

Editorial Note

It is indeed a happy realization that the department has now successfully completed its first decade and very much looks ahead for further growth and expansion. The institution that started 10 years ago with only 50 students now boasts of over 500 enrollment and, as a further indication of the growing interest in the new disciplines, the teaching of sociology and anthropology has been started in six other campus at the B. A. level.

Unfortunately, the full potential of the department and the discipline has been some what restricted by the chronic shortage of funds and physical facilities. The burgeoning student number has meant that such basic necessities as class rooms and furnitures etc. have become seriously insufficient.

As the two disciplines most concerned with the totality of human culture and society, sociology and anthropology can provide unique insight into the issues of poverty, change and development- the major processes Nepal is trying to grapple with. If the concerned authorities could make use of the findings and expertise of sociology and anthropology in the planning and implementation of various development programmes, not only would better results be ensured but it would also promote the emergence of Nepalese sociology and anthropology. Similarly, the inclusion of sociological and

anthropological work by institutions like the Royal Nepal Academy in their regular activities would be highly fruitful in this regard.

The attempt to make the publication of the "Occasional Papers" a regular feature in the department's academic calendar was hampered by both lack of funds and contributions of papers. Henceforth, efforts will be made not only to regularise this publication but also to further develop it into a professional journal that will reflect and promote the emerging field of Nepali sociology and anthropology.

In line with the present concerns of Nepali society, the various papers of this issue cover a broad range of topics and interest. This is also an indication of the gradual maturation of the discipline in Nepal. While Upadhyay's work deals with the question of indigenous patterns of forest management and its significance for the modern forestry planning, Pyakurel looks at the deeper processes of development and underdevelopment drawing from the examples of local resource management structures. In a similar vein, Pandey dwells on the salient aspects of state policies that affect the poverty and productivity of the peasantry.

On the other hand, Regmi looks at the process of ageing in Nepal and the particular problems faced by the old in respect to the changing socio-cultural norms. Likewise, Shah's paper, using case studies, attempts to describe the condition of child domestic servants as a reflection of the poverty of rural peasant families and its consequences.

Pant, Bhandari and Gurung have broken new grounds this time. While Pant's paper deals with the unique characteristics of Nepali folk religion and its cosmobiological nature, Bhandari and Gurung attempt to depict the problems and prospects of national integration. Two foreign scholars Mikesell and Cox in their respective paper point out the lacunas

in the "mainstream" American anthropology from different perspectives and indicate its relevance for Nepal.

While hoping that the present collection of papers prove academically stimulating, we look forward to receiving many quality papers for the next issue which is tentatively slated for this summer.

The editorial board
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