NIRC in Numbers

Expanded coverage to all seven provinces of Nepal

» Implemented programmes/events in all provinces

Built capacities of

1600

development professionals, early career researchers and students

45

Online Trainings

25

Collaborations

with agencies representing government bodies, I/NGOs, NGOs, private companies
About NIRC

Nepal Institute of Research and Communications (NIRC) is a research and training institute focusing on development research and communications. We aim to promote the culture of designing, implementing and communicating research in Nepal especially in the field of social development. We are registered as a private limited company under the Office of Company Registrar in Kathmandu, Nepal. We began our operations from April 1, 2018.

How our journey began?

Stories are known when they are told. The idea to establish NIRC began when we realized that stories are known to the world when they are told. Effective communications therefore is the key. Communications cannot work in its entirety in isolation. It is imperative to understand research better in order to communicate better. So, we came up with this idea of a platform that can promote better development research and communications in Nepal.
Our Services

Design and development of research projects

• Developing research proposals and concept notes as part of fundraising initiative for various development and charity organizations.
• Designing Project Management approaches and tools for quality assurance of the project deliverables.

Research Communications, Research Uptake and Knowledge Management

• Developing social media strategies and handling social media networks such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter for professional organizational communications.
• Developing knowledge management portals for organizations/agencies looking towards making their information accessible and effective.
• Developing event videos, conducting live social media updates, preparing event reports, blogs and photo blogs, among others.
Data Translation, Analysis, Synthesis, Writing and Packaging

- Translation of research data, analysis and interpretation of data (qualitative, quantitative, mixed) as well as developing research reports.
- Synthesis and development of case studies, research/policy briefs, info-graphics and cover designs for various research publications.

Training, Mentoring and Capacity Development

- Facilitation of trainings and workshops on various research and communications themes.
- Technical support and mentorship to enhance research and communications skills of various professionals and organizations.

Policy and Advocacy

- Technical support in development of policies, strategies, guidelines and other strategic documents for government and non-government sector.
- Development of advocacy and communication strategies for implementation of various social initiatives especially for non-profit/charity based organizations.
Our Projects in FY 2020/21 (2077/78 BS)

A brief description of our projects implemented during the Nepali fiscal year 2077/78 BS (2020/21):

External Evaluation on Promoting Social Cohesion through Storytelling
NIRC conducted an external evaluation of the project, “Chautari Natak– Storytelling for Promoting Social Cohesion in the Communities of Nepal” implemented by Pro Public – a national NGO working on peacebuilding and social cohesion for over 3 decades.

Research on Cross Border Anti-Human Trafficking
NIRC is currently conducting two assessments for Good Shepherd International Foundation (GSIF) and Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN) as part of the research consultancy on Cross Border Anti-Human Trafficking (CBAHT) project.

Research on Communications Practice among Youth in Kathmandu valley
NIRC conducted a primary research (survey) among 500 youth studying in 15 colleges of Kathmandu valley to understand the communications practice of youth in their professional work. Specifically, we explored the trend and practice of using social media for professional purposes, knowledge and practice of developing resumes, writing emails and formal communications, event management, among others.
Online Training Events during Covid-19 Lockdown
Since the lockdown declaration in April 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic, NIRC conducted series of online training events. In this fiscal year, we conducted 45 online training events in the course of 12 months with over 1650 interested individuals participating in these events.

The list of online training events we conducted include:
- **Research Paper Writing** – 17 batches
- **Monitoring and Evaluation** – 8 batches
- **Grant Proposal Writing** – 6 batches
- **Qualitative Data Analysis** – 6 batches
- **SPSS Training** – 2 batches
- **1 batch each of Academic Paper Writing, Academic Proposal Writing, R programming, Data Visualization, Editing and Proofreading, Literature Review**

Technical Support for Filming of ‘Aina’ – a national TV Show on Social Justice
We have provided our human resources support through two of our videographers in filming of various episodes of ‘Aina’, a popular national TV show, which has about 100,000 subscribers.

Research on Youth and Ethnic Language
NIRC supported and published a research titled, ‘Knowledge and Attitude of Youth Speaking Nepal Bhasa Language: A Case Study of Bhaktapur Municipality’. The study was led by Saurav Thapa Shrestha, an advocate for promotion of ethnic language and culture.

Project Design and Proposal Development Support
NIRC provided technical support in project design and proposal development for a couple of non-government organizations based in Sudurpaschim Province namely Centre for Equal Access Development (CEAD) Nepal and Progressive Youth Society (PYS).
Symposium on Doing Development Differently
A virtual symposium on Doing Development Differently was organized by NIRC on May 16, 2021, in collaboration with Nepal Forum for Restorative Justice (NFRJ) and Transformative Research Initiative, Nepal (TRIN). During the event, development thinkers and practitioners, Dr Prakash Bhattarai and Mr Sharad Neupane shared their insights on the current development practices in Nepal; and how civil society organizations can work towards sustainability of their projects/initiatives.

Symposium on Development Communications Research
A virtual symposium on development communications research in Nepal took place on May 2, 2021. Rajesh Ghimire, a seasoned development communications and media professional, chaired the event. Three researchers presented their studies at the event. Saurav Thapa Shrestha, a graphic designer, shared the findings of his study, ‘Knowledge and Attitude of Youth Speaking Nepal Bhasa Language: A Case Study of Bhaktapur Municipality’. Likewise, Sakshi Shrestha, an ICT professional, presented her study, ‘Status of Women’s Access to Information and Communication Technology Facilities, and its Implications on Tourism Business in Nepal: A Comparative Study of Mustang Region and Nagarkot’. Similarly, Saurav Ranabhat, a photojournalist and media professional presented his study, ‘Problems of Women Photojournalists in Nepal’.

Unconference Series through Doing Development Differently – Nepal (D3N) Network
Celebrating Open Data Day 2021

NIRC, in collaboration with Transformative Research Initiative Nepal (TRIN) organized a round table discussion in Kathmandu on the feasibility and challenges of opening up national security and intelligence data. The speakers during the event were:

Chiranjibi Bhandari – Assistant Professor, Department of Conflict, Peace and Development Studies (DCPDS), Tribhuvan University

Rajendra Sharma – National Security Researcher and Lecturer, National College, Kathmandu University

Shweta Dhoubhadel – M&E Practitioner

Attended by participants representing academia, think tanks and research institutions, here are key takeaways from the discussion:

• While inquiring about the national security related information, common responses provided especially from the government officials are related to the information being “sensitive”.
• Interestingly, students get easier access to the information and data, as they are not considered as “a threat”. While if non-government organizations, private companies and other associations ask for the same information, they are sometimes viewed in a skeptically, questioning the purpose of the information sought.
• As a researcher or data enthusiast, it is often difficult to find security related information. Browsing through the internet, we hardly find specific information. Researchers often need to go physically to the offices and do several follow up visits to get hold of the data.
• Even the digital data that is available in the internet, going by the purpose of open data to be useable and re-useable, the available data formats are not “open-data friendly” and are mostly available in
PDFs or even in images or hard copies.

- The security of the protected data is also a concern. Those with even medium level of expertise in ICT can easily hack the government websites, which is quite alarming in terms of the extent of public and sensitive data that can be misused.
- There have been some good open data initiatives especially in the social development sector such as health and education. However, these initiatives are also supported through external/donor support and their sustainability is yet to be seen, when the federal and local governments start taking ownership.

As a way forward, the speakers recommended to:

- Spread more awareness around open data and its importance across the country, especially among the policymakers, so that there are tangible actions taken to promote the cause.
- Make National Security Council and the parliamentary committees more accountable and responsible for protecting national security and intelligence data.
- Research and analysis of national security matters only enhances the broader understanding of issues of public importance. So, the responsible government bodies such as the Home Ministry, Ministry of Home Affairs and associated departments should ensure that at least shareable information is available to the researchers, think tanks and general public.

Nepal COVID Support

NIRC provided financial support in development of a website, Nepal Covid Support, which was initiated by group of volunteers, who were keen to support people with verified information regarding Oxygen, Plasma, Hospital Beds and other services to fight against COVID-19.
Our Collaborators

The organizations we have collaborated with for our projects so far.
Our Publications

We published a findings of primary research (survey) regarding youths’ communications practice in their professional work.