

Editorial

Inaugural Issue of the Nepal Sociological Association Journal

Nepal Sociological Association (NSA) is incredibly delighted to present its inaugural publication, **Nepal Sociological Journal (NSJ)** a platform dedicated to promoting critical sociological inquiry and encouraging academic dialogue across the social sciences. It is with great pride and anticipation that the NSA introduces this first issue, marking a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to advancing sociological discourse in Nepal and beyond.

This scholarly work includes a pivotal chapter in the NSA's journey. It aims to promote rigorous research, diverse perspectives, and scholarly engagement with the pressing sociocultural dynamics of Nepal and the broader South Asian region. Sociology, as both a discipline and a lens through which to understand societies in flux, offers invaluable tools for interpreting the complex transitions Nepal continues to experience. From sociological legacies and cultural practices to migration trends and identity politics, the evolving contours of Nepalese society demand deep exploration.

This first edition signifies not only the beginning of a scholarly tradition but also the creation of a platform to amplify voices, insights, and inquiries grounded in the lived realities and complex transformations shaping our society. This journal emerges in response to the urgent need for a space where scholars, researchers, and practitioners can collaboratively reflect on, critique, and contribute to the understanding of these transformations.

Although the Nepal Sociological Association has not previously had a dedicated journal, it has actively contributed to scholarly discourse on good governance and social transformation through various academic initiatives. A notable example is the international conference titled "Good Governance and Social Transformation in Nepal" held from September 1 -3, 2023, in Lumle, Kaski District. This event was jointly organized by the NSA and the Department of Sociology, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. It brought together over 100 scholars/sociologists from India, Japan, Norway, and the UK. The conference aimed to enrich sociological understanding and deepen the study of Nepali society. It convened a diverse group

of scholars, practitioners, and researchers dedicated to exploring the intersections of governance, identity, social justice, and cultural transformation within Nepal's evolving developmental context.

The first issue of the NSA journal features eight research contributions that reflect a wide array of themes and contemporary sociological perspectives in Nepal. Each article offers an original contribution to its field, and collectively they represent the vibrant diversity of sociological thought within and about Nepal. These studies highlight not only the depth of academic engagement in the country but also the emerging concerns of marginalized, indigenous, and transitional communities navigating a rapidly changing sociopolitical landscape. Together, these articles make a valuable contribution to the sociology of Nepal. They offer insights not only for academics but also for policymakers, development practitioners, and activists seeking to engage with the complexities of social change.

Several of the articles included in this issue were presented at the 2023 conference. The article "Blending a relationship-based Approach to a community-based Approach: A Case Study on the Tamang Community of Rasuwa, Nepal" examines the integration of interpersonal and community frameworks in understanding development dynamics. The second article, "Indigenous Knowledge, Languages and Sustainability: Insights from the Baram and Kumal Communities in Gorkha," emphasizes the urgent need to preserve linguistic and ecological heritage within indigenous epistemologies. The third article, "Nepal's transitional Development and Son Preference," explores deeply rooted patriarchal norms in light of evolving socioeconomic structures. The paper titled "Local Governance Dynamics among the Rana Tharu Community of Kanchanpur" investigates indigenous political structures and their interactions with state mechanisms. The article "Religious Conversion among the Dalit Community in Resunga: Push factors from Hinduism to Christianity" delves into spiritual transformation as a form of resistance and identity renegotiations. The article "Local Governance Dynamics in the Rana Tharu Community of Kanchanpur District" examines how local governance in Kanchanpur is integrating Rana Tharu traditional leaders into formal roles. It highlights their historical roots, identity struggles, and the value of empowering these leaders to enhance grassroots governance and accountability. In "Fostering Possibility within Vulnerability: Rohingya's Endeavour for Adaptation in Nepal," compelling narratives of displacement, identity, and survival are explored. The article "Menstrual Practices and Hygiene: A Study on Nepali Adolescent Girls of Assam, India" highlights menstrual practices among Nepali adolescent girls in rural Assam, shaped by cultural beliefs around purity and pollution. It reveals reluctance

to discuss menstruation openly and inadequate hygiene practices. Poor menstrual hygiene is linked to school absenteeism and social challenges.

Finally, “Roads to Change: The Karnali Highway and Occupational Shift among Dalits in Nepal” offers an important perspective on mobility, agency, and structural limitations by examining the changing occupational realities of historically marginalized groups.

Together, these articles reflect the vibrancy and rigor of sociological research emerging from and within Nepal. As we launch this journal, we envision it as a space for critical dialogue, interdisciplinary explorations, and scholarly activism. The editorial board warmly invites future contributions that challenge, inform, and expand our understanding of Nepal’s dynamic social landscape.

As we present this inaugural issue, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the contributing authors for their thought-provoking works. We sincerely thank the paper reviewers for their invaluable support and contributions throughout the blind peer review process. We also extend our sincere appreciation to Prof. Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi (former VC and renowned scholar), Assistant Professor, Guru Prasad Poudel (Central Department of Education, TU), and Lecturer Suresh Dhakal, Gandaki University, for voluntarily editing the articles. Their collective efforts have made this publication possible. May this inaugural issue serve as a strong foundation for future intellectual engagement and meaningful social transformation.

Editorial Board