

Editorial

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I present the inaugural issue of *The Karnali Outlook: Knowledge Across Disciplines* (KOKAD), Volume 1, Issue 1, published by *Social Study Center Nepal* (SSCN). As a bilingual, peer-reviewed journal, KOKAD seeks to foster intellectual exchange and critical inquiry across multiple disciplines. The journal aims to provide a platform for scholars to explore, articulate, and disseminate their research perspectives while engaging with pressing socio-cultural and developmental issues in Nepal and beyond.

This inaugural volume features twenty scholarly articles that collectively examine Nepal's development and socio-cultural landscape from diverse disciplinary perspectives. The contributions span areas such as tourism, education, gender studies, socioeconomics, technology, and public health. The studies engage with important issues including pilgrimage tourism, educational challenges faced by marginalized groups, gender discrimination and Dalit women's health, the integration of ICT in education, water scarcity, brain drain, diaspora entrepreneurship, and the empowerment of women farmers through labor-saving technologies. Several articles address the potential of tourism as a driver of cultural and economic development. Bhim Bahadur Bist examines pilgrimage tourism in Bajura, assessing its current condition and future prospects while emphasizing economic benefits, community participation, and sustainability. Expanding this discussion, Dhal Bahadur Gurung analyzes pilgrimage tourism across Nepal, highlighting its connections with cultural heritage, religious practices, and local economic growth. Yamuna Sharma further explores tourism's economic implications through a study of the tourism activities surrounding Bulbule Park, incorporating perspectives from local businesses, government stakeholders, and visitors.

Issues related to education and social inclusion form another important focus of this volume. Deepak Ghimire investigates the role of ICT in mathematics education, analyzing teachers' and students' perceptions and the practical challenges of integrating technology into classroom practices. Khagendra Prasad Adhikari highlights the educational barriers faced by individuals with albinism in Karnali Province, drawing attention to stigma, resource limitations, and obstacles to educational attainment. Similarly, Krishna Prasad Neupane examines how educational inequality constrains social mobility, particularly among marginalized communities. Rabi Lal Bhatta provides a broader perspective on inclusive education in Karnali Province, emphasizing the need to address urban-rural disparities and ensure equitable educational opportunities. Lok Bahadur Shahi's study further underscores the significance of institutional infrastructure by exploring how campus facilities at Bheri Gyanodaya Campus influence students' learning outcomes. Gender, health, and social well-being are also critically examined in this issue. Bimala Sharma applies an existential feminist perspective to *The Prison* by Banira Giri, analyzing themes of confinement, resistance, and the psychological dimensions of women's struggles within traditional societal constraints. Mohan Khatri investigates the impact of alcohol consumption on taxi drivers, examining its implications for health, socioeconomic status, and family life. Rudra Prasad Acharya studies the effects of labor-saving agricultural tools on women farmers, demonstrating how such innovations reduce physical strain and contribute to empowerment and productivity.

Other contributions explore socioeconomic and developmental dynamics in local communities. Chandra Prakash Acharya addresses the persistent challenge of clean drinking water scarcity in a community of Surkhet District, examining its causes, health implications, and potential sustainable solutions. Kritika Thapa analyzes youth migration from Chaukune Rural Municipality, identifying the drivers of brain drain and its adverse effects on local development. Mahesh Sharma, Ghanshyam Khadka, and Dipak Raj Adhikari examine livelihood strategies within the Tharu

community in Surkhet, while Sagar Nath Yogi and Sanjay Yogi analyze the socio-economic role of saving and credit cooperatives in the region, particularly in improving access to financial resources and strengthening community resilience. In addition, Nirmal Kumar Thapa, Nem Bahadur Shahi, and Jagat Prasad Rijal evaluate customer satisfaction with government banking services at Rastriya Banijya Bank, focusing on service quality and accessibility in the Jajarkot branch. Tirth Bahadur Chalaune critically examines the implementation of e-government initiatives in Nepal, assessing their effectiveness in improving public service delivery and identifying ongoing challenges.

The Nepali-language section of this issue further enriches the journal's interdisciplinary scope. Kalendra Bahadur Bam explores the psychosocial conditions of single tribal women, addressing issues related to mental health and social stigma. Ram Prasad Kandel and Nabin Bhattraï analyze dictation skills among fifth-grade students, identifying factors that influence their transcription abilities. Meanwhile, Sarpraj Rokaya offers a literary critique of *Kunjani* by Laxmi Prasad Devkota, highlighting the work's humanistic themes and its exploration of human nature and society. Collectively, the articles included in this volume provide valuable insights into tourism, education, gender, health, and socioeconomic transformation. They illuminate both the challenges and opportunities shaping Nepal's contemporary development landscape, particularly within the context of Karnali Province.

As Editor-in-Chief, I extend my sincere gratitude to all contributing authors, reviewers, and members of the editorial team whose dedication made this inaugural publication possible. I hope that this journal will serve as a meaningful platform for scholarly dialogue and encourage further research that contributes to inclusive, sustainable, and knowledge-driven development.

Editor-in-Chief

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