WHY SHOULD ONE STUDY ANTHROPOLOGY?

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Abstract

Unlike the other social science disciplines, anthropology has a broader scope in terms of its theory and methods. It is a holistic discipline which covers all aspects of human being. Nepal has relatively short history of anthropology as teaching discipline. However, it has more than two hundred years of research tradition in Nepal. A score of foreign and native anthropologists have been carried out the research in Nepal. Compare to other disciplines, there are relatively getting research fund from the foreign universities and development agencies. Recent data of the central department of anthropology shows that employment rate of the pass out students in master’s degree in anthropology is higher. But why the number of students enrolled in graduate and undergraduate is low. Taking this issue into consideration, this paper answers the question of low number of student enrolment in the various constituent colleges of Tribhuvan University. The Paper is based on ethnographic interviews with some graduate/ undergraduate students and faculty of Tribhuvan University. There are some reasons to be a low number of students in anthropology: Anthropology demands rigorous and continuous study on the subject matter where original texts are taught. In Nepal, people not only common people but also intellectual including professionals have little knowledge about the distinction between sociology and anthropology due to a long experience of joint department, Tribhuvan University. Importantly, there is no realization from Tribhuvan University administration and Government of Nepal why anthropology is important for the development of the nation. Paper answers these issues.

Keywords: Anthropology, research, enrolment, rigorous, original text

Introduction

The beginning of anthropology is very like the beginning of mankind itself. There is no event, no person, before which there was no anthropology and after which there was. Rather, there are human curiosities and activities that we today think of as anthropological
and we extend our conceptualizations into the past, to period before the word was even coined, and certainly to periods when the word meant something very different from what we mean by it today (Bohannan & Glazer, 1988). In the 1800, anthropology did something else of immense important to its future, it became an “empirical” science. It first gathered information from many sources- history, travel books; folklore, reports by missionaries and colonial civil servants about the people who were its chosen subject matter. A little later, anthropology found “the field”- the first of the social science to do so. Anthropologists went out to discover for themselves what those peoples did and what themselves what those peoples did and what they made of their own activities. Social science has never been the same (p.xiv).

The institutional history of formal teaching department of Sociology/Anthropology in Nepal was established in 1981. In those days, the students from this department were awarded M.A degree either in Anthropology or Sociology by the university on the basis of only one of the two optional courses they would choose to study in their second year (Chhetri, 2017). Apart from those two optional courses (one for anthropology stream and the other for sociology), the course contents in the rest of the compulsory papers used to be mix of sociological and anthropological stuff- everything including basic concepts, theories, substance, methods etc. This meant that for the graduates of both disciplines who passed out of this joint department at the Tribhuvan University (T.U). On 25 Bhadra, 2072, a meeting of the TU Academic Council was held which unanimously decided for the establishment of two separate Central Department of sociology and Anthropology by splitting the then Central Departments of Sociology/Anthropology. This historical decision itself paved the path for the automatic creation of two separate Subject Committees of sociology and anthropology (Uprety & Pokheral, 2018).

Anthropology is the study of the human species and its immediate ancestors. It is a uniquely comparative and holistic science. Holism refers to the study of whole of the human condition past, present and future, biology, society, language, culture, fossils, nonindustrial-nonwestern, ancient and modern, simple and complex societies. It offers a unique cross-cultural perspective by constantly comparing the customs of one society with those of others…, Anthropology confronts and ponders major questions of human existence as it explores human biological and cultural diversity in time and space (Kottak, 2011). Anthropology seeks answers to an enormous variety of questions about humans. It appears to incorporate a whole catalog of disciplines: sociology, psychology, political science, economics, history, health, medicine, human biology and perhaps even the humanistic disciplines of philosophy and literature etc. Anthropology is broader in scope geographically and historically also directly related with all varieties of people and their issues throughout the world. It gives vision to understand the connections between different aspects of physical, social and cultural life (Ember, et al., 2008). Thus, anthropology is regarded as a larger and comprehensive discipline. It studies man from
a number of aspects. It concerns itself with human cultures and societies (Doshi & Jain, 2001). With the strongest academic background and unremitting teaching contributions, the discipline of anthropology has been fully recognized in the educational sphere and development sector of Nepal (Uprety & Pokharel, 2018). But my study found gap about the anthropology discipline in Nepal is that most of the university faculties, administrative persons and mass of the students are still unknown about the existence, reality and importance of anthropology. Most of the time persons within academic system asked me the questions what is anthropology? What course content student study on anthropology? What is the importance of studying anthropology? So, my study spins around: familiarity of anthropology to mass of the Nepalese people, the reasons and significances of studying anthropology, low enrollment and dropout and scarcity of students in anthropology.

**Theory and methodology**

Anthropology as a discipline was involved in the ethnographic studies of “primitive people” (both colonized and non-colonized) during the heyday of colonialism, it has now become a holistic discipline with four major subfields, viz biological or physical anthropology; prehistory and archaeology; linguistic anthropology and socio-cultural anthropology. Here, culture and personality theory has been used. Ever since, the establishment of the CDSA (central department of sociology/anthropology), anthropology in Nepal has been taught as a ‘socio-cultural anthropology’ only. ‘Linguistic anthropology has recently been introduced for the M.A. semester students majoring anthropology. ‘Efforts are underway for the crafting of two other courses, namely, prehistory and archaeology, and biological or physical anthropology for the further specialization (Uprety et al., 2015). Anthropological culture produces the personality of anthropologist. The study spins around the culture and personality theory. Ruth Benedict and Margaret Mead impressed by Edward Sapir’s rearing custom and human behavior. Anthropology has its specific theories for studying human cultures on the one hand and its methodology is largely qualitative and interpretive on the other hand which demands prolonged fieldwork. Course on fieldwork could not be crafted and implemented in the past due to the existence of joint department. This study is also based on primary and secondary data. Here, the ethnographic interview is used. The experience-based ideas of the faculty members and the student’s narratives were collected below. The graduate, under graduate students, and student of anthropology who pass out the university degree were respondent. Interview is also done with the faculty members of anthropology at Tribhuvan University. Structured and unstructured questions were asked. Study has analyzed and asked the scarcity, possibility, retain and dropout condition of student. Secondary data were collected from the published books and articles and other documents.
Conceptual framework

All human and humanity related issues, events, acts and activities are subject matter of anthropology. It explores the innumerable issue of community, their culture and everything of this universe which is related to human beings. Anthropology explores the ends and means of the people within the earth- ‘cosmos’. It is multidisciplinary field based science. Discipline provides image, knowledge, information, skills and expertise. In anthropology original English texts are taught. Student can link the local issues with global and vice versa. Anthropologist always prefers to stay with all the issues, local community, indigenous people, through which they construct the new understanding about the people and culture.

Above diagram presents that focus of anthropology is not narrow. It has diverse links, visions and connections with all issues and culture of the world. It has broad relation with Pre-history, history, present to future of human world. Local to worldwide concern of anthropology is its main objective. Every issues of world are openly related with anthropology. Anthropologist can see each issue with different visions, ideas, lens and perspectives. These all related things are the beauty of this discipline. Data and knowledge from the anthropologist is vital for every sector of nation. Good anthropologist can do autopsy of all social, community and people’s issues and problems. Rapport building skill and vision produced the personality of anthropologist. So, knowledge produced by anthropologist is essential for each and every sectors of the country which gives vision to accomplish vital research skill, technique and efforts in multiple areas. Good anthropologist is watch dog of the people, community, society, nation and whole world. So, better to study anthropology.

To be the anthropologist

To be the student of anthropology and become an anthropologist is the glorious mission. It is really joyful to study anthropology. But it is not relaxed and easy task. One need study determination, will power, research meditation, control of mind on academic activities. Hard work, devotion is must to be success in this field. Need austerity ethics, hope, attentive wish to work; read, write and do the research work in field, not only in nearest area but also in the remote and isolated places. Intense labor, rigorous practice of empirical research and study passion produce good and skillful anthropologist.

“Simply earning a degree in anthropology from the university does not make any one anthropologist. One can become an anthropologist only through rigorous practice of the empirical researches and publications of credible findings which are to be appreciated by the anthropological fraternity. Therefore, both senior and junior anthropologist in Nepal have been persistently effortful for carrying
out empirical researcher on the diverse aspects of Nepali society and culture under the subfield of social and cultural anthropology” (Uprety. 2018).

Pure anthropologist should have made by self. It is the field which is not fuel by politics, and other support. It needs skillful, competent and expert knowledge, awareness, understanding and aspirations to see the diversity, marginality, and multiple social and cultural issues related to human beings, (to society, culture as well as the whole world). So, it produced- ‘made’ self-confident and able candidates in anthropology.

In one group discussion, nine previous student passed out from CDA (Central Department of Anthropology in 2080-03-07) discussed and claim that “most of the student of our batch and who passed out from Tribhuvan University are satisfied on their career. Most of them involving in job related to our own subject and they are happy. Four of us are working in research-based work and writing up. Some of our friends are involving on teaching in multiple collages. A portion of our acquaintances are actively engaged in teaching roles across various colleges. Another group is dedicatedly pursuing their PhD degrees. A significant majority of our peers, spanning both past and upcoming graduating classes, have achieved commendably high levels of employment. They have successfully permeated various sectors of the Nepalese job landscape, including civil service, research endeavors, international and non-governmental organizations (INGOs and NGOs), both national and international institutions, as well as diverse research-focused entities. This success can be attributed to the empowering influence of anthropology, which equips students with robust self-reliance, adept perspectives, innovative concepts, and effective methodologies. Consequently, anthropologists are well-prepared to traverse and excel in a multitude of professional domains.

Anthropologist not only handles different fields but also prepares the person who can handle the diverse arena of the world. Anthropology mainly offers a service motive quality; it enables the students to see the world with the various lenses. So they have capacity to identify the diversity and also they have the power to convince and pass their qualities to others.

“The 44th president of the United States (Barack Obama) is the son of an anthropologist- Dr. Stanley Ann Dunham Soetoro (Ann Dunhan). Her attraction to see diversity and work on micro- finance and economic issues affecting Indonesian women illustrates the application of anthropology to identify and solve the contemporary problems. Anthropology study humanity in varied times and places and in a rapidly changing world, by virtue of Obama’s parents age, his enculturation, and his experiences abroad, Barack Obama provides an excellent symbol of the diversity and interconnections that characterize such a world. As
well, his election is a tribute to an ever more diverse United States of America and to the ability of the American people to appreciate such a nation” (Kottak, 2010).

It can be said that anthropology has broad theme which includes multidisciplinary vision. All the issues of the world are its concern of study. Diverse fields of world need anthropological knowledge and its guidance. Which is essential in human society throughout all God’s creatures. So one should familiarize to the anthropology.

Low level of student enrollment in Anthropology

In recent decade there is low level of student enrollment rate in overall social science disciplines. Sociology/Anthropology subject was in one department before 2015. After that department is split between Sociology department and Anthropology department. Anthropology is growing, charming and appreciating discipline in international academia. In Nepal most of the people are unknown about anthropology. “The fact that anthropologist had a bitter experience for more than three decades on it ‘independent identity’ because there was the misconception within the TU structure that ‘anthropology’ was a part of ‘sociology’ and so was the case (Uprety & Pokharel, 2018).” Based on this issue one previously passed out student of Masters Level (Sabina lamsal, 2079-02-05 BS) expressed her views as follows:

“Madam, in Nepal most of the people, even in academic sectors don’t know about the anthropology. Different persons at campus and other place they asked about my subject. When I told anthropology, they became confused and asked ‘what is anthropology?’ ‘What does it mean?’ Many times, to many people, I made their queries clear. Situation is unfriendly to anthropology because of its newly existing separate identity. I am proud to be the student of anthropology. I like it; I enjoy it because I learned the broad vision of knowledge, ethics and human qualities. Now I can do good research, I have confidence to work in any community, in any office. I am sure I will write and publish the research articles. When I was science student my knowledge was limited but now my lens and vision of thinking has broadened. In foreign country anthropology is rising and fascinating discipline which I found searching on different universities’
sites. I have planned for abroad study. I am searching scholarship; if possible I will go for it.”

It means the importance and publicity of discipline is not sufficient up to now. Parents and even the student are not clear about the reputation and significance of the subject. Without publicity most of the students are unknown to the essence of the subject. So, the students are in low number.

Next day three of the faculty members gave the similar interview about the student shortage not only in one discipline but the ratio is same in all subject. They told “university is academically degrading now. Academically active and renowned faculties are by passed by politically affiliated persons for example central department of anthropology. They gripped the whole institution which is the main cause of academic and institutional dimness. So is the student organization. Most of the academically sound student does not wish to study in government campus because of the disturbance of politics in educational institutions. Bureaucratic system, department heads, faculties, students all are privileged by political party’s affiliation. Most of position they hired relatives, ‘afnomanche’ and politically affiliated persons in different departments and administration. Academically sound but politically neutral person is by passed in most of the cases, for example we can see the situation of central department of anthropology and sociology and other departments. See the situation, in our collage (Tri-Chandra Multiple collage) and most of the other institutions. We can find couple (husband, wife, son, daughter, politically affiliated persons) in the same institution. Most of the organization is within the control of family and politics. Person who is academically strong but out of politics and having no relatives within the system is blindly marginalized. They have no motivation to work within the system. So, the academic strength is degrading. Not all but, most of the Institutional heads of different departments do not have proper academic vision because they are not produced by academic culture. Whole social science and also science departments have student inadequacy since a decade. “The primary goal of the university has not been for making the entire education system research oriented but it has been geared to appointing “afnomanches” at various positions (Uprety, 2018). University can never maintain its academic standard if it is excessively bureaucratized with unimaginable… motives of its occupants working along the political party lines at the cost of the interest of the university (p.vii). Education scenario within the university’s institutions is captured. It has negative impact to improve the education system at Tribhuvan University. Most of the faculties do not feel favorable environment within the university. Enthusiasm, passion- ‘keenness’ is not seen, they are not in a mood to work within university system. Its effect is directly seen in different campuses and their departments.
“After the beginning of electric attendance, two regular and competent faculties in Tribhuvan University Kirtipur (one from anthropology ‘Nabin Rawal’ and other from sociology ‘Pramod Bhatta’) gave letter of resignation to leave the university career. “There is no research, field visit and knowledge producing environment. Faculties have to go university daily not for study, research work, write up and new innovative-’creative’ works but just for the electric attendance. They have to attend campus and spend day not in knowledge producing environment. It is because university is not fueled by academic personalities but political ideologies. They don’t have academic vision and ideas to write up good proposal to fetch the grand research project which enhance university and career of faculties and the students.” It is expressed by faculties from different disciplines in 2080/05/04 group discussion.

Group of faculties (in 2080/02/05 BS) were discussing on general conversation about the crisis of student in different colleges. They told,

“Now most of the students do not have study motive. When we were school and university students, we carefully listened to our teachers and professors. We wrote each of the important sentences delivered by them. We raised genuine questions about the confusion. Now, we do not find that kind of curiosity in the class. Anthropology needs time, enthusiasm commitment, passion for study, and learn to do research and gain the proper field technique. Finally, student should be acquainted with sound academic and field-based knowledge through the study of original research-based text. All texts of anthropology are in English language. Students from government schools who had followed Nepali medium, feel difficult to get the point. So, some of the student who are studying anthropology complain about no availability of Nepali text, guess papers, and guide. Other social science discipline e.g., sociology, economics, rural development, political science, have excess of Nepali text. Some regret to be the student of Anthropology because they do not clearly get the point. Eventually, some of them change the subject or drop out. The extra group of students who are good in English, capable and interested to enroll in university, do not feel appropriate study environment. Some who have applied and got positive response for foreign job, get-up-and-go for it. So, there is problem of brain drain. Most of that group of students chooses to study abroad. There is no research and study environment at Tribhuvan University. Research institutions are politicized and inactive. Institutions are politically overthrown and there is no study and research environment. No one is taking responsibility about it. They are on the motive of personal benefit. So, education system is slowly and unknowingly falling/ decreasing. Most of the faculties are not satisfied with the university system.”
When the entire recruitment system is based along the party line, promotion is based on the greyness of hairs due to the longer duration at the university and when there is no mechanism of looking at whether the promoted professors have been regularly researching and publishing at least two research papers in a year, it is foolish to expect the quality education at the university where the prevailing rule is “once a professor, always a professor (Uprety, 2018). There has been absolutely “zero effort “at the university level to make the education system research oriented. The semester system which principally underscores on participatory teaching and analytical as well as creative writing of students cannot be successfully implemented by the human resource which had very little or no “research skill” at the university“ carrying out independent or sponsored academic research within the university” is the most unwelcome move because the rank and file of the functionaries have a propensity to consider the “research initiative as an “execrable crime” (there is zero enabling environment within the system) ( p. vii)

One M.A. (masters in arts) first semester student of anthropology (Mukti Prasad Poudel) expressed his view “I am the student of Nepali literature; I am theater actor too. I planned to enroll in anthropology three years ago, but I was scared about the English text. I took two years’ gap. This year I enrolled, I will write my exam in Nepali language. Some of my class mates will also plan to write in Nepali language. Madam, if possible, provide us Nepali note (2080/02/07)” This is the situation of half of the student enrolled in anthropology. Student interest is there but the language barrier pushes them to escape the subject.

One drop-out student of MA, anthropology Sanjay Jhung Thapa (2079-12-06 BS) shares his experience “I completed B.Sc and enrolled M.A. in anthropology four years’ ago. I have involved in student politics; half of the class I had missed. Alternatively, I used to be in class, but could not get the main crux point of the class. The time I gave to study is not sufficient. Recently three of my class mates completed their thesis on anthropology. Their passion, continuity and rigorous study of original text, made them good anthropologist. In anthropology students should have time to study original text. But time constraint made me to change the subject. Now I am admitted to sociology because I can get guide, guess paper, the Nepali text of that subject. It will be easy for me to complete Masters.” It means now a day’s student need easy way to pass than to gain broad knowledge. Securing certificate is success for them, but in anthropology, just getting certificate without sound knowledge is meaningless. One cannot survive as the anthropologist in anthropological field if he/she does not have sound disciplinary vision and habituate to tolerate the difficult situation in field as well as writing up the data.

Researcher organized three group discussions among the students of grade 9 and 10; ten females, ten male students and +2 fifteen students (7 males and 8 female) respectively
about their future plan. Only five students (three female and two male students) told that “I study and involve in job at my own country, and preferred to live in my native land. If the entire student will leave Nepal who will be here to uplift the country? I may go for further study and as a tourist for short period of time, but I cannot stay at foreign country leaving all my relatives near and dear.” On the other hand, most of all students told that “I will not stay in Nepal after +2. Here is no high paying job opportunity. System is not good. Everywhere dirty politics grabs the benefit. If we don’t have any relatives-‘afnomanche’, here is no opportunity for the ordinary people. Everything is designed and distributed according to the political affiliation. It takes five years to complete the bachelor level in Nepal. There is no certainty to get the good payable job here. But if we fly after +2 we certainly get competitive and practical study environment and good paying job opportunity. There is respect for all kind of job in foreign country. System works well there. Our relatives and neighbor’s brothers and sisters who are studying abroad told the same thing when they came in Nepal at the vacation” Researcher asked them “who will be here with your parents? You do not need to take care of them? They replied that “most of our parents are young now. If we establish there, we will request them to settle with us.” These group of students are future university students but their future plan shows that there will be low number of student enrollment in social science in future, so will be the situation of anthropology too. This kind of situation is not only in government but also private campus. The absence of youth in country will cause the multiple problems for the development of nation. Active and skillful talent people are attracted towards the developed country. Remaining, children and senior citizens may feel crisis in future. The low enrollment in anthropology may hamper the academic scenario and research environment. Problem identification with the lens of qualitative research is most for the further development. It will be absent if the condition and mentality of the government will be as before. So, Government and University have to change the policy and search the student attracting them with the good study environment, good schemes and new job opportunities. Confident and competent student will be the wealth of nation and basis of sustained development. That should be internalized by the leaders, universities, academicians, planners, and policy makers. Anthropologist sees issues from inner eye/deep heart. They can touch the heart of people with cordial relation. As a family member people provide them the real information because long time stay in the field could verify the reality.

Significant of studying Anthropology

Anthropology is empirical science based on multidisciplinary thematic study. It offers a horizon of broad and deep understanding of human diversity. It is the study of culture, humanity and human related all issues. It explores endless human experiences, knowledge, cultural believes, practices and all the matters related to the human beings.
It concerns about the ends and means of the human related issues. Theoretically, methodologically, substantially it has strength with academic asset, rapport building skills, research vision, ethical understanding, which internalized with multiple lens/perspectives, tolerance to hear and see the local as well as indigenous voices, scene and many more which powers the disciplinary importance. “With the founding of the CDA (central department of anthropology) at the TU on 11 September, 2015 (Bhadra 25, 2072), the anthropology discipline in Nepal has attained the ‘mature adulthood’ because we have now indigenously created some anthropological Literature both in the academia and applied field and the leadership has now been handed over to the generation of students trained at the TU system. On the one hand, this is indeed the happiest moment for all anthropologists belonging to students’ generation in Nepal and on the other hand, we (faculties) are to be fully prepared to face a battery of institutional and academic challenges ahead (Uprety & Pokharel 2018).

Anthropology offers classical, modern and postmodern theories, qualitative field based ethnographic research techniques. Student refined in respective culture and ethics. Traditionally it has four fields (Physical Anthropology, cultural Anthropology, Archaeology and linguistic), but yet it has diverse subfields according to new emerging environment and issues such as; Development Anthropology, Medical Anthropology, Anthropology of Natural Resource Management, Economic Anthropology, Disaster Anthropology, Anthropology of Gender and Feminism, Anthropology of Religion, Anthropology of Kinship Studies, Climate Change and Anthropology, Anthropology of Tourism and Mountaineering, Anthropology of Caste-Ethnicity-Cultural Diversity, Himalayan Anthropology, Anthropology and South Asian Studies, Ecological Anthropology, Agricultural Anthropology, Legal Anthropology, Visual Anthropology, Music and Anthropology, Anthropological Theories, Classical Theories in Anthropology, Rural Anthropology, Urban Anthropology etc. Each and every new issue can be studied, designing the course on the discipline. So, there are varieties of fields and choices on studying anthropology. All of these fields of studies highlight the formation and application of anthropological wisdom, knowledge, channel of communication and discourse collaborating with the local to global knowledge, awareness, information and understanding with the comparative framework. Anthropology could answer the problem of human and humanity in the ecosphere. So, it is the subject which opens the inner eye of the students, it creates job opportunities in the market.

One faculty member said that, “My parents wanted me to pursue medical or engineering field after my +2 level. But, I could not make it to the merit list. I refused to study on paying. When I Passed B.Sc. I was confused which subject should I enroll to? My brother asked me to join in anthropology. I joined and study consistently. I scored good number. When I was science student I can only see straight forward. At that time, I
was monotonous with repetitive studying the same things. My vision, thinking pattern, behaving style all is totally changed after studying anthropology. Now I am happy and relaxed with my subject. I knew that world is happy everywhere. I can adjust and produced knowledge from every culture and community. I feel lucky having chance to read anthropology. I could not express all the things how intensely I have benefited after studying anthropology. Studying anthropology passed me strong qualitative research skills. Theoretically and methodologically I am sound now. I have done multiple ethnographic researches with participant observation method, through which I can identify the different real problems of the society. So, I can say that one engineer could develop his/her community/society but one dynamic anthropologist can develop whole world. One Doctor can cure and treats his own patience on his areas but one good anthropologist can diagnose and treat the multiple disease and problem of the whole world. So, I am satisfied with my subject.” Anthropology is relevant in each and every field because it can grasp the real problem with the help of ethnographic research. Anthropologist has deep understanding about the human diversity because they have broad perspective to know across different societies, cultures, beliefs, practices and each of the issues of past and present world. It opens the vision and ability to see the issues from multiple perspectives. Which easily can diagnose the problem of societies.

Some faculties and pass out students of the Tribhuvan University in group discussion collectively discussed about anthropology “the attraction of anthropology is its holistic perspective which scrutinizes- ‘examines’ the different issues of mankind interconnectivity. It has broad interdisciplinary vision, theories and perspectives. Anthropology trains the students with valuable research expertise, field work, and critical thinking skills. So, it produced the widespread and complete understanding on students, scholars, researchers, and anthropologist. If their importance is recognized and made to work in different field, they can diagnose the real problem of different institutions, societies, cultures. If the invested capital is not misused, the backwardness of the nation will be uplifted. Leaders, policy makers, universities, academic persons, students, parents are not yet able to understand the crux of the discipline because of its new existence and less publicity. If anthropology subject is included in school level curriculum, subject will familiarize to all students as well as most of the parents. The subject is very crucial for learning and skill development. It is useful for the research ethic, respecting values, beliefs, principles, arts, music, literature, society and culture.” “The exchange of faculty members and student of anthropology departments of universities of China and south Asian countries for the promotion of cross- learning in the regimes of ‘teaching and learning’, research, change and development (Uprety, 2016). The cultural exchange programs enrich and broaden the academic quality and vision of faculties and the students. If Anthropologists and their knowledge are well recognized the ground
realities and tested data and information of nation is recognized through the research work. This means, it is the identification of the problem which should be hit, so that decrease the backwardness and underdevelopment of the country as a whole.

The charming quality and attractiveness of the anthropology is to avoid the feeling of superiority upon others’ culture. It avoids the ethnocentric feeling and injects the respecting cultural habits to the student of anthropology and anthropologist. Anthropological knowledge avoids cultural biasness and judging another culture by the standards of one’s own culture. Ethnocentric culture never gives learning environment and wise knowledge. Cultural relativism, principle of respecting all culture provides the vision that each and every culture has equal value. The respecting other’s culture, can perceive the deep understanding knowledge, habit, skills, vision, and abilities to the persons. “According to the tenets of cultural relativism, all cultures are equal and comparable; there are no inferior or superior cultures. It is therefore impossible, Franz Boas said, to order cultures in an evolutionary scheme. A better way to say this would have been to say that whenever we make judgments of good or bad, better or worse, about culture, we necessarily do so on the basis of certain overt or covert premises. Such premises are certainly culture bound and probably ethnocentric” (Bohannan & Glazer, 1988,).

Why to trust to anthropologist?

At Different times, faculties and anthropologists express their views about Anthropology- “Anthropology helps to create the vision, unfolds the hidden voices of marginalized people. It gives importance for the subjectivity, releases the inner miserable, gloomy and challenging as well as happy stories of the community which reflects the real picture of the society and indigenous knowledge with the help of ethnography- ‘long time stay in community with the people’.”

Senior professor Dr. Ram Bahadur Chhettri expressed “Anthropologist has commitment, obligation, and faces different kinds of challenges and difficulties. They see the struggling life in local, remote and isolated community. He/ She can diagnose the real problem of society. Leader, policy maker, planner can hit such identified problem. I am working on the field of forestry since long time. I am connected with ‘Resource Himalaya’, I taught forestry in natural resource management. I have done multiple ethnographic researches in remote and isolated place and community in previous years. Anthropologist can unfold the reality, establish relationship with people. They know the sensitivity of people and work with intense devotion. Longer they stay in the field, better they understand the reality. So, anthropologist compiles the eye witness account, uses five sense organs to capture the social reality. That’s why their study is trusted. Now I am on my senior
age. Up to now I don’t have any experience about invitation by government sectors or parliament committee to discuss about the issues of resources in Nepal. I think there is no real resource-based data with the government about the issues of people related to the resources. For the development of the nation social reality should be preserved by the social scientist- ‘anthropologist’. They used ethnography, which is one of the applied anthropology’s most valuable research components through which anthropologist sees diversity, preserve indigenous knowledge. Through these kinds of data country might justify the marginality and touch the progress of community.”

Another senior professor Laya Prasad Upreaty said “Anthropologists stay long time on the field without any rush; triangulate, verify and cross check the data they have collected. So, the subjective narrative- ‘story telling’ and data collected by the anthropologist is truthful, hopeful and confident to plan. If anthropologist do not find any data that is also good information for them. It means- ‘no information is also evidence for anthropologist’. Therefore, the knowledge bring together by the anthropologist is honest- ‘authentic’. They have abilities, dedication, accountability and seriousness for the preservation of culture and ethos- ‘moral beliefs’. There is police department, law enforcement department for the security of the property of people but there is only anthropologist for the preservation of the culture. So, anthropologist’s accountability- ‘responsibility’ and their sense of duty for the people and nation is lot. They diagnose actual truth, issues and disease of society, culture as well as nation. So that, it can be healed properly.”

Long time stay in field with the community with good rapport is the main basis of real information for a good anthropologist. He/ She can do intense struggle and effort to accumulate the genuine- ‘factual’ evidences.” Stan Burkey always recommends to give importance- ‘meaning’ to the people. It is connected with the anthropological crux- ‘sprit’. “Go to the people, live with them, love them, learn from them, work with them, start with what they have” (Burkey, 2002). Anthropologist believes on this ethics. So, it can create the image and pave the path for solution of social and communities’ as well as world problems. That is why we believe and trust to a genuine- ‘sincere’ anthropologist.

**Conclusion**

Anthropology is visionary, research oriented field science. It passes knowledge, inspiration, encouragement, clarity for the solution of community as well as each problem and issues related to human and humanity throughout the world. Small and constant steps that we take one by one in anthropological journey could grasp the anthropological culture and wisdom for its destination. Anthropology could see, recognize and respect indigenous knowledge and identify the unknown skills, expertise, techniques, way of living and cross-cultural learning. It unites- ‘attaches’ the local and global understanding. True company and longtime friendship with the anthropology influences reflexive,
inspirational and unified scholars, which can tie community and world, human and super human. “To understand the species (human), our science (anthropology) needs substantial input from scholars who represent a variety of the world’s culture” (Tax, 1978). However, numerous obstacles and complexities persist- ‘continue’ within the realm of social science, including anthropology. Yet, when students confront these diverse challenges, they are presented with an opportunity to enhance and cultivate their distinct aptitudes- ‘abilities’, talents, and prospects- ‘visions’, both during their academic journey and subsequent- ‘successive’ professional pursuits. For those who are dedicated, diligent, and unwavering- ‘stable’ in their commitment, anthropology offers promising paths and positions. This is because the entirety of global issues falls within its purview- ‘scope’. As such, individuals who embark upon the path of anthropology can anticipate a future filled with meaningful opportunities and impactful roles. Thus, enrolling in and studying anthropology becomes a prudent- ‘wise and far sighted’ choice.

References


