
In order to institutionalize policy research in Nepal, Policy Research Institute (PRI) has been formed. PRI is working as a government think tank which will work in policy research in several sectors including security, international relation, economic development, social justice, transparency, good governance, civil service, corruption control, money laundering control, safety of public properties and revenue, resolution of conflict of interest, implementation of citizen charters, code of conduct and ethics for civil servants, civil service, development service, protection of environment, governance reformation, and all issues requested by the government of Nepal through the office of the prime minister and ministries. Current Executive Chairperson of PRI is Dr Bishnu Raj Upreti.

Learn more about PRI in its website.
Evidence from the World Bank study, 'Informality and Covid-19'

The recent World Bank study has recently published a study report on the impact on informal economy in South Asia due to Covid-19. Key findings from the study related to Nepal are as follows:

- Economic growth slowed to 0.2 percent in FY20, mainly due to lockdown.
- Service sector growth deteriorated to an 18-year low of 0.7 percent, as tourism arrivals stopped and domestic transport and trade were disrupted.
- Industrial growth contracted, and capacity utilization fell from 80 to 46 percent because of shortages in production inputs and labor.
- Agricultural growth also decelerated sharply as market access and labor mobility became constrained.

Full report available [here](#).

Situational Assessment of Labor Migrants in Asia: Needs and Knowledge During COVID-19

The USAID Asia Counter Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) project, implemented by Winrock International, conducted a quantitative study that reached 195 returned Nepali migrants.

Major highlights include:

- 92% of those interviewed were currently unemployed.
- Since returning to Nepal, 66% of respondents reported not having enough income to support themselves and 31% said they did not have enough food to eat every day.
- Over a third (36%) of returnees interviewed reported not receiving full payment for their work in the destination country before returning to Nepal. Over half of respondents (52%) said they plan to re-migrate for work and most (82%) said they would ask family or friends when deciding if it’s safe and possible to re-migrate. About a third (31%) said they would get information from a recruitment agency.

Full report available [here](#).
NCD Research Roundup October 2020

NCD Watch Nepal is an initiative to promote evidence-informed policymaking and promote public awareness on non-communicable disease (NCDs) and related issues in Nepal.

For the month of October 2020, on non-communicable diseases in Nepal, the scoping study found seven published articles. All of the studies published were cross sectional. Studies were done in hypertension, stroke, knowledge on non-communicable diseases, and chronic kidney diseases. The articles included:

- Availability of equipment and medications for non-communicable diseases and injuries at public first-referral level hospitals: a cross-sectional analysis of service provision assessments in eight low-income countries
- Health related quality of life among hemodialysis and kidney transplant recipients from Nepal: a cross sectional study using WHOQOL-BREF
- Awareness About Non-Communicable Diseases among Rural Population in Remote Villages of Nepal
- Hypertension Care Coordination and Feasibility of Involving Female Community Health Volunteers in Hypertension Management in Kavre District, Nepal: A Qualitative Study
- Mental Health Status of Nepalese Students during Novel Coronavirus Disease (nCOVID-19) Pandemic
- Stroke Emergency during COVID-19 Pandemic in Nepal
- Prevalence and risk factors of depression in patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis in Nepal: a cross-sectional study

For further details, follow this link
What has motivated you to conducting research in the conflict and peace sector?
As shared experience of Nepalese youths of my generation, I grew up and became an adult while experiencing both indirectly and directly monarchial (panchayat) rule, constitutional rule, multi-party rule with and without a king, including Maoist insurgency when so many of my age mates either voluntarily or forcefully joined the Maoist war. During the period of conflict, I got chance to closely observe the overall impact of conflicts such as killing, torture, displacement, force recruitment in PLA. The everyday incidents of killing, torture, forced displacement and listening pathetic stories of victims motivated me to build my interest in peace and conflict sector. Also, my university studies 'Master of Arts program in Conflict, Peace and Development Studies at Tribhuvan University' revolved around issues of conflict, peace, development, human rights and post-conflict peacebuilding issues and as a part of my professional life, I started working at Secretariat of Special Committee for Supervision, Integration and Rehabilitation of Maoist Army Combatants which helped me to combine my both theoretical and practical knowledge and understanding of various dimension of conflict and peace sector. This is how I was motivated in this field.

What are the specific areas you are interested in writing/publishing?
The primary area of interest is national security and post conflict peacebuilding and I am extensively conducting research in the areas of post-conflict peacebuilding, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform, Maoist conflict, post-conflict peacebuilding, civil military relations, intelligence and security sector reform.

You have been writing and publishing journal articles on conflict and peace consistently. What have been your major lessons and achievements?
Generally, people believe that research is value free work. Based on my experience in peace and conflict research, I realized peace research itself is agenda based research and ultimate goal of a researcher is to fostering peace and justice at societal, national and global level. Peace research is beneficial for the advocacy of human rights, peace, justice and humanity. In general sense, peace research sounds very fascinating but equally challenging as well. Time and again, we need to challenge the existing frameworks of research.

Any recommendations or tips you would like to provide to anyone who is interested to write and publish articles on conflict and peace sector.
The conflict and peace sector has many avenues for research. The agenda of peace and conflict in Nepal is narrowly defined with Maoist conflict. Based on my observation for over a decade, it is much hyped and less studied sector in Nepal. The academic inquiry in this field was started as by product of a decade long armed conflict. At national level, the agendas of transitional justice, post-conflict social and political transformation, reconciliation are yet to be addressed properly and new areas related to federal set-up and natural resources are open up. Therefore, I suggest young researchers to put their sincere effort to explore and document existing and new agendas of conflict and peace sector.

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