**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Research project: Education systems, aspiration and learning in remote rural settings**

I am part of an international team of researchers that is exploring the connections between schooling and aspiration in remote rural areas of Lesotho, India and Laos. I have recently done some research in Ha Setala primary school and am now spending about two months undertaking research in your village. We hope that this research will help policy makers to improve education systems so that they better serve the needs of rural young people.

I am inviting a number of people from the village to take part in the research. These include young people who are attending secondary school; young people who are not attending school; family members; and some of the leaders of the community. The research activities will include group discussions and individual interviews lasting up to an hour. I would like it if you would participate in these activities. However, participation is entirely voluntary. It is up to you to decide. If you are under 18, we will also ask the agreement of your guardian. If you decide to take part, you are still free to stop participating at any time and without giving a reason.

The discussions and interviews will take place in a quiet place where other people aren’t listening. This might be at your house or somewhere else that is safe and convenient in the village. We would like to audio record the activities, so that we can later write down everything that is said, but what you say will be kept confidential. We will write reports about the research and give talks, and we will make the transcripts available to other people on the internet. However, we will never use your real name.

Funding for the research comes from the UK government’s Economic and Social Research Council and the Department for International Development. However, it is independent research: we do not work for the UK government. We also cannot offer any reward for participation or promise that anything will improve. The study has been reviewed by Brunel University’s College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee. Brunel University is committed to compliance with the Universities UK Research Integrity Concordat. You are entitled to expect the highest level of integrity from our researchers during the course of their research.

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