

Himalayan Journal of Development and Democracy, Vol. 8, No. 1, 2013



Volume 8, Number 1, 2013

HJDD

Himalayan Journal of Development and Democracy

**PROCEEDINGS AND
PAPER ABSTRACTS OF THE**

**Eighth Annual Himalayan Policy
Research Conference**

Madison, Wisconsin, October 17, 2013

**Nepal Study Center
The University of New Mexico**

Published by *Nepal Study Center*, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131, US

Himalayan Journal of Development and Democracy, Vol. 8, No. 1, 2013



PAPERS, ABSTRACTS, AND PROCEEDINGS

OF

**The Eighth Annual
Himalayan Policy Research Conference**

Thursday, October 17, 2013
Madison Concourse Hotel and Governors' Club
Pre-conference Venue of the 42nd South Asian Conference at the
University of Wisconsin -- Madison, (October 17-20, 2013)

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Discussants: Keshav Bhattarai, Sherrie Palm, Sakib Mahmud, Naresh Nepal, Shikha Silwal

Session 2A: Environment and Climate Change

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Discussants: Mohan Balla, Chet Bhatt, Assem Sharma

Session 2B: Socio-Political Issues

Chairs: Tanzeem Iqbal Ali, University of Wyoming, USA

Discussants: Prakash Adhikari, Alok Bohara, Bijaya Gautam

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Welcome Note from Editors

On behalf of the editorial board of the *Himalayan Journal of Development and Democracy* (HJDD) and the conference organizing committee, I would like to thank all the participants at the Eighth Annual Himalayan Policy Research Conference (HPRC) held at the venue of the University of Wisconsin's 42nd Annual South Asian Conference, Madison, WI.

As usual, we had a very successful event with an enthusiastic participation from all over. A larger number of abstracts were carefully screened and ranked by a team of our dedicated NSC member scholars – Dr. Jennifer Thacher, Dr. Mukti Upadhyay, Dr. Vijaya Sharma, and Dr. Jeffry Drope. NSC was established at the University of New Mexico in 2004 with the objective to promote policy research related to the South Asian region and the countries of the Himalayan region. The NSC team remains dedicated to creating platforms for the enhancement of knowledge sharing, particularly in the areas of sustainable development, environment, poverty, governance, and health. Among its other prominent activities, NSC publishes two e-journals (*Himalayan Journal of Development and Democracy* and *Liberal Democracy Nepal Bulletin*), maintains an electronic repository to allow scholars to upload, store, and disseminate policy research, coordinates the Himalayan study abroad program, and doctoral and post-doctoral research projects.

Nepal Study Center has added a milestone by facilitating the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University of New Mexico and the Kathmandu University (KU) and the Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)'s 8-country Himalayan University Consortium (HUC). As a part of the UNM-KU MOU, the NSC-UNM has a branch office at KU's School of Management (KUSOM) complex in Balkumari, Kathmandu. This regional office hopes to facilitate academic activities in the region, and ultimately leading to the establishment of a Graduate School of Economics and Public Policy.

Our inaugural HPRC in 2006 was ambitious in ensuring a significant convergence of researchers working on policy relevant issues on South Asia. That foundation work led to consecutive successes in the following years and has now made HPRC a durable annual event. We hope that these conferences, together with research activities performed at NSC and by its research affiliates, will culminate in the formation of an *Association for Himalayan Policy Research*. In recognition of the activities directly

and indirectly supported by NSC, many scholars from North America, South Asia, Europe, the Far East, and Australia have joined this network. Our policy research association will continue to expand this global network of scholars, professionals, and policy practitioners interested in the development of the South Asian region.

The Center is undertaking this new initiative to promote scholarly dialogue on issues with a common theme affecting the three continents -- South Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The International Development and Sustainability --South-South Initiative (IDS-SSI) is a common platform scholars and students, who are doing development-related research in different cultural settings across the globe.

We are grateful to the University of Wisconsin's 42nd Annual South Asian Conference for giving us the pre-conference venue. We are also thankful to those who have provided financial support to conduct this conference. We appreciate the help from the staff and graduate students of the Department of Economics, UNM, and the goodwill and support of many friends of NSC. We particularly thank UNM students Naresh Nepal, Dadhi Adhikari and Menuka Karki, and faculty of Washington and Lee University Shikha Basnet for their assistance. Finally, we would like to thank our guest editors Vijaya R Sharma, Jeffery Drope, Mukti Upadhyay, and Naresh Nepal for their help in preparing this issue of *HJDD*. NSC also would like to thank student volunteers from the University of Wisconsin, Surendra Prajapati and Rashesh Shrestha, for their support.

Sincerely,



Alok K. Bohara, PhD
Editor, *HJDD*
Professor, Department of Economics, University of New Mexico

Acknowledgements

The Nepal Study Center and the conference organizing team would like to acknowledge financial contributions being made by various individuals and organizations.

Financial Support

NSC would like to encourage all the friends of NSC to continue their financial support so that it can successfully undertake various tasks: update software, run conferences, produce proceedings, maintain the electronic research repository, provide a platform for virtual e-conferences, and advertise and publish journals (*HJDD* and *LDNB*). NSC is a not-for-profit organization registered under the College of Arts and Sciences, University of New Mexico.

Please send your tax deductible contribution payable to *Nepal Study Center* at the following address: Attn: Ms. Leah Hardesty, Department Administrator II; Department of Economics; University of New Mexico; Albuquerque, NM 87131, USA; Phone: (505) 277-5304; Fax: (505) 277-9445; Email: LMayo@unm.edu. Contact Ms. Hardesty for any direct wire transfer information.

PAPERS AND ABSTRACTS

Effects of Fuelwood and Adult Illiteracy on Household Health Expenditure in Rural Nepal

Sushant Koirala¹

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This study estimates the effects of two factors—the amount of fuelwood used and the number of illiterate adults per household—on the health expenditure of rural households in Nepal. The data was obtained from a household survey conducted in the rural areas of Nepal by the United Nations Development Program in 2008. Using the OLS technique, the study finds that household health expenditure has a positive relationship with the use of fuelwood as well as the number of illiterate adults, suggesting that both contribute to higher health expenditure. The estimated monthly health expenditure of rural households is Rs. 436.49 (\$5.04 at the 2008 exchange rate) and the monthly contribution from fuelwood consumption is estimated to be Rs. 30.72 (\$0.36 at 2008 price). Similarly, an additional illiterate adult in a household increases its health expenditure by Rs. 30.11 (\$0.35 at 2008 price) per month. Possible policies to curb health expenditure at the household level would be to push for more biogas use, and to raise adult literacy.

¹ I would like to thank Alok Bohara for support during the paper preparation and the United Nations Development Program, New York, for providing the data.

Valuing a multi-voiced perspective on comparative urban Bangladesh physics learning experiences

Tanzeem Ali

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Timothy Slater

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A neo-culture of extra-curricular coaching prior to sitting the terminal exam was once the privileged domain of public education systems in the Eastern world, but this is no longer the case. This multi-phase study based on a grounded theory approach considered a diversity of physics learning experiences of students and alumni from two urban private schools, an extra-curricular coaching center, and a private tutor in a developing South-Asian country.

There are various types of tutoring available for students in South Asia as listed by their main characteristics (deCastro and deGuzman, 2012). 'Lean on' is for low-achieving slow learners providing hidden remedial activities by school teachers and are usually unregulated. 'Pass on' is for students with busy parents, or those lacking assistance with school work. This second type of tutoring provides supplementary activities by school teachers as well as small-scale institutions regulated as a business and an academic entity. 'Ride on' is for both high and low achieving students whose parents can afford tutorial fees. This type of tutoring provides structured remedial and enrichment activities by multinational institutions, experts in the field, and university students and are regulated as a business and academic entity.

This study collects evidence to explore the nature of physics students' learning experiences in two seemingly different environments. The learning experiences in a private English medium school (PEMS) classroom with an established curriculum are compared to the supplementary and extracurricular instruction available in coaching centers (CCs) and Private Tutors (PTs). We utilize a multi-voiced perspective, through a prism of five lenses. Instead of solely relying on one theoretical approach, the researcher intended to grasp the reflections from the five different perspectives of a group of voices through constructivist learning environment (CLE), brain based learning (BBL), Social Learning theory (SLT), Principles of learning (POL), and student voice (SV). Excerpts are widely used from interviews, chats, and

discussion. Extensive referencing is used to understand the nuanced voices through the prism.

The study spans four phases across two 16-week periods using both online and face-to-face field survey methods in order to capture the largest possible picture, which has not been identified by mainstream researchers in education. This was challenging and so novel that following similar studies was not quite an option. The learning experiences in Physics discussed by students and alumni here are to be understood and interpreted as indicative of a more broad description of a larger educational experience. These experiences help to alter oneself more in line with meaningful learner and in its transformational essence.

The participants ranged in age from 14 years to 28 years. Phase 1 of the study consisted of a pilot study with online participants who were recent alumni who had recently taken their formal Physics exit exams. Clinical interviews and moderated focus group discussions identified nine emerging themes: (i) negative feelings about current education system, (ii) mixed views on coaching outside and beyond school, (iii) negative attitudes about being an O and A level student in urban Bangladesh, (iv) truth about article by Imam (2010), (v) negative views on society's influence and local culture about education in Bangladesh, (v) mixed views on extra-curricular activities and physical activity during teenage years, (vi) comparative views on learning experiences in schools versus centers and private tutors, (vii) role of novice versus experienced teachers in helping students successfully prepare for exams, and (viii) that the expenditure of money for coaching and tutoring does not always result in higher test scores.

In phase 2, the participants were selected based on the first phase of the study using a theoretical sampling strategy most closely related to studying the emerging themes. The second phase of the research involved interviewing a sample of 10 alumni face-to-face to engage in conversation with the participants who were most likely to help confirm or disconfirm the findings from phase 1. Although similar questions were used during the interviews, the researcher avoided asking the participants directly about their meaningful learning experience and tried getting it out by making them describe lessons for specific topics and what they learned and understood.

The emergent findings are a result of a five-faced prism where each idea reflects off another. Namely the five faces and perspectives are: (1)

Student Voice (2) Social Learning Theory, (3) Constructivist Learning Environment, (4) Principles of Learning and (5) Brain-based Learning. Study phases 3 and 4 focused on establishing the veracity of the previously identified themes through member checking and further act as an audit trail to validate the work being done over a span of the study at multiple sites. The findings from all the data were analyzed using a theoretical framework of continual interaction and constant comparison among new data with the prior to come to the development or evolving of the unique themes in this study. These findings suggest that a rapidly growing phenomenon of extra-curricular coaching beyond school prior to exams widely exists as early as sixth or eighth grade, sometimes at the cost of cutting back on in-school time. The data further indicate that participants strongly believe that neither coaching nor school learning experiences provide sufficient learning opportunities alone. Moreover, the data suggest students who believe they learned well in both cases are seemingly themselves diligent and perseverant, while those participants who say only centers helped more had self-reported weaker foundation skills. Moreover, most participants agreed that extra-curricular for-pay coaching centers should not be a necessary addition to school-based education.

Does social participation make us happier?

Hari Katuwal

University of Montana, USA

Recent studies on self-declared happiness show that higher income does not always lead to happiness; happiness depends on several other factors. Voluntary social participation, among several other factors, has a potential to contribute to greater happiness. In this study we use survey data (n=1200) from Kathmandu, Nepal to examine if individuals who participated in social activities are happier and more satisfied. More specifically, we hypothesize that social participation has positive impact on happiness and satisfaction. Impacts of other demographic and socioeconomic characteristics are also examined. We use an ordered probit model for this purpose. Our results indicate that social participation is indeed an important component of happiness and satisfaction.

The Value of a Sustainable Protocol to Address Uterine Prolapse in Nepal: Health Camp, Education and Employment Synergy

Sherrie Palm²

Association for Pelvic Organ Prolapse Support, USA

Background: Pelvic organ prolapse (POP) is a global women's health concern and one particular type of POP, uterine prolapse (UP), has significant prevalence in Nepal. Nepal has the distinction of being the only country in the world with government initiatives to address this puzzling and challenging health concern. Moreover, however, great stigma is attached to UP in Nepal, and it therefore must be considered from multiple levels in order to reduce deep-rooted physical, emotional, social, and sexual impact on the women of this region.

The Association for Pelvic Organ Prolapse Support (APOPS) is a global initiative to promote awareness, support, guidance, and education related to the physical, emotional, social, and sexual effects of POP, which impacts the lives of millions of women in every country around the world. Women experiencing UP, one of the five types of POP, must navigate multiple physical symptoms that are painful, embarrassing, and difficult to mask. Women in developing countries such as Nepal suffer additionally with significant negative impact to social standing and status within both their families and their societies.

The Challenge: Without doubt, UP is a serious health problem among women in Nepal. A reproductive morbidity study of 2,070 women by the Institute of Medicine and UNFPA (2006) found that 600,000 women in Nepal suffer from UP, the majority of whom are of reproductive age. More than 44% of women older than 20 years of age in the study have UP, while approximately 14 percent of women under the age of 20 have UP. According to Senior Assistant Health Worker Bir Hari Rai, a lack of rest for nursing mothers contributes to UP.⁴

Subedi (2010) reports that the Government of Nepal has taken some steps to address the issue. The government and other donor organizations provide funds to treat 10,000 to 12,000 women suffering from UP each year, with plans to expand services. But the issue is that many women suffering do not receive treatment because deep rooted socio-cultural perceptions and practices prevent it. Thus, the current treatment-based

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system will not resolve the issue; only a solution that addresses the root of the resistance to treatment will begin to resolve the challenges.

The current standard for addressing this issue is the use of “Health Camps.” Typically, a NGO or INGO sponsors a camp to treat women in a targeted village or region, captures the event in pictures for subsequent use on a website or in promotional materials, leaves without follow-up care or tracking for the women who have been treated, and with no plans to return to continue the mission. In order to address these current sub-standard treatment norms, it is critical to develop a sustainable program that also addresses health education, employment and other related needs of the villages in which the Health Camps are initiated.

Even from the basic treatment perspective, there are enormous challenges. According to Dr. Naresh Pratap KC, the Director of Family Health Division (FHD), “a uterine prolapse operation is a major one. One has to meet all the requirements for the operations. And health camp organizers seldom focus on this... Even after the operations, the patients do not get post-operative services and follow-ups.”³

Seeking a Solution: APOPS is networking with Hamro Chahana Nepal (HCN) and Global Innovations for Reproductive Health and Life (GIRHL) to develop a three-phase sustainable program. In order to make this program sustainable, it is imperative to incorporate a multi-tiered strategy. In phase 1, a single multi-purpose structure will be utilized as:

- A micro-financed work location for women to generate funds for their families as well as pay for maintenance needs of the structure.
- Village Health Station to address screening for UP.
- A source for health education materials and meetings to educate villagers about UP, reproductive health, healthy work practices, and reduction of false beliefs and social stigma.

The coalition hopes to initiate phase 1 in 2014. This phase will engage Bhalaytar in the Palpa district where HCN has an already-established relationship. Currently, the team is continuing to develop phase 1 by establishing methodologies, approach, timeline, and budget. Regarding UP, the program will address:

- Screening and treatment (pessary fitting and building the base of women who will need surgical intervention during non-rainy season).
- Training and orientation (Healthcare professionals such as FCHV's)

- Awareness programs (Gender-sensitizing programs involving husbands and mother-in-laws)

Additional concerns that the program will seek to address are: water, sanitation, medical equipment and materials, and employment for women. The team is currently exploring the manufacturing of both washable and/or disposable sanitary pads because there is considerable need for each of these products in Nepal.

The team is developing a series of goals that it will also seek to measure in order to evaluate the continuing success of the program. For UP specifically, goals include:

- Increase awareness of true reality and impact of UP.
- Early diagnosis for less aggressive treatment.
- Post-surgical evaluation for long-term success of POP surgery.
- Long-term tracking of surgical UP repair and pessary use and maintenance.
- Health education regarding UP and reproductive aspects of women's health.

For more general village issues, goals include:

- Employment for women – financial benefit to family, respect from spouse and mother-in-law, self-esteem.
- Value of employment for women other than farming.

The team will also evaluate the potential for replicating these programs in other villages in Nepal.

Summary: In order to address UP concerns in Nepal successfully, multiple aspects of UP dynamic must be incorporated into programs. Initiatives that focus on UP will only become successful when they address the need for long-term sustainability and target both the health condition and the challenging social norms associated with it.

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Effect of unplanned urban growth on human health and sustainable development: A spatial analysis of the urban growth patterns in Nepal

Keshav Bhattarai³

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Many South Asian (SA) countries are rapidly urbanizing, but Nepal's current annual urbanization rate of 5.6% is the highest among the SA countries. Though some urban areas of SA are undergoing major transformations under the influence of globalization, regionalization, and formation of special economic zones and are evolving as world class cities, Nepal's urban areas are unplanned, and exposed to possible seismic casualties and health hazards. Despite these problems, a reduction in Nepal's urban poverty rate from 25 percent to 15 percent that occurred between 2000 and 2010 is frequently attributed to increased urbanization. As a result, many Village Development Committees (VDCs) are clamoring for a municipality status merely based on their high population density despite their rural characteristics. The definitional changes from rural-to-municipal status have led to the formation of several *ruralopolises* where rural areas with high population density compete for collective urban facilities. Urban sprawl through unsustainable implosion has blended rural economic and social systems with metropolitan spatial organizations without the requisite spatially well-organized infrastructure.

This paper first provides a spatial analysis of Nepal's urban growth patterns from historical perspectives. Second, it geovisualizes urban morphologies of the Kathmandu metropolitan area using ESRI made CityEngine to display how unplanned concrete jungle would not only exert stresses on urban lives through increased heat waves and greenhouse gases, but also from increased urban vulnerabilities. Third, the paper analyzes urban sprawls and their unintended but irreversible environmental consequences on human health and sustainability. Fourth, it develops land use/cover metrics using remote sensing techniques to determine the ratio of built-in structures and open spaces. The ultimate goal of this paper is to provide a framework for the development of twenty-first century cities in South Asia.

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Consequences of public programs and private transfers on household's investment in protection from natural disasters

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The incidence of natural calamities induced by global climate change is increasing. Governments lack the capacity to properly protect households living in areas that are prone to natural disasters like floods, earthquakes, cyclones, and associated storm surges. As a result, a household might be forced to engage in private defensive actions and investments to protect its members and property from recurring natural disaster events. However, the household's incentives to allocate funds to support its private defensive strategies against damages from a future natural disaster event might also be influenced by its access to private inward remittances and charities. This factor might be more pertinent among households who are representative of a developing country economy and located in vulnerable areas prone to more frequent natural disasters. Considering these issues of households' accessibility to public programs and private inward remittances, there is a need to better understand the linkages through which households' decision to pursue private defensive strategies (or private protection activities) might be influenced. This has significant policy implications especially for low-and-middle income countries vulnerable to natural disasters. We introduce a theoretical model of household private investment in protection against damages from a natural disaster event given the presence of public programs and the possibility of receiving inward remittances from members of the household.

To keep our exposition simple, we assume the household is representative of a developing country economy and vulnerable to a frequent natural disaster event, such as cyclones or hurricanes as a result of being located in coastal areas. We assume that the household's risk associated with storm-inflicted damages is endogenous. This latter presumption is based on the premise that a household through its private actions can avoid or mitigate the negative impacts of a major storm event.

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Under incomplete market insurance, we classify household's private storm protection actions into two categories: (1) *self-protection*, a form of ex-ante prevention, which are private investments that can reduce expected storm-inflicted damages from occurring; and, (2) *self-insurance*, a form of ex-post adaptation, which are private investments in human, physical, and social capital that can reduce losses in the event of storm-inflicted damages. From a low-and middle-income country perspective, examples of self-protection include converting a mud-built house to brick, raising the height of the homestead, moving the house inside an embankment, taking refuge in a neighbor's house, and locating further away from the shoreline to a safer place. Examples of self-insurance include income source diversification, crop and plot diversification, reciprocal gift exchanges, and inter-and intra-household income transfers based on insurance motives (or informal risk sharing). All these possibilities are directly or indirectly resulting from household private investments in human, physical, and social capital to reduce the severity or magnitude of damages to property as a result of a major storm event.

Under the endogenous risk framework, the household model of private investment in protection against storm-inflicted damages reveals four household types: (1) households pursuing *both self-protection and self-insurance*; (2) households practicing *only self-protection* but no self-insurance; (3) households pursuing *only self-insurance* but no self-protection; and, (4) households practicing *no self-protection and no self-insurance*.

Comparative static results of our theoretical model reveal that for a risk-averse household, *ex-ante* public programs, such as government spending on infrastructures in terms of embankments, dams, roads and highways, education on major storms and early storm warning systems, lead to more private investments in self-protection (crowding-in), but less private investments in self-insurance (crowding-out). On the other hand, private investment allocations for self-protection declines (crowding-out) but self-insurance increases (crowding-in) if households have more access to *ex-post* public-assisted disaster relief and rehabilitation programs once the major storm event has occurred. However, we can trace out the possible influences of *ex-post* public programs on private storm protection actions by assuming a household is risk-neutral rather than risk-averse. Regarding the influence of private inward remittances, we find that self-protection declines if households have more access to private remittances and charities. This implies that self-protection and private remittances are substitutes. Conversely, self-insurance increases with more access to

private remittances. Hence, self-insurance expenditures and private remittances are complements.

There is significant evidence of some of the important conditions applied in our theoretical model. However, the direction of the sign of relationships between public programs and private storm protection behavior is an empirical question to provide credence to our theoretical underpinnings. Same also applies in determining the sign of the relationships between private inward remittances received from a migrant family member and its possible influence on private storm protection behavior. It will be interesting to see whether access to either public programs or private inward remittances is enough to deter or encourage private investments to reduce risks from storm-inflicted damages to property by averting the likelihood as well as reducing the severity or magnitude of such risk event.

Our theory of household private investment in storm protection could be generalized to all coastal communities that are affected by climate change. Hypotheses based on the research questions and the propositions derived from the theoretical model could be tested empirically. Findings from such studies could recommend the steps that the governments might take to develop an institutional setup under joint public-private partnerships by encouraging more collective and individual participation in storm-protection activities among the vulnerable communities. By identifying and nurturing such form of institutions, governments representing the low-and middle-income countries would be able to mitigate the impacts of market failures due to moral hazard and adverse selection that arise from public-sponsored programs. In addition, we consider that identifying the channels through which private inward remittances directly and indirectly influence private storm protection behavior or attitudes towards reducing the likelihood as well as severity from storm-inflicted damages to property has some serious policy implications in the future. Outcomes from our research will be particularly relevant for developing countries' (especially from south-east Asia and small island states of the Pacific) intention to promote and support sustainable development projects by improving their resilience and response capacity to cope against natural disaster events as a result of global climate change.

**Stakeholders' perceptions of foreign aid and an NGO-driven project:
A case study of Sagarmatha National Park Forestry Project in
Khumbu, Nepal**

Chet Prasad Bhatta⁵

University of Kansas, USA

Michal Bardecki⁶

Ryerson University, Canada

Background: Globally, foreign aid, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have emerged as important actors in development. The number of aid agencies, INGOs, and NGOs has increased significantly, especially in the developing world. However, this growth does not necessarily mean foreign aid and NGOs are effective at the tasks they undertake, including improving rural livelihoods and protecting local environments. Furthermore, the lack of evaluative studies on the effectiveness of foreign aid and NGOs involvement challenges claims of success often found in their reports (Anderson, 2007). Neither NGO reports nor prevailing independent research provides a comprehensive and realistic assessment of the impacts of NGOs on the communities in which they work (Rugendyke, 2007). Even though foreign aid and NGOs were established with good intentions, the results associated with NGO-led development in developing countries are mixed. Nepal is an ideal location for studying the impact of foreign aid and NGO involvement in rural development as the numbers of NGOs grew from just 293 in 1990 to more than 27,000 in 2010 (SWC, 2010). NGOs in Nepal have established themselves as important stakeholders in the development process. They claimed to have positively impacted the lives of rural communities and are established as partners in the development process of the country. However, several scholars disagree with this claim (Acharya, 1997; Siwakoti, 2000; Bhattachan, 2004). Bhattachan (2004) argues that, despite more than two decades of NGO involvement in rural development, rural areas in Nepal have changed very little. However, due to the lack of a good evaluation, Nepal's NGO sector challenges many generalizations about the role that NGOs play.

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Problem and research questions: Since the 1950s, the Khumbu environment has degraded as consequences of tourism and pressures from domestic animal-raising. Though environmental degradation in Khumbu is a well-publicized issue, it is in reality a poorly understood phenomenon. The literature during the last three or four decades outlined issues related to population pressure, lost forest cover, overgrazing, terracing of marginal land, depletion of wildlife, pollution, shortages in fuel wood, landslides due to slope instability, and several geomorphic hazards in Khumbu valley (Sterling, 1976; Reiger, 1981; Byers, 1987; Abbott, 1985; Sherpa, 1985). These challenges became the basis for many past and on-going development projects in Khumbu region, although many authors raised issues about contradictory data and questioned the soundness of formulating management policy on subjective interpretation (Currey, 1984; Byers, 1987).

Many foreign aid agencies, INGOs, and NGOs started to work in Khumbu to restore its environment. Among them, Sagarmatha National Park Forestry Project (SNPFP) worked more than 30 years to restore the forest in Khumbu. The project was initiated by Sir Edmund Hillary in conjunction with the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada (SEHFC); the Himalayan Trust, New Zealand (HT NZ); the Himalayan Trust, Nepal (HT NP); Sagarmatha National Park (SNP); and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Nepal. At the time the project was handed over to the local people in 2010, some key actors claimed that the overall project had achieved most of its goals, including: the creation of good nurseries, which produce excellent seedlings that lead to planting with high survival rates; the development of sufficient resident forestry skills; the limitation of areas suitable for more planting due to land use pressure for agriculture, grazing and settlement; and adequate resident funding in the form of the Sagarmatha National Park Buffer Zone (SNPBZ) Programme. The involvement of multiple institutions such as SEHFC (donor), the HT NZ (INGO), and the HT NP (NGO) in a reforestation programme in a remote place in Nepal is an ideal opportunity to analyze how stakeholders perceived such a project. This study represents a stakeholder approach to evaluating the effectiveness of foreign aid and NGO involvement in an impacted community.

Research Methods: A qualitative research approach was chosen for the research. The effectiveness of foreign aid and NGO involvement was assessed by focusing on key informants in Khumbu community with regard to their experience and perceptions concerning the SNPFP project. Since the objectives and rationales of the foreign aid and NGO sector are

to serve communities, deliver services to them, and make them self-reliant after a certain period, community members are posited as the best sources of information for evaluating SNPFP. The central research question concerns how members of the communities perceive the role of SNPFP in Khumbu reforestation. The study is intended to provide a case review of the effectiveness of foreign aid and the NGO sector with the objective of suggesting potential policy and programme changes. This study used both primary and secondary data. For the collection of secondary data, the researcher reviewed secondary sources including annual SNPFP reports, academic and research publications, newspaper articles, and legal and government publications. Participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and informal conversations were used to collect the primary data during the field visit. Accordingly, the researcher applied a community stakeholder approach based on the premise that multiple stakeholders' perceptions would reflect overall performance and cumulative impacts of the project in the impacted community. This study utilized the input from semi-structured interviews of 48 key informants and informal interviews/conversations from 31 participants. The semi-structured interviews were designed to obtain the perceptions of SNPFP, its impacts, and existing condition of the project after hand-over. Informal interviews collected broader information from heterogeneous informants. The collected primary and secondary data were organized, analyzed, and reported using NVivo 10 software.

Results - Stakeholders' perceptions on the performance of SNPFP:

Stakeholders were asked about their perceptions on the performance of SNPFP. A majority of those interviewed had mixed perceptions on the performance of SNPFP. On the one hand, they praised SNPFP for maintaining three nurseries in Khumbu—the basis for establishing many permanent plantation plots. On the other hand, they criticized SNPFP for not addressing issues for sustainable management of the plantation plots. However, a majority of respondents viewed SNPFP as playing a vital role in generating forest awareness among both local residents and tourists. They also pointed to shortcomings such as a lack of institution building at the local level, and carelessness in plantation procedures and post-plantation care due to the unavailability of technical foresters on a regular basis. The overall responses obtained on the issue of performance were coded on the basis of strength and weakness of the SNPFP. These aspects were further divided into sub-aspects on the basis of the commonalities of the responses (Table 1).

Table 1. Perceived strength and weakness on the performance of SNPFP mentioned by stakeholders

Issue Coded for	Aspects	Sub-aspects
Performance of SNPFP	Strength of SNPFP	Establishment and management of nurseries Establishment of plantation plots Public awareness Publication of <i>high altitude forestry manual</i>
	Weakness of SNPFP	Post-plantation care Lack of technical foresters Lack of local institution building Weak reporting system

Stakeholders' perceptions on hand-over of SNPFP: In order to evaluate the SNPFP hand-over, stakeholders' perceptions on particular issues were obtained from the most relevant informants. For examples, questions regarding achievement of project goals and resident funding capability were posed to the SNP/SNPBZ officials, while questions regarding resident forestry skills, land use pressure, and ageing of employees were asked to the local people and project employees. Responses collected from different stakeholders were analyzed under the sub-aspects as shown in the Table 2.

Table 2. Aspects and sub-aspects mentioned by stakeholders on the hand-over of SNPFP

Issue Coded for	Aspects	Sub-aspects
Hand-over of SNPFP	Reasons of hand-over	Achievement of project goals Resident funding capability Resident forestry skills Land use pressure Ageing of employees
	Process of hand-over	Information dissemination and consultation Hand-over decision and hand-over event Management plan in transition period Evaluative study of SNPFP

Most of the local respondents and even nursery operators were uncertain about the project hand-over process. When the researcher probed about how SNPFP informed local people regarding the hand-over, one executive of the Himalayan Trust, Nepal revealed that key meetings – a proposed high altitude forestry workshop, Namche Bazaar and a high altitude forestry seminar in Kathmandu – to be conducted in September, 2009 were cancelled due to lack of time and budget. According to this executive, few formal and informal talks with local community representatives such as the Sherpa Himalayan Trust Advisory Committee, Buffer Zone Committee, Youth Groups, and Mothers Groups were conducted to disseminate the information of project hand-over. While the researcher inquired to all stakeholders whether they now aware of the status of SNPFP, 67% of the local stakeholder group (8 farmers, 7 lodge owners, and 7 school teachers) and 30% (3) of SNP/SNPBZ officials were not familiar with project hand-over. Furthermore, nursery operators had not received salaries for several months and were uncertain about who were now their employers. The researcher also had an opportunity to talk with an employee of a local NGO who attended the hand-over event. He reported that the project was handed over in a small meeting with neither a detailed work-out nor a future management plan. A majority of key informants pointed out that the SNPFP made no efforts to conduct a summative evaluation to assess program effectiveness in the Khumbu community at all. One project employee mentioned that the project manager talked about the importance of a social study of the project to determine the long-term success of the project. He also added that frequent discussion was conducted among the project employees regarding how local people appreciated the project. However, actual evaluation was not conducted due to a lack of time and money. Most of the respondents in the interviews complained that SNPFP officials did not return to see the project after its hand-over.

The researcher had an opportunity to meet with a top executive of the HT NZ in their Nepal office. During the short conversation, the researcher raised the issue of SNPFP evaluation. Responding, he indicated that evaluation is a responsibility of local government and SNP/SNPBZ. He further added, because of a lack of financial and human resources, SNPFP did not conduct post-project evaluations and surveys. Later, the researcher had an opportunity to interview a top executive of SEHFC. He suggested that SEHFC did not agree with the complete hand-over of SNPFP to the local people in 2010. He further added that SEHFC proposed other options for funding and continuation of the project for five more years. He blamed the HT NZ for the project hand-over which was insistently recommended

by the NZ-based project manager. He also disagreed with what the executive of the HT NZ said about the project.

Discussion and Conclusion: The exploration of stakeholders' perceptions of the NGO-led re-forestation project has important implications for the future planning and management of such projects. Findings indicate a high degree of heterogeneity in the comparison of key informants' responses among different stakeholder groups, which is consistent with the findings of many other foreign aid and NGO related studies (Ashley and Maxwell, 2001; Narayan *et al.*, 2005; Roka, 2012;). The study indicates a failure to incorporate activities and a future plan with community needs. SNPFP carried out an extensive re-forestation programme without taking the initiative for local adoption in the long-term. This lack of attention to community capacity-building contributed to problems for project sustainability, which is consistent with findings of many authors who suggest the same reason for the failures of many development projects implemented by many INGOS and NGOs in developing countries (Chambers, 1993; Ashley and Maxwell, 2001). As criticized by Ronald (2010) and Suar *et al.* (2006) on the sustainability of NGO-led projects, a majority of SNPFP stakeholders were also concerned about the accountability and sustainability of SNPFP. Stakeholders complained about the procedures of the SNPFP hand-over. Most of the stakeholders were neither well-informed nor consulted appropriately before the project hand-over. Moreover, stakeholders were neglected by cancelling the proposed workshops and seminars, which were necessary to obtain public opinion regarding the hand-over. Most importantly, there was not much evidence that SNPFP worked to help communities become self-reliant and capable of management after the hand-over. All project employees of SNPFP were at retirement age, and no younger generations were trained so as to transfer the responsibility of the nurseries. Petras (1999) and Hudson (2001) also found a similar issue of uncertainty in the stage of project hand-over in their previous research on NGO-led development. This study also found conflicts among the participating agencies in different phases of the project. For example, the HT NZ decided on the hand-over of SNPFP, while SEHFC was still in the favor of continuation of the project in a reduced scale. It indicated that the decision making process among participating institutions was not participatory, which in turn resulted in the project hand-over without the drawing of a solid management plan.

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Climatological variability and trends in the Koshi River Basin, Nepal

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Research shows increasing frequency of climatic variability and extreme events throughout Nepal. However, there are not specific studies on the Koshi basin, one of the most important basins of the country in term of livelihood and economy. This study explores the pattern of climate change over the Koshi basin based on observed data from 1970 to 2010. The basin covers a total area of about 60400 km². The Koshi River and its tributaries, through agriculture and other natural resources, support approximately 5.2 million people living in this basin. Any changes in climate will have significant impacts on the agricultural based communities of Koshi.

Through this study we examine changes in climate indices and the trend of occurrence of extreme climate events over the study period. We provide recommendations of immediate, short term, and long term adaptation strategies and actions to cope with the changes.

Spatial and temporal climate indices pattern and trend over the basin were calculated based on daily temperature and precipitation data recorded in 52 stations over the basin. RCLimindex was used to calculate climate indices and trends and variations were plotted in R and GIS environments. Results show that frequency and trend of extreme weather events are increasing in the Koshi basin. Daily maximum and minimum temperature are increasing on average by 0.3OC/decade. Annual total rainfall in the Koshi basin shows an increasing trend (0.74mm/yr). Extreme climate indices are increasing, creating more climate risk in the region. The trend shows that there is increasing risk of extreme climate events over the region. It is recommended that the policy agencies should take strong action for proper adaptation to these changes and minimize the risk.

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Farmers' dependency on forests for transfer of nutrients (NPK) to farmlands in mid-hills and high mountain regions of Nepal (case studies in Tibrekot, Kaski, and Lete and Kunjo, Mustang district)

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This study assesses several aspects of farming practiced by three small communities from parts of Nepal. The questions addressed are related to (1) the amounts of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium (NPK) that are transferred through litter from forest to farmlands, (2) the regulation of the forest product extraction systems and (3) farmers' perceptions on forest dependency for maintaining farm fertility. The communities surveyed are Lete and Kunjo from the district of Mustang (high mountains) and Tibrekot from Kaski (mid-hill region).

Survey questionnaires were given to randomly selected households (HHs). A total of 138 HHs (25%) in Mustang and 212 HHs (14.15%) in Kaski participated. A key informant survey was conducted and field observations were made to solicit socio-economic and resource use information. NPK in composite samples of forest litter were determined by standard methods.

In Lete, HHs on average collected 582 kg of *Pinus wallichiana* needles, made compost and transferred 3.84, 2.99 and 0.54 kg of N, P and K respectively to 0.7965 ha. In Kunjo, the compost material collected was over three times higher per HH (2162 kg) which led to a transfer of 19.66, 1.84 and 10.39 kg of NPK respectively to 0.55 ha of farmlands per year, indicating higher dependency of Kunjo farmers on forests for maintaining soil fertility. Forest product extraction was regulated by a local Conservation Area Management Committee consisting of ward representatives and Mukhiyas. All HHs depended on forests for

maintaining soil fertility with 85.29% depending totally on forests while 14.71% also used some chemical fertilizers.

In Hemja, 250 kg of leaf litter, mainly from *Schima-Castanopsis*, was collected per HH. The NPK fertilizers in the amounts of 11.08, 1.26 and 5.86 kg respectively were transferred. In addition, 612 kg of grass also led to the transfer of 16.27, 2.22 and 11.42 kg of the fertilizers in 0.1538 ha of upland or 'Bari' and 0.2383 ha of lowland or 'Khet' per HH. The litter and grass collection was regulated by the operational plan and constitution of Tibrekot Community Forest. In both regions, peoples' dependency on forest resources was decreasing (according to 73.5% of HHs in Mustang and 60% in Kaski) because of changing lifestyles and decreasing dependency on agriculture and livestock. Detailed studies regarding the effects of removal of leaf litter or grass on the functional aspect of forest ecosystems in the Nepalese context are recommended.

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Democratic transitions and Maoist insurgency: The Shining Path of Peru and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)

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This study compares outcomes of two major insurgency movements often noted for their harsh treatment of civilians, the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) and Peru's Shining Path. Both movements began as small isolated conflicts in the midst of a democratic transition, espoused similar ideologies with little regard for liberal democratic values or institutions, deployed comparably brutal tactics, and rose rapidly to seriously threaten the ruling state. Despite comparable origins, these insurgencies ended very differently. In Peru, the Shining Path was essentially defeated by the state in the years immediately following the 1992 capture of its leader, Abimael Guzmán. Meanwhile, in Nepal, the CPN-M fought to a negotiated entry into electoral politics in 2006 and currently holds major power in parliamentary politics. Why? Within the context of a democratic transition, what explains one Maoist insurgency's decline and the other's rise to power? Using a qualitative comparative historical approach, we provide a systematic examination of social and political forces associated with the outcome of each insurgency.

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Challenges of ensuring justice to victims in post-conflict Nepal

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Background: The incidents of grave human rights violations committed in the past, if not addressed prudently, are likely to result in serious repercussions. Due to the total disregard of numerous human rights violations committed during the decade-long armed conflict, Nepal's human rights situation has been a matter of worry even after the end of the insurgency. This paper argues that it is indispensable for the government of Nepal to revisit the country's bloody and repressive past in order to adopt necessary measures towards reconciliation. This research provides a thorough review of the draft Truth and Reconciliation Commission bill introduced by the government of Nepal with particular emphasis on its shortcomings. The discussion of the limitations of the bill is supported with pertinent anecdotal evidence gathered through fieldwork.

Indispensability of Probing into Past Human Rights Violations: If important legal principles -- including International Humanitarian Law (IHL), International Human Rights Law (IHRL), the ICRC rules of customary international humanitarian law, common article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, the principle of distinction, indiscriminate attacks, the proportionality and precaution in attack, the principle of humanity, double jeopardy and the attack directed against any civilian population¹⁶ -- had been taken into consideration by the warring sides, violations and violence could have been minimized at that time. Also, the trajectory of Nepal's armed conflict probably would not be so grim. The parties of the armed conflict in Nepal disregarded these issues, and as a result, an unprecedented spate of violence and violations occurred. It is therefore indispensable to consider the truths of the country's bloody and repressive past through the formation of related commissions despite the fact that it might be risky, including the unearthing of painful traumatic memories.

Condemnable Ordinance: The government of Nepal has taken some steps toward the establishment of a transitional justice mechanism through an ordinance, but because of fundamental flaws within it, the ordinance has been criticized nationally and internationally. Some diplomats have expressively said that they will not be supporting the

transitional justice mechanism, arguing that the ordinance is not on par with international standards.¹⁷

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¹⁶ These aspects have been especially focused by the Nepal Conflict Report published by the UNOHCHR. Details can be accessed from http://nepalconflictreport.ohchr.org/html/2010-12-00_legal-framework_applicable-law.html

¹⁷ Donors against funding TRC under existing law, <http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2013/05/04/top-story/donors-against-funding-trc-under-existing-law/248347.html>

Trafficking of tribal women in Sub-Himalayan region: With special reference to Manipur, North East India

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Trafficking is a multi-dimensional problem encompassing a whole range of economic, social and cultural issues, which are varied and highly complex. Trafficking generates more money than even arms trade or drugs trade. Trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation is one of the worst forms of human rights violation. Adolescent girls from marginalized tribal families are the most vulnerable. Trafficking is a contemporary phenomenon in Manipur. It is not a part of their culture or tradition. Most of the victims are trafficked with the promise of better jobs, marriage, better education, and career prospects. Some are inducted forcibly through abduction. Poverty and deprivation, secondary status accorded to women in society, prejudice against the girl child, ethnic conflict, changing public attitude towards sex and morality, urbanization, migration and the growing consumerism are some of the factors that have contributed to trafficking. Economic impoverishment provides the ideal ground for exploitation. In our contemporary society, hundreds of women and children are trafficked from India's sub-Himalayan region in the name of jobs, domestic work, film's role or marriage.

Under India's 'Look East' Policy, the North East region of India is portrayed as a business hub of South Asia because of its geographical location. This policy of the Government of India facilitates promising opportunities and challenges for the future of the North East region in particular and the Sub-Himalayan region in general. The North East is also a part of the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hot Spot accompanied by innumerable species of flora and fauna. Undoubtedly, the North East, particularly Manipur, would emerge as a producing and exporting region in South Asia if the policy is properly implemented. However, it is observed that due to its strategic geographical location in the international border and globalization, women especially from Manipur, Nagaland and Assam are trafficked to other countries since the past few years. Thus, the issue of trafficking in Manipur is related to the process of globalization and India's Look East Policy. Rise of new media (websites) recruits women for all sorts of jobs disguised under words like 'escort or recruiting agencies'. Women from Manipur are trafficked to the neighboring Asian countries particularly Malaysia and Singapore via

Guwahati and Kolkata as "Spices of India" by recruitment agents on the pretext of getting these girls jobs as housemaids. The main objective of this paper is to examine the trajectory of trafficking and the impact of globalization on it, including the subsequent spread of HIV/AIDS. It will also highlight the Look East Policy in the North East region and its future impact on women.

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