

## Editorial

In a world grappling with environmental crises and the erosion of cultural diversity, Indigenous knowledge systems are re-emerging as essential sources of wisdom, resilience, and sustainable practices. The *Journal of Indigenous Knowledge and Practice (JIKaP)* is a multidisciplinary platform committed to advancing scholarly and practical engagement with Indigenous knowledge and skills. It serves as a space for scholars, academicians, scientists, professors, educators, research students, professionals, and policy experts—both national and international—to publish high-quality, evidence-based research that enhances academic standards and informs practice. This journal particularly aims to bridge the gap between theory and practice, cultivating a culture of knowledge that is not only academically rigorous but also socially and ecologically relevant.

Recent scholarship affirms that Indigenous knowledge, skills, and practices are not static traditions of the past but dynamic, evolving systems of understanding and innovation, rooted in generations of interaction with local ecosystems. These knowledge systems reflect sophisticated forms of environmental stewardship, sustainable resource management, and community-based governance. Amid pressing challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and socioeconomic inequality, Indigenous ways of knowing offer resilient and context-specific solutions. International frameworks such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) increasingly call for the respectful inclusion of Indigenous epistemologies in education, research, and policy. Integrating Indigenous and scientific knowledge is not only an ethical imperative but also a necessary step toward co-creating sustainable and culturally grounded futures.

In the 21st century, the discourse on sustainable development stands at a pivotal crossroads. While technological innovation and centralized global governance continue to shape dominant paradigms, Indigenous knowledge systems remain marginalized. Rooted in ecological balance, reciprocity, and communal decision-making, these systems provide invaluable guidance on how societies can thrive without exhausting natural and cultural resources. Yet, despite their relevance, they are rarely afforded meaningful space in mainstream development policies and academic discourse. This continued marginalization reflects the enduring legacy of epistemic colonialism.

Western-centric models of knowledge production have historically dismissed Indigenous practices as primitive or unscientific. Such biases persist today in academic institutions, development agencies, and policymaking arenas, undermining not only cultural diversity but also the effectiveness and equity of global responses to contemporary challenges.

Interdisciplinary research has increasingly demonstrated the effectiveness of Indigenous ecological knowledge in fields such as biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, food security, and disaster preparedness. Importantly, the role of Indigenous people in preserving and transmitting this knowledge through oral traditions, agriculture, healing practices, and intergenerational teaching deserves greater recognition.

This editorial calls upon the global academic and development communities to reimagine progress. By honoring ancestral knowledge and empowering Indigenous voices, this journal takes an essential step toward a more just, sustainable, and inclusive future. Eventually this editorial board gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contribution of authors, reviewers, language and format editors, advisors, and publisher-Grammar College, Koteswor, Kathmandu in the publication of this issue.

## **Editorial Board**

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