



25 Years of 'The Himalayan Geographers': Reflection in Geography Research

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Abstract

This article has covered the summary and also the annotated bibliography of the articles published in the journal of 'The Himalayan Geographers' between 2001 and 2024 with a purpose to analyze reflection in geography research in the country. Specifically study has envisioned on distribution of key field of thematic areas, geographical coverage of case studies, theoretical, methodological and technological concerns of the researchers, regularity of faculty's involvements, working culture in multi and interdisciplinary and joint authorships in publications. At first, scanned all the articles from entire volumes published. Keywords of the title of each article were traced. Based on those keywords thematic area/s were listed. Location of study area or geographic coverage and field and author/s of each article were compiled and prepared a summary table. Findings were: each volume of journal contained at least 6 in minimum to 13 in maximum; eight different thematic fields of the content, at least 6 in agriculture and related field to 21 in settlements and social issues of article were identified; most of the articles applied new techniques, specifically on the study of land use land cover change; primary survey and field based information; studies largely confined in Pokhara and its vicinities; only two articles were taken case beyond the national border. Interdisciplinary and joint authorship cultures in writing articles are still needed to improve. Only a few numbers of authors had written couple of articles. Diversification among the authors and interdisciplinary and multi authorship culture are recommended. Regularity of journal and increasing visibility are also points to be followed in the future.

Keywords: Journal articles, geography, thematic areas, interdisciplinary, Pokhara

Introduction

'The Himalayan Geographers' is an annual journal of geography published by the Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University, Prithwi Narayan Campus, Pokhara, since December 2001. The Journal is officially registered at the District Administration Office, Kaski with a registration number CDO, Kaski 34.2054/055 B.S. (1997/098) and also received ISSN :2362-1532 (print). This is a double blind peer review journal, uploaded in online journal of Central Library NEPJOL in <https://www.nepjol.info/index.php/thg>. The journal articles are also inscribed for Digital Object Identifier (DOI). Since formal registration, it is regularly publishing as a main academic outcome of the Department. In the year 2025, the journal is officially publishing '**Silver Jubilee Special Issue**' with some special review articles.

'The Department of Geography' of Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara is one of the leading academic Departments with full strength of human resources besides the Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University at Kirtipur, Kathmandu. Both the number of teaching faculties and geography major students lead the Department. Geography major in intermediate level was started in 1962, just two years after the establishment of Prithvi Narayan College and four years after the establishment of Tribhuvan University. It was started by the American Peace Corps Volunteer Mr. Peter Farquhar and later on joined by Miss Dorothy Mierow in 1963. Mr. Madhav Prasad Tripathi, a post-graduate in geography from Gorakhpur University, India, appointed as an internal faculty in 1967, and since then started Bachelor Programme in Geography. In 1973, geography education within the Faculty of Education and Master Degree in Geography started in 1979/80, enriched the Department in terms of academic Excellency in Geography (KC, 2012). The Master Degree Programme attracted fresh and young teaching faculties exposed to research. Within these backdrops of development of geography discipline in Pokhara, teaching faculties made regular field visits, excursions and academic research. They had started academic discussions, workshop, national and international seminars and regular meetings related to different geographical issues. Based on those collective ideas, they had started compilation of their research works in printed forms from early 1990s in the name of 'The Himalayan Geographers'. But formally it was registered at the District Administration Office, Kaski in 1997. The first volume of journal was published in 2001. Between 2001 and 2024 there are 14 volumes of journals published. Due to some unavoidable circumstances there were few interruption on its regular annual publications, despite that the publication years were combined within the published volumes. In total 103 articles were published.

The context to write this paper is taken to seek answers of the questions: what are the key fields of thematic areas of published articles? Where are the geographical

coverages of case studies covered by the articles? What are the major concerns of theoretical, methodological and technical domain discussed? How is the regularity of the author's involvement in publishing articles? And, how is the working culture in multi and inter disciplinary, and also in joint authorship in publications?

Objectives and Significance

The aim of this paper is to summarize articles published in 'The Himalayan Geographers' between 2001 and 2024, with a purpose to analyze reflection in geography research in the country. Specifically, it is envisioned to explain key field of thematic areas, geographical coverage of case studies, theoretical, methodological and technological concerns of the researchers, regularity of faculty's involvements, working culture in multi and inter disciplinary and joint authorships in publications. The discussion and findings of the paper provide an eagle eye view of all 103 published articles and facilitate drawing attentions of future researchers for validating the importance of journal's publication.

Methods and Materials

All fourteen volumes of journal published between 2001 and 2024 were compiled in one place. First, all articles were scanned according to volume number. Keywords of the title of each article were first traced. Based on those keywords thematic area/s were listed. Location of study area or geographic coverage and field and author/s of each article were compiled and prepared a summary table of entire published volumes and articles. Eight different thematic areas were identified i.e. agriculture and related activities; land use and land cover change; urbanization and urban problems; tourism; population and migration; land forms, climate, environment and natural hazard; settlement and social issues; and, geography discipline and technology. From the column of summary table, list of authors/s were made to find out single or joint, and multi or interdisciplinary authorships according to their affiliation. Theoretical, methodological and technological applications of the articles were made from the review of methods and materials of each article.

Descriptive tables, diagrams and maps of distribution of factual information have been prepared to support the results and discussion of the analysis.

Results and Discussion

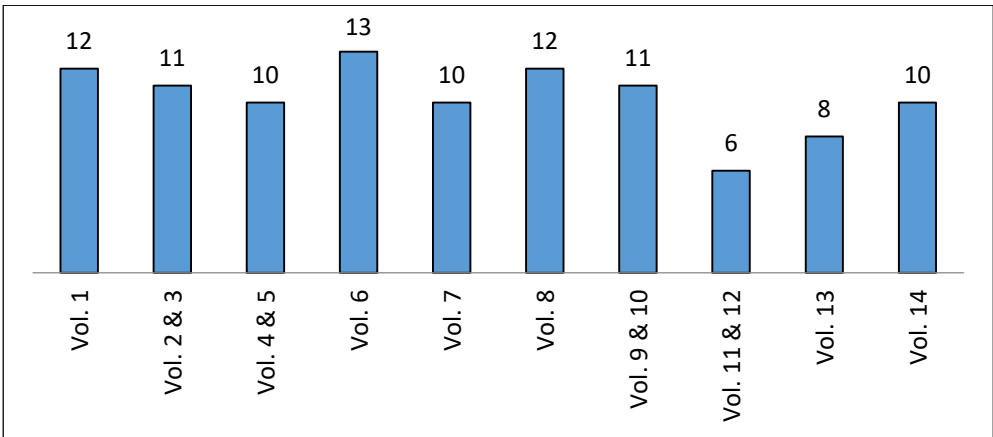
Journal volumes and articles

The journal is supposed to publish annually. However, there are 10 volumes. Volume 2 and 3, 4 and 5, 9 and 10, and 11 and 12 are combined. In terms of annual coverage, volume 1 was published in 2001; volume 2 and 3 was published in 2003, volume 4 and 5 was published in 2005; volume 6, 7 and 8 were regularly published in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Volume 9 and 10 was published in 2015; volume 11 and 12

was published in 2018; volume 13 was published in 2023 and volume 14 was published in 2024. In total 103 articles were published in all volumes. The distribution of articles per volume is given in figure 1.

Figure 1

Numbers of articles published by volume (2001-2024)



The distribution of articles according to the volume of journal shows that in 2001, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2023 and 2024 have regular annual volume published. The years 2003, 2005, 20015 and 2018 have at least two years joint volume. Large gap is seen in between 2018 and 2023. There is a four year gap. That period was within the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of that academic activities were almost stopped. The impact of pandemic is clearly visible in academic activities of the Department. The journal is published by editorial responsibilities of the faculties of the Department and other guest experts (Table 1).

Table 1

Editorial Board of the Journal

Volume & Year	Executive Editor/ Chief Editor	Editors	Advisory board
1, 2001	Dr. Krishna Prasad Poudel	Dr. Debendra Bahadur Lamichhane Mr. Kalidas Sharma	Dr. Bishwo Shrestha, Head Prof. M.P. Tripathi Dr. B.S. Gururng Dr. Krishna KC Dr. Kedar Basnet
2 & 3, 2003	Prof. M.P. Tripathi	Dr. Debendra Bahadur Lamichhane	Dr. B.S. Gurung, Head Dr. Bishwo Shrestha,

		Mr. Keshab Raj Bastola	
4 & 5, 2005	Prof. Dr. M.P. Tripathi	Dr. Debendra Bahadur Lamichhane Mr. Keshab Raj Bastola	Prof. Dr. B.S. Gurung, Head Dr. Krishna KC Dr. Kedar Basnet Dr. Bishwo Shrestha,
6, 2011	Dr. Krishna KC	Mr. Shekhar Nath Adhikari Mr. Kalidas Sharma Mr. Keshab Bastola Mr. Govinda Sharma	Prof. Dr. Kedar Basnet Prof. Dr. Bishwo Shrestha, Prof. Dr. Debendra Bahadur Lamichhane
7, 2012	<u>Chief Editor</u> Dr. Krishna KC	<u>Executive Editors:</u> Mr. Kalidas Sharma Mr. Govinda Sharma Mr. Khagendra Raj Poudel Mr. Naresh Paudel	Prof. Dr. Kedar Basnet Prof. Dr. Debendra Bahadur Lamichhane Prof. Dr. Bishwo Shrestha,
8, 2013	Mr. Bishnu Prasad Adhikari	Mr. Kalidas Sharma Mr. Naresh Paudel Mr. Khagendra Raj Poudel	Prof. Dr. Devendra Bahadur Lamichhane Prof. Dr. Bishwo Shrestha
9 & 10, 2015	Mr. Bishnu Prasad Adhikari	Mr. Kalidas Sharma Mr. Naresh Paudel Mr. Ramjee Parasad Pokharel Mr. Khagendra Raj Poudel	Prof. Dr. Devendra Bahadur Lamichhane Prof. Dr. Bishwo Shrestha
11&12, 2018	Mr. Shekhar Nath Adhikari	Mr. Naresh Paudel Mr. Khagendra Raj Poudel	Prof. Dr. Devendra Bahadur Lamichhane
13, 2023	Dr. Krishna Prasad Paudel, Professor of Geography, TU, Nepal	Mr. Naresh Paudel, Head of the Department of Geography, Prithwi Narayan Campus, Pokhara, Nepal	Prof. Dr. Saroj Koirala, Campus Chief , P.N. Campus, Pokhara Prof. Dr. Umesh Kurmar Mandal, Head of Central Department of Geography, TU, Kirtipur

			<p>Prof. Dr. Vikash Kumar K.C., Department of Statistics, TU, P. N. Campus</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Krishna K.C., Geography, TU,</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Debendra Bahadur Lamichhane, Geography, TU,</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Narendra Raj Khanal, Geography, TU,</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Bishwo Shrestha, Geography, TU,</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Prem Sagar Chapagain, Central Department of Geography, TU, Kirtipur</p>
14, 2024	Dr. Krishna Prasad Paudel, Professor of Geography, TU, Nepal	Mr. Naresh Paudel, Head of the Department of Geography, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara, Nepal	<p>Prof. Dr. Saroj Koirala, Campus Chief , P.N. Campus, Pokhara</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Umesh Kurmar Mandal, Head of Central Department of Geography, TU, Kirtipur</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Vikash Kumar K.C., Department of Statistics, TU, P. N. Campus</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Krishna K.C., Geography, TU,</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Debendra Bahadur Lamichhane, Geography, TU,</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Narendra Raj Khanal, Geography, TU,</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Bishwo Shrestha, Geography, TU,</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Prem Sagar Chapagain, Central Department of Geography, TU, Kirtipur</p>

Over the time, few changes have been made in the role of chief editor, executive editor/s and editor/s. After 2023 edition, large changes have been made for chief editor, editor and advisory board members. Chief Editor and advisory board

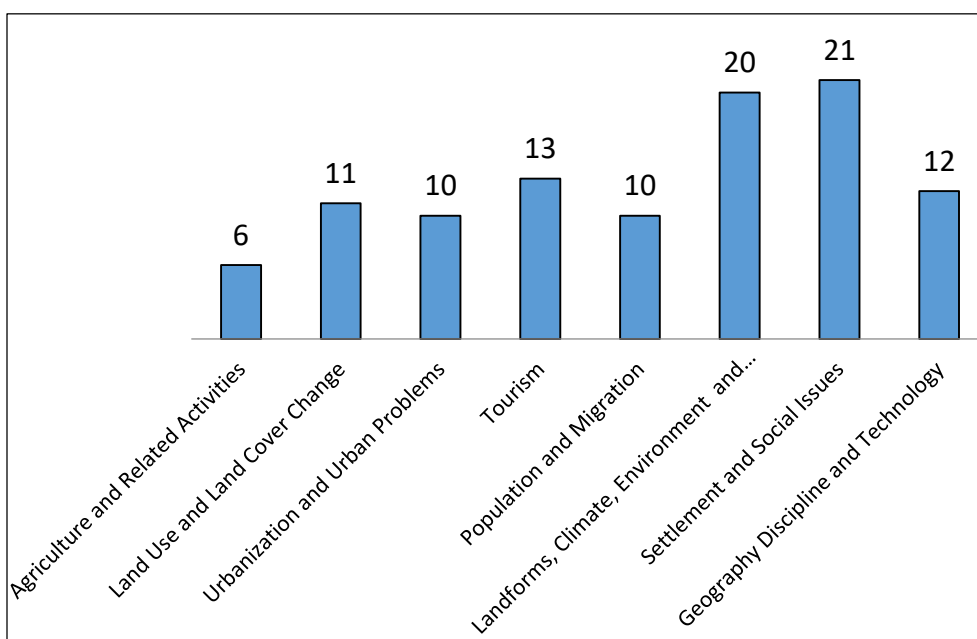
members are nominated among the experts of outside the faculties of the Department of Geography, Prithwi Narayan Campus Pokhara. Now it is expecting to enhance the quality of journal its visibility through the wider circle of advisory board members.

Thematic areas

Eight different thematic fields of the content of each article have been identified based on the keywords of the title. The distribution of all articles of entire volume of journals was compiled accordingly. From this procedure the maximum numbers (21) of articles is found in settlement and social issues. The second highest number (20) is in landforms, climate, environment and natural hazard. The least number (6) is in agriculture and related field (Figure 2).

Figure 2

Distribution of articles according to thematic area



The figure 2 shows the settlement and social issues and landforms, climate; environment and natural hazards are well addressed among the entire publications. These thematic areas are well focused. These two thematic areas cover over 40 % of the total published articles. There is no doubt these two thematic areas are within the national focused area, therefore, the articles are also concentrated on these thematic field. Except agriculture, other 5 thematic areas have almost the similar concentration of the articles.

Agriculture and related thematic area

The articles of agriculture and related thematic area have covered a diverse topics and contents. There are three articles published in volume 1. The first article of Professor M.P. Tripathi has covered the issue of Mustang district of Nepal. Because of its location in the Trans-Himalayan Valley and rain shadow zone, gets less rainfall and remain cold and sever cold round the year. Therefore, he has discussed the agriculture systems in fragile environment of Mustang, Nepal. His suggestion to cope the food scarcity of the people has to priorities development of secondary activities like tourism (Tripathi 2001). The second article in this volume is about the livestock herding in the mountain watersheds of Central Nepal by Krishna Prasad Poudel. He has discussed the issue of widely reported one of the major causing factor of Himalayan Environmental Degradation (HED) is large number of livestock herds and pressure on grazing land. But the study found declining number of livestock and changing the previously followed pasturing systems in the Annapurna Himalayan Region that has caused the land degradation even severely than before. Therefore, study suggests revisiting the causing factors of HED (Poudel 2001). Third article in this volume is titled 'changes on agriculture patters and its impact on agro-based industries' by Kalidas Sharma. He has taken the case of the Marpha Bazar of Mustang district. Traditionally adapted subsistence farming and livestock-based agriculture had been changed due to National Temperate Horticulture Research programme (NTHRP), increasing number of trekking tourists. Because of that traditional agro-based industries had been changed new tourism-based activities (Sharma 2001). In volume 4 & 5 Mr. Prem Ballabh Pandey has written about the analysis of agriculture productivity of Western Development Region of Nepal (Pandey 2004/2005). He has mentioned the agriculture productivity in the region is lower than other parts of the nation. The productivity is higher in both Mountain districts and Taria district except Kapilbastu district but entire hill districts comprised lower value. His suggestion was to apply effective measures to increase agriculture productivity of the region.. In volume 8, Govinda Prasad Shrama and Kalidas Sharma have discussed the glimpse of agriculture in Nepal (Sharma and Sharma 2013). They have discussed the different issues of agriculture sector. They have taken database of 2001 census and put facts and figure in comparison to previous database. They have suggested better agriculture development plan for the nation. In volume 11 & 12, Naresh Paudel has taken the title of tea cultivation of Lwang Village in Kaski (Paudel, N. 2018). Tea cultivation in Nepal was first introduced in 1863 from Ilam. It is quite common garden-based commercial farming in the districts of Eastern Nepal; however, in the western Nepal it was first started in Lwang Village in 1996. Therefore, he has discussed the future prospects of tea cultivation in Gandaki Province. He has suggested for small farmers group involvement gives its sustainability in the hills of Gandaki Province.

Land use and land cover change

This thematic area has 11 articles published in 7 different volumes of the journal. A GIS based approach in land use land cover change analysis of Lekhnath Municipality Pokhara has been done by Khagendra Raj Poudel (Poudel, 2003). He has used GIS tools to analyze spatial and temporal changes between 1978 and 2000 based on Land Resource Mapping Project (LRMP) produced maps (1:50,000 scale) and topographic maps (1:25,000 scale) published by the Department of Survey, Government of Nepal. The analysis found cultivated land decreased by 5.3%, forest increased by 3.9 %, whereas, commercial; transportation and institutional and residential areas were increased by over 200% in the last 22 years. The entire share of increment was contributed by open land. In volume 4 & 5, land use dynamics of Phewa watershed has been analyzed by Tara Raj Khanal and Keshab Raj Bstola (Khanal & Bastola, 2005). Land use dynamics was analyzed by using GIS techniques. Major changes were recorded in agriculture land and largely caused by increasing built-up area due to tourism and road construction. In the volume 6 of the journal published an article about land use change and its impact on soil erosion by Saroj Koirala and Pedro Cabral, both were affiliated at the University of Nova de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal (Koirala & Cabral, 2011). They have used Landsat TM of 1988 and 1999 to detect land use change. They found open forest and grazing land were converted to agriculture and settlement uses which caused acceleration of soil erosion, leaching fertile topsoil from the upper slope and sedimentation in the down valley, lakes and reservoirs. In the volume 8 of the journal an article about an assessment of forest cover change of Phew Lake watershed area has been written by Kabi Raj Subedi (Subedi 2013). He has detected the decreasing of forest area between 1990 and 2006, and also he has noticed the decreasing the lake area. Similarly couple of articles about land use cover change in different location have been published in different volumes including volume 7 (Paudel N. 2012), volume 8, (Sharma, 2013), volume 9 & 10 Sharma and Ghimire, 2015), volume 13 (Paudel, N. & Subedi, 2023) and 14 (Thapa & Sunar, 2024). All the change detections have been used the geospatial tools like GIS, satellite image, GPS and topographic maps.

Urbanization and urban problems

The thematic area of urbanization and urban area problems is also an important coverage of the articles published in the journal. There are 10 articles in 5 different volumes. The volume 1 and 2 & 3 each has 3 articles and volume 11 & 12 has 2 articles whereas volume 6 and 13 contained one each. Article on urbanization in Pokhara and its implications in environment by B.S. Gururung viewed the haphazard urban setting by the influx of people from outside without taking precaution of environment (Gurung, 2001). If the scenario developed without proper attention from

the planners and also from the civic sides, environment of Pokhara tended to verge of worsening. Kedar Basnet and Ishwori Sapkota also published article on urban land use change in Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City, Nepal by focusing change of urban land use (Basnet and Sapkota, 2001). They have attempted to analyze the urban morphology and its dynamics of internal landscape change over time. In the volume 1, article on trend of urbanization and sphere of influence of Damauli Bazar is written by Tara Raj Khanal (2001). He has discussed the trend of urbanization based on population and functional establishments. His analysis was based on flow of goods and commodities, education facilities and health services of the town. In volume 2 & 3, urbanization in developing countries by Tara Raj Khanal and Bhoj Raj Sharma (2003) discussed about the rapid expansion of urban areas due to natural growth of population, improvement in health facilities and also from the rural to urban migration. Urbanization trend in Nepal by Ishwori Prasad Sharma (2003) discussed the high rate of migration to urban areas due to the concentration of urban facilities. In the same volume Debendra Bahadur Lamichhane analyzed micro level urban functions of Pokhara at ward level (Lamichhane, 2003). The urban sprawl of Pokhara sub-Metropolitan City is discussed by Khagendra Raj Paudel (2011). He had taken information from the local people, community and applied GIS techniques. Major factors for the urban sprawl were transportation, education, health and shifting natural beauties and landscapes inclusion within the constituent urban definition. The volume 11 & 12 has an article about wet market of Nanjing City China (Lamichhane 2018). He discusses about the sources of food related to meat, fish, vegetables and fruits in a retail market of the Nanjing City. Naresh Paudel discussed about the growth and pattern of urbanization of Pokhara City. He traced the historical development of Pokhara from 13 wards covering 30.13 km² area and at present 33 wards with 464.2 km² (Paudel, N. 2018). In the volume 13, the urbanization process and dynamic change in urban coverage has been discussed by Khagendra Raj Poudel and Krishna Rawat (2023). They have found rapid urban area expansion has taken place in the Ghorahi Sub-Metropolis City for last ten years. Their analysis was based on Landsat OLI data of 2013, 2016 and 2020 in GIS software environment.

Tourism

In total 13 articles related with tourism are published in different volumes of journal. There are some very specific topical articles about tourism to some of quite general in coverage. In volume 2 & 3, an article is dealing with package tourism (Sharma, 2003). He has explained the importance of package tourism but requires to upgrades local hotels, restaurants and food quality to enhance package to tourism. The trekking tourism around Annapurna Conservation Area was recommended by Adhikari, (2011). He has explained several panoramic views, beautiful panoramic sceneries and natural and cultural diversities of the area. Govinda Mani Bhandari *The Himalayan Geographers, Silver Jubilee Special Issue: Vol. 15: 1-22, May, 2025* « 10 »

(2013) describes the Lake City (then Lekhnath Municipality) for recreational tourism perspective. His explanation has been based on the several lakes and garden located in the areas which provide good opportunities for recreational tourism. Similarly, Govinda Prasad Sharma (2013) also talked about the requirement and potentiality of recreational urban parks in Pokhara Valley. He has suggested promoting appropriate functional and aesthetically pleasing planting in accordance with environmental guidelines. Article on trends of tourism development in Nepal by Tara Raj Khanal (2013) talks about the prospects of tourism in Nepal where there are several tourism hotspots. Pokhara valley lying in the western part of the country experiences a large number of tourists every year because of its scenic beauties, lakes, temples and being a route to the trekking destinations (Khanal, 2013). He concluded his remarks that tourism industry has become an important factor for raising economic status of the people of Nepal. Therefore emphasis must be given on tourism planning and management at local level with the multi-stakeholder cooperation and conducive tourism plan and policy. At local level, prospects of village tourism have been discussed (Adhikari, 2015). Similarly, some other articles are also highlighting the prospects of village tourism (Sharma, 2012; Sharma, 2015; Paudel, 2015). The opportunity of tourism in post-earthquake period also discussed (Sharma, 2015). Adhikari (2023) discussed about the amount of entry fee at Protected Areas. He has suggested for equal practice on charging the entry fee to all destinations. A new prospect of tourism destination is highlighted for most scenic and panoramic view (Poudel and Paudel, 2024). They have explained new prospects of short duration trekking route in closest distance from the Pokhara City. A sociological analysis of tourism research in pokhara, Nepal has been published in volume 14 (Paudel and Khatri, 2024). They have forwarded sociological perspectives in tourism research in Pokhara City.

Population and migration

Population and migration is one of the major themes of research among geographers. There are 9 articles published in different volumes of the journal. Article on population movement and its consequences in Nepal is referring the population movement in both shifting from place of origin and change in structure (Basnet, 2005). According to him there are two different direction of movement i.e. rural to rural and rural to urban. Because of rural to rural people from mountain and hill moved to Tarai for the sake of searching better agriculture land. Because of that man-land ratio in Tarai is high. The next movement is from rural to urban which has caused the dense population in the urban areas. But due to both patterns, population in rural areas of hills and mountain is declining. In the recent years the pattern of movement from rural to rural explained by Basnet (2005) is somehow not existed. In the article on trend of migration in Nepal by Tara Raj Khanal (2005) he has explained both global and

The Himalayan Geographers, Silver Jubilee Special Issue: Vol. 15: 1-22, May, 2025 « 11 »

national scenario of population migration. In a local urban case Upendra Paudel (2005) pointed the ward level in-migration of the population. The articles of population distribution in Western Development Region (Adhikari, 2015), diaspora brain drain among the Gurung Community (Gurung, 2023), socio-economic characteristics of in-migrants (Upadhyay and Dhungana, 2023) and pull factors of student migration for studying abroad (Adhikari and Thapa, 2024) are dealing the issues of migration in different cases. The growth of population and its implications in environment is discussed (Paudel, 2015). Due to the improvements of maternity health, education and late marriage of reproductive age group are resulting reduction in fertility which has direct impacts on population growth and demographic characteristics of the population (Acharya, 2024).

Landform, climate, environment and natural hazard

Physical branch of geography is one of the major parts of it. Several geographers deal with the physical aspects and built their academic career by doing research in the field of landforms, physiography, climate, natural vegetation, natural resources, and natural hazard and so on so forth. Quite good bulks of articles related to these thematic areas are published in different volumes of 'The Himalayan Geographers'. In total 21 articles are identified in this thematic area, where climate related are six; five each in resource and environment related and, natural hazard and vulnerability related; river channel geometry related are three; and geomorphology related are two. Annual and monthly trend of precipitation in Pokhara Valley (Pandey, 2003), climate change (Sharma, 2011), status of climate of Pokhara (Paudel, 2011), coping climate change (Upadhyay, 2012), temperature and rainfall variability (Adhikari, 2013), mitigation measures on climate change (Pokharel, 2018) are within the climate theme. Climate change issues are recently coming up and attention towards this thematic area is coming up gradually. The research on exposure, sensitivity and adaptation sector of climate change is focused; therefore, articles about this thematic area are also providing information. Natural hazard and mitigation sector is another focused area and published articles in the journal. Recurrence of natural hazard (Shrestha, 2005), landslide susceptibility mapping (Subedi, 2011), Seti flood disaster in Pokhara Valley (KC, 2012), vulnerable land in Pokhara City (Pokharel, 2013), sinkhole susceptibility zoning (Subedi and Subedi 2015), are the articles published in different volumes of the journal. Shrestha (2005) explains the recurrence of natural hazards in Nepal and there are problems for its management. KC (2012) explains in detail about the sudden occurrence of unprecedented flood havoc in Seti River on May 5, 2012. That was quite a devastating flood. He has concluded that flood havoc on Seti River seems uncertain phenomenon as it is in other several Himalayan rivers. Fragile landform of Himalayan region provides favorable circumstances for such disaster occurrence in Seti River. Pokharel (2013) explored some of the

The Himalayan Geographers, Silver Jubilee Special Issue: Vol. 15: 1-22, May, 2025 « 12 »

vulnerable locations of Pokhara City which are not suitable for the human settlement. Similarly, Subedi (2011) and Subedi and Subedi (2015) focused on zoning techniques of landslides and sinkhole susceptibility by using analytical hierarchy process. Subedi (2011) used the technique in landslide susceptibility mapping in Upper Harpan Khola sub-watershed, Nepal. Similar methodology was used in Marion County Florida USA for sinkhole susceptibility zoning (Subedi and Subedi, 2015). Articles focusing on river/stream basin/watershed morphology and morphometric analysis are also published in different volumes of the journal. Morphometric analysis of Upper Seti drainage basin (Shrestha, 2001), river profile of Kali Gandaki (Shrestha, 2003), morphometric Study of the Mardi Drainage Basin (Subedi, 2012), geographical formation of Ghachok (Lamsal, 2015) are describing basin morphology. Except Kaligandaki antecedent valley, other articles are confined within Pokhara Valley. Different authors have given their attention towards environmental conditions of the different areas, but more focus has been given to Pokhara Valley. Challenges in water resource management in Pokhara (Tripathi, 2003), Trophic status of Phewa Lake (Lamichhane 2005), an account on environmental impact assessment (Paudel, 2011), geological formation and bio-geographical diversity (Khanal, 2015), degradation dynamics and conservation imperatives (Pokharel and Subedi, 2023), symbolic pathway to natural resource management (Upadhyay and Poudel, 2024) are explaining the issues in depth. Interdisciplinary and cross-cutting contents, methodology and geographical locations have been entertained in this thematic area.

Settlement and social issues

Human settlement and social issues is one of the major thematic areas of geography. Articles published in the journal of 'The Himalayan Geographers' belong to settlement and social issues thematic area. Within this thematic area articles of quite a diverse topics, contexts and contents are included. Employment situation of women in a rural village (Gurung and Poudel 2001), socio-economic life of Chepang (Bastola, 2001) and ground of social discrimination to janajati (Paudel, 2013), women in Vedic Marriage Sacrament (Adhikari and Acharya, 2023) son preference and socialization (Khatri and Pokhrel, 2023) and sexuality in ancient and modern Nepal (Adhikari et al, 2024) describe the socio-economic differences in different members of the society. Classification of settlements (Pandey, 2001), rural-urban linkage of Kusma bazaar (Sharma, 2011), rural settlement system (Bastola, 2011), consumption expenditure (Bhattarai, 2012) discussed the different socio-economic status and characteristics of the settlement and activities. Formation of community forest user's group (Poudel, 2001), and status of community forest (Paudel, 2013) explained based on the different case studies. Within the urban social issues solid waste management is specifically discussed by Bastola (2003) and Pandey (2011). Environmental ethics and sustainable regional planning (Lamichhane, 2005) and the case study of sustainable development

The Himalayan Geographers, Silver Jubilee Special Issue: Vol. 15: 1-22, May, 2025 « 13 »

plan of Rock Garden in Sukla Gandaki Municipality (Pokharel, 2015) describe some aspects of sustainable development and planning. Education scenario of Parbat District (Sharma 2005) provides the status of development of the district. Democracy of Nepal talked by Prem Prasad Poudel (2012). An assessment of possibility of alternate transit facility for Nepal was minutely discussed by Krishna KC (2011). In case of Dangu fever outbreak in Jhapa District Chapagain and Upadhyay (2024) used a micro level study and provided the very good example of application of geographical knowledge at contemporary social problems.

Geography discipline and technology

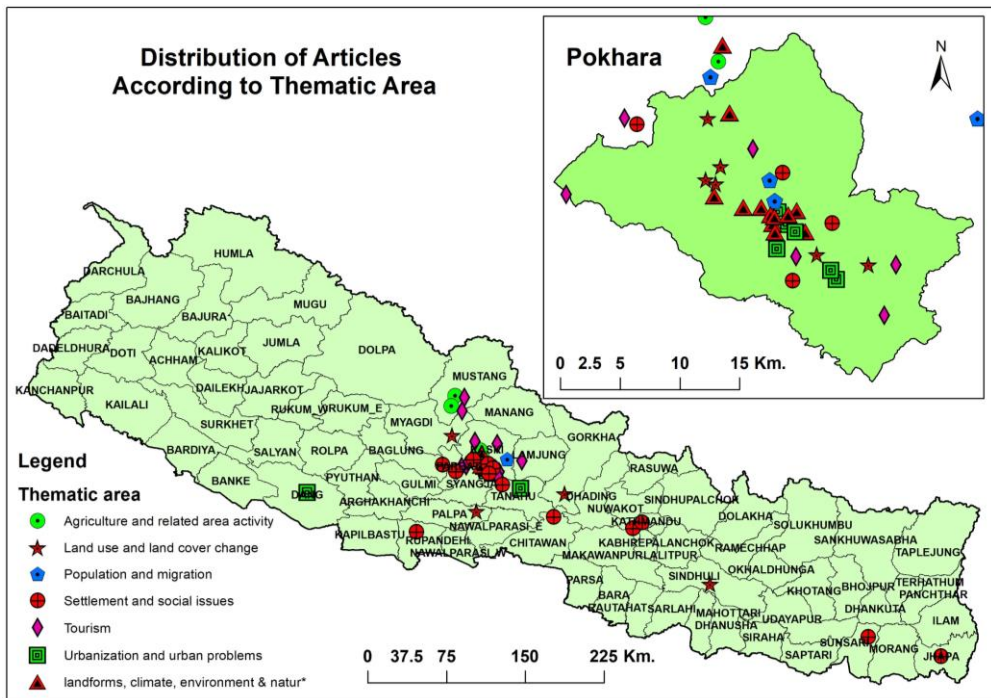
Geography has quite a wider perimeter of Philosophy. In the recent time, research techniques for fact findings of problems associated with human life and entire biota of the earth are invented rapidly. New technical innovations are taking place towards spatial sciences, mapping techniques for earth and celestial bodies of the planets. Scholars are also trying to involve in different research and bring their output in the form of articles. A note on Global Positioning System (Thapa, 2003), ArcGIS (Poudel, 2012) LiDAR (Koirala, 2012) are new techniques introduced in the geography teaching. Theoretical concept of geography (Pandey 2011) has focused on principle of determinism a required ground of explanation of human geography. Similarly, several research works on land use land cover are using GIS, Remote Sensing and integrated mapping techniques and published their research works in journal articles. One example of landuse dynamics using GIS is given here (Poudel and Subedi, 2013). Adhikari (2013) expresses his ideas on the role of geographical organizations on the development of professional geography. Similarly, ideas on organizing annotated bibliography of related subjects with geography and its research provide a guideline for the research and development of geography (Poudel and Khanal 2001; Gurung, 2003, 2005). Entire profile of Department of Geography has been provided by Krishna KC (2011).

Working Culture in Multi and Inter Disciplinary Area

There are 103 articles published in total. Among them only one has the three co-authors and 20 % have the two co-authors. This shows the practice in interdisciplinary and working and publishing in group or team work is not common among the authors. Among the total first authors 15 are appeared in one time, seven are appeared in two times, six are appeared in three times and four times and two are appeared in six times and in seven times, respectively. The affiliation of the authors also shows a large number are from the Geography Department and good numbers of published articles have almost methodological similarity. Most of the case studies are concentrated in Kaski districts and closely with accessible locations (Figure 3).

Figure 3

Spatial distribution of case studies published in 'The Himalayan Geographers' 2001-2024



Only two articles are from abroad cases, one from Florida USA and another from Nanjing China. Only one has non native co-author from foreign university. At least 31 authors are from non geography disciplines including economics, sociology, anthropology, political science, forestry, human ecology, and engineering and surveying background.

Conclusion

These all efforts are very meaningful and strengthen geography discipline. Teaching students only within the class-room is not allowed in geography and there is a saying that 'armchair geographer never meets the objective'. Therefore, field is the class-room of geographers and geography students. Field-based research backed the philosophy, knowledge and ideas. Modern technologies are building to bring the vast geographical objects within the accessible vision of geographers. Geographic Information Science and Systems (GIS), remote sensing (RS), artificial intelligence (AI), global positioning systems (GPS) are now becoming essential subject matter for geographers. Thus, focus of research and application of geography require incorporating those branches of science. In the market, these days geography is mistakenly marked as less focused discipline, but in reality geography is the mother

The Himalayan Geographers, Silver Jubilee Special Issue: Vol. 15: 1-22, May, 2025 « 15 »

science. Without knowing 'science of what, where, how, when and why' no academic discipline completes. These are the field of research in 'geography matter'. Future direction of the journal 'The Himalayan Geographers' expect to fulfill the voids of research in entire 'geography matters'

The Way forwards

'The Himalayan Geographers' is the only journal of geography published continuously from Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University, Prithwi Narayan Campus, Pokhara out from Kathmandu Valley. Definitely, there are several hurdles in regular publication of academic journals outside Kathmandu Valley. Despite that it has maintaining its quality and quantity regularly for the last 25 years. Now all the volumes are digitally uploaded in NEPjol of Central Library, received ISSN and also registered in DOI. Therefore, now onwards it needs to maintain its better international standards of academic quality. There are still few more things to operate for its upgrade.

- enhance the academic quality by strictly following double-blind peer review process for manuscript selection,
- call manuscript from international academic community and make regularity in publishing by following international standards,
- include more number of editors from international professional community and experts,
- establish a Journal Secretariat within the Department of Geography, P.N. Campus with communication and secretarial services,
- establish or manage funds for academic work from the Tribhuvan University and Campus. It is true that volunteer service responsibility for the academic work may not be sustainable forever,
- increase visibility of journal through Department/Campus/University websites and in other relevant forums.

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