

The Gurkha Family

1. Can you tell me a bit about yourself? Where are you from? What did your parents do for work? How many brothers and sisters do you have?
2. When did you first meet your husband?
3. Was he a Gurkha already?
4. Was it a love marriage or an arranged marriage?
5. Did you like the fact he was a Gurkha? Why?
6. Were you excited/scared about the marriage?
7. Did you move in with your husband's family?
8. Tell me how you felt, if you can remember, when he first went away?
9. What strategies did you use to cope? Could you talk to other women in the same situation as you? Did you get support from the military?
10. What was the most difficult thing? What, if anything, was good about him being away?
11. How did you communicate? How do you communicate now?

Gurkha The "At Home" politics

1. When did you decide to have a family?
2. Was there anything about being married to a Gurkha that surprised you? Was it stressful or difficult to plan for a family in the beginning knowing he was going to be away?
3. What do you think is different about being a Gurkha's wife than any other Nepali wife?
4. What are your main duties/roles?
5. What does it mean to be a good Gurkha wife? What do you have to do? Can you work outside the home? Have you ever wanted to?
6. How do you raise your children to "know" their father when he is physically absent? How do you teach them to love him? Is this important?
7. What do you think makes a good father? Being that he has been physically absent for much of the childhood, what are your expectations of him as a father? As a husband?
8. What is the single most thing you love about your husband?
9. What frustrates you the most?
10. What excites you most about your life? What do you do for fun? What do you enjoy the most?
11. Is there anything you wish you could have done/want to do but haven't gotten the chance?
12. Who organizes the bills/financial decisions?
13. Research has suggested that wives of Gurkhas can actually exercise more political/economic autonomy than other women/wives in Nepal. This is largely because they have often been given the role of administering funds while their husbands are absent. Is this accurate in your experience? Do you feel empowered by being married to a Gurkha?

Entering into Private Security

1. When did your husband retire from the military?
2. When did he join FSI? Did you feel you were part of that decision? Are you proud of the work he does? Do you know much about what he does? Is there other work you rather him do?
3. What is different for you now that he works in private security? Is it pretty much the same as when he was working in the military?
4. What do you want the most out of this migration experience? What has it allowed you to do?

Homecomings/Departures

1. Is there anything special you do for when he comes home? Is there anything you expect from him? What do you think his expectations are of you?
2. What about when he goes away? How do you prepare as a family?
3. Speaking from my own experience, I find homecomings and departures difficult. I find I get into a rhythm about when I wake up, eat, sleep, where I go...when my husband comes home he somewhat disrupts this and we end up arguing. When he is about to leave I know I am going to miss him and we end up fighting because I'm sad he is leaving. Is this something that resonates with you as well?

The Costs/Opportunities

1. What are the most important opportunities that working abroad in private security brings?
2. What are the biggest drawbacks?
3. Do you worry for his safety? Do you think he tells you everything that he is doing/going through? Do you share with him everything you are going through at home...troubles with disciplining kids, troubles with broader family etc.
4. Do you think FSI is a good company? What do you think they do well in regards to your own experiences? What do you think they could do better?

Aspirations for Children

1. How old are your children now?
2. Where are they? What are they doing?
3. What do you want most for your children? Do you want your daughters to marry Gurkhas? Do you want your son's to be Gurkhas? Why?
4. What are the most values you bestow upon your children?
5. Is having a family important for your children?

Violence

1. Domestic violence is a growing concern amongst Nepali households and military families broadly speaking. This violence can be inflicted upon by

husbands/fathers but also by family members when the husband/father is absent. Some causes for this type of violence has been to discipline women who are not behaving correctly or explained through post traumatic stress the man experiences working overseas, or even alcohol, unemployment and gambling addictions.

2. Do you think this is accurate? Have you heard of any of these issues in your own community?
3. Have you ever been harassed inside/outside the home? Do you think violence against women is an issue in your own community?
4. If so, why do you think that is?

The Final Return

1. Do you have plans for when your husband retires?
2. What will you do?
3. Do you have anxieties about having him home full time?
4. In other interviews I've had, women have said they are a bit concerned they need to manage their husbands properly so that they don't become idle or depressed. Is this a feeling you share? Do you feel you have to manage your husband's emotions?

Questions for Children

1. What's it like being a child of a Gurkha? Do you think your childhood has been different from other children? How so?
2. What's the best part of being a Gurkha child? What's the worst part?
3. Do you worry about your dad being away?
4. Do you miss him? How do you cope with him being away? Would you rather he worked in Nepal instead of away? How do you make him "present" in your everyday life? Do you talk to him regularly? Do you ask for advice?
5. What do you want most for yourself career/life wise?

Questions for Gurkhas

1. Can you tell me a little bit about yourself, where you come from, how big is your family?
2. How did you hear about Gurkhas? What did you know of them?
3. Why did you become a Gurkha?
4. Where did you serve?
5. When did you retire from the military?
6. When did you enter into private security? Why?
7. What work have you done in the private security sector?
8. What are the main differences for you between military service and private security?
9. Was FSI the first company you worked with?
10. Do you know of any friends who have had to pay to get work? How much?

11. What do you like most about working with FSI? Where do you think they can improve?
12. What's the best thing about working in private security?
13. What's the most difficult?
14. In difficult moments, how do you cope?
15. Have you every encountered violence in private security?
16. Are Gurkhas good security contractors? What makes your skill important in the security industry?
17. How is the work you do, and who you are, different than white contractors?
18. Are you r living arrangements/food/housing the same?
19. Do you agree in the pay differences between westerners, locals and Gurkhas?
20. What are your leave rotations? Do you think this is enough?
21. What is your pay?
22. What other benefits do you get? Are their any other benefits you wish you had?
23. Do you feel there is adequate insurance protection taken out by the company on your behalf?

Family

1. How long have you been married?
2. Was it a love or arranged marriage?
3. What made your wife suitable?
4. What do you love most about her?
5. What attributes makes her a good mother/wife?
6. Who handles the finances of the home? School fees? Investments, Lending of money?
7. How many children do you have?
8. How do you manage being a good husband and father whilst being away? Do you think being physically present would make you a better husband/father?
9. Do you worry about your family while you are gone? What are your biggest concerns?
10. What do you want the most for your children? Do you want your son's to be Gurkhas? Do you want your daughters to marry Gurkhas?
11. What makes you proud of your children?
12. Do you have any regrets being away from them for so long?

Violence

1. Given the increase in violence against women, is this something that concerns you? Do you know of any cases of domestic violence in your community? What causes it?
2. Do you know of any cases of divorce? What cases that?
3. Do you worry for your daughters/wives while you are away?

Retirement

1. What are your plans for retirement?
2. Do you feel you are financially ready?

3. Is there anything you think you need to prepare for?
4. What are your fears/hopes for retirement?