This volume -- which is the fourth in the series -- is an endeavor by the Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Tribhuvan University to continue its tradition to bring out a journal embodying material of theoretical and empirical nature in the fields of social sciences. The present volume especially includes contributions both by the foreign and Nepalese scholars on some of the burning issues of contemporary Nepal.

Although the intention of the editorial board is to bring out regularly a bi-annual journal, this has not, however, been possible for the present for a variety of reasons. So we have to remain satisfied with this annual publication. Even in the case of the present volume, the odds were too heavy. Financial support was not easy to come by. And with great difficulty one could be able to manage the articles which have been included in the volume. These and many other reasons were also responsible for its late publication. Hopefully, we would be able to overcome these difficulties in future.

The editorial board would be glad to receive comments and suggestions from the readers with a view to improving the quality of this journal.

Finally, the editorial board would like to thank all those who have made it possible to bring out this volume. Foremost, we thank the contributors who, despite their heavy schedule, could contribute articles for this volume. We also place on record our great appreciation of those colleagues who have placed at our disposal their valuable time for doing the editing and proof-reading.

December, 1994

Professor R. R. Regmi
for
Editorial Board.