



6th South Asian Conference on Public Policy and Governance

Resilience and Renewal

“Reenvisioning Governance through Youth Engagement,
Digital Transformation, and Cultural Narratives in South Asia”

ABSTRACT BOOK

Background and Rationale

South Asia is evolving a lot in terms of society, politics, and technology. This region is at a historical crossroads, with changes in government, shifts in the federal system, civic movements led by young people, fighting natural disasters, and technology-enabled governance. The demographic change, technological progress, and cultural heterogeneity present challenges as well as possibilities for resilient and inclusive governance in South Asia. Generation Z networks along with techno-savvy citizens in South Asia have efficiently utilized social media to voice against governments, mobilize amid disasters, enabling relief initiatives, locating missing people, and advocating climate justice. Thus, the digitally native citizens function as initial responders and builders of resilience in the face of ecological crises. The theme “Resilience and Renewal: Reenvisioning Governance through Youth Engagement, Digital Transformation, and Cultural Narratives in South Asia” reflects this generational and institutional transformation, inviting reflection on how South Asian societies are rebuilding trust, reimagining leadership, and renewing governance models in the digital age.

Youth movements are changing the governance landscape of South Asia. The participation and responsibility towards society along with the opinions of the citizens are transforming while trying to find a connection with the government entities ruling the nation. The Gen Z protests in Nepal was fueled by the disparity seen in the lifestyle of the political elites led to internet movements and campaigns. People of all age groups were seen on the streets supporting the protest. The old parliament disbanded, and Sushila Karki was sworn in as Nepal’s first female prime minister. This digital inclusion shows that institutions need to reform¹. Youths in Bangladesh organized “Gen Z revolution” against government repression, unfair civil service job quota system, high youth unemployment, economic troubles after COVID, and prevalent corruption. As a result, their government was toppled². The “Aragalaya” movement in Sri Lanka began with the fall in economy and inability of people to pay their debts. This led to the fall of governments that were already in power. This changed the focus of the younger generation, becoming disconnected from their problems³. Gen Z rallies were also prevalent in India against corruption and the lack of jobs⁴. The trend also shows that such movements are learned and replicated around the world using digital technologies. So, it is a matter of time for all other countries in South Asia to be prepared. Within these movements, South Asia requires integrated disaster governance that incorporates technology, youth engagement, and local knowledge. This is because the area is prone to natural calamities and effective and efficient technology can help people stay safe and rebuild. This requires adaptive learning, digital coordination, and participatory government. People were quite upset with the government response to disaster, but social media got young people interested in developing solutions that were accessible for mitigating crisis. The digital networks for risk reduction developed by the government and citizens help individuals who need it, discover people who are missing, and fight for climate justice. This shows that youths often become first responders and support those who are having trouble with the environment⁵. The digital creators are also leveraging their cultural legacy as a venue to discuss, do things, and come up with new ideas. They are transforming ways of sharing stories, developing art, and accomplishing things as a collective. This has made it imperative for the future government of South Asia to include everyone, respect culture, encourage democracy, and push technology ahead. This also highlights the cruciality of turning

public institutions into systems that can learn and adapt. The 6th South Asian Conference on Public Policy and Governance serves as a forum to discuss the interconnected dynamics of youth agency, governance reform, mitigating disaster and crisis, digital transformation, and cultural narratives, with the aim of collaboratively envisioning strategies for a resilient, inclusive, and future-oriented South Asia through six sub themes.

Keynote Address : Government Functions and Reforms During Transition

The keynote focuses on how government functions evolve during periods of political, social, or institutional transition. It examines how administrative responsibilities such as policy implementation, service delivery, and public accountability are maintained when systems face uncertainty. The discussion highlights the need for reforms that strengthen institutional capacity, ensure transparency, and uphold the rule of law. Attention is given to the restructuring of government institutions to respond effectively to citizens' needs, manage change, and rebuild legitimacy. Leadership and coordination among federal, provincial, and local governments are emphasized as key to maintaining continuity and coherence during transition. The keynote also underscores the importance of resilient institutions and reform-minded leadership committed to restoring trust and building a sustainable foundation for good governance in South Asia.

Panel Discussion I: Youth, Protest, and Public Voice

The panel discussion explores the growing role of youth in shaping public discourse and influencing governance across South Asia. It examines how young people engage with political and social movements, using protest, digital platforms, and civic initiatives to express collective aspirations and hold institutions accountable. The discussion highlights the importance of recognizing youth participation as a legitimate form of democratic engagement rather than mere dissent. Attention is given to how governments and institutions can respond constructively to youth voices, integrating their perspectives into policy processes and governance reforms. The panel also considers the social, cultural, and technological factors that amplify youth mobilization and redefine the boundaries of public space. It highlights that fostering dialogue between state and youth is essential for inclusive governance, social renewal, and long-term political stability in the country.

Panel Discussion 2: Ethical Governance: Public Value, Trust and Commitment

The panel discussion examines the principles and practices of ethical governance in South Asia. It explores how governments and public institutions can build trust, uphold integrity, and deliver public value through transparent decision-making and effective service delivery. The discussion underscores the importance of accountability, openness, and citizen engagement as cornerstones of ethical governance. It highlights how public servants, policymakers, and institutions can reinforce ethical standards and respond more effectively to citizens' expectations. The panel also considers the social, cultural, and institutional factors that shape public trust and influence governance outcomes. It concludes that ethical governance is the foundation for strong institutions, inclusive development, and deeper public trust across South Asia.

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THEME ONE

**Mass Uprisings and
Future of Governance**

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Social Security System in Nepal: Policy and Governance

~ **Dr. Ramesh Kumar KC**, *Public Administration Association of Nepal*

~ **Dr. Dilip Raj Paudel**, *Public Administration Association of Nepal*

Abstract

Over the last two decades, Nepal's social security system has experienced significant policy and institutional changes aimed at strengthening social protection and ensuring income security, particularly for the elderly population. The gradual expansion of both contributory and non-contributory social security programs, together with long-established mechanisms such as public sector pension schemes and provident funds, reflects a broader transition toward a more structured and formal social security framework. Nevertheless, important challenges remain, including concerns about fiscal sustainability, governance performance, administrative efficiency, and the limited inclusion of workers in the informal economy.

This paper analyzes Nepal's social security system from the perspective of public policy and governance. It focuses on institutional design, financing arrangements, coordination among responsible agencies, and accountability mechanisms. The study employs a qualitative research methodology based on the review of policy and legal documents, analysis of secondary data, and insights derived from institutional practices. Key social security mechanisms—such as the Employees Provident Fund, contributory social security programs, and public sector pension schemes—are examined to evaluate their governance arrangements and operational alignment.

The findings indicate continuing governance-related challenges, including overlapping or fragmented institutional responsibilities, inadequate coordination among implementing bodies, limited application of actuarial analysis in policy decisions, and insufficient use of digital technologies in monitoring compliance and delivering services. These structural and administrative limitations weaken public trust and pose risks to the long-term sustainability of the social security system. The paper therefore argues that ensuring sustainability requires more than parametric reforms—such as adjusting contribution rates or benefit levels—and instead calls for comprehensive governance-focused reforms.

The study highlights the importance of improving institutional coordination, strengthening transparency and accountability, promoting evidence-based policymaking, and expanding digital governance systems. Integrating social security reform with broader public administration reform is identified as a key strategy for developing a more resilient, inclusive, and adaptive social security system in Nepal.

Keywords: social security, policy reform, governance, pension system, public administration, Nepal

From Compliance to Responsiveness: Rethinking Internal Control Mechanisms in Nepal's Public Administration

~ *Manju Kumari Jaisi, Public Administration Association of Nepal*

Abstract

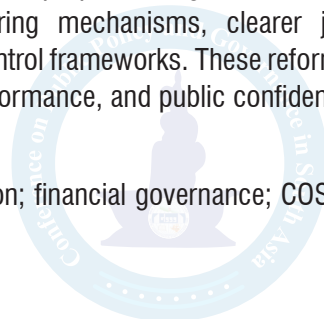
Responsive public administration depends on a robust internal control system that ensures accountability, fiscal integrity, and timely service delivery. In Nepal, however, internal control mechanisms in government organizations remain largely compliance-oriented, often undermining administrative responsiveness through rigid procedures, delayed decision-making, and limited institutional adaptability. This paper critically examines the internal control systems of public organizations and explores how systemic weaknesses affect governance outcomes.

The study analyzes financial irregularities, capital expenditure trends across federal, provincial, and local governments, unsettled advances, and end-of-year payment liabilities. Evidence drawn from annual reports of the Financial Comptroller General Office, Office of the Auditor General, National Planning Commission, and the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority indicates persistent weaknesses in accountability structures, internal audit effectiveness, financial reconciliation, and follow-up of audit observations. These deficiencies contribute to project delays, inefficient resource utilization, and declining public trust.

Methodologically, the study adopts a qualitative and analytical approach, combining policy review, audit report analysis, and benchmarking against COSO and INTOSAI internal control frameworks. The findings reveal a significant gap between formal control provisions and actual administrative practice, compounded by capacity constraints and fragmented accountability within Nepal's federal governance structure.

The paper argues that a transition from compliance-based control to responsive internal control systems is essential for strengthening governance effectiveness. It proposes targeted reforms, including risk-based management practices, real-time monitoring mechanisms, clearer job descriptions, stronger audit enforcement, and outcome-focused control frameworks. These reforms are expected to enhance fiscal responsiveness, administrative performance, and public confidence in Nepal's public sector.

Keywords: internal control system; responsive public administration; financial governance; COSO; INTOSAI



Implementation Challenges of Public Grievance Redress System (GRS): An Exploration

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Abstract

Better Public services for citizens are a global cry in third world countries. Globalization helps us to transfer policy to provide better public services. Public Grievance Redress System (GRS) was introduced in Bangladesh for ensuring better public service in 2015 manually and in 2018 digitally. Citizens can ask for grievance redress especially for not following citizen charter by government officials. To achieve annual higher rank for performance, each ministry tries to provide better service in GRS. As per Cabinet Division, there are three types of grievances. The focus area of the study is only public grievance. Though regulations and instructions are same for all ministries, GRS performance fluctuates from ministry to ministry. As GRS has direct linkage with performance evaluation of ministries, Effectiveness of GRS is an important issue. Online grievance redress system can provide accountability and transparency of the process and ensure fairness of justice. It can bring higher public trust. Citizens do not know the grievance redress officer but still hope fair treatment. In a developing country like Bangladesh, there remains many challenges like technological facilities, institutional capacity, organizational culture- timebound work or begging time, digital divide, and digital literacy. There are some socioeconomic factors too like literacy, financial capacity, age, gender, locality etc. Considering all this, the study is relevant and time worthy. Therefore, this research will find out what affects the GRS effectiveness in different type of ministries. This research will also find out how much citizens have belief in digitized GRS service measuring accountability, transparency, trust, and fairness.

Keywords: public grievance redress system (GRS), implementation challenges, exploration



Performance Variations and Reform Strategies in Bangladesh's Public Sector: An Institutional and Managerial Analysis of the Performance Management System

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Abstract

The Bangladesh public sector has embraced the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) and Government Performance Management System (GPMS) in a bid to improve accountability, transparency and result-based administration. Despite these tools offering a standardized structure that draws on New Public Management (NPM), there has been significant inconsistency and variability in ministers' performance over the last 9 years. Some ministries have always been good, others are habitual poor performers, and some exhibit significant fluctuations. Such variations point to the fact that formal performance tools are not sufficient to describe results; rather, it is the institutional culture, the behaviour of leaders, the capacity of organizations, the incentives, and the routines that make a decisive impact. This paper uses ideas from Institutional Theory, particularly the effects of path dependency and decoupling, to explore the role of Institutional Theory in investigating the internalization and operationalization of APA/GPMS requirements in practice.

The five ministries (selected according to their performance patterns) included in the study include two high-performing (Agriculture and Power Division), one fluctuating (Fisheries and Livestock), and two low-performing ministries (Health Education and Family Welfare Division and Primary and Mass Education) with a qualitative-dominant mixed-methods design. The data will be gathered through a review of documents, semi-structured interviews with 30 officials, and an analysis of trends in 9 years of performance rankings. There are six determinants evaluated through the analytical framework, which are: the strength of implementation of the APA/GPMS, organizational capacity, commitment of the leaders, institutional culture, use of information, and monitoring and incentives.

The purpose of this study is to determine the reasons for variation in ministry performance despite the use of the same system, to examine annual fluctuations in ministry rankings, and to develop a strategy for reforming performance management to increase consistency in performance. Combining NPM with Institutional Theory, the study will gain deeper insight into the structural and behavioural determinants of performance, and will offer evidence-based suggestions to support performance improvement in Bangladesh through enhanced public sector reforms.

Keywords: public sector performance, annual performance agreement (APA), government performance management system (GPMS), institutional theory, new public management (NPM), organizational capacity, leadership commitment, institutional culture, performance variability, public sector reform, Bangladesh governance

Regional Cooperation Under Pressure: Mass Uprisings and Governance Challenges in South Asia

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Abstract

The year 2025 was rife with what were commonly dubbed “Gen-Z Uprisings” globally. Whether it be in Morocco in Africa or Indonesia in South East Asia, these mass uprising movements spread wide and far. South Asia presents a particularly compelling case, as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal all held uprisings that were able to topple their governments to a certain extent. Although the specific causes of these uprisings varied across contexts and have their own nuances, one common factor between them is the elite capture that the masses were frustrated with. These movements are driven largely by digital communication and widespread opposition to perceived corruption and authoritarian practices, reflecting deep structural grievances and dissatisfaction with domestic governance. Some attempts have been made by national and international researchers to uncover the facts about it, but the pressure on regional cooperation has not been studied by researchers and academicians. Thus, this study attempts to explore how mass uprisings in South Asia have placed pressure on regional cooperation, creating governance challenges. Within the framework of a qualitative research approach, this study employed in-depth interviews with key people who worked in SAARC. The findings of this indicate that these uprisings reveal the fragility of national institutions in responding to crises that transcend borders. While regional cooperation mechanisms such as SAARC are intended to facilitate collective responses to shared challenges, their capacity to address the pressures unleashed by mass mobilizations remains limited. Examining these barriers highlights how regional frameworks often fall short in mitigating crises.

Keywords: regional corporation, uprising, south asia, elite capture, governance



THEME TWO

**Responsive Public
Administration**

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Does Perception Matter? Exploring How Intersectional Employee Perceptions of the Reservation System Influence Inclusivity in Nepal's Civil Service

~ Baburam Bhul, PhD, Office of the Auditor General, Nepal

Abstract

Over the past 18 years, Nepal's civil service has been implementing the reservation policies, but it remains unknown how the different intersectional employee perceptions influence relevant inclusivity, which is more than just demographic representation. This study examines how the civil servants' perceptions towards the reservation system, shaped by their gender and ethnic identities, affect the perceived inclusivity at the individual and organizational level. Using a cross-sectional explanatory survey design, primary data were obtained through a structured questionnaire from 130 civil servants (95 men and 35 women) through cluster sampling. A four-point Likert scale was used to measure the responses, which were then analyzed using descriptive statistics and inferential tests. The results showed a very strong consensus that the reservation system has made positive changes in the areas of the representation and participation of women and the disadvantaged groups in the civil service of Nepal. The gender differences in the opinions of representativeness were statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 9.732$, $p = .021$), whereas participation was positively linked with both individual and organizational ($p < .01$). Most importantly, the narrative that the reservation system negatively affects employee performance was rejected, but organizational practices and male-oriented work environments still limited the experience of true inclusion. This study recommends that, although the reservation system has merely numerical participation, different employee perceptions reveal the continuing barriers to effective relationships and organizational functioning. Redressing these perceptions and organizational gaps is essential for transforming policy-based inclusion into emotional inclusion, along with equitably and sustainably developing resilient workplaces.

Keywords: intersectionality, public sector diversity policy, and workplace inclusion perception



How Effective Is the Nepal Electricity Authority's Online Performance Appraisal System? Insights From a Qualitative Study

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Abstract

Employee's performance appraisal is one of the most important component of human resource management. Human resource management activities have been rapidly shifted towards digital system after Covid-19 pandemic and with the provision based on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) which focus in innovation as: SDG 9(Industry, innovation and infrastructure) SDG 16 (Strong Institution). Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) introduced Online Performance Appraisal System (OPAS) for the first time in history of Nepal's public sector in July, 2025. Primary objective of this study was to explore the effectiveness of newly implemented online performance appraisal system in NEA. This study has adopted qualitative research method and an in-depth interview was taken with seven key informants of NEA. Result from this research showed that online employee performance appraisal system implemented by NEA is highly effective albeit with minor limitations. Findings from this research also provide valuable insights for Nepalese civil service, other public institutions in Nepal as well as similar developing countries like Nepal that aim to implement online employee performance appraisal system.

Keywords: performance appraisal, NEA, qualitative method, HRM



ADR for VAT Dispute Resolution in Bangladesh: A Critical Assessment

~ *Dipa Rani Halder, North South University (NSU), Bangladesh*

Abstract

Currently, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) processes are widely used worldwide as effective tools for resolving disputes of all types, including family, commercial, tax, labor, patent, international, and criminal disputes. Although ADR is informal, many countries have already embedded it in their legal frameworks. Most notably, ADR is being efficiently utilized within tax legal frameworks to resolve tax disputes in various countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Malaysia, and Kenya. Empirical studies have found that effective ADR interventions in tax disputes have a positive impact on revenue collection and on reducing conflicts. Following a global trend toward effective ADR, the government of Bangladesh introduced ADR provisions in the Value Added Tax Act, 1991, in FY 2011-2012, and implemented them in 2012. Although ADR has been in practice in Bangladesh's VAT sector for 13 years, there is a notable lack of studies on its performance in resolving VAT disputes. The proposed study, therefore, aims to address the knowledge gap regarding ADR for VAT disputes in Bangladesh. This qualitative study will critically assess how ADR performs in resolving VAT disputes in a timely and affordable manner, and in meeting stakeholders' expectations, in Bangladesh, and explore the challenges hindering its practical implementation in this context. In-depth interviews with ADR disputants, facilitators, VAT officials, and the NBR policymakers will explore stakeholders' experiences and legal, procedural, institutional, and other factors influencing ADR's effectiveness in VAT dispute resolution in Bangladesh. The study's findings will help formulate new policies and take efficient measures to resolve VAT disputes outside conventional judicial courts, thereby enhancing stakeholders' satisfaction

Keywords: alternative dispute resolution (ADR), value added tax (VAT) dispute, dispute resolution, and justice



Assessing the Effectiveness of the Farm Broadcast Unit (FBU) of Bangladesh Betar (Radio)

~ *Nusrat Harun, North South University (NSU), Bangladesh*

Abstract

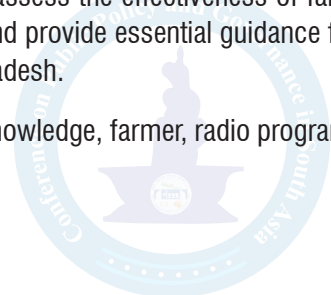
This study investigates “Assessing the effectiveness of the Farm Broadcast Unit (FBU) of Bangladesh Betar (Radio)” in the modern media landscape. The FBU, as a state-owned specialized unit, plays a crucial role in disseminating agricultural information, advocating for policy changes, and promoting development communication.

Despite the importance of this medium for rural populations, the FBU faces challenges from the rapid expansion of social media and other credible sources of agricultural information. Furthermore, literature reviews indicate that a large majority of farmers (94%) exhibit only a low to medium preference for current agricultural radio programs, suggesting that these programs may not be specific, compatible, or field-oriented enough to address their needs.

The overarching aim of this research is to assess the effectiveness of the FBU in enhancing farmers’ agricultural knowledge and building awareness. The specific objectives are to explore ways to enhance FBU effectiveness and to identify the factors and challenges associated with farmers’ listening attitudes and the application of knowledge obtained from FBU programs.

The study is theoretically framed by the “Diffusion of Innovation” Theory from E. M. Rogers, analysing how innovative concepts (such as new farming techniques and government agricultural policies) are communicated through channels (such as radio) over time within the social system (farmers and rural communities). A mixed-methods approach has been employed, utilizing primary data collected through a questionnaire survey and case studies. Quantitative data were collected from selected sub-districts in the Rajshahi District of Bangladesh, and analysed using SPSS 25. Qualitative data were collected from agricultural resource persons, higher-level FBU officers, and media personnel. The analysis uses a conceptual framework model that links socio-demographic factors, content quality of FBU, and instant accessibility to the dependent variable: the farmer’s adoption of agricultural knowledge. This research is expected to assess the effectiveness of farm broadcasting via FBU and may contribute to existing knowledge and provide essential guidance for policy-making, particularly in light of public broadcasting in Bangladesh.

Keywords: effectiveness, FBU (farm broadcast unit), agricultural knowledge, farmer, radio program, diffusion of innovation, adoption



Voluntary Turnover Decision from Nepali Civil Service: Unravelling the Experiences of Joint Secretaries

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Abstract

This study is an endeavor to explore the reasons behind the voluntary turnover decisions of Joint Secretaries while still having their service tenures remaining in the Nepali civil service. Informed by an interpretivist research paradigm, this study adopted a case study method as a strategy of inquiry in which purposively selected 7 ex- Joint Secretaries were approached to explore their lived experiences regarding their decisions to leave the civil service before reaching their mandatory retirement age and service tenure. Semi-structured interviews were conducted to capture the personal and professional factors influencing their turnover decisions and the insights were analyzed using Descriptive Phenomenological Analysis (DPA) method. The study revealed that personal issues, such as health concerns and family responsibilities, combined with systemic challenges, like political interference in transfer decisions, career stagnation, and a lack of upward mobility was the determining factor for turnover decisions of Joint Secretaries. This study underscores the importance of addressing these issues within the Nepali civil service to retain experienced human resources for enhancing overall effectiveness of Nepali public administration. Key recommendations include promoting merit-based career progression, reducing political interference, and improving the work environment to ensure the retention of experienced personnel within the Nepali civil service.

Keywords: joint secretaries, Nepali civil service, voluntary turnover



Beyond Glass Ceiling Challenges and Realities of Nepali Female Bureaucrats Through a Feminist Institutionalism Lens

~ *Radha Wagle, Female Foresters Networks, Nepal*

Abstract

This study examines persistent gendered dynamics within Nepal's Civil Service bureaucracy by analysing how formal rules, informal norms, and institutional cultures intersect to shape women's career experiences. Despite gradual progress in women's representation across public institutions, Nepali female bureaucrats continue to encounter structural and relational barriers that extend far beyond the symbolic "glass ceiling." Drawing on the theoretical foundations of Feminist Institutionalism (FI), this study explores how gender is embedded within institutional arrangements and how these arrangements reproduce power hierarchies that constrain women's participation, leadership, and influence.

Using FI's core concepts—gendered rules, informal institutions, path dependency, and institutional layering—this research investigates the everyday realities of women navigating bureaucratic spaces. The study highlights how formal policies promoting gender equality often coexist with deeply entrenched informal norms, including patriarchal networks, discretionary decision-making, and gendered expectations regarding behaviour, mobility, and authority. These informal institutions frequently override or distort formal commitments to inclusion, creating subtle but enduring obstacles for women seeking meaningful advancement.

Through qualitative insights from the lived experiences of Nepali female bureaucrats, the analysis reveals recurring patterns of role stereotyping, limited access to influential networks, disproportionate administrative burdens, and expectations of emotional labour. At the same time, the study identifies the strategies women employ to negotiate, resist, and reshape institutional constraints—from leveraging policy mandates to building solidarity networks and strategically engaging with male-dominated decision-making structures.

By situating these findings within a Feminist Institutionalism framework, the research demonstrates that achieving gender-transformative change requires more than increasing women's numerical representation. It demands confronting the informal institutional logics that sustain inequality and developing reforms that meaningfully alter how power is organised, exercised, and legitimised within Nepal's bureaucracy. This study contributes to a deeper understanding of gendered institutional processes and offers pathways for creating more equitable and responsive public institutions.

Keywords: bureaucrats, feminist institutionalism (FI)

Assessing the Healthcare Quality: Public Service Delivery at Civil Service Hospital

~ **Sabik Neupane**, Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC)
~ **Roshani Bhujel**, Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC)

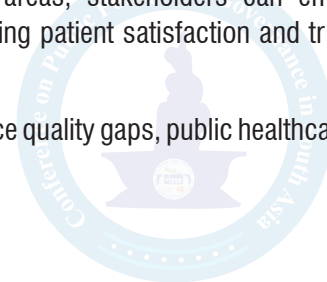
Abstract

Hospitals exhibit considerable variation in their specialties, services, and resource capacities, with their performance frequently assessed through scales reflecting patient perspectives. This diversity highlights the need for a standardized instrument to assess service quality across public hospitals, regardless of their ownership or operational nature. To address this imperative, the study adapted the SERVQUAL framework to develop a bespoke service quality measurement scale, drawing upon the experiences of inpatients and outpatients at Civil Service Hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal. Through a rigorous process involving structural equation modeling and confirmatory factor analysis, the scale was meticulously constructed and validated.

The findings revealed that all five SERVQUAL dimensions (Assurance, Tangibles, Reliability, Responsiveness, and Empathy) hold substantial relevance in this context, yet notable deficiencies mark each. Empathy emerged as the most pronounced shortfall, with a gap of -2.85, indicating a significant lack of personalized care. Tangibles followed at -2.75, suggesting deficiencies in physical infrastructure and equipment. Assurance and Reliability, with gaps of -2.47 and -2.46, respectively, pointed to challenges in fostering trust and consistency, while Responsiveness, at -2.28, highlighted delays in service delivery. Further examination through multiple linear regression illuminated a pervasive baseline dissatisfaction across all dimensions, with constants ranging from -1.640 to -2.381 ($p < 0.001$). Notably, male patients perceived Reliability as significantly weaker (-0.575, $p = 0.022$) compared to their female counterparts, whereas educational attainment exerted no discernible influence on perceptions.

These statistically significant disparities ($p \leq 0.05$) serve as a loud and clear call for hospital administrators, healthcare authorities, and policymakers. They must direct concerted efforts toward enhancing empathetic engagement, upgrading tangible assets, and bolstering the reliability and responsiveness of services. By addressing these critical areas, stakeholders can effect transformative improvements in service delivery, ultimately elevating patient satisfaction and trust within the healthcare system.

Keywords: SERVQUAL model, CFA, MLR, patient perceptions, service quality gaps, public healthcare, resource limitations, patient expectation, staff training



Administrative Responsiveness under Fiscal Federalism: Institutional and Economic Evidence from Nepal's Local Government

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Abstract

The transition to a federal system of government in Nepal was informed by the assumption that decentralization would improve the responsiveness of the administration by increasing its accountability and the match between government spending and local preferences. However, this issue remains unexamined academically. This paper explores the role of fiscal federalism in improving administrative responsiveness at the local government level. This study is guided by public choice theory and administrative economics. This paper largely attempts to conceptualize responsiveness as a product of incentives generated by revenue autonomy and intergovernmental fiscal transfers, with an active comparison to local administrative capacity. Through institutional analysis and the use of secondary data from selected local governments, this study reveals patterns in budget allocations and transfer dependencies that could be linked to the concept of responsiveness. The findings of this study inform that the limitations in the fiscal arrangements that are identified include the lack of own-source revenues, the rigidity in the application of the grants transfer system, and the variability in the capacity of the administration. This study further explains that the responsiveness in the administration in Nepal's federal system is limited and largely depends on the design of the fiscal instruments and coordination mechanisms rather than decentralization. To build a responsive public administration in Nepal's federal system, the fiscal incentives need to be recalibrated. This study opens the ongoing debate on adaptive governance, focusing on the responsiveness in the federal system as an institutional and economic outcome.

Keywords: administrative responsiveness, evidence, fiscal federalism, local government, avenue



The Cross-Sectional Study on the Effect of Self-Awareness on the Job Performance of Employees of Government of Nepal

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Abstract

The public service leadership model classifies self-awareness as an anchor that enables a leader to perform at the highest level in service to the public's trust and commitment to public goods because public servants are key players in the system of delivering public service. In this context, the present study aims to examine the effect of self-awareness on the job performance of public servants. For analytical clarity, self-awareness is measured through the construct of self-consciousness scale, capturing both private and public dimensions of individual awareness. An online questionnaire was administered to 384 public servants, utilizing standardized instruments including the self-consciousness scale and a self-assessment measure of job performance. The findings reveal a statistically significant and positive relationship between self-awareness and job performance. However, the magnitude of this effect is found to be moderate, suggesting that while self-awareness contributes meaningfully to performance outcomes, it operates alongside other influencing factors. These findings underscore the importance of fostering self-awareness among public servants, particularly those in managerial roles who are frequently engaged in complex decision-making processes. Enhanced self-awareness not only improves individual performance but also promotes reflective practices, interpersonal sensitivity, and ethical responsiveness. Consequently, investing in the development of self-awareness can strengthen leadership effectiveness and contribute to more responsive and accountable public service delivery.

Keywords: self awareness, job performance, self-consciousness, public service



Training and Gender Sensitivity in Local Governance: Evidence from Elected Representatives in Nepal

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~ **Deepesh Acharya**

Abstract

One aspect of limited inclusive development in low-income settings is the limited awareness among local actors of gender equality policies and their practical implications. The Government of Nepal provides various gender-related training, such as Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), to the locally elected representatives and officials to ensure they prioritize gender issues in local governance. This study empirically examines whether GESI training influences local actors' capacity to effectively mainstream gender-related issues in local government meetings. The study uses data from the 2022 survey conducted by the Nepal Administration Staff College (NASC). A total of 1081 elected representatives across the Madhesh, Bagmati, and Sudurpaschim provinces were interviewed. This study employs propensity score matching to estimate the causal impact of the training on the intended outcomes. Using various matching algorithms, the findings reveal that local actors who receive GESI training are 10.7 to 15.6 percentage points more likely to raise GESI-related issues and about 6 percentage points more likely to prioritize gender-responsive budgeting in local government meetings. This indicates that gender-related training enhances personal agency by increasing gender consciousness among local actors, thereby challenging entrenched biases and promoting inclusive and equitable development outcomes. The findings also show that the likelihood of raising and prioritizing gender-related concerns varies with the position these actors hold in the local government and their demographic characteristics.

Keywords: gender equality and social inclusion, gender responsive budgeting, training, propensity score matching



An Assessment of Procurement Governance in Bangladesh Railway: A Case of Selected Five Development Projects

~ **Md. Golam Mostofa**, North South University (NSU), Bangladesh

Abstract

Transportation is a crucial infrastructure sector that serves as a catalyst for a country's economic growth and development. Bangladesh Railway (BR) has undertaken significant development projects to enhance regional trade, economic growth and connectivity. Anyone working on development projects seems to understand the connection between public procurement and the governance agenda. Procurement is the process of turning the project's agreed-upon concept into comprehensive specifications, which results in the hiring and execution of the goods, works and services. Procurement is widely seen as the weak point of public sector management in both developed and developing nations, provoked by fraud and corruption. Procurement for infrastructure in impoverished countries like Bangladesh generally suffers from insufficient governance resulting in cost overruns, delays, corruption risk and unsatisfactory outcomes. Although procurement issues in Bangladesh are widely recognized, there isn't much systematic, project-level research that focuses on the railway industry in particular. This study fills that gap by examining governance systems and their practical efficacy across different railway development projects.

Keywords: procurement governance, corruption, transparency, accountability, efficiency



Health Financing in Municipalities City In Nepal: A Study of Kathmandu, Lalitpur & Biratnagar Metropolitan City

~ **Sabik Neupane**, Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC)

~ **Pritha Paudyal**, Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC)

Abstract

Adequate budget provisions are crucial for achieving health financing goals, but their implementation is even more critical. This study analyzes the health budget execution practices and explores reasons behind the gap between allocation and expenditure in three metropolitan cities of Nepal: Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Biratnagar. Using mixed-methods approach, the research examines health budget allocation and expenditure scenarios for two fiscal years and unrevealed challenges in budget implementation. Findings reveal complex challenges in delivering basic health services, including balancing preventive and curative care, managing varied financial resources, interdepartmental coordination, and issues with grant utilization and long-term planning. To ensure the constitutional right to healthcare and improve service delivery, the study recommends enhanced coordination among government tiers and addressing capacity limitations in human resources, technology, and knowledge management. These improvements are essential for more effective, equitable, and sustainable urban health services in Nepal.

Keywords: financing, budget, expenditure, health expenditure, allocation



Impact of Corporate Governance in General Industry in Nepal

~ **Tek Raj Paudel**, Public Administration Campus, TU

Abstract

This study examines the role of corporate governance practices in influencing the performance of Nepal's general insurance industry through an exhaustive analysis of four major insurance companies: NECO Insurance, Sagarmatha Insurance, Rastriya Beema Company, and Shikhar Insurance. This study uses a mixed approach to research, which includes quantitative analysis of feedback from 233 practitioners in the insurance industry, as well as perspectives gathered from seven senior executives and insurance experts through personal interviews. This study uses statistical tools such as mean, standard deviation, coefficient of variation, correlation, and regression to analyze the performance of corporate governance in three major areas: board supervision, board accountability, disclosure and transparency, and regulatory adherence.

The findings of this study indicate a strong positive relationship between corporate governance practices and insurance industry performance ($R^2 = 0.985$; $p < 0.001$). Board supervision and accountability show a strong positive relationship ($\beta = 0.617$), while regulatory adherence is found to be the most dominant factor influencing corporate governance performance ($\beta = 1.023$). However, disclosure and transparency mechanisms were found to have a negative relationship ($\beta = -0.179$). NECO Insurance Company stands out as a leader in effective corporate governance practices, which show a clear relationship to financial stability. Some of the challenges identified in corporate governance practices in Nepal's insurance industry include excessive board participation in operations (72.1%), lack of effective non-executive directors (73.4%), and difficulties in recruiting directors (70.4%). While the insurance authority has developed effective mechanisms to ensure compliance (correlation = 0.990), consistency in enforcement is a problem.

Overall, this study concludes that effective corporate governance practices in insurance companies ensure operational resilience, and it makes several recommendations for effective corporate governance practices in Nepal's insurance industry.

Keywords: corporate governance, board oversight, accountability, transparency, regulatory compliance, general insurance industry, Nepal insurance authority



THEME THREE

**Innovation & AI for Digital
Governance**

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Enhancing Training Transfer with Generative AI: A Quasi-Experimental Approach

~ *Anup Bhurtel, Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC)*

Abstract

This study investigates the effect of post-training intervention utilizing generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) on learning and training transfer among public sector employees in Nepal. The primary purposes were to assess learning differences between pre- and post-training phases and to determine if AI-assisted post-training intervention increases training transfer compared to traditional methods. This study employed a quasi-experimental design in which two groups (Control $n=21$, Experimental $n=20$) from a training program named Advanced Course on Management and Development program (ACMD) participated. Data on knowledge acquisition were collected using multiple-choice tests at pre-training phase (T1) and post-training phase (T2), while training transfer was measured after four month's post-training phase (T3) through individual inquires made to both participants and their subordinates independently at different time interval. The experimental group received a post-training intervention involving structured prompts for generative AI tools. Key findings indicate that participants made higher learning in the post-training phase, and incorporating post-training interventions, particularly with distributed practice and goal setting, significantly enhances training transfer, and that generative AI serves as an effective tool in facilitating this process.

Keywords: training transfer, post-training intervention, generative AI, quasi-experiment



Public Policy Challenges of Integrating Innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Digital Governance in Nepal

- ~ **Belisha Raut**, Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM)
- ~ **Sadiya Awale**, Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM)
- ~ **Sushil Nepali**, Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM)
- ~ **Ujwala Maharhjan**, Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM)

Abstract

The rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is restructuring global public governance systems. In recent years, digital initiatives have expanded in Nepal, but policies have not kept pace with rapid technological changes. Due to regulatory frameworks, weak institutions, and ongoing digital inequalities creates critical public policy concerns regarding the effective and equitable implication of AI into governance processes, which is a concern for academic research. This study attempted to explore the public challenges interconnected with AI and innovation in Nepal's digital governance, highlighting whether the institutions are equipped and the policies and laws are sufficient within the ethical principles. This study is undertaken based on an analysis of policy documents, digital governance practices, and interviews with policymakers, civil servants, and technical experts, employing both qualitative and quantitative data sources. The findings of this study indicate the significant gaps in policy consistency and its implementation capacity, with a highlight on the fragmented regulatory system, lack of straightforward data protection, the poor coordination system among agencies, and the lack of sufficient technical expertise. The study also echoes infrastructure disparities and the digital divide. This study generates new evidence for the implications of new innovations and AI to digital governance system. It aspires to be adaptive context-sensitive public policies supported by institutional learning and stakeholders' involvement. It is essential to build up regulatory frameworks and improve human and technical capacity, which helps to make sure that the digital changes in Nepal are clear, responsible, and focused on the needs of people.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, digital, governance, policy challenges, innovation, regulatory frameworks, Nepal



Reforming Nepal's Social Security Protection Architecture through Digital Transformation: Institutional Coordination, Governance Innovation, and Inclusive Digital Public Infrastructure

~ *Dr. Sugam Jung K. C., Tribhuvan University (TU)*

~ *Radha Kandel, Employees' Provident Fund*

Abstract

Nepal's social security system is a lifeline for vulnerable populations, including the elderly, women, children, and persons with disabilities. Despite significant growth over the past two decades, the system faces challenges such as fragmented programs, overlapping responsibilities among ministries, and inefficient manual processes that limit transparency and create opportunities for misuse. Digital transformation provides a pathway to modernize social protection by integrating civil registration, electronic payment systems, and centralized social registries. This study explores how Nepal is leveraging digital tools to enhance efficiency, promote transparency, and ensure corruption-free delivery of social security services. Findings indicate that digitization streamlines administration, reduces errors and leakages, expands coverage, and enables rapid crisis response. Yet, challenges such as limited digital literacy, infrastructure gaps, and data governance remain. The study highlights the need for coordinated efforts across federal, provincial, and local levels, along with policies supporting interoperable digital systems, rights-based approaches, rural connectivity, and capacity building. By adopting inclusive and accountable digital strategies, Nepal can build a corruption-free, transparent, and equitable social security system that safeguards citizens' rights and advances the country's vision of a welfare-oriented society.

Keywords: social security, digital transformation, transparency, corruption-free governance, integrated social registry, electronic benefit transfer, Nepal



From Physical Presence to Digital Care: Ageing in Migrant Societies

~ *K.D. Dushmanthi Silva, University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka*

Abstract

Population ageing, increasing labour migration, and rapid digitalization are transforming the traditional family-based elder care system in Sri Lanka. As adult children migrate internally and internationally for employment, many ageing parents, particularly within middle-income households, experience growing physical and social isolation. At the same time, socioeconomic differences shape distinct patterns of care. While affluent families often secure institutional or semi-independent living arrangements for ageing parents, such as private elderly care homes or individual urban apartments, digital technologies are widely employed to maintain transnational and geographically dispersed family connections. Using a narrative approach, this research analyzes the lived experiences of elderly parents left behind in Sri Lanka to understand how they perceive, engage with, and are impacted by these virtual interactions. Smartphones, video calls, voice messaging, social media platforms, satellite television, and CCTV-based monitoring systems have become central tools through which adult children remain involved in their parents' daily lives. These arrangements are particularly prevalent among educated middle-class households, where digital literacy facilitates sustained virtual interaction. However, the study argues that such technologically mediated care constructs an "artificial surface" of emotional security. While digital connectivity can reduce loneliness and provide reassurance, it may also mask deeper forms of social and relational disconnection produced by physical absence. By situating ageing within processes of migration, class differentiation, and technological adoption, this research highlights how digitalization is reshaping intergenerational care, transforming both the experience of ageing and the meaning of familial support in contemporary Sri Lankan society.

Keywords: ageing, digitalization, migration, social isolation, virtual caregiving



Innovation and Artificial Intelligence for Digital Governance

~ *Mohammad Monoar Hossain, North South University (NSU), Bangladesh*

Abstract

Food and Shelter are the fundamental needs for a person. Land is a crucial component in meeting a person's lifetime needs. A piece of land is needed even after death for funeral purposes. Therefore, owning land is a dream for every human being. Landowners used to face numerous difficulties in the past regarding land-related services. E-services are introduced to reduce the suffering of landowners. The Digital Land Management System (DLMS), an initiative of the Ministry of Land, Government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with its subordinate field administration, uses digital technology to manage land records, aiming to enhance accuracy, reduce disputes, and increase land revenue. It is a digital land management system designed to modernize land administration, ensure transparency, and mitigate land-related disputes. The government's initiative includes developing a digital land database, introducing an online land registration system, and implementing an e-mutation process. E-services in land management involve using digital technologies to streamline land-related processes, enhancing transparency, accuracy, efficiency, and accessibility. These services typically include online portals for applications, payments, and information access, as well as systems for digital land records and dispute resolution in the management part. Customers are identified by their National Identity Card Number, and Registration is done in the portal to access the services offered by the Digital Land Management System.

The above digitalization measures have improved service delivery quality; however, this needs to be further examined. This study aims to determine whether these initiatives are functionally effective for citizens. Our study will focus on two Upazilla (Sub-district) land offices in Bangladesh as the unit of study.

Key words: *e-mutation, e-services, digitalization*



Effect of Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy on Women Entrepreneurial Survivability in Nepal: Moderating Role of Information Communication Technology

~ *Radha Devi Ghimire, Central Department of Public Administration (CDPA)*

Abstract

Information Communication and Technology (ICT) enabled entrepreneurship to sustain, expand, and develop business firms and support women entrepreneurs in minimizing challenges related to mobility, work-life balance, social, and cultural barriers. Nevertheless, survivability in entrepreneurship is still a major issue, and there are limited studies exploring women's entrepreneurial survivability in Nepal. This paper examines the moderating role of ICT in the effect of entrepreneurial self-efficacy (ESE) on women's entrepreneurial survivability in Nepal. The study applied a survey method of data collection with a purposively selected sample of 384 women entrepreneurs with registered businesses and at least two years of experience from across Nepal. Only registered entrepreneurs get formal support from government and non-government organizations. Entrepreneurs with business experience can better integrate ICT than inexperienced ones. The data were analyzed using structural equation modeling with AMOS in SPSS. The result revealed that a lower level of ICT use has a greater and statistically significant effect of ESE on entrepreneurial survivability. However, a higher or a moderate level of ICT use in business has a smaller and non-significant effect of ESE on survivability. This study shows how entrepreneurs in Nepal can integrate ICT into their business ventures and how policymakers can design ICT-related support for women entrepreneurs in Nepal.

Keywords: information communication and technology, entrepreneurial self-efficacy, survivability, moderating role, structural equation modeling



Replace with Digital Leadership in Practice: How Online Trainers Navigate Hierarchy to Lead in Government Training Institutes

~ *Shital Moktan Tamang, Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC)*

Abstract

Nepal's government training institutions transitioned to online training due to pandemic caused by Covid-19. This research explored digital leadership at all levels of the hierarchy, aiming to determine transformational leadership. The study conducted narrative study to gather experiences through in-depth interview from five respondents representing different levels in the hierarchy from two different organizations. The findings revealed that Nepali government training institutions' trainers display digital leadership traits, adapting to new technological learning environments. However, there are differences in enthusiasm and engagement with online training, suggesting consistent use of online tools. Strong digital governance is needed for long-term consistency and ethical application of online tools. Online trainers' showcased digital leadership attributes which can be viewed through the lens of transformational leadership theory. The online trainers exhibited digital leadership attributes such as: visionary leadership, digital competence, technology usage, systemic improvement, digital culture, collaboration and shared values, digital advocacy, leadership engagement, digital citizenship, future readiness, adaptability, flexibility, and innovation, thereby establishing themselves as digital leaders.

Keywords: digital leadership, online training, transformational leadership theory



THEME FOUR

**Culture, Identity, and
Social Transformation**

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Cultural Dimension of Policy-Making in Nepal: Reimagining an Overlooked Domain in a Transforming World

~ **Aatisha Malla**, Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM)

~ **Durga B.K.**, Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM)

~ **Indra Pun**, Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM)

~ **Lal Bahadur Pun, PhD**, Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM)

~ **Prashamshya Karmacharya**, Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM)

Abstract

In Nepal, the policy-making process has largely been guided by political, economic, and administrative disciplines. Culturally, Nepal is a multi-ethnic society, encompassing diverse value systems, beliefs, social norms, identities, and historical anecdotes. Thus, culture remains an ingredient in shaping the policy issues, policy design processes, and implementation practices. However, the cultural dimension remains relatively unexplored. The objective of this study is to reimagine the position of culture in the policy-making processes in Nepal, which signifies policy formulation and implementation outcomes in a transforming global context. The stocking work is the prime work in which existing policies are reviewed to find the gap. Likewise, some key people are interviewed within the principles of the qualitative research paradigm. The findings echo that in the situation of a rapidly transforming global and national social context, federal restructuring, globalization, and technological change, the policy landscape of Nepal is highly influenced by cultural dynamics. In such a context, this study reimagines culture as an instrument that helps to unfold power relations, people's participation, and state-society interactions in the policy world. This study uncovers how cultural diversities, indigenous or local knowledge, social practices, ritual performances, and informal practices intersect with the policy frameworks. Highlighting the cultural dimension of policy-making avenues, this study argues the limitations of technocratic and one-size-fits-all policy models. In conclusion, it advocates culturally informed and context-sensitive policy frameworks in Nepal's changing world.

Keywords: culture, policy-making, changing world, reimagine, overlook



Politics in Symbolization of Dharahara as National Monument: Built Environment as Symbol of Collective Identity

~ **Saurav Koirala**, Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC)

Abstract

The Dharahara Tower, a historic and cultural symbol of Nepal, constructed in 1832 by the first Prime Minister of Nepal, Bhimsen Thapa, has been a monumental landmark in Kathmandu, embodying the legacy of Nepal's architectural and cultural grandeur becoming identity of the nation. However, following its destruction in the 2015 earthquake, its symbolic meaning has undergone a profound transformation. This research explores the politics surrounding the symbolization of Dharahara as a national monument and how the discourse of heritage, memory, and nationalism is constructed, negotiated, and contested in its reconstruction. Central to this discussion is the question of how the state and various stakeholders—such as cultural institutions, architects, urban planners, and the public participate in shaping the narratives of national identity through the re-symbolization of the tower. This research has used purely the qualitative research method that is subjective in nature to assess the role of Dharahara as a symbol and collect the data required for analysis. During the study, to support the discussion mentioned above, historical as well as contemporary, data has been collected from published articles, books, news and reports till now. The required data have been collected by collecting the content, such as non-sociological case studies, literature, narratives from history, architectural works, catalogs, and key documents of Nepali history (mentioning Dharahara). One of the key findings is how Dharahara's symbolic value has been shaped by various political regimes, from its original construction under Prime Minister Bhimsen Thapa to its reconstruction in post-earthquake Nepal. Each political context has contributed layers of meaning, influencing how Dharahara is perceived by the public. This process has demonstrated how national monuments like Dharahara are never politically neutral; instead, they are constructed, reconstructed, and redefined to reflect shifting political agendas, social ideals, and cultural identity.

Keywords: symbolic politics, built environment, national monument, collective identity, dharahara tower



Displaced Toponyms, Disrupted Identities: Ethnography of Magar Place Names of Siddhartha Highway Sector Between Butwal–Palpa Corridor

~ *Dhan Bahadur Reshmi, School of Education, KU*

Abstract

Toponyms are not merely geographical markers; they are repositories of collective memory, cultural identity, and political contestation. This ethnographic study interrogates the displacement of Magar place names along the Siddhartha Highway, Butwal–Palpa corridor, foregrounding how linguistic erasures and renaming disrupt indigenous epistemologies and reconfigure socio-spatial belonging. Drawing on decolonial theory and translanguaging frameworks, the research situates toponymic shifts within broader structures of governance, modernization, and infrastructural expansion. Through participant observation, oral histories, and archival mapping, the study reveals how Magar communities negotiate the tension between imposed nomenclature and ancestral naming practices. The analysis demonstrates that displaced toponyms function as sites of epistemic injustice, where the symbolic violence of renaming undermines intergenerational continuity and diminishes the visibility of indigenous knowledge systems. At the same time, community-led acts of linguistic reclamation, such as ritualized storytelling and bilingual signage, emerge as counter-hegemonic strategies that reassert identity and resist homogenization. Theoretically, the paper advances the notion of “toponymic disruption” as a lens to examine the entanglement of language, power, and place in postcolonial contexts. Methodologically, it underscores the value of ethnography in capturing the affective and relational dimensions of naming practices. By situating Magar place names within the contested terrain of Nepal’s infrastructural modernity, the study contributes to critical debates on decolonial pedagogy, spatial politics, and indigenous resilience. Ultimately, it argues that safeguarding indigenous toponyms is not only a cultural imperative but also a political act of epistemic justice in the face of systemic erasure.

Keywords: decolonial pedagogy, epistemic injustice, spatial politics, translanguaging practices



Emotional Intelligence and Investment Decision Making Among Generation Y

~ **Kamana Pandey**, M.Phil. Scholar, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Abstract

The study's primary objective is to investigate the impact of emotional intelligence (EI) on investment decision-making and to analyse the relationship between emotional intelligence and investment decision-making among Generation Y millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) investors in Kathmandu, Nepal. From 100 respondents, the primary data was collected by using a quantitative correlational research design through structured questionnaires and a purposive sampling technique with a 5-point Likert Scale. The four dimensions of emotional intelligence (Self-Awareness, Regulation of Emotion, Empathy, and Motivation) were used to measure the emotional intelligence along with investment decision quality as a dependent variable. For the data analysis, the study employed Pearson's correlation and multiple regression analysis. The finding indicated that the overall emotional intelligence has a moderate positive relationship with investment decision-making. Regression results reveal that empathy and motivation have a significant influence on investment decision-making, whereas self-awareness and regulation of emotion do not show any meaningful influence on investment decision-making when all variables are analyzed together. Therefore, the study concludes that the Generation Y investors with higher motivation and empathy are more likely to make logical and confident investment decisions, showing that emotional intelligence strongly affects how people handle money and make financial choices.

Keywords: investment decision, emotional intelligence, self-awareness, regulation of emotion, empathy, motivation



Local Governments' Budgeting Process in Nepal: Do Women Influence Budget Decisions?

~ *Anil Kumar Gupta, Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC)*

Abstract

Constitutional and legal mandates in Nepal have increased women's representation in local government. However, their actual influence on the budgeting process remains limited. This gap between legal provisions and practice raises questions about the factors that shape women's influence on budget decisions. Using survey data from 61 local governments, this study examines the factors that affect women council members' influence on budget decisions. The data were analyzed using binary logistic regression. The results show that women council members who felt comfortable expressing their opinions and in contexts where the priorities of women and marginalized groups were discussed were significantly more likely to report having an influence on budget decisions. However, encouragement from local government chiefs and awareness of budgeting procedures were not significant factors. The study argues that strengthening women's influence in the budgeting process requires moving beyond procedural compliance toward building inclusive institutional spaces that empower women to shape budget decisions.

Keywords: participatory budgeting, women's influence, local government, Nepal



Re- envisioning Governance in South Asia: Youth Engagement and Digital Transformation as Pillars of Democratic Resilience

~ Prof. Janak Singh Meena, Central University of Gujarat, India

~ Meenakshi Nagar, Central University of Gujarat, India

Abstract

Governance across South Asia is undergoing significant transformation under the combined pressures of demographic change, rapid digitalization, and heightened demands for democratic accountability. This paper examines how youth engagement and digital transformation can serve as interlinked pillars for strengthening democratic resilience in the region. It is guided by the central question: How can youth participation and digital governance frameworks be institutionally integrated to enhance inclusive and resilient governance in South Asia? Adopting a conceptual and analytical approach, the paper situates youth as critical political actors and digital citizens whose participation has the potential to reshape state-society relations beyond conventional electoral and consultative mechanisms. It critically evaluates digital governance initiatives in South Asia, assessing their role in improving transparency, accessibility, and administrative responsiveness, while also engaging with persistent challenges such as digital exclusion, uneven technological access, data governance concerns, and institutional capacity gaps. Rather than treating technology as a neutral or deterministic force, the analysis embeds digital transformation within broader socio-political and institutional contexts.

The paper argues that democratic resilience in South Asia cannot be sustained through technological adoption or demographic advantage alone. Instead, it requires the strategic alignment of youth agency, inclusive digital infrastructures, and participatory policy processes. By foregrounding this integrated framework, the study contributes to broader debates on governance reform and democratic innovation in the Global South. The paper concludes by outlining key policy implications for re-envisioning governance models that are adaptive, inclusive, and responsive to contemporary socio-technological change in South Asia.

Keywords: youth engagement, digital transformation, democratic resilience, global south



THEME FIVE

**Climate & Disaster Risk –
Room A (Climate)**

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Policy Coherence in Climate Governance: Analyzing National Policy Frameworks for Disaster Risk Reduction in South Asia

~ **Alaska Poudyal**, Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM)
~ **Rose Dhungana**, Kathmandu University School of Management (KUSOM)

Abstract

South Asia confronts unparalleled climate vulnerability, with over 750 million people, which is more than half of the region's population, affected by at least one natural disaster in the past two decades, resulting in economic losses projected to reach \$160 billion annually by 2030. This research aims to examine the dimensions of policy coherence in climate governance across South Asia, analyzing how national and local policy frameworks integrate disaster risk reduction with climate adaptation objectives. Employing a comparative analysis framework, examining national and local policy frameworks to understand how governance structures influence disaster risk reduction outcomes, including Nationally Determined Outcomes. Evidence reveals there are significant gaps in policy coherence deficit in South Asian governance systems, with a negligible number of reports showing successful integration of climate concepts into development planning or disaster risk policies. The findings underscore the urgent need for strengthened multi-level policy coherence, institutional coordination, and evidence-based governance mechanisms to effectively align climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies for ensuring long-term regional sustainability.

Keywords: policy coherence, climate governance, disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, south asia



Climate Change, COP, and Contradictions: What Next?

~ *DR. Mitra Bandhu Poudel, Little Angels' College of Management*

Abstract

This article explores the complexities of Nepal's climate change initiatives within the framework of the United Nations "Conference of the Parties" (COP). Despite its minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, Nepal remains a primary victim of "climate injustice," facing rapid glacial retreat and catastrophic weather events. This study employs a qualitative-analytical methodology designed to bridge the gap between high-level diplomatic discourse and grassroots environmental reality. Through expert interviews and policy analysis, the article highlights a profound discrepancy between international rhetoric and domestic execution, where "haphazard" development often compromises conservation goals. It advocates for a transition to climate-smart practices, renewable energy, and the robust implementation of the 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) roadmap. Ultimately, the study calls for a strategic mountain agenda in global negotiations to secure equitable climate finance and technological support for vulnerable nations.

Keywords: climate diplomacy, cop, Nepal, climate justice, sustainable development



Climate Change and the Challenge of Resilience: Governance and Community Responses in Nepal and Beyond

~ *Meen B. Poudyal Chhetri, Nepal Centre for Disaster Management*

Abstract

Background: Climate change driven by global warming is a pressing global concern, with severe impacts on livelihoods, ecosystems, and natural resources. Nepal, ranked fourth among the countries most vulnerable to climate change (World Bank, 2011), faces serious challenges due to its fragile mountain ecosystems, limited infrastructure, and weak institutional capacities. The rapid retreat of Himalayan glaciers, which feed nine major Asian rivers and support over 1.3 billion people, is clear evidence of the worsening climate crisis.

The Problems: The burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and industrial pollution have increased the amount of GHGs in the atmosphere, leading to global warming. At the national and subnational governance levels, Nepal's frameworks for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction remain fragmented and inadequately supported. Although climate considerations have been partially integrated into public administration and sectoral planning, gaps persist in coordination, coherence, and implementation across various government levels. These weaknesses are evident in addressing water-induced disasters such as floods, landslides, and Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) which are increasing due to temperature rise. Between 1977 and 1999, Nepal's average maximum temperature rose by 0.9°C, outpacing the global average (Shrestha et al., 1999).

Conclusions and the Way Forward: Institutional capacities for climate adaptation and disaster preparedness require significant strengthening through enhanced technical expertise, legal frameworks, and evidence-based planning. Promoting climate equity is vital, as vulnerable mountain and rural communities face disproportionate risks despite minimal emissions. Community-led traditional ecological knowledge is a valuable yet often neglected resource for building resilience, especially in fragile Himalayan environments. The mobilization of public-private partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms is vital for enhancing resilience infrastructure and fostering sustainable development. Moreover, strengthening regional collaboration on transboundary environmental governance is essential. Equally important is the establishment of rigorous monitoring, evaluation, and accountability systems to assess progress, promote transparency, and meet obligations under international climate agreements, including the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

Keywords: environment, temperature, climate change, global warming, green house gases, Kyoto protocol, Paris accord

Internationally vocal and domestically mute: How just is climate finance in Nepal?

~ *Sindhu Prasad Dhungana, PhD, Retired Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal*

Abstract

Climate justice has been a prominent term in climate discourse for decades. However, it remains a contested concept that is susceptible to manipulation and misuse. Similarly, climate finance is a widely used but insufficiently defined term. When climate finance is linked to climate justice, the concept becomes even more complex and problematic.

This paper examines Nepal's pursuit of climate finance from a climate justice perspective. It introduces several international climate finance architectures and critically reviews the country's efforts to access so-called climate finance. At least seven international financing windows were identified under the rubric of climate finance: the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, the Climate Investment Funds, the Mitigation Action Facility (formerly the NAMA Facility), the International Climate Initiative (IKI), and bilateral aid. Nepal has accessed funding from these sources to support its climate-related investments.

Several challenges were identified. Accessing these funds, particularly the first six multilateral mechanisms, is cumbersome due to their highly competitive, bureaucratic, technical, and time-consuming procedures. Access has been further constrained by internal bureaucratic hurdles. The tendency of Nepal's aid bureaucracy, as reflected in the approach of the Ministry of Finance, to apply a "one-size-fits-all" policy to all funding sources has also proven problematic.

From a justice perspective, even the funds that have been accessed raise important concerns. As an umbrella concept, climate justice has served as a key instrument for developing countries such as Nepal to articulate their positions in international climate discourse. However, it is neither clearly defined nor adequately internalized during implementation. At the global level, Nepal aligns itself with the position that least developed countries (LDCs) have been historically disadvantaged by industrialized nations despite contributing insignificantly to greenhouse gas emissions. Industrialized countries have extensively exploited natural resources and significantly contributed to climate change through greenhouse gas emissions. In contrast, developing nations, particularly LDCs and small island developing states (SIDS), bear a disproportionate share of climate impacts despite their minimal role in causing them.

Internationally, the advocacy for fair compensation from industrialized nations to poorer and more vulnerable countries is grounded in principles of justice. However, the justice discourse often weakens once financial resources reach the country and becomes almost silent during the spending process.

This paper concludes with several recommendations aimed at facilitating easier access to climate finance and promoting justice in its domestic allocation and utilization.

Keywords: climate finance, climate justice, least developed countries

Climate-Responsive Budgeting in South Asia: Governance and Implementation Challenges at the Sub-National Level

~ *Khushi Johari, Sustainable Finance with Khushi, India*

Abstract

Climate-responsive budgeting (CRB) has been promoted across South Asia as a key public finance reform to align government expenditure with climate objectives. Countries such as India and Nepal have introduced elements of climate budget tagging, climate-relevant expenditure tracking, and climate-informed planning frameworks. Despite these efforts, the contribution of CRB to effective climate action at the sub-national level remains limited and uneven.

This paper examines why climate-responsive budgeting has struggled to move beyond a procedural exercise and translate into improved climate outcomes in practice. Using desk-based analysis of policy documents, budget statements, and reports from India and Nepal, the study focuses on the governance and implementation dimensions of CRB rather than its technical design. It identifies three recurring challenges: limited integration of climate considerations into core budget formulation and execution processes, weak institutional coordination between finance and line departments, and capacity constraints within state, provincial, and local governments following decentralisation reforms.

In India, climate-related expenditures are often embedded within sectoral budgets without clear tagging methodologies or outcome monitoring, while in Nepal, recent federal restructuring has created new opportunities for local climate action alongside significant coordination and role-clarity challenges. In both contexts, CRB frameworks tend to operate parallel to, rather than within, mainstream public financial management systems.

The paper argues that the effectiveness of climate-responsive budgeting depends less on the introduction of new tools and more on strengthening sub-national public financial governance. It concludes by outlining policy-relevant lessons for improving the alignment between climate priorities, budgeting processes, and institutional accountability in climate-vulnerable South Asian countries.

Keywords: climate-responsive budgeting, public financial management, sub-national governance, climate finance, south asia



Digital Governance and Climate Disaster Response Effectiveness in South Asia: A Comparative Analysis of Youth Demographics, Social Media Penetration, and Disaster Outcomes

~ **Alka Sharma**, University of Kota, Rajasthan, India

~ **Shailu Singh**, Mumbai University, India

ABSTRACT

South Asia is among the world's most climate-vulnerable regions, experiencing recurrent floods, cyclones, heatwaves, and droughts. In response, governments have increasingly adopted digital governance mechanisms to enhance disaster preparedness and response. Simultaneously, the region's large youth population and expanding social media penetration have reshaped disaster communication, civic engagement, and community mobilization. However, limited research has examined these interconnected dynamics through a clearly articulated research paradigm, particularly in a comparative South Asian context.

Guided by a pragmatic research paradigm, this study examines how digital governance capacity, youth demographics, and social media penetration influence climate disaster response effectiveness across selected South Asian countries.

Adopting a pragmatic paradigm with a comparative and mixed-indicator approach, the study analyzes secondary data from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Quantitative indicators include disaster outcomes, digital governance indices, youth population characteristics, and social media usage metrics. Comparative analysis and correlational techniques are employed to assess cross-country relationships.

Findings indicate that countries with stronger digital governance frameworks and higher youth engagement through social media demonstrate faster early-warning dissemination, improved coordination between authorities and communities, and relatively lower disaster-related losses. Youth-driven digital participation strengthens informal communication networks, while institutional digital capacity enhances formal response mechanisms. Nevertheless, disparities in digital infrastructure and digital literacy moderate these outcomes.

Within a pragmatic paradigm, the study concludes that integrating youth-centric digital governance and social media-based communication strategies into formal disaster management systems can significantly enhance climate disaster response effectiveness in South Asia. Addressing persistent digital divides remains essential for achieving inclusive and resilient disaster governance.

Keywords: digital governance, climate disaster response, youth demographics, social media penetration, disaster outcomes, south asia, climate resilience, e-governance

Socio-economic Determinants of Flood Vulnerability: A Case Study of Banke and Dang districts, Lumbini Province, Nepal

~ *Aadarsha Neupane, Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS)*

ABSTRACT

Flood-prone communities in Lumbini Province, Nepal, face persistent socio-economic vulnerabilities that hinder their resilience to disasters. This study examines how socioeconomic factors influence household and community resilience to flooding in two highly affected districts, Banke and Dang. The research aims to fill the gap in understanding how poverty, marginalization, and local practices shape flood outcomes, beyond just physical hazard exposure. The study's objectives are to identify the key socio-economic factors contributing to flood vulnerability and to assess community perceptions of flood mitigation strategies. A mixed-methods approach was used: quantitative data from 2994 household surveys (with a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error) were analyzed using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to create a Flood Vulnerability Index (FVI). Qualitative data were gathered through focus group discussions and interviews with community leaders, local government officials, and NGOs.

The findings reveal that landless, low-income, and illiterate households (often female headed or from marginalized communities) are most vulnerable to flooding, highlighting the role of socio-economic marginalization in amplifying flood risks. Communities with diverse livelihoods and strong social networks showed quicker recovery, while those lacking access to credit, information, and inclusive decision making experienced prolonged impacts. Participants also noted that while indigenous knowledge (such as local flood warning signs) remains valuable, it is gradually fading, and formal early warning systems often fail to reach or engage the most vulnerable.

The study recommends enhancing inclusive governance structures, improving early warning dissemination in local languages, promoting community-based adaptation, and integrating indigenous knowledge into disaster risk reduction policies. These findings offer vital insights for designing sustainable, equitable flood resilience interventions in Nepal and similar flood-prone regions.

Keywords: flood vulnerability, socio-economic resilience, disaster risk reduction



Forest fire management challenges and response strategies for resilient adaptation under changing climate in Nepal

~ *Dr. Mina Adhikari, Nepal Water Conservation Foundation*

Abstract

In Nepal, forest fires, a phenomenon historically essential for managing fire-dependent ecosystems and ensuring community safety, livelihoods and resilience, are now recognized as major natural hazards with significant socioeconomic and environmental impacts. Each year, approximately 3,013 forest fires destroy around 193,557 hectares, driven by climate change and associated risks, land use changes, shifting livelihoods and demographics, and preservation-oriented forest management practices. Despite the growing severity of the problem, government responses remain largely reactive. Efforts focus primarily on extinguishing fire, restoring affected areas and distributing relief to those affected, employing top-down forest fire management approach after state federalization and institutional restructuring.

This research investigates forest fire preparedness and response practices and challenges for resilient adaptation under changing climate in Nepal. Employing a qualitative approach, the study identifies gaps, challenges, and key factors influencing forest fire readiness and response, through literature review and semi-structured interviews with stakeholders including government officials, Community Forest User Group representatives, Federation of Community Forest User Groups and fire management experts.

The findings highlight the importance of implementing Forest Fire Preparedness and Response National Action Plan 2026, establishing effective surveillance and alert system, and incorporating preventive measures like creating fire lines and lowering fuel biomass combined with traditional firefighting techniques such as involving communities and training volunteers. However, current efforts are proving inadequate to minimise the forest fire risks in Nepal due to fragmented policies, poor coordination, unclear stakeholder roles, siloed approach to fire management. Additionally, limited resources, ineffective monitoring and alert system, relief-centric support mechanism to affected population, limited capacity of community user groups and local governments, climate change and associated risks, and preservation-oriented forest management further constrain effective action. Urgent policy reforms are needed across governments for forest fire management and control, focusing on budget allocation, prioritizing fire detection and early warning system, and enforcing stricter penalties for negligence. Policy makers and communities must adopt policy strategies supporting adaptive responses to forest fire management including funding capacity building and research, guided by research into climate resilient pathways.

Keywords: forest fire, resilience, climate change, challenges

Localising Climate Finance in Nepal - Rhetoric, Rationality and Responsibility

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Abstract

Climate finance is intended to support mitigation and adaptation efforts to address the impacts of climate change. Nepal's Climate Change Policy 2019 recognises the country's heightened risk of climate-induced disasters and envisions achieving socioeconomic prosperity through building a climate-resilient society. While Nepal has made notable progress in establishing policy frameworks, efforts to localise climate finance remain constrained by structural, institutional, procedural, and coordinational challenges operating across governance levels. Drawing on qualitative research assessing two international climate finance projects in Nepal, this paper examines the factors that constrain localisation of climate finance, particularly in reference to 80% devolution of climate finance to local communities as guaranteed within the policy. Findings reveal persistent centralisation in decision-making and resource allocation, limiting the effective devolution of authority to provincial and local governments despite decentralisation mandates. Local governments often lack the institutional mechanisms, technical expertise, and financial autonomy required to plan, manage, and implement adaptation initiatives effectively. The study further identifies misalignments between policy design and practice, fragmented sectoral coordination, and project-driven approaches that prioritise reporting and compliance over long-term institutional strengthening. These dynamics collectively hinder meaningful localisation of climate finance in a country highly vulnerable to climate risks. The paper argues that addressing these challenges requires reconfiguring climate finance governance to enhance institutional capacity, accountability, and cross-sectoral integration across all tiers of the government.

Keywords: climate finance; climate change adaptation; adaptation governance; climate policy, decentralisation



Beyond Relief: Rethinking Disaster Response through Loss and Damage in Melamchi Valley, Nepal

~ Sneha Rai, Prakriti Resources Centre

Abstract

Nepal's disaster response systems remain largely focused on immediate relief and physical reconstruction, often overlooking long-term and non-economic impacts. Drawing on the 2021 Melamchi river flood, this study examines how loss and damage (L&D) is governed and what this reveals about the sustainability of current recovery approaches. Using a mixed-methods design combining policy review, household surveys (n=120), and qualitative fieldwork, the study captures economic and non-economic losses, including cultural and psychosocial dimensions.

Findings show significant economic losses, with compensation covering only a small fraction, resulting in incomplete recovery and prolonged vulnerability. Non-economic losses such as the disruption of cultural practices and widespread psychosocial distress remain largely invisible in formal recovery frameworks. Nearly 70% of respondents reported symptoms of depression, yet psychosocial care is not meaningfully integrated into recovery efforts.

Despite a robust disaster risk reduction policy framework, implementation remains fragmented, relief-oriented, and weakly coordinated across institutions. Financial mechanisms are limited and fail to address livelihood recovery and non-economic loss. This case demonstrates that recovery approaches that fail to address the full spectrum of loss and damage risk producing incomplete and unsustainable recovery. The paper argues for a shift toward integrated, context-sensitive approaches that recognize non-economic loss, strengthen institutional coordination and support long-term resilience.

Keywords: loss and damage (L&D), psychosocial recovery, disaster risk reduction



Responding to Climate and Disaster Risk for Sustainable Future

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Abstract

Nepal is highly prone to multiple and compounding disasters due to its fragile geography, climate sensitivity, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. Despite international commitments under the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the Sustainable Development Goals, the country continues to experience recurrent large-scale disasters, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, windstorms, pandemics, and unseasonal extreme rainfall. This paper critically examines key policy issues related to climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in Nepal through a review of national policy documents, international frameworks, and secondary data. The analysis focuses on governance capacity, institutional coordination, and implementation challenges. While Nepal has made notable progress in developing policies, institutional structures, early warning systems, and integrated risk information platforms such as the Building Information Platform Against Disaster and Disaster Risk Reduction portals, effective implementation remains constrained by limited financial resources, technological capacity, and skilled human resources. Although human casualties from floods have declined due to improved preparedness and awareness, mortality from landslides, lightning, and complex disasters continues to rise.

It argues that climate adaptation policies must adopt a rights-based and conflict-sensitive governance approach that safeguards vulnerable populations and strengthens public trust. The paper concludes that proactive, inclusive, and accountable governance supported by adequate climate finance and institutional capacity is essential for enhancing resilience and achieving a sustainable future in Nepal.

Keywords: climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, governance, resilience, Nepal, sustainable development



Monasteries as Agents of Resilience: Cultural Identity and Climate Adaptation in Mustang

~ *Sushan Bhattarai*

Abstract

In Mustang, a highland district of northwestern Nepal, centuries-old Buddhist and Bon monasteries are central to both cultural identity and community life. These monastic complexes—located in Kagbeni, Chuksang, and Lo Manthang—not only preserve sacred architecture and ritual traditions but also serve as repositories of indigenous knowledge, shaping social cohesion and local governance. Increasing climate shocks, including flash floods and heavy precipitation, threaten the structural integrity of these monasteries and disrupt rituals, imperiling both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. This study examines how monks and monastic institutions are responding to climate-induced challenges while sustaining community practices and identity. Using interviews, surveys, and focus groups, findings reveal that monks play pivotal roles in coordinating local adaptation efforts, mobilizing resources through sectarian networks, and maintaining ritual continuity even under stress. Community engagement in preserving monastic heritage fosters intergenerational knowledge transfer, strengthens social cohesion, and provides psychological support. The research highlights monasteries as active agents of cultural and social resilience, demonstrating how religious institutions can mediate adaptation to climate change while sustaining identity, traditions, and communal well-being. Incorporating these perspectives into local governance structures and heritage preservation strategies offers pathways for culturally grounded social transformation in the Himalayan highlands.

Keywords: monastic institutions, cultural resilience, climate change adaptation, indigenous knowledge systems, and himalayan communities.



THEME SIX

**Youth Leadership for
Adaptive Governance**

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सामुदायिक वनको नयाँ गन्तव्यः युवा सहभागिता र उद्यममुखी रूपान्तरण

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Abstract

नेपालको सामुदायिक वनलाई जनसहभागितामुलक पद्धतिमा आधारित सफल अभियान मानिएको छ । सामुदायिक वनको अवधारणा विकास गर्दा तीन पक्षलाई ख्याल गरिएको थियो। वनको संरक्षण, सदुपयोग र कमजोर वर्गको सशक्तिकरण । यसमध्येमा वनको संरक्षणमा बढी सफलता हासिल गरेको देखिन्छ । मुलुकको ४६% भन्दा बढी भूभाग वनले ढाकिएको भए पनि देश र जनता वनवाट लाभान्वित भएका छैनन्। कमजोर वर्गको सशक्तिकरणतर्फ त खासै ध्यान जान सकेकै छैन ।

अहिलेको बदलिदो सामाजिक-आर्थिक परीस्थितिमा “दाउरा घाँस चाहिएन, वनबाट त्यो भन्दा वढि पाइएन” भन्ने अवस्था छ । उध्यम मार्फत समृद्धि तर्फ अबको गन्तव्य हुनै पर्दथ्यो, हुन सकेको छैन । जसरी वनमा विरूवा, पोल साइज र वयस्क रूख भएको राम्रो मानिन्छ त्यसरी नै वन व्यवस्थापन गर्ने उपभोक्ता समूहको नेतृत्वमा पनि उमेर समूहगत विविधता पनि जरूरि देखिएको छ । वन अभियानमा नयाँ पुस्ता अर्थात युवा जोडिनै पर्थ्यो, जोडिन सकेको छैन । सामुदायिक वन अभियानमा युवाहरूको सहभागिता भएमा उनीहरूले दीर्घकालीन योजना बनाई वन उध्यम तथा व्यावसायीकरणमा काम गर्न सकिन्थ्यो, गर्न सकिएको छैन । वन समूहहरू अविछिन्न उत्तराधिकारीवाला स्व-शासित सामुहिक संस्था हुन भनेर भनिए पनि युवाहरू आकर्षित भएर यो जिम्मेवारी लिने भन्दा पनि क्रमशः सामुदायिक वन प्रकृयाबाट बिमुख हुँदै गएको देखिएको छ । यस्तो किन भयो ? युवाहरू के कारणले सामुदायिक वनमा जोडिन चाहनेन? र उनीहरूलाई कसरी सामुदायिक वनमा जोड्न र वन मार्फत स्थानिय र राष्ट्रिय अर्थतन्त्रमा योगदान पुऱ्याउन सकिन्छ भन्ने बिषय मध्यनजर गरी विभिन्न कोणबाट छलफल, संवाद र अध्ययनहरू भइरहेका छन्।

यसै सन्दर्भमा सामुदायिक वन उपभोक्ता समूहहरूको कार्यसमितिहरूमा निर्वाचित भएर सकृय रुपमा काम गरिरहेका ४० बर्ष मुनिका युवाहरू र संबन्धित सरोकारवाला एवं सहयोगी निकायहरूसँगको घनिभुत छलफलको निष्कर्षका आधारमा आगामी दिनमा सामुदायिक वनमा युवाको सहभागिता बढाउन के गर्न सकिन्छ भन्ने विषयमा केन्द्रित भै यो अध्ययन गरिएको छ । बागमती प्रदेशका तीन जिल्लाहरूका सामुदायिक वन समूहहरूमा काम गरिरहेका ४० बर्ष मुनिका युवाहरूसँग गरिएको सामुहिक छलफल र समूहको नेतृत्व र युवा प्रतिनिधिहरूसँग गरिएका अन्तर्वाताहरूबाट प्राप्त नतिजाको विश्लेषणको आधारमा केही नितिगत सुझाव दिइएको हो । यो अध्ययनबाट सामुदायिक वन अभियानमा युवाको सहभागिता बिना नयाँ गन्तव्यहरू प्राप्त गर्न सकिँदैन भन्ने निष्कर्षमा पुगिएको छ । यसको लागि हरेक सामुदायिक वनको कार्यसमितिमा कम्तिमा २५% युवाको प्रतिनिधित्व हुनुपर्ने र वनमा आधारित उध्यमको विकासको निम्ति युवाहरूको प्रत्यक्ष संलग्नता र प्रतिवद्धता हुन सकेन भने वनमा आधारित आर्थिक विकास र सामुदायिक वन अभियान अव अगाडी बढ्न सक्दैन । वन बाट समुदायले आय आम्दानी र रोजगारिका अवसर प्राप्त गर्न सक्छन तर यसको लागि राज्यले लगाइ मैत्री नीति निर्माण गर्ने, निजी क्षेत्रलाई वनमा लगानी गर्ने वातावरण बनाउने, युवाहरू सहभागिता बढ्न सक्ने अवस्था सिर्जना गर्ने र झन्झटिला कानुनी पक्षहरू हटाउने अवस्था हुनु आवश्यक छ । राज्यले वन स्रोतको अवस्था, सदुपयोग, युवा मैत्री नीति तर्जुमा एवं कार्यान्वयन जस्ता विषयमा थप संवाद र कार्यमूलक योजना बनाइ युवा र वन स्रोतमा आधारित उध्यम विकास अवको राष्ट्रिय प्राथमिकता र संकल्प लिनु आवश्यक छ ।

मुख्य शब्दावली : वनमा युवा, युवामैत्री नीति, रूपान्तरणका लागि युवा, उद्यमशिलता, सहभागितामूलक सशक्तिकरण, वनको सदुपयोग

Greenfluencer Credibility and Ethical Consumerism: The Mediating Role of Environmental Concern in Social Transformation

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~ **Dr. Pooja Mehta**, Chitkara University, India

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Abstract

This study examines how the credibility of green influencers (greenfluencers) shapes consumers' ethical consumption intentions and contributes to broader perceptions of social transformation. Drawing on Source Credibility Theory, Value–Belief–Norm Theory, the Theory of Planned Behavior, and Cultural Capital Theory, the study explores how environmental concern mediates the relationship between greenfluencer credibility and ethical consumerism intention.

A quantitative research design was adopted using primary data collected through a structured questionnaire administered to social media users who follow sustainability-related influencers. The proposed conceptual model was tested using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM) with SmartPLS (v4). The analysis examined the effects of greenfluencer credibility (trustworthiness, expertise, and authenticity) on environmental concern, ethical consumerism intention, and perceived social transformation.

The results indicate that greenfluencer credibility significantly enhances environmental concern, reflected through greater environmental awareness and climate responsibility among followers. Environmental concern, in turn, positively influences ethical consumerism intention, including intentions to purchase sustainable products, avoid unethical brands, and willingness to pay a premium for environmentally responsible products. Furthermore, ethical consumerism intention contributes positively to perceived social transformation by reinforcing beliefs that society is shifting toward more sustainable consumption practices and collective environmental responsibility.

The findings provide important insights for marketers, sustainability advocates, and policymakers by highlighting the role of credible digital influencers in shaping pro-environmental attitudes and consumption intentions. Leveraging authentic and knowledgeable greenfluencers can strengthen environmental awareness and encourage ethical consumer choices, ultimately contributing to wider societal shifts toward sustainable consumption.

This study contributes to the emerging literature on digital sustainability communication by integrating multiple behavioral theories to explain how influencer credibility translates into ethical consumer behavior and perceived societal change. By linking micro-level psychological influences with macro-level perceptions of social transformation, the research provides a novel framework for understanding the broader impact of greenfluencer-driven sustainability advocacy.

Keywords: greenfluencer credibility, environmental concern, ethical consumerism intention, perceived social transformation, sustainable consumption, PLS-SEM

Empowering Youth Leadership to Strengthen the Governance System of Nepal

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Abstract

With a substantial segment of the population group, the youth of Nepal have a higher potential to contribute to the nation. When analyzing the average age of parliamentarians of the past, it is evident that Nepal has not been able to utilize the potential of its youth for the governance of the nation. It is academically less considered. This study explores how the right opportunities, education, training, participation, and inclusion in the decision-making process can leverage the policies and governance system. This study involves qualitative method approaches, such as in-depth interviews with young leaders, civil society stakeholders, and policy experts. Moreover, the study also involves the analysis of policy documents related to youth and governance, and the paper highlights that not empowering the youth leaders is one of the key factors that is becoming a hindrance to the governance system of Nepal. The findings of this study indicate that, to bolster the policies and governance system, equipping youth with critical thinking, providing civic literacy, and providing opportunities are crucial. Resourcing youth enhances the governance system from the local level to high-level bureaucrats, and opportunities, exposure, accountability, transparency, and civic understanding lead to responsive governance. The study evaluates how different kinds of barriers, such as inadequate opportunities for the youth due to structural barriers and political institutions, have not able to provide good governance to the nation. The findings reveal the gap in policy commitment and its factual execution. This study largely creates an avenue of debate focusing on how youth can be used in the governance system of Nepal.

Keywords: governance, youth, leadership, empowering, apprenticeships



Transformative Knowledge for Planetary Sustainability- Bridging Science, Indigenous Wisdom, and Policy

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Abstract

The planetary crisis—manifested through climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource inequities—is deeply rooted in dominant epistemologies that prioritize extractive, anthropocentric, and technocentric worldviews. Addressing these crises requires transformative approaches to knowledge governance that bridge scientific research with Indigenous and local knowledge systems in ways that are holistic and action-oriented.

Several frameworks support meaningful integration of diverse knowledge systems. The co-production of knowledge framework emphasizes collaboration across epistemologies through joint problem definition, data collection, and solution development, treating Indigenous Peoples and local communities as equal partners with recognized authority and long-term stewardship over ecosystems. The Multiple Evidence Base (MEB) approach, promoted by IPBES, complements this by allowing Indigenous and local knowledge to coexist alongside scientific knowledge without requiring validation through scientific standards, thereby enriching the collective understanding of socio-ecological systems.

Ethical and rights-based governance is central to these approaches. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), respect for traditional knowledge, and safeguards against misappropriation ensure trust, equity, and sustainable collaboration. Participatory frameworks—including participatory action research, community-based adaptation, and Indigenous-led monitoring—align research with local priorities, enhance community capacities, and support resilience-building.

Finally, relational and holistic ecological frameworks, rooted in Indigenous worldviews and increasingly adopted in systems science, emphasize interconnectedness, reciprocity, and ethical stewardship, bridging ontological and epistemological gaps. Collectively, these frameworks create pathways for equitable, synergistic, and culturally grounded knowledge integration, offering transformative solutions to the environmental, social, and ethical challenges of planetary sustainability.

Keywords: transformative knowledge, planetary sustainability, indigenous knowledge systems, knowledge pluralism, science–policy interface, sustainability governance, epistemological justice, intergenerational ethics, environmental stewardship, systems thinking, climate resilience, inclusive decision-making



From Ancient Skills to Modern Resilience: Nepal's Indigenous Enterprises

~ Surendra Prasad Joshi

~ Amit Bajracharya

~ Sugam Subedi

Abstract

In Nepal where ancient traditions are symbols through generations indigenous communities largely adopting paths of economic renewal and cultural boldness. This study aims to systematically review the practices and status of indigenous business in Nepal. This used PRISMA model to synthesizes evidence from 50 studies based on indigenous skills, traditional knowledge, and entrepreneurship development in Nepal. Indigenous skill-based initiatives generate significant economic gains: homestay tourism operators earn NRs. 25,000–50,000 monthly, Juju Dhau dairy producers average Rs. 53,600 with a 1.295 benefit-to-cost ratio, and 80% of eco-tourism homestay operatives report markedly higher incomes after starting. Employment is mostly family-centered, with 64.2% of handicraft enterprises engaging family members and women lead to homestay operations. Social inclusion gleams through: 81.1% of handicraft proprietors gain enhanced social status, while women entrepreneurs note reduced gender discrimination and enhanced community decision-making roles. Culturally, these practices preserve and revive traditions; homestays revive obsolete practices, and systems like Newar Guthi and Ngishyangba Mithewa stand-in sustainable community-based growth. Yet outcomes differ tersely: tourism-accessible areas with strong institutions thrive, while marginalized groups (Chepang, Raute, Santhal) face continuing poverty despite rich traditional assets. Barriers seemed as limited market access, capital shortages, intergenerational skill loss, weak policy support, and modernization hampering practices (51.6% agree trends erase traditions; youth disinterest jeopardizes continuity). When supported by market relations, formal aid, and inclusive policies, indigenous skills powerfully advance entrepreneurship, with resilient, culturally grounded ways for governance.

Keywords: cultural preservation, social inclusion, women's empowerment, homestay tourism, eco-tourism



Nepal Administrative Staff College

6th South Asian Conference on Public Policy and Governance

“Resilience and Renewal: Reenvisioning Governance through Youth Engagement, Digital Transformation, and Cultural Narratives in South Asia

9–10 April 2026 (26 – 27 Chaitra 2082)

Conference Schedule

Day 1: April 9, 2026 (Chaitra 26, 2082), Thursday, Vrihaspati Sadan (Auditorium Hall)	
Time	Program
11:00 – 12:00	Registration and Networking / Khaja
12:00 – 13:00 Opening Ceremony	Welcome Address –Basanta Raj Sigdel, Deputy Executive Director, NASC Welcome Address - Madhu Raman Acharya, President, Public Administration Association of Nepal Opening Remarks - Chief Guest
13:00-14:00 Keynote	Keynote Address on Government Functions and Reforms during Transition Speaker: Hari Sharma, Public Policy Analyst
14:00-14:30	Tea Break
14:30-16:30 Panel Discussion	Panel Theme: Youth Protest and Public Voice
16:30	Hi-tea



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Conference Schedule

Day 2: April 10, 2026 (Chaitra 27, 2082), Friday	
Time	Program
8:45- 9:00	Registration and Networking
9:00 – 11:00 Parallel Sessions	Sub-theme 1: Mass Uprisings and Future of Governance – Swoyambhu Hall, Diksha Sadan
	Sub-theme 2: Avenues for Responsive Public Administration – Room A - Janaki Hall, Diksha Sadan
	Sub-theme 2: Avenues for Responsive Public Administration – Room B - Manjushree Hall, Diksha Sadan
	Sub-theme 3: Innovation and Artificial Intelligence for Digital Governance - Araniko Hall, Sampada Sadan
	Sub-theme 4: Culture, Identity, and Social Transformation – Room A - Annapurna Hall, Sampada Sadan
	Sub-theme 4: Culture, Identity, and Social Transformation – Room B - Rara Hall, Diksha Sadan
	Sub-theme 5: Responding to Climate and Disaster Risk for a Sustainable Future - Lumbini Hall, Diksha Sadan
	Sub-theme 6: Youth Leadership for Adaptive Governance - Pathivara Hall, Diksha Sadan
	Sub-Theme 4: Culture, Identity, and Social Transformation and Sub-Theme 5: Climate & Disaster Risk - Prithvi Hall, Diksha Sadan
	Thematic presentation in the form of Art by students of KuSOA, Department of Art and Design – Khaptad Hall, Diksha Sadan
11:00 – 11:30	Hi- tea
11:30 – 13:30 Panel Discussion	Panel Theme: Towards Ethical Governance: Public Value, Trust, and Commitment - Vrihaspati Sadan (Auditorium Hall)
13:30 – 13:45	Closing address, conference summary and reflections by Mr. Ram Sharan Pudasaini, Executive Director, NASC
13:45 onwards	Lunch and Networking

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9–10 April 2026 (26 – 27 Chaitra 2082)

Schedule: Parallel Technical Sessions

Friday, 10 April 2026

Theme 1: Mass Uprisings and Future of Governance

Venue: Swoyambhu Hall, Diksha Sadan

Time: 09:30 – 11:00

SN	Time	Activity / Title of the Paper & Authors	Paper Presenter
	09:30–09:40	<i>Introduction of Session Chair and Discussant</i>	
1.	09:40–09:50	Social security system in Nepal: Policy and governance - Dr. Ramesh Kumar KC (PAAN) - Dr. Dilip Raj Poudel (PAAN)	Dr. Ramesh Kumar KC
2.	09:50–10:00	From compliance to responsiveness: rethinking internal control mechanisms in Nepal's public administration - Manju Kumari Jaisi (Undersecretary, GoN; Executive Committee Member, PAAN)	Manju Kumari Jaisi
3.	10:00–10:10	Implementation challenges of public grievance redress system (grs): An exploration - Md. Abdul Alim (NSU)	Md. Abdul Alim
4.	10:10–10:20	Performance variations and reform strategies in bangladesh's public sector: An institutional and managerial analysis of the performance management system - Md. Fauzul Kabir (NSU)	Md. Fauzul Kabir
5.	10:20–10:30	Regional cooperation under pressure: Mass uprisings and governance challenges in south asia - Vera Jasmine Shrestha (KUSOM, MPPM Program) - Pasang Syangtan (KUSOM, MPPM Program) - Nitesh Shrestha (KUSOM, MPPM Program)	Vera Jasmine Shrestha
	10:30–10:50	<i>Thematic Discussions</i>	
	10:50–11:00	<i>Distribution of Certificates and Token of Love</i>	

Session Chair: Dr. S.M. Rezwon UI Alam, Associate Professor, North South University (NSU)

Discussant: Mr. Mohan Das Manandhar, Chairperson, Niti Foundation

Moderator: Ms. Chandni Kayastha, Training and Research Officer, Nepal Administrative Staff College

Note: All presenters and members of the session management team (session chairs, discussants, moderators, rapporteurs and session hosts) are kindly requested to arrive at the venue by 8:45 AM and be seated at least 10 minutes prior to the commencement of the technical session.

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9–10 April 2026 (26 – 27 Chaitra 2082)

Schedule: Parallel Technical Sessions

Friday, 10 April 2026

Theme 2: Responsive Public Administration – Room A

Venue: Janaki Hall, Diksha Sadan

Time: 09:10 – 11:00

SN	Time	Activity / Title of the Paper & Authors	Paper Presenter
	09:10–09:20	<i>Introduction of Session Chair and Discussant</i>	
1.	09:20–09:30	Does perception matter? Exploring how intersectional employee perceptions of the reservation system influence inclusivity in Nepal's civil service - Baburam Bhul, PhD (Nepal Open University; Office of the Auditor General, Nepal)	Baburam Bhul
2.	09:30–09:40	How effective is the Nepal electricity authority's online performance appraisal system? Insights from a qualitative study - Bharat K.C. (Nepal Electricity Authority)	Bharat K.C.
3.	09:40–09:50	ADR for VAT dispute resolution in Bangladesh: A critical assessment - Dipa Rani Halder (NSU)	Dipa Rani Halder
4.	09:50–10:00	Assessing the effectiveness of the farm broadcast unit (FBU) of Bangladesh Betar (Radio) - Nusrat Harun (NSU)	Nusrat Harun
5.	10:00–10:10	Voluntary Turnover Decision from Nepali Civil Service: Unravelling the Experiences of Joint Secretaries - Pramod Niroula (NASC) - Shailendra Prasad Bhatt (NASC)	Pramod Niroula
6.	10:10–10:20	Beyond glass ceiling – Challenges and realities of Nepali female bureaucrats through a feminist institutionalism lens - Radha Wagle (Female Foresters Networks, Nepal; Biodiversity & Climate Adaptation Specialist, Glen Eira City Council, Australia)	Radha Wagle
7.	10:20–10:30	Assessing the healthcare quality gap: Public service delivery at civil service hospital - Sabik Neupane (NASC) - Roshani Bhujel (NASC)	Roshani Bhujel
	10:30–10:50	<i>Thematic Discussions</i>	
	10:50–11:00	<i>Distribution of Certificates and Token of Love</i>	

Session Chair: Dr. Narayan Baskota, Technical Advisor, Niti Foundation

Discussant: Mr. Rajendra Adhikari, Senior Director of Studies, Nepal Administrative Staff College

Moderator: Ms. Antovna Gyawali, Deputy Director of Studies, Nepal Administrative Staff College

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Schedule: Parallel Technical Sessions

Friday, 10 April 2026

Theme 2: Responsive Public Administration – Room B

Venue: Manjushree Hall, Diksha Sadan

Time: 09:20 – 11:00

SN	Time	Activity / Title of the Paper & Authors	Paper Presenter
	09:20–09:30	<i>Introduction of Session Chair and Discussant</i>	
1.	09:30–09:40	Administrative responsiveness under fiscal federalism: institutional and economic evidence from Nepal's local government - Ashim Acharya (KUSOM, MPPM Program) - Poonam Regmi (KUSOM, MPPM Program) - Shoumya Risal (KUSOM, MPPM Program)	Ashim Acharya
2.	09:40–09:50	The cross-sectional study on the effect of self-awareness on the job performance of employees of government of Nepal - Chandni Kayastha (NASC)	Chandni Kayastha
3.	09:50–10:00	Training and gender sensitivity in local governance: Evidence from elected representatives in Nepal - Geetanjali Upadhyaya (NASC) - Dr. Nirmal Kumar Raut (TU) - Shailaja Upadhyaya (NASC) - Deepesh Acharya	Geetanjali Upadhyaya
4.	10:00–10:10	An assessment of procurement governance in Bangladesh railway: A case of selected five development projects - Md. Golam (NSU)	Md. Golam
5.	10:10–10:20	Health financing in municipalities in Nepal: A study of Kathmandu, Lalitpur & Biratnagar metropolitan city - Sabik Neupane (NASC) - Pritha Paudyal (NASC)	Pritha Paudyal
6.	10:20–10:30	Impact of corporate governance in the general industry in Nepal - Tek Raj Paudel (MPA)	Tek Raj Paudel
	10:30–10:50	<i>Thematic Discussions</i>	
	10:50–11:00	<i>Distribution of Certificates and Token of Love</i>	

Session Chair: Mr. Krishna Gyawali, former Secretary, Government of Nepal

Discussant: Dr. Sushmita Acharya, Lecturer, Public Administration Campus, Tribhuvan University

Moderator: Mr. Yagya Prasad Dhungel, Director of Studies, Nepal Administrative Staff College

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Schedule: Parallel Technical Sessions

Friday, 10 April 2026

Theme 3: Innovation & AI for Digital Governance

Venue: Araniko Hall, Sampada Sadan

Time: 09:10 – 11:00

SN	Time	Activity / Title of the Paper & Authors	Paper Presenter
	09:10–09:20	<i>Introduction of Session Chair and Discussant</i>	
1.	09:20–09:30	Enhancing training transfer with generative AI: A quasi-experimental approach - Anup Bhurtel (NASC)	Anup Bhurtel
2.	09:30–09:40	Public policy challenges of integrating innovation and artificial intelligence (AI) into digital governance in Nepal - Belisha Raut (KUSOM, MPPM Program) - Sadiya Awale (KUSOM, MPPM Program) - Sushil Nepali (KUSOM, MPPM Program) - Ujwala Maharjan (KUSOM, MPPM Program)	Belisha Raut
3.	09:40–09:50	Reforming Nepal’s social security protection architecture through digital transformation: Institutional coordination, governance innovation, and inclusive digital public infrastructure - Dr. Sugam Jung K.C. (Tribhuvan University) - Radha Kandel (Employees Provident Fund, Nepal)	Dr. Sugam Jung K.C.
4.	09:50–10:00	From physical presence to digital care: Ageing in migrant societies - K.D. Dushmanthi Silva (University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka)	K.D. Dushmanthi Silva
5.	10:00–10:10	The digital land management system (DLMS) - Mohammad Monoar Hossain (NSU)	Mohammad Monoar Hossain
6.	10:10–10:20	Effect of entrepreneurial self-efficacy on women entrepreneurial survivability in Nepal: Moderating role of information communication technology - Radha Devi Ghimire (Central Department of Public Administration, CDPA)	Radha Devi Ghimire
7.	10:20–10:30	Digital leadership in practice: How online trainers navigate hierarchy to lead in government training institutes - Shital Moktan Tamang (NASC)	Shital Moktan Tamang
	10:30–10:50	<i>Thematic Discussions</i>	
	10:50–11:00	<i>Distribution of Certificates and Token of Love</i>	

Session Chair: Mr. Subash Dhakal, Deputy Director General, Department of Information Technology

Discussant: Mr. Hempal Shrestha, Legal - Tech Specialist

Moderator: Dr. Shyan Kirat Rai, Director of Studies, Nepal Administrative Staff College

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Schedule: Parallel Technical Sessions

Friday, 10 April 2026

Theme 4: Culture, Identity, and Social Transformation

Venue: Annapurna Hall, Sampada Sadan

Time: 09:30 – 11:00

SN	Time	Activity / Title of the Paper & Authors	Paper Presenter
	09:30–09:40	<i>Introduction of Session Chair and Discussant</i>	
1.	09:40–09:50	Cultural dimension of policymaking in Nepal: Reimagining an overlooked domain in a transforming world - Aatisha Malla (KUSOM, MPPM Program) - Durga B.K. (KUSOM, MPPM Program) - Indra Pun (KUSOM, MPPM Program) - Lal Bahadur Pun (KUSOM, MPPM Program) - Prashamshya Karmacharya (KUSOM, MPPM Program)	Aatisha Malla
2.	09:50–10:00	Politics in symbolization of Dharahara as national monument: Built environment as a symbol of collective identity Saurav Koirala (NASC)	Saurav Koirala
3.	10:00–10:10	Displaced toponyms, disrupted identities: Ethnography of Magar place names of Siddhartha highway sector between Butwal–Palpa corridor - Dhan Bahadur Reshmi (Dept. of STEAM Education, School of Education, Kathmandu University)	Dhan Bahadur Reshmi
4.	10:10–10:20	Emotional intelligence and investment decision making among generation Y - Kamana Pandey (M.Phil. Scholar, Tribhuvan University, Nepal)	Kamana Pandey
	10:20–10:40	<i>Thematic Discussions</i>	
	10:40–11:00	<i>Distribution of Certificates and Token of Love</i>	

Session Chair: Mr. Madhu Raman Acharya, President, Public Administration Association of Nepal (PAAN)

Discussant: Ms. Nisha Onta, Founder and Executive Director at Governance Lab

Moderator: Ms. Saroja Shakya, Training and Research Officer, Nepal Administrative Staff College

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Schedule: Parallel Technical Sessions

Friday, 10 April 2026

Theme 5: Climate & Disaster Risk – Room A

Venue: Lumbini Hall, Diksha Sadan

Time: 09:30 – 11:00

SN	Time	Activity / Title of the Paper & Authors	Paper Presenter
	09:30–09:40	<i>Introduction of Session Chair and Discussant</i>	
1.	09:40–09:50	Policy coherence in climate governance: Analyzing national policy frameworks for disaster risk reduction in South Asia - Alaska Poudyal (KUSOM, MPPM Program) - Rose Dhungana (KUSOM, MPPM Program)	Alaska Poudyal
2.	09:50–10:00	Climate change, COP, and contradictions: What next? - Dr. Mitra Bandhu Poudel (Principal, Little Angels' College of Management; Visiting Faculty, KU School of Management)	Dr. Mitra Bandhu Poudel
3.	10:00–10:10	Climate change and the challenge of resilience: Governance and community responses in Nepal and beyond - Meen B. Poudyal Chhetri, Ph.D. (Executive Director, Nepal Centre for Disaster Management; Adjunct Professor, Queensland University of Technology, Australia)	Meen B. Poudyal Chhetri
4.	10:10–10:20	Internationally vocal and domestically mute: How just is climate finance in Nepal? - Sindhu Prasad Dhungana (Retired Joint Secretary, GoN)	Sindhu Prasad Dhungana
5.	10:20–10:30	Monasteries as agents of resilience: Cultural identity and climate adaptation in Mustang - Sushan Bhattarai	Sushan Bhattarai
	10:30–10:50	<i>Thematic Discussions</i>	
	10:50–11:00	<i>Distribution of Certificates and Token of Love</i>	

Session Chair: Dr. Pooja Mehta, Associate Professor, Chitkara University, Punjab, India

Discussant: Dr. Bharat Singh Thapa, Lecturer, Tribhuvan University

Moderator: Ms. Anita Poudel, Director of Studies, Nepal Administrative Staff College

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Schedule: Parallel Technical Sessions

Friday, 10 April 2026

Theme 5: Climate & Disaster Risk – Room B

Venue: Rara Hall, Diksha Sadan

Time: 09:30 – 11:00

SN	Time	Activity / Title of the Paper & Authors	Paper Presenter
	09:30–09:40	<i>Introduction of Session Chair and Discussant</i>	
1.	09:40–09:50	Socio-economic determinants of flood vulnerability: A case study of Banke and dang districts, Lumbini province, Nepal - Adarsha Neupane (SIAS)	Adarsha Neupane
2.	09:50–10:00	Forest fire management challenges and response strategies for resilient adaptation under changing climate in Nepal - Dr. Meena Adhikari (Nepal Water Conservation Foundation)	Dr. Meena Adhikari
3.	10:00–10:10	Localising climate finance in Nepal - Rhetoric, rationality and responsibility - Dilli P. Poudel (SIAS) - Gyanu Maskey (SIAS) - Kunja Shrestha (SIAS) - Rojani Manandhar (SIAS) - Mani R. Banjade (SIAS) - Dil Khatri (SIAS) - Meeta S. Pradhan (SIAS) - Ananda R. Devkota (SIAS)	Kunja Shrestha
4.	10:10–10:20	Beyond relief: Rethinking disaster response through loss and damage in Melamchi valley, Nepal - Sneha Rai (Prakriti Resources Centre)	Sneha Rai
5.	10:20–10:30	Responding to climate and disaster risk for a sustainable future - Supriya Gupta (NHRC)	Supriya Gupta
	10:30–10:50	<i>Thematic Discussions</i>	
	10:50–11:00	<i>Distribution of Certificates and Token of Love</i>	

Session Chair: Dr. Dilli Prasad Poudel, Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS)

Discussant: Mr. Ashutosh Kumar Shukla, Adjunct Professor, Nepal Engineering College

Moderator: Ms. Pratibha Dhungana, Deputy Director of Studies, Nepal Administrative Staff College

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Schedule: Parallel Technical Sessions

Friday, 10 April 2026

Theme 6: Youth Leadership for Adaptive Governance

Venue: Pathivara Hall, Diksha Sadan

Time: 09:30 – 11:00

SN	Time	Activity / Title of the Paper & Authors	Paper Presenter
	09:30–09:40	<i>Introduction of Session Chair and Discussant</i>	
1.	09:40–09:50	सामुदायिक बनको नयाँ गन्तव्य : युवा सहभागिता र उच्चममुखी रूपान्तरण - Bhola Khatiwada (SIAS) - Gobinda Poudel (SIAS)	Bhola Khatiwada
2.	09:50–10:00	Greenfluencer credibility and ethical consumerism: The mediating role of environmental concern in social transformation - Harish Saini (Chitkara University)	Harish Saini
3.	10:00–10:10	Empowering youth leadership to strengthen the governance system of Nepal - Mamata Joshi (KUSOM, MPPM Program) - Nitesh Kumar Shah (KUSOM, MPPM Program)	Mamata Joshi
4.	10:10–10:20	Transformative knowledge for planetary sustainability: Bridging science, indigenous wisdom, and policy - Prof. Medani P. Bhandari, Ph.D. (UNEP MGFC Regional Facilitator; Senior VP, Akamai University, USA; Principal, Kathmandu Forestry College, Nepal)	Prof. Medani P. Bhandari
5.	10:20–10:30	From ancient skills to modern resilience: Nepal's indigenous enterprises - Surendra Prasad Joshi (MPhil Scholar) - Sugam Subedi - Yogita Silwal	Surendra Prasad Joshi
	10:30–10:50	<i>Thematic Discussions</i>	
	10:50–11:00	<i>Distribution of Certificates and Token of Love</i>	

Session Chair: Dr. Lal Bahadur Pun, Assistant Professor, Kathmandu University School of Management

Discussant: Ms. Anita Niraula, Joint Secretary, Government of Nepal

Moderator: Mr. Tara Prasad Kharel, Deputy Director of Studies, Nepal Administrative Staff College

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Friday, 10 April 2026

Theme 4: Culture, Identity, and Social Transformation

Theme 5: Climate & Disaster Risk

Venue: Prithvi Hall, Sampada Sadan

Time: 09:20 – 11:00

SN	Time	Activity / Title of the Paper & Authors	Paper Presenter
	09:30–09:50	<i>Introduction of Session Chair and Discussant</i>	
1.	09:50–10:00	Local governments' budgeting process in Nepal: Do women influence budget decisions? - Anil Kumar Gupta (NASC)	Anil Kumar Gupta
2.	10:00–10:10	Climate-responsive budgeting in South Asia: Governance and implementation challenges at the sub-national level - Khushi Johari (Founder, Sustainable Finance with Khushi; Alumna, Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal)	Khushi Johari
3.	10:10–10:20	Digital governance and climate disaster response effectiveness in South Asia: A comparative analysis of youth demographics, social media penetration, and disaster outcomes - Mrs. Alka Sharma (Dept. of Commerce & Management, University of Kota, Rajasthan) - Mrs. Shailu Singh	Mrs. Alka Sharma
4.	10:20–10:30	Re-envisioning governance in South Asia: Youth engagement and digital transformation as pillars of democratic resilience - Prof. Janak Singh Meena (Dept. of Gandhian Thought & Peace Studies, Central University of Gujarat, India) - Meenakshi (Research Scholar, Central University of Gujarat, India)	Prof. Janak Singh Meena
	10:20–10:50	<i>Thematic Discussions</i>	
	10:50–11:00	<i>Distribution of Token of Love</i>	

Session Chair: Mr. Tulasi Sharan Sigdel, Senior Director of Studies, Nepal Administrative Staff College

Discussant: Dr. Hari Dhungana, Associate Professor - Development Management and Administration, Nepal Open University

Moderator: Ms. Shashi Shekhar Acharya, Training and Research Officer, Nepal Administrative Staff College

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Conference Guidelines

General Conduct

- Participants are encouraged to maintain professional decorum
- Discussions should be respectful, focused, and constructive
- Presentation: 8 minutes per presenter
- Discussion/Q&A: 2 minutes per presenter
- Time signals will be provided to ensure adherence
- All participants are requested to respect time limits to maintain the overall schedule
- Mobile devices should be kept on silent mode during sessions

Role of the Session Chair

- Reviewing the assigned papers in advance
- Facilitate the session proceedings by initiating and closing the session
- Briefly introduce the session theme and presenters
- Ensure strict adherence to time allocations for each presentation
 - At 6 minutes – to signal nearing conclusion
 - At 8 minutes – to indicate closure
- Moderate the discussion, encouraging constructive and focused engagement
- Ensure presenters respond concisely and directly to questions within the allotted time.
- Provide floor to the discussant after presentations conclude
- Synthesize key points emerging from the presentations and discussions at the end of the session
- Maintain an environment of respectful and meaningful academic exchange
- Hand-over certificates to presenters along with the discussant.

Role of the Discussant

- Reviewing the assigned papers in advance
- Highlight key contributions, cross-cutting themes, and gaps
- Offer analytical insights and constructive feedback
- Highlighting the relevance and implications of the work for policy, practice, or further research
- Managing comments within the allocated time
- Hand-over certificates to presenters along with the discussant.

Role of Rapporteur

- Capture key points from presentations and discussions
- Note emerging themes, insights, and recommendations
- Prepare a brief session summary/report
- Coordinate, if required, with the Session Chair for validation of key points