



The *Saptagandaki Journal*

Editorial 

Interdisciplinary Insights: Bridging Natural Sciences, Socio-Economic Realities, and Organizational Dynamics in Nepal

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Interdisciplinary research has increasingly emphasized the need to integrate natural sciences with socio-economic and organizational perspectives to address complex, real-world challenges. Scholars argue that environmental and scientific issues cannot be fully understood in isolation from social structures, economic conditions, and institutional frameworks. In the context of developing countries like Nepal, this integration becomes particularly critical due to the close interdependence between natural resources, livelihoods, and governance systems. Previous studies highlight how socio-economic disparities influence access to natural resources, while organizational dynamics shape policy implementation and development outcomes. Furthermore, research in sustainability and development studies underscores the importance of cross-sector collaboration, adaptive institutions, and evidence-based decision-making. By bridging these domains, interdisciplinary approaches provide a more holistic understanding of development challenges and enable the formulation of more effective, inclusive, and context-sensitive strategies.

As we unveil the 16th volume of our research publication, we find ourselves at a compelling intersection of intellectual inquiry and societal relevance. This issue represents more than a collection of individual studies; it embodies our continued commitment to fostering rigorous scholarship that speaks to both academic communities and the broader public sphere. From the quantum realms of emerging technology to the intimate landscapes of literary trauma, the eight articles presented here demonstrate the remarkable breadth of contemporary research emerging from Nepal's academic institutions.

The Macroeconomics of Welfare: Poverty and Policy

A cornerstone of this issue is the rigorous examination of poverty reduction—a persistent challenge for developing nations. The featured study by Adhikari et al. from Tribhuvan University provides a longitudinal analysis that is both timely and essential. By employing the Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) approach across 34 years of data, the authors move

beyond surface-level observations to uncover the deep-rooted causal relationships between government spending and poverty levels.

The findings present a compelling case for a paradigm shift in budget planning. The revelation that social expenditure is nearly twice as effective as capital expenditure in reducing poverty (yielding a 1.85 percentage point reduction per 1% of GDP) challenges traditional infrastructure-heavy development models. While economic growth remains the "most powerful tool" in the poverty-reduction toolkit, this research underscores that growth alone is insufficient without well-targeted social programs. In Nepal's evolving federal system, these insights serve as a vital roadmap for policymakers to ensure that the dividends of development reach the most vulnerable.

The Human Element: Organizational Resilience in Banking

Shifting from macro-level policy to the micro-level dynamics of the workplace, the second featured article by Khadka and Sapkota addresses the critical issue of employee absenteeism within the Nepalese commercial banking sector. In an era where service quality and productivity are paramount, understanding why employees remain absent is a strategic necessity.

What makes this study particularly insightful is its departure from purely logistical explanations. By analyzing primary data from 420 employees, the authors demonstrate that socio-cultural obligations and job satisfaction are far more influential than physical factors like commuting distance. This finding highlights the "human-centric" nature of the Nepalese workforce, where traditional social structures and psychological well-being intersect with professional responsibilities. By aligning their findings with the Job Demands-Resources Model, the authors provide bank management with actionable pathways—specifically, the implementation of stress-management initiatives and flexible workplace policies—to foster a more engaged and present workforce.

From Quantum Physics to Consumer Psychology: The Expanding Research Frontier

This volume's disciplinary diversity is perhaps best illustrated by the juxtaposition of Ram Krishna Tiwari and Harihar Paudyal's exploration of quantum teleportation using Qiskit with Ashmita Dahal Chhetri and Santosh Sharma's investigation of consumer attitudes toward branded green products.

The former provides an accessible gateway to quantum computing—arguably the most transformative technology on the horizon—demonstrating how Nepali researchers are engaging with cutting-edge computational methods. Their practical implementation of quantum circuits using Python signals the growing sophistication of technical education and research capacity in Nepal.

Meanwhile, Chhetri and Sharma's marketing study reveals the complexity of sustainable consumption in an emerging economy context. Their finding that Nepalese consumers prioritize brand image and perceived quality over general environmental awareness challenges simplistic assumptions about green marketing in developing markets. The negative influence of price sensitivity, contrasted with the positive impact of brand-specific attributes, suggests

that successful sustainability transitions require sophisticated brand-building rather than merely environmental messaging.

Understanding Market Dynamics and Literary Landscapes

Shiva Raj Poudel, Yuga Raj Bhattarai, and Rajan Bahadur Paudel contribute to the growing literature on Nepal's capital markets, analyzing cross-sectional stock return behavior across 48 listed firms. Their panel data analysis confirms the significance of both market risk and asset growth, while highlighting the importance of firm fundamentals and macroeconomic variables in an emerging market context characterized by unique institutional features.

The literary studies in this volume demonstrate the continuing vitality of humanistic inquiry. Keshav Raj Chalise's application of borderland theory to Kate Rushin's "The Bridge Poem" illuminates the mestizo experience as a space of both division and connection, where bilingualism and multicultural adaptation generate new forms of identity. Similarly, Ram Narayan Raut and Tek Bahadur Chhetry's analysis of Rajinder Singh Bedi's "Lajwanti" through the lens of cultural trauma studies offers a profound meditation on how communal violence and gendered narratives of honor reshape individual identity.

Saroj Dawadi's examination of Krishna Dharabasi's novel *Radha* through the framework of guerrilla warfare strategy completes our literary offerings, demonstrating how Nepali literature engages with political realities through sophisticated narrative strategies. By connecting mythological and historical narratives to patterns of strategic resistance, Dawadi illustrates how literary texts can serve as vehicles for interpreting complex social and ideological struggles.

Looking Forward: Scholarship in Service of Society

As editors, we are struck by the coherence that emerges from this apparent diversity. Whether analyzing quantum states or consumer attitudes, stock returns or literary trauma, our contributors share a commitment to rigorous methodology and social relevance. In an era of increasing specialization, this volume demonstrates the value of intellectual breadth—the capacity to draw connections across disciplinary boundaries while maintaining analytical depth.

We extend our gratitude to all contributors for advancing knowledge in their respective fields, and to our readers for their continued engagement with complex questions facing Nepal's economy and society. As Nepal navigates federal consolidation, digital transformation, and sustainable development challenges, we believe that research of this caliber—empirically grounded, theoretically informed, and practically oriented—will prove essential to informed policymaking and public discourse.

We invite your critical engagement with these articles and welcome your feedback as we continue this collaborative journey of discovery and understanding.

Editorial Board

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