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EDITORIAL

Anthropology and sociology have 'come of age' in Nepal. During the past two decades, anthropologists and sociologists trained both indigenously and exogenously have made untiring and sincere efforts for the academic and professional growth of both disciplines. With the change of development paradigm in the contemporary social world, anthropology and sociology have assumed the paramount importance -- a function of the realization that social, cultural and institutional aspects are no less important for the sustainable development. And this has been equally true in the context of Nepal. It follows as a corollary that every year thousands of students have shown their academic interests to pursue M.A. in Anthropology and Sociology. In fact, a strong and rigorous academic background in both the disciplines has helped a large number of people to carve out their much - coveted "niches" in the agencies working for the development of Nepal. However, both disciplines have also a great challenge of producing high quality manpower needed for the developmental efforts of Nepal. It is in this context that the present volume of *Occasional Papers in Sociology and Anthropology* has been published for students, teachers and development practitioners. It is easier said than done. There has always been a problem of the collection of articles and under such circumstance, it is a herculean task to maintain the continuity of its publication. However, a few teachers of the Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology and a few others from outside have contributed their articles to the present volume. The editorial board duly acknowledge their laudable contribution.

Let us have a glance on the themes of the articles of this volume. Prof. Reshikeshab Raj Regmi elaborately discusses the need of anthropological insights in the delivery of health services in Nepal. Prof. Kailash Pyakuryal has contributed a course-based theoretical article which elaborately discusses the concept of social stratification according to the model of Max Weber, an eminent German sociologists. Dr. Padam Lal Devkota critically

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presents the native perspective on the anthropology, society and development in Nepal and stresses the need for the *Nepalization* of the discipline. Mr. Laya Prasad Uprety presents an overview of the population dynamics and environmental degradation in Nepal. Mr. Binod Pokhrel critically analyzes the gender roles and development activities among the rural households of eastern Nepal. Dr. Samira Luitel critically assesses the social world of the Nepalese women with case study evidences. Mr. Youba Raj Luitel logically presents the *pros* and *cons* of the debate on the women's property right issue in Nepal by contextualizing the discussion in a theoretical framework. Mr. Dharendra Bahadur Parajuli presents the cultural dimension of pasture resource management from the northwest Dolpa. Dr. Philip Tanner critically traces the development of participatory processes and policy in Nepal's development over the past 40 years. It also examines briefly the development in international social research and emerging knowledge on the subject of participation and empowerment concepts that may influence the direction of social research in Nepal.

Prof. Dr. Reshikeshab Raj Regmi
Laya Prasad Uprety
Binod Pokhrel

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ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSIGHTS IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES IN NEPAL

Dr. Rishikeshab Raj Regmi*

Introduction

Indigenous practitioners like herbalists and spiritualists used to practice traditional medical methods until 1950 in Nepal. A multiplicity of medical traditions are found among the various caste/ethnic communities of Nepal. Since Nepal is a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural country, there is a variety of cultural differences and similarities in primary health care practices. Beliefs, concepts and opinions are different among different communities. Concepts of health and hygiene, disease and illness also differ from culture to culture.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal had the policy to provide good health services to the people of Nepal by 2000 A.D. There is a proliferation of foreign and development programs on health care system. Many INGOs and NGOs are working under various health activities to fulfil the aspirations of about 21.5 million population of Nepal. But despite their efforts, no improvement on the quality of life of the people is noticed.

Health has always been a major concern of community development. It is a basic requirement not only for the fulfillment of people's aspirations but also for the enjoyment of the people for a better quality of life.

* Dr. Regmi is the Professor in Anthropology and Head of the Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu.

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