elaboration of the thesis and the regular consultations and the outcomes have been inbuilt into the thesis, especially with respect to creating stronger theoretical framework (such as conflict sensitivity and the respective debates around the concept), and conceptualization of the studied phenomena.

Just out of interest: What have you, as a researcher affiliated to the organization in the field (on interim basis, i.e. through internship), learned vis a vis the possibilities (opportunities and challenges) for the collaboration between the academia and practice/policy oriented institutions?

Overall evaluation and proposed grade

Semhal Tsegaye has been elaborating her thesis during her internship in Asylum Access organization in Thailand which allowed her to familiarize with the content-related processes informing the design and discussion of her final thesis. At the same time, the thesis has been written amidst the COVID-19 pandemics which has not only created practical limitations with respect to the research (e.g. possibility of gaining the hands on experience in the field and include the data from direct observations, interviews, focus groups, etc.), but also challenged the author of the thesis with the extra burden of dealing with the different restrictions in the everyday life.

Despite the external limitations, I believe that the author disposes of the academic capacities and analytical potential to elaborate on the case studies and the discussion of the findings still more in depth.

Taking into account the above (restrictions on collecting the primary data in the field) and also the inherent limitations of the case studies as such, i.e. the impossibility to generalize the findings due to the context-specificity, the author provided solid base for better understanding the role the conflict sensitive approaches could play in policy drafting and implementation in climate-change vulnerable countries, which can be an inspiration for further and/or similar studies in other countries.

I do recommend the thesis for defence and before the defence I suggest a grade B. Depending on the quality of the presentation and defence I am open to improvement of the grade honouring the work that has been done by the author of the thesis and the lessons learned during the process of thesis writing and internship.

Date: 16th June, 2020

Signature: