Final Internship Report

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Dickey Intern, Summer 2025

Organization Interned With Reinstalling Hope

Location

Virtual (Nepal-based organization)

At a glance

During Summer 2025, I worked virtually with *Reinstalling Hope*, a Nepal-based organization focused on youth development and education. My internship centered on developing a financial literacy module tailored to the Nepali context. I met twice weekly with the program manager and facilitator to review progress, receive feedback, and discuss Nepal's broader historical and economic development. Much of my independent work involved designing interactive modules using Canva, incorporating culturally relevant examples, and aligning financial concepts with everyday life in Nepal.

Overview of the Internship

The internship focused on building a Financial Literacy Module aimed at high school students in Nepal. The project covered key topics including the history of money, inflation, the role of banks, budgeting habits, and risks of gambling and scams. The module was designed not just as an academic exercise but as a tool to address real-life challenges Nepali youth face when managing money.

I combined historical context—such as the transition from barter to coins, the rise of the Nepali rupee, and local traditions like khutruke (clay pot savings)—with modern concepts like budgeting frameworks, inflation, and banking habits. I presented the materials in visually engaging slides and stories to make abstract concepts concrete for students.

My primary project was creating a multi-module financial literacy curriculum. Each module addressed different themes:

- Why & What is Money? (barter to coins, trust in paper, supply and demand)
- Play Smart: Banking & Habits (inflation, role of banks, saving and budgeting strategies)
- Move Safely: Traps & Defense (advertising, gambling, scams).

In addition, I participated in discussions on Nepal's economic development, festivals, and traditions to ensure accuracy and cultural relevance. Canva was the main tool I used to design slides, integrate storytelling, and create activities for students.

Expectations vs. Experience

Expectations

I anticipated the internship would emphasize economic and financial issues in Nepal, especially with numerical and analytical content.

Experience

My expectations were largely met, particularly in using Nepali contexts—currency, inflation scenarios, and banking habits. However, the internship leaned less on mathematical analysis and more on storytelling, context, and accessibility. Rather than creating technical models, I developed tangible narratives for younger audiences. I found this shift refreshing and impactful, as it prioritized *practical learning for real-life application*.

Work Environment & Work Life Balance

Work Environment

The internship was conducted virtually via Google Meet and a WhatsApp group for coordination. I had to meet with the manager and facilitator twice a week, and they provided feedback and additional reading assignments on Nepal's economy and history.

Work/Life Balance

Independent work accounted for about three days per week, giving me flexibility to manage my schedule. Communication was effective—changes in meeting schedules or new assignments were always shared promptly through WhatsApp. This rhythm allowed me to balance structured collaboration with independent creative work.

Personal Growth & Skills Learned

This internship strengthened several skills and my personal growth.

I learned Canva design, including how to simplify complex economic ideas into visuals and relatable examples. Second, I gained experience creating content outside my own culture by listening carefully, incorporating feedback, and respecting local traditions. Also, I learned how to make financial literacy accessible, relevant, and actionable for younger generations in Nepal.

Challenges Encountered

As a non-Nepali student, my limited knowledge of Nepal's cultural and economic nuances was initially a challenge. For example, understanding the significance of festivals like Dashain or traditional savings habits such as khutruke required extra research. With guidance from my supervisor and teammates, I was able to contextualize the material appropriately. This process taught me the importance of humility, curiosity, and collaboration in cross-cultural work.

Lasting Impact

The most meaningful aspect of this internship was realizing how education can bridge gaps between economics and daily life. By creating modules that reflect Nepali realities, I contributed to a resource that may help students make informed decisions about saving, spending, and protecting themselves from financial traps.

For me personally, the experience reinforced my commitment to using economics not only as an academic discipline but also as a practical tool for empowerment. The storytelling approach, combined with financial literacy, is a framework I hope to apply in future projects across different cultural settings.