



## **Human Rights Approach in Nepal's Development Strategies: A Critical Overview**

**Er. Sachindra Kumar Deo**

Scholar of MPhil-PhD

Department of Rural Development, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

[deosachindrakumar372@gmail.com](mailto:deosachindrakumar372@gmail.com)

<https://orcid.org/0009-0004-2752-1890>

Received: December 26, 2025

Revised & Accepted: February 11, 2026

Copyright: Author(s) (2026)



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/).

### **Abstract**

**Background:** The integration of human rights into development policy represents a paradigm shift from econometric growth models to frameworks centered on human dignity, social justice, and institutional accountability. Nepal, undergoing concurrent political democratization, federal restructuring, and constitutional transformation, presents a critical case for examining how the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) has been operationalized within national development strategies.

**Objective:** This paper critically examines the incorporation of HRBA into Nepal's development agenda, analyzing constitutional and institutional provisions, policy instruments, implementation mechanisms, and the disjuncture between normative commitments and substantive outcomes. It specifically evaluates the role of the National Human Rights Commission, alignment with Sustainable Development Goals, and compliance with international treaty obligations.

**Methods:** The study employs a qualitative research design grounded in descriptive and interpretive analysis of secondary sources. Data were collected through purposive selection of constitutional texts (Constitution of Nepal 2015), national periodic plans (Fifteenth and Sixteenth Plans), legislation, scholarly literature, NHRC reports, and international policy documents. Thematic analysis was conducted using HRBA core principles—participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment, and rule of law—as an analytical framework.

**Findings:** Nepal has achieved substantial normative and institutional progress, including comprehensive justiciable fundamental rights, constitutionalization of the NHRC with Paris Principles accreditation, and systematic integration of HRBA principles into national planning frameworks aligned with SDGs. However, a persistent implementation gap exists,



characterized by weak enforcement of NHRC recommendations, limited institutional capacity at provincial and local levels, structural inequalities (caste, gender, ethnicity, geography), low public rights-awareness, and the decoupling of policy discourse from grassroots development practice. A SWOT analysis reveals that while federalism, international partnerships, and social protection expansion offer opportunities, political instability, corruption, and entrenched discrimination remain significant threats.

**Conclusion:** HRBA in Nepal remains more substantiated in constitutional and policy commitments than in transformative development outcomes. Bridging this formal-substantive divide requires strengthening sub-national governance, institutionalizing rights education, ensuring meaningful participation of marginalized groups, reinforcing accountability mechanisms, and allocating resources to rights-centered sectors. Without sustained political will and institutional reform, HRBA risks becoming rhetorical rather than a instrument for reconfiguring state-citizen power relations.

**Novelty:** This study contributes original value by: (1) providing a comprehensive SWOT analysis situating HRBA within Nepal's post-2015 federal development architecture; (2) critically examining the NHRC's contested efficacy through an implementation-focused lens rather than formal mandate assessment; (3) synthesizing constitutional, planning, and institutional dimensions to expose the structural determinants of the rights-implementation gap; and (4) locating Nepal's HRBA experience within broader Global South debates on the translation of international human rights norms into local development practice.

**Keywords:** Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA); development policy; governance; constitutionalism; Nepal

## **1. Introduction**

Policy discourse in the present context is contested in its conceptualization of development as economic growth. Instead, it observes development in terms of human dignity, social justice, equality, and increased human freedoms. Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) embodies a paradigm shift by integrating international human rights norms and principles into development planning, implementation, evaluation, and benefit-sharing. HRBA approach though originated in western countries, it became an unavoidable development mission in most of the developing countries, particularly in the global South (Noh, 2022). It treats development as a process that acknowledges individuals (people or service recipients) as rights-holders and states (governments or service providers) as duty-bearers, thereby linking development outcomes to legal rights, institutional responsibility, and participatory governance.

Based on the implementation of international human-rights standards in the development processes, HRBA has defined the concept of development as one that is transformative, which prefigures the involvement of citizens in the decision-making processes, the accountability of institutions to their populace, equality and non-discrimination, empowering of right-holders, and respecting the rule of law. In this context, development is not a service-delivery mechanism but a reconstitution of power relations between citizens and the state (Chenwi, 2021).



The applicability of HRBA in Nepal has grown alongside significant political and socio-economic changes, such as democratization, federal reorganization, rise of non-state actors and constitutional change (Rimal, 2020). The Constitution of Nepal (2015) lists an extensive range of fundamental rights, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, and establishes constitutional institutions to defend and promote these rights. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) falls in the middle among these institutions. The NHRC was established as a statutory institution in 2000 and subsequently constitutionalized as an indicator of Nepal's state concerns with aligning domestic governance with international human rights principles, the Paris Principles.

This paper presents an analytical discussion of Nepal's human rights approach to development strategies. It examines the changing legal and institutional framework, the integration of HRBA into national planning tools, and the implementation challenges. The research is expected to add value to existing knowledge on how human rights principles can be translated between formal commitments and development practice in a weak and unequal socio-political setting.

## **2. Methodology**

The study employs a qualitative research design, drawing on secondary sources to explore the implementation of human rights principles within Nepal's developmental framework. A wide range of documentary sources was used to collect the data, including constitutional provisions, national legislation, regular development plans, government's policy documents, reports of constitutional and statutory bodies, peer-reviewed scholarly literature, and reports of international and multilateral organizations. The purposive choice of these sources was intended to reflect both the normative commitments and the institutional practices influencing the rights-based development in Nepal.

The analysis uses descriptive and interpretive methods. This helps explore how human rights norms are created, applied, and put into policy. The main approach is the thematic analysis and argumentative inquiry of the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA). The research looks at participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment, and respect for the rule of law. The study does not measure outcomes with numbers; instead, it finds patterns, gaps, and how institutions work. This method helps explain complex legal and policy issues. It also frames Nepal's development in the wider debate about rights-based approaches.

## **3. Results**

### **3.1 Conceptual controversies and issues**

Development is a value-loaded construct. Debates about human rights and the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) focus on laws and real outcomes. Old development models focused on the economy, on building things, and on efficiency. They often ignored social justice and rights. Human rights discussions say rights derive from international law and moral principles (Uvin, 2007). The HRBA tries to join these views. It sees development as shaped by human rights related to socio-political issues and livelihood of people. People have rights as well as duties, but the 'right to development' is one of the fundamental aspects of political contract that the government or states have duties to ensure and proceed with good governance. The



HRBA says development fails when laws or ethics are broken. Failure comes not just from technical issues. This makes governments more accountable. It also helps people take part. The HRBA has a big and popular promise of development, but it faces both conceptual and empirical challenges. Some experts doubt it can work well in practice. Ideas like participation, empowerment, and accountability are hard to measure. This is especially true in weak institutions. It is also hard when the government is not strong. The HRBA also makes development more political. It looks at who has power and hegemony (de Sousa Santos, 2021). This can make powerful people and groups resist. In places like Nepal, rights-based approaches challenge old systems. They challenge caste, gender, ethnicity, and class. This causes tension between reform and current politics. These debates show we need an HRBA that respects rights. It must also fit local contexts.

### **3.2 The nature of the HRBA debate in Nepal**

The introduction of HRBA in Nepal is closely linked to shifts in the political arena. It is not so much associated with development planning. The human rights debate since the restoration of multiparty democracy in 1990 has been based on civil and political liberties, constitutionalism, and the rule of law. The development strategies remained focused on economic growth and sectoral projects. There was little incorporation of the human rights principles. This led to the co-existence of democratic changes and persistent poverty, social exclusion, and regional differences. This highlights a weakness in the development policies, which were not based on a rights-based approach (Pietropaoli & Aguirre, 2008).

The period after the conflict was a critical phase in the development of HRBA discourse in Nepal. Inclusion, social justice, and state accountability were the concerns of the Interim Constitution of 2007. Previous political restructuring also helped. Disadvantaged groups began to develop rights-based claims. They attributed socioeconomic deprivation to structural political marginalization and discrimination. These changes were institutionalized in the 2015 Constitution, which extended the fundamental rights to the economic, social, and cultural aspects. HRBA emerged as a model for building consensus among the constitutional promises, development planning, governance reform, and the aspirations of marginalized groups.

### **3.3 Constitutional and institutional framework**

The Constitution of Nepal (2015) provides a full-fledged normative basis of rights-based development through ensuring a broad range of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. These include rights to education, health, work, food, housing, and social security, as well as special rights for women, children, marginalized groups, minority groups, and indigenous people. Placing these rights as fundamental and justiciable, the Constitution therefore converts development goals into state duties to enhance the legal foundations of equitable and inclusive development.

At the institutional level, the leadership for the protection and promotion of human rights in Nepal lies with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). As one of the independent constitutional bodies, the NHRC is responsible for monitoring the human rights situation, investigating, prescribing remedial actions, and providing advice to the government on policy and legislative reforms. The fact that it is a signatory to the Paris Principles and is



internationally accredited underscores Nepal's formal commitment to international human rights standards. However, this constitutional and institutional design suffers from poor implementation, weak enforcement of the NHRC's recommendations, and poor coordination among state institutions. The latter loopholes reveal a broader issue: converting constitutional guarantees into real developmental outcomes, especially on the ground.

### **3.4 International commitments on HRs**

Nepal also participates in the international human rights regime, which has also influenced its human rights framework. Being a state party to some of the key international instruments, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention of the Rights of the Child, Nepal has taken on the legal commitments that go beyond the constitutional and legal systems of the country (Kandel, 2024). These promises enhance the normative legitimacy of the HRBA and of internationally accepted criteria for evaluating national development and governance policies. International obligations offer tremendous opportunities to enhance rights-based development in Nepal (Human Rights Watch, 2026). Monitoring mechanisms for treaties and regular reporting systems increase external accountability and promote the compatibility of policies with international standards. They also enable access to technical support, funding, and global knowledge. However, a lack of administrative capacity, institutional fragmentation, and inadequate data systems have a significant adverse impact on implementation and reporting procedures. Further, the dichotomy between global norms and local conditions often leads to nonconformity, particularly in poor and marginalized societies. It is urgent to strike a balance between international commitments, domestic priorities, and local capabilities to operationalize human rights commitments in Nepal's development process.

### **3.5 HRBA in context of development planning**

Development planning in Nepal has historically been characterized by centralized, state-driven strategies that prioritized economic growth, infrastructure development, and sectoral objectives. Early development initiatives largely neglected participation, inclusion, and rights-based concerns. A gradual transition toward these principles began with decentralization efforts, notably the Local Self-Government Act of 1999, which aimed to enhance local involvement and accountability in development planning. Although significant challenges hindered its implementation, the Act established an important institutional foundation for integrating rights-oriented governance into development processes.

In recent decades, particularly since the late 1990s, the human rights-based approach (HRBA) has become increasingly evident in Nepal's periodic development plans. The Fifteenth Plan aligned with national development priorities established by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing inclusive growth, social justice, and targeted interventions for marginalized groups (NPC, 2020). The current Sixteenth Five-Year Plan continues this trajectory by promoting equity, federalism, and participatory governance (NPC, 2025). Legislation such as the Local Government Operations Act of 2017 further institutionalizes citizen participation, transparency, and accountability at the sub-national level. Collectively,



these planning and governance reforms suggest a gradual yet significant integration of human rights principles into Nepal's development framework.

### **3.6 Opportunities and implementation issues**

The introduction of HRBA into the development discourse in Nepal has opened up major opportunities to enhance inclusive and equitable development. The existence of socio-economic rights in the constitution, the expansion of social protection schemes, federal reorganization, and the growing engagement of civil society have raised the prominence of rights in public policy. Moreover, impacts of modernization and globalization cannot be avoided in contemporary discourse of development in Nepal (Sapkota, 2023). HRBA provides a consistent structure to connect development planning with social justice, the empowerment of marginalized communities, and the improvement of accountability at various levels of governance. As a result, the developments offer a basis for shifting development from a welfare-based model to a rights-based process grounded in dignity and participation.

It has been observed that, despite such opportunities, there are still significant implementation issues. Marginalized populations are still influenced by structural poverty and inequality, and poor governance, corruption, and political instability still compromise accountability mechanisms. Lack of awareness of rights and entitlements among the masses limits effective citizen engagement, and the scarcity of capacity at provincial and local levels impedes effective service delivery. These challenges are also rooted in deeply rooted discrimination against gender, caste, ethnicity, disability, and geography. Such limitations point to the fact that there has always been a disparity between normative commitments and the realities of life, and that there should be continuity in political will, institutional reinforcement, and social change to achieve human rights-based development in Nepal.

## **4. Discussion**

The research results are closely tied to current academic debates on human rights and development in Nepal. Recent literature discards the idea that these are sequential or parallel processes. Instead, it promotes them as mutually supportive and institutionally integrated (Upadhyay, 2021; Parr, 2013). Nepal's case shows that development outcomes depend on citizens being recognized as rights-holders and on the state acting as a responsible duty-bearer. Despite constitutional and policy reforms that have increased space for rights-based development, implementation has been uneven across geographic areas and social classes.

One of the main points of intersection between this work and the previous literature is the connection between rights-based development and political change. The post-conflict and post-constitutional restructuring of the Nepali state has substantially reconstructed discourses on citizenship, inclusion, and state accountability. Agencies of social justice and equitable development have been exacerbated by federalism, identity-based mobilization, and inclusion agendas, especially within historically disadvantaged communities (Upadhyay, 2021; Pietropaoli and Aguirre, 2008). In terms of rights, development is an active process not only economic but also a tool of renegotiating power relations between the state and the citizens. But the fact that exclusion and unequal access to the benefits of development persist suggests



the role of political transformation is not enough in itself unless there are institutional mechanisms that can convert the rights into enforceable entitlements.

Governance and institutional capacity are critical determinants of the realization of human rights in development practice. In line with governance-based studies, this paper concludes that the problem of failure in development standards in Nepal cannot be reduced to a lack of resources; it is strongly correlated with the lack of accountability, transparency, the rule of law, and administrative performance (Chaudhary, 2020). The principles of human rights offer a framework for gauging the performance of governance in government service delivery areas, such as health, education, and social protection. The interactive relationship between governance and human development can be seen in Nepal: poor institutions hinder the realization of rights, and the skewed effects of human development, in terms of human trust in democracy.

The National Human Rights Commission's position plays a central but controversial role in Nepal's rights-based development. Although the NHRC has constitutional status and adheres to international values in accordance with the Paris Principles, empirical research indicates a discrepancy between its formal and actual impact (Giri, 2022; Kandel, 2024). The lack of effective implementation of NHRC recommendations, political interference, inadequate coordination with executive agencies, and systemic impunity continue to limit its performance. These observations support the claim that the institutionalization of human rights institutions (where they lack political enforcement systems) produces minimal developmental effects.

In Nepal, poverty and inequality have remained among the greatest obstacles to rights-based development. In line with the human rights literature, the most effective definition of poverty is that it is a multidimensional deprivation rooted in structural discrimination, non-participation in political decision-making, and failed institutions (Parr, 2013). Unless development strategies are founded on human rights, there is a risk of treating the symptoms rather than the causes of deprivation. The rights-based approach provides normative validity, analytical richness, and instrumental value in alleviating poverty by enabling disadvantaged groups to demand rights and by highlighting breakdowns in the system of governance.

Another salient point in the discussion is the group-specific and intersecting forms of exclusion. Gender research reveals that women still suffer a structural disadvantage as they still have unequal access to resources, the decision-making process, and justice despite constitutional guarantees (Pietropaoli & Aguirre, 2008). On the same note, a disability rights scholarship notes that there is good law on the subject but poor practice, owing to ambiguous intergovernmental duties and insufficient institutional capacity (Adhikari, 2019). Continuous and growing inequalities along caste, ethnicity, geography, and socio-economic lines only narrow access to development benefits, which require context-sensitive and inclusive HRBA interventions (Dhakal, 2024; Dulal, 2021).

Another crucial aspect of rights-based development is human rights education and awareness. Research shows that a lack of curricular focus on human rights, civic responsibility, and ethical values weakens rights consciousness and long-term democratic culture (Sahani, 2024). Without



investment in education and socialization processes, HRBA will remain only in policy documents rather than being integrated into daily governance and practice by citizens.

Lastly, human development measurement is a broad framework that helps clarify the constraints of rights-based development in Nepal. Although national and international reports note significant changes in aggregate human development indicators, discrepancies persist across gender, regions, caste, and class (Dulal, 2021). These results support the thesis of this research: Nepal has achieved high normative and institutional compliance with human rights principles. However, the benefits of growth remain uneven, and it is time to address the gap between formal and substantive implementation of rights.

Hence, to reemphasize again, HRBA has become a significant framework in Nepal for integrating constitutional rights, development planning, and governance reform. Although the post-2015 constitutional order and periodic plans have formally adopted human rights principles, their implementation within development practice remains inconsistent and subject to debate. A critical assessment using a SWOT analysis (as presented in Table 1) will help identify specific strengths to build upon, weaknesses to address, opportunities to seize, and threats to mitigate within HRBA’s role in Nepal’s development context.

**Table 1:**

*SWOT Analysis of Human Rights Approach in Nepal’s Development Strategies*

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Strong constitutional recognition of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights	Weak implementation and enforcement of rights at provincial and local levels
Alignment of development planning with HRBA principles and SDGs	Limited institutional capacity and coordination among state agencies
Existence of constitutional bodies such as the NHRC with international accreditation	Persistent gap between policy commitments and grassroots outcomes
Growing civil society engagement and rights-based advocacy	Low public awareness and uneven rights literacy
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
Federalism and decentralization enabling localized, participatory development	Political instability and frequent policy discontinuity
International treaty commitments and development partnerships supporting HRBA	Entrenched social inequalities based on caste, gender, ethnicity, and geography
Expansion of social protection and inclusion-focused programs	Corruption, impunity, and weak accountability mechanisms
Increasing emphasis on rights education and governance reform	Resource constraints and uneven administrative capacity

### **5. Conclusion**

It has achieved considerable normative and institutional progress in integrating human rights into Nepal's development agenda. The constitutional provisions of Nepal (2015), its adherence



to international treaties, and the systematic integration of human rights principles into national development planning all demonstrate a strong formal orientation toward the HRBA. These reforms have expanded the legal and policy landscape of inclusion, participation and social justice, particularly at a time when the country was undertaking federal restructuring and decentralized governance projects.

However, empirical data on the transformative capacity of HRBA suggest that its capacity to change remains limited due to existing inequality, underdeveloped institutional power, and the lack of implementation at the grassroots level. Structural poverty, discrimination, poor governance, and a poor understanding of rights remain a thorn in the flesh of the full implementation of human rights in daily development practices. Accordingly, HRBA in Nepal is more evident in its principles and commitments than in actual results. Closing this divide requires a long-term political determination, institutionalization, and social change that together enable rights-holders to exercise their rights and holders of duties to fulfil their duties. Strengthen provincial and local governments to translate constitutional and policy promises into tangible service delivery and the realization of rights. Actively promote public awareness and human rights education to drive citizens' participation and deepen their understanding of their rights. Ensure development planning and monitoring fully and effectively include marginalized communities—women, Dalits, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and geographically marginalized populations. Reinforce transparency and accountability systems to urgently address gaps in governance and end impunity. Allocate resources decisively to rights-centered areas, such as health, education, and justice. Institutionalize a rights-based culture by embedding HRBA into school curricula and government service training, making these measures an immediate priority.

**Transparency Statement:** The author confirms that this study has been conducted with honesty and in full adherence to ethical guidelines.

**Data Availability Statement:** Author can provide data.

**Conflict of Interest:** The author declares there is no conflicts of interest.

**Authors' Contributions:** The author solely conducted all research activities i.e., concept, data collecting, drafting and final review of manuscript.



## References

- Adhikari, K. P. (2019). Realising the Rights of Persons with Disability in Nepal: Policy Addresses From the Health, Education and Livelihoods Perspectives. *Nepalese Journal of Development and Rural Studies*, 16, 23–34. <https://doi.org/10.3126/njdrs.v16i0.31532>
- Chaudhary, D. (2020) Prospect of Good Governance and Human Development in Nepal. *Open Journal of Political Science*, 10, 135-147. doi: [10.4236/ojps.2020.102010](https://doi.org/10.4236/ojps.2020.102010).
- Chenwi, L. (2021). Human rights-based approaches to development assistance and policies. In *The Routledge Handbook on Extraterritorial Human Rights Obligations* (pp. 213-225). Routledge.  
<https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/52064/9781000466133.pdf?sequence=1#page=232>
- Constitution of Nepal*. (2015). Nepal Law Commission, Government of Nepal.  
[https://giwmcsdnone.gov.np/media/files/Constitution%20of%20Nepal%20\(2nd%20amd.%20English\)\\_xf33zb3.pdf](https://giwmcsdnone.gov.np/media/files/Constitution%20of%20Nepal%20(2nd%20amd.%20English)_xf33zb3.pdf)
- de Sousa Santos, B. (2021). Human rights, democracy and development. In *The Pluriverse of Human Rights: The Diversity of Struggles for Dignity* (pp. 21-40). Routledge.
- Dhakal, D. (2024). *Human rights in Nepal: An analysis*. *International Journal of Humanities Social Sciences and Education (IJHSSE)*, 11(7), 113-121.  
<https://ssrn.com/abstract=4740703> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4740703>
- Dulal, T. D. (2021). Human Development in the Context of Nepal. *Journal of Population and Development*, 2(1), 189–202. <https://doi.org/10.3126/jpd.v2i1.43548>
- Giri, S. K. (2022). Role of the National Human Rights Commission for the protection of human rights in Nepal. *Dristikon: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, 12(1), 1–15.  
<https://doi.org/10.3126/dristikon.v12i1.46134>
- Human Rights Watch (2026). *World Report – Nepal 2025*. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/nepal>
- Kandel, I. P. (2024). Challenges of human rights in Nepal. *Kathmandu Model College Review Journal*, 8(1), 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.3126/kmerj.v8i1.79059>
- National Human Rights Commission- Nepal (NHRC Nepal). Annual Report Summary 2081-82 (In Nepali). National Human Rights Commission- Nepal, Government of Nepal.  
[https://www.nhrcnepal.org/uploads/publication/Infographic\\_of\\_NHRC\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2081-82\\_compressed-1.pdf](https://www.nhrcnepal.org/uploads/publication/Infographic_of_NHRC_Annual_Report_2081-82_compressed-1.pdf)
- National Planning Commission. (NPC). (2020). *Fifteenth plan (2019/20–2023/24)*. Government of Nepal. [https://giwmcsdnone.gov.np/media/app/public/56/posts/1684391130\\_80.pdf](https://giwmcsdnone.gov.np/media/app/public/56/posts/1684391130_80.pdf)
- National Planning Commission. (NPC). (2025). *Sixteenth plan (2024/25–2028/29)*. Government of Nepal.  
[https://giwmcsdnone.gov.np/media/pdf\\_upload/16TH%20PLAN%20English%20transaltion%202081%20final%20for%20web1\\_g75lujb.pdf](https://giwmcsdnone.gov.np/media/pdf_upload/16TH%20PLAN%20English%20transaltion%202081%20final%20for%20web1_g75lujb.pdf)
- Neupane, A. (2025). Examining Nepal’s Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Rights Act, 2018: A Legal Analysis. *NPRC Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 2(5), 126–138.  
<https://doi.org/10.3126/nprcjm.v2i5.79676>



- Noh, J. E. (2022). Review of human rights-based approaches to development: Empirical evidence from developing countries. *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 26(5), 883-901. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13642987.2021.1981869>
- Parr, S. F. (2013). Poverty reduction strategies and human rights: A comparative analysis of Guatemala, Liberia and Nepal. *The Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut Economic Rights Working Paper Series, Working Paper 2*. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2212836> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2212836>
- Pietropaoli, I., & Aguirre, D. (2008). Gender equality, development and transitional justice: The case of Nepal. *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, 2(3), 356–377. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijtj/ijn027>
- Rimal, N. (2020). Combating Corruption in Nepal: A Human Rights Based Approach. *SSRN* 4733766. Available at [SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=4733766](https://ssrn.com/abstract=4733766) or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4733766>
- Sapkota, M. (2018). Locating development as a new ‘discipline’. *Nepalese Journal of Development and Rural Studies*, 15, 42-51. <https://nepjol.info/index.php/njdrs/article/download/31596/24958>
- Sapkota, M. (2023). Issues and challenges of modernization in Nepal: A development perspective. *Nepalese Journal of Development and Rural Studies*, 20(01), 28-41. <https://doi.org/10.3126/njdrs.v20i01.64163>
- Sen, A. (1999). *Development as freedom*. Oxford University Press.
- Upadhyay, P. (2021). The dichotomy of rights and development: A rights-based approach to development in Nepal. *Journal of Political Science*, 21, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.3126/jps.v21i0.35264>
- Uvin, P. (2007). From the right to development to the rights-based approach: how ‘human rights’ entered development. *Development in practice*, 17(4-5), 597-606. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09614520701469617>

Views and opinions expressed in this article are the views and opinions of the author(s), *NPRC Journal of Multidisciplinary Research* shall not be responsible or answerable for any loss, damage or liability etc. caused in relation to/arising out of the use of the content.