

## **EDITORIAL: The Future of Interdisciplinary Research**

Research is increasingly moving towards more interdisciplinary than disciplinary approaches to problem solving in the 21st century. Cross-disciplinary collaboration between scholars from different disciplines is important to have more benefits of interdisciplinarity for future research activities. Of course, researchers will need certain skills to foster interdisciplinary perspectives for successful collaboration. So the researchers have to reflect on how interdisciplinary approaches can help to shape future interdisciplinary research initiatives.

In fact, interdisciplinary research involves more collaboration that benefits the scholars, researchers, and even policy makers. So it is estimated that the future of research will move towards an interdisciplinary approach. There are reasons for this estimate. One, a single disciplinary approach cannot give the holistic solution to a problem. Two, the world has become more complex as compared to the pre-media age. Three, the researchers have to cope with the challenges of openness that need to avoid the risks of having mixed up everything. In doing so, the modern world can reap the benefits of the future interdisciplinary research landscape.

Academic disciplines are now flexible to form new disciplines such as interdisciplinarity, which can provide better answers to emerging new questions. The recent trend in the academia is the collaboration between different disciplines such as the collaboration between literature and nature, or between natural and social sciences. But sometimes there are also the collaboration between similar disciplines such as the integration between humanities and social sciences.

Increasingly, such collaborations are unpredictable because they involve scholars, policy makers, and other stakeholders in a variety of ways. Like one defines research problems, another develops models and yet another participates in data collection and some in scientific experiments.

In this way, it is important to know that interdisciplinarity is a means to address complex problems that cannot be dealt with a single disciplinary approach alone. Such problems will need the people from diverse disciplinary fields to work together and find appropriate solutions. Thus, interdisciplinary approach is an effective way to address such problems and may foster sound interactions between people from different disciplines and careers. The articles included in this issue have attempted to address the issues related to the future of interdisciplinary research.

In the article entitled "Migration and Hybridity: Creating a New World in Manjushree Thapa's *Seasons of Flight*," Dilu Gurung has attempted to show that Thapa's *Seasons of Flight* is a novel about migration and hybridity that creates an alternative world, resulting in the exchange and interaction of more than a nation. For instance, the protagonist migrates from Nepal to America and hybridizes herself and the nation she migrates to.

Dr. Jib Lal Sapkota's article "Land as (In)Security in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*" uses an ecocritical perspective to explore the relationship between land and human being's security concern that contributes in shaping an individual's identity. In the novel, for instance, the precolonial Igbo people of South Eastern Nigeria value their attachment with their land highly by worshipping it as the Goddess Earth. It means that these people feel their independent identity in their land, but with the arrival of Christians into their community, they feel insecure in their own homeland.

The article entitled "Politics, Sex, and Religion: The Self in Oscar Wilde's *Salomé*" by Dr. Min Pun examines the self in Oscar Wilde's one-act play *Salomé*. Through the study of characters in the play, Dr. Pun has tried to prove that the world is always in conflict, revolving around three aspects of human life: politics, sex, and religion. They shape an individual's life as it is shown in the life of the playwright.

In the article "Colonial Trauma in Ruskin Bond's *A Flight of Pigeons*," Badri Prasad Pokharel and Parash Adhikari have examined the British colonization in India and its impact on the mind of Indians. According to the authors, trauma is at work in Bond's novel, showing the socio-economic-political impasse of the country during the colonial period in India.

In the article "Teacher Identity in a U.S. Funded Education Program in Nepal," Todd Wallenius deals with the educators' perceptions of teacher roles in the context of a U.S. funded STEM education program in Nepal. His study shows that teachers in Nepal consider their profession in terms of its significance for their own lives, the individual pursuits of their students, and the efforts of a national civil society that shape their community based identity as a teacher.

The article "Local Curriculum in Schools in Nepal: A Gap between Policies and Practices" by Khim Raj Subedi is the study of the policy provisions and practices of the local curriculum in primary schools in Nepal. The author claims that the provision of local curriculum exists only at policy levels and lacks its implementation in primary schools. He suggests that the local curriculum in primary schools should be made more relevant and strengthened the capacity of local stakeholders by fostering and promoting the context-based knowledge on social diversity.

In the article "Trajectories of Ethnic Movements: Nepal in Transition," Dr. Shyamu Thapa Magar helps to understand different trajectories of ethnic movements that occurred in different parts of Nepal, especially in South Asia and South East Asia, including Nepal. She argues that the ethnic movement in Nepal is a part of ethnic identity construction process that takes different trajectories to be identified as separate groups.