Chilling report on culture of impunity in Nepal

Human Rights Watch and Advocacy Forum has recently come up with a chilling report on the culture of impunity in Nepal in the post-conflict stage. The report tracks 62 cases of extrajudicial killings. The report highlights that there has been little progress toward prosecutions, despite court orders requiring investigations to proceed, with the police and prosecutors saying that the government has told them these cases will be handled by transitional justice mechanisms. The report recommends that foreign donor governments and the United Nations should press Nepal’s government to stop impeding justice, and to amend transitional justice legislation to comply with Supreme Court rulings and obligations under international human rights law. The report also recommends international donors to strengthen policing and rule of law and press for concrete action to end impunity for abuses committed during the conflict period as well as ongoing abuses. In the absence of prosecutions in Nepal, the report recommends prosecutors in other countries should investigate universal jurisdiction cases against Nepali suspects in international crimes. Further details about the report available in this link.
The Global Corruption Barometer Asia 2020 report by Transparency International focuses on citizens' views and experiences of corruption in Asia. 20,000 survey respondents shared that government corruption is a big problem in their country, and 1 out of 5 people who used public services in the previous 12 months paid a bribe. Key findings from the study related to Nepal are as follows:

- 58 percent believe corruption increased in past 12 months
- 84 percent believe corruption is a big problem
- 37 percent think government doing badly in tackling corruption
- 84 percent think anti-corruption agency (CIAA) is doing well in the fight against corruption
- 12 percent public service users paid a bribe in past 12 months
- 7 percent sextortion (abuse of power to obtain sexual benefit)
- 13 percent received bribes in exchange for votes
- 68 percent believe ordinary citizens can make a difference in the fight against corruption

Full report available [here](#)

**Nepal Labour Migration Report 2020**

Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security has recently published Nepal Labour Migration Report 2020. The report recommends the following aspects:

- Revision of Foreign Employment Policy 2012 (such as harmonization of sectoral policies, expansion of Foreign Employment Coordination Committee, setting up high level coordination committee to explore complementarities and collaboration)
- Upgrading of Foreign Employment Information Management System (FEIMS) eventually linking with national ID database developed by Ministry of Home Affairs
- Adopting integrated service delivery mechanism to provide all labour-migration related services under one roof

Full report available [here](#)
HIV Epidemic in Nepal: Factsheet 2020

Marking World Aids Day (December 1), National Centre for AIDS and STD Control (NCASC) has published the HIV Epidemic Factsheet. Some of the interesting facts from the factsheet include:

- First HIV case was detected in 1988 in Nepal
- Heterosexual transmission is dominant (80 percent)
- 28,332 total HIV infected with 790 as estimated new infection in 2019
- Advanced HIV (61 percent) and Tuberculosis (23 percent) major causes of HIV related death among people living with HIV (PLHIV)

More details about the factsheet available here.

School Reopening Framework 2020

In the need for clear guidance for schools to reopen in the context of Covid-19, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology released the guideline on “School reopening framework in the context of COVID-19” on 7 November 2020. Major highlights from the framework include:

- Local governments can make decision on reopening/reclosing or keeping the schools closed based on the assessment of the risks involved for COVID transmission at local level.
- Before reopening the schools, local governments must coordinate with district COVID response management centre.
- For those schools which have been used as quarantine or isolation sites for COVID, they need to ensure implementation of standard public health security protocols recommended by Ministry of Health, including disinfection of the schools, before reopening the schools.
- Local governments can decide on running the schools in different modalities depending on the local situation, such as conducting all the classes in the school at the same time as in normal situation, or running classes in different times for different levels/grades in different shifts, or conducting classes only few days in a week, or only a few hours in a day.

For further details, follow this link.
What has motivated you to conducting research in the ELT sector?
My teaching career began as an English language teacher in Nepal, which was not necessarily a choice about 15 years ago but, later, it became my only profession and passion. Belonging to an ethnolinguistic minoritized group in Nepal and having lived through a series of language-based discriminations and inequalities, it has given me some reasons to explore sociolinguistic issues. I started my research career looking at the sociolinguistic issues in the field of ELT. I am aware of the fact that English has historically been associated with elitism in Nepal (and beyond) creating English-based social fractions, so I have considered it as my responsibility to bring those issues to the forefront of public and scholarly debate for a better education system.

What are the specific areas you are interested in writing/publishing?
My research broadly deals with the issues of TESOL, language policy and planning, language ideology, bi/multilingual education, translingualism/plurilingualism, teacher education, and critical literacies and pedagogies. More specifically, my current research in Nepal investigates the development and enactment of English as a medium of instruction (EMI) policy at public schools and what that means for the lived experiences of children from different social groups along the lines of ethnolinguistic, socioeconomic, gender, and religion. I also research how inclusive ELT teacher education/preparation policies and programs are in Nepal. Besides ELT, as a different project, I'm currently researching the performance of ethnic nationalism and hybridization politics of language and identity in the media-scape like Hip-Hop and commercial movies.

You have been writing and publishing journal articles in the ELT sector consistently. What have been your major lessons and achievements?
My writing and publishing exercises have not only given me a kind of recognition among fellow professionals (nationally and internationally) but they have also empowered me to become a better citizen. Some global scholars who I grew up reading have become colleagues and collaborators, which is primarily because of my writing and publishing. The major lesson for me is that writing and publishing, if you’re doing for it’s real purpose, take lots of time, energy, and commitment. The outcome doesn’t come overnight; it takes months and years. I have negotiated most of my weekends and family time over past few years (not a good idea, though) to achieve what I have achieved. Similarly, I believe if one writes from their personal experiences and enthusiasm for the public benefit, beyond merely adding a line of publication to their CV, it gives lots of power and voice.

Any recommendations or tips for students/early career researchers interested to write and publish articles on ELT issues you would like to share?
We really lack research in Nepali ELT although there is a long history of teaching and learning English. We require deeper understanding of the critical issues of ELT, for example, in relation to ethnicity, gender, religion, and social class. Hundreds of graduate students from Nepali universities, write their theses/dissertations every year and no one reads them, so I would very strongly encourage these groups of students to write for journal articles or edited volumes. More importantly, I would recommend not to limit ELT research to the English language but also to see its relation to local language ecology. Follow Pramod on Twitter: @pramodtesol