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GS Spark

Journal of Applied Academic Discourse

Free flowing river of knowledge

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About the Journal

GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse is a research journal that addresses the research needs of developing countries by promoting indigenous knowledge and providing features such as open access policy, no article processing charges, quick reviewing process, structured abstracts and reference formats, and collaboration with researchers from developed countries. The journal focuses on publishing quality content, independent promotion, strategic leverage of journal content, and open access policy to provide quick and applicable research to readers. The journal is unique in that it is published from Nepal and has several highlights, including Google Scholar Indexing, DOI, no copyright transfer, structured abstracts, structured reference format, no article processing charges, quick reviewing process, open access publication with ISSN, proof of at least one indexing in third party, and paper publication certificate and copyright certificate to authors. The journal's open-access policy and no article processing charges make it accessible to a wider range of authors, which can increase the visibility and impact of research in a specific field. The need for research in developing countries is different, and starting a new journal can provide a platform for publishing research on topics that are not well-represented in existing journals in context of developing countries. The journal is led by the Best Scientist of Business and Management in Nepal with support from different fields experts like arts, technologies and social science. The research level and status in developed and developing countries differ due to differences in research infrastructures, funding mechanisms, and resources. Gaurishanker Multiple Campus felt a strong need of research journal to address the research need of developing countries learning through developed country. The journal gives more focus on what is written rather than who has written it because scientific rigor, peer review, maintaining integrity, and objectivity are essential components of the scientific professionalism. These measures can help ensure that the publications are of high quality and contribute to the advancement of research in the field. GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse is a need for academic publication rather than luxury as it fulfills the gap in research of developing countries based on their problems and practices.

Mission

The journal's mission is to encourage and facilitate collaboration among researchers, policy-makers, and civil-society experts to engage critically with research issues and promote the advancement of research in developing countries with reference to developed countries by sharing scholarly research, reviews, and perspectives on interdisciplinary topics in Business, Arts, technologies and Social Sciences.

Vision

The vision of the journal is to create a' Free flowing river of knowledge'.

Targets

The GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse is to publish high-quality research and writing across various fields and increase the visibility and impact of the journal for developing theoretical and applied scientific discourse through continuous research sharing. The journal aims to provide an authentic open-access platform for quality content, independent promotion, and strategic leverage of journal content, and collaborate with researchers from developed countries to promote the advancement of research in developing countries.

Key Objectives

The Key Objectives for GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse are to publish high-quality research articles, reviews, and perspectives, provide authors with detailed and constructive feedback, expand Online readership, keep a tally of interdisciplinary knowledge and theory building works, ensure the implementation of copyright and intellectual property laws, and explore tools and resources for visibility of the journal and maintenance of its academic standards for dissemination of research.

Submission

GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse invites scholars, managers, academicians, scientists, industrial professionals, and researchers from all over the world to submit their unpublished original work for inclusion in the upcoming issue. The journal uses a rigorous peer-review process, led by a team of experts from Nepal and abroad, to ensure high quality and impact of published research and writing in pursuit of productive and practicable innovation. Articles are subject to initial editor screening followed by a blind peer review before publication. Submissions are invariably checked for plagiarism. Manuscripts must be between 5 to 20 pages, in APA formats, that is between (3000 to 8000 words), excluding references.

GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse highly welcomes theoretical, technical, research, as well as empirical papers from all areas of research in the area of Business, Management, Social Science, technology, Arts, and many more innovation and emerging trends. All submissions will be reviewed and evaluated based on originality, technical research, and relevance to journal contributions. The journal aims to publish high-quality research articles, reviews, and perspectives per issue and move forward the multidisciplinary discourse on improving social conditions. All the accepted articles will be published in the upcoming issue of the journal with Online and print versions.

Manuscript Submission

Research paper prepared in MS word template with double -column in single spaced typed pages should be submitted electronically as attachment at: *journal@gsmultiplecampus.edu.np.*

Advisory Board

Publisher

Language of Publication: English and Nepali
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Review Time: 6 to 8 weeks (Approximately)
Indexing Databases: Zenodo, Orcid, Research Gate, Google Scholar, SSRN

Peer Review Process

The review process for GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse consists of six levels of review, including editorial and blind peer review. Research and review articles received from open call and individual invitation are peer-reviewed, double-blind, before publication. The production team sends original research and review articles to Section Editors for initial review of the work's relevance to the journal. They submit draft decisions to the Editor-in-Chief for the final decision about further review or rejection. Based on decision of chief editor, the managing editor or chief editor himself will send the article for further double blind peer review. With a view to identify subject expert cooperation with review board will be done. The identity of peer reviewer would be accessed to managing editor or editor in chief and the paper of managing editor and chief editor would not be considered for publication to avoid conflict of interest though advisors, reviewers and even section editor would have no issue for submission in the journal for publication after double blind peer review. The initial review process will be short and not last longer than six weeks. Perspectives, including case studies and interviews, are reviewed by Section Editors and cleared with the Editor-in-Chief. These are not subject to double-blind peer review.

The six levels of review are as follows:

1. Checking Paper structure by production team.
2. Checking & Detailed Checking Plagiarism (Less than 10%, No paragraph should have half to full paragraph plagiarism). Also check for Unique Title by searching the title in Google, Google scholar, & plagiarism checker result by production team.
3. Checking Grammar and Typographic mistakes using integrated Grammarly software by production team
4. Checking Review of Methods, Format, Title, Keywords, Tables & Figures, and Citations by the section editor
5. Review of Analysis/Results/ Novelty, Further improvements, Journal to be considered, Area, Type, etc by double blind peer review
6. After Journal formatting, DOI, Checking Page Numbers, Glancing on PDF before final publication by editor and Author proofreading

   Please direct all editorial inquiries to the journal editorial team at *journal@gsmultiplecampus.edu.np.*

GS Spark frequently publishes calls for papers on various topics. Please visit each section's homepage for calls for papers specific to the relevant section.

Call for Paper

The GS Spark journal invites authors to submit critical readings and research articles from areas of their interest and expertise in business, social sciences, management and humanities for review and consideration for publication. Articles that bridge disciplines and theories and link contemporary discourses on social conditions, practices and actions with the needs to make life better, fairer, sustainable and equitable receive preferences for publication in the journal. Submissions must be unpublished original research. Authors must have reviewed the Submission Guidelines section prior to make acceptable submission.

Upon acceptance, authors are required to sign an Author Agreement with the journal publisher Gaurishankar Multiple Campus.

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Perspective

Access to Scientific Publication through GS Spark

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ABSTRACT

The editorial highlighted GS Spark needs along with the issues of scientific publication and ways forward. It extended acknowledgments and short review of article published in editorial perspective along with good wishes. The push for open access publishing in the scientific community is aimed at making research more accessible to the public and promoting collaboration among researchers. However, many of the current efforts to increase access to scientific knowledge, such as increasing funds for subscription fees or article processing charges (APCs), may actually reinforce the dominance of a few publishing houses and maintain the existing market model.

One of the main challenges in transitioning to open access publishing is the need to cover the costs that are currently supported by subscription fees. While some open access journals are funded by institutional subscribers or dedicated open-access publishers, many traditional publishers have also started offering open access options. However, these publishers may still benefit from the existing market structure and the lack of price sensitivity among researchers, potentially leading to a new pay-to-publish system that is more costly than the previous subscription model. This made us to initiate GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse. We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of all the authors, reviewers, and readers who have supported GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse. Thank you for your valuable time, effort, and expertise. I wish you all on behalf of journal team a happy and prosperous Dashain, Tihar and Chhath.

Keywords: social change, human capital, GS spark, acknowledgment, APC

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The Scientific Publication

Scientific publishing is a crucial component of the scientific process, allowing researchers to share their findings with peers and the public, and to establish their careers in science (.Kelly, J., Sadeghieh, T., & Adeli, K. (2014). Peer-reviewed publications and funded research proposals carry significant weight for individual scientists, and are often used to make hiring, promotion, and award decisions. However, the current publishing model worldwide imposes a significant disadvantage on those operating with smaller research budgets, by limiting their ability to publish in 'good' journals and to access new research(Kelly, J., Sadeghieh, T., & Adeli, K. (2014). One of the main drawbacks of the current publishing model is the steep cost of subscription fees or article processing charges (APCs), which can limit access to scientific knowledge and reinforce the dominance of a few publishing houses. While some open access journals are funded by institutional subscribers or dedicated open-access publishers, many traditional publishers have also started offering open access options. However, these publishers may still benefit from the existing market structure and the lack of price sensitivity among researchers, potentially leading to a new pay-to-publish system that is more costly than the previous subscription model (Day, R. A., & Gastel, B. (2018)..

To address these issues, it is important to explore alternative funding models and encourage transparency in the use of funds by journals and publishers. This could include reducing publication fees, collaborating and subsidizing with institutions, forming strategic partnerships with sponsors, and being more transparent about the use of funds to justify high APCs.

By promoting a more sustainable and inclusive approach to open access publishing, we can work towards a future where scientific knowledge is truly accessible to all, without reinforcing the dominance of a few publishing houses (Mishra & Jha, 2023; Mishra and Nepal, 2022).

GS Spark Inception

The current publishing model has been criticized for its high subscription fees and article processing charges (APCs), which limit access to scientific knowledge and reinforce the dominance of a few publishing houses. Many calls for open access publishing continue to identify ways to make science more accessible by increasing the funds available to pay subscription fees or APCs. However, this approach may only reinforce the current market model and slow innovation in the way we disseminate science. Instead, it may be wiser to create new alternatives to publishing houses themselves, rather than determine how to fund more open access publishing within the existing system. For this to happen, science societies and academies could cooperate for a novel way to evaluate scientific work (Mishra, 2021; Mishra, 2022, Mishra, 2023).

Currently, publishing houses coordinate three aspects of the publication process: peer review, formatting, and publishing. Given recent technological advances, it is worth considering whether publishing houses are best suited for this process. For example, formatting is crucial to the way end users consume the information in a scientific paper. However, journals' standard format may actually be a constraint. Instead of the traditional format, a short video of the scientist performing her experiment, a comic strip to help non-experts get interested in the work, or a slide deck like the ones consultants use can better entice funders (Mishra, 2021; Mishra, 2022, Mishra, 2023).

To address these issues, it is important to explore alternative funding models and encourage transparency in the use of funds by journals and publishers. GS Spark: journal of applied academic discourse is one such alternative, which allows others to read research without barriers and gives other researchers greater opportunity to build upon the work. There are several scholarly open access publishers that are accelerating science, including De Gruyter Open, Springer Nature, Frontiers, Wiley, and Publishing Open Access. By promoting a more sustainable and inclusive approach to open access publishing, we can work towards a future where scientific knowledge is truly accessible to all, without reinforcing the dominance of a few publishing houses.

Research Hosts

Scientists are encouraged to share their research findings in a more accessible manner after their paper is published. However, there is an opportunity cost to redesigning the content once the paper has been published. Scientists, who are already busy with their research, would have to set aside time to create additional resources. Some institutes have started to include time and credits for science communication and outreach, but such incentives are not common.

In this age, the publishing part can be delegated back to scientists. Most researchers and research institutions have their own servers, which can host this content. Giving scientists the freedom to publish their peer-reviewed research in a format and platform of their own choosing could better help make their work more accessible. If research institutions own the server and copyrights to their researchers' work, they could also maintain their work in different languages.

However, such a radical imagination of how scientific work is published needs to reckon with an important issue: peer-review. There are different mechanisms to enable open peer review, such as publishing peer review content, discussion forums between authors and reviewers, and more.

There are several platforms available to publish academic research, such as ResearchGate, Publons, and PLOS ONE. Researchers can also publish their work in open access journals or self-archive preprints or post-prints. To enhance the reproducibility of research results, protocols should be made public and stored in trustworthy digital repositories.

Peer review

Peer review is an essential component of the publishing process, allowing journals to have manuscripts reviewed by experts in the field. The peer review process evaluates the quality and suitability of a paper for publication, and provides feedback to authors to strengthen their research and presentation. However, peer review has become a gate keeping exercise in which journal editors reject papers. To address this issue, some journals have adopted a new approach, such as elife, which publishes "reviewed preprints" plus an internal assessment and public reviews on its website. This approach enriches science rather than gate keeping it.

Peer review is an integral part of scientific publishing that confirms the validity of the manuscript. Peer reviewers are experts who volunteer their time to help improve the manuscripts they review. By undergoing peer review, manuscripts should become more robust, easier to read, and more useful to others in the field. However, peer review is vulnerable to the supply and demand of review labor in an academic environment that incentivizes authorship over other kinds of scholarly work.

To write an effective response to referees' comments, authors should consider the feedback provided and address each point in a clear and concise manner. Journal editors consider all the feedback from peer reviewers and make an informed decision to accept or reject the manuscript. Decision-making authority rests solely with journal editors or the journal's editorial board.

In the current academic publishing landscape, there is a growing need for alternative methods of research evaluation that can better capture the value and impact of scientific work. Traditional metrics, such as the number of publications and citations, are often inadequate for comprehensively assessing the quality and significance of research. One such metric is the impact factor (IF), which is the average number of citations each paper in a journal receives every year across two years. The IF has become critical to attract funding or employment, incentivizing publication in high IF journals. However, the IF does a disservice to broader science as it is associated with how frequently papers from the journal get cited, and doesn't necessarily reflect how good a paper is. Papers in high IF journals have also been accused of scientific fraud, and some of these journals have a higher rate of retractions. Moreover, the IF doesn't account for the ease of doing research in countries with better research resources.

One potential alternative is the adoption of a research evaluation metric that focuses on the novel contribution to the field, funds used (as a proxy for resourcefulness), and research design. This metric could be developed and agreed upon by science academics in collaboration with research institutions. Peer reviewers could then use this metric to rate submitted findings, providing both subjective feedback and a quantitative assessment of the work's quality and impact(Researcher and Author Impact Metrics,2018).

To facilitate the adoption of this alternative evaluation system, researchers could have the option to publish their work as is, along with the reviewer feedback and rating. This peer-reviewed work could be used by indices such as Google Scholar or PubMed, allowing funders and prospective employers to gauge the scientist's credibility based on their research's merits, rather than their ability to publish in a journal of a certain stature.

While this radical re-imagining of how scientific work is evaluated and published may face challenges, such as the issue of peer review, technological advances in knowledge duration and dissemination should render publishing models that keep science locked up outdated (Hjørland, B. (2020). The path to open science lies with our scientific institutions, and a move to break the monopoly of publishers could lead to a more accessible and innovative research landscape.

Welcome GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse

GS Spark always gives priority to what is published more than that of where is published (Mishra, 2021: Mishra, 2022: Mishra, 2023: Mishra,A.K., & Jha.P.B., 2023: 13. Mishra A. K. & Nepal Ananda, 2022). This is inaugural issue of GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse consisting of 12 Articles along with 1 editorial perspective and 1 perspective article.

Khadka, (2023) highlighted mushroom farming followed by Neupane, (2023) on cooking solution and Rai, (2023) raised the issue of occupational safety as scientific innovation for promoting livelihood. Its wisdom of worthy to see changing role of Dalit women (Tamata, et al., 2023), Bhandari, (2023), Khanal, (2023), Parajuli, (2023), Sapkota, (2023), Shedhain (2023) and (K.C., 2023), gave different insights on different burning issues of good governance.

Blair, et al., (2023), Phunyal, (2023), and Joshi, (2023) highlighted the educational and learning aspects of human civilization in totality.

We would like to appeal to you to consider submitting your articles to the next issue of GS spark.

Acknowledgment

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the previous students and existing faculties who have supported the GS Spark.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by not including many of your articles in the first issue of the journal. However, we appreciate your continued support and contributions to the journal, which have been invaluable in establishing its credibility and reputation.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the publication of GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Gaurishankar Multiple Campus for their support and encouragement throughout the publication process through college management committee. We are thankful to advisory board for continuous intellectual guidance.

The sparking collaboration of editorial board, members, and production team members made this

journal as a accomplishment for grands celebrations on the eve of national festival *Dashain*.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of all the authors, reviewers, and readers who have supported GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse. Thank you for your valuable time, effort, and expertise.

As we celebrate Dashain, let us also reflect on our responsibility towards each other and the planet. May we work towards a world where everyone has access to nutritious food, and where we use our resources sustainably to ensure a better future for all!

Once again, I wish you all on behalf of journal team a happy and prosperous Dashain, Tihar and Chhath.

Conclusion

Scientists can host their research on their own servers, and there are several platforms and options available for publishing research. However, a radical imagination of how scientific work is published needs to consider the issue of peer-review and ensure the reproducibility of research results.

Peer review is a crucial aspect of the publishing process, but it has its limitations. Journals should adopt new approaches to enrich science rather than gatekeeping it, and authors should respond to referees' comments effectively.

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of all the authors, reviewers, and readers who have supported GS Spark: Journal of Applied Academic Discourse. Thank you for your valuable time, effort, and expertise.

Once again, I wish you all on behalf of journal team a happy and prosperous Dashain, Tihar and Chhath.

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Research

Prospects and Challenges of Mushroom Cultivation in Godavari Municipality, Nepal

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ABSTRACT

Mushroom cultivation is a viable option for farmers in Nepal due to the availability of raw materials and a favorable environment. Oyster mushrooms are the preferred variety among Nepalese farmers, and they cultivate them throughout the year. This article focuses on the prospects and challenges of mushroom cultivation in Godavari Municipality, based on primary and secondary sources of data.

The primary data were collected through interviews with 20 farmers involved in mushroom farming. The study found that mushroom cultivation has high prospects due to its rich source of nutrition, source of income, and medicinal use. Additionally, mushrooms are a ready-to-eat food in various forms, such as fried, crispy, noodles, and more. They can also be used to make delicious pickles, chutney, cake, tea, and biscuits. Furthermore, mushrooms can be processed into powdered form, capsule form, canned products, and mushroom-enriched cosmetics such as soap, toothpaste, cream, oil, etc. By diversifying agricultural production and generating significant employment opportunities, mushroom farming can become a lifeline for rural and semi-urban areas. However, the study also found that mushroom cultivation faces challenges such as the high cost of raw materials, lack of labor, and an imperfect market. To mitigate these challenges, the local government must formulate effective policies to promote mushroom farming in the Nepalese context.

Mushroom cultivation has significant prospects in Godavari Municipality, Nepal, due to its nutritional value, medicinal uses, and various forms of consumption. However, there are also challenges that farmers face, such as the high cost of raw materials and lack of labor. By implementing effective policies, the local government can help to mitigate these challenges and promote mushroom farming as a viable and profitable crop for Nepalese farmers.

Keywords: oyster, super-food, labor-intensive, integrated farming, lifeline

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Introduction

Mushroom cultivation can become a viable and attractive activity for generating side-income for rural farmers and peri-urban dwellers since it does not require a lot of land, and the business scale depends on modest to low capital investment and labor use (Zhang et al., 2014; ECHOcommunity.org, 2015; FAO, n.d.; Prospects for Increasing Commercial Mushroom Production in Malaysia, 2016). Women and elders are reportedly suitable labor for the more labor-intensive aspects of the industry, such as filling substrate into plastic bags and harvesting (Marshall & Nair, 2009; Zhang et al., 2014). This can enhance their empowerment, allowing them to gain other farming skills, greater financial independence, and self-respect (Zhang et al., 2014). In several Asian countries such as China and Vietnam, mushroom farming is closely integrated into rice farming. After harvesting, rice straw is used as a substrate for growing straw mushrooms (Marshall & Nair, 2009). In China, contract farming has been emerging on a large scale. Farmers are provided with substrate bags, and the products are collected by the integrated enterprise (Zhang et al., 2014).

Mushrooms have a long history, and their description can be traced back to classical texts of Sanskrit, Greek, and Roman literature. The wild-growing mushrooms were picked for their aroma and palatability. France introduced the first cultivation of mushrooms in 1650, and the cultivation of mushrooms spread to England, America, and some other countries. In Asia, China, South Korea, and Taiwan were the first cultivators of mushrooms (Mychampi, 2018). The initial cultivation technique of mushrooms was foraging, picking them from their natural habitats in the woods. During this period, mushrooms were thought to be mysterious fruits and were only accessible by the wealthy. Mushroom farming is believed to have started in 600 A.D. Mass production of the fungi in Asia was not established until the 16th century, and it was not until the 19th century that this large-scale mushroom farming operation found its way to Europe. Today, there are thousands of types of mushrooms, and they require little to thrive, making mushroom farming a low-risk business opportunity that has become a booming industry across the globe (FAO, 2018). According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations statistics from 2016, China is the world's leading mushroom producer, while the United States and Italy are second and third. The total production was more than 10 million tons in 2016 (FAO, 2018).

Problem Statement

Mushroom cultivation has become a popular choice for farmers in Nepal due to the availability of raw materials and a favorable environment. However, there are challenges that farmers face, such as the high cost of raw materials and lack of labor. Additionally, the market for mushrooms is imperfect, which can lead to difficulties in selling the crop. Therefore, there is a need to explore the prospects and challenges of mushroom cultivation in Godavari Municipality, Nepal (Raut, 2019; Science Publishing Group, 2019; Shrestha, 2011). The research aims to provide insights into the current scenario of the mushroom enterprise in the region and analyze its future prospects. The study also attempts to identify the mitigating measures that can be taken to promote mushroom farming as a viable and profitable crop for Nepalese farmers.

Research Objective

This article is prepared to assess the problems and prospects of mushroom farming in Godavari, Lalitpur Nepal.

Methodology

The research methodology employed in this study is a descriptive and analytical research design(Raut, S. ,2019). The study aims to identify the prospects and constraints of mushroom farming in rural settings of urban areas from the producers' perspective. The study area is Lalitpur district Godavari municipality ward no 3, where 30 households cultivate mushrooms. Among them, 20 households were selected as respondents through a purposive sampling procedure for a detailed study of mushroom farming in its natural real-life context. The study is based on both primary and secondary data(Raut, S. (2019):. Science Publishing Group. (2019). The primary data were collected through in-depth face-to-face structured interviews and observations. The secondary data were collected by reviewing mushroom farming-related literature through search engines(Raut, S. (2019). The questions of the in-depth structured interview were pretested before data collection Raut, S. (2019). The collected data was checked, coded, categorized, organized, and converted into a master data sheet. The data was presented in tables using MS-word and MS-excel. The data was analyzed descriptively through the Likert scale(Raut, S. (2019). The study provides valuable insights into the prospects and challenges of mushroom cultivation in Godavari Municipality, Nepal, and identifies mitigating measures that can be taken to promote mushroom farming as a viable and profitable crop for Nepalese farmers. The study is supported by several references, including research articles and studies related to mushroom farming in Nepal (Archives of Agriculture and Environmental Science).

Results and Discussion

Prospects of Mushroom Farming

Mushrooms are considered a unique ingredient in gourmet cuisine due to their great nutritional value (Valverde et al., 2015). Processing mushrooms into value-added products is an option to reduce losses due to quality deterioration and boost consumption (Kumar et al., 2014). Popular mushroom products available in markets include snacks, fried mushrooms, burgers, pastries, nuggets, popcorn, pickles, biscuits, ketchup, soup powder, and candy (Kumar et al., 2014).

Mushrooms are rich in water percentage, fiber carbohydrates, riboflavin, vitamins, and minerals, and most of them have antioxidant properties that can fight against diseases such as cancer, diabetes, blood pressure, and tumors, and boost immunity against colds, influenza, and other viruses (Singh, 2007). Among the 12,000 species of mushrooms worldwide, at least 2,000 species show various degrees of edibility, but only about 35 species have been cultivated commercially, and about 20 are currently on an industrial scale (Kumar et al., 2014). Mushrooms are in prime focus in the food industry for their multi-functional benefits.

Nepal has a wide range of diversity in geographical conditions, and numerous species of mushrooms are found in its forests. Among the 1,300 wild mushroom species recorded in Nepal, some have high medicinal importance, 147 species are edible, and 100 species are poisonous (Bang et al., 2014; Adhikari, 2014). Due to urbanization and awareness of the health benefits of mushrooms, people have started cultivating mushrooms widely. Edible mushrooms can be grown in open places (field, forest, shade) and indoors (huts, tunnels, houses) and supplied in the markets. Farmers are able to cultivate mushrooms year-round in natural environments with different varieties like Shitake, oyster, and red mushrooms in Nepal. Mushroom cultivation is a fast-growing sector of agriculture practices because of its low input and high return in a short time, making it a potential milestone in the traditional agriculture system of Nepal. There are about 5,000 mushroom growers within Kathmandu valley and 6,000 growers in other districts.

Table 1 clarifies that all farmers agreed that mushrooms are a rich source of nutritious food. 90% of farmers consider it as an optimum utilizer of farm residues, 70% of farmers realized the prospects of mushroom farming as a source of additional income and the best vegetarian food available, 65% of farmers confirm that it generates wealth from waste and can produce various kinds of food items, and 60% of farmers view the prospects of mushroom farming as low input and high output. The majority of respondents realized that it is the generator of self-employment, has medicinal value, and is sustainable manure-based farming.

Table 1: Prospects of mushroom farming

SN	Categories	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Total
1	Rich sources of Nutritious food	50 %	50 %	-	-	-	100 %
2	Optimum utilization of farm residues	40 %	50 %	10 %	-	-	100 %
3	Source of additional income	30 %	40 %	10 %	10 %	10 %	100 %
4	Generator of self-employment	20 %	35 %	20 %	10 %	5 %	100 %
5	Development of new food products	25 %	40 %	15 %	10 %	10 %	100 %
6	Low input and high output	20 %	40 %	25 %	10 %	5 %	100 %
7	Medicinal used	20 %	35 %	20 %	10 %	5 %	100 %
8	Generating wealth from waste	25 %	40 %	15 %	10 %	10 %	100 %
9	Sustainable manure-based farming	20 %	30 %	20 %	15 %	15 %	100 %
10	Best vegetarian food available	30 %	40 %	10 %	10 %	10 %	100 %

Strongly Agree (1), Agree (2), Don't Know (3), Disagree (4), Strongly Disagree (5) Source: field survey,2022

Mushroom farming is a sustainable practice that generates wealth from waste. The spent mushroom substrate can be processed into manure, promoting sustainable manure-based farming. Mushroom cultivation not only produces quality food but also creates a healthy environment, leads to employment generation, and empowers women. Mushroom cultivation utilizes vertical space and requires minimal land, making it possible to promote mushrooms in peri-urban and urban areas. Mushrooms are considered to be the highest protein producers per unit area per unit time.

Historically, mushrooms were collected from forests and fields and were considered food for the elite. Nowadays, mushrooms are widely available and are considered quality food with health benefits. In fact, mushrooms are among the best vegetarian food available. They are a rich protein source with essential amino acids and high digestibility.

Mushroom cultivation has emerged as an important activity for educated individuals, school dropouts, women, and landless people in rural areas. Considering the demand for quality foods, mushroom cultivation has become an important avocation. Many commercial units that grow mushrooms under controlled conditions have also been set up in different parts of Nepal.

Mushrooms are a low-calorie food with no starch and are rich in antioxidants, making them a delight for diabetics. They are also rich in fiber, making them good for the intestine and digestive system. They are a good source of vitamins, especially vitamin B complex. Mushrooms are the only vegetarian source of vitamin D and also have vitamin B12, which is not available in plants. They are also rich in minerals, including copper (heart-protective) and selenium (anti-cancer) Raut, S. (2019): Adhikari, M. K. (2014): Singh, R. B. (2007): Kumar, S., et al. (2014)& Shrestha, M. (2018).

Problems Confronting during Production

Mushroom farming is a challenging industry in Nepal. The initial investment required for improved technology is very high, and there are unstable farm-gate prices and profit margins. Additionally, the supply to the market is poor, and the increasing price of materials, such as rice straw, increases the investment. There is also a high risk of poor-quality mushroom spawn and the threat of diseases and pest attacks. Furthermore, there are no clear policies formulated for mushroom farming, trade, and quality control in Nepal, and the plans and policies presented by the government are inadequate. These challenges make it difficult for producers to operate in the mushroom industry(Adhikari, B., & Bhattarai, S. (2022): Shrestha, M. (2011).

Table 2: Problems confronted during production

SN	Categories	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Total
1	Lack of cultivation house	-	-	10 %	40 %	50 %	100 %
2	lack of capital	40 %	50 %	10 %	-	-	100 %
3	Insects attack (flies and cockroaches)	30 %	40 %	20 %	5 %	5 %	100 %
4	Lack of the availability of quality spawn	30 %	40 %	10 %	5 %	5 %	100 %
5	The high price of raw materials	40 %	30 %	20 %	5 %	5 %	100 %
6	Lack of modern equipment	30 %	40 %	10 %	5 %	5 %	100 %
7	Lack of trained and experienced labor	30 %	50 %	10 %	5 %	5 %	100 %
8	Heavy rainfall during monsoon	30 %	50 %	10 %	5 %	5 %	100 %
9	The very low temperature in winter	40 %	40 %	20 %	-	-	100 %
10	Inappropriate timing of production	20 %	20 %	50 %	5 %	5 %	100 %

Strongly Agree (1), Agree (2), Don't Know (3), Disagree (4), Strongly Disagree (5) Source: field survey,2022

On the basis of table-2, there are no problems with the cultivation house. During production, 90 percent farmers face the problems of capital shortage.80 percent farmers face problems of low temperature during winter seasons, and lack of experienced labor force, and heavy rainfall during monsoon season .70 percent respondents confronted with insect attacks, lack of quality spawn, lack of modern equipment during the production of mushroom.

Based on Table-2, the majority of farmers did not face any problems with the cultivation house. However, during production, 90% of farmers faced the problem of capital shortage, which is consistent with a previous study(Poudel, S., & Bajracharya, A. ,2011). Additionally, 80% of farmers faced problems with low temperature during winter seasons, lack of experienced labor force, and heavy rainfall during the monsoon season. This is also consistent with a previous study that identified unstable weather conditions as a challenge for mushroom cultivation in Nepal (Shrestha, M. (2019). Furthermore, 70% of respondents faced insect attacks, lack of quality spawn, and lack of modern equipment during the production of mushrooms. These challenges have also been identified in previous studies as major constraints for mushroom cultivation in Nepal(Shrestha, M. (2019). Overall, the results of Table-2 suggest that farmers in Godavari Municipality face similar challenges to those faced by mushroom farmers in other parts of Nepal.

Problems Confronted during Marketing

Based on Table-3, the majority of farmers faced challenges during the marketing of mushrooms. Specifically, 90% of farmers agreed that the absence of storage facilities is a barrier to marketing. This finding is consistent with a previous study that identified the lack of proper storage facilities as a major constraint for mushroom cultivation in Nepal (Raut, 2019). Additionally, 70% of respondents believed that high transportation costs, a large number of middlemen, a very limited wholesale market, and a lack of branding were problems during the marketing of mushrooms. These challenges have also been identified in previous studies as major constraints for mushroom cultivation in Nepal (Raut, 2019; Science Publishing Group, 2019). Furthermore, 60% of respondents indicated that the lack of advertisement was a barrier to the marketing of mushrooms. Overall, the results of Table-3 suggest that farmers in Godavari Municipality face similar challenges to those faced by mushroom farmers in other parts of Nepal.

Table 3: Problems confronted during the marketing

SN	Categories	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Total
1	Lack of available markets	5 %	5 %	50 %	20 %	20 %	100 %
2	High transportation cost	30 %	40 %	20 %	5 %	5 %	100 %
3	A large number of middlemen	30 %	40 %	20 %	5 %	5 %	100 %
4	Very limited wholesale market	20 %	50 %	15 %	5 %	10 %	100 %
5	Unknown product to general consumers	-	-	20 %	30 %	50 %	100 %
6	Lacking advertising	20 %	40 %	30 %	5 %	5 %	100 %
7	Absence of storage facilities	40 %	50 %	10 %	-	-	100 %
8	Lack of branding	30 %	40 %	20 %	5%	5%	100 %

Strongly Agree (1), Agree (2), Don't Know (3), Disagree (4), Strongly Disagree (5) Source: field survey,2022

Measures to Promote Mushroom Farming

Mushroom farming is a promising industry in Nepal, particularly the cultivation of oyster mushroom species, which is extensively grown throughout the year. Mushroom is considered a nutritious food and dietary supplement in Nepal, and small-scale mushroom farming provides opportunities for disadvantaged groups, such as landless, rural women, illiterate, adolescents, old age and physically disabled people, schedule caste people, and indigenous people. Mushroom farming is an alternative form of agriculture that plays a vital role in informal employment creation and economic development, especially in rural areas. However, there are challenges in production and marketing, such as the absence of proper storage facilities, unstable farm-gate prices, high transportation costs, a large number of middlemen, a very limited wholesale market, lack of branding, and lack of advertisement. To promote the sustainable development of mushroom farming, the government should formulate effective plans and policies, provide skilled development training, awareness programs, subsidies, and workshops by mushroom experts to farmers and the young generation. The concerned authority should also research various issues of mushroom production, distribution, and consumption. The findings of this study are consistent with previous research on mushroom farming in Nepal(Poudel, S., & Bajracharya, A. (2011): Bhattarai, S. P., & Shrestha, M. (2022): Philmush. (2013): Karki, S. (2015)& Bhattarai, S. P., & Shrestha, M. (2019). .

Table 4: Measures to Promote Mushroom Farming

SN	Categories	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	Total
1	Strengthening technical support	30 %	40 %	20 %	5 %	5 %	100 %
2	Easy procedures of capital supply	15 %	40 %	35 %	5 %	5 %	100 %
3	Provision of soft loan	50 %	50 %	-	-	-	100 %
4	Provision of quality raw materials	30 %	30 %	30 %	10 %	-	100 %
5	Provision of the labor force	20 %	35 %	20 %	15 %	10%	100 %
6	Provision of quality spawn	40 %	60 %	-	-	-	100 %
7	Establishment of an effective and perfect market.	40%	50%	10%	-	-	100 %
8	Promotion of mushrooms in new areas	20%	35%	35%	5%	5%	100 %
9	Establishment of storage facilities	40%	50%	10%	-	-	100 %
10	Strengthening the institutional framework	25 %	30 %	20 %	15 %	10%	100 %
11	Provision of insurance facilities	30 %	30 %	30 %	10 %	-	100 %
12	Provision of training /workshop	40%	50%	10%	-	-	100 %

Strongly Agree (1), Agree (2), Don't Know (3), Disagree (4), Strongly Disagree (5) Source: field survey,2022

Based on Table-4, the majority of respondents agreed that the provision of soft loans and quality spawn is essential to promote mushroom farming in Nepal. This finding is consistent with a previous review paper that identified access to finance and quality spawn as major constraints for mushroom cultivation in Nepal (Shrestha & Bajracharya, 2011; Shrestha et al., 2022). Additionally, 90% of respondents agreed that it is essential to establish an effective and perfect market, as well as establish storage facilities and provide training for the promotion of mushroom farming. This is also consistent with previous studies that identified the lack of proper storage facilities and inadequate marketing channels as major constraints for mushroom cultivation in Nepal (Shrestha & Bajracharya, 2011; Shrestha et al., 2019). Furthermore, 70% of respondents believed that strengthening technical support is necessary, while 60% of respondents supported the provision of insurance facilities and quality raw materials for the promotion of mushroom farming. These challenges have also been identified in previous studies as major constraints for mushroom cultivation in Nepal (Shrestha & Bajracharya, 2011; Shrestha et al., 2019; Adhikari et al., 2020). The majority of respondents gave their opinion to strengthen the institutional framework, promote mushroom farming in new areas, provide a labor force, and simplify the procedures of capital supply for the promotion of mushroom farming. Overall, the results of Table-4 suggest that farmers in Godavari Municipality face similar challenges to those faced by mushroom farmers in other parts of Nepal (Shrestha & Bajracharya, 2011; Shrestha et al., 2019; Adhikari et al., 2020). The concerned authorities should formulate more extension programs to increase the production, distribution, and consumption of mushrooms, and the national, state, and local level governments of Nepal should formulate effective plans and policies for the promotion of mushroom farming (Shrestha & Bajracharya, 2011; Shrestha et al., 2022). The provision of a wholesale market and effective distribution channels is essential to support the sustainable development of mushroom farming and profit sharing of the farmers (Shrestha et al., 2019; Adhikari et al., 2020). Skilled development training about the cultivation of mushrooms, awareness programs regarding the importance of mushrooms, provision of subsidies for grassroots level people involved in mushroom farming, and workshops by mushroom experts to farmers and the young generation should be managed to increase healthy mushroom production (Shrestha et al., 2019; Adhikari et al., 2020).

Entrepreneurship scope for mushroom farming in virtual farming:

Market Research: Conduct market research to identify the demand for mushrooms and the types of mushrooms that are in demand. This will help you determine the type of mushrooms to grow and the target market for your virtual mushroom farming business.

Business Plan: Develop a business plan that outlines the goals, objectives, and strategies for your virtual mushroom farming business. The plan should include details on the production process, marketing strategies, and financial projections.

Virtual Farming Setup: Set up a virtual farming system that includes the necessary equipment and software to grow mushrooms. This may include a virtual greenhouse, lighting, temperature and humidity control systems, and software to monitor and manage the growing process.

Production Process: Follow the steps of mushroom farming, which include composting, spawning, casing, pinning, and cropping

Use high-quality compost to provide the necessary nutrients for the mushrooms to grow

Marketing and Sales: Develop a marketing strategy to promote your virtual mushroom farming business. This may include social media marketing, email marketing, and advertising on relevant websites. You can also sell your mushrooms online through e-commerce platforms or local farmers' markets.

Legal Compliance: Obtain the necessary licenses and permits to operate a mushroom farming business. This may include an FSSAI license for food safety compliance to make it internationally demanded product.

Continuous Improvement: Continuously improve your virtual mushroom farming business by experimenting with new techniques and technologies to increase production efficiency and quality. Stay up-to-date with the latest trends and developments in the mushroom farming industry

Starting a virtual mushroom farming business requires careful planning, research, and investment in the necessary equipment and software. However, with the growing demand for specialty mushrooms and the potential for high profits, it can be a lucrative entrepreneurial venture.

Recently virtual agriculture may bust mushroom farming also in case of Nepal using virtual agriculture industry 4.0 concept for Nepal (Mishra, A.K., et al., 2022).

Conclusion

In conclusion, mushroom farming is a viable and economically attractive alternative form of agriculture in Nepal. It follows the principles of sustainable development and helps to materialize the concept of 'waste-to-wealth'. Despite some challenges during production and marketing, the demand for mushrooms is increasing rapidly in Nepal. The majority of farmers in Godavari Municipality face similar challenges to those faced by mushroom farmers in other parts of Nepal. The concerned authorities, including national, state, and local level governments, should formulate effective plans and policies for the promotion of mushroom farming. Local governments should play an active and major role in advocating for various aspects of mushroom cultivation, providing training, and different forms of incentives such as distributing prizes, providing soft loans to farmers for cultivation, producing booklets on mushroom cultivation technology, and providing other essential services free of cost. To increase the volume of demand and encourage market orientation, it is mandatory to boost the commercial value of products either in a fresh or processed form. Public awareness would intensify consumers' consciousness and the value of mushrooms. Capacity-building programs for farmers, especially in cultivation techniques, access to appropriate varieties of spores, post-harvest care, and marketing could also be beneficial. An appropriate market distorting approach in the longer term could increase the scale of local markets and it could become a competitive and more significant agribusiness.

Limitations of the Study

The study is just a contextual validity for Prospects and Challenges of Mushroom Cultivation in Godavari Municipality, Nepal. So, it has used limited literature without specific heading of literature and further similar research needed in different parts of Nepal to address the ecological differences across the zones and generate values chain analysis for particular zone.

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Research

The Cooking Solutions for Rural Livelihood: A Study of Sundarbazar Municipality

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ABSTRACT

Electric cooking systems have been promoted in Sundarbazar Municipality of Lamjung district as an alternative to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for cooking purposes. This study aims to assess the effectiveness of electric cooktops on rural livelihood.The study was conducted using a sample survey with a simple random sampling technique. The data was gathered through household surveys, focused group discussions, and field observations. The major source of data was a sample survey.

The study found that local people experienced induction cooktops as a time-saving, fast processing, and economically viable option for cooking purposes. The study also found that electric cooking solutions may be a good alternative to LPG in both urban and rural areas, as Nepal will produce excess electricity in the near future. The study suggests that innovation for electric cooking has the possibility of enhancing better livelihood in rural contexts. This study concludes that electric cooking solutions have positive impacts on rural livelihoods. The promotion of electric cooking among households can reduce the consumption of imported LPG. The study suggests that local governments should play an active and major role in advocating for electric cooking, providing training, and different forms of incentives such as distributing prizes. The study also suggests that capacity-building programs for users.

Keywords: clean energy, eCookstove, rural livelihood, sustainable development

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Introduction

The use of renewable energy resources is essential for mitigating pollution and reducing climate change impacts (Twidell, & Weir, 2015). In Nepal, biomass is a primary source of energy for cooking purposes, but there is a noticeable shift towards commercial energy and renewable energy sources. The government aims to increase per-person energy consumption to 700 kWh by 2023 and 1,500 kWh by 2028, which requires a shift from the current energy consumption pattern and support for industries that rely on electricity, such as transportation and cooking (LGOA, 2017). The promotion of electric cooking solutions is becoming more popular in Nepal, and local governments have taken initiatives to promote small-scale clean energy projects. The study area, Sundarbazar Municipality of Lamjung district, has distributed 532 induction cooktops to rural families at no cost, and this paper deals with the social acceptance of electric cooking appliances by the rural community in the study area. The key research question is whether electric cooking is acceptable to rural households for their day-to-day cooking and how technological transformation contributes to sustainable development (WECS, 2022).

The Alternative Energy Promotion Center (AEPC) is a national focal agency promoting renewable energy technologies in Nepal, and it has been promoting renewable energy systems through different programs and projects to popularize and promote the use of renewable energy technologies (AEPC, 2022). The use of electric cooking solutions can help Nepal achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, improve public health, reduce poverty, and combat climate change. Biomass is a key source of energy all around the world, especially in developing countries (Suman, 2021). It includes firewood, agricultural residues, and animal waste, which has become primary energy sources for cooking purposes in Nepal (Suman, 2021). Nepal has more than 60 years of successful experience in the development of household biogas technologies (Lohani, Koirala, & Bhattarai, 2021). Despite the fact that Nepal has been promoting biogas for many years with little noticeable technological advancement, there is still a need for indigenous technologies that can better handle multiple feedstocks and changing ambient temperatures (Lohani, Koirala, & Bhattarai, 2021; Lohani, Dhungana, Horn, & Khatiwada, 2021). A household bio-digester is one feasible way to create nutrient-rich digestate (bio-slurry) and a clean energy source (biogas) at the same time(Lohani, Koirala, & Bhattarai, 2021; Lohani, Dhungana, Horn, & Khatiwada, 2021). The current constitution of Nepal has introduced a three-tier structure of federal government (federal, province, and local) and all three levels have the constitutional power to enact laws, prepare budgets, and mobilize their resources (Shrestha, & Bhattarai, 2013). In this context, some local governments have already taken initiatives to promote small-scale clean energy projects by mobilizing the conditional grant they received from the central government (Suman, 2021). The ward number 3 of Sundarbazar Municipality, Lamjung, had distributed 532 induction cooktops to their rural families at no cost in the fiscal year 2077/78. The paper is going to discuss the potential opportunities and challenges associated with the promotion of electric cooking in the local area.

Problem Statement

Rural livelihoods in Nepal are at risk due to food insecurity, lack of proper resources, and limited access to modern cooking solutions. The use of traditional biomass fuels for cooking purposes is still predominant in rural areas, which contributes to indoor air pollution and health hazards. The Sundarbazar Municipality of Lamjung district has distributed electric cooktops to rural families at no cost, but it is unclear whether these electric cooking solutions are socially acceptable and have positive impacts on rural livelihoods. Therefore, there is a need for research to analyze the social impacts of electric cooktops and their acceptance at the household level in the Sundarbazar Municipality. The study aims to observe the changes that have occurred in the day-to-day life of rural people after the adoption of electric cooking systems, including their perceptions, experiences, and outcomes.

The study will contribute to the promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods, the reduction of indoor air pollution, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The study will also provide insights into the potential opportunities and challenges associated with the promotion of electric cooking in rural areas of Nepal.

Research Objective

The main objective of the study is to analyze the social impacts of electric cooktops on day-to-day life and their acceptance at the household level in rural areas of Nepal, including their perceptions, experiences, and outcomes.

Literature Review

The scientific literature on eCooking technology in Nepal is limited, but there are studies that highlight the importance of transitioning from solid biomass to cleaner cooking technologies. According to the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC, 2022), biomass energy is one of Nepal's most significant resources, but its utilization and management lack a proper and long-term approach. About 65% of households in the country use solid fuels as the primary source of energy for cooking (WECS, 2022), which creates serious concerns since it has adverse impacts on the environment, health, and socio-economic conditions. Household air pollution (HAP) accounts for about 18,000 premature deaths every year in Nepal (Clean Cooking Alliance, 2017).

The petroleum sector in Nepal is a monopoly, and Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) is responsible for importing, sorting, and distributing all petroleum products in Nepal (Poudyal et al., 2019). LPG has to be imported, and residential sector solely consumes around 54% of all LPG imported into the country (AEPC, 2022). This over-dependence on LPG import has put Nepal in a terrifying situation, as it has not only contributed to widening the trade deficit but has also made Nepal very vulnerable to the risk of energy security (Bhandari & Pandit, 2018). Many argue that substituting LPG with electricity for cooking at the household level can reduce the country's huge trade deficit to a large extent (Chitrakar 2019; Nakarmi 2019).

The induction cooktops are also safer than other traditional stoves and LPG, with no open flame and little residual heat. According to a lab-based study conducted by the Centre for Energy Studies (CES), induction cooktops showed a 42% savings as compared with LPG (Shrestha, 2020). The Government of Nepal encouraged people to adopt induction cooktops by waiving custom duty on their imports (MoF, 2020) and also reduced the tariff for domestic consumers using more than 151 units in a month to motivate them to use electric cooking systems and other electric devices (NEA, 2021).

Methodology

The methodology used in this study involved both analytical and descriptive methods based on primary and secondary data. For the household study, a sample of 60 households was randomly selected from a total of 532 user households. The field data was obtained through focused group discussion and key informant interviews with induction cooktop users (primary cook persons) by the researcher at the local community of Sundarbazar Municipality, Ward No. 3. The survey was conducted in December 2022.

Study Area

The study area is Sundarbazar Municipality, located in the Lamjung district, under the Gandaki province in Nepal. Sundarbazar Municipality is surrounded by Rainas Municipality on the East, Madhya Nepal Municipality on the West, Besishahar Municipality on the North, and Tanahun district on the South. It can be reached within about 2.5 hours of walking distance from the middle Marsyandgi Hydropower Project, Siundibar, Lamjung. This hilly area is also important for its biodiversity and tourism. It covers an area of 72.03 sq. km. This municipality also includes the beautiful village of Duradanda, which has sites of historical, religious, and cultural significance, with a majority of people belonging to the Dura caste. The people in the study area were mainly found engaged in farming as their primary occupation.

Results and Discussion

Socio-demographic Characteristics of eCookstove Users

Out of the 60 HHs surveyed, approximately 35 percent of the respondents were female. For this study, the survey questionnaire was administered to the primary cook within each sampled household. In cases where a primary cook was absent, available family members were interviewed instead. It was observed that 65 percent of the survey respondents were male, serving as the primary source of survey information. This gender distribution imbalance could be attributed to cultural norms, whereby males tend to have more frequent interactions with outsiders, while females may not engage in such interactions as frequently.

Interestingly, the proportion of surveyed households headed by female members of the family was found to be 30 percent. This number aligns closely with the national average of female-headed households, which stands at 31.55 percent according to the National Population and Housing Census (NPHC) conducted in 2021 by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

In 90 percent of the surveyed HHs, female as a primary cook. Both male and female participate in cooking in 6.67 percent of the HHs. Only 3.33 percent of respondents reported that additional members of the family have started cooking after introduction of the eCooking technology in their HH where most of them are male members. Among the surveyed HHs, 60 percent stated that the role of the male cook is primarily sporadic.

Majority (90 percent) of the respondents have completed their school level education, and only 10 percent have no formal education. On average, a family consists of 5 people, ranging from as few as 2 to as many as 7 individuals in the studied HHs.

Primary Cookstove in the Study Area

The primary cookstove usage in the surveyed HHs varied among different types. Of the total surveyed HHs, 20 percent relied on traditional cookstoves, which are the conventional and commonly used stoves. Improved cookstoves were used by 33.33 percent of the HHs, offering better efficiency and reduced smoke emissions compared to traditional ones. LPG was the primary cookstove choice for 41.67 percent of the HHs, indicating a transition to cleaner and more convenient fuel sources. A small percentage of HHs, 1.67 percent, used eCookstove, which are induction cooktops. Additionally, 3.33 percent of the surveyed HHs relied on biogas as their primary cookstove.

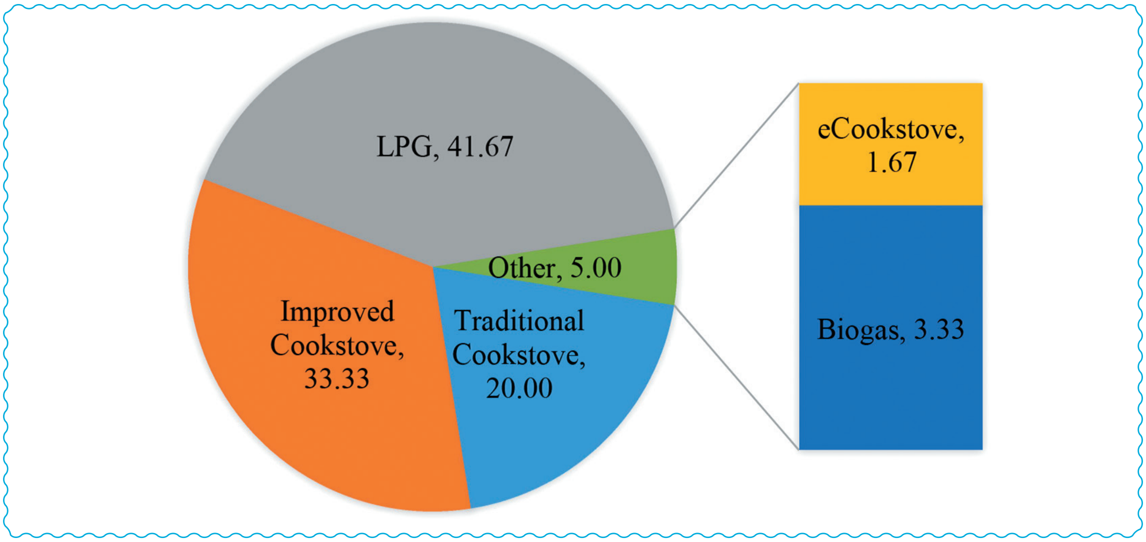

Figure 1: Primary Cookstove in the Study Area (Percentage)

Operational Status of eCookstove

Out of the 60 surveyed HHs, only 45 percent of eCookstove were found to be operational at the time of field visits. The study aimed to understand the reasons behind the non-operational status of the cooktops. Some users reported that their eCookstove was currently damaged or experiencing technical problems. Others mentioned a lack of knowledge on how to use it, concerns about high electricity consumption bills, the absence of a dedicated power socket, and the reluctance of elderly individuals responsible for cooking to switch to induction cooktops.

In relation to the frequency of eCookstove usage, a follow-up question was queried to the users. Among the regular users, 55.56 percent reported using the eCookstove on a daily basis, while 37.04 percent utilized it a few times in a week, and 7.40 percent used it a few times in a month. The majority of regular users (80 percent) stated that they regularly use the induction cooktop to cook rice and tea. Additionally, 30 percent of users reported using their cooktop to prepare lentil soup (Dal). Biomass and LPG, on the other hand, are primarily utilized for cooking vegetables, Dheedo, Roti, and other food items, as the induction cooktop requires dedicated cookware for these specific dishes.

The operational status and frequency of eCookstove usage indicate a doubt among common users in the study area. Consequently, there is a need for increased awareness and live demonstration events to address this issue. These events are crucial for promoting the benefits and proper utilization of eCookstove. By organizing such activities, users can be educated about the functionality and advantages of eCookstove through practical demonstrations. Moreover, it could provide an opportunity for users to address any concerns or misconceptions they may have regarding the technology.

Decision Maker in Purchasing of eCooking Solutions

The cost of installation as per the information collected from Ward Office-3 of Sundarbazar Municipality shows that the ward office spent an average of NPR. 2,500 per stove. The users were responsible to purchase the required utensils as per the need.

In Nepali society, traditionally male members hold greater influence in decision-making when it comes to purchasing household amenities. However, the survey data reveals a different trend regarding the purchase decision of cooking solutions including the kitchen utensils. Male members (55 percent) were responsible for the decisions, while female members accounted for 35 percent. In 10 percent of the cases, the decision was made jointly by both male and female members. Interestingly, when it comes to kitchen-related chores, female members emerge as the key decision-makers within the family. The key deciding factors for adopting modern cooking technology over fuelwood-based technology are health concerns, convenient cooking, and environmental concerns.

Benefits of eCooking Technology

The eCooking is a promising technology which significantly reduces HAP and also helps improve the health and economic well-being of rural family. It also contributes to climate change mitigation to some extent. The local community at Duradanda village still depend largely on biomass like firewood as a source of fuel for cooking purpose. If this situation continues, it is highly likely to stimulate unsustainable consumption of firewood, consequently forest degradation and scarcity of fuelwood has forced local people to use agricultural residues, a low-grade fuel. With the expansion of rural road networks, firewood scarcity and due to some social prestige values, the rural households are also buying LPG to meet their cooking requirements. As mentioned earlier, the imported LPG into Nepal in large quantities from India has also increased the trade deficit of the country. To reduce the dependency of both traditional biomass and LPG by switching to eCooking is the most essential for the social, environmental and economic prosperity at local as well as national level.

According to the information provided by Ward Chairperson Mr. Amrit Neupane (Ward No-3), the average cost of firewood per Bhari (equivalent to an average quantity of 30 kg) is NPR 400, while the cost of LPG per cylinder is NPR 1900. As revealed from the collected data, for single household the average monthly electricity bill was NPR 80 before whereas now it is approximately NPR 178. After the use of induction cooktop, those who have used LPG (1 cylinder consists of 14.2 kg gas), save an average of NPR 232~2 kg gas per month. However, the price of LPG was found varying depending upon the user's consumption and their distance from the local market center (transportation cost).

Before the use of eCookstove, the respondents used to spend an average of 24 hours per month (equivalent to 3 person days) collecting firewood, including travel time. This is valued at NPR 3000 worth of work, considering a person day as 8 hours and a wage rate of NPR 1, 000 per person day. Interestingly, after adopting the induction cooktop, they now spend an average of 12 hours per month (equivalent to 1.5 person days), valued at NPR 1500 worth of work, on firewood collection (including travel time). This indicates a significant savings of time required for firewood collection. The local people have also mentioned the faster cooking time of the induction compared to other mechanism as its primary advantage. The most cited disadvantage of the induction cooktop is its complete dependency in electricity making it useless during the power outage. It can be stated that the electric cooktop is quite handy during urgency and it reduces the time of collecting firewood and even having to buy LPG with extra costs.

Users' Perception, Acceptance and Satisfaction

Sixty percent of the users mentioned that the utility of the product was the most influencing factor for them to acquire it. The respondents stated that the induction cooktop is highly convenient in urgent situations, reducing the time required for collecting firewood and the need to purchase LPG with additional costs. Furthermore, its portability, space-saving design, and various cooking mode and power options collectively contribute to its usefulness, making the utility factor highly pronounced among users.

The traditional biomass fuels still play a crucial role in rural parts of Nepal where promotional activities of eCooking itself is a challenge. In the study area, firewood is cheaper and almost available free of cost. However, the community of Duradanda itself is much aware of the health impact of indoor air pollution from traditional stoves and thus offered to reduce firewood consumption. Some rural families having remittance-based economy also assume that they are better off and motivate them to shift to cleaner and more convenient cooking technologies such as LPG and electric cooktops. Shifting from traditional cooking fuel to cleaner energy leads to rural livelihood improvement, improved health and environmental protection at the same time. The rural society is also undergoing modernization and local people are preferring for more clean and smart technologies in their daily lives. The use of locally produced hydropower electricity to run cooking technologies are also gaining popularity which would significantly contribute to reduce Nepal's trade deficit.

During the field visits, it was reported that it is difficult to obtain firewood for physically weak people like elderly persons. The smoke emitted from firewood burning has also mostly affected the health of women, children and elderly persons. Study site is located within the catchment area of Middle Marsyandgi Hydropower project (70MW); however, the peak load management is still challenging as the reliability of electricity supply during the cooking hours seems irregular. The induction cooktops installed households do not have proper wiring and have a low level of connection with 5A Miniature Circuit Breaker (MCB) capacity, which limits the use of multiple electric appliances at the same time. The after-sales service provider at local area is the most challenging issue of induction cooktop promotion in the study area. The municipality and concerned stakeholders need to ensure electrical safety provisions and reliability of regular electricity supply at household level. If electricity supply can be made uninterrupted, tariff be made affordable, and people be provided with efficient cooktops with subsidy, electricity has high possibility to substitute LPG and other forms of household cooking fuels.

Only 20 percent of users believe that food cooked on induction cooktops or eCookstove has a better taste compared to other cooking methods. The users were asked to indicate their satisfaction levels on a 5-point Likert scale (ranging from highly satisfied-5 to highly dissatisfied-1) based on various aspects such as safety, easy operation, design and size, clean kitchen, time saved, and efficiency. Regarding safety, the majority of users (75 percent) expressed satisfaction. When it comes to easy operation, a significant majority (66.67 percent) reported being highly satisfied. In terms of design and size, the majority of users (60 percent) expressed satisfaction. In regard to a clean kitchen, a large majority (91.67 percent) indicated being highly satisfied. The aspect of time saved received high satisfaction, with the majority of users (86.67 percent) being highly satisfied.

Tble 1: Satisfaction Level on Various Aspects of Induction Cooktop (eCookstove)

	Safety	Easy to Operate	Design and Size	Clean kitchen	Time Saved	More Efficient
Highly satisfied	16.67	66.67	33.33	91.67	86.67	25.00
Satisfied	75.00	31.67	60.00	5.00	16.67	66.67
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied (neutral)	8.33	1.67	6.67	3.33	5.00	8.33
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	108.33	100.00

These findings suggest that the users have generally shown positive satisfaction levels across various aspects of induction cooktops or eCookstove, particularly in terms of easy operation, clean kitchen, time saved, and perceived efficiency.

Based on field observations and data obtained from the study, it has been observed that almost all users are satisfied with the performance, utility, and benefits provided by the eCookstove compared to other cooking mechanisms. The effectiveness of eCooking can be considered a positive and socially accepted aspect, as most users also perceive it as cost-effective. However, one common concern expressed by users is the limitation of a singular cooking hub on the induction cooktop, which may necessitate the use of multiple other cook stoves during times of hurry. It is believed that if induction products with multiple cooking hubs are made available, users would completely transition to eCooking from other mechanisms.

Sustainability and Scalability

The government policy "One household one eCookstove i.e., EK Ghar Ek Bijuli Chulo" had a stimulating effect on the eCooking market in Nepal. Additionally, the availability of sufficient electricity generation in the country provides an opportunity for future growth in this sector. The enablers to the wider uptake of electric cooking systems include factors such as supportive policies, regulations, and incentives that promote the use of clean energy sources. The government subsidies for electric cooking systems can reduce the financial burden on households, while regulations that mandate the use of clean energy sources can create a market demand for these technologies. In addition, the availability of skilled human resources, technical expertise, repair and maintenance services, and local capacity building can support the installation and operations of those systems. On the other hand, barriers to the wider uptake of electric cooking systems include factors such as lack of awareness, limited access to financing, inadequate infrastructure, hesitation to change from business as usual, and cultural preferences for traditional energy sources.

Critically, the electric cooktops and its accessories generally remain costly for poor households unless large subsidies are provided, especially with regards to stove and cookware prices. This type electric cooktop promotion program was implemented in the trickle-down approach by ignoring the involvement and participation of the target community at the inception phase. The program is focused on their short-term physical targets and outputs rather than long-term sustainability, particularly overlooking after sales services. However, the introduction of electric cooktops in rural areas brought several positive changes like time saved for cooking, minimized the frequencies of firewood collection and its consumption, reduced indoor air pollution and also contribution to reduce the dependency on imported LPG. This type modern clean cooking technology is a relatively new concept and upfront the cost is relatively high in the beginning. It is right time to remove the subsidies for petroleum products including LPG. Such subsidies can be moved to clean energy systems which will help largely reduce the dependency on importation of petroleum products.

The transition from firewood to eCookstove contributes significantly to sustainable development. It reduces the reliance on traditional fuel sources, mitigates deforestation, and helps preserve valuable ecosystems. By minimizing indoor air pollution, eCookstove improve health outcomes, particularly for women and children who are most exposed to smoke emissions. The use of eCookstove also promotes energy efficiency and reduces carbon emissions, contributing to climate change mitigation. Furthermore, the shift to eCooking reduces the time and effort spent on firewood collection, allowing for enhanced productivity and socioeconomic development. Overall, the adoption of eCookstove fosters a sustainable and healthier future for communities while addressing environmental, health, and economic aspects of sustainable development.

Conclusion

The empirical evidence suggests that clean energy systems have the potential to contribute to sustainable rural livelihoods. However, the success of these systems depends on a range of factors, including local context and community involvement and ownership, effective policies and financing mechanisms, and appropriate technical design and maintenance support systems. The literature highlights the importance of transitioning from solid biomass to cleaner cooking technologies, such as induction cooktops, to reduce the use of imported LPG and promote positive changes in local communities. The electric cooking technology could help in inducing positive changes in the local communities, directly benefiting local people due to its fast and safe processing, pollution-free kitchen environment, reduced drudgery associated with biomass collection, and improved kitchen hygiene.

The literature also emphasizes the importance of sustainable energy policies and relevant policy recommendations for end-users to promote renewable energy sources. Renewable energy has an important role to play in meeting the future energy needs in both rural and urban areas. The development and implementation of sustainable energy policies and initiatives can help to address the energy imbalance within the country's socioeconomic and political landscapes and promote sustainable development.

Overall, the literature highlights the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to promote sustainable energy systems and address the challenges associated with energy access and livelihood enhancement. The promotion of clean energy systems, such as induction cooktops, can contribute to sustainable rural livelihoods and help to reduce the negative impacts of traditional cooking technologies on the environment, health, and socio-economic conditions.

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Research

An Assessment of Occupational Safety and Health Practices in Nepalese Garment Workers

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ABSTRACT

The article aims to assess the occupational safety and health (OSH) practices in Nepalese garment industries, particularly for home-based garment workers. The study uses a qualitative and descriptive methodology, including secondary information sourced from books, papers, published articles, and online platforms.

The findings show a lack of scientific studies on OSH in the Nepalese garment sector and an unsatisfactory overall status of OSH in Nepal. The study finds poor occupational safety and health practices in the garment business, with insufficient safety precautions and workers who are unaware of hazards and preventive measures. Workers in this industry have a variety of health problems, including musculoskeletal illnesses, which are more common in the sewing department. Musculoskeletal problems are connected with factors such as age, gender, and educational status. The study emphasizes the importance of quick and comprehensive measures by the government, businesses, and employees to improve occupational safety and health in this industry. The article also emphasizes the complicated nature of garment manufacturing units.

Keywords: OSH, safety, garment, musculoskeletal illnesses, health problem

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Introduction

Occupational safety and health (OSH) is crucial for ensuring workplace efficiency and productivity. Workers in the garment industry face unique dangers on the job, including unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, sexual harassment, low pay, and physical pain from repetitive work (Kabir, H., et al., 2019). Health problems are the most significant risk that workers in the ready-made and home-based garment (RMG) industry face, particularly musculoskeletal illnesses, which are more common in the sewing department (Kabir, H., et al., 2019). Nepal's garment industry is a significant source of foreign currency, but accidents and diseases at work kill about 2 million people worldwide every year, with an estimated 2,000 workers in Nepal hurt or killed on the job annually (Shakya, S., 2018). Despite the alarming health issues in the garment industry, Nepal has not been able to solve these problems yet. (Mishra et al., 2019) has written extensively on safety-related issues, highlighting the burden of safety issues on developing-country labor and the need for safety equipment. The industrial sector is often the one that requires the most attention in the safety area (Kabir, H., et al., 2019). The World Health Organization (WHO) defines occupational health as "all aspects of health and safety in the workplace," with a strong emphasis on risk prevention of hazards (Maharjan PL, Shakya A, Shah S, et al., 2020).

Problem Statement

The garment industry is a significant source of foreign currency for Nepal, but occupational hazards and injuries are a major problem at the national and international levels. Workers in the garment industry face unique dangers on the job, including unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, sexual harassment, low pay, and physical pain from repetitive work. Health problems are the most significant risk that workers in the ready-made and home-based garment (RMG) industry face, particularly musculoskeletal illnesses, which are more common in the sewing department. Despite the alarming health issues in the garment industry (Gupta, 2015), Nepal has not been able to solve these problems yet. There is a lack of scientific studies on OSH in the Nepalese garment sector, and an unsatisfactory overall status of OSH in Nepal (Bhattarai, P., Khadka, S., Khatri, A., 2021). Poor occupational safety and health practices in any business, with insufficient safety precautions and workers who are unaware of hazards and preventive measures, are also major issues (Bhattarai, P., Khadka, S., Khatri, A., 2021). Garment of Nepal draws the attention for research at the moment.

Research Objective

The objective of this research is to assess the occupational safety and health (OSH) practices in Nepalese garment industries.

Literature Review

Status of OSH in Nepal

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) is still not fully understood in Nepal, and its value in small and medium-sized industries still needs to be shown (Rantanen, 2005). The severity of the problem is highlighted by the fact that more than 80% of the world's workforce lacks adequate access to OSH after more than three decades of complex needs assessment and prioritization (Rantanen, 2005). According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), over 250 million workers are injured on the job each year, with another 160 million suffering from occupational diseases. About 1.2 million workers die annually from occupational diseases and accidents (Gautam, R. and Prasain, J.N., 2011).

The agriculture sector has the highest share of employment in Nepal, followed by the service and industrial sectors (International Labour Organization). Work-related diseases and injuries were responsible for the deaths of 1.9 million people in 2016, according to the first joint estimates from the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Labour Organization (ILO) . Since 1994, trade union federations, particularly the General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT), have started an awareness campaign on OSH, taking the issue seriously (The World Bank, 2021).

The government is working on the problem through the OSH Project, which is run by the Ministry of Labour and Transportation Management, and the opening of an OSH Center, which was made possible with the help of the ILO and Danida in terms of money and expertise(National Occupational Safety and Health Profile for Nepal, 2022). The project aims to provide training, review legal frameworks, and help make first-hand knowledge about health conditions at work. The absence of measures to protect employees from potential risks poses a danger to their safety. In the industrial sector, there have been numerous instances in which a significant number of workers were injured due to insufficient safety measures. In some instances, victims are given money to cover their medical expenses, while in others they are not. Workers in certain industries get diseases that affect their physical and mental health, and reproductive health (The Himalayan Times, 2021:BMC Public Health, 2019: MOJ Public Health, 2020: Centre for Social Change, 2021).

Theory of Occupational Health and Safety

Part of job safety is how people, materials, tools, and machines interact with each other, with the surroundings, and with economic factors like productivity. Work should be good and not harmful, but it shouldn't be too hard either. From an economic point of view, the highest amount of productivity possible should be reached. Safety on the job should start with planning and last through all steps of production. So, job safety requirements are stated before work starts and followed throughout the work cycle. This is done so that the results can be evaluated, among other things, for feedback. During planning, it is also important to think about the supervisor's duty for the health and safety of everyone involved in the manufacturing process (BMC Public Health, 2019).

A job safety analysis (JSA) is a process to identify the dangers of specific tasks within jobs to reduce the risk of injury to workers. The process of creating a job safety analysis report is generally broken down into four steps, which makes it easier to ensure you complete every portion of the requirements a JSA offers. The first step is to choose a job to analyze and break it down into each and every step. The second step is to identify potential hazards associated with each step. The third step is to determine preventive measures to overcome these hazards. The final step is to identify controls you can be taken to prevent these hazards from causing potential accidents. If you can't be eliminated the hazard, find ways to change the job procedure or limit the risk as much as possible (Mishra, A.K., & Aithal, P. S., 2021:The World Bank., 2021: ILO).

In Nepal, occupational safety and health (OSH) is still not fully understood, and its value in small and medium-sized industries still needs to be shown. Even though there have been many attempts, there is still a lot to do to set up complete OSH systems in the workplace. The severity of the problem is highlighted by the fact that more than 80% of the world's workforce lacks adequate access to OSH after more than three decades of complex needs assessment and prioritization According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), over 250 million workers are injured on the job each year, with another 160 million suffering from occupational diseases. About 1.2 million workers die annually from occupational diseases and accidents (Maharjan PL, Shakya A, Shah S, et al., 2020).

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possible with the help of the ILO and Danida in terms of money and expertise. The main goal of the project is to provide training, review legal frameworks, and help make first-hand knowledge about health conditions at work (BMC Public Health., 2019: National Occupational Safety and Health Profile for Nepal, 2022). However, the absence of measures to protect employees from potential risks poses a danger to their safety. In the industrial sector, there have been numerous instances in which a significant number of workers were injured due to insufficient safety measures. In some instances, victims are given money to cover their medical expenses, while in others they are not (BMC Public Health., 2019).

In general, people who work in certain industries get diseases that affect their physical and mental health, and reproductive health. So, the causes of occupational health and safety may come from different directions can be illustrate as basic causes shown in the figure 1 (Mishra, A.K., et al., 2022).

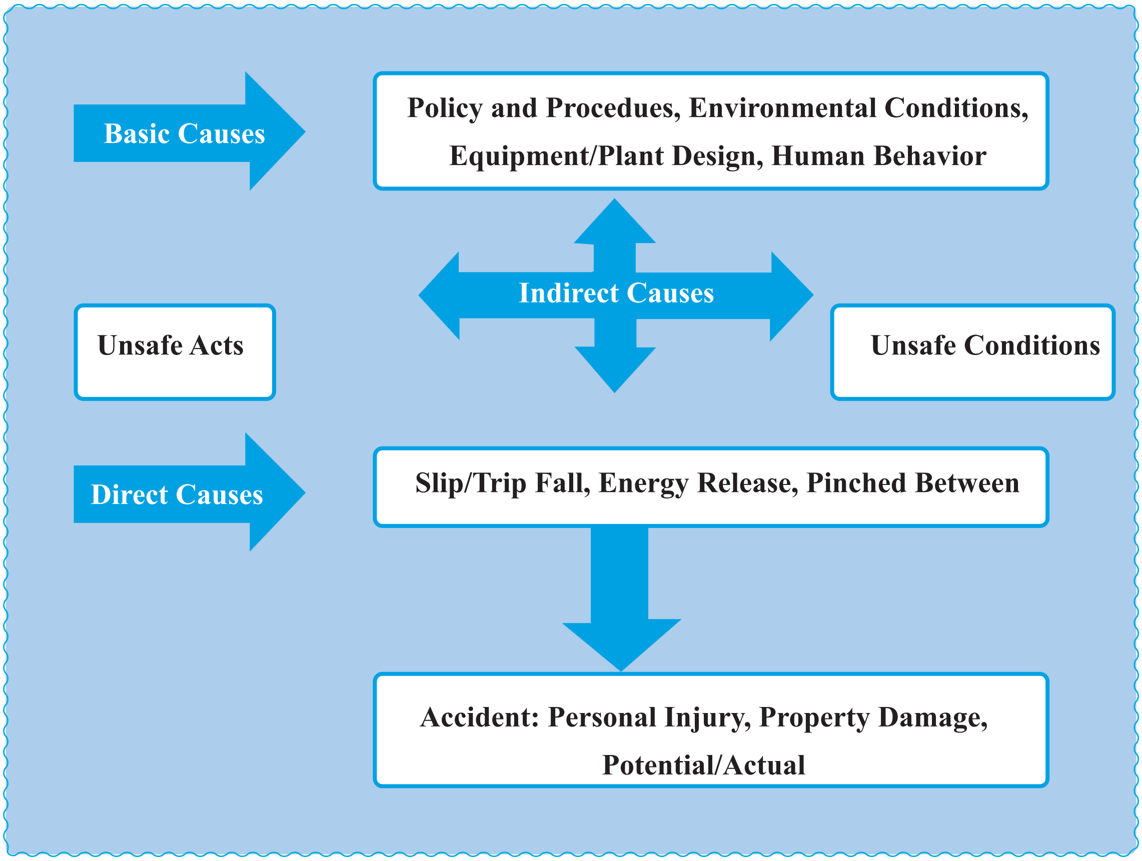

Fig.1: Basic Causes of Accidents

Legal provisions

Even though Nepal's 2015 Constitution does not have specific rules about health and safety at work, it does provide a framework for achieving, ensuring, and setting up the best health and safety practices. The Labor Act of 2017 includes a section on occupational safety and health, which is the most important piece of national law to date that addresses worker safety and health. Other national laws, rules, and guidelines related to safety and health also affect OSH issues. The Occupational Safety and Health Guidelines, which comply with the Constitution of Nepal 2072, provide additional guidance on OSH in the workplace. The safety of the workplace is an essential component of efficiency and productivity. Studies have identified the status and factors associated with occupational safety and health vulnerability among brick factory workers in Dhading District, Nepal, and measured the adequacy of workplace resources designed to mitigate the effects of hazard exposure. A review of previously published articles on occupational safety and health in Nepal has also been conducted. The General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT) has conducted a study on occupational health hazards to gain a better understanding of workplaces and the environment in Nepal (Bhattarai, S., 2018).

Provisions of Labour Act

The Nepal Labour Act has rules for the safety and health of Nepalese workers on the job. The current Labour Act replaces one that was passed almost 30 years ago. It plans to completely change Nepal's job system by adding a number of new parts to replace old, out-of-date ones. From Clause 68 to Clause 83 of Section 12 of the Labour Act, which is about safety and health at work, we can see this. In reality, the Labour Act has made headcounts of workers unnecessary. As of right now, the current Act still applies to all workplaces, no matter how many workers are there. The old Act only applied to workplaces with ten or more workers, but the new Act has more inclusive rules and covers more workplaces (Labour Act, 2017). https://lawcommission.gov.np/en/

Insurance measures have also been added to the newer Labor Act. As part of the cost of medical care, the current Labor Act requires that at least NPR 100,000 per year be covered. In the same way, the Act says that each worker's care costs for work-related injuries must be covered for at least NPR 700,000. The Act says that the employee will pay half of the medical insurance premium and the employer will pay the other half. For accident insurance, however, the Act says that the employer must pay the full premium. Other OSH-related parts of the Act include a requirement that a safety and health strategy be made for each workplace. These kinds of rules have to be registered with the right labor offices. The Labor Act also says that any place of work with 20 or more workers must have a safety group. The Act also has rules about how different committees linked to occupational safety and health (OSH) can be made. The Labour Act has made sure that companies are responsible and answerable for what they owe to their workers. The workers tell their bosses to make sure they are safe and healthy by making sure that using, operating, storing, or transporting chemical, physical, or biological materials doesn't hurt them in any way. It also makes employers responsible for giving workers the warnings, information, and training they need for safety and health.

The Act under review explains what employees and workers have to do and what their rights are, based on the Labor Act of Nepal from 2017. It talks about how important it is to make sure everyone is safe and healthy at work and asks people to avoid doing things that could hurt themselves or others. The Act also says that employees have to work with their bosses to set up health and safety plans and use the safety tools that their employers give them. Workers should be able to stop working if there is an instant threat to their safety, health, or equipment. This is a good rule that gives workers the power to put their own needs first.

The Act also says that workers with diseases that can be spread can't work until their treatment is done. This is done to stop the spread of diseases in the workplace. The paragraph says that employers are responsible for the costs of investigating and treating diseases that are caused by work. This includes compensation for workers if the disease can't be cured. But the paragraph isn't clear about some things, like whether or not companies have to give workers safety gear and how to figure out how much they should get paid. For a full understanding of the Labor Act, it's important to look at its exact wording, definitions, how it works in different situations, and how it's enforced.

OSH Standard

The Government of Nepal set up the OSH policy in 2076 to show its commitment to improving workers' rights and supporting a safe and healthy work environment in order to increase productivity. The goal of the policy is to make sure that the workplace is safe by putting OSH standards and steps into place. Notably, the government made noise and light standards for the workplace in 2073 B.S., which were written up in the Nepal Gazette on Asar 25, 2074 B.S. Also in 2074, directives and guidelines were made for the brick business that focused on the health and safety of workers on the job. Several International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions deal with work, the working surroundings, and the safety and health of workers in general on the job. For example, the Nepal Gazette and other related government documents would be the main sources for putting out standards and guidelines for occupational safety and health in Nepal.

But, even though it's good that the government is trying to set up OSH policies and standards, it's important to look at the standards' flaws and limits. Even though the text doesn't say what the weaknesses of the standards are, some of them could be that there aren't enough ways to make sure they are followed, there aren't enough resources for putting them into place and keeping track of them, and there might be holes in how they deal with new occupational dangers. More study and analysis are needed to fully figure out where the OSH standards in Nepal are weak and suggest ways to make them better (OSH Profile for Nepal, 2020).

Methodology

There haven't been many scientific studies done on how safe and healthy the garment business in Nepal yet. From the little information that is available, it seems that safety and health on the job in Nepal created a strong demand for this study. This article is developed by identifying relevant secondary information from various sources. A pure qualitative and descriptive methodology has been applied for this article. The information is collected from books, reports, published articles, and online platforms. The General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT)'s report is also used to collect information on OSH practices in the garment industry. Additionally, the most recent information was obtained informally from a garment industry owner. The information thus collected is processed and synthesized. A critical explanatory approach to qualitative analysis is performed under the discussion and analysis section.

Results and Discussion

Overall, the study shows that the garment industry has bad safety and health practices at work. There are no specific studies about the safety of hand knitters, carpet makers, people who dye clothes, etc. The people who dye the clothes have to deal with the effects of the chemicals. Most workplaces, especially those that require more hard work and labor, don't have the right safety and prevention measures. Workers also don't know enough about the risks they face and how to reduce them. So, when things are like this, the government, employers, and workers should all step in right away and take strong action. The study shows that most Nepalese fabric workers have vertigo, headaches, low backaches, joint pain, trouble breathing, anemia, diseases that affect women, and dysentery. Based on secondary sources and conversations with owners of garment factories, this study comes to the conclusion that most of the people who work in this field have some kind of musculoskeletal disease. People who worked in the sewing area were more likely to have problems with their muscles and joints. Musculoskeletal disorders are strongly linked to age, gender, and school level. The room for each worker to work is very small. There were no toilets or places to get medical help. The workers have to stay late almost every day. A study by Med (2020) found that 48.5% of textile workers had problems with their muscles and joints. The low back (67%) and shoulders (26% of the time) are the most common places where it shows up. Most workers (82%) say that their pain sometimes comes on when they have a lot of work to do. Musculoskeletal disorders have been linked to age, gender, and level of schooling. A garment manufacturing unit is a complicated, multifaceted physical work setting with interactions between workplace dimensions, inappropriate, non-neutral, and awkward postures, and fast piece-rate production. Workers don't come up with new ideas and don't get a cut of the profits, and their highly specialized skills can't be used anywhere else. So, they have nothing to fall back on if the business goes under and buyers from the West just take their money and go somewhere else. They don't know why the industry comes and goes or how it pollutes the environment and makes urban poverty worse in Nepal(ILO, 2021).

Conclusions

The safety and health of workers in Nepal, particularly those in the garment industry, are a major concern. Studies have shown that musculoskeletal disorders are prevalent among garment workers, and that workplace hazards and inadequate resources to mitigate their effects are common. The Nepal Labour Act of 2017 has provisions for occupational safety and health, but there is a need for more comprehensive studies and sector-specific regulations to address the specific risks faced by workers in different industries. Employers must ensure that workers have access to personal protective equipment, and that they receive regular health check-ups and training on safety measures. The government must also take a more active role in enforcing regulations and providing support for workers' health and safety. By prioritizing occupational safety and health, Nepal can create a safer and healthier work environment for its workers, and improve productivity and efficiency in the long run.

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Review

Exploring the Potentialities of Special Economic Zones in Nepal

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ABSTRACT

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been established in many countries around the world as a way to promote economic growth and attract foreign investment. In Nepal, the potential of SEZs has been recognized as a way to boost the economy, but there is a lack of comprehensive research on the potentialities and challenges of establishing SEZs in the country.This study aims to explore the potentialities of SEZs in Nepal by examining the concept of SEZs, the current state of SEZs in Nepal, and the experiences of other countries with SEZs. The study will be conducted using a combination of literature review, data analysis, stakeholder interviews, case studies, and scenario planning.The study will use a combination of literature review, data analysis, stakeholder interviews, case studies, and scenario planning to explore the potentialities of SEZs in Nepal.

The findings of the study will provide valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders in Nepal to support the growth and development of SEZs in the country. The study will also contribute to the larger body of knowledge on SEZs and their role in economic development.In conclusion, the study will provide a comprehensive analysis of the potentialities of SEZs in Nepal and offer recommendations for effective implementation and development. The study will contribute to the understanding of SEZs as a tool for promoting economic growth and attracting foreign investment in Nepal.

Keyword: SEZ, effectiveness, concept exploring, economic growth

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Introduction

The economic condition of Nepal needs serious attention no matter what means you apply but economic gap needs to be fulfilled (Mishra & Aithal,2021:2022:2023) even green financing in economic zones might be applicable. Free trade zones, free ports, foreign trade zones, export processing zones, special economic zones, free export zones, trade and economic cooperation zones, economic processing zones, and free zones are only a few of the concepts that fall under the umbrella term "economic zones." They can all be essentially defined as delineated geographic locations within a nation's national boundaries where commercial regulations differ from those that apply in the national territory, notwithstanding the numerous variances in name and form. These differential rules principally deal with investment conditions, international trade and customs, taxation, and the regulatory environment. The zone is given a business environment that is intended to be more liberal from a policy perspective and more effective from an administrative perspective than that of the national territory (Baissac et al., 2011).

An export processing zone (EPZ), often known as a "free trade zone," is a concept that has advanced. This category also includes special trade zones, tourism entertainment zones, information and technology parks, banking, etc. High-tech parks, science parks, science and technology zones, green zones, and safe zones are a few examples of these places. To enable more terminology harmonization, it is to be seen whether the word "SEZs" will be used by all nations (Bost, 2019). It appears that the SEZ is one of the costs of the developing nation's economic expansion and mobility.

Despite this, the goal of SEZs is to draw investment, generate employment, and diversify economies. Traditionally, this has been done by concentrating on growing the manufacturing sector (Farole & Moberg, 2014). The objectives of a Special Economic Zone are, in particular, to increase the export trade throughout the world and to increase the competitiveness of export-oriented goods and services in the global market, as well as to draw Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), domestic and foreign capital, and advanced state-of-the-art technology (MoICS, 2012). Due to the SEZ's infrastructure, FDI may very possibly arrive.

Through the eighth five-year plan, Nepal publicly introduced the idea of export-oriented commerce in line with the general trend of economic development (1992-97). Following those, several Nepali policies made reference to Nepal's export-oriented trade, either explicitly or indirectly. Some of these include the Nepal India and China Rail Services Agreement, the GATT/WTO, SAFTA, and the Transit and Logistics Policy, as well as the Transport and Trade Facilitation Policy, Transit and Logistics Policy, and the Transit and Logistics Policy. Similar to other countries, Nepal amended a number of laws and rules that are important to international trade, including the Private Financing Act 2006-BOT, Foreign Investment Policy and Technology, Land Acquisition Act 1977, Environment Protection Act/Rules 1997, Export and Import Act 1957, Customs Act 2007, Motor Vehicle Act 1993, Labor Act 1992, Land Use Policy 2015, and a few SEZ policies (NITDB, 2012). The SEZ's focus is on promoting economic growth and exporting national products. The major goals of establishing "The Special Economic Zone (SEZ)" in Nepal are to increase the competitiveness of export-oriented goods and services on the global market and to draw foreign direct investment (Sezan, 2021).

In addition, they note that Nepal's Special Economic Zones (SEZ) were built to attract more domestic and foreign investment, lower operational obstacles, promote trade, and make things easier for investors. The majority of the world's industrialized and emerging nations have used various SEZ models to advance their economies. Initiated in the 2010s, Nepal attempted to build more than 20 national-level SEZs in various regions of the nation. Although these SEZs are not yet operational, it is anticipated that they would aid in boosting foreign investment, trade, and industrialization in the nation (Gyanwali, 2020).

Regardless, it appears from the context of Nepal and prior SEZ practice that one of the main motivations for creating SEZs is to boost trade. As a result, export is a key criterion for the sectors within SEZs. The Act allows industries to export 60% of their entire production or service starting in their second year of operation, down from the previous Act's baseline of 75%. The decrease in the export cap was set to take into consideration the time required to identify the appropriate overseas markets and obtain necessary quality certifications, with the remaining 40% maintaining sustainability in the domestic market (SEZ Act, 2075). The consequence of SEZ is to increase investment and produce more exportable goods in a focused area.

Problem Statement

Statements of problem for raising strong demand to conduct a research on Exploring the Potentialities of Special Economic Zones in Nepal:

Limited foreign investment: Despite Nepal's strategic location between India and China, two of the world's largest markets, foreign investors have generally been kept at bay due to widespread corruption, cumbersome bureaucracy, and weak implementation of laws and regulations. This has limited the potential for foreign investment in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Nepal.

Lack of export expansion: Nepal has adopted a liberal trade policy to expand exports, but the country's annual Gross Domestic Product shows only small contributor to the global economy. This has limited the potential for SEZs to expand exports

Limited data and research: There is limited data and research on the potentialities of SEZs in Nepal.

This makes it difficult to assess the potential impact of SEZs on the country's economy and to develop effective policies and strategies to promote their development.

Limited capacity-building and technology development: Nepal is paying attention to the development of labor-intensive technology, but there is limited information on the capacity-building and technology development initiatives related to SEZs. This may limit the potential for SEZs to attract foreign investment and generate employment. Conducting research on the potentialities of SEZs in Nepal could help address these problems and identify opportunities for promoting their development.

Research Objective

The objective of this study is to explore the potentialities of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Nepal. The study aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

1. To explore the investment opportunities and incentives provided by SEZs in Nepal.
2. To assess the attractiveness of SEZs for domestic and foreign investors, considering factors such as tax benefits, streamlined regulations, infrastructure support, and access to markets.
4. To analyze how SEZs can contribute to overall economic growth and development strategies of Nepal.

Literature Review

Historical Context of Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

The idea of special economic zones (SEZs) was first introduced by British economist Alfred Marshall in 1890. Marshall explained the idea of an industrial district and localization economy in his key book, demonstrating how a concentration of small- and medium-sized businesses, like those in Lancashire and Sheffield, encourages the growth of external economies (Belussi & Sammarra, 2010). The idea was later developed into the SEZ as a "foreign trade form" in the USA in early 1937.

Chinese businesses have been involved in the establishment of numerous international industrial and trade zones for more than ten years. For example, the Chinese government inked a deal with Egypt in 1999 to support the creation of an industrial zone in the Suez economic region. Similarly, a Chinese trade and industrial park was established in the South Carolina city of Greenville in 2004 by the Tianjin Port Free Trade Zone Investment Company and the United States Pacific Development Company (WB, 2011, p 73).

Special economic zones are special areas designated within a country that have different business and trade regulations. They are normally established to facilitate rapid economic growth and development in certain geographic regions. Economic growth may come locally, regionally, and/or internationally. The growth that results from special economic zones is accomplished by leveraging tax incentives as a way of attracting foreign dollars through FDI and technological advancement (Investopedia).

The popularity of industrial hubs or special economic zones (SEZs) has increased but with inflated expectations based on inadequate (UNCTAD, 2021).

Free-trade zones can be defined as labor-intensive manufacturing centers that involve the import of raw materials or components and the export of factory products. They are small, fenced-in, duty-free areas, offering warehousing, storage, and distribution facilities for trade, transshipment, and re-export operations. Free zones may reduce taxes, customs duties, and regulatory requirements for registration of business. Zones around the world often provide special exemptions from normal immigration procedures and foreign investment restrictions .

SEZs have the potential to accelerate economic growth and diversify the industrial structure. But SEZ policy must be designed to address (East Asia Forum, 2016).

Methodology

The study used secondary information sources to explore the potentialities of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Nepal. The primary sources of data and information came from various published papers, while secondary sources included books and booklets issued by the central bureau of statistics, journal articles, and Nepal's special economic zone. Additionally, books and articles about development theories, as well as publications linked to special economic zones, were published in Nepal and other countries that had them.

Flow of Research Action

Gather information and data on SEZs in Nepal from reliable sources. Consult government reports, academic studies, news articles, and policy documents. Understand the history, current status, and future plans for SEZs in Nepal. Identify success stories, challenges, and potential areas of improvement. This research will provide a strong foundation for your article.

Conduct a comprehensive review of existing literature on SEZs in Nepal. Gather information from scholarly articles, research papers, government reports, policy documents, and case studies related to SEZs. This will provide a theoretical foundation and help identify knowledge gaps and research opportunities.

Gather relevant data on SEZs in Nepal. This can include economic indicators, investment statistics, employment figures, trade data, infrastructure details, and regulatory frameworks. Data can be obtained from government agencies, industry associations, research organizations, and official publications. Ensure the data is reliable and up-to-date.

Based on the literature review and available data, develop research questions that address the potentialities of SEZs in Nepal. These questions should focus on economic impact, investment opportunities, infrastructure development, regulatory environment, success stories, challenges, and future prospects. Clearly define the objectives of the study.

Determine the appropriate research design for the study. This could involve a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative methods such as interviews, surveys, and focus groups can provide insights into stakeholders' perspectives, while quantitative methods like data analysis and statistical modeling can offer a broader understanding of SEZ performance and impact.

Analyze the collected data using appropriate analytical techniques. Quantitative data can be analyzed using statistical tools, while qualitative data can be subjected to thematic analysis or content analysis. Interpret the findings to draw meaningful conclusions about the potentialities of SEZs in Nepal.

Engage with relevant stakeholders involved in SEZs in Nepal. This can include government officials, investors, businesses, employees, local communities, and industry experts. Gather their perspectives through interviews, focus groups, or surveys to gain a holistic understanding of SEZ potentialities and address any concerns or limitations.

Results and Discussion

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Nepal: Current Status and Challenges

The Nepali government has established Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in various locations throughout the nation to prioritize exportable items and foreign direct investment (FDI) for competitive production and export to advance Nepal's economic developmen(SEZA Nepal 2021). SEZs can play a key role in developing economies like Nepal to expand exports, bridge the huge trade deficit, and mitigate pressure on external accounts(UNIDO, 2015: Longley, 2019).

However, the establishment of SEZs in Nepal has faced challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, limited access to finance, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and skill gaps in the labor force(Nepal Livetoday. (2022, September 10): The Kathmandu Post. (2020, January 9).

The government constructed Nepal's first special economic zone in Bhairahawa to attract significant investment and generate economic impact beyond its confines, but six years after it was built, its performance remains below expectations (The Kathmandu Post. (2020, January 9).

The Nepalese government aims to increase investment for economic growth by promoting export-based industries and diversifying the export market through the establishment of SEZs. Economic zones, including industrial parks, special economic zones, eco-industrial parks, technology parks, and innovation districts, have been hailed by governments all over the world as the cornerstones of successful economic growth plans. The success of SEZs in China has made them a significant tool for economic growth in luring both local and international investment, capital formation, job creation, and the transfer of knowledge, skill, and technology. The rationale for exploring the potentialities of SEZs in Nepal is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the concept and benefits of SEZs and to assess the feasibility and opportunities of establishing SEZs in Nepal. Given the importance of SEZs in promoting economic growth and attracting foreign investment, it is essential to assess the potentialities of SEZs in Nepal and identify the key factors that could contribute to the success of SEZs in the country (Rimal, K. (n.d.): Shrestha, (n.d.): Shrestha, (2021) .

SEZ and Its Effectiveness

The effectiveness of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in promoting economic growth and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) has been a topic of discussion in many developing countries, including Nepal. The multiplicity of names and forms of economic zones is a result of several factors, such as the need to distinguish between different types of zones that exhibit differences in form and function, variations in economic terminology among countries, and the desire of zone promoters to differentiate their product from that of the competition (Rimal, (n.d.): Baissac et al, 2011).

SEZs offer a liberal tax system with exemptions from income tax, excise tax, VAT, and other taxes and charges to varied degrees. They also provide services like immigration, banking, export-import facilities, employment of foreign personnel, and investment repatriation. The hiring and firing policy, along with a flexible production-oriented labor code that forbids strikes and unions, control SEZs. Instead, the workers receive wages that are far greater than those received outside of SEZs, a set working schedule, and a wide range of additional benefits and allowances(SEZAN. ,2021).

While SEZs can be a useful instrument for luring FDI and fostering economic growth, governments need to carefully consider which type of economic zones to create given the paradigm change from mass production to information-intensive as well as the relentless march of globalization(Ivo, 2018: UNIDO, 2015). Depending solely on comparative advantages, such as low labor costs, or on incentives, such as tax breaks, to entice new businesses, countries run the risk of engaging in a race to the bottom (The World Bank. ,2021).

As an industrial policy tool, an SEZ is supposed to complement market forces by helping to overcome market failures. The host government needs to decide what type of zone is the most suitable depending on the specific development objectives and constraints (Ivo, 2018: UNIDO, 2015).. There are typically two types of zones despite the many names they are given: SEZs and industrial parks. Therefore, depending on the specific development objectives and constraints, an SEZ can be considered together with other possible options (The World Bank. (2021).

SEZ and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

The relationship between FDI and SEZ is a significant source of finance for developing and emerging market economies in Nepal because of the country's high investment needs relative to its financial resources. For these nations to achieve a high rate of economic growth that is sustainable, more foreign investment is required. Private investments would help these countries' balance of payments while facilitating the transfer of technology, increasing employment, and enhancing a competitive environment on their home markets (Nepal Rastra Bank. (2019). Based on this goal, FDI is crucial for SEZs to function and accomplish their goals. Because the operation of SEZs is crucial even without the required amount of investment.

The most important thing to comprehend in the overall framework of development, according to a segment of the private sector financing industry, is that economic activity and the consequent inclusive growth cannot occur without an industrial infrastructure basis. Government and private sector participation, as well as a solid legal and policy framework, are necessary for a strong industrial infrastructure basis. At every stage of its growth, from conception and licensing to building and operation, the government's role and those of its agencies must be realized (NIFRA, 2021).

The relevance of FDI appears to be the foundation of the digital economy, as evidenced by the investment's continued dynamism and the nation's expanding allure for e-commerce and other digital operations. Along with FDI, several international MNEs used non-equity methods, such as engineering, procurement, and construction contractors, to contribute to the nation's infrastructure and the creation of SEZs (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD, 2020).

Industrial parks come in a variety of levels of sophistication, from those that barely offer physical infrastructures like roads and public utilities to those that offer a wide range of soft infrastructures and support services like consulting, financial services, training, technical guidance, information services, joint research facilities, and business support services. Industrial parks' level of sophistication varies greatly in developing nations. In fact, some industrial parks don't have sewage or water treatment systems, while others are very advanced

The operation of SEZs is carried out globally with an emphasis on FDI. Low taxing, infrastructure facilities, and a step-by-step investment process are all provided based on the SEZ idea as it is understood globally. The provision will improve the ability of the investor/private sector to make safe investments. must make the investor pleased and encourage them to invest in production. Production of exportable goods increases employment and economic mobility (Nepal Rastra Bank, 2019).

Verifying and gaining more points regarding SEZs, their significance can be seen in how every nation strives to draw FDI and use it as a tool for progress. However, FDI just strengthens what is already there; it does not create new economic growth from nothing. Because of this, it is constantly drawn to established areas where it can get the best return (UNCTAD, 2020). If implemented properly, special economic zones can be a useful instrument for luring foreign direct investment and fostering economic growth (Ivo, P. 2018).

However, governments will need to carefully consider which type of economic zones to create given the paradigm change from mass production to information intensive as well as the relentless march of globalization. Since it is become simpler for businesses to outsource work and migrate, competition between industrial parks, special economic zones, and technology parks is growing. By depending solely on comparative advantages, such as low labor costs, or on incentives, such as tax breaks, to entice new businesses, countries run the risk of engaging in a race to the bottom (Sturge, 2002).

Exploring the Concept of Development in Relation to SEZs

Regarding the term "development" as a buzzword, it is a useful tool to promote SEZs, but its meaning is still unclear and varies depending on the context and the user. It is a common term used in meetings related to poverty reduction, individual well-being, industrial output, agriculture, urban planning, and international trade. However, the term is often used to suggest that things will be better tomorrow or that more is always better (Gilbert, 2014).

Those who define development as "modernity" tend to view it primarily in terms of the economy. The World Bank and many national governments in both the Global North and the Global South base much of their work on this vision of development (Katie, 2005, p. 12). Therefore, development has been a contentious idea on a global scale as people have grown weary of "great" theories and remedies based on criticism of past behavior (Sapkota, 2018).

According to Porter (1990), a country's ability to achieve high levels of productivity and raise productivity over time determines its standard of living. He divides national competitive development into four phases: factor-driven, investment-driven, innovation-driven, and wealth-driven. The first three phases involve incremental improvements in a nation's competitive advantages and are typically accompanied by steadily increasing economic growth.

Development measures are usually quantitative because they can be expressed numerically, making it easier to compare things through time and place and deal with a lot of information. However, this approach often leaves out the subjective and qualitative aspects of development, such as people's thoughts, feelings, and experiences. This strategy frequently reinforces outsiders' conceptions of "progress," rather than what locals believe "development" to be or should be (Willis, 2011, p. 13).

Sen (1981) describes the rural situation, including the distress that the rural population, particularly agricultural labor, is experiencing as a result of changing exchange entitlements. Extreme poverty is defined as being below the USD 1.90 per day worldwide extreme poverty level. While poverty lines created by national governments are more appropriate for measuring severe poverty at the country level and informing policy discussions, this metric is intended to be comparable across nations and is primarily used to track global extreme poverty (FAO, 2019). Effective institutions are required to monitor and evaluate poverty alleviation progress, measure the number of people living in extreme poverty, and promote multi-sectoral policy coherence and coordination (FAO, 2019).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the concept of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Nepal is still relatively new, and there is limited research available on the subject. However, based on the available information, SEZs have the potential to boost economic growth, create employment opportunities, enhance trade and exports, attract foreign investment, and improve infrastructure. SEZs can provide a platform for foreign and domestic investment, which can help to increase economic growth in the country. The establishment of SEZs can create new job opportunities for the local population, especially in the areas of manufacturing, processing, and service industries. SEZs can help to increase trade and exports by providing a favorable environment for businesses to thrive. This can help to diversify the country's export base and increase its competitiveness in the global market. The development of SEZs can lead to the improvement of infrastructure such as roads, ports, and power supply, which can benefit not only the SEZs but also the surrounding areas. However, it is important to carefully consider the type of economic zone to create and to ensure effective institutions to monitor and evaluate poverty alleviation progress, measure the number of people living in extreme poverty, and promote multi-sectoral policy coherence and coordination. Therefore, further research and analysis are required to fully understand the potentialities and challenges of SEZs in Nepal.

Disclaimer

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Review

Women Entrepreneurship and Changing Nature of Livelihood: A Theoretical Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This paper is a review-based synthesis of conceptual and theoretical issues on women entrepreneurship. It connects directly with the development economics and gender studies. The objective of this study is to synthesize conceptual and theoretical reviews on entrepreneurship and livelihood in the particular context of women. This paper is a review paper based primarily on secondary literature and sources of information. The author has applied different theories and approaches to analyze women entrepreneurship and its impact on livelihood.

The paper concludes that entrepreneurship development in the context of women and gender studies deserves a wider arena of discourse in conceptual and theoretical dimensions. The study juxtaposes different theoretical ideas with relevant evidence to analyze the impact of women entrepreneurship on livelihood. Women entrepreneurship has a significant impact on livelihood. The study highlights the need for a wider discourse on entrepreneurship development in the context of women and gender studies. The paper provides a framework for further research on women entrepreneurship.

Keywords: conceptual ,entrepreneurship, gender, women, feminism.

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Introduction

Entrepreneurship is defined as the capacity and skill to develop, organize, and manage a business venture, along with any associated risks, to make a profit (Yetisen et al., 2015). Women entrepreneurs create new jobs for themselves and others, and by being different, they provide society with unique solutions for management, organization, and business problems, as well as opportunities for entrepreneurial exploitation. However, women still represent a minority of all entrepreneurs, and market failures discriminate against their possibility of becoming successful entrepreneurs. Women's entrepreneurship, or self-employment, represents one of the most important job opportunities for women, particularly in developing economies (Ali, 2015; Goyal & Parkash, 2011).

The concept of sustainable livelihood (Chambers and Conway) and capability approach (Sen) are closely linked to analyzing the theoretical nexus of women's livelihood and entrepreneurship (Tambunan, 2009). With this preliminary assumption, the objective of this paper is to synthesize the theoretical perspectives on women's entrepreneurship and the changing nature of livelihood. The methodology of the paper is based on a review-based qualitative inquiry that synthesizes secondary sources of information, arguments, and counter-arguments.

Problem Statement

The research on women entrepreneurship and changing nature of livelihood is important due to the following reasons:

Women entrepreneurship is a crucial aspect of sustainable rural livelihoods(Moyo, M., & Chikodzi, D. (2021). However, women entrepreneurs face various challenges such as lack of collateral security to access funding, lack of market information, and discrimination(Kassa, M. T., & Tadesse, M. (2023). Therefore, it is important to understand the theoretical nexus of women's livelihood and entrepreneurship.

Women entrepreneurship research in developing economies relies on theoretical perspectives derived elsewhere(Moyo, M., & Chikodzi, D. (2018). Hence, there is a need to analyze the concept of women entrepreneurship from different theoretical perspectives.

Women entrepreneurship is an important tool for sustainable development(Islam, M. A., & Hossain, M. S. (2019). Therefore, it is essential to understand the factors that contribute to the sustainable development of women entrepreneurship.

Women entrepreneurship has the potential to empower women and emancipate them from gender inequality (Niraula, P. ,2023). Therefore, it is important to understand the impact of entrepreneurship on women's empowerment.

Research Objective

The objective of this paper is to synthesize the theoretical perspectives on women entrepreneurship and changing nature of livelihood.

Methodology

The methodology of the paper is based on a review-based qualitative inquiry making synthesis of secondary sources of information, arguments, and counter-arguments. The paper aims to contribute to the discourse on women entrepreneurship and gender studies in the context of development.

In this paper, a conceptual and theoretical review of the concept of women entrepreneurship by analyzing various books and articles has been done. Specifically, the four theories, namely Feminist Theory, Marxist Theory, Gender Theory, and Theory of Development have been explored through a review-based qualitative inquiry, primarily based on secondary sources of information, arguments, and counter-arguments.

Results and Discussion

Gender and Women's Issues

Gender studies is an interdisciplinary field of social sciences that encompasses issues of gender identity, representation, and social power relations. The term "gender" refers to the social and cultural constructions of masculinities and femininities and not to the state of being male or female in its entirety. Feminism is a social movement to empower women and promote gender equality. Women entrepreneurship is a crucial aspect of sustainable rural livelihoods(Simone de Beauvior (1949): (Butler, 1999/ 2011)., but women entrepreneurs face various challenges such as lack of collateral security, lack of market information, and discrimination (Mashapure, R., Nyagadza, B., & Nyagadza, M. (2022): (Wilson, 1996, p. 20). Therefore, it is important to understand the theoretical nexus of women's livelihood and entrepreneurship. Women entrepreneurship research in developing economies relies on theoretical perspectives derived elsewhere (Bastian, B. L., Sidani, Y. M., & El Amine, Y. (2018), hence there is a need to analyze the concept of women entrepreneurship from different theoretical perspectives. Women entrepreneurship is an important tool for sustainable development(Fernández, M. B., García-Centeno, M. D. C., & Patier, C. C. (2021). and has the potential to empower women and emancipate them from gender inequality (Greene, P. G., Brush, C. G., & Hart, M. M. (2001) (Annapaurny, 2016) (Gemberling, 2014). (Cranny-Francis et al., 2017).

Women in Development

The term WID was first used by the women's committee of the Washington DC in their efforts to bring the evidence brought by Boserup. This was popular documentation of the regressive impact of development on women's life to the attention of policy makers. WID approach came to prominence as an approach to include women in development in the early 1970s. It calls for a greater attention to women in development programs and seeks to integrate women into the overall development progresses and policies. This approach adheres to the belief and assumption to modernization theory of development. WID development projects stress on pursuing western value and economic growth.

UNCTED (2012) in their report "Women in Development: Development-centred globalization: Inclusive and gender-sensitive development paths" states that nearly half (48.4 percent) of the female population above the age of 15 remains economically inactive, compared to 22.3 per cent for men. In agriculture, women tend to have smaller plots and generally face market imperfections that limit their access to inputs, assets and services and reduce their productivity. Women entrepreneurs on average manage smaller businesses than do men, often in less-profitable sectors. While expanded international trade has created many new jobs, women tend to be found in temporary, seasonal, precarious occupations with little social security benefits and few opportunities for upgrading. Huge differences between men and women in responsibility for house and care works remain in almost all countries. Of the nearly 800 million illiterate adults worldwide, two thirds are women (UNCTED, 2012). This figure could have slightly increased in 2019.

Muyoyeta (2012) in his book Women, Gender and Development claims that By the 1970s it had become very clear that women were being left out of development. They were not benefiting significantly from it and in some instances their existing status and position in society was actually being made worse by development. The WID approach saw the problem as the exclusion of women from development programs and approaches. Razavi and Miller (1995) in their article "From WID to GAD: Conceptual Shifts in the Women and Development Discourse" state that the emergence of women in development (WID) in the early 1970s, highlighting in particular a dominant strand of thinking within WID that sought to make women's issues relevant to development by showing the positive synergies between investing in women and reaping benefits in terms of economic growth. Even though making efficiency based arguments proved to be effective as a political strategy for having women's issues taken up by donor agencies, it also entailed a number of controversial outcomes.

Women and Development

Rathgeber (1990) remarks women and development (WAD) approach as to represent the second shift in changing perspectives of global agencies and women's groups. This approach helps to understand the global historical context and shift in approaches to development of women. Women and development is a theoretical and practical framework for studying and practicing development. It is often mistaken for WID but has many distinctive characteristics. Rather, it is a departure from the WID approach and emerged as an answer to the limitations of modernization theory and WID approach in explaining women's exclusion from development. It was neo- Marxist feminist approach and also draws from dependency theory.

Gurung (2004) in his research "Women and Development in the Third world" mentions that up until the 1960s, women were merely seen as quiet recipients and passive beneficiaries of development. This issue was further expanded by Gurung and Bisht (2014) in Nepal's context. Theoretically, WID approach paved emphasis on assisting women to become better mothers and this was met by providing food aid, measures against malnutrition and family planning (Moser, 1993, p. 62). In the wake of the feminist movement in the First World in the 1970s, international development agencies were pressured by the Western feminists to make women visible as a category for research and policy. In 1975, the United Nation's International Year for Women, the UN declared the next ten years (1976-1985) the Decade for Women and this has come to be characterized as WID (Women in Development). To Kabeer (1999), therefore argues that there was a conviction that if only planners and policy makers could do better for the women's empowerment in a real sense. They could make women's valuable contribution to the economy, so as to making them no longer be marginalized in the development process.

Humanity as a whole and women in particular need the Women and Development (WAD) approach because we are constantly looking for justifications for the dominance of men over women. One could conclude that the WAD approach to gender took into account and occasionally supported the patriarchy's existence in society and also buzzed about how its existence must be ignored under any circumstances. Since the new and improved system should be open and offered here for the welfare of society, radical thinking at feminist platforms implicitly wishes for the construction of new systems (Harcourt, 2016).

Gender and Development (GAD)

The constructivist approach argues that development is constructed with gender, and gender is a constructed with development. Women and men have been influenced differently by the various development strategies adopted since 1980s. It became alarming with the emergent complexity of globalization and neo-liberalization. Reeves and Baden (2000) in their article "Gender and Development: Concepts and Definitions" illustrates that the GAD (or Gender and Development) approach focuses on the socially constructed basis of differences between men and women and emphasizes the need to challenge existing gender roles and relations. Contrary to it, the WID (or Women in Development) approach highlights the need of including women in development policy and practice and asks for increased focus to include women in the development process. Yet, it is less structural in nature.

The GAD approach encourages undertaking planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation in accordance with the work on more than one level (practical and strategy needs) to change gender relations; working collaboratively with men and women; be sure to include men because it takes men as well as women to change gender relations; taking a wider, historically informed view of gender relations and its social context. Following this, Miller (2016) in her article "Gender Development, Theories of" asserts that biological approaches hold that psychological and behavioral gender differences are a result of the biological distinctions between men and women. Researchers have concentrated on proximal explanations, like genes and sex hormones, as well as historical explanations, like evolutionary processes, within this family of methodologies.

Literatures on gender studies reveal that theoretical frameworks on feminism and development studies have an impact on gender development policies. It is crucial to understand the historical roots, developments, and goals of various feminist frameworks, as well as how they differ from one another and affect one another. The goal of this section is to introduce and chart the development of the theoretical frameworks for WID, WAD, and GAD. In order to develop new frameworks, it will also look at how discussions and criticisms of globalization are affecting the ones that already exist (Monsen, 2003).

In recent years, the activities of non-state actors including NGOs are more shaped by the GAD approach, which in turn is shaped by their experiences. The last strategy, however, is typically used by organizations only to reassure males that it is not all about women and that their interests are being taken into consideration. Instead of truly addressing patriarchal institutions, GAD is typically employed as a fancy level up till the co-option of the term gender and to appease the donors. One may observe how various feminism and development frameworks came into existence and were motivated to present the three main gender and development approaches, WID, WAD, and GAD (Lourdes, 2014).

Feminist Theory

Feminism is a theory and a movement of academic discourse as well which holds men and women should be equal and they should have a social justice politically, economically and socially. This is the core of all feminism theories. Sometimes this definition is also referred to as "core feminism" or "core feminist theory" (Mendus, 2005). The ontology of feminism is that women are unequally treated with the power structure of society as compared to their male counterparts. Gender construction is therefore hegemonic and androcentric. Regarding feminist theory, we should know about the types of feminism such as: first, second, third and 4th wave feminism, liberal feminism radical feminism, Marxist feminism, socialist feminism and postmodern feminism (Prügl, 2015).

Jones and Budig (2008) in their article "Feminist Theory" focus that feminist theories are plural in nature in a varied and diverse context. They discuss gender subordination experienced by women, the causes of women's oppression, how gender inequality is maintained, and various solutions to gender inequality. According to liberal feminism, women's oppression is brought on by their unequal access to institutions of the law, society, politics, and the economy. Their solution promotes women's equal legal rights and involvement in public areas like employment, politics, and education. According to radical feminism, sexuality is the root of women's oppression. Social institutions like medicine and religion, as well as abuse and objectification, regulate how women's bodies are used. Radical feminists claim that mandatory heterosexuality and the abolition of patriarchy are necessary to put an end to gender discrimination and that sexism is the most prevalent and ancient kind of oppression. By giving women more control over their bodies, including through transformation, this might be done (Jones & Budig, 2008).

Communication scholars now have a better understanding of how the scientific paradigm has, both metaphorically and literally, fallen short of other frameworks that point to sexist, racist, homophobic, and classist societal objectives (Harding, 1991). In this regard, future studies are critically important to actively refuse to prolong the silencing, pulling out and making visible people who have been silenced, and revealing their voices in social and historical contexts, according to gender theories and feminist research in communication.

Gender Theory

Gender theory always believes that gender is the socially constructed roles, behaviors activities and attributes. Power is interwoven with the gender that a given society considers and appropriates for men and women. For feminist scholars, the subject of gender disparities has been contentious. Some people think that women's uniqueness and significance are affirmed by their distinctions, while others worry that emphasizing on these differences perpetuates inequality and upholds the status quo because males continue to hold the reins of power.

Marecek (1988) in her article “The Meaning of Differences: Gender Theory, Postmodernism, and Psychology” asserts that feminist researchers have disagreed on the topic of gender disparities. Some people think that women's differences prove their worth and uniqueness, while others worry that emphasizing differences perpetuates inequality because men still have the ability to decide what is right and wrong. A paradox is that efforts to acknowledge the unique significance of women's experience and their inner life and narratives divert focus from initiatives to improve the material circumstances of women's lives and lessen institutional sexism. The claim that women know better through intuition and experiential understanding than through logical abstraction raises yet another paradox. If carried to an extreme, this claim that every other thought is a male way of knowing can be used to promote the idea that women are unable to engage in rational thought or acquire cultural knowledge.

Marxist Feminist Theory

Marxist Feminism talks about the role of male and female from power relational and class perspective. Male and female roles reflect social expectations influenced by realities of economic power, social dominance and cultural authority. Marx did not propose feminism theory in separate way, though his thesis of historical materialism could be a breakthrough in thinking of gender and feminism in a most scientific way (Marcuse, 1974). Marxism has talked about women’s oppression in many ways and it has provided powerful tools to understand the inequality faced by women.

The Origin of Family, Property, and the State by Engels, published in 1891, looked at how the state came into being and how the family changed concurrently. Engels discusses the history of Families became economic units thanks to private property, which also led to inequality in property ownership and, ultimately, exploitative class societies. The social status of women declaiming private property strengthened. He also discusses the lack of surplus productive resources that are owned jointly. Husband, wife, and dependent children did not undertake any economic tasks because they were not productive, responsible for doing the household, or owners of property. According to Engle, patriarchy's rise and the historical defeat of the female sex resulted in a devaluation of women's tasks, roles, and responsibilities and a subsequent elevation of men's positions and functions (Engels, 1891/ 2021).

The role of women, according to Marxist feminism, is to take care of children and the elderly. Because it serves the interests of capital and the ruling class, divides males from women, and gives working class men advantages, women's subordination is a function of class, oppression, and maintenance (like racism). Relationships within the capitalist system provide their support and give the capitalist class the legal right to pay for the household labor that is assigned to women but is not paid for (Gimenez, 2018). Marxist feminists were also accused for ignoring the individual's agency and the fact that women are not merely passive recipients of what society offers them. They also interact with systems actively. According to the influential viewpoint theory, feminist social science should be conducted from the perspective of women or specific groups of women, as some researchers have suggested. Additionally, they stated that research should be conducted from the perspective of those with less authority because they offer many viewpoints (Federici, 2018).

Livelihood and Entrepreneurship in Feminist Perspective

In the context of livelihood, the sustainable livelihood framework is a way of looking at the complexity of people's livelihood, especially the livelihoods of the poor. There has been a long scholarship on the theorization of entrepreneurship and livelihood from a feminist perspective (Naude, 2013). DFID (Department for International

Development; now UK Aid) framework is a tool for better understanding the livelihoods of the poor. The sustainable livelihoods framework takes an integrated approach to poverty than just a narrow set of indicators such as income and productivity (Turner, 2016). Scoones (2009) argues that a livelihood is made up of the resources (natural, physical, human, financial, and social capital), the activities, and the access to these resources (mediated by institutions and social connections) that collectively determine the standard of living attained by the individual or household. The Oxfam framework for livelihood is another option. According to Webb et al. (2019), Oxfam adopts a livelihoods framework that is 'semi-officially' similar to the DFID framework. The United Nations Development Program adheres to the UNDP framework, which defines livelihoods as the ways, pursuits, rights, and resources individuals use to support themselves (Mwenda & Turpin, 2016). Entrepreneurship begins with action with group and sharing of the benefits in the group. The formation of a new organization, and its precursors, such as searching the environment for opportunities, identifying the opportunity to be pursued, and assessing the viability of the new endeavor, all mark the beginning of entrepreneurship. Moreover, gender subordination and property in the setting of South Asia have connections that have to do with asset ownership, source of income, and management of poverty (Agarwal, 1994).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the theoretical interwoven connotations of women entrepreneurship and livelihood pattern have been analyzed in this paper. The first section of the paper discusses the concept and theories of gender and women issues, livelihood, and entrepreneurship. The second section talks about policies, while the third explores the methodological concept. The paper aims to contribute to the discourse on women entrepreneurship and gender studies in the context of sustainable development. The sustainable livelihood framework has been used to understand the complexity of people's livelihoods, especially the livelihoods of the poor. Women entrepreneurship is a crucial aspect of sustainable rural livelihoods, but women entrepreneurs face various challenges such as lack of collateral security, lack of market information, and discrimination. Therefore, it is important to understand the theoretical nexus of women's livelihood and entrepreneurship. The paper concludes that the fluctuations of women's livelihood are theoretically contested. The paper also highlights the importance of gender equality and empowerment of women in achieving sustainable development goals. The paper contributes to the existing literature on women entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods by synthesizing different theoretical perspectives and providing a comprehensive analysis of the subject.

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Review

Strategies for Agile Leadership in a Challenging Environment

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ABSTRACT

The post pandemic environment has provided many significant challenges for all forms of organisations. The requirement for good leadership in this context is vital. This research considers the features of such leadership and how their application can affect organisations and their required outputs. The need for agility in this sphere is proposed, in order to accommodate the environmental challenges, globally and within the different sectors. There should be an emphasis on creativity in order to provide solutions to the many issues for organisations in the prevailing environment. Recruitment and retention are viewed as critical activities for sustaining these entities by ensuring the supply of the requisite standard of personnel at all levels. The latter should have suitable qualifications or the aptitude to acquire them. These staff should be given appropriate training then empowered, including being given the scope to utilise their own leadership style, as appropriate. The form of the post pandemic environment and its effects on leadership are noted. The principal factors identified here include the economic challenges, hybrid working patterns and the use of agency staff to supplement the permanent resource. The proactive development of leaders is emphasised as a critical activity for organisations, enabling them to address the issues prevalent in their environment.

Research into this area occurred, using qualitative techniques. A literature review and interview with a current practitioner were performed, in order to glean the data for an inductive analysis. A template to assist organisations in creating a strategy for 'Agile Leadership' was then formulated.

Keywords: leadership, agile leadership, leadership style, recruitment, staff retention, hybrid working

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Introduction

The current global situation provides a challenging environment for all forms of organisations, irrespective of their sector or nationality. The pandemic and other events have changed the characteristics of the international scene to make normal operations more complex. Organisations are forced to consider and accommodate this situation, in order to continue to survive and be successful. The leadership of these entities is viewed as playing a major role in their actions and, hence, the outcomes, given the complexities of their environments. This paper examined recent academic literature and employs a practitioner viewpoint to discern recommendations for managers and other key stakeholders. The concept of 'Agile Leadership' is suggested as a method to assist in responding to the challenges from operating in such environments.

'Leadership' is defined as, 'Influencing the direction of the organization through a focus on change and inspiring the group to improve performance.' (Needle, 2015: 588). 'Agile' is defined, in respect of business terminology, as being 'able to deal with new situations or changes quickly and successfully' (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023).

Problem Statement

The requirement to scan the environment for potential issues and opportunities, thus managing risks, is addressed (in Blair, Woodcock and Pagano, 2021). The agile approach involves the identification of potential change and its implementation using flexible change management techniques (as per Blair, Barratt and Pagano, 2022).

Several studies conducted in Nepal (Maskey & Mishra, 2018; Mishra & Nepal 2022; Mishra 2022; Mishra, 2023 a & b; Mishra & Jha, 2023) also conformed the human productivity requirement and environmental consequences in Nepal, urge the researcher to take keen interest in the research.

Research Objective

This research aims to provide a template to assist organisations in developing a strategy for 'Agile Leadership' in order to formulate effective responses to the challenges in their environments.

Literature Review

The principal themes were discerned from a selection of current articles on leadership in key publications. These were obtained using inductive methods, without a predetermined coding structure.

Agile Practice

Organisations can be more effective in respect of all aspects if they adopt practices based on Agile Project Management, according to Rigby et al. (2022). The focus should be on delivering value to customers with income-generation being a consequence of this emphasis, rather than the primary attention being given to profit-making. The initial move can be to create a single workgroup into Agile practice. This team should comprise multidisciplinary personnel, with experts from outside the normal remit of the group. The premise is that this will stimulate the thinking and lead to a more innovative approach to the team's brief. A microcosm of the desired practices for the organisation is, thus, created. This should also enable experimentation, so that testing occurs on the team. The focus should be on delivering value to selected shareholders, rather than concentrating principally on profit maximisation. These arrangements should be based on the Agile team unit, consistent with the premise that investing in the team and networking yields higher benefits than solely targeting the development of individual employees. Leadership that invests in Agile teams will, hence, create enhanced organisations, according to this source.

The importance of an agile strategy is stressed by Mankins and Gottfredson (2022). Many organisations adhere to a single strategic plan, defined and then followed over a set period, such as three years. This is only satisfactory in a stable environment, where assumptions can be made that endure throughout the period. This article suggests that volatility is now the norm, in respect of organisational contexts. Major events such as the

Covid pandemic, the UK exit from the European Union, the conflict in the Ukraine and environmental disasters, have led to unstable operating conditions on a global scale. The practice of dynamic strategic planning is recommended, where plans and options are continually re-evaluated and revised over time. The requirement to consider more than one possible future, embracing even extreme views of the future environment, is noted. The number of alternatives considered should be limited, so that resources are not squandered on trying to cover every possible option, leaving the organisation in a worse financial position. Several studies from practice are cited by the authors, in order to illustrate their points. The need for a flexible strategy, considering several options and employing constant review and adjustment, is highlighted. The advantage of this is that the organisation should improve its capacity to accommodate rapid change in a volatile environment. The selection of alternative options can lead to significant advantages over competitors and provision of products and services during challenging operating conditions.

The importance of the time factor in projects and the role of leaders in addressing that element are considered by Siddiquei et al. (2022). An empirical study of over 50 project teams in four companies running similar projects over several weeks was held and the results analysed for this article. A survey of the project team members was used to provide the research results. The effect of leaders' communications regarding the proposed duration of tasks in the planning stage of the project and reminders of deadlines during the execution stage were considered. A systems view of projects was utilised, comprising inputs, processing and outputs. The determination of inputs was the initiation and planning phases with the processing being the execution phase. The output stage was that of delivery of goods and services. The study demonstrated that leaders can influence the project teams' work in the initiation and planning stages with their inputs on project tasks and their planned duration. This research also showed that leaders can influence the project teams' work by sending reminders throughout the execution phase, in an attempt to ensure that deadlines are met. The ability to set time parameters for project work and encourage adherence to them is viewed as being of critical importance to obtaining successful project outcomes. The leader, therefore, needs to understand the project tasks and desired outcomes, in order to have a significant effect on project work via critical input at the initial and processing stages.

Networks

The importance of forming and maintaining networks is stated by Ibarra and Hunter (2022). The aim for prospective leaders is to practice strategic networking, rather than solely operational networking. The latter entails developing a series of contacts at work to perform projects and routine or periodic tasks. These are usually prescribed by the required functions and type of work and are commonly internal to the organisation. Strategic and personal networks are more discretionary and are developed to accommodate different requirements. Personal networks are contacts developed through leisure interests and hobbies. These are individuals who share a common interest, although there may be a strategic element here, if personal connections can align with work interests, for example by providing a reference or introduction or even directly recruiting the contact. Strategic networking is the primary form of leadership advancement and operation. These are usually outside the individual's work contacts and possibly external to the organisation. These strategic contacts provide a resource that assists in envisioning and executing routine and project tasks, in order to maintain and enhance the status of the organisation and possible the individual themselves. Operational networks tend to be focussed on technology and techniques, with individuals solving routine and irregular problems. Strategic networks, however, tend to focus on the positioning of the organisation in its environment. Membership of the latter can be disparate in terms of skills and knowledge. This may be advantageous, providing a range of resources and perspectives to help the individuals and organisation to achieve their objectives. The ability to build a supportive strategic network is viewed as being critical to organisations and individuals, in respect of the practice of leadership and delivery of key work activities.

Leadership Techniques

The two leadership techniques of maintaining absolute control of decision-making and delegating decisions to the group via empowerment are considered (Greer et al., 2023). These are described as the 'two leadership gears'. The premise is that the optimum situation is for organisations and their leaders to utilise both of these methods, depending on the circumstances. These authors' empirical work, based on decision-making in organisations, suggests that the best-performing organisations are those where the leaders can successfully switch from one method to the other, depending on the requirements of the activities. An example is to delegate power to the group for idea-generation activities, so that the activity benefits from the maximum available input, and then switch to authoritarian method when a final selection of the idea for implementation is required. The switching between these two methods must be clearly indicated. Strategies for successfully empowering staff are suggested, such as the leader leaving the group during the relevant period or having limited involvement. The objective is to allow each member of the group to have equal authority, thus enabling any of them to contribute to the discussion, and, hence, maximise the contribution of the group. Organisations should match the appropriate method to the circumstances, therefore, optimising decision-making and possibly generating group support.

The ability to change perspective on organisational issues is viewed as a critical assert for leaders by Kanter (2023). This article suggests that both the near view and the more distant view have their advantages and disadvantages. These actions are described as 'zooming in' and 'zooming out'. The problem is that leaders tend to adopt one or the other stance, as dictated by the demands of their roles and organisations. This can lead to flawed decision-making, with serious consequences for the individual and the organisation. This is illustrated via a discussion of several cases from practice. The ‘near’ perspective is viewed as personal management, where personal contacts are heavily utilised in order to perform tasks and situations are viewed from a personal perspective. This is advantageous in non-routine situations or specific cultures where the leader's attention and influence is required to achieve satisfactory outcomes. Leaders who adhere to this approach lack strategic perspective and comprehension of the wider environmental issues and can have problems if there are changes in this sphere that affect the local context, where their attention is focussed. Leaders who adopt a purely strategic perspective may miss issues occurring at the local level that require intervention or comprehension, in order to solve particular problems or understand key issues. The optimum leader is, hence, viewed as being able to switch from a ‘near’ to ‘far’ perspective, in order to accommodate all viewpoints and engage in effective decision-making. The method for initiating this dual viewpoint is for the leader to question their interpretations of situations, in order to comprehend the perspective that they are applying and encourage the alternate view, so that they attain a more complete understanding of the situation, namely attending to both the strategic and local spheres.

Zaman et al. (2021) investigated the effects of authoritarian leadership on public sector mega construction projects, namely those that are large scale, complex, capital intensive in nature with multiple stakeholders. These authors surveyed over 300 professionals who were working on a large infrastructure project. This research examined the link between project success and authoritarian leadership, considering the effects on the project team members in terms of their 'silence' in respect of contribution to the project. The latter refers to project workers failing to communicate and withholding their input, ideas and views. This is usually to the detriment of the project outcomes and is caused, possibly, by alienation from the project. The attitude of authoritarian leaders means that some of the project workers disengage from the project, hence, maintain 'silence', restricting their contribution. Communication is 'one way', in the form of direct instructions from the leader to the project workers. The flow of communications in the opposite direction was, thus, seen to be restricted. This was viewed as having a negative effect on the success of the project outcomes, on several levels. Success was measured from three perspectives, namely project management (adherence to the project plan), project ownership (fulfilment of the project business case) and project investment (value generated by the investment in the project). The conclusion of this study was that authoritarian leadership negatively impacted project success, with the lack of communication from project workers being a major factor in this outcome.

The beneficial effects of shared leadership on project success are considered by Imam and Zaheer (2021). This article focussed on researching completed IT projects in a developing country. The rationale was that the high failure rate prevalent in projects in such countries could be examined for mitigating circumstances. IT projects were viewed as being complex and requiring the coordination of different skills to achieve completion. This increased the dependency on teamwork. Over 200 IT professionals were surveyed to obtain the results. The premise employed by these authors was that shared leadership was more effective in this area, comprising Agile Project Management techniques of creating prototypes by collaborative effort then refining them based on the customer's perspective (as per Highsmith, 2004). The research results demonstrated that shared leadership was more likely to lead to project success. The factors of team knowledge-sharing, mutual trust and team cohesion were found to be important in achieving successful outcomes. This research suggested that project workers were more committed to obtaining solutions if they shared the project leadership, otherwise they restricted themselves to their individual efforts in their prescribed area of expertise. This shared leadership also helped with making sense of requirements, including changes of scope and user needs. The suggestion was that when potential leaders are recruited, the ability to comfortably share leadership should be prioritised. The empowered team, operating a shared leadership model, was thus viewed as being essential to the successful delivery of complex IT solutions, that depended on a mix of different skills.

Crisis Management

Leadership in extreme circumstances is considered by Ramanna (2023), described as the 'age of outrage'. Stakeholders can adopt a severe attitude in the case of problems, strongly promoting their own viewpoint and criticising the organisation. They can also take an antagonistic viewpoint, seeking to make gains from another party. This can originate from a sense of unfairness with society, based on a belief that prevailing systems are biased against individuals or groups. This can apply to areas such as race, finance and politics. The use of social media can also encourage extreme views by permitting their expression and encouragement by others. The strategies to deal with such situations commence with an attempt to de-escalate the situation then resolve it by analysis followed by response or a decision not to respond. A range of options are available, including the use or threatened use of power by leaders. An appeal to supporters can also be used, thus employing personal contacts or ‘position power’, based on the role as leader. A potentially superior option was identified, in the form of an appeal to the culture of the organisation or group. This could take the form of requesting that the protagonists suggest their own solution to the issue. This may permit a solution to be found without the leader using coercive power or having to request favours from contacts in their network. A consensus of all parties is generally viewed as the optimum solution as it reduces the scope for dissatisfaction with the outcome. The critical activity for a leader is to analyse the situation and select the optimum response. Failure to do this may lead to further antagonism of stakeholders, due to a sub-optimal solution, with a consequent impact on the organisation. The relative power of the parties and nature of the specific context are vital factors in considering this decision. It is important to continue to assess the situation and develop resilience in terms of seeking solutions and formulating future leadership strategy.

The ability to address issues in a political environment is considered by Kteily and Finkel (2022). The problem of employees being in conflict with the organisation and each other as a result of differing political views is discussed. Examples of employees reacting adversely to actions by their organisations are given. The latter resulted in staff leaving the company and reputational damage, in some cases. The key problem is that leaders are not trained to address such issues. Attempts to suppress political debate can exacerbate the situation and appear to preserve the status quo, hence be viewed as essentially conservative. The differences are centred on the premise that an individual's political views motivate their actions and decisions. They can also affect their perceptions of organisational aspects, such as recruitment. The rights to 'free speech' and freedom of expression are regarded as being essential by many cultures and individuals.

The solution proposed is to prepare employees at the induction and initial training phase. The policies regarding such items can be outlined. Another tactic is to get employees with opposing views to collaborate on projects and tasks, with the remit of producing the optimum outcome. It is also important to have the metrics available to counter or confirm arguments over potentially contentious issues, such as ethnicity and orientation of staff. The central issue is that organisations are part of society so cannot avoid the politicised debates that ensue. The key leadership strategy is to be aware of this situation and prepared, both in terms of policy, briefing employees and responses to such issues. Failure to do this may result in serious problems for the organisation from an internal and external perspective.

The critical area of managing a crisis on behalf of the organisation is considered by Pearson et al. (2023). This article is based on an interview with leading academic, who is an expert in this area. The problem of highly competitive environments causing increased potential for errors, as resources are reduced and expectations increased in terms of outputs, is highlighted. The time for response has also been reduced, as communications have become more effective. The news of a major crisis is very likely to be communicated quickly into the public domain, thanks to social media and online news sources. The increased speed of online communications has, thus, reduced the time available for leaders to prepare a response to any potential crisis. The competitive environment and interests of stakeholders mean that speculation and opinion may rapidly follow any news of a crisis, with potentially damaging effects for the organisation, in terms of reputation and share value, for example. The increased level of globalisation could also be a critical factor in a crisis. The global nature of organisations and their environment means that any crisis has an additional layer of complexity. This can create communications' problems in respect of translating instructions to staff. The need is for clear directives and trusted delegates to transmit messages and manage locally, as required. The notion of one leader addressing the crisis in isolation or with a small, selected project team could now be viewed as outdated. Leaders need to delegate to the appropriate experts or work with them in order to coordinate a response to the crisis. Technology can assist with communications but may also be a hindrance in that electronic devices distract attention and reduce the ability for prolonged concentration. This may cause issues with the response to the crisis. The assignment of a project team to address the crisis may cause problems in the organisation, for example in rewarding those staff afterwards and the effects on the staff who have covered their tasks for the period of secondment. The notion that risk avoidance measures can reduce the chances of a potential crisis also has consequences. The reduction of risk may lead to a reduction of opportunities for development, so the organisation loses these benefits and perhaps falls behind competitors.

Dealing with a crisis, thus, requires preparation for a response. The leader and key staff should be briefed on the format of the response. This could include draft statements for media channels, formation of response team, definition of roles and communication mechanisms. The response and potential solutions may be facilitated by such preparation and, thus, the effects of the crisis be mitigated. The importance of identifying key staff and working collaboratively on the crisis situation is viewed as being essential. Delegating appropriate tasks is also vital to providing an effective response, in many cases.

Recruitment

The importance of having a leadership team that can make strategic progress with the organisation is highlighted by Leinwand et al. (2022). These authors propose that the leadership team should focus on changes to the organisation, defining a new strategy to anticipate demand and take advantage of opportunities, rather than just manage the current situation in the prevailing environment.

The necessity is to recruit the appropriate personnel to the required roles on the leadership team. These may be new roles, based on the anticipated needs of the organisation. The key point is to have the requisite leaders in these roles to supply the expertise for future strategies. These new posts should be full members of the leadership team and not external to it, hence indicating the commitment to these areas. Digitisation is often viewed as one of these critical change areas but these authors suggest that organisations require leadership is more spheres. This may lead to removal of existing leadership team members, as the focus on strategy is emphasised. The requirement, according to this article, is to be prepared to reinvent the organisation, in respect of its purpose, methods, culture and accepted practice. This is to address the challenges of the current and future operating environment. Failure to implement these changes may cause stagnation, the reduction in scale and even the closure of the organisation, as the leadership team rely on an outdated rationale in a changed environment. 'Reinventing' this team to implement future strategies should, therefore, be an ongoing process. This 'future orientation' approach is viewed as being vital for the leadership team to adopt, for the ongoing health of the enterprise.

Findings

A senior manager from the public sector with a remit that covered health, education and social services, who also had responsibility for private sector contracts, was interviewed. The aim was to discuss the key elements of effective leadership in the current environment. A semi-structured interview was held, thus allowing the respondent more licence to contribute their own perspective to the discussion. A thematic analysis of the interview results was then performed, using inductive methods. The main points were then presented and these findings were referenced to the literature, in order to further analyse the outcomes. A series of recommendations was then formulated as a template to assist practitioners and contribute to this research area.

Recruitment

The importance of recruitment in terms of selecting an organisation’s leaders is stated in the literature (Leinwand et al., 2022).

Qualifications

The respondent stated, 'Leaders need appropriate qualifications and values'. An appropriate Masters’ degree and ethical values were given as examples. The requirement for formal qualifications as an indicator of ability to lead is viewed as being essential. Lack of such qualifications may even disqualify potential candidates. The appropriate ethical values are regarded as vital for leaders, emphasising the social and environmental perspectives. This will ensure that the organisation provides a progressive, supportive context for its stakeholders. Training is considered in Blair and Pagano (2021a).

Proportion of Agency Staff

The variety of employment mix, in respect of the proportion of full to part-time staff, was noted by the respondent, 'Some areas (for example London) there are a majority of agency staff - others have more 'home-grown' staff.'

This refers to the percentage of personnel brought in on contracts via an agency, rather than developed from the organisation's own staff. The greater the local pay differential between regular staff remuneration and agency rates, the more problematic it is to retain staff in leadership and project leadership roles. This forces the organisation to use agency staff and pay these premium rates. The activity of outsourcing is considered in Blair, Woodcock and Pagano (2022).

Networks

Networking is viewed as a critical activity by several references, such as Ibarra and Hunter (2022).

Empowering Leadership

'The move has been to less hierarchical, empowering, distributed leadership models.' The aim is to distribute power and responsibility to staff, so that leadership is a more collective activity. The trend is towards 'flatter', less hierarchical forms of organisation. This leads to more empowered teams, where members have equal status and are primarily responsible for their own work.

Leadership Techniques

Leadership techniques are viewed as vital by several sources (for example, Greer et al., 2023).

Leadership Development

'Important to grow your own leaders, as recruitment and retention are the major challenges', according to the respondent. The need to have an effective policy on recruitment, retention and succession planning was suggested. Competition in the employment market means that staff who have been trained and given experience as leaders are attractive to other organisations and may also be tempted to work as self-employed contractors, for greater rewards. It was suggested that a realistic assessment needs to be made for these staff, in that they will probably have shorter employment periods than other staff, as they move to more lucrative jobs elsewhere. Training personnel, for example in a virtual environment, is indicated in Blair and Pagano (2021c).

Problem-Solving

Problem-solving and creativity in a work environment is essential for leaders. The input of new ideas for the organisation should be stimulated by the leaders. This is summarised by the respondent, as 'the need to innovate and the ability to experiment to obtain novel solutions is important.'

The role of technology to solve organisational problems and support activities is addressed in Blair, Grant and Woodcock (2020). The key areas in respect of managing and implementing technology are identified in Blair and Pagano (2023) and Blair, Morris and Pagano (2023).

Hybrid Working

There has been a move to 'hybrid' working in terms of location, comprising work at home and in the office. This has been a consequence of the pandemic, when restrictions on movement led to an increase in virtual working (mentioned in Blair and Pagano, 2020). The respondent indicated that this has been accompanied by a change to measurement of work performance. 'Use outcomes and outputs, comprising added value, rather than hours worked. Financial and non-financial outcomes are used, depending on the circumstances.' This statement details the position. The tendency has been to move away from ‘recorded hours worked’ as an indicator and towards measures of contributions to value. This focuses work more directly on productivity, in terms of results, rather than attendance.

Individual Style and Progression

'Important to allow staff to have their own styles. Also give opportunities for development and progression.' The suggestion is that staff should be allowed discretion to utilise their own styles of leadership, as appropriate. Opportunities for career progression should be available in order to provide incentives for the staff. The facility to permit self-expression as a leader, within the cultural context of the organisation, is important as it both encourages a broader range of management development as well as inspiring loyalty, as these personnel are given a remit to exhibit their own personal style.

Crisis Management

The requirement to accommodate challenging environments and develop the ability manage any crises is regarded as paramount by many authors (for instance, Pearson et al., 2023).

Economic Environment

The challenges of the local and global economic conditions were mentioned. The problem of reduced capital programme budgets and high interest rates, increasing the cost of borrowing, was outlined. The costs of the pandemic and the conflict in the Ukraine, for example adversely affecting energy costs, have caused a real reduction in funds for projects. This is stated as, 'Economic conditions may lead to reduction in budgets, such as for capital programmes, leading to a decrease in project work.'

This aspect should be reflected in strategy formulation (as per Blair, Barratt and Pagano, 2021). The need to consider the sustainability aspects of operating in the environment are also noted, especially in respect of the use of technology (Blair and Pagano, 2021b),

Agile Practice

The incorporation of Agile practices into the leadership of organisations is emphasised in the literature (Rigby et al., 2022 and in respect of time management, Siddiquei et al., 2022).

Agile Leadership

'You need to be an agile leader, prepared to adapt to circumstances', according to the respondent. The importance of using a flexible approach with work, projects and staff, for example, was stressed. The need to use tactics that are based on a contingent perspective, in order to accommodate changing circumstances, was highlighted. The latter could include: global issues, such as trade or funding variations; organisational issues, such as changes in policy or senior personnel; and local issues, such as the requirements of a variety of staff, with different needs and motivations.

Agility in terms of leadership means being flexible, in respect of using different approaches in response to different circumstances. This will require the leader to understand the range of options and their potential impact, as well as be able to gauge the decision-making environment, in order to select the appropriate option.

Methodology

A review of a selection of the main academic journals in this area was enacted and suitable articles were identified for analysis. The key themes were noted and were organised using an inductive analysis, forming a hierarchy of categories as required (Blair and Pagano, 2021a and Easterby-Smith et al.,1991). An interview with an experienced manager from the UK public sector, who also managed private sector contracts, took place, in order to ascertain key facets of leadership. Inductive techniques were also employed, in order to organise the interview data. The aim was to make recommendations in terms of managing change in this sphere and to advise practitioners on the topic of improving leadership in their organisations. A template to enable practitioners to create a strategy for 'Agile Leadership' was then constructed from the research findings, comprising a contribution and summary of this work (as per Blair, Pagano and Burns, 2019).

Results and Discussion

This research can be summarised with a template to help to formulate a strategy for 'Agile Leadership'. This is based on the principal areas identified during the study and is intended as a contribution to practice and change management in this area. The following recommendations are, thus, presented (see Diagram 1).

a) Agile practice means using a flexible approach, therefore select the best option, based on the culture and environmental circumstances.
b) Promote Agile techniques, using prototyping with expert opinion to refine the end product or service.
c) Build up supportive networks inside and outside the organisation to assist in key areas, therefore supplementing skills, experience and knowledge.
d) Empower your staff to allow creativity and ensure commitment in teamworking.
e) Develop leaders from in-house staff and supplement this with policies on recruitment, retention and succession planning.
f) Leaders should excel at problem-solving and be comfortable working in a hybrid environment, with employees at home and on site.
g) Leaders should be able to switch between authoritarian decision-making and delegating decisions, as appropriate.
h) Have a plan to manage crises and a mechanism for detecting them and responding.
i) Ensure appropriate leaders are recruited in terms of skills, knowledge and attitude.
j) Introduce staff to the methods and expectations of the organisation from recruitment to induction and ongoing professional development.
k) Hire temporary staff as necessary, to ensure delivery of objectives.
l) Ensure that all key work has a time plan which has the proactive backing of the leaders.

Diagram 1. Template for Creating a Strategy for Agile Leadership

The principal themes are considered, namely: Agile Practice; Crisis Management; Leadership Techniques; Recruitment; Networks. These comprised the main themes identified in the research, both empirical and the literature review.

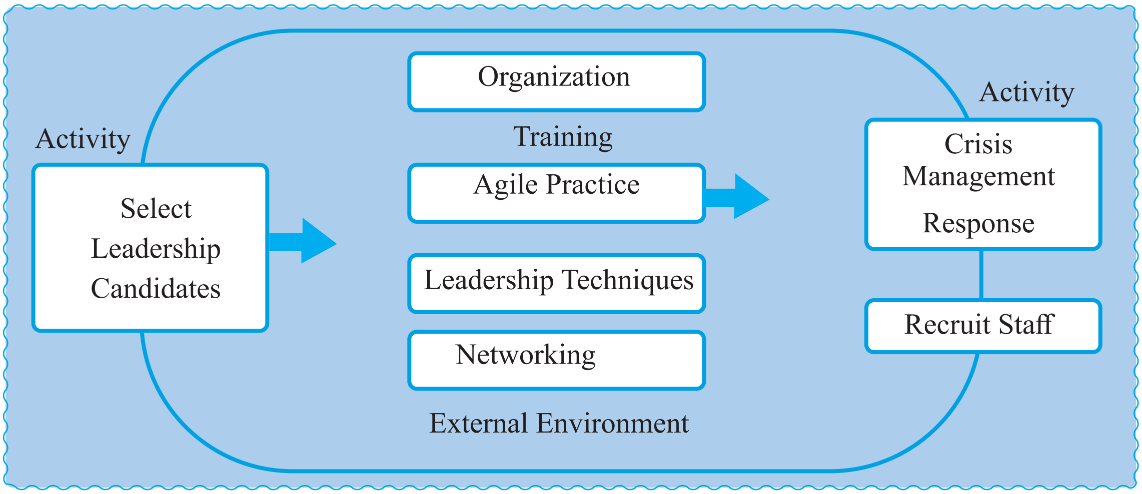

Diagram 2: Strategy for Agile Leadership – Key Activities

The key activities of a strategy for Agile Leadership are illustrated (see Diagram 2). Suitable leadership candidates should be selected, potentially from outside or within the organization.

Conclusion

This research comprises an attempt to gain a current perspective on leadership, using empirical work and a review of the literature. The findings are summarised as recommendations for practitioners and a possible agenda for change management. The study could be extended by further research into different sectors, accessing a range of practitioners in different global locations.

These candidates should receive training and experience in respect of Agile Practice, Leadership Techniques and Networking. A response for managing a possible crisis should be determined and appropriate staff recruited from inside and outside the environment. Recommendations for practitioners were produced from these themes and presented in the template, as previously stated.

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Research

Adaptation of Digital Technologies in Secondary Level Education for Teaching English

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ABSTRACT

The government of Nepal's educational policy of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) emphasizes the need to adopt digital technologies such as the internet website, computers application, and ICT equipment in the context of secondary-level education for the efficiency of school education. This review paper examines the adoption of digital technologies in teaching and learning activities in secondary-level education in Nepal. This review and interview based paper addresses the challenges and opportunities that secondary-level English teachers faced during the process of teaching and learning process. It examines two possible explanations- first, the proper adoption of digital technologies in the field of education opens the way for opportunities for teachers and students, and second, teachers and students faced different challenges regarding the proper adoption of digital technologies which hinders effective and successful learning.

It is argued that a sustainable way of implementing the ICT policy needs to be developed to mitigate the challenges raised during the process of adopting digital technology in education and provide adequate training to the teachers at the secondary level for the proper adoption of digital technologies. The adoption of digital technologies in secondary-level education in Nepal has both challenges and opportunities. A sustainable way of implementing the ICT policy needs to be developed to mitigate the challenges raised during the process of adopting digital technology in education and provide adequate training to the teachers at the secondary level for the proper adoption of digital technologies.

Keywords: digital technologies, secondary-level education, information communication and technology (ICT), challenges, opportunities

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Introduction

Twenty-first-century education aims to provide modern pedagogical and technological knowledge and skills through the proper adaptation of digital technologies such as digital machines, the internet, website, ICT equipment, and different computer applications in secondary-level education (Kesh Rana & Rana, 2020). However, the lack of financial resources in the educational sector has made it difficult to manage the infrastructure of technologies and provide proper training to teachers and other stakeholders, which directly supports the adoption of technologies in education (Clark-Wilson, Robutti, & Sinclair, 2014).

The adoption of digital technologies in twenty-first-century education is an essential aspect of teaching and learning to improve the teacher's pedagogical practices, which also helps to promote effective ways of time management in the classroom (El-Sofany & El-Haggar, 2020). The proper adoption of digital technologies includes the use of the internet and other important digital tools and equipment in education, which helps teachers as well as students to produce instructional materials and gives easy access to online learning/teaching resources, making it more applicable in the field of teaching and learning (Arkorful, Abaidoo, & learning, 2015). They also stated that the adoption of digital technology makes the content available on the internet with the readiness of links to related knowledge resources.

Digital resources are very easy to use in terms of validity and reliability in different types of research activities. In the present context, the adoption of digital technology in the classroom enables teachers to adapt different classroom activities such as group division, peer work, focal group discussion, action research, etc. (Ahmadi & Reza, 2018). Moreover, learners are getting many authentic materials from digital technologies, which motivates them to learn. Technology is an essential part of the teacher's professional development through which teachers can enhance different professional skills and knowledge by adopting digital technologies (Ahmadi & Reza, 2018). Children are very clever in the process of learning through the adoption of digital technologies, so technology becomes an integral part of the learning experience. There have been changes in classroom teaching besides the teaching methods because the traditional chalk-and-talk method is sufficient and effective to increase the learning outcomes of the students (Ahmadi & Reza, 2018). Similarly, the proper use of digital technology also creates a peaceful and interesting learning environment inside the classroom. Ahmadi & Reza (2018) presented that digital technologies have some benefits in the process of teaching and learning such as learners can play an active role with the help of digital technologies to retain more knowledge and skills, follow-up discussions involve more information where learners become more independent, and learners can process new learner-based educational materials to increase their learning skills.

The proper use of digital technologies has changed the methods of teaching from teacher-centered to learner-centered modern techniques such as the communicative approach, action research, task-based approach, and so on. Moreover, it also helps to determine the role of teachers as a facilitator and guides to the learners (Ahmadi & Reza, 2018). The number of participants is also increasing in the classroom with the proper adoption of digital technologies in the field of education. Many researchers stated that digital technologies can be used as instructional tools in the teaching and learning process. The researchers further continued that the proper adoption or application of digital technology in education opens a new area of knowledge and provides an instrument that has great potential to change the existing scenario of education (A. P. Gilakjani, J International Journal of English Linguistics, 2017). Digital technology in the field of education can improve the quality and standard of teaching and learning and management aspect of educational institutes and so help raise standards, therefore, these technologies are at the heart of education in the present-day world (Livingstone, 2012). In Britain (Becta, 2009a, b), Europe (Korte & Housing, 2006), the USA (Office of Educational Technology, 2004), and elsewhere, the present-day world has seen steady connecting of digital and networked technologies in the teaching-learning process with the widespread use of an interactive whiteboard, virtual learning environment, educational computer games, different computer applications, software engine, and so many other technological equipped devices and tools (Livingstone, 2012).

Problem Statement

The proper use of digital technologies in the classroom leads to the active participation of the learners in the learning process by facilitating the process of information perception and memorization of educational materials (Lazebna, Prykhodko, & Studies, 2021). For instance, if the lesson contains a large number of illustrative materials, the proper use of computer presentation and PowerPoint adoption in the classroom motivates the learners and successfully delivers the learning content to the students. Moreover, different research works had shown that there is long-term memorization of learning contents through the use of digital technologies in the classroom. In Nepal, a recent study found that 90% of teachers are willing to adapt digital technology in the educational system (Status of Nepalese Education Institution on Technical Adaption in COVID-19 Pandemic: An Index Based Analysis, Academia.edu). However, the proper adoption of digital technology in the field of education has both positive and negative aspects. Due to the lack of proper infrastructure and professional skills for the teachers and students related to the technologies in education, it can create different challenges regarding the proper application of digital technologies (García-Martínez, Fernández-Batanero, Cobos Sanchiz, & Luque de La Rosa, 2019). Due to the lack of proper training in digital literacy, consistent practices of online learning enabled them to develop some level of confidence in using digital technologies in teaching and learning activities (Timperley, Wilson, Barrar, & Fung, 2007).

Research Objective

The objective of research is to assess adoptation of digital technology in secondary level education based on English Teacher's Perception.

Literature Review

The literature review highlights the importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in teaching and learning strategies. Akpabio et al. (2017) suggest that the proper use of ICT resources may offer language teachers and students an innovative way of teaching and learning strategies. However, Nguyen (2021) argues that the experience of English Language Teaching regarding the use of ICT may demand many skills and changes from the teacher's side such as the teacher's teaching and learning skills. A. P. Gilakjani & Sabouri (2017) focused on the teachers' views regarding the use of ICT in English Language teaching and Learning have a significant role in ICT integration and adopted attitude in the classroom which focuses on the use of great resources for both teachers and students in teaching and learning process and they are also positive about the learner's attitude of ICT knowledge and skill.

The implementation of educational rules, regulations, and guidelines for the promotion of Nepal Nepalese education system faces different challenges, especially in the implementation of ICT-related equipment and tools (Karna Rana et al., 2022). The lack of proper training in digital literacy for teachers and students can create different challenges regarding the proper application of digital technologies (García-Martínez et al., 2019). However, the proper use of ICT in English language teaching and learning significantly developed the four language skills effectively and meaningfully for the learners, hence, listening, speaking, reading, and writing (T. Kumar et al., 2022a). The use of ICT in the language learning classroom motivates the learners and makes the classroom more effective (Bhatti et al., 2021).

Methodology

The research was conducted using a qualitative approach to identify the teacher's perception of adopting digital technologies in education. The qualitative method used an explanatory method to describe the roles of teachers in promoting the use of digital technologies and the major challenges of using them in the teaching and learning process. The research design used a qualitative and descriptive research design. The data was collected through semi-structured interviews with 12 English teachers of 12 secondary-level community schools from Bhimeshwor municipality, classroom observation, and a study of documents such as school improvement plan (SIP), school reform plan (SRM), and the school annual report 2078. The participants were selected using quota sampling, and twelve participants, one secondary level English teacher from each school situated in Bhimeshwor Municipality in Dolakha district, were selected. The data was collected by conducting a semi-structured interview with the teachers, and the interviews were recorded on a laptop for evidence of research. The interviews were conducted in an academic environment, i.e., at school. The participants' names, including school names, were not given in the paper to maintain privacy.

Classroom observations and document analysis of school improvement plans, school reform plans, and school annual reports were also conducted. The data was analyzed using a thematic analysis approach.

Results and Discussion

Teachers' experience of adopting digital technology

The findings of the open interviews conducted with the teachers revealed that the proper use of digital technologies facilitates the teaching and learning process and supports the improvement of students' learning outcomes. Digital technologies are dynamic in nature and allow teachers and students to create an actual learning environment where they can share their issues and problems similar to previous study(Kesh Rana & Rana, 2020). However, the lack of proper development of infrastructure in schools poses a significant challenge to the adoption of digital technologies in education.

The teachers emphasized the need for digital literacy for both teachers and students, and the importance of training to improve their professional capacity regarding the proper use of digital technology in education. The quality of education was found to depend on the development of infrastructure related to digital technology, which requires coordination among administration, teachers, and students. The participants suggested conducting different kinds of capacity-building and career-development training in schools to improve the adoption of digital technologies in the classroom. The teachers also highlighted the importance of time management in utilizing digital technologies in the classroom. While mobile data can be an alternative to internet access, it is more expensive and not very common among teachers and students in schools. Some participants reported using mobile data in the classroom to search for information from the internet and other resources similar to previous study (Karna Rana, Greenwood, & Fox-Turnbull, 2020).

Major Challenges of adopting digital technology

The findings revealed that the lack of adequate equipment or connectivity, termed the access constraint, is one of the major challenges in the field of education, which creates problems in the implementation of educational technologies. Inadequate training for the teachers(Johnson, Jacovina, Russell, & Soto, 2016) and concerned stakeholders about the proper use of digital technology in the classroom is another challenge of adopting digital technology in education. The teachers expressed keen interest in adopting digital technology in teaching and learning process, but poor and unreliable internet service in the classroom and insufficient computers at school provide limited access to the teachers in using digital technology in the classroom, leading to frustration in their practices. Digital literacy for teachers, administration, and learners also creates challenges regarding the proper use of digital technology in the classroom as well as in the administrative section of the school.

The study participants commented that the quality of education depends on the development of infrastructure related to digital technology in education, which is only possible through coordination with administration, teachers, and students. They stated that different kinds of capacity-building and career-development training need to be conducted in the school regarding the proper use of digital technology in the classroom. The major focus of the participants is that teachers need to properly utilize their time to use digital technologies in the classroom. The lack of proper knowledge to operate digital equipment in the classroom may create problems for teachers, and some teachers from community schools do not have the capacity to install computer programs and software on their computers. Lack of proper digital equipment in the classroom, training to the teachers, unstable electricity, lack of internet, and so many other factors create problems regarding the proper adoption of digital technologies in the classroom.

The findings of this study suggest that the adoption of digital technologies in the field of education in the context of Nepal is more challenging than opportunistic due to the lack of proper development of infrastructure in the schools. The study participants emphasized the need for digital literacy for both teachers and learners regarding the proper use of digital technologies in the field of education. The study recommends that the administration of schools should conduct different types of ICT-based training to adopt digital technologies in the classroom, and the old-generation teachers should be motivated to adopt digital technology in their planning and teaching activities. The study also suggests that the government should provide adequate resources and infrastructure to schools to facilitate the proper use of digital technologies in the classroom.

Opportunities of adopting digital technology

The integration of digital technologies in the classroom has become a crucial aspect of modern education. According to A. P. Gilakjani, digital technologies are used for the construction of knowledge, indicating learners' understandings and beliefs(A. P. Gilakjani, J International Journal of English Linguistics, 2017). Digital technologies provide positive insights to the learners, allowing them to engage and cooperate with their peers to share problems and issues related to particular subject matters (Thomas & Palmer, 2014). The proper use of technology facilitates the teaching and learning process and supports increasing the learning outcomes of the students. However, the adoption of digital technologies in education is not without its challenges. The lack of adequate equipment or connectivity, termed the access constraint, is one of the major challenges in the field of education, which creates problems in the implementation of educational technologies((Fu & ICT, 2013). Inadequate training for teachers and concerned stakeholders about the proper use of digital technology in the classroom is another challenge of adopting digital technology in education.

During the open interviews conducted with secondary-level English teachers, the lack of proper knowledge to operate digital equipment in the classroom was identified as a problem. Some teachers from community schools do not have the capacity to install computer programs and software on their computers. Digital literacy for both teachers and learners creates challenges regarding the proper use of digital technology in the classroom, as well as in the administrative section of the school.

The research participants commented that the quality of education depends on the development of infrastructure related to digital technology in education, which is only possible through coordination with administration, teachers, and students. They stated that different kinds of capacity-building and career-development training need to be conducted in schools regarding the proper use of digital technology in the classroom. The major focus of the participants is that teachers need to properly utilize their time to use digital technologies in the classroom. The adoption of digital technologies in different instructional activities offers an effective means to access a range of valid information needed for the teaching and learning process.

Ways of improving the adoption of digital technologies in education

The integration of digital technologies in the classroom can enhance the teaching and learning process, but it requires proper infrastructure and training for teachers to be successful(Raja, Nagasubramani, & Research, 2018). Teachers should have a keen interest in using digital technologies in their classroom teaching, and they should create tasks that involve the proper use of digital technology to encourage students to become familiar with it(Kali, 2014). The lack of adequate equipment or connectivity, inadequate training for teachers, and digital literacy for both teachers and students are major challenges in adopting digital technology in education (Rintaningrum, 2018). However, the proper adoption of digital technologies in the classroom can offer opportunities such as capacity enhancement, ease of lesson planning and practice, access to authentic materials, and the creation of a virtual group of teachers to share issues and challenges. Teachers and learners need to be aware of the significance of digital technologies in the present context of teaching and learning. The quality of education depends on the development of infrastructure related to digital technology, and different kinds of capacity-building and career-development training need to be conducted in schools. The increasing use of digital technologies in instruction, learning, and assessment can increase the quality of education and associate learning with real-life situations.

Conclusion

The adoption of digital technologies in the teaching and learning process is crucial for enhancing the capacity of teachers and learners to use digitally advanced tools and techniques in education. However, the study found that there is a gap between the challenges and opportunities of adopting digital technologies in the field of education, mostly in the teaching and learning process. The major challenges include the lack of infrastructure, inadequate number of digital devices, lack of digital literacy among teachers, and insufficient training on using digital technologies in proper ways. The lack of proper backup systems of electricity and stable internet services in most community schools of Nepal is also a significant challenge.

To promote the proper use of digital technologies in the classroom, it is necessary to manage the proper infrastructure and technologies in the classroom and provide proper training to enhance the capacity of teachers on digital literacy. Teachers should also have a keen interest in the use of digital technologies in their classroom teaching, and students should be encouraged to submit assignments in the form of soft files through email.

The study also revealed that the proper adoption of technology helps individual teachers to enhance their capacity related to technologies and makes the learning classroom interesting, enjoyable, and interactive to achieve the goal of education. The administrative section of education can also be managed and accountable through the proper use of digital technologies.

In brief, the proper adoption of digital technologies in the teaching and learning process is essential for enhancing the quality of education and associating learning with real-life situations. The challenges of adopting digital technologies in the classroom can be overcome through proper infrastructure, digital literacy, and training.

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Review

Corruption Trend Analysis and Problem in Nepal

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ABSTRACT

Corruption involves the misuse of entrusted authority for personal gain or the inappropriate utilization of public resources for private interests. This unethical practice undermines social, political, and economic progress and erodes trust in public institutions. This article aims to examine the corruption scenario in Nepal, which is a major obstacle to overall development. The study adopts a descriptive and analytical approach, drawing data mainly from various secondary resources. It explores several corruption scandals directly linked to Nepal's good governance and raises crucial questions regarding government accountability, the rule of law, social justice, and public policy. Additionally, this paper provides a concise overview of the theoretical framework surrounding good governance and public policy, emphasizing the long-term implications of weak governance on the federal democratic system and poverty reduction efforts. Applying descriptive and bivariate analysis, it draws a level, trend, and pattern of corruption and improper conduct using the disaggregated level data. The study reveals that corruption is multi-dimensional, widely prevalent, and institutionalized in Nepal. Corruption is intrinsically tied to politics, and it has vastly increased as democratization, economic liberalization, educational levels, personal wealth, geographic mobility, and life expectancy have also all increased. There are fierce moral contests about corruption within Nepal, and these contests often focus on what the proper locus of reciprocity is and on what counts as negative reciprocity. The study highlights the importance of good governance and public policy in addressing corruption and emphasizes the long-term implications of weak governance on the federal democratic system and poverty reduction efforts. The study calls for increased government accountability, the rule of law, and social justice to combat corruption in Nepal.

Key words: corruption, descriptive, good governance, public policy

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Introduction

Corruption

Corruption is a global condition that affects every type of government, at every level, and has bewitched scholars of governance from ancient times to the present day (Powell et al., 2019). It is an issue in public debates and everyday conversation in many countries. The legal definition of corruption, though seems concerned more with legal procedure and evidences, ignores the people's own assessment of actions. Neglecting the socially sanctioned sphere while prioritizing legally, one poses significant challenges in the fight against corruption in Nepal. To address this issue comprehensively, it becomes imperative to take into account both the legal and social dimensions of corruption, allowing for a more holistic approach towards combating this pervasive issue. Corruption is related to democratization process. Economic and political competition, transparency and accountability, coupled with democratic principles of checks and balances, are the necessary instruments to restrict corruption and power abuse. The corruption is defined as encompassing a wide spectrum of activities, ranging from the misuse of power and authority to a manifestation of moral decay (Amundsen, 2000). Some of the basic characteristics of corruption are bribery, embezzlement, fraud, extortion, favoritism, and, nepotism.

Governance

The concept of governance has evolved over time, starting from ancient societies where people united in families, communities, and larger societies. Today, governance has reached a global level, with interconnected and interdependent societies. To ensure smooth functioning, societies require a form of social order, which is maintained through mechanisms known as the governance system. This system regulates human activities, upholds social norms, values, religion, culture, customs, and societal standards, fostering respect and adherence to these elements for the well-being of the society. According to Mark Bevier, "governance is all processes of governing undertaken by a government, market, or network over a family, tribe, formal or informal organization, or territory through laws, norms, power, or language." Governance in a broader sense, is referred to emphasize changes in the nature and role of the state following the public sector reforms of the 1980s and 1990s.These reforms led a shift from a hierarchical bureaucracy to a greater space for public service delivery through markets, quasi-markets, and networks. The effects of the reforms said above intensified increase in transnational economic activity and also helped the rise of regional institutions such as the European Union. Thus, governance offers a broad and holistic belief that the state increasingly depends on many organizations at different government and non-government sectors to secure its intentions and deliver as per its policies.

Good Governance

Justice occupies a central position in the framework of good governance, highlighting its significance in creating a fair society where individuals, regardless of their backgrounds or beliefs, can coexist harmoniously, free from any form of prejudice or discrimination (Ali, 2020). The good governance encompasses the interplay of various elements, including institutional frameworks, procedural mechanisms, and established customs, which collectively shape the exercise of power, decision-making processes, delivery of service and the provision of opportunities for citizens and stakeholders to express their perspectives and concerns (Sangroula, 2020). It is legitimate, accountable and effective ways of obtaining and using public power and resources in the pursuit of widely-accepted social goals (Ali, 2020). Therefore, good governance standards are skeleton to continue and flourish the state offering citizen friendly governance system. It is widely believed that good governance is predominantly linked to western values, particularly those grounded in European principles (Addink, 2019). In Western democracies, governance is perceived in two ways: as a managerial function or as a leadership responsibility carried out by various entities including government, politicians, businesses, academia, nonprofit organizations, community groups, or specific individuals within civil society (Marinova, et al., 2014). Good governance relates to the political and institutional outcomes that achieve the goals of development. Human Rights Council has identified the key attributes of good governance that are transparency, responsibility, accountability, participation and responsiveness. Without good governance, human rights cannot be protected and become difficult to realize. It aims at protection and promotion of rights, welfare and well-being of the citizens through legitimized democratic governance under the rule of law (Lamichhane, 2021).

Corruption and Good Governance

Corruption is an alarmingly growing concern in Nepal. The issue of corruption has become more prominent in Nepali bureaucracy, politics and other sectors. Bribery, embezzlement, fraud, extortion, favoritism and nepotism are the major corruption incidents in Nepal (Amundsen, 2000). The escalating frequency of corruption incidents raises inquiries about the effectiveness of democratic institutions, public service delivery, the rule of law, and anti-corruption measures. Good governance encompasses the entirety of governing processes, including institutions, procedures, and practices that determine and regulate matters of common interest. This article aims to examine multiple instances of corruption, which are rapidly growing and primarily pertain to the issue of good governance in Nepal. Corruption has existed throughout human history and extends to both the public and private sectors, encompassing profit-oriented, non-profit, and charitable organizations (Shah, 2017). It persists in both developing and developed nations, albeit being more prevalent in developing countries. Corruption is a multifaceted and intricate phenomenon that manifests in diverse forms and functions across different contexts. Specifically, corruption entails the exploitation of public resources by individuals holding public positions for personal benefits (Subedi, 2005).

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2022 reveals persistent and widespread corruption on a global scale, with an average global score remaining stagnant at 43 out of 100 for the eleventh consecutive year. More than two-thirds (68 percent) of countries score below 50 out of 100. While 25 countries have shown improvement in addressing corruption, 31 countries have experienced a decline in their corruption ranking, leaving 124 countries maintaining their previous positions. Countries with strong institutions and well-established democratic systems tend to occupy top positions in the Index, while countries facing internal conflicts or restrictions on personal and political freedoms receive the lowest scores. In 2022, Denmark is identified as the least corrupt country with a score of 90, while Somalia is recognized as the most corrupt country with a score of 12. Western Europe secures the highest regional ranking with a score of 66, followed by Asia-Pacific with 45, the Americas with 43, the Middle East and North Africa with 38, Eastern Europe and Central Asia with 35, and Sub-Saharan Africa with 32.

Nepal's position in the CPI, is 110th out of 180 countries and territories. Although there has been a slight improvement, with a climb of seven places compared to the previous years' ranking of 117th, Nepal's score in the Transparency International report is 34 out of 100. This score reflects a notable presence of corruption within the public sector, underscoring the significant challenges Nepal faces in tackling this issue.

The governance system of Nepal is guided by its history, geography, religion, societal values and norms, and culture that influence politics, policy and its relationship and geopolitics with other countries (Bhattacharya, 2022). Practically, the recent governance system seems more guided by politics. Hence, the good governance is still a big challenge for Nepal to achieve.

Research Objective

The objective of this article is to discuss a series of corruption scandals that have been on the rise in recent years in Nepal. These scandals have raised concerns about the state of good governance in Nepal, which, in turn, has a direct impact on crucial aspects such as the rule of law, democracy, accountability, social security, freedom, and respect for the people. Furthermore, the article aims to highlight the long-term consequences of such corruption on society, including increased criminality, poverty, and hunger, all of which significantly hinder Nepal's development.

Methodology

The study gathers data and information from books, journals, annual reports of organizations such as the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) and Office of the Auditor General (OAG), relevant laws, development plans, policies, and other pertinent sources. Additionally, newspaper publications were analyzed to extract relevant content. The collected secondary data were categorized and organized into themes. The data were then presented using descriptive and analytical methods, utilizing tables, case studies, and descriptive narratives. Both descriptive and analytical approaches were employed for data analysis.

Results and Discussion

Demand of Public Policy and Relation to Good Governance

Regarding the historical development of public policy, the first articulation of the concept of public policy sciences by Harold Lasswell in 1951 holds significant relevance in the realm of politics and society (Torgerson, 1985). Before this, the term public policy was used by John Dewey, in 1972 who published The Public and Its Problems as a response to doubts about the democracy and capacity of the public in the wake of First World War. Laswell's case for a preventive politics believes on the concern that policy should significantly be relied on the democratic principles and values. The policy scientists and advocates distinguish between political science, public administration, communications, psychology, jurisprudence, sociology, etc.

Public policy is an institutional tool to solve the real-world problems through the government. It is the relationship of government units to the specific field of political system in a given administrative environment. Good governance and public policy are interrelated. However, without good government and good governance, public policy cannot be effectively implemented. During 1861 and 1871, the process of nation-building brought changes to political debates and the perspectives of political scientists. Good governance plays a crucial role in creating a favorable environment for preparing and effectively implementing public policies. However, in fragile governance environments, the implementation of public policy becomes a significant challenge, leading to increased corruption at various levels of government and the private sector. Corruption often stems from the intentions and actions of those in power, leading policymakers and decision-makers to prioritize their own interests over those of the general public. Elites may exploit their authority to manipulate public policies, resulting in limited benefits and welfare for society at large.

Despite constitutional advancements and political transformations, the implementation of public policies often falls short. To address this issue, it is essential for the government to adopt a proactive approach, ensuring the effectiveness of public policies through adherence to the principles and values of good governance.

Rising Corruptions and Fragile Governance in Nepal

In the past three decades, Nepal has experienced significant political transformations, including a decade-long armed conflict from 1996 to 2006, and the adoption of seven constitutions within the last 70 years. The constitution establishes Nepal as a federal democratic republic country, with federal (central), provincial (seven), and local (seven hundred and fifty-three) governments. Each tier possesses its own legislative, executive, and judicial powers and responsibilities. The government's development policy is outlined in the 15th periodic plan, which is currently being implemented. This plan aims to achieve socioeconomic transformation and alleviate poverty through high economic growth, productive employment, and equitable distribution. Over the past decade, Nepal has experienced an average annual GDP growth rate of 4.3 percent, which significantly reduced to 0.2 percent due to the extensive damage caused by the 2015 earthquake. The World Bank has updated the global poverty line from $1.90 to $2.15 per day, and approximately

9.2 percent of the world's population, or roughly 719 million people, are living below this daily income threshold. According to the Economic Survey 2022/23, 15.1 percent of Nepalese live below the poverty line. The national poverty rate has decreased from 30.9 percent in 2004 to 15.1 percent in 2018, indicating that the growth process has generally been inclusive (ADB, 2018).

Despite the shift towards a new constitutional framework, Nepal continues to grapple with a persistent issue of corruption that is rapidly worsening over time. As per the Transparency International's (TI) report, Nepal's position in the CPI stands at 110 out of 180 nations, with a corresponding score of 34 out of 100 (TI, 2022). The available data indicates Nepal's CPI rank and its index since 2004 to 2022.

Table 1: Corruption Rank and Index of Nepal

Year	CPI Rank	CPI Index
2004	90	28
2005	117	25
2006	121	25
2007	131	25
2008	121	27
2009	143	23
2010	146	22
2011	154	22
2012	139	27
2013	116	31
2014	126	29
2015	130	27
2016	131	29
2017	122	31
2018	124	31
2019	113	34
2020	117	33
2021	117	33
2022	110	34

Source: TI Report, 2022

Global Scenario of CPI Results

Several countries have consistently demonstrated a high level of integrity and minimal corruption, as evident from their rankings in the CPI. Denmark leads the CPI, securing the top position with an impressive score of 90. Finland and New Zealand follow closely behind, both sharing the second position with scores of 87. Norway and Sweden secure the fourth and fifth positions respectively, with scores of 84 and 83. Singapore, known for its stringent anti-corruption measures, ranks sixth with a score of 83 in Asia. Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany, and Ireland complete the top 10, each showcasing their commitment to combating corruption with scores of 82, 80, 79, and 77 respectively. These countries showcase effective governance and provide valuable insights into anti-corruption strategies and practices.

Table 2: Least corrupted countries in the World

Country	Rank	Index
Denmark	1	90
Finland	2	87
Newzland	3	87
Norway	4	84
Sweden	5	83
Singapore	6	83
Switzerland	7	82
Netherland	8	80
Germany	9	79
Ireland	10	77

Source: TI Report, 2022

In contrast to the least corrupted countries, certain nations around the world face significant challenges in combating corruption, as indicated by their rankings in the CPI. Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Libya, and North Korea share the 171st position with the score of 17, emphasizing the pervasive nature of corruption within their governance systems. Yemen follows closely behind at the 176th rank with a score of 16, while Venezuela ranks 177th with a score of 14, underscoring the pressing need for comprehensive anti-corruption measures in these countries. South Sudan and Syria share the 178th position, both receiving a score of 13, highlighting the significant corruption-related challenges they face. Somalia ranks at the bottom of the CPI, securing the 180th position with the lowest score of 12, indicating the urgent need for systemic reforms and anti-corruption efforts.

Table 3: Most corrupted countries in the World

Country	Rank	Index
Burundi	171	17
Equatorial Guinea	171	17
Haiti	171	17
Libya	171	17
North Korea	171	17
Yeman	176	16
Venezuela	177	14
South Sudan	178	13
Syria	178	13
Somalia	180	12

Source: TI Report, 2022

In Asia, Singapore emerges as one of the least corrupted countries, securing the 5th position with an impressive score of 83 in the CPI. Hong Kong ranks 12th with a score of 76, showcasing its robust anti-corruption measures. Japan also demonstrates a commendable performance, standing at the 18thposition with a score of 73, reflecting commitment for transparency and integrity. Bhutan and Taiwan share the 25th rank, with scores of 68 and 67 respectively, indicating need to combat corruption and uphold good governance. The following graph provides the least corrupted ten countries in Asia.

Table 4: Least corrupted countries in Asia

Country	Rank	Index
Singapore	5	83
Hong Kong	12	76
Japan	18	73
Bhutan	25	68
Taiwan	25	67
United Arab Emirates	27	63
Israel	31	63
South Korea	31	62
Burnai	35	60
Qatar	40	5 8

Source: TI Report, 2022

Cambodia, Lebanon, and Tajikistan share the 150th position with a score of 24, reflecting the prevalence of corruption. Azerbaijan, Iraq, and Myanmar also rank at 157, with a score of 23, highlighting the need for comprehensive anti-corruption measures. Turkmenistan, at the 167th position, has a score of 19, indicating persistent corruption-related issues. North Korea follows closely behind at the 171st rank, with a score of 17, while Yemen stands at the 176th position with a score of 16, signifying significant corruption challenges. Syria ranks 178th with the lowest score of 13, suggesting a pressing need for anti-corruption efforts in the country.

Table 5: Most corrupted countries in Asia

Country	Rank	Index
Cambodia	150	24
Lebanon	150	24
Tajikistan	150	24
Azerbaijan	157	23
Iraq	157	23
Myanmar	157	23
Turkmenistan	167	19
North Korea	171	17
Yemen	176	16
Syria	178	13

Source: TI Report, 2022

Within the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries, CPI rankings and scores vary notably. Afghanistan and Bangladesh share a similar rank at 150, with CPI scores of 24 and 25 respectively, indicating significant corruption challenges. Bhutan, on the other hand, performs relatively better, securing the 25th position with a score of 68, showcasing its commitment to combating corruption. India and Maldives share the 85th rank, both obtaining a score of 40, signifying the presence of corruption-related issues. Nepal, standing at the 110th position, has a score of 34, reflecting corruption challenges. The variations in CPI rankings and scores among SAARC member countries underscore the importance of strengthening anti-corruption efforts and promoting transparency and accountability within their respective governance systems.

Table 6: Corruption Rank and Index of South Asian Countries

Country	Rank	Index
Afghanistan	150	24
Bangladesh	147	25
Bhutan	25	68
India	85	40
Maldives	85	40
Nepal	110	34
Pakistan	140	27
Sri-Lanka	101	36

Source: TI Report, 2022 Reports of Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) and Growth of Corruptions

According to the CIAA report, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration is identified as the most corrupt ministry, followed by the Ministries of Education, Land Reforms, Forest and Environment, Health and Population, and Home Affairs. In the past years, out of the total 24,331 complaints received by the commission, 17,169 complaints were dismissed, while the remaining 7,162 complaints are still under investigation and have been carried forward to the fiscal year 2079/80. The report also highlights the CIAA's filing of cases at the Special Court, with a total of 131 cases registered. These cases involve various offenses, including 32 related to bribery, 6 involving fake academic certificates, 7 related to illegal property earning, 35 pertaining to damage to public property, 34 involving unlawful gain or loss, 5 related to revenue irregularities, and 12 cases classified as others. During this period, the CIAA filed a total of 131 cases, resulting in 649 defendants and claiming fines exceeding 2,792,748,100 Nepalese rupees. In the fiscal year 2078/79, 70.56% of the 24,331 complaints were addressed, while the remaining cases were carried over to the fiscal year 2079/80. The CIAA has implemented an institutional strategy encompassing preventive, curative, promotional, and capacity building measures. These findings provide insights into the efficiency of the CIAA in handling public complaints and highlight the variations across different provinces in terms of case addressing numbers.

Table 7: Addressed cases at CIAA and agencies under CIAA at provincial level.

Country	Cases Address	Total No. of Complaints
Koshi	1348	2636
Madhesh	3446	5506
Bagmati	4123	5478
Gandaki	1096	1731
Lumbimi	2497	3180
Karnali	1238	1857
Surpashchim	1478	2315
Not Stated	1125	1628
Total	171 68	24331

Source: CIAA Annual Report 2022

Moreover, the CIAA has reached to the finding that the prevailing electoral system is more responsible for the escalated corruption and has proposed a thorough evaluation and reform of the system. The CIAA highlighted that the exorbitant expenses associated with elections contributed to the inflation of commodity prices and fostered corruption. It has recommended a banking transaction for receiving donations by political parties, major stakeholder organizations, and independent candidates as a means to ensure transparency. However, these may not be enough to check, control and address corruption issues; still more tools need to be devised, put in place and thus assured.

Means of Complaint

The table below illustrates the breakdown of complaints received by the CIAA in the fiscal year 2078/79. Highest number of complaints (4,495) were received through written applications. Additionally, complaints were also received through postal services, emails, websites, and other channels, while the fewest number of complaints were received via SMS, with only 4 registered.

Table 8: Details of complaints based on the means of complaint registered in CIAA FY 2078/79

Complaints	No of Complains
Written Request	4495
Postal Service	2760
Email	2757
Website	2165
Telephone	750
Newspaper	290
Mobile App	102
Facebook	93
Viber	15
SMS	4
Others	2807

Source: CIAA Database FY 2078/2079

Areas of Complaints

The CIAA received complaints in various thematic areas, with a notable concentration in federal affairs, education, health, land administration, forest and environment, health and population, physical infrastructure and transportation, and home affairs. Additionally, there were significant reports of complaints regarding illegal acquisition of wealth and fake educational certificates. Table 9 below provides a detailed overview of the different areas of complaints received during the fiscal year 2079/80.

Table 9: Areas of complaints

Areas	Areas of Complaints
Federal Affairs	33.14
Education	15.31
Land Administration	7.71
Forest and Environment	4.62
Health and Population	3.99
Physical Infrastructure and Transportation	3.88
Home Affairs	3.75
Tourism, Industry and Trade	3.23
Energy, Water Resource and Irrigation	3.09
Water Supply and Urban Development	2.98
Agriculture and Livestock	1.88
Finance and Revenue	1.96
Communication and Information Technology	0
False Academic Certif-icate	5.6 8
Illegal Wealth	4.79
Others	3

Source: CIAA Database FY 2078/2079

The CIAA filed cases in various provinces, with the highest number of cases in Madhesh (28%); followed by Lumbini (15%), Sudurpashchim (13%), Koshi (13%), Bagmati (12%), Karnali (10%), and Gandaki (8.47%).

Table 10: Cases filed by the CIAA in Fiscal Year 2078/79

Provenance	Complaints %
Koshi	13%
Madhesh	28%
Bagmati	12%
Gandaki	8%
Lumbini	15%
Karnali	10%
Sudurpaschim	14%

Source: CIAA Database FY 2078/2079

Corruption as a Barrier for Development in Nepal

Nepal has witnessed several corruption scandals raising serious concerns about the government's adherence to the rule of law, justice, accountability, and transparency. These scandals predominantly involve high-ranking politicians and bureaucrats. Notable examples include the 33 kg gold scandal, Nirmala murder scandal, wide-body aircraft scandal, Baluwatar land scam, etc. These shocking incidents further highlight the systemic inequality in the application of the rule of law. Unfortunately, the culprits responsible for these crimes are yet to face appropriate punishment based on the evidence, indicating a significant role of corruption at highest levels of authorities. The case of Nirmala Panta, a 13-year-old girl from Kanchanpur, brutally raped and murdered, remains etched in the collective memory of Nepali society. Disturbingly, investigations have revealed that evidence of the rape was tampered with by individuals with power and authority.

Likewise, the wide-body aircraft scandal is another largest corruption scandal. The procurement of two wide-body Airbus A330 jets by Nepal Airlines Corporation, amounting to a $209.6 million deal, has been determined by the Sub-committee under the Parliamentary Public Account Committee to have caused a loss of Rs 4.34 billion to the government. This shameful disclosure has highlighted the magnitude of corruption within the aviation sector (Prasain, 2019). Additionally, the anti-corruption constitutional body, CIAA, has taken legal action by filing a charge-sheet at the Special Court, implicating 175 individuals for their involvement in irregularities related to the encroachment of government land in Baluwatar, Kathmandu. Notable high-ranking government officials, including former deputy minister, as well as other former ministers, have been implicated in this case (Online Khabar, 2020).

The prevalence of corruption scandals in Nepal has been demonstrated by many of the Nepalese media that countless incidents of corruption remain concealed, perpetuating a cycle of cruelty and emboldening criminals, while leaving the general populace vulnerable to their actions. Corruption has reached alarming levels and has become deeply ingrained in society, culminating in tragic outcomes such as an increase in suicides among those who face immense financial struggles. Corruption has led to brain drain, as individuals who adhere to their moral principles find it untenable to survive in such an environment and choose to leave the country. The consequences of this systemic corruption are evident in unnecessary inflation, rampant crime, murders, and pervasive hunger, all stemming largely from the abuse of authority. Recently, the Nepal Police exposed its investigation into the Bhutanese refugee scam and recommended the prosecution of 33 individuals, including senior political leaders from various parties, on charges of fraud, organized crime against the nation, and treason.

The corruption poses a significant barrier to development in Nepal. Addressing corruption is crucial for Nepal to unleash its full potential, foster sustainable development, and improve the well-being of its people.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the issue of corruption in Nepal is a significant obstacle to the country's overall development, impeding economic growth and progress. The entrenchment of corruption, characterized by irregularities and rent-seeking practices, has deeply infiltrated the political and public administration systems, hindering economic advancement. The detrimental effects of corruption have impeded Nepal's ability to achieve sustainable growth, posing significant obstacles to its developmental aspirations. The research highlighted the escalating culture of corruption in Nepal and the government's failure to apprehend the main culprits behind major corruption scandals, raising critical questions regarding good governance, emphasizing the absence of the rule of law, democracy, freedom, accountability, and transparency, thus resulting in increased poverty, hunger, and crime rather than their alleviation.

To combat corruption, it is imperative for Nepal to undertake significant measures to promote good governance and achieve sustainable development. This entails immediately implementing comprehensive reforms, bolstering institutional frameworks, and actively involving citizens in the process. By fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and integrity, in addition to good governance principles, Nepal can lay the foundation for a more just, inclusive, and prosperous society. The collective efforts of all stakeholders are crucial in addressing these challenges and steering the nation towards sustainable development committed in the global forum. The research recommends that the politicians, bureaucrats, and other authorities recognize the fragility of good governance and its far-reaching impact on societal progress, particularly within the federal democratic system. Raising awareness among the people about the corrosive nature of corruption is crucial, as it is not merely an economic or financial issue but a prime contributor to the rise of high-level crime and the perpetuation of a corrupt culture for generations.

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Research

Changing Role of Dalit Women at the Community Level

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the changing role of Dalit women at the community level, particularly in Shikhar Municipality of Doti, far west region. The study collected data from 132 respondents selected randomly using the quantitative case study method. The study found that the awareness level of Dalit women has increased, motivating them to improve their socio-economic status in the community. They are becoming skillful, independent, and change agents, working against social stigma, and playing decision-making roles in the household and community levels. They are gaining power, advancing capacity, and influencing social practices that advance the interests of other Dalit and Non-Dalit women such as empathy, collaboration, open-mindedness, fairness, and kindness. Additionally, Dalit women are playing economic, socio-cultural, and leadership roles against paradox due to the implementation of a target budget program that offers technical/financial support to them. The study recommends increasing the size of the target budget for Dalit women's entrepreneurship development throughout the country.

Key words: Dalit women, changing role, socio-economic role, community level

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Introduction

The Manusmriti has institutionalized women's criticism in Hindu ceremonies, systematically undermining their self-worth (Jain, 1994). According to the Manusmriti, a woman's primary duty should be to serve and obey her father, brothers, and other male family members. After marriage, she should continue to serve her husband, fathers-in-law, mothers-in-law, and other senior male and female family members (Jain, 1994). This conditioning leads women to obey male family members throughout their lives. This incident made people understand that under the law, women are not equal to men and are economically and socially dependent on men holding a greater social rank than women (Bennett, Sijapati & Thapa, 2013). Women have a low socio-economic standing and a limited ability to perform transformative roles in a patriarchal gender-biased social system defined by male dominance over women (Acharya, 2001). The Sudra caste, commonly known as Dalits, is regarded as the lowest and untouchable caste (Nepal Academy, 2010). The term 'Dalit' is a socially restructured verse of the Vedic term 'Sudra' Bishwakarma (2020). The Sudra caste, the untouchable, was created from the feet of a cosmic being (Brahma) assigned to the lowest rank in the value hierarchy.

Dalits are a group of people who have experienced oppression, crushing, stepping up, kneading, grinding down, humiliation by kneeling at someone else's feet, or silence by repression (Nepal Academy, 2010).

The word currently refers to a group of towns and cities whose citizens have historically been politically helpless, economically backward, and socially backward (Tiwary, 2007).

For Pasa and Bishwakarma (2020), Dalits are theologically unholy, historically uncivilized, socio-culturally untouchable, economically poor, educationally ignorant (illiterate), politically unheard, and socially excluded group of people

According to the National Dalit Commission (NDC), a "Dalit" is a member of a community that has experienced untouchability and is thus considered to be the most backward in terms of social, economic, educational, political, and religious sectors (NDC, 2008).

Similarly, Kisan (2013) argues that the term 'Dalit' stands for four aspects in general: i) social, cultural, economic, and political deprivation, exploitation, and exclusion ii) rejection of the concept of purity-pollution and caste-based hierarchy, iii) historically untouchables and discriminated iv) unity, change, and revolution.

Nevertheless, ongoing debates attempt to define and analyze the term Dalit on three distinct premises: communal analysis, class-based analysis, and caste-based analysis. The person and institutions, whose analysis is based on class, argue that Dalit includes a group of people who represent the lower class in terms of economic, educational, and political ability.

The National Dalit Commission has listed 671 surnames out of 21 Dalit caste groups (5 castes known as Hill and 16 castes known as Madeshi Dalit). Dalits are scattered across Nepal. Madhesi Dalits are primarily located in Central and Eastern regions, while Hill Dalit are primarily found in the Mid-western and Far-western regions. Although Dalits have been increasingly changing their faith in recent years, they have rarely been able to escape the stigma and obtain a formal status in the Hindu caste order (Bennett et al., 2013).

Dalits are not a homogenous group of people. In different regions of Nepal, they wear different dress-codes, celebrate different festivals, and speak different languages.

Traditionally, in Chadani, (untouchable) Damai, Luhar, Badi, Sunar, Paudel, Kami, Nepali, Sarki, Bishwakarma, Dholi, Koli, and Bhul are considered Dalit. The National Dalit Commission (NDC) has identified different caste groups as untouchable choichito halnuparne (caste from whom water is not accepted) including Kalar Kakihawa, Kori, Khatik, Khatwe (Mandl, Khang), Chamar (Ram, Mochi, Harijan, Ravidas), Chidimar, Dom (Marik), Tatma (Tati, Das), Dhusad (Paswan, Hajara), Dhobi (Rajak), Patharkatta, Pasi, Batar, Mushar, and Mehtar, which are found in the Tarai region. Non-Dalit refers to the opposite of Dalit, those who are touchable or Pani chalne/chhoichhitto halnunaparne (water is accepted, traditional bathing or sprinkling water drops is not required). Although caste-based discrimination is prohibited by the Constitution of Nepal 2072, it is still being practiced throughout the country.

In Nepal, women (Dalit and non-Dalit) have limited room to assert their uniqueness in a male-dominated family system. Factors such as illiteracy, poverty, stereotypical female perspective, and insufficient legal protection are regarded as major affecting factors. For these reasons, women are excluded from economic and social prospects, which makes their lives miserable. Dalits are one of the historically oppressed groups and are still living in a vulnerable context throughout the country. For example, of the total 2,000,000 Dalit population, only 40 percent are literate, and more than 48 percent are living below the poverty line (NDC, 2021).

After the 1990s, policymakers began to place a greater emphasis on improving women's position. In 1995, the World Women's Conference was held in Beijing, which emphasized the issue of women's empowerment. Since then, Nepalese women have significantly participated in socio-cultural, economic, and political developmental initiatives differently. Nepal has also been undergoing economic transformation from a relatively stable reproduction based on the feudal and caste-based system. Sharma (2021) asserted that women's awareness and consciousness of political and gender issues have rapidly increased. Despite this, inclusivity to ensure women's participation in elections from different backgrounds: caste, ethnic groups, cultures, and languages has not been demonstrated in the election results. Local governments have been allocating a fifteen percent target budget program for empowering marginalized communities, including Dalit and non-Dalit women, since 2013 (MoFALD, 2013).

Problem Statement

It is urgent to consider the changing role of Dalit women as a crucial factor that helps achieve the targeted goal of the development program, including the target budget program. Human resources (both men and women) are historically responsible as creative forces of progressive development throughout human civilizations. In the course of human civilization and propelling social development, women have played a great role. Due to the implementation of the target budget program at the local level, for the last few years, Dalit women have become aware, skillful, independent, and played economic, socio-cultural, and leadership roles at the community level. Beyond caste-based discrimination, such a changing role of Dalit women drags the interests such as empathy, collaboration, open-mindedness, fairness, and kindness of other women (Dalit and non-Dalit).

Research Objective

This study aims to analyze the changing role of Dalit women at the community level, particularly in the Shikhar municipality of Doti located in the far-western region of the country.

Literature Review

To internilised the context from eastern approach of management must be perceived (Mishra, 2022; Mishra, 2020). Social exclusion is the root cause of women's disempowerment. A procession of 'Civic rights movements' held in 1947 in Padmodaya High School was an initial stage of a women empowerment campaign in which many women took part (Acharya, 1997). Then, a women's delegation met the Prime Minister, Padma Shamsher, with a demand to ensure their rights to education, rights to employment, and voting rights (Acharya, 1997). Similarly, there was another movement known as National Congress that took place in 1948 for Nepalese women's empowerment (Pokherel & Mishra, 2001)

Kamal Bhasin, an Indian sociologist, defines empowerment as a process of augmenting social aspects, self-dignity, self-reliance, and going control over resources (Chaulagai et al., 2003).

The government, including many I/NGOs, is working to empower women. Since the government established the Ministry for Women and Social Welfare following the Beijing conference, several groups have also notably been playing a crucial role in boosting the participation of women in social, economic, and political spheres (Ojha, 1992). Although women still rely on men for financial support, having a job helps a person rise in social standing; people value salaried women more highly than those without jobs (Gurung, 1999).

As UNDP (1995) reports, women also suffer from discriminatory practices such as less access to educational opportunities and personal mobility, which is required for knowledge and skills development. But the inter-census data collected from 1971 to 2011 showed that women's participation, as employment, in the non-agricultural field has increased. However, there is also an increment of low-level participation of males and females in some selected occupations, a substantial increase, in unstable work, and men's participation has substantially declined compared to other occupations between 1981 and 2011. During the inter-census periods from 1971, 1981, 2001, and 2011, women appear to replace men in labor-intensive and low-paid occupations, while men moved on to dominate technical professional and higher production-oriented occupations (UNDP, 2003).

In Nepal, Dalits are one of the poorest communities, and in the Tarai region, many of them are also known as landless (Dangal, 2005). Sharma et al. (1994) noted that the main occupational activity of Dalits is wage labor. In addition, their survival mainly depended on caste-based traditional work/occupations: blacksmithing, leatherwork, and tailoring. Because of poor financial conditions, they could not offer educational opportunities for their children. Even though they believe that God gave birth to them to serve the higher caste people, that evidences their low level of awareness (Sharma, et al., 1994). Discrimination in the empowerment of economic development is a responsible factor for the socio-culture, legal, educational, and political backwardness of women in Nepal (Pradhan & Shrestha, 2005).

The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD) of the Government of Nepal has disseminated a blended guideline, known as the 'local bodies' resource mobilization guideline-2013, and many recommendations were released under this provision. Article no. 10 stated that out of the total budget, at least 35 percent must be allocated for designated targeted groups. The recommendations were heavily weighted toward the poor and deprived, including women. Similarly, out of the total budget, at least 10 percent should be given to women's empowerment and capacity enrichment. Moreover, at least 10 percent should be for poor and deprived children, and fifteen percent for socio-economically backward and marginalized people (Senior citizens, Disabled persons, Dalits, ethnics, Madhesi, Muslim, and backwarded communities). Women were highly prioritized and focused on in all these sectors[Senior, 2013]. Sharma (2001) identified and examined the circumstances of women working in Kathmandu and found that they believe their status has improved as a result of the occupation they had. The sociology of daily life has also hinted in some ways that working women's roles have been recognized and are crucially taken into account when making decisions about domestic matters (Sharma, 2001).

According to Koirala's 2005 study on the workload of working women in the Ilam sub-metropolitan and the working conditions of women in the Pokhara Valley, the employment situation is dire because so few women participate in decision-making, denying men and women the same opportunities. According to national census data taken from 1971 to 2011, women's employment in the non-agricultural sector has grown. However, the rate of female participation in low-wage and insecure work has significantly increased between 1981-2011, whereas men's participation has significantly declined (CBS, 2011).

The majority of women's roles can be divided into three categories: productive, reproductive, and community management. Productive roles relate to the creation of products for consumption or revenue through labor performed inside or outside the home (relating to tasks and responsibilities carried out for the benefit of the community). Deuba (2004) explained that in order for women to be recognized for their achievements, they must manage the demands of these three diverse positions.

The turning point for Nepalese women's growth was a study Bennett conducted on the status of women in Nepal. The results of a thorough examination in eight villages showed a clear relationship between women's status in the family and community and their capacity to generate income. Additionally, it was shown that it was widespread in the neighborhoods, encouraging female engagement in market activities and women's entrepreneurial skills. The majority of women made stronger statements about how to use and share family resources to boost women's entrepreneurial talents. Instead, these tactics are almost entirely directed at men, which has the tendency to not only fail to unleash the full potential of women's productivity but also to actually degrade their relative status by failing to break down the inside/outside dichotomy and include women in the highly complex and crucial development process as well as wider spheres of society (Acharya & Bennett, 1981). A man does not have to play numerous roles in today's expanding society, but as a result of contemporary civilization, women now have to play both the role of working woman and housewife (Acharya & Bennett, 1982).

The renowned social explorer Acharya (1994) found that less than 1 percent of workers are employers, with the vast majority of people still working for themselves or on their own time. At roughly 56 percent in 1981, the proportion of self-employed people remained largely stable, but it dropped to 75 percent in 1991. Accordingly, UNPEF (1996) reveals that women have less access to educational possibilities, which prevents them from finding jobs in the labor market. The involvement of women in decision-making is also absent, from the household to the executive level. According to the aforementioned study reports, decision-making power and changing role of women.

Methodology

This investigation was designed as a case study using a quantitative research method. The case study research method is an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context and the boundaries between phenomenon and context (Yin, 1984, p. 23). The study focused on the changing sociocultural and economic role of Dalit women playing an equal role in the household and society. The study used multiple sources of data(Merrian, 2009; Stake, 2006; Yin, 2014), including purposive sampling of 132 Dalit females in Shikhar Municipality, which was regarded as a unit of analysis. The required data were collected through self-administered hand-given questionnaires, which were filled up by 132 respondents with close rapport building.

The researcher managed and examined the data using SPSS version 20. Statistical techniques such as frequency tables, central tendency, correlation, and the chi-square test were used(Field, 2009). Similarly, this study also applied description, analysis, and interpretation methods of data analysis(Yin, 2014). The description method helped the researcher to understand the meaning of the data. The analysis method helped the researcher to identify the underlying meanings of data to make a systematic description. Finally, the interpretation method helped the researcher to understand processes and meanings in the theoretical context.

The research field, Shikhar municipality, is an area coordinated at 29.26°N 80.87°E. It occupies 585.37 km2(CBS, 2011). According to CBS (2021), the total population is 31801, including females (18474) population. Among 569 Dalit HHs, 236 HHs were regarded as the sample study population in terms of their role played in the community for social transformation. After that, 132 sample HHs (66 HHs from ward number 1 and another 66 HHs from ward number 6) were randomly selected as sample respondents that are generated with a 95 percent confidence level and 5 percent marginal error by using the sample size determination formula(Krejcie& Morgan, 1970).

Therefore, this study provides a detailed contextual analysis of a limited number of events, context and condition, and their relationships, which helped the researchers to explain a better understanding of the changing role of Dalit women at the community level..

Results and Discussion

Background Characteristics of the Respondents

Out of the 132 total samples, the majority (99.2%) of the respondents are Hindu, and only a few (0.8%) follow Christianity. In the study area, Dalits are following Hindu particular ritual practices contrary to a diverse ritual strand of Tamang in western Nepal (Holmberg, 1984). About 12.9 percent of respondents have completed a higher education degree, which was a greater difference compared to the educational status of their husbands. However, the number of SLC-passed husbands was three times the number of females. Almost the majority (51.6%) of the respondents belonged to a joint family system, and 44.7 percent of families have 2-4 children. The average number of family members (5.7) is greater than the 4.32 national average(CBS, 2021). A majority (60%) of the respondents' children go to government schools, and only 13 percent of respondents' children study in private schools. The subject chosen in the higher study showed that the art and education faculty is at the first rank, commerce at second, and JT/JTA is at the third rank, and so on.

Regarding the involvement of respondents and their husbands in six different occupations, most (65.2%) dominant professions among men can clearly be visible to foreign jobs. Pasa and Bishwakarma (2020a) also found that remittance is becoming a prominent source of family income and investment, particularly in the Dalit community of Mulabari, Dhading. The second leading occupation is agriculture, which accounted for 30.3% of women; however, it is 6.1 percent among husbands, which is in the third rank. The least (3.8%) engagement of husbands is in business, and wives are in a government job (1.55%). The job done by wives in business and the job done by husbands in seasonal business and private jobs are equal (6.8%). Besides agriculture, women are more engaged in private jobs (14.9%), however, a government job is mostly (7.6%) chosen profession by their husbands.

While comparing paddy-land (Khet) and Farm-land (Bari), the possession of a share of Bari is 9.4 percent more in <3 Ropani. Likewise, in the 3-6 Ropani classification, the highest share in Bari with 91.7 percent of the distribution. On the other hand, the remaining disaggregated Ropani of land properties ownership is lowest as compared to <3 and 3-6 Ropani land properties. The minimum and maximum values of Khet/Bari were found <5 Ropani and 10-15 Ropani, respectively. Similarly, the minimum and maximum values for food sufficiency were found < 3 months and > 12 months, respectively.

Therefore, this study provides detailed information on the demographic and occupational characteristics of the respondents, which helps to understand the changing role of Dalit women at the community level.

Economic Role of Women

Nowadays, Dalits women are becoming economically empowered and supporting their family economy. Economic empowerment simply refers to having access to productive assets, access in physical/financial opportunities to achieve economic benefits (Bhattarai, 2009). The minimum and maximum scores of annual family income were found Rs. 48,000 and 540,000 respectively. Among the different sources of family income (e.g. agriculture, remittance, government job, private job, social security allowance, and business) private job scored the highest $\bar{x}$390,000 compared to the minimum 32.7 $\bar{x}$ 27.27 of social security allowance. Similarly, remittance scored a maximum σ 330,952.38 compared to a minimum σ 26,602.52 of social security allowance. Similarly, the range of minimum family expenditure is 3700 (4,000-300) whereas maximum expenditure is 810,000 (900,000-90,000). Education, health, and food secured the highest expenditures 51,569; 42,376, and 30,335 respectively. Similarly, buying household accessories and meat/chicken secured the lowest $\bar{x}$ expenditure 10292 and 11507 respectively. The fact indicates that Dalit women are improving their family economic status (poor to low and low to medium) in the study (see Table 1). However, Pasa and Bishwakarma (2020b) developed a 5Es (i.e. envisioning, educating, empowering, ensuring, and encouraging) holistic model to mainstream Dalit communities towards their own community development.

Table 1: Economic Activities Related Variables

Engage in earning activities		Frequency	Percent
	Yes	97	73.50
	No	20	15.20
	On plan	4	3.00
Your monthly income	Missing	11	8.33
	<15,000	62	47.00
	15,000-30,000	51	38.60
Family credit loan	>20000	19	14.40
	100,000-199,000	50	37.90
	200,000-300,000	22	16.70
	>300,000	30	22.70
	No credit loan	27	20.45
Keeping record	Missing	3	2.27
	Yes	10	7.60
	No	112	84.80
	on plan	1	.80
Purpose of investment	Missing	9	6.81
	Commercial farming	1	.80
	Business	5	3.80
	Animal husbandry	3	2.30
	Personal enterprise	92	69.70
	Abroad study	2	1.50
Family economic status	Missing	29	21.96
	Medium	42	31.80
	Low	60	45.45
	Poor	30	22.72
Total		132	100.00

Table 1 implies that with >70 percent most of the female respondents are engaged in earning activities. Approximately 15 percent are not yet engaged in earning activities. Among the involvement in earning activities; 47 percent, 38.6 percent, and 14.4 percent of the respondents have been earning monthly Rs. <15,000; 20,000 to 30,000, and >20,000. The highest number of respondents have loans of 100000 to 199000 and the second-largest loan possession is 22.7 percent in >300000 categories. However, in the 200000-300000 categories loan receivers are almost 17% with the least share. The purpose of investment data shows that the personal enterprise consists of the utmost investment with almost 70percentof the share. Commercial farming is the least invested of all. The share of record-keeping of family income, expenditure, and credit capital amount is extremely low (7.6%), while others remain unrecorded. Overall, 42 respondents are belonging to medium economic status in their community/society and the largest portion (45.45%) of the families is low in economic status which is, in fact, upgrading from poor to low status.

Socio-cultural Role

Social empowerment enables women to perform a transformative or altering role in their own households and communities through excellent education and a healthy environment (Bhattarai, 2009). Besides that, they are actively participating in different 5 types of capacity/skill development training organized at the community level. A majority (68.18%) of the respondents expressed that such training has been provided by the local government itself and remaining by I/NGOs such as women empowerment, saving/cooperative, child education/parenting, health/sanitation, and community development. Among these training, the greatest number of females (25%) were engaged in all capacity development training and the least (1%) were involved with child education/parenting. Accordingly, among the 5 different skill development training; tailoring, embroidery, seed production, food processing, and mushroom cultivation, 22 percent of the respondents have participated in all training programs. Apart from that while analyzed separately, gaining the tailoring training is the utmost with 8.3 percent while the embroidery consists only 0.8 percent with the least involvement. Seed production and mushroom cultivation have gained the same level of participation of 3.8 percent. The training program has not only developed the capacity/skills of the respondents but also motivated them to play a change agent role in the community. Dalit women thus started playing sociocultural roles in society (see Table 2). Garbuja and Pasa (2016) also found that technical and vocational educational training programs conducted at the local level help to nourish knowledge; ability and develop vocational skills of women empowered in Bima village of Myagdi district.

Table 2: Socio-cultural Role of the Respondents

Catagory		Frequency	Percent
Different attitude towards female education	Yes	5	3.80
	No	127	96.20
Participate in local level meeting	Yes	77	58.30
	No	54	40.90
	Missing	1	0.75
Decision-making role	Active	92	69.70
	Passive	39	29.50
	Missing	1	0.75
Working hours for empowering women	< 3 hours	90	68.20
	> 3 hours	37	28.00
	Missing	5	3.70
Family social status	Medium	58	43.93
	Low	54	40.90
	Poor	20	15.15
Total		132	100.00

Table 2 depicts that attitude towards female education is mostly favorable where 96.2 percent responded ‘no’ to female education. In contrast, to participation in local-level meetings, most of the respondents are in favor of 58.3 percent and 40.9 percent do not prefer it. Similarly, the decision-making role of 69.7 percent of respondents is active which is higher than the passive role in decision-making which share’s accounts for 29.5 percent. The working hour for empowering women seems sound good where 68.2 percent spend <3 hours and 28 percent spend >3 hours. Comparing the family social status, most (43.93%) respondents’ family social status is medium which is followed by low status (40.90%) and poor status (15.15%) respectively. Contrary to social injustice, women are powerless over their bodies, they are placed in the lowest rank and not allowed to participate in public life (Shrestha, 2002). The change agent Dalit women are not only upgrading their social status but also empowering other Dalit women including non-Dalit women.

Leadership Role

Political empowerment involves capabilities associated with democratic self-governance that ensures freedom to participate in a political party by acquiring knowledge essential to protect one's right and assert them under the law (Bhattarai, 2009). Dalit women are actively involved in different organizations such as political parties, mother groups, saving groups, community forestry, and I/NGOs.

Of the total, 46.2 percent of the respondents are involved in all the institutions. More specifically, the maximum participation of institutional members is in the saving group with 20.5 percent of respondents and lowest in NGOs with <2 percent. In comparison between village assembly and village executive, the participation of the member in village executive is more, belonging to 28.8 percent of respondents and the member that is part of village assembly comprises 8.3 percent. The respondents are more interested in financial leadership securing 32.6 percent while exactly 28 percent are interested in social leadership. However, the involvement of women in both types of leadership seems to be less than 64.4 percent and 70.5 percent simultaneously, showing no engagement at all. Additionally, 1.5 percent of financial leadership and 0.8 percent of social leadership are on plan to join leadership roles. The data indicate that the role of Dalit women has been changed (see Table 3) due to the development interventions and gender-responsive budget implemented by the local government addressing double shocks of Dalits (being Dalit and being women).

Table 3: Changing Role of Dalit Women

Catagory		Frequency	Percent
Mutual relationship among Dalit women	Yes	127	96.20
	No	3	2.30
	Missing	2	1.5
Providing economic supports	Yes	42	31.80
	No	88	66.70
	Missing	2	1.5
Counseling to them	Yes	107	81.10
	No	20	15.20
	Missing	5	3.70

Table 3: Changing Role of Dalit Women

Catagory		Frequency	Percent
Mutual relationships with other women	Yes	99	75.00
	No	27	20.50
	Missing	6	4.54
Providing economic support to them	Yes	47	35.60
	No	80	60.60
	Missing	5	3.70
Providing social support to them	Yes	103	78.00
	No	19	14.40
	Missing	10	7.57
Total		132	100.00

Table 3 highlights the mutual relationship among Dalit women showing positive responses with 96.2 percent whereas 60.6 percent of respondents are not providing economic support. Furthermore, the greatest number of respondents are encouraging counseling to them and also a mutual relationship with other women. Accordingly, 78 percent of respondents are favorable to providing social support. Almost 87.9 percent of respondents have good relationships with elected representatives and local politicians and 86.4 percent have good relationships with administrative staff. Owing to that elected representative Dalit women are encouraged to involve in economic and social activities so that they can play a change-agent role in their community. Sapkota (2020) reveals rural leaders used to change their policies and strategies to create and sustain power, such as doing multiple professions and building networks other than politics. Overall, regarding the changing role of Dalit women, the denser view of the respondents (78%) falls on the agreed point which indicates the power of paradox for Dalit women for improving the social and economic status of their family in the community/society.

Conclusion

The study shows that Dalit women are becoming more empowered and playing a changing role in their communities. They are actively involved in economic activities, challenging social stigma, and playing decision-making roles at household and community levels. The study also highlights the importance of increasing the formal educational status of Dalit women, providing social infrastructure, and offering entrepreneurship development training. Local stakeholders and governments must play a supportive role in establishing production collection/distribution centers and making policies operational. The study suggests that capacity development training must be provided to women who are not yet involved in politics and social networking and services. The findings of this study have implications for the broader discourse on gender, class, and caste in India and beyond. Further research is needed to explore the experiences of Dalit women in different regions of Nepal and to identify effective strategies for promoting their empowerment and social inclusion.

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Review

नेपाली मौलिकताको समाजवादमा केही अवसर र विरोधाभाष : एक नवमार्क्सवादी विश्लेषण

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ABSTRACT (लेखसार)

समकालीन विश्वमा विकसित भएका नवमार्क्सवादी चिन्तनहरूको विश्लेषण गर्दै नेपाली समाजको विद्यमान चरित्र र अन्तरविरोधहरूको आधारमा नेपाली मौलिकतासहितको समाजवादको बाटो र स्वरूप विश्लेषण गर्नु प्रस्तुत लेखको मुख्य उद्देश्य रहको छ। मार्क्सवादी तथा नवमार्क्सवादी विचारहरू, समाजवादी आन्दोलनका विभिन्न अनुभवहरू, असल समाजवादी अभ्यासहरूका बारेमा प्रकाशित लेख, रचना तथा विभिन्न दस्तावेजहरूको अध्ययन गरी पुनारावलोकन विधि (Review method) र आलोचनात्मक अवधारणा (Critical Approach) मार्फत प्रस्तुत लेख तयार गरिएको छ। पुँजीवादले समय क्रममा शोषण र उत्पिडनका नयाँ तरिकाहरू अपनाई रहेकाले समाजवादी आन्दोलन शास्त्रीय मार्क्सवादी ढाँचाबाट मात्र अगि बढ्दा सफलता प्राप्त नहुने भएकोले नवउदारवादले सृजना गरेका विभेद र शोषणका रूपहरू समेत पहिचान गरी त्यसका विरूद्ध सङ्घर्ष गर्नुपर्ने कुरा नवमार्क्सवादी विचारकहरूले स्पष्ट पारेका छन् । नेपाली समाज अहिले लोकतान्त्रिक गणतन्त्रको चरणमा रहेको छ। नेपाली समाजवादी आन्दोलनको सामाजिक साँस्कृतिक अन्तरविरोध सामन्तवाद र आर्थिक अन्तरविरोध दलाल पुँजीवादसँग रहेको छ । लोकतान्त्रिक गणतन्त्र अर्न्तगत नै यस्ता अन्तरविरोधहरू हल गरी जनवादी व्यवस्थाको सुदृढीकरण मार्फत समाजवादी व्यवस्थाको चरणमा प्रवेश गर्न सकिन्छ । जनवादी व्यवस्थाको सुदृढीकरण समाजवादको सङ्क्रमणकालीन चरण हो, जहाँ समाजवादको लागि आवश्यक सम्पूर्ण वस्तुगत तयारी पूरा गर्नु पर्दछ। यसका लागि विद्यमान अन्तरविरोधहरूलाई उपयुक्त ढङ्गले हल गर्दै अगि बढ्नु पर्दछ।

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परिचय

कार्ल मार्क्सले व्याख्या गरेको समाज विकासका चरणहरूमा आदिम साम्यवादी युगको चरण, दास युगको चरण, सामन्ती युगको चरण, पुँजीवादी युगको चरण, समाजवादी युगको चरण र साम्यवादी युगको चरण हुन। कार्लमार्क्सले व्याख्या गरे अनुसार सामन्ती युग अन्त्यको चरणमा सामन्ती उत्पादन सम्बन्ध अन्त्य हुन पुगी पुँजीवादी उत्पादन सम्बन्ध स्वतस्फुर्त रूपमा स्थापित भएर समाज पुँजीवादी युगको चरणमा प्रवेश गर्दछ (Marx, 1867)। तर दक्षिणी विश्व (Global south) को समाज कार्लमार्क्सले व्याख्या गरेअनुसार सामन्ती चरणबाट पुँजीवादी चरणमा प्रवेश गरेन्। नव उदारवादको नेतृत्वमा विकसित र विस्तारित भूमण्डलीय प्रभाव र शोषणका कारण त्यस्तो समाजका उत्पादक शक्तिका हिमायती राजनीतिक शक्तिले घरेलु सामन्तवाद र बाह्य नवउदारवादका विरूद्ध सङ्घर्ष गर्नुपर्ने अवस्थाको सृजना हुन पुग्यो। यस्तो परिवेशमा सामन्तवादी शक्ति र नवउदारवादको हित रक्षा र संरक्षणमा पालित–पोषित र विकसित दलाल पुँजीपति शक्ति (राष्ट्रिय पुँजी निर्माणमा योगदान नगर्ने र पुँजीवादी देशले उत्पादन गरेका वस्तु र सेवा खरिद गरी घरेलु उपभोक्तासँग दलाली मार्फत निरन्तर मुनाफा आर्जन गर्ने वर्गको हित रक्षा गर्ने शक्ति) सँग सङ्घर्ष गरी नयाँ जनवादी क्रान्ति गर्नुपर्ने आवश्यकता देखा पर्‍यो। तत्कालीन परिस्थितिमा पुँजीवादको स्वरूप र शोषणको रूप नवउदारवादी चरित्रको नभएकोले यस्तो क्रान्तिको आवश्यकता र औचित्यताको बारेमा मार्क्सवादले त्यस्तो समाजको विष्लेषण गरेको पाइँदैन तर नवमार्क्सवादी सिद्धान्तहरूले यस सम्बन्धमा गहिरो विश्लेषण गरेका छन्।

समस्याको कथन

सामाजिक, साँस्कृतीक र राजनीतिक रूपले हुने शोषण र विभेदलाई एकाधिकार विश्वपुँजीवादको संरक्षणमा नव उदारवादले भुमण्डलीकरणको माध्यमबाट विश्वव्यापी रूपमा मलजल गरिरहेको छ। नवउदारवादले विश्वव्यापी रूपमा सृजना गरेको शोषण र विभेदका जडहरूलाई भत्काउँदै राष्ट्रिय विस्तारित अर्थतन्त्रको स्थापना गर्नु नेपाल लगायत दक्षिणी विश्व (Global south) को समाजवादी आन्दोलनको मुख्य कार्यभार हो।

कुनैपनि समाजको विशिष्टताका आधारमा समाजवादी क्रान्तिका आफ्नै प्रकारका अन्तरविरोधहरू हुने गर्दछन्। त्यस्ता अन्तरविरोधहरूलाई पहिचान गरी जति छिटो र प्रभावकारी ढङ्गले हल गर्‍यो त्यति छिटो विभेद र शोषण रहित समतामूलक समाजको निर्माणमार्फत समाजवाद सम्म पुग्न सकिन्छ। नेपाली समाजको ऐतिहासिक विकासक्रम, विद्यमान चरित्र र अन्तरविरोधहरूको विश्लेषणबाट नेपाली समाजवादको ढाँचा (Model) को विश्लेषण गरिनु पर्दछ।

अध्ययनको उद्देश्य

नवउदारवादले सृजना गरेको शोषण र एकाधिकार पुँजीवादका विरूद्ध समकालीन विश्वमा विकसित नवमार्क्सवादी दृष्टिकोणहरूका आधारमा नेपाली समाजका विद्यमान अन्तरविरोधहरू साथै त्यसको हल गर्ने तरिकाको विश्लेषण गरी नेपाली समाजवादी क्रान्तिको आगामी बाटो तथा समाजवादको स्वरूपको विवेचना समेत प्रस्तुत गर्नु यस लेखको मुख्य उदेश्य हो।

अध्ययन विधि

प्रस्तुत अध्ययन द्वितीय स्रोतमा आधारित अनुसन्धानमूलक लेख हो। क्रमिक रूपमा प्राज्ञिक लेख रचना, पुस्तक तथा राजनीतिक दस्तावेजहरूको अध्ययनबाट तार्किक ढङ्गले अनुसन्धानको रचनात्मक अवधारणा (Constructivist Approach) मा आधारित यस अनुसन्धानले नेपाली समाजका विद्यमान नवमार्क्सवादी दृष्टिकोणलाई प्रयोगात्मक रूपमा व्याख्या गरिएको छ।

साहित्यको पुनरावलोकन

नवमार्क्सवाद

१९७० को दशकबाट नव मार्क्सवादी विचारकहरूले मार्क्सवादको शास्त्रीय मान्यता भन्दा भिन्न ढङ्गले बहस अगि बढाए। उनिहरूले पुँजीवादको बदलिदो स्वरूप र चरित्रको व्याख्या गरी मार्क्सवादको शास्त्रीय मान्यता भन्दा समाजको विद्यमान परिस्थितिका अनुभवजन्य वास्तविकता (Empirical Realities) मा जोड दिनुपर्ने कुरा अगि सारे। खासगरी विश्वव्यापी कम्युनिष्ट घोषणा पत्र (Communist Manifesto) मा पुँजीपति र सर्वहारा २ वर्ग(Class) को मात्र व्याख्या भएकोमा मध्यम वर्ग (Middle class) को बाक्लो उपस्थिति र पुँजीपति वर्गसँगको संर्घषमा निर्णायक भूमिका हुने यर्थततालाई नवमार्क्सवादी विचारकहरूले उजगार गरे (Carchedi 1975; Poulantzas 1975a; Wright 1976)। शास्त्रीय मार्क्सवादले उत्पादनका साधनहरूमाथि बुर्जुवा वर्गको नियन्त्रण भएको उत्पादन सम्बन्ध (Base) हुँदा त्यही वर्गले आफ्नो हित अनुकूलको उपरिसंरचना (Superstructure) निर्धारण गर्दछ। अतः उपरिसंरचनामा परिवर्तन ल्याउन उत्पादनका साधनमाथि श्रमजीवि वर्गको हित अनुकुलको सामुहिक स्वामित्व

भएको उत्पादन सम्बन्ध स्थापित गर्नु पर्दछ भन्ने कुरालाई जोड दिन्छ (Sapkota, 2021) । तर २१औं शताब्दीको बर्तमान परिवेशमा उल्लेखित मार्क्सवादी वर्गीय सिद्धान्त (Class theory) ले व्याख्या गरेअनुसार उत्पादन सम्बन्धमा आएको परिवर्तनले मात्र उपरिसंरचना परिवर्तन नहुने र उपरिसंरचनामा विविध कारणले आएको परिवर्तन समेतले समेत आधार (Base) लाई प्रभाव पार्ने तर्क ग्राम्सी लगायतका नवमार्क्सवादी सिद्धान्तहरूले तर्क गरेका छन् । पहिलो पुस्ताका मार्क्सवादी विचारकहरूले तत्कालीन समाजको विद्यमान परिस्थितिलाई मध्यनजर गरी निर्माण गरेको वर्गीय सिद्धान्त(Class Theory) ले अहिलेको नव उदारवादले नेतृत्व गरिरहेको विश्व पुँजीवादका कारण सृर्जित वर्ग र स्तरिकरणका स्वरूप (Forms of Class and Stratification) को पहिचान र व्याख्या–विश्लेषण गर्न असमर्थ छ । त्यसैले वर्ग (Class) अहिले 'Zombie category' (पहिले सान्दर्भिक तर अहिले असान्दर्भिक हुँदा समेत समाजशास्त्रीहरूले आत्मसाथ गरिरहेको श्रेणी) को रूपमा रहेको छ (Beck, 2002)।

नव मार्क्सवाद मार्क्सवादकै समय सान्दर्भिक निरन्तरता हो। यसले मार्क्सवादको जगमा टेकेर समकालीन पुँजीवादको व्याख्या गर्दै मार्क्सवादी विचारलाई थप परिस्कृत गर्दछ (Neilson, 2018)।

अन्तरविरोध

मार्क्सवादको दृष्टिकोण र दर्शन द्वन्द्वात्मक भौतिकवाद हो। प्रत्येक वस्तु, घट्ना वा विचारमा द्वन्द्वात्मक अन्र्तसम्बन्ध रहेको कुरा मार्क्सवादले स्विकार गर्दछ। जनवादी व्यवस्थामा पनि अर्थतन्त्र, संकृति र समाज भित्र पनि अनिवार्य रूपमा द्वन्द्व हुन्छ, अतः द्वन्द्व सार्वभौम नियम नै हो (UML Political Report, 1996)। यही द्वन्द्वात्मक भौतिकवादी नियमानुसार समाजका विद्यमान अर्न्तविरोधहरूको पहिचान गर्नुपर्दछ।

जनवाद

समाज विकासको नियमअनुसार समाज सँधैभरी एकै किसिमको शासन व्यवस्थामा रहिरहन सक्दैन, उत्पादक शक्तिको विकास र उत्पादन सम्बन्धमा आउने परिवर्तनसँगै समाजको शासन व्यवस्था पनि बदलीनछ। सोही नियमअनुसार उत्पादक शक्तिको विकासबाट उत्पादन सम्बन्धमा आएको परिवर्तनका कारण सामन्तवाद कमजोर बन्न पुग्दछ त्यस्तो अवस्थामा सामन्तवाद विरोधी शक्तिहरूको नेतृत्वमा सामन्तवादी समाज व्यवस्था बिघटित भएर स्थापित हुने राजनीतिक व्यवस्थालाई नै जनवादको रूपमा बुझ्ने गरिन्छ।

भुसाल (२०११) का अनुसार जनवादको स्थापना हुँदा कुन शक्तिको नेतृत्वमा स्थापना भयो भन्ने आधारमा जनवादलाई दुई प्रकारले हेर्ने गरिन्छ :

पुरानो जनवाद

पुँजीवादी युगको सुरूवाती चरणमा सामन्तवाद विरोधी क्रान्तिको नेतृत्व पुँजीपति वर्गले गरेको थियो, त्यसरी पुँजीपति वर्गले नेतृत्व गरेर स्थापना हुन पुगेको जनवाद नै पुरानो जनवाद हो । यस्तो किसिमको जनवादका प्रमुख विशेषताहरू भनेको लोकतन्त्र, आवधिक निर्वाचन, प्रेस स्वतन्त्रता, मानव अधिकार आदि हुन् तर पुरानो जनवादका यी र यस्ता विशेषताहरूलाई पुँजीपति वर्गले आफ्नो वर्गको हित रक्षाका निम्ति मात्र प्रयोग गऱ्यो साथै पुरानो जनवाद पुँजीवादी बाटो हुँदै नव उदारवाद र साम्राज्यवाद तर्फ उन्मुख भयो।

नौलो जनवाद

सामन्तवादसँग सङ्घर्ष गरिरहेको पुँजीपति वर्ग त्यो बेला सामन्तवादसँग गठजोर गर्न पुग्यो जव श्रमजीवी वर्गको नेतृत्वमा रूसी अक्टुबर क्रान्ति सम्पन्न भयो साथसाथै उसलाई आफूले उत्पादन गरेका मालहरू बेच्न र आफ्नो साम्राज्य विस्तार गर्न सामन्ती राज्य व्यवस्था भएको समाज अत्यन्त सहज हुने भयो। यसरी पुँजीपति वर्ग सामन्त वर्गसँग मिल्न पुगेपछि पुँजीपति वर्गको नेतृत्वमा सामन्तवाद विरोधी क्रान्तिको सम्भावना समाप्त भयो र श्रमजीवी वर्गले नै सामन्तवाद विरोधी क्रान्तिको नेतृत्व गर्ने जिम्मेवारी पूरा गर्नुपर्ने अवस्था सृजना भयो। अर्कोतिर साम्राज्यवादी शोषण–दमन र उत्पीडनका विरूद्ध सङ्घर्ष गर्नुपर्ने जिम्मेवारी त श्रमजीवी वर्गसँग छदै नै थियो। यसरी श्रमजीवी वर्गको नेतृत्वमा सामन्तवाद र साम्राज्यवाद दुवैका विरूद्ध क्रान्ति गरेर स्थापना गरिने शासन व्यवस्थालाई नै नौलो जनवाद भन्ने गरिन्छ । उपर्युक्त दुईखाले जनवादका बीच मुख्य गरेर निम्नप्रकारका भिन्नताहरू रहेका छन् :

(१) पुरानो जनवादमा पुँजीपति वर्गको नेतृत्व हुन्छ र त्यसले मुख्यतः पुँजीपति वर्गकै हितमा काम गर्दछ भने नयाँ जनवादमा सर्वहारा श्रमजीवी वर्गको नेतृत्व हुन्छ र यसले मुख्यगरी श्रमजीवी वर्गको हितमा काम गर्दछ।

(२) पुरानो जनवादले सामन्तवादको मात्रै विरोध गर्दछ भने नयाँ जनवादले सामन्तवाद र साम्राज्यवाद दुवैको विरोध गर्दछ।

(३) पुरानो जनवादको अर्थव्यवस्था निजी स्वामित्वमा आधारित हुन्छ भने नयाँ जनवादको अर्थव्यवस्था राजकीय, सामुदायिक र निजी स्वामित्व एवम् सहकारितामा आधारित हुन्छ।

(४) पुरानो जनवादले वर्ग समन्वयको बाटो अवलम्बन गर्दछ भने नयाँ जनवादले वर्गसङ्घर्षको बाटो अवलम्बन गर्दछ।

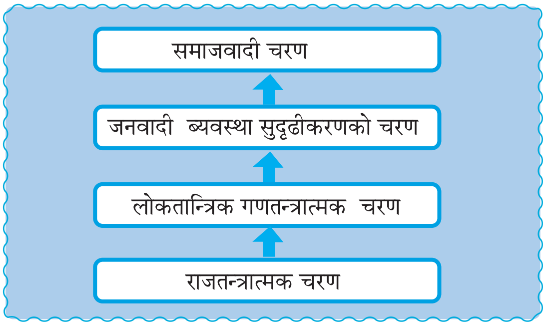
(५) 'पुरानो जनवाद प्रजातान्त्रिक समाजवाद' भन्दै पुँजीवादको चरम विकासतर्फ अगाडि बढ्दछ भने नयाँ जनवाद वैज्ञानिक समाजवादको दिशामा अगाडि बढ्दछ।

विश्लेषणात्मक छलफलहरू

नेपाली क्रान्तिका चरणहरू

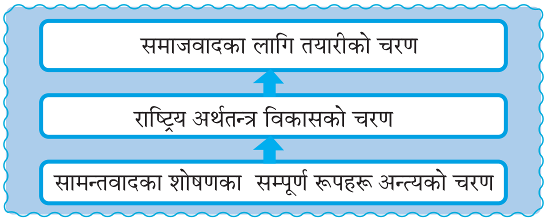
कुनै पनि समाजमा सामाजिक परिवर्तनको प्रक्रिया मात्रात्मक र गुणात्मक ढङ्गले विभिन्न चरण र उपचरणहरू पार गर्दै अगि बढ्दछ । समाजमा जब सम्म आधारभूत अन्तरविरोधहरूको सामाधान हुँदैन तबसम्म नयाँ चरणको शुरूवात हुँदैन। आधारभूत अन्तरविरोधको सामाधान हुनुपूर्व विभिन्न उपचरणहरूमा वस्तुगत परिस्थितीमा हुने फेरबदल सँगै प्रधान अन्तरविरोधहरू पनि समयानुसार फेरबदल भइ नै रहन्छन। परिस्थितीमा आएको परिवर्तनसँगै क्रान्तिका रूप र तरिकामा पनि फेरवदल भई नै रहन्छ र रहुनु समेत पर्दछ।

नेपाली क्रान्तिको प्रक्रिया अगि बढ्ने क्रममा जनवादी क्रान्ति अन्तर्गतका तिन ओटा उपचरणहरू पार गर्दै नेपाली समाज अहिले चौथो उपचरणको आरम्भमा छ । पार गरी सकेका तीन चरणहरूमा राणा शासनको अन्त्य, पञ्चायती व्यवस्थाको अन्त्य र राजतन्त्रको अन्त्य हुन । यी प्रत्येक उपचरणमा आ–आफ्नै वस्तुगत विशेषता, चरित्र र त्यस अन्तर्गतका भिन्ना भिन्नै अन्तरविरोधहरू थिए । ती उपचरणका विभिन्न अन्तरविरोधहरू मुलतः शान्तिपूर्ण ढङ्ले हल हुँदै अहिले चौथो उपचरण लोकतान्त्रिक गणतन्त्रको प्रारम्भमा छ। यो उपचरण पार नगरी समाजवादी व्यवस्थामा फड्को मार्न सकिदैंन किनकि क्रान्ति सम्पन्न हुनको लागि प्रयाप्त वस्तुगत आधार तयार हुनु पर्दछ । वस्तुगत आधार एवम् तयारी विनाको मनोगत हतार भनेको उग्रवादी चिन्तन र अन्ततः विसर्जनवाद हो।



चित्र नं. १: नेपाली समाज विकासका चरणहरू

नेपाली श्रमजीवी जनताले समाजवादी क्रान्ति सम्पन्न गर्नको लागि यही चौथो उपचरण अर्थात लोकतन्त्रिक गणतन्त्र मात्र पार गर्नु पर्ने हो वा अन्य उपचरणहरू पनि पार गर्नु पर्दछ भन्ने कुरा भविष्यमा उत्पन्न हुने प्रधान अन्तरविरोध र अन्य अन्तरविरोधका स्वरूप र ती अन्तरविरोध समाधान गर्ने विधि, तरीका र समयमा भर पर्दछ। बर्तमान अवस्थामा नेपाली समाज पुँजीवादी राजनीतिक क्रान्तिलाई लोकतान्त्रिक गणतन्त्र मार्फत संस्थागत गर्ने चरणमा छ। यो संस्थागत गर्ने काम नयाँ संविधान निर्माण गरेर सम्पन्न भयो र विद्यमान अन्तरविरोधलाई उपयुक्त ढङ्गले सामधान गर्न सकिएमा यही लोकतान्त्रिक गणतन्त्र अन्तर्गत रहेर लोकतान्त्रिक प्रतिस्पर्धाबाट नै श्रमजीवी वर्गको हितमा अधिकतम काम गर्दै जनवादी व्यवस्थाको सुदृढीकरणमार्फत समाजवादी चरणमा प्रवेश गर्न सकिनेछ । जनवादी व्यवस्थाको सुदृढीकरण समाजवादको संक्रमणकालीन चरण हो, जहाँ समाजवादको लागि आवश्यक सम्पूर्ण वस्तुगत तयारी पुरा गर्नु पर्दछ। वर्तमान लोकतान्त्रिक गणतन्त्रमार्फत नैं जनवादी व्यवस्थाको सुदृढीकरणको चरणमा संक्रमण गर्न सकिन्छ। यसकालागि विद्यमान अन्तरविरोधहरूलाई उपयुक्त ढङ्गले हल गर्दै अगि बढ्नु पर्दछ।



चित्र नं. २: नेपाली समाजवादी क्रान्तिका चरणहरू

नेपाली क्रान्तिको पहिलो चरणमा सामन्ती राज्यसत्ताका कारण समाजमा वर्षौं देखिको शोषण, उत्पीडन, विभेद, अन्याय र अत्याचार व्याप्त रहेको हुँदा त्यस्ता शोषणका सम्पूर्ण रूपहरूका विरूद्ध क्रान्तिलाई केन्द्रित गर्नु पर्ने र यसरी सामन्तवादलाई सम्पूर्ण रूपमा निस्तेज गरिसके पछि क्रान्तिको दोस्रो चरणमा परनिर्भर र परमुखि राष्ट्रिय अर्थतन्त्रको विद्यमान अवस्थालाई स्वावलम्वी र आत्मनिर्भर बनाउन केन्द्रित हुनुपर्ने साथै आत्मनिर्भर राष्ट्रिय अर्थतन्त्रको विकास गरिसकेपछि मात्र समाजवादका लागि आवश्यक तयारी गर्दै अगि बढ्नु पर्नेछ (Bhandari, 1992)। यसर्थ क्रान्तिको वर्तमान चरण भनेको नेपाली समाजमा विद्यमान सामन्तवादका सम्पूर्ण शोषणका रूपहरूलाई अन्त्य गर्दै आत्मनिर्भर राष्ट्रिय अर्थतन्त्रको निर्माण गर्ने चरण हो।

नेपाली क्रान्तिका विद्यमान अन्तरविरोधहरू

मार्क्सवादको द्वन्द्वात्मक भौतिकवादी नियमानुसार कुनै पनि वस्तु वा घटना भित्र दुई विपरीत तत्वहरू रहेका हुन्छन् तिनीहरू एक आपसमा अन्तरर्क्रिया गर्दछन् अर्थात अन्तरसम्बन्धित हुन्छन् । त्यही वस्तु वा घटनाहरू भित्रको अन्तरसम्बन्ध वा अन्तरक्रिया नै अन्तरविरोध हो । अन्तरविरोधमा दुई विपरीत तत्वहरू रहेका हुन्छन् त्यसमा एक नयाँ र अर्को पुरानो, एक अग्रगामी र अर्को पश्चगामी । तिनीहरू बीचको अन्तरक्रियाले वस्तु वा घट्ना भित्र गति उत्पन्न हुन्छ, त्यो गतिले उक्त वस्तु वा घटनामा परिवर्तन आइ त्यसको विकास या प्रगति हुन पुग्दछ। यसरी हेर्दा विकास वा प्रगतिको आधारभूत तत्व भनेको त्यस वस्तु वा घटना भित्रको अन्तरविरोध नै हो। कुनै पनि वस्तुको परिवर्तन र विकास निरन्तर रूपमा स्वभाविक प्रक्रियाबाट आफै हुने गर्दछ तर अग्रगामी वा प्रगतिशिल तत्वलाई थप बल प्रदान गरियो भने परिवर्तन तथा विकासको दरमा तीव्रता आउन सक्दछ। अतः सामाजिक क्रान्ति पनि छिटो सम्पन्न गर्नको लागि परिवर्तनको प्रगतिशिल शक्तिलाई थप वल प्रदान गर्न र परिवर्तनको बाधक तथा पश्चगामी शक्तिको गतिलाई निस्तेज पार्न अन्तरविरोधको पहिचान गर्नु पर्दछ।

क्रान्ति समाजको उन्नति, प्रगति, विकास र समृद्धिकोलागि हुन्छ अतः विद्यमान समाजको प्रगतिशील परिवर्तनका वाधक अन्तरविरोध नै क्रान्तिको अन्तरविरोधहरू हुन् । क्रान्तिका अन्तरविरोधहरू विद्यमान समाजको अवस्था र चरणहरू पिच्छे फरक फरक हुन्छन्। क्रान्तिका अन्तरविरोधहरू सदाकाल एउटै देख्नु जडसुत्रीय यान्त्रिकवाद हो। मानवीय चेतना, विज्ञान, प्रविधि एवम् उत्पादन सम्बन्ध तथा शोषणका रूपहरूमा आउने निरन्तर परिवर्तनको कारण समाज गतिशिल भई नै रहन्छ । समाजको गतिशिलता सगँसगैं त्यस समाजको आर्थिक, सामाजिक, साँस्कृतिक तथा राजनीतिक क्षेत्रमा समेत निरन्तर परिवर्तन भई रहन्छ जब समाजका विभिन्न क्षेत्रहरूमा निरन्तर मात्रात्मक परिवर्तन हुदै समाजले गुणात्मक फड्को मार्दछ तब समाजमा नयाँ व्यवस्थाको अभ्युदय हुन पुग्दछ, त्यसैलाई हामी समाजको नयाँ चरण मान्दछौ। त्यस्तो सामाजिक व्यवस्थालाई उत्पादन सम्बन्धको विशेषताका आधारमा नामाकरण गर्दछौ । त्यस किसिमको नयाँ सामाजिक व्यवस्थामा क्रान्तिका अन्तरविरोधहरू पनि बदलिन्छन्।

क्रान्तिमा प्रधान अन्तरविरोध र गौण अन्तरविरोधहरू रहन्छन्, त्यसैगरी समाजका विभिन्न क्षेत्रहरूमा भिन्नाभिन्नै अन्तरविरोधहरू रहेका हुन्छन्। समाजको कुन कुन क्षेत्रमा कुन कुन अन्तरविरोध प्रधान छ भन्ने विश्लेषण नगरिँदा प्रहार गर्नु पर्ने निशानामा अन्यौलता सृजना हुन पुग्दछ र क्रान्तिले सहि दिशा लीन सक्दैन परिणामतः क्रान्ति विसर्जनवादमा पुगेर टुङ्गिने खतरा समेत उत्पन्न हुन्छ।

नेपाली समाज अहिले लोकतान्त्रिक गणतन्त्रको चरणमा छ, यो जनवादी व्यवस्था सुदृढीकरणको चौथो उपचरण हो । यस अगि राणा शाषणको अन्त्य, निरङ्कुश पञ्चायती व्यवस्थाको अन्त्य र राजतन्त्रको अन्त्य गरी ३ वटा उपचरणहरू पुरा भई सकेका छन्। यी प्रत्येक चरणहरूमा क्रान्तिका अन्तरविरोधहरू फरक फरक थिए ती चरणका अन्तरविरोधलाई नेपाली श्रमजीवी पक्षीय क्रान्तिमार्फत उपयुक्त ढङ्गले हल गर्दै अहिले नेपाली समाज लोकतान्त्रिक गणतन्त्रको चरणमा छ। यो चरणमा नेपाली समाजवादी क्रान्तिका वर्तमान समयका विद्यमान अन्तरविरोधहरूको यहाँ व्याख्या विश्लेषण गर्ने प्रयास गरिएको छ।

अन्तराष्ट्रिय राजनीतिक अन्तरविरोध : साम्राज्यवाद

पुँजीवादको राजनीतिक चरित्र साम्राज्यवाद हो । यसले विश्वमा नवउदारवादी आर्थिक नीति मार्फत आफ्नो पुँजीवादी अस्तित्व र प्रभाव कायम राखी आफ्नो साम्राज्य फैलाउनकालागि दक्षिणी ध्रुवीय क्षेत्र (Global south) का सरकार र राजनीतिक पार्टीहरूलाई प्रत्यक्ष र परोक्ष ढङ्गले राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप गरिरहन्छ। किनकी पुँजीवादीहरु कुनै पनि देशमा श्रमजीवी वर्गीय पार्टीहरूलाई हरसम्भव सत्तामा जान दिदैनन् र सत्तामा गएका पार्टीहररूलाई लामो समय टिक्न दिदैनन् साथै श्रमजीवी वर्गको पक्षमा नीति निर्माण गर्न दिदैनन्। त्यसैगरी आर्थिक सहायताको नामबाट त्यस्ता देशहरूमा आफ्नो प्रभाव र नियन्त्रण कायम राखिरहन्छन् । यो काम आज विश्व साम्राज्यवादको नेतृत्व गरी रहेको अमेरिकाले कुनै देशमा प्रत्यक्ष ढङ्गले गर्दै आएको छ भने कुनै देशमा परोक्ष ढङ्गले गर्दै आएको छ। जसलाई विश्वका अन्य पुँजीवादी देशहरूले समेत साथ सहयोग र सर्मथन गर्दै आइरहेका छन्।

नेपालको राजनीति विश्व साम्राज्यवाद र क्षेत्रीय साम्राज्यवादबाट प्रभावित छ । दक्षिण एसियाली क्षेत्रको सर्न्दभमा विश्व साम्राज्यवादको नेतृत्व अमेरिका र क्षेत्रीय साम्राज्यवादको नेतृत्व भारतबाट अनेक ढङ्गले शोषण र हस्तक्षेप भइरहेकै छ। यो शोषण र हस्तक्षेपबाट नेपाललाई मुक्त नबनाए सम्म नेपाल स्वतन्त्र, आत्मनिर्भर, स्वावलम्वी र समृद्ध राष्ट्र बन्न सक्दैन र नेपाली क्रान्ति विद्यमान अवस्थाबाट समाजवादमा सङ्क्रमण गर्न सक्दैन । अतः नेपाली समाजवादी क्रान्तिको अन्तराष्ट्रिय राजनीतिक

अन्तरविरोध क्षेत्रीय साम्राज्यवाद र विश्व साम्राज्यवादसँग छ। विश्व सम्राज्यवाद र क्षेत्रीय साम्राज्यवादका सबै खाले शोषण र हस्तक्षेपका रूपहरूलाई अन्त्य गर्दै अगि बढ्नु पर्ने स्थितिमा अहिले नेपाली क्रान्ति रहेको छ।

नेपाली समाजवादी क्रान्तिको माध्यमबाट अन्तराष्ट्रिय राजनीतिक अन्तरविरोधको हल गर्दा आम नेपाली जनतालाई साम्राज्यवादको शोषण र हस्तक्षेपको बारेमा सचेत बनाउँदै नेपालको आन्तरिक एकतालाई सुदृढ बनाउनु पर्दछ किनकि जबसम्म आन्तरिक एकता सुदृढ हुदैन तबसम्म साम्राज्यवादीहरूले अनेक बहानामा हस्तक्षेप गर्ने मौका पाउँदछन्, अतः नेपाली राष्ट्रियता प्रति इमान्दार भएका शक्तिसँग राष्ट्रिय स्वाधिनताका सम्बन्धमा एकता कायम गदै जानु पर्दछ साथै पञ्चशीलका सिद्धान्तका आधारमा विदेश नीति तय गर्दै प्रत्येक राष्ट्रले स्वतन्त्र रूपमा आफ्नो सार्वभौम सत्ता प्रयोग गर्न पाउने सिद्धान्तको व्यवहारिक कार्यन्वयन गर्नु पर्दछ र इतिहासमा अपमानजनक ढङ्गले भएका विभिन्न सन्धि सम्झौताहरू खारेज गर्नु पर्दछ।

सामाजिक साँस्कृतिक अन्तरविरोध : सामन्तवाद

नेपाली समाजको धर्म, संस्कृति र परम्परामा ठूलो विविधता पाइन्छ। विविध संस्कृति र परम्परा नै नेपाली मौलिकता बनेको छ तर सबै संस्कृति र परम्पराहरूमा विभिन्न कुरीती, कुसंस्कार र अन्धविश्वास व्याप्त छ, त्यसैले नेपाली समाजले आफूलाई द्रुततर गतिमा रूपान्तरण गर्न सकेको छैन।

नेपाली समाजका अधिकांश मानिसहरू कुनै न कुनै धार्मिक आस्थामा बाँधिएका छन्। अलौकिक शक्ति माथि विश्वास गर्दछन्। मानिसको जीवनमा मात्र होइन प्रकृति र समाजमा घट्ने घटनामा समेत अलौलिक शक्तिको हात रहने कुरालाई स्वीकार गर्दछन्। मानिसको जीवनमा घट्ने हरेक सुखदायी तथा दुःखदायी घटनाको कारक भाग्यलाई मान्दछन्। कानुनी रूपमा छुवाछुतलाई दण्डनीय बनाएको ६० वर्षसम्म पनि नेपाली समाजमा छुवाछुत प्रथा कायमै छ। अन्तरजातीय विवाहलाई अहिले पनि नेपाली समाजले सहज रूपमा स्वीकार गर्दैन। दुर्गम ग्रामीण भेग होस् वा विकसित सहर धामी–झाँक्री जस्तो अन्धविश्वास प्रति समेत मानिसहरूको विश्वास व्याप्त छ। बोक्सी, छाउपडी तथा झुमा जस्ता कुप्रथाहरूका कारण अझ पनि नेपाली महिलाहरू प्रताडित भईरहेका छन्। समाजमा अन्य जातका मानिस भन्दा ब्राह्माण तथा पण्डितहरू प्रति जातकै कारणले मानिसहरूको विशेष आदार र सम्मान पाइन्छ। राज्यको कानुन भन्दा धार्मिक विधि र नियमहरू समाजमा प्रभावकारी छन्। समाजमा व्यक्तिवादी चिन्तन हावी छ। जन्म, मृत्यु र विवाह जस्ता जीवनका महत्त्वपूर्ण घटनासँग जोडिएका संस्कारहरूमा जकडिएका कुरीती, कुसंस्कार, विकृति र विसंगतिका कारण मानिसको अत्याधिक श्रम, समय र पुँजीको खर्च भईरहेको छ।

सामन्तवादी संस्कार र चिन्तनका कारण धनि किसानसँग भएको पूँजिको ठुलो हिस्सा अनुत्पादक क्षेत्रमा भोग विलासका लागि मात्र खर्च हुने गरेको छ भने साना किसानले जेनतेन बचत गरेको पुँजी पनि जन्म, मृत्यु, विवाह, पास्नी, वर्तवन्ध र झण्डै महिनै पिच्छे आउने चाडपर्वहरूमा अनावश्यक रूपमा खर्च भईरहेको छ, जसले गर्दा बचत पुँजीलाई उत्पादन मूलक क्षेत्रमा लाग्न दिएको छैन र बिस्तारित पुँजीको रूपमा विकास हुन दिएको छैन। पुँजीको विकास र विस्तार नहुन्जेल राष्ट्रिय अर्थतन्त्र आत्मनिर्भर र स्वावलम्वी हुन सक्दैन। पुँजीवादी समाजमा पुँजीको विकास र विस्तार तीव्र रूपमा हुने गर्दछ तर नेपाली समाजमा पुँजीको विकास र विस्तारको गतिलाई आन्तरीक रूपमा यही सामाजिक–साँस्कृतिक क्षेत्रमा रहेको सामन्तवादले समेत छेकिरहेको छ।

नेपाली समाजका यी सम्पूर्ण सामाजिक तथा सांस्कृतिक पक्षहरूको विश्लेषण गर्दा सामाजिक सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्रमा सामन्तवाद व्याप्त रहेको कुरा पुष्टि गर्न सकिन्छ। त्यसैले नेपाली क्रान्तिको सामाजिक सांस्कृतिक अन्तरविरोध सामन्तवादसँग छ। नेपालमा पछिल्लो समयमा भएको राजनीतिक परिवर्तनले राजनितीक रूपमा सामन्तवादको मुल नेतृत्वको अन्त्य गरेतापनि सामाजिक सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्रको सामन्तवादलाई निस्तेज गर्न सकेको छैन। जबसम्म सामन्तवादको प्रभावलाई कमजोर बनाउन सकिँदैन तबसम्म आम जनतालाई कुरीती र कुसंस्कारबाट छुट्याएर उत्पादनमा लगाउन सकिँदैन। जबसम्म आम जनतालाई उत्पादनमा लगाउन सकिँदैन तबसम्म राष्ट्रले आर्थिक सम्वृद्धि हाँसिल गर्न सकिदैन।

सामाजिक परिवर्तन र रूपान्तरणको प्रक्रियामा बाधा सिर्जना नगर्ने केही मौलिक संस्कृति र परम्परालाई बचाउनु र संरक्षण गर्नु जरूरी छ, तर आम मानिसलाई उत्पादन क्षेत्रमा लाग्नबाट वञ्चित गरी उत्पादक शक्तिको विकास र प्रक्रियामा बाधा सिर्जना गर्ने कुरीती र कुसंस्कारलाई अन्त्य गर्न जरूरी छ। यसले उत्पादक शक्तिको विकासमा अवरोध सिर्जना गरी दलाल पुँजीवादलाई समेत पक्षपोषण गरेको छ, जसले स्वाधिन र राष्ट्रिय अर्थतन्त्रको विकास गर्न नदिई विकास र समृद्धिमा बाधा सिर्जना गर्ने भएकाले नेपाली समाजको सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्रमा रहेको सामन्तवादको अन्त्य गर्नु जरूरी छ।

नेपाली क्रान्तिको बर्तमान चरण भनेको सामन्तवादका सम्पूर्ण रूपहरूलाई अन्त्य गर्ने चरण हो तर सामाजिक साँस्कृतिक क्षेत्रमा व्याप्त विद्यमान सामन्तवादलाई अन्तरविरोधको रूपमै नदेखेर नेपाली समाजको विश्लेषण गर्न पुगियो र त्यसका विरूद्ध अभियान केन्द्रित गरिएन भने नेपाली समाजको रूपान्तरणले गति लीन सक्दैन, समाजवादको आधार तयार हुन सक्दैन, सामन्तवादलाई संस्थागत रूपमै संरक्षण गर्न लागि परिरहेका दक्षिणपन्थी राजनीतिक शक्तिलाई समेत थप बल पुग्नेछ र प्रतिक्रान्तिको खतरा समेत रहनेछ। यो अन्तरविरोधको हल गर्न सर्वप्रथम पुरानो सामन्ती राज्य सत्ता तथा बर्तमान दलाल पुँजीवादी राज्य सत्ताले जवरजस्त सृजना गरेको समाजिक–साँस्कृतिक 'Hegemony' का विरूद्ध वैचारिक सङ्घर्ष गरी श्रमजीवि पक्षीय जनताको आचरण, व्यवहार, संस्कार र चिन्तनमा आमुल परिवर्तन गरी सचेतना अभियान सञ्चालन गर्नुपर्दछ । साथै विविध प्रगतिशिल कानुनको निर्माण र त्यसको प्रभावकारी कार्यान्वयनबाट समेत नेपाली समाजको सामाजिक साँस्कृतिक अन्तरविरोधको हल गर्नुपर्दछ।

वर्गीय/आर्थिक अन्तरविरोध : भुमण्डलीय नवउदारवाद/दलाल पुँजीपति वर्ग

वर्गीय समाजमा दुई वर्गहरू रहन्छन् एक शोषक र अर्को शोषित वर्ग, एक उत्पिडक र अर्को उत्पिडित वर्ग (Marx, 1867) । उत्पादन सम्बन्धमा आउने परिवर्तन अनुरूप विभिन्न सामाजिक व्यवस्थाका चरणहरू पिच्छे शोषक वर्गले गर्ने शोषणको रूप र तरिकामा भने भिन्नता हुन्छ। जस्तो कि दास युगमा दास र मालिकको विचमा अन्तरविरोध हुन्छ, त्यहाँ मालिकले दास माथि गर्ने शोषण प्रत्यक्ष थियो। मालिकले दासहरूलाई किनबेच गर्ने र आफूले भने अनुरूप दासलाई श्रम गर्न बाध्य पार्दथ्यो यहाँ शोषित वर्ग माथि शोषक वर्गको प्रत्यक्ष नियन्त्रण रहेको थियो। त्यसैगरी सामन्ती व्यवस्थामा सामन्त वर्गले श्रमजीवी किसान वर्गलाई दास युगमा जस्तो प्रत्यक्ष शोषण नगरी जग्गा जमिन कमाउन दिएर उत्पादनको निश्चित हिस्सा लिएर अप्रत्यक्ष ढङ्गले शोषण गर्दछ, साथै पुँजीवादी व्यवस्थामा उद्योग मालिकले मजदुरलाई कारखानामा श्रम गर्न बाध्य बनाई अझ अप्रत्यक्ष ढङ्गले अतिरिक्त मूलयको सिद्धान्त अनुरूप नाफा आर्जन गरी श्रमको शोषण गर्दछ।

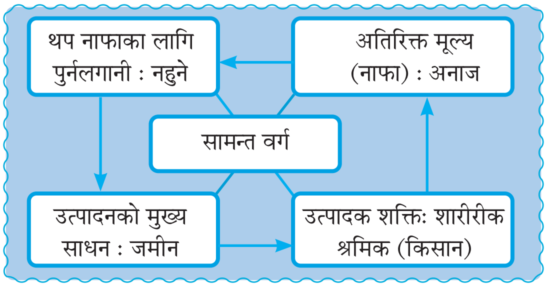
शास्त्रीय मार्क्सवादी सिद्धान्त अनुसार कम्युनिष्टहरूको अन्तिम लक्ष्य भनेको वर्ग विहिन समाजको निर्माण गर्ने भएकाले वर्गीय अन्तरविरोध कम्युनिष्ट आन्दोलनको सवै भन्दा महत्त्वपूर्ण आधारभूत अन्तरविरोध हो जसले राज्यको उपरिसंरचना निर्धारण गर्दछ। तर एन्टोनियो ग्राम्सी लगायतका नव–मार्क्सवादी सिद्धान्तहरूले वर्गको साथसाथै सामाजिक, साँस्कृतिक, वैचारिक तथा राजनीतिक कारणहरूले पनि श्रमजीवी वर्गलाई समेत भुलभुलैयामा पारी क्रान्तिको गतिमा बाधा सृजना गर्ने सिद्धान्त प्रस्तुत गरेका छन् । यद्यपी क्रान्तिका अन्य अन्तरविरोध जस्तै वर्गीय अन्तरविरोध पनि एक महत्त्वपुर्ण अन्तरविरोध हो।

वर्तमान नेपाली समाज व्यवस्थाको चरण कार्लमार्क्सले व्याख्या गरे जस्तो समाज विकासका चरणहरूसँग मेल खाने चरित्रको छैन सामन्ती व्यवस्था र पुँजीवादी व्यवस्थाको विचको सङ्क्रमणकालीन व्यवस्थाको रूपमा रहेको छ। उत्पादन सम्बन्धका आधारमा विश्लेषण गर्ने हो भने वर्तमान नेपाली समाज पुँजीवादी चरित्रको नै पाइन्छ तर त्यो स्वाधिन र राष्ट्रिय पुँजीवादी नभएर दलाल पुँजीवादी चरित्रको रूपमा रहेको छ। ए.जी.फ्राङ्क, समिर अमिन तथा इमान्युअल वालरस्टेन जस्ता नवमार्क्सवादी विचारकहरूबाट प्रस्तुत "परिनिर्भरता तथा विश्व प्रणाली" सिद्धान्तले भने अनुसार तेस्रो विश्वका देशको कच्चापदार्थ तथा श्रमशक्ति केन्द्र भागमा रहेका पुँजीवादी देशहरूले नवउदारवादको सहारामा सस्तोमा खरिद गरी शोषण गरिरहेका छन् र निरन्तर परनिर्भर बनाइरहेका छन् । भुमण्डलीय नवउदारवादलाई विश्व अर्थतन्त्रका ठेकेदार IMF, WTO र विश्व बैंकले प्रत्यक्ष संरक्षण र विस्तार गरिरहेका छन्।

यसरी हेर्दा नेपाली क्रान्तिको आर्थिक अन्तरविरोध भुमण्डलीय नवउदारवादसँग रहेको कुरा पुष्टि गर्न सकिन्छ। भुमण्डलीय नवउदारवादले नेपालको अर्थतन्त्रलाई समेत आत्मनिर्भर र स्वाभिमानी हुन दिएको छैन, यसले देश भित्र दलाल पुँजीपति वर्गको विस्तार गरिरहेको छ। दलाल वर्ग विना जोखिम पुँजीवादी देश र बहुराष्ट्रिय कम्पनीबाट उत्पादित वस्तु तथा सेवा नेपाली उपभोक्तालाई बिक्री गरी दलाली कार्य मार्फत सजिलो रूपमा नाफा आर्जन गरिरहेको छ। राष्ट्रिय पुँजीपति वर्ग समेत दलाल पुँजीपति वर्गमा रूपान्तरित हुने क्रम बढिरहेको छ, यो कुरा देशको लागि निकै खतराको विषय हो। यस्तो अवस्थामा दलाल पुँजीपति वर्गसँग लड्नको लागि राष्ट्रिय पुँजीपति वर्ग तत्कालीन अवस्थामा नेपाली क्रान्तिको सहयोगीका रूपमा रहेकोले यो वर्गको संरक्षण गर्नुपर्ने अवस्था सृजना भएको छ। अतः नेपाली क्रान्तिको बर्गीय अन्तरविरोध दलाल पुँजिपति वर्गसँग रहेको छ। यो अन्तरविरोधको हल नहुँदा सम्म राष्ट्रिय पुँजीपति वर्गसँगको अन्तरविरोध गौण रूपमा रहन्छ। दिगो स्थिर सरकारमार्फत प्राकृतिक श्रोत र साधनको उच्चतम परिचालनबाट आत्मनिर्भर र स्वावलम्वी अर्थतन्त्रको निर्माण गर्दै उत्पादक शक्तिको अधिकतम विकासबाट दलाल पुँजीपति वर्गसँगको यो अन्तरविरोध हल गर्न सकिनेछ।

नेपाली समाजको उत्पादन पद्धती

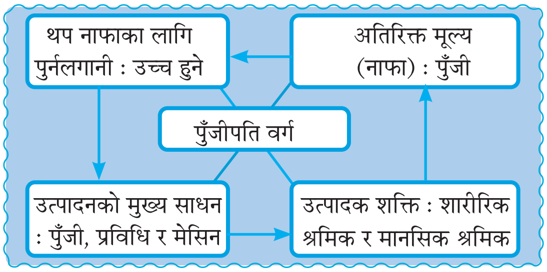
प्रत्येक समाजको चरित्र उक्त समाजमा विद्यमान उत्पादन सम्बन्धले नै निर्धारण गर्दछ । नेपाली समाजको विद्यमान उत्पादन सम्बन्धलाई विश्लेषण गर्ने हो भने पुँजीवादी उत्पादन सम्बन्ध नै पाइन्छ तर त्यो पुँजीवाद विस्तारित नभएर विश्व भूमण्डलीय नवउदारवाद मार्फत पुँजीवादको पक्षपोषण गर्ने व्यापारीक पुँजीवाद अर्थात दलाल पुँजीवादको रूपमा विकसित भईरहेको छ । तर नेपाली समाजको सामाजिक साँस्कृतिक विशेषता र आर्थिक रूपमै पनि अवशेषको रूपमा रहेका केही विशेषताहरूका आधारमा उत्पादन सम्बन्ध अर्ध सामन्ती छ भन्ने तर्क पनि नेपाली वामपन्थी विचारकहरूले गर्ने गरेका छन् ।



चित्र. नं. ३: सामन्ती उत्पादन पद्धति

सामन्ती उत्पादन पद्धती अर्न्तगत उत्पादनको प्रमुख साधन भनेको भूमि नै हुने गर्दछ । जमिन्दारको कब्जामा अथाह जमिन रहेको हुन्छ र त्यस्तो जमिनमा किसानहरूबाट गरिने श्रम बाध्यात्मक हुन्छ। किसानहरूले शारिरीक श्रम मार्फत प्रसस्त अनाज उत्पादन गर्दछन् र जमिन्दारलाई बुझाउँदछन् जस मध्येको केही अनाज बाँच्नका लागि मात्र किसानले प्राप्त गर्दछ र ठूलो मात्राको अतिरिक्त अनाज जमिन्दारले विनिमय मार्फत विलासी जीवन बिताउँन प्रयोग गर्दछ । यसरी सामन्ती उत्पादन पद्धतीमा अतिरिक्त नाफा (अनाज) पुनः नाफा कमाउनका लागि प्रयोग हुदैन, त्यो नाफा जमिन्दारले विलासी जीवन जीउनका लागि प्रयोग गर्ने गर्दछ र मुलतः पुर्नउत्पादनका लागि प्रयोग गर्दैन ।

आज नेपाली समाजमा जमिनको वितरणमा असमानता छ तर अधिकांश परिवारको आफ्नै निजी स्वामित्वमा धेरथोर जमिन छ। किसानले जमिनमा गर्ने श्रम बाध्यात्मक छैन । अर्को महत्त्वपूर्ण कुरा के हो भने आज आम नेपालीहरूको आम्दानीको श्रोत के हो ? जीवन धान्न आवश्यक पर्ने पुँजीको कमाई कहाँबाट भईरहेको छ ? के त्यो पुँजी जमिनमा श्रम गरेर आर्जन गरेको अनाजको विनिमयबाट मात्र प्राप्त भईरहेको छ त ? छैन । जमिनमै श्रम गरेर प्राप्त हुने पुँजी पनि आनाजको रूपमा होइन, गैरकृषि क्षेत्रका मजदुरहरूले जसरी ज्याला प्राप्त गर्दछन् त्यसरी नै कृर्षी क्षेत्रका मजदुरले ज्याला प्राप्त गरिरहेका छन् । त्यसैगरि, सामन्ती उत्पादन पद्धति भएको समाजमा राज्यको राजस्वको प्रमूख श्रोत भूमिकर हनेगर्छ तर आज राजस्वमा भूमिकरको योगदान मात्र २० प्रतिशतको हाराहारी छ र राष्ट्रिय राजस्वमा लगभग ८० प्रतिशत योगदान भन्सार, भ्याट, अन्तःशुल्क र आयकरको छ । यसरी हेर्दा नेपाली समाजको उत्पादन पद्धति सामन्ती छैन । त्यसो भए के नेपाली समाजको उत्पादन सम्बन्ध पुँजीवादी हो त ? यस सम्बन्धमा छोटो चर्चा गरौं ।

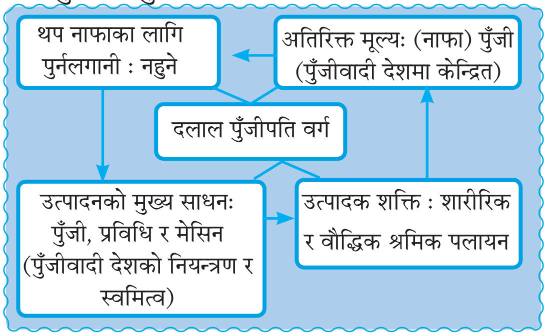


चित्र. नं. ४: पुँजीवादी उत्पादन पद्धति

पुँजीवादी उत्पादन पद्धतिमा पुँजीपति वर्गले आफूसँग भएको पुँजी प्रयोग गरेर व्यापक रूपमा बस्तु तथा सेवाको उत्पादन गर्दछ। पुँजीपति वर्गले यसरी उत्पादन गरेको बस्तु तथा सेवा बजारमा बेचेर बचेको अतिरिक्त नाफा (पुँजी) पुनः अर्को नयाँ क्षेत्रमा थप पुँजी वृद्धि गर्ने प्रयोजनका लागि लगानी गर्दछ। यसरी पुँजीवादमा पुँजीको निरन्तर वृद्धि र विस्तार हुने हुन पुग्दछ। प्राकृतिक श्रोत र साधनको उच्चतम उपयोग भई व्यापक रोजगारीका अवसरहरू सृजना हुन पुग्दछन र उत्पादक शक्तिको चरम विकास हुने गर्दछ।

यसरी माथि उल्लेखित सामन्ती उत्पादन पद्धति र पुँजीवादी उत्पादन पद्धतिको विश्लेषण गर्दा वर्तमान नेपाली समाजमा सामन्ती उत्पादन सम्बन्ध कतै देख्न सकिदैन भने पुँजीवादी उत्पादन सम्बन्धको पनि विकास भएको पाईदैन । नेपाली समाजको सर्न्दभमा माथिको पुँजीवादी उत्पादन पद्धति अर्न्तगतको चित्र अनुसार अतिरिक्त नाफा (पुँजी) थप नाफा वृद्धिका लागि पूनः लगानी भएर पुँजीको वृद्धि र विस्तार निरन्तर हुनु पर्नेमा अवरोध उत्पन्न भएको छ र पुँजीवादी उत्पादन प्रणालीको चक्रले पूर्णता पाउन सकेको छैन। यस्तो किन भइरहेको छ त ? विश्व साम्राज्यवादको राजनीतिक संरक्षणमा भूमण्डलीय दलाल पुँजीवादको चरम आर्थिक शोषण (विकासशील राष्ट्रबाट कच्चा पदार्थ र श्रम शक्ति सस्तोमा खरिद गर्ने र त्यसबाट उत्पादित वस्तु तथा सेवा त्यही राष्ट्रको बजारमा महङ्गोमा बेच्ने) बाट नेपाली समाजले सामन्ती उत्पादन सम्बन्ध छोडे पनि विस्तारित

पुँजीवादको रूपमा विकसित हुन सकिरहेको छैन । यहाँको पुँजीवाद व्यापारीक पुँजीवादको रूपमा विकास भएको छ । व्यापारीक पुँजीवादको चरित्र दलाल हुने हुँदा यसलाई दलाल पुँजीवाद पनि भन्न सकिन्छ । त्यसैले नेपाली समाजको विद्यमान आर्थिक चरित्र उत्पादन सम्बन्ध र उत्पादन पद्धतिका आधारमा दलाल पुँजीवादी छ, जसलाई निम्नानुसार प्रस्तुत गर्न सकिन्छ :



चित्र नं. ५: दलाल पुँजीवादी उत्पादन पद्धती

नेपाली समाजवाद

अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय कम्युनिष्ट आन्दोलनमा समाजवाद निर्माणका सन्दर्भमा विभिन्न मतभेदहरू रहँदै आएका छन् । अक्टुवर समाजवादी क्रान्ति भए पश्चात् सोभियत संघ र पूर्वी यूरोपका मूलुकहरूमा जुन खालको समाजवाद निर्माण गरियो र त्यस कालमा राज्यसत्ताको संचालन जसरी गरियो, त्यसमा जनताको प्रत्येक्ष सहभागिता र निर्णायक भूमिका रहेन । सर्वहारा वर्गको अधिनायकत्वको नाममा एउटा मात्र कम्युनिष्ट पार्टी र अझ त्यसका केही निश्चित नेताहरूको स्वेच्छाचारी शासन जनतामा थोपर्ने कार्यले राम्रो गरेन। सबैतिर राज्यको नियन्त्रण हुनु, जनताप्रति उत्तरदायी हुनुपर्ने व्यवस्था कतै पनि नहुनु, जनतालाई दिइएको भनिएका अधिकारको निर्वाध रूपमा उपभोग गर्न पाउने वातावरण नहुनु, समाजवाद निर्माण र राज्यसत्ता संचालनका सन्दर्भमा जनताको अभिमत प्रकट हुन पाउने व्यवस्था नहुनु, शक्तिको अति केन्द्रीकरण हुनु, नियन्त्रण र सन्तुलनको व्यवस्था नहुनु र श्रमजीवी वर्गको भनिएको राज्यसत्तामा त्यस वर्गले नियन्त्रण गर्ने त कुरै छाडौं सरोकार राख्न पनि नसक्ने अवस्था हुनु जस्ता व्यवहारले समाजवाद निर्माणको सवाललाई आम जनतासँग प्रत्यक्ष सम्बन्धित सवाल हुनबाट टाढा राख्ने काम भयो, जसले गर्दा सत्तरी वर्षसम्म चलेको समाजवादको एउटा रूप टिक्न सकेन र जनताले त्यसलाई टिकाउनका निम्ति कुनै चासो पनि देखाएनन्। मार्क्सवादको सिर्जनात्मक प्रयोग तथा नयाँखाले जनवादी व्यवस्थाको निर्माण र परिचालका सन्दर्भमा पनि अनेक प्रकारका अनुभवहरू प्राप्त भएका छन् । एकातर्फ पेरिस कम्युनको विद्रोह, अक्टुवर समाजवादी क्रान्ति र पूर्वी यूरोपका मूलुकमा भएका क्रान्तिका अनुभव छन् भने अर्को तर्फ चीन, कोरिया, भियतनाम, क्युवा, कम्बोडिया आदि मूलुकमा भएका क्रान्तिका अनुभव पनि छन् । बर्मा, थाइल्याण्ड फिलिपिन्स आदि मूलुकमा कम्युनिष्ट आन्दोलनले भोगेको धक्का पनि अन्तराष्ट्रिय कम्युनिष्ट आन्दोलनका महत्त्वपूर्ण अनुभव हुन् । नेपाली बामपन्थी आन्नदोलनको शुरूआत नै लोकतान्त्रिक आन्दोलनको रूपमा भएको थियो र त्यसले निरन्तर रूपमा निरङ्कुशतन्त्रका विरूद्ध सङ्घर्ष गर्नुका साथै शुरूदेखि नै चुनावी राजनीतिमा समेत सामेल भएर त्यसको माध्यमद्वारा परिवर्तनकारी विचारलाई जनतामाझ पुऱ्याउने सफलता प्राप्त गर्दै आएको छ (Bhusal, 2011)।

नव मार्क्सवादी विचारधारा अनुसार परिवर्तनशिल समाजका तत्कालीन अनुभव तथा परिस्थितिजन्य वास्तविकतालाई मध्यनजर गरी सोहि आधारमा पुँजीवाद र नवउदारवादले सृजना गरेका विभेद, शोषण र असमनताका विरूद्ध अल्पकालीन र दिर्घकालीन रणनीति तय गरी समाजवाद सम्म पुग्न सकिन्छ। अतः नेपाली समाजवाद निर्माणको लक्ष्य पुरा गर्नकोलागि नेपाली क्रान्तिका लक्ष्यलाई न्युनतम र उच्चतम लक्ष्य गरी दुई चरणमा विभाजित गर्न सकिन्छ।

न्युनतम लक्ष्य : उत्पादनशील पुँजीवाद

माथि उल्लेख गरिए अनुसार नेपाली समाजको विद्यमान दलाल पुँजीवादी उत्पादन सम्बन्धमा आमूल परिवर्तन गरी राष्ट्रिय तथा उद्यमशिल पुँजीको विकास गर्दै श्रमजीवी वर्गको उत्पादन सम्बन्ध भएको समाजिक आर्थिक व्यवस्था कायम गर्नु नेपाली क्रान्तिको न्युनतम लक्ष्य वा कार्यक्रम हुनु पर्दछ, यो कार्यक्रम शास्त्रिय मार्क्सवादी तथा लेनिनवादी अधिनायकवादको बाटोबाट नभइ लोकतान्त्रिक प्रतिस्पर्धाबाट श्रेष्ठता हासिल गर्दै श्रमजीवि जनताको पक्षमा अधिकतम हितकारी कार्य गरी राजनीतिक, आर्थिक, सामाजिक तथा साँकृतिक क्षेत्रमा रहेका अन्तरविरोहरूलाई शान्तिपूर्ण ढङ्गले हल गर्दै पुरा गर्न सकिन्छ।

दिर्घकालीन लक्ष्य : समाजवाद

नेपाली क्रान्तिको अधिकतम लक्ष्य भनेको समाजवाद हो । राष्ट्रिय तथा उद्यमशिल पुँजीको अधिकतम विकास गर्दै जनवादी व्यवस्थाको सुदृढीकरण भएको लामो समय पछि मात्र समाजवादका लागि आवश्यक पृष्ठभूमि तयार हुन पुग्दछ र समाजवादी कार्यक्रम लागु गर्न सकिन्छ । यस कार्यक्रमका आधारभूत मान्यता भनेको उत्पादनका मुख्य साधन तथा सार्वजनिक श्रोत र सम्पतिको अधिकतम सामाजिकीकरण मार्फत संस्थागत र सामुहिक स्वामित्व

स्थापित गरी असमानता, विभेद र शोषणको अन्त्यको लागि विश्व पुँजीवाद र नवउदारवादको संरक्षणमा पुरातनवादी राज्य सत्ताले स्थापित गरेको ज्भनभ्रयलथ्ु का विरूद्ध वौद्धिक तहबाट समेत अभियान सञ्चालन गरी श्रमजीवी जनताको समाजवादी लोकतन्त्रको स्थापना गर्नुपर्दछ । जनवादी व्यवस्थाले वस्तुगत परिस्थितीको विकाससँगै जनतालाई पुरातनवादी चिन्तनबाट माथि उठाउदै लोकतान्त्रिक विधि र प्रक्रियाद्वारा समाजवादका लागि तयार पार्नु पर्दछ तव मात्र समाजवादी कार्यक्रम लागु गर्न सकिन्छ। नेपाली समाजवाद आफ्नै विशिष्टताका आधारमा विकास गरी लागु गरिनुपर्दछ ।

निष्कर्ष

नव मार्क्सवादी विचारधारा अनुसार पुँजीवादले शोषण र उत्पिडनका नयाँ नयाँ तौर तरिकाहरू अपनाई रहेकोले कम्प्युनिष्ट आन्दोलन शास्त्रीय मार्क्सवादी ढाँचाबाट मात्र अगि बढ्दा विश्व श्रमजीवी वर्गले मुक्ती प्राप्त गर्न नसक्ने भएकोले पनि मार्क्सवादका आधारभुत मूलय मान्यतालाई आत्मासाथ गर्दै नयाँ ढङ्गबाट सङ्घर्ष गर्नुपर्ने परिस्थितीको सृजना भएको छ।

मार्क्सवाद मुलतः युरोपको तिव्र औद्योगीकीकरण भइरहेका सन्दर्भमा औद्योगिक सर्वहारा मजदुर वर्गमाथि भएको शोषणलाई नै मुख्य आधार मानेर त्यो वर्गको मुक्तिकालागी मूल रूपमा केन्द्रित छ । नेपाल लगायत दक्षिणी विश्व (Global south) को हालको विद्यमान अवस्थालाई मध्यनजर गर्ने हो भने शोषण र विभेदको मूलजड आर्थिक मात्र नभएर सामाजिक साँस्कृतिक, राजनितिक कारणहरू समेत मूल रूपमा जिम्मेवार छन् । सामाजिक, साँस्कृतीक र राजनीतिक रूपले हुने शोषण र विभेदलाई एकाधिकार विश्वपुँजीवादको संरक्षणमा नव उदारवादले भुमण्डलीकरणको माध्यामबाट विश्वव्यापी रूपमा मलजल गरिरहेको छ । नवउदारवादले विश्वव्यापी रूपमा सृजना गरेको शोषण र विभेदका जडहरूलाई भत्काउँदै राष्ट्रिय विस्तारित अर्थतन्त्रको स्थापना गर्नु नेपाल लगायत दक्षिणी विश्व (Global south) को वामपन्थी आन्दोलनको मुख्य कार्यभार हो । नेपाली समाजवादी ढाँचा तयार गर्दा शास्त्रीय मार्क्सवादले परिकल्पना गरेको समाजवाद भन्दा समकालीन विश्वमा विकसित भएका नवमार्क्सवादी सिद्धान्तहरू, अन्तराष्ट्रिय कम्युनिष्ट आन्दोलनबाट प्राप्त अनुभवहरू र विभिन्न समाजवादी देशहरूले विकास गरेका असल अभ्यासहरूलाई समेत मध्यनजर गरी नेपाली विशेषता सहितको समाजवादी ढाँचाको विकास गर्नु पर्दछ।

सोभियत संघको विघटन पछि युरोपमा सर्वहारा वर्गको अधिनायकत्वलाई परित्याग गरी नागरिकको स्वतन्त्रता, शान्तिपूर्ण सहअस्तित्व र पुँजीवादी लोकतन्त्रको मूलय मान्यताको उपयोगलाई आत्मासाथ गरी युरो साम्यवाद (Euro Communism) को विकास गरेको पाइन्छ । युरो कम्युनिज्मको विकास गरी यसलाई संस्थागत गर्न वर्नस्टिन कार्लकाउत्स्की र रोजा लक्जेवर्ग जस्ता विद्वानहरूको योगदान रहेको छ । नेपाली वामपन्थी आन्दोलनले उठान गरी हासिल गरेका उपलब्धिहरू र युरो कम्युनिजमका धेरै कुराहरूमा समानता पाइन्छ तर वर्ग विहिनतालाई व्यवाहारिक रूपमा स्वीकार गर्ने वा अस्वीकार गर्ने भन्ने मूल प्रश्न हो । युरो कम्युनिजमले वर्गविहिनतालाई अस्वीकार गरेको छ भने नेपालको सर्न्दभमा अन्य विभेदसँगै वर्गीय विभेदलाई क्रमश घटाउँदै लामो अभ्यासमार्फत वर्ग विहिन समाजवादी ढाँचाको तय गर्नुपर्दछ । समाजवादी कार्यक्रम लागु गर्नु भन्दा अगाडि जनवादी व्यवस्थाको सुदृढीकरणको चरणमा राष्ट्रिय पुँजीको व्यापक विकास र विक्तार गर्न सफल चिनियाँ मोडेल (राज्य नियन्त्रित खुला बजार व्यवस्था) को प्रयोगमार्फत विद्यमान अर्न्तविरोधहरूलाई हल गर्दै श्रमजीवी पक्षीय कानुनको निर्माण र त्यसको प्रभावकारी कार्यन्वयनबाट समाजवाद सम्म पुग्न सकिन्छ।

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Review

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ABSTRACT (लेखसार)

प्रस्तुत लेखले विकासलाई एक विवादास्पद अवधारणा हो भन्ने तर्कलाई मानक मान्दछ। विश्वव्यापी रूपमा विकास एक विवादास्पद अवधारणा हो । विकास भन्नाले गुणात्मक र मात्रात्मक परिवर्तनको समग्रता हो जसले मानिसहरूको जीविकालाई प्रत्यक्ष वा अप्रत्यक्ष रूपमा सुधार ल्याउँछ वा त्यसमा कल्याणकारी विभेद गर्दछ । लेखले पुनरावलोकन अनुसन्धान विधिलाई आत्मसाथ गरेको छ, जहाँ समाज सत्यहरूको सापेक्ष प्रतिविम्ब हो भन्ने दार्शनिक आयाम राखिएको छ। वास्तवमा विकासको अर्थ र परिभाषा समयसँगै परिवर्तन भएका छन् र यसलाई विभिन्न आयामहरू, रणनीतिहरू र दृष्टिकोणको समुच्च रूप अर्थात Paradigm को रूपमा बुझ्नु वैज्ञानिक हुने देखिन्छ। यो शक्ति र ज्ञानबीचको टकराव वा विवाद हो जसलाई अंग्रेजीको (Discourse) वा नेपालीमा 'भाष्य' रूपमा पुनः प्रयोग गरिएको छ । विकासका अध्ययनमा खासगरी तीन किसिमको डिस्कोर्सहरू पाइन्छ। मूलप्रवाही विकास, वैकल्पिक विकास र उत्तरवर्ती विकास । सामान्यतया मूलप्रवाही विकासले आधुनिकीकरण सिद्धान्त–संरचनाको पैरवी गर्दै यसको उदारवादी/पुँजीवादी विधि र अभ्यासमा जोड दिने गर्दछ। वैकल्पिक विकासको अवधारणा मूलप्रवाही भन्दा केही प्रगतिशील, सुधारवादी/समाजवादी तथा आलोचनात्मक भएको विचार पद्धति हो भने उत्तर विकासले विकासको तथा–कथित सिद्धान्त र प्रयोगलाई नै आलोचनात्मक रूपमा हेर्दछ । यसप्रकार यस लेखमा विभिन्न धारणाहरूको चिरफार गर्दै विकासको आम बुझाइ र गराइ कसरी विरोधाभासपूर्ण बन्दै छ भन्ने निष्कर्ष प्रस्तुत गरिएको छ।

शब्दकुञ्जी (Keywords): विकास, प्याराडाइम, डिस्कोर्स, भाष्य, मूलप्रवाही विकास, वैकल्पिक विकास, उत्तर विकास

परिचय

विकास के हो, के होइन ? हो भने कसरी हो र होइन भने किन होइन? अथवा विकास हो र होइनको बिचमा छ वा त्यो भन्दा बाहिर छ ? यो मानवीय चाहना, आवश्यकता, बाध्यता के हो ? यी द्विविधाहरू (Paradoxes) पश्चिमा पुनर्जागरण समयदेखिनै यसैमा घुमिरहेको छ जबकि यसलाई हजारौँ वर्ष पहिले 'बर्हमंद स्व अस्तित्व' को रूपमा वेदमा उल्लेख गरिएको पाइन्छ । इतिहासवादले मान्दछ कि विकास सैद्धान्तिक/ वैचारिक विषयवस्तुमात्रै नभएर प्रयोगात्मक र बहुआयामिक अभ्यास पनि हो। यो आफैँमा विवादास्पद छ किनभने विकासको बुझाइमा एकरूपता पनि नभएको र परिभाषित गर्ने सन्दर्भमा यसको कुनै विश्वव्यापी सत्यता र मान्यता पनि छैन (Bernstein, 2010)। विकास भनेको फरक मानिसको लागि फरक चिज वा विषयबस्तु हो । यसलाई निरेपेक्ष भन्दा पनि सापेक्ष रूपले बुझ्नु बढी वैज्ञानिक हुन्छ। आधारभूत रूपमा विकास भन्नाले आयआर्जनमा बढोत्तरी हुनु, उत्पादनमा वृद्धि देखिनु, गरिबी तथा भोकमरीबाट छुटकारा पाउनु, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य लगायत विकासका पूर्वाधारहरूको उपलब्धता एवम् पहुँच हुनु र आम जनताको लागि प्रभावकारी प्रशासनिक सेवा सुविधाहरूको व्यवस्था हुनु हो। यसै सन्दर्भमा सेन (Sen, 2001) धेरै नै आलोचनात्मक देखिएका छन्। उनले भनेका छन् विकास वास्तवमा स्वतन्त्रताको पर्याय हो (Development as Freedom)। विकास हुनु भनेको भए/रहेको संरचनाहरूमा आउने क्रमिक सुधार हो। मानिसहरूको इच्छा, स्वतन्त्रता र तिनीहरूको कर्यक्षमतालाई बढवा दिन्छ न कि उत्पादनको बढोत्तरी मात्रै । यसलाई विकास अर्थशास्त्रमा क्षमता दृष्टिकोण (Capability Approach) भनिएको छ।

विश्व डिस्कोर्समा धेरै सवाल र परिवर्तित बिधि र अभ्यासहरू एकदमै विवादास्पद भएका छन् (Bebbington, 2010), र नेपाल पनि यसबाट अलग रहन सक्दैन (Manandhar, 2011; Sapkota, 2014; Sharma et al., 2014) । विकासको अर्थ सामान्यबाट जटिल, एकलबाट बहुल, धर्मबाट राजनीति, राजनीतिबाट अर्थनीति र अर्थनीतिबाट क्रमशः विज्ञान तथा प्रविधितिर परावर्तन हुँदैछ । यसबाट विकासको अर्थ र अभ्यास बहुआयामिक, विवादास्पद र बृहत बनेको छ । यद्यपि धेरैजसो दृष्टिकोणहरूले विकासलाई मानिसहरूको आधार भूत आवश्कताहरू पूरा हुनु, सेवा र स्रोतहरूमा पहुँच हुनु र मानवीय मान्यता र सम्मान हुनु वा गराउने प्रक्रियाको रूपमा प्रयोग गरेको भेटिन्छ। शाब्दिक रूपले हेर्ने हो भने यो बहुअर्थी छ, जस्तो कि वृद्धि, बढोत्तरी, सुधार, सामाजिक परिवर्तन, रूपान्तरण, सुख-शान्ति, भलाई आदि इत्यादि। आधुनिक युगमा विकासको डिस्कोर्स विनिर्माण गर्न राज्य वा सरकारहरू, राष्ट्रसंघीय निकायहरू, दाताहरू, बुद्धिजीवीहरू, गैसरकारी संस्थाहरू आदिले बढी भूमिका खेलेका हुन्छन्। यसरी तिनीहरूले निर्धारण गरेको परिभाषा सर्वजनीन हुनपुग्छ र त्यसलाई पाठयक्रममा राखेर प्रशस्ति गरिन्छ। यिनै मूलभूत विषयहरूलाई विश्लेषण र संश्लेषण गर्दै यो अनुसन्धानात्मम लेख तयार पारिएको छ।

समस्या कथन र उद्देश्य

प्रस्तुत अध्ययन 'विकासको विवादास्पद भाष्यः एक दार्शनिक विवेचना' मूल समसयामा केन्द्रित रहेको छ। यस समस्यासँग सम्बन्धित शोध्यप्रश्नहरू यसप्रकार रहेका छन् :

क) विकास डिस्कोर्सको दार्शनिक अवस्था के – कस्तो छ ?

ख) विकासका सैद्धान्तिक र अर्थ राजनीतिक घटनाहरूलाई कसरी देखिाइएको छ ?

उपर्युक्त प्रश्नको समाधान खोज्नु नै यस आलेखको उद्देश्य रहेको छ । यसै उद्देश्यमा केन्द्रित भएर प्रस्तुत अनुसन्धान गरिएको छ।

अध्ययन विधि

प्रस्तुत अध्ययनका लागि आवश्यक सामग्रीहरू पुस्तकालयीय कार्यबाट सङ्कलन गरिएको छ । यसमा पुस्तकालयीय कार्यबाट प्राथमिक र द्वितीयक सामग्रीहरूको सङ्कलन गरिएको छ । यस सन्दर्भमा प्राथमिक स्रोतको रूपमा अध्ययनको उद्देश्यलाई आधार मानि उद्देश्यमूलक नमुना छनोट विधिका आधारमा विकासको विवादास्पद भाष्य सम्बन्धित धारणाहरूलाई नमुना छनोट गरेर सामग्री सङ्कलन गरिएको छ भने भाष्यसँग सम्बन्धित सैद्धान्तिक विचार, पत्रपत्रिकामा प्रकाशित अनुसन्धानात्मक सामग्रीको रूपमा उपयोग गरिएको छ। द्वितीयक स्रोतअन्तर्गत पुस्तक, पत्रपत्रिका, प्रतिवेदन, शोधप्रबन्ध, शोधपत्र र इन्टरनेटबाट विषयवस्तुहरू समावेश गरिएको छ । यो अधयन ऐतिहासिक तथा विश्लेषणात्मक विधिमा आधारित छ । यसमा वर्णनात्मक तथा व्याख्यात्मक अनुसन्धान विधिको उपयोग गरिएको छ।

साहित्यको विमर्श र विश्लेषण

विकासको भाष्य

शाब्दिक रूपमा डिस्कोर्स (Discourse) भन्नाले कुनै विषय वा घटनामा अर्थ उत्पादन हुने, व्याख्या हुने वा

त्यसलाई विश्लेषण गर्ने विधि वा सिद्धान्तलाई बुझिन्छ। यो भाषामा निहित घटना विज्ञान र ज्ञान परिचर्चा हो। वैदिक र वेदान्त साहित्यहरूमा यो 'भाष्य' का रूपमा प्रचलित थियो भने पुनर्जागरणको दर्शनमा घटनाको प्रतिनिधित्वको रूपलाई उल्लेख गर्न एवम् भाषाको प्रत्यय/अन्तर्य र सर्गहरूको विवरण गराउने शब्दका रूपमा डिस्कोर्सलाई प्रयोग गरिन्थ्यो। सन् १९७० पछिका दशकहरूमा यसको प्रयोग विशेष क्षेत्र वा घटनाको सांस्कृतिक र ऐतिहासिक अर्थ दिने काममा गरिन थाल्यो। अन्ततः एक अनुसन्धान विधिकै रूपमा स्थापित भयो। खासगरी विद्वान दार्शनिक मिसेल फुको (1926-1984) ले डिस्कोर्स शब्दलाई पहिलो पटक आफ्नो नयाँ सन्दर्भ र विधि मार्फत आफ्नो लेखमा प्रयोग गरेका थिए। उनले डिस्कोर्सलाई अर्थहरूको खेलका रूपमा जोडदार तर्क गरेका छन्। अनि यो अर्थ शक्तिको आधारमा उत्पन्न हुने, व्याख्या हुने र लोप हुने पनि गर्दछ। तसर्थ शक्तिशालीहरूले प्रभुत्वको रजगज गर्ने आधारभूत कारण उनीहरूको डिस्कोर्स नै शक्तिशाली हुनु हो। जसका आधारमा समाजमा भाषा, संस्कृति, अर्थतन्त्र र जीविका बन्ने गर्दछन्। फुकोले आफ्नो प्रसिद्ध कृतिहरू (The Order of Discourse;, 1971; The Archaeology of Knowledge, 1972) मा यसबारे विशेष चर्चा गरेका छन्।

वास्तवमा समाज र राज्यमा शक्तिको अस्तित्व जुन प्रकारले संरचित हुन्छ, त्यसरी नै डिस्कोर्स बन्दछ, अनि जस्तो र जसको डिस्कोर्स बन्दछ त्यस्तै सत्ताको स्थापना पनि हुन्छ। जस्तो सत्ता हुन्छ, त्यस्तै विकास र अविकासको अस्तित्व पनि निर्माण हुने गर्दछ। मिसेल फुकोको कामले कुनै पनि संस्था र ती सस्थाहरूले समाजमा सत्यता स्थापना गर्न अपनाएका उपायहरूलाई बिश्लेषण गर्न यी डिस्कोर्स सँग–सँगै Discursive Practices / Discursive Formation जस्ता अन्य शब्दहरू मानक बन्न पुगे। समाजमा डिस्कोर्स बन्ने र भत्किने परिघटनाको केन्द्रीय इकाई भनेको नै शक्ति हो। यही शक्तिले राजनीतिलाई अतिक्रमण गर्दछ र सामाजिक मूल्य–मान्यतालाई निर्धारण गर्दछ। विकासको मूल्य निर्धारण त्यसकारण शक्ति–प्रधान हुने गर्दछ जसले ज्ञान र अभ्यासलाई निर्देश गर्दछ। हामीलाई लाग्दछ कि शासक व्यक्ति वा सरकार हो, तर वास्तवमा शक्ति नै निर्णायक हो जसको पछाडि शासितहरू नतमस्तक भएर स्थापित सत्तालाई स्वीकार गर्दछन्। राजनीतिक, आर्थिक, सामाजिक, मनोवैज्ञानिक, नैतिक आदि शक्तिका बहुविविध आयामहरू हुनसक्छन् तर राजनीतिक र आर्थिक शक्तिहरू नै प्रभुत्वशाली रहेको देखिन्छ। डिस्कोर्सको रूपमा विकासले ज्ञानको कारक एजेन्टको लागि वैधानिकता गठन गर्दै पहिले नै वैधता पाएका स्थापित धारणा र सिद्धान्तहरू विस्तार गर्नका लागि नियम सुनिश्चित गर्दछ। त्यसैकारण यो शक्ति र ज्ञानको अभिव्यक्ति हो। सायद यसै सन्दर्भमा (Geiser, 2014) ले भनेका छन् –डिस्कोर्सहरू शब्दहरूको जालो मात्र नभई सामाजिक अन्तर्क्रियाका प्रामाणिक र रणनीतिक प्रतियोगी हुन, जो कि त शक्तिशाली छन् कि शक्तिका सम्भावित बाहक हुन (पृ.४)।

दर्शनको रूपमा डिस्कोर्स कुनै नौलो वस्तु वा चिज होइन। यद्यपि शास्त्रीय शब्दहरूमा यसलाई जीवन वा समाजका मूल्य–मान्यता, इश्वरीयता वा नश्वरीयतासँगै परिकल्पना गरिएको छ। 'वादे वादे जायते तत्वबोध' भनिएको यसै कारणले हो। किनकि विचार विमर्श र चिन्तनबाट नै ज्ञानको सिर्जना हुने गर्दछ। तत्वशास्त्र (Metaphysics) को रूपमा पूर्वीय विकासको डिस्कोर्स अत्यन्तै विस्तृत छ भने पश्चिमा विकासको डिस्कोर्स ज्ञानशास्त्र (Epistemology) को धेरै नजिक छ। सत्यता बनाउनु वा गठन गर्नु सत्यताको प्रकृति भन्दा धेरै महत्वपूर्ण छ। वास्तविक शंकास्पद के हो? यसले पनि विकासको सोचाइमा घण्टी बजाउने काम गर्छ। तालिका १ मा प्रस्तुत गरेजस्तै पूर्वीय विकासमा भलाई र आदर्शलाई उच्च तवरले मुखरित गरिन्छ भने उन्नति र व्यक्तिगत सन्तुष्टिलाई पश्चिमा विकासको सोचाइमा मुख्य मुद्दाहरू मानिन्छन्। यद्यपि भौतिकवादी प्रयोग, औपचारिक ज्ञानको सिर्जना र विकासका सूचकाङ्कहरू पश्चिमा दर्शनमा केन्द्रित छन्। ज्ञान, प्रज्ञा र विवेक सँग–सँगै पूर्वीय दर्शनले जीवनको मूल्यका रूपमा शान्ति र सद्भावमा जोड दिन्छ जुन आधुनिक विकास डिस्कोर्सको मूल विषय भएको छ। उदाहरणका लागि हामी उपनिषदका शान्ति मन्त्रहरूलाई पनि लिन सक्दछौँ। जहाँ सुख र भयविहीनताको कुरा गरिएको छ :

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनःसर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः।
सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिद्दुःखभाग्भवेत।
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्ति॥

अर्कातिर बौद्ध दर्शनमा प्रयोग गरिने 'भवतु सब्ब मङगलम शुभाशिष' मन्त्रको अर्थ विश्वजनीन छ। गीतामा व्याख्या गरिएको कर्म सिद्धान्त एवम् बौद्धहरूको चतुरार्य सत्य र प्रत्युत समुत्पाद जस्ता सिद्धान्तहरूबाट विकास निरपेक्ष कुरा होइन बरू यो हुनु र नहुनुमा निश्चित कारण र परिणामहरू रहेका छन् भन्ने कुरामा थप व्याख्या गर्न सकिन्छ (Sapkota, 2024)।

तालिका १ : विकास डिस्कोर्सको दार्शनिक अवस्था

पूर्वीय विकासका सोचाई	पश्चिमा विकासका सोचाई
भलाई केन्द्रित	वृद्धि र विकासमा केन्द्रित
विकासको सर्वव्यापी मूल्य	विकासका व्यक्तिगत मूल्य
अध्यात्मिक पहिचान, ब्रह्माण्डका मूल्य मान्यता, र ज्ञान	ज्ञान सिर्जना र भौतिक आवश्कताको पूर्तिमा केन्द्रित
अन्तरसम्बन्धित वा एक्लै	पूर्णबाट अलग भाग
सदभाव र एकीकृत भातृत्व	नियन्त्रित वास्तविकता र भातृत्व
विकास मानव मुक्तिको साधन	अर्थ–राजनीतिक साधन

Paradigm र Discourse प्रयोगात्मक रूपमा उस्तै उस्तै देखिएता पनि सैद्धान्तिक रूपमा भिन्न हुन्। प्रतिमान (Paradigm) शब्द मूल ग्रीक हो, जसको अर्थ 'ढाँचा' हो। यो समान घटनाहरू चित्रण गर्ने सैद्धान्तिक अवधारणाको रूपमा प्रयोग गरिन्छ। दर्शन र विज्ञानमा यसको प्रयोग सन् साठीको दशक पछि व्यापक भयो जतिबेला प्रसिद्ध लेखक Thomas Kuhn (1922-1996) ले सन् १९६२ मा लेखेको पुस्तक The Structure of Scientific Revolutions ले हलचल ल्याईदिएको थियो । उनको Paradigm Shift भन्ने सिद्धान्तले समाज, सभ्यता र इतिहास कुनै राजनीतिक क्रान्तिले भन्दा पनि विज्ञान र प्रविधिमा आएको बदलावको कारणले परिवर्तन हुने कुरा प्रस्तुत गरेको छ। अहिले प्रचलित विज्ञान Normal Science ले सधैं काम गर्न सक्दैन, त्यसमा सङ्कट आउँछ (Anomalies and Crisis) र अन्ततः क्रान्ति भई नयाँ Paradigm बन्दछ। पृथ्वी–केन्द्रित सिद्धान्त (Geocentric) बाट सूर्य–केन्द्रित सिद्धान्त (Heliocentric), वाष्प मेसिनबाट कम्बसनमेसिन् सिद्धान्त र त्यसबाट पनि विद्धुतीय मेसिन् र अहिलेको न्यूक्लियर मेसिनमा (Vapor engine to combustion engine and from electric engine to nuclear engine) आएको रूपान्तरण यसका केही उदाहरणहरू हुन्।

विकासमा पनि यही कुरा लागू हुन्छ किनकि समाज परिवर्तनशील छ भने यसको विज्ञान पनि परिवर्तशील छ। यस प्रकार कुनै कालखण्डमा काम गरेका विकासका सिद्धान्त वा अभ्यासहरू अर्को कालखण्डमा असान्दर्भिक हुन पुग्छन्। Social Science र Pure Science मा शुद्धतावाद र निरेपेक्षता कम हुने गर्दछ, यद्यपि अल्बर्ट आइन्स्टाइनले सन् १९०५ मा एक लेखमार्फत विज्ञानमा निरपेक्ष सत्यको मृत्यु भएको घोषणा गरेका थिए। जस्तो कि हामीले हेर्न सक्दछौं– शास्त्रीय अर्थशास्त्रबाट नवशास्त्रीय अर्थशास्त्र, आधुनिकीकरणबाट परनिर्भरतावाद, उदारवादबाट नवउदारवाद र मार्क्सवादबाट उत्तर–मार्क्सवाद, आदि । तर यस्ता Shift हरू पूर्णरूपमा हुन्छन् वा आंशिक रूपमा मात्रे बदलिन्छन् भन्ने कुरामा विवाद छ। किनकि कतिपय सिद्धान्तहरू सयौँ वा हजारौँ वर्ष पछि पनि केही न केही रूपमा प्रभावकारी नै रहेको पाइन्छ। अर्कोतिर Paradigm Shift को निर्धारणवादी सिद्धान्तले समाज विज्ञानको सुन्दरतालाई तहसनहस पारेर कृतिम क्रान्तिकारिता ल्याएको भनी कतिपय आलोचकहरूको तर्क रहेको छ।

डिस्कोर्स वा भाष्य अवधारणा परिवर्तनको मूल कारण के हो भन्ने कुरामा बढी केन्द्रित छ। यसअनुसार विज्ञान र प्रविधि भन्दा पनि सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक र राजनीतिक रूपले समाजले निर्माण गर्ने शक्ति नै परिवर्तनको निर्णायक कारक तत्व हो। यस दृष्टिकोणबाट हेर्दा विकास र शक्ति अभिन्न अङग हुन् अर्थात तिनीहरूलाई अलग गरेर हेर्न सकिदैन। एकप्रकारले भन्ने हो भने विकासको डिस्कोर्सले निम्न मान्यताहरू राख्दछ :

१) विकासको तत्वज्ञान न त पूर्णरूपले सकारात्मक छ, न त नकारात्मक नै छ। यसको प्रस्थान विन्दु र अन्तिम बिन्दु दुबै अपरिभाषित छन् (Metaphysics)।

२) विकास न त एक सत्व हो, न त बहुसत्य वा कुनै बहुभ्रम, यो त बरू बहुरूपी प्रकटीकरण हो (Ontology)।

३) विकास र अविकास द्वन्द्वात्मक छन, यिनको निषेधात्मक अस्तित्व छैन । जस्तो कि– विकास दृश्य–अदृश्य, प्राप्य–अप्राप्य, एकता–द्वन्द्व, भौतिक–अभौतिक, साधन–साध्य, आदि सन्दर्भअनुसार गौण र प्रभावकारी हुन्छन् (Dialectical)।

४) विकास केवल मानव समाजसँग मात्र सम्बन्धित छैन र केवल पृथ्वीमा मात्र पनि सिमित छैन (Scope)।

५) विकासका हुनु र नहुनुका कारणहरू छन, ति सबै अनित्य छन् र तिनलाई बदल्न सकिन्छ। तिनको मार्ग सत्य पनि छ (बौद्ध दर्शन)।

६) विकासको ज्ञेय र अज्ञेय के छ, किन छ? यसलाई कसरी जान्ने? बुझ्ने विधि के हो ? (Epistemology and Methodology)।

७) समय र परिस्थितिअनुसार विकास गतिशील छ। गतिशीलताका कारणले विकासका हरेक घटना र प्रक्रियाका रूपमा घटित हुन्छन् (Process Outcome)।

८. समाज र सन्दर्भ अनुसार विकासका आफ्नै मूल्य मान्यता र दर्शनहरू हुन्छन् समाज बदलिने कारणले ती मूल्य मान्यताहरू पनि बदलिन्छन् (Axiology and Paradigm Shift)।

विकास बहसको इतिहास

ज्ञान र मीमांसाको आफ्नै विमर्श हुने गर्दछ। पश्चिमतिर अक्सफोर्ड विश्वविधालय (1996), क्याम्ब्रिज विश्वविद्यालय (1209) र पेरिस विश्वविद्यालय (1150) को आफ्नै शास्त्रीय महिमा छ, जो अद्यावधिक छन् र संसारभरिका ज्ञानका स्रोतको एक प्रतिनिधित्व गर्दछन। अर्कातिर पूर्वीय भारतीय उपमहाद्वीपमा खुलेका तर इतिहासमा निरन्तरता पाउन नसकेका पश्चिमी संसारका भन्दा पनि अझै पुराना विश्वविधालयहरू जस्तै :तक्षशीला (इपू पाँचौं शताब्दी), नालन्दा (पाँचौं शताब्दी/ वि.स. ४५० तिर), बिक्रमशीला (आठौँ/ नवौ शताब्दी) को ज्ञान–चर्या दुखान्त र वियोगान्त छ। विकास, सभ्यता, मानव मुक्ति, राजनीति यी विविध कुराहरू ज्ञानकै उपज हुन। यी विश्वविद्यालय प्राज्ञिक थलोको आवादी वा समाजको प्रश्न गर्ने क्षमता आदिमा निर्भर गर्ने कुरा पनि रहेछ।

विकास डिस्कोर्सको उत्पत्ति हुनुमा आधुनिकीकरण र उत्तर–संरचनावादले महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका खेलेका छन्। वैचारिक रूपमा पहिल्यै स्थापित सिद्धान्तहरू (जस्तै– आधुनिकीकरण, संरचनाबाद, द्वन्द्ववाद र प्रकार्यवाद) एवम् प्रायोगिक रूपले उपनिवेशबाट स्वतन्त्र भएका मूलुकहरूको नयाँ सिर्जित मुद्दा र समस्याहरूलाई विश्लेषण गर्न विकासमा निरन्तर प्रश्नहरू तेर्सिंदै गए। त्यसलाई सम्बोधन गर्न नसकेपछि Orientalism र Post Developmentalism हुँदै डिस्कोर्सको अवधारणा अगाडि आएको हो। वास्तवमा यो सङ्कटको चिच्याहट थियो, विकासका नाममा नयाँ शासकहरूको जन्म दियो र अविकासको पुनरावृति मात्रै गऱ्यो। केही वर्ष यता विकास अध्ययनमा डिस्कोर्स विश्लेषण एउटा भाषा विज्ञानको पद्धतिको रूपमा मात्रै नभई वैचारिक बहस, शक्ति निरूपण र राजनैतिक अभिव्यक्तिको रूपमा पनि प्रयोग भएको छ। डिस्कोर्सले विकासका वर्तमान प्रवृतिमाथि एउटा आँखीझ्याल प्रदान गर्छ। आलोचनात्मक डिस्कोर्सले सत्तालाई हुबहु स्वीकार गर्दैन र विकास शक्तिशालीहरूको एक खेल मात्र हो भन्ने तर्क गर्दछ। विकास र सम्वृद्धि एक मीठो पहेली हो र ताजुवपूर्ण खुस्बु जसको घोडामा शासक सवार छ र त्यसको पीडा गरिवहरूले हासी–खुसी मानिरहेका छन—कतै–कतै क्रान्तिको सलामी त कतै बलिदानी इतिहास बनेर। अर्कातिर यसैगरी विकासको अराजकतावादी डिस्कोर्सले स्थापित सत्तालाई पूर्णतः अस्वीकार र निषेध गर्दछ। जसरी सत्ता शोषणमूलक छ। त्यसरी नै यसको विकास, शासन् लगायत अन्य प्रपञ्चहरू पनि शोषणमूलक छन्। अन्ततः यसले हिंसा र विभेदलाई नै संस्थागत गर्न पुग्दछ।

शास्त्रीय राजनैतिक अर्थशास्त्रीहरू रिकार्डो, मार्क्स देखि आधुनिक विकासका चिन्तकहरूले प्रत्यक्ष वा अप्रत्यक्ष रूपमा आर्थिक वृद्धिलाई नै विकासको नाममा सम्बोधन गरेको पाइन्छ तर त्यसमा नियन्त्रण र अपनत्व कसको हुन्छ भन्ने प्रश्न नै बढी विवादित देखिन्छ। पिटर्से (2010) का अनुसार सुरूवाती विकासका अभ्यासहरूलाई केवल आर्थिक वृद्धि र नाफामूलक उत्पादनका रूपमा बुझ्नु बढी सान्दर्भिक हुन्छ। क्रमशः स्रोत र साधनहरूको प्रयोग र वितरणमा अन्तरघुलित हुँदै जान्छ। यो बिल्कुल पराश्रित थियो र अन्ततः जानी–बुझी पुँजीवादको कठपुतली बन्न पुग्यो। शास्त्रीय राजनैतिक अर्थतन्त्रदेखि २१औँ शताब्दीसम्म विकासको अर्थ परिवर्तन भइरहेको छ। वास्तवमा उपनिवेशिक अर्थशास्त्र, आधुनिक विकास अर्थशास्त्रको सुरूवाती प्रयास थियो र उत्तर–उपनिवेशिक अध्ययनहरू वर्तमान विकासका डिस्कोर्सको प्रक्रियाहरूले

निर्देशित भएका छन् । एकातिर उदारवादी र सुधारवादी खेमाका विद्वावानहरू पुँजी बजार र राज्यको केन्द्रीय प्रश्नमा जति विभाजित छन् त्यति नै सामाजिक न्यायको प्रश्नमा व्यावहारिक रूपले उनीहरू आत्मसाथ गर्न सकेको देखिन्न। अर्कातिर मार्क्सवादी र नव मार्क्सवादीहरू आफ्नै अलमलमा छन् र उनीहरू विकासको वर्गीय व्याख्यामा एकमत छैनन् । यसै सन्दर्भमा केही वर्षयता विकासलाई Hegemony र Superior Complex को रूपमा प्रतिप्रश्न र चुनौती दिइएको पाइन्छ, जहाँ मार्कसवादी र गैर–मार्कसवादी दुबैको सम्मिश्रण भएर एक अन्तरकृयावादी (Interactionism) समाजशास्त्रीय विचारधाराको बहस पनि बलियो हुँदै गएको देखिन्छ । यसले विकासको डिस्कोर्स वा भाष्यलाई एकैपटक थप रहस्यमयी, जादुयी, कलात्मक, निर्दयी, सृजनशील एवम् रोमाञ्चित बनाएको छ । विषयगत र वस्तुगत सत्यहरूको दोसाँधमा उभिएर विकासको सङ्कथन एक महाविस्फोटनको तयारीमा छ।

शास्त्रीय राजनैतिक अर्थतन्त्रको समयदेखि नै विकासको बारेमा वादविवाद देखिएको छ । यद्यपि विकासको तातो बहस दोस्रो विश्वयुद्ध (1939-1945) को अन्त्यसँगै सुरूभयो । प्रथमतः यो राजनीतिक–वैचारिक थियो र सुरूमा यो दुई धुर्वीय पनि थियोः प्रजातान्त्रिक मूल्य मान्यता अथवा साम्यवादी मूल्य मान्यता, जसको नेतृत्व क्रमशः संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका र तत्कालीन सोभियत संघले गरेका थिए। दोस्रो, यो विकासशील र विकसित राज्यका आ–आफ्ना हितहरूको टकरावसँगै जेलिन पुग्यो जहाँ प्रजातान्त्रिक र साम्यवादी दुबै शक्ति–केन्द्रको चासो थियो। यसको पृष्ठभूमि अमेरिकी रास्ट्रपति Harry Truman को भाषणमा भेटिन्छ (January 20, 1949) । यसले विकासको अविछिन्नताको अवधारण सिर्जना गर्यो र पुँजीवादी विचारको आधुनिकीकरण परियोजनलाई जन्म दियो। खासगरी सन्१९५० को दशकमा विकासका चिन्तन आर्थिक विकासका मूल्य मान्यताका रूपमा देखापरेको पाइन्छ । जस्तैः वृद्धिको सिद्धान्त (Growth Theory) र ठूलो धक्काको सिद्धान्त (Big Push Theory) सबैले आर्थिक वृद्धिलाई नै विकासको एकमात्र र अनिवार्य सर्तको रूपमा मान्दै आएका छन् । वैचारिक रूपमा त्यो समयमा विकास भनेको आधुनिकीकरण नै हो भनेर बुझिएको थियो।

सन् १९६० को दशकमा त्यस किसिमको विकासकोधारणा (आधुनिकीकरण) एकदमै आलोचित बन्यो र त्यसलाई पश्चिमी साम्राज्यवादको प्रभुत्व संयन्त्रको निर्माणको रूपमा आलोचना पनि गरियो । यो दशकमा परनिर्भरताको सिद्धान्त एकदमै चर्चाको विषय बन्यो । यद्यपि, विडम्बना मान्नु पर्छ कि यो आधुनिकीकरणको विकल्पको रूपमा विकास हुन सकेन । मानव नै विकासका दुवै साधन र साध्य हुन भन्ने मान्यता राख्दै पछि वैकल्पिक विकासको चिन्तन उत्पत्ति भयो र मानिसका क्रियाकलापलाई विकासको केन्द्रमा राख्यो । सामाजिक विकास, ग्रामीण विकास र सामुदायिक विकासलाई जोड दिँदै वैकल्पिक विकासले विकासको बुझाइमा नयाँ आयामहरू थप्यो। त्यसैगरी उत्तर विकासका दृष्टिकोणले विकासका विभिन्न उपलब्धिहरूमा धेरै नै आलोचना गरेको छ। उत्तर विकासको अवधारणाले आफ्नो विचारलाई कम मात्रमा सैद्धान्तीकरण गरेता पनि यसलाई विकासको विरोधी, सुन्यतावादी, अराजकतावादी र निराशावादी ज्ञानशास्त्रको अवस्थाको रूपमा प्रतिप्रश्नहरू गरिएको पाइन्छ । सन् १९९० को दशक पुँजीवादी वैचारिक चिन्तन र साम्यवादी वैचारिक चिन्तनको टकराबको रूपमा रह्यो र पछि युरोपमा सोभियत ब्लक धरासायी हुँदै यो निकम्मा बन्यो । यसले विश्वलाई एक–धुर्बीय र भूमण्डलीकृत बनाइदियो, जसको नेतृत्व संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिकाले आजसम्म गरिरहेको छ। तालिका २ ले संक्षिप्त रूपमा विकास–डिस्कोर्सका समय अनुसारका सैद्धान्तिक आयामहरू, रणनीतिहरू र मान्यताहरूलाई प्रस्तुत गर्दछ।

तालिका २: विकासका सैद्धान्तिक र अर्थ–राजनीतिक घटनाहरू

दशक	सैद्धान्तिक आयामहरू	घटना र प्रवृत्तिहरू
१४–१७ औं शताब्दी	पुनर्जागरण (रेनेसा)	कला, साहित्य, ज्ञान, विज्ञान, धर्म, दर्शन आदिमा जुन अभूतपूर्व प्रगति हासिल (केप्लर, ग्यालिलियो, न्युटन आदि वैज्ञानिकहरूको उदय र पृथ्वी केन्द्रित सिद्धान्तको विस्थापन हुँदै सूर्यकेन्द्रित सिद्धान्तको उदय)
१७–१८ औं शताब्दी	चेतनाको युग/ कारणको युग	बौद्धिक र दार्शनिक आन्दोलन, विज्ञान र प्रविधिमा कायापलट, बेलायतको औद्योगिक क्रान्ति (१७६०–१८४०), फ्रान्सेली राज्य क्रान्ति (१९८९–१७९९)
	शास्त्रीय राजनैतिक अर्थशास्त्र	स्रोत व्यवस्थापन, बजार र औद्योगिकीकरणको लागि राज्यको न्यूनतम सहजीकरण
	औपनिवेशिक अर्थशास्त्र	साम्राज्यवाद र उपनिवेशवादको विस्तार
१८४८–१९२४	मार्कसवादी अर्थशास्त्र	इतिहासको भौतिकवादी व्याख्या, विकासको द्वन्द्ववाद, रूसी क्रान्ति (१९७७)
१९१५–१९४०	विकास अर्थशास्त्र	प्रथम विश्वयुद्ध (१९१४–१९१८), आर्थिक वृद्धि र औद्योगिकीकरण, विकास र अर्थशास्त्रको अभिन्नता, आर्थिक मन्दी (१९२९–१९३९), किन्सीयन अर्थशास्त्रको उदय
१९०५–१९४५	विज्ञानवाद–१	अल्बर्ट आइन्स्टाइन (१८७९–१९५५) को सापेक्षवाद, शक्ति र पिण्डको प्राप्ति र संरक्षणको सिद्धान्त
१९४० को दशक	युद्ध र संक्रमण	द्वीतीय विश्वयुद्ध (१९३९–१९४६), मार्शल प्लान (१९४८)), युएनको उदय (१९४५), ब्रेटेंन उडस संस्था (WB, IMF) को गठन (१९४४), हेनरी ट्रुम्यान डक्ट्रिन (१९४७), चिनियाँ जनवादी क्रान्ति (१९४९)
१९५० को दशक	आधुनिकीकरणको सिद्धान्त	आर्थिक वृद्धि, सामाजिक र राजनैतिक आधुनिकीकरण, प्रविधि हस्तान्तरण, पश्चिमा दिग्विजय, उत्तर–औपनिवेशिक कालको उदय
१९६०–७०	परनिर्भरताको सिद्धान्त	परनिर्भर विकाश, अविकासको विकास, युएन विकास प्रथम दशक (१९६०) र द्वीतीय दशक (१९७०), नव– किन्सीयन अर्थशास्त्रको उदय, उर्जा संकट र वातावरणीय असन्तुलन
१९८० को दशक	नव उदारवाद	आर्थिक वृद्धि, संरचनागत रूपान्तरण, उदारीकरण र निजीकरणन्न शीत युद्धको चरमोत्कर्ष, युएन विकास तृतीय दशक (१९८०)
	दिगो विकास	पर्यावरण, समाज र अर्थतन्त्रको समन्वयन्न न्यायोचित वितरण र भविष्यको पुस्ताको विकास सम्बन्धी चासो सम्बोधन
	विज्ञानवाद–२	स्टेफन हकिंग (१९४२–२०१८) को विज्ञान दर्शन, स्पेस–थ्योरी र क्वान्टम थ्योरीको युग
१९९० को दशक	मानव विकास	मानव विकासको उदय, राम्रो र सुन्दर, मौलिक/ जनजातीय ज्ञान/ सिप र विकास
	वैकल्पिक विकास	राम्रो र सुन्दर, मौलिक र स्थानीय जनजातीय ज्ञान, सिप र विकास, बहुलताको सिद्धान्त
	उत्तर विकास	त्रि–धुर्वीय विश्वको आलोचना, अराजकता र बहुलता, विकासमा प्रति प्रश्न
२०००–२०१५	सहस्रशताब्दी विकास लक्ष्य	संरचनागत परिवर्तन, गरिबी न्यूनीकरण, पर्यावरणीय दीगोपन लैंगिक समानता, शिशु/ मातृ स्वास्थ्य र विश्वव्यापी साझेदारी, प्राकृतिक प्रकोप नियन्त्रण, आर्थिक मन्दी (२००७–२००८), अरब स्प्रिङ (२०१०–२०१२)
२०१५ देखि हालसम्म	दीगो विकासका लक्ष्य, पेन्डेमिक डिस्कोर्स	विकास लक्ष्यहरूलाई पुरा गर्दै विकासमा दिगोपन, जन–स्वास्थ्यन्न वातावरणीय सन्तुलन, सामाजिक आन्दोलन

सन् २००० देखि एकल धुर्वीय विश्वलाई नेतृत्व गरेको संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिकाको (केही युरोपियन राष्ट्रहरू र बहुराष्ट्रिय कम्पनीहरू समेत) आर्थिक–राजनीतिक कार्यसूची नै पुँजीवादी ब्लकको आम कार्यसूची थियो र यो हालसम्म कायम छ । यसबाट ग्लोबल पावर हस्तान्तरणसँगै मूलप्रवाही विकास डिस्कोर्स औपचारिक बन्यो । त्यसपछि विकासका धेरै दृष्टिकोणहरू मूलप्रवाही विकासमा समाहित हुन पुगे । पुँजीवादी विकासको रूपमा गरिबी न्यूनीकरण, मानव विकास, दिगो विकास, लोकतन्त्र, बहुलवाद र मानव आदिलाई लिइयो/लिन लगाइयो । जस्तोकि ठूलो तामझामका साथ पुँजीवादको तावेदारी गर्दै संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघका नाममा २०००–२०१५ को अवधिलाई सहस्रशताब्दी विकास लक्ष्य अवधि घोषित गरियो र ८ वटा सहयोग केन्द्रित लक्ष्यहरू सिर्जना गरियो। मुख्यतः ती लक्ष्यहरूले गरिबी, भोकमरी र अशिक्षालाई नै सम्बोधन गरेका थिए । हालसालै ती सहस्रशताब्दी विकास लक्ष्यलाई सन् २०१६ – २०३० सम्म प्राप्त गर्न १७ वटा अन्तरसम्बन्धित लक्ष्यहरू निर्धारण गरेर दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरू (SDGs) द्वारा प्रतिस्थापन गरिएको छ। तालिका ३ मा देखाए जस्तै सहस्रशताब्दी विकास लक्ष्यहरू र दिगो विकास लक्ष्यहरू धेरै नै बृहत र बहुआयामिक देखिन्छन् जसले अन्ततः विकासको लागि अन्तराष्ट्रिय सहकार्यको लागि नै वकालत गरेका छन्। यसका बाबजुत तिनीहरूले विकासशील देशका धेरै मुद्धाहरूलाई खासै प्रतिनिधित्व गरेको देखिँदैन् । जसबाट तिनीहरू विकसित देशहरूबाट केवल निर्देशित र पर–निर्भर रूपमा पनि देखिन्छन्।

दिगो विकासको तथाकथित लक्ष्य अर्थात सन् २०३० पछि विश्वको विकास सङ्कथन कता जाने हो भन्ने प्रश्न अनुत्तरित नै छ । कथित अनुसन्धानका नाममा त्यसलाई धोबिहरूले धोई–पखाली गरेर पवन–पवित्र बनाई दिन्छन्। विकासको चमत्कारिक उपलब्धि भनेर कतै कतै खुशियाली र दिपावली चल्दछ। शासक, प्रशासक र इलाइटहरूलाई विकासको यो रोमान्टिसिजम धेरै नै प्रीतिकर हुनपुग्छ । यतिबेला एक सर्वसाधारण मानिस अथवा कुनै महिला र गरीब किसानहरूले कि त त्यसमा ताली पिट्न पुग्दछन् कि त्यसबारे कुनै छनक पाउन सक्दैनन्। Guha / Spivak (२००४) ले भने झैँ अ/विकासले थोपरेका, किचेका र इतिहासको पिँधमा पुगेका ती मानिसहरू वास्तविक Subaltern बन्न पुग्दछ र तिनको लागि विकास एक रहस्यमय थिम बन्न पुग्दछ।

विकासमा डिस्कोर्सका आयामहरू

समयको अन्तरालमा विकासका प्याराडाइम अर्थात यसका सिद्धान्त र अभ्यासहरूमा परिवर्तन भएका छन् । त्यस किसिमका प्याराडिस्महरूमा निश्चित प्रकारको सङ्कट आइसकेपछि बदलाव आउनु स्वाभाविक हो जसले ज्ञानको सिर्जना गर्न र डिस्कोर्स बनाउन वा भत्काउनका लागि भूमिका खेल्दछन्। राजनीतिक परिवर्तन, सामाजिक आन्दोलन, राज्यको चरित्रमा बदलाव, बजारीकरण, समकालीन साहित्य, सूचना प्रणाली, गैर–सरकारी, गैर–राज्य संयन्त्रको विकास र विश्वव्यापीकारण आदि विभिन्न कारणहरूले विकासको डिस्कोर्स विश्लेषणमा विभिन्न आयामहरू सिर्जना गर्नमा महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका खेलेका छन्। ती डिस्कोर्स र तिनीहरूका विकासे सिद्धान्तहरूलाई छोटकरीमा तपसिल बमोजिम व्याख्या गरिएको छ।

मूलप्रवाही

मूलप्रवाही विकास डिस्कोर्स मूलतः अमेरिकन विचारधारा र युरोपियन मूल्य मान्यताहरूबाट निर्देशित छ । पश्चिमा देशहरू खासमा संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका र युरोप आर्थिक हैसियतमा शक्तिशाली बन्दै जाँदा इतिहासमा आफू अनुकूल व्याख्या मात्रै गरेनन् कि आफ्नो राजनीतिक परिधिलाई बढोत्तरी गर्दै लगे। सामरिक शक्ति एवम् विज्ञान र प्रविधि प्रवर्द्धनमा पनि उनीहरू शक्तिशाली थिए । त्यसै कारणले तिनीहरूले विकासका ज्ञान सिलसिलाबद्ध रूपमा अभियोजन गरे अनि केही विशेष दृष्टिकोण र रणनीतिहरूलाई प्रयोग गर्न तस्रो संसारलाई निर्देशित गरे, मानौँ कि विकास कुनै हवाईजहाजमा कार्गो जस्तै बनेर विकसित मूलुकबाट गरिबहरूको झुपडीमा जावोस्। वास्तवमा सन् १९५० को दशकको प्रारम्भ देखि नै विकास अर्थशास्त्रले धेरै चर्चा पायो । यसले मूलप्रवाह विकास डिस्कोर्सको जन्म दिन पुग्यो । नागरिकको व्यक्तिगत आम्दानी र देशको कुल उत्पादनलाई विकासको सूचांकको रूपमा लियो । मूलप्रवाही विकासले विकासशील वा अविकसित मूलुकलाई समाजको आत्मगत वर्गीकरण गर्दै (जुन आफैँमा भ्रामक छ) विकास गर्नका लागि पश्चिमा विज्ञान र प्रविधिको वैज्ञानिक प्रयोग हुनुपर्छ भन्ने कुरा दाबी गऱ्यो । वास्तवमा मूलप्रवाही विकास डिस्कोर्सलाई निम्न बमोजिम सुचीकृत गर्न सकिन्छ।

१) माथि (केन्द्र) देखि तल (स्थानीय) अर्थात Top to Bottom मोडलमा आधारित

२) ज्ञानको विश्वब्यापीकरण र आधुनिक प्रविधिमा निर्भर

३) तर्क र नाफामा आधारित

४) प्रभुत्वले निर्देशित शक्ति र सुन्दरतामा आधारित

५) समावेशीताको नारा तर इलाइटहरूको स्वार्थ पोषण

६) बजार पहिलोकर्ता हो भने राज्य दोस्रो भन्ने मान्यतमा आधारित

७) पुँजीवाद, लोकतन्त्र, निर्वाचन, मानवअधिकार आदिलाई राजनीतिक अस्त्रका रूपमा प्रयोग

आधुनिकीकरण सिद्धान्त

आधुनिकता भनेको पश्चिमीकरणलाई अपनाउनु हो । बजारको सम्बन्ध, शहरीकरण, सानो परिवार, व्यक्तिवाद र प्रजातान्त्रिककरणले विकासलाई विकाशील देशहरूमा प्रवर्द्धन र बढवा दिन्छ। आधुनिकतालाई विभिन्न तवरले बुझिने गरिन्छ तर यो ऐतिहासिकरूपले पुनर्जागरणकालसँग हुर्किँदै आएको थियो र हाल यो प्राविधिक–औद्योगिक युगको एक परिचायक बन्न पुगेको छ। वास्तवमा आधुनिकता भनेको पश्चिमीकरण, इशाईकरण, बजारीकरण र अमेरिकीकरणको एक समग्र अभिव्यक्ति हो भनेर बुझ्दा बढी वैज्ञानिक हुन्छ तर यसको माकुरी जाल त्यति स्पष्ट छैन र छिटो–छिटो रूप बदलिरहने खालको देखिन्छ।

कैयन् कमजोरीहरूका बावजुत आधुनिकीकरणको स्कुलले पहिलो पटक विकासका समस्याहरूलाई सम्बोधन गर्न अविकसित देशरूका मुद्धाहरूलाई हेरेको देखिन्छ । रोस्टो, मार्शल आदि विद्वानहरूले आधुनिकीकरणलाई विकासको एक अपरिहार्य र पूर्वसर्त मानेका छन् जबकी विद्वान हेवरमासले त यसलाई कहिल्यै नसिद्धिने परियोजना (परिबन्ध) भनेर किटानी गर्दछन्। धेरैजसो परिभाषाहरूले आधुनिकीकरणको अर्थ–राजनैतिक आयामलाई उठाउन सकेका छैनन्, केवल धर्मनिरपेक्षता, व्यक्तिवाद, उपभोगवाद आदि लाई समाबेश गर्दछन्। १९ औँ शताब्दीमा आधुनिकीकरणको अवधारणा समाजशास्त्रीहरूले सैद्धान्तीकृत गरेका थिए जबकी दर्शनको क्षेत्रमा यो पुरानो कुरा थिएन । कार्ल मार्क्सले पनि यसलाई इतिहासको व्याख्या गर्ने क्रममा समेटेका छन् । परन्तु उनले समाज विज्ञानको जुन पहिले गरेका थिए त्यो वर्तमानको जस्तो निम्न पुँजीवादी वा बुर्जुवा चिन्तन थिएन। समाजशास्त्रमा आधुनिकीकरणको सिद्धान्तको उत्पत्तिमा दुर्खिम र वेबरजस्ता विद्धवानहरूले महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका खेलेका छन् । यद्यपि उत्तर–संरचनावादीहरू, उत्तर–आधुनिकवादीहरू र नव–मार्क्सवादीहरूले आधुनिकीकरणको बारेमा धेरै आलोचना गरेका छन्।

उदारवाद र नवउदारवाद

उदारवाद र नवउदारवादहरूलाई आधुनिकीकरणको मूल्य मान्यतामा बढेर मूलप्रवाही विकास डिस्कोर्समा पुनरागमन गरिएको छ । दुवै दृष्टिकोणहरू राजनीति र अर्थतन्त्रको केन्द्रमा आधारित छन् । राजनीतिक रूपले भन्नुपर्दा उदारवाद जोन लक, थोमस हब्स, जिन ज्याक रूसो, र मन्टेस्क्यु जस्ता चिन्तकहरूसँग जोडिएको छ। सुरूका वर्षहरूमा सामाजिक करारवादीहरू नै यस सिद्धान्तका हिमायती देखिन्छन्। जसले शासक र शासितबिचको एक प्रकारको सम्झौताबाट नै आधुनिक समाज र राज्य बनेको हो भन्ने मान्यता राख्दथे । करारवाद अर्थात सामाजिक सम्झौताको सिद्धान्त वास्तवमा राज्य उत्पत्तिको दैबी सिद्धान्तको खण्डिकरण थियो । राज्य ईश्वरले, उसको चाहना वा इच्छाको प्रतिनिधि पात्र वा राजा कसैले बनाएको होइन, यो त एक सम्झौताको उपज हो। यसले व्यक्तिको स्वतन्त्र, नीजी सम्पत्ति र समान अधिकारहरूमा जोड दिने गर्दछ। त्यो स्वतन्त्रता कसका लागि र समान अधिकार किन भन्ने प्रश्नमा उदारवाद बिल्कुल गोलमटोल देखिन्छ । शास्त्रीय उदारवाद खासमा Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill र अन्य अर्थशास्त्रीय चिन्तकहरूलाई इंगित गर्छ । यसले स्वतन्त्र बजारको महत्व, स्वतन्त्र नागरिकत्व, र खुला बजार नीतिलाई जोड दिँदै कम हस्त्क्षेपको सरकार र राज्यलाई महत्त्वपूर्ण ठान्दछ। वास्तवमा पुँजीवादी अस्त्रको रूपमा यसले आधुनिकीकरण प्रक्रियामा ठूलो योगदान गरेको छ।

सन् १९३८ देखि नवउदारबाद शब्द प्रयोगमा आएता पनि यसको शाब्दिक अर्थलाई विभिन्न विद्वानहरूले १९७० र १९८० को दशकमा आर्थिक स्वतन्त्रता र खुला बजार नीतिको धारणाको आधारमा १९औँ शताब्दीको विचारलाई पून:उत्थान गर्दै धेरै सान्दर्भिक बनाए। सैद्धान्तिक रूपमा नवउदारवादीहरूले बृहत आर्थिक स्वतन्त्रताका नीति जस्तै निजीकरण, आर्थिक मितव्ययिता, डिरेगुलेशन, स्वतन्त्र व्यापार, र अर्थतन्त्रमा बजारको प्रवर्द्धनलाई जोड दिन्छन्। तर उदारवादको राजनीतिक आयामबाट अलि बढी आर्थिक केन्द्रवाद तिर ढल्केको छ, जहाँ बजारलाई सावधानीपूर्वक

राज्य सञ्चालनको जिम्मेवारी दिनुपर्छ भन्ने मान्यता देखिन्छ। १९८० को दशकको लोक कल्याणकारी राज्यको अवधारणा यही सैद्धान्तिक कलेवरमा भएको हो । हाल नवउदारवाद राज्य र बजारको नाफामूलक सम्बन्धमा खेल्न चाहने सरकारी तथा गैर–सरकारी संस्थाहरू र दाताहरूको लागि एउटा बलियो रणनीति बनेको छ । यद्यपि नव उदारवादी अवधारणालाई उत्तर विकासका चिन्तकहरू र नव मार्क्सवादीहरूले धेरै नै आलोचना गरेका छन्। यसको उत्पत्ति र मूल चरित्रमा यो पुँजीवादी व्यवस्था देखिन्छ । जसरी चार्ल्स डार्विनको जीव विज्ञानले सक्षम नै बाच्न सक्ने अर्थात Survival of The Fittest मा जोड दिएको छ, त्यसरी नै नवउदारवादले समाज विज्ञानमा धनी र आधुनिक नै बाच्न सक्ने, न कि गरिब र निरिहहरू अर्थात Survival of the Richest and Not of the Poorest को अवधारणा र अभ्यासलाई बढावा दिने गर्दछ।

त्यसैगरी नवउदारवादले विकासका उपलब्धिहरूलाई गरिबी न्यून हुनु र स्वतन्त्रतामा विस्तार हुनु भनेर रोमान्चित गर्दछ। एकप्रकारले भन्ने हो भने नवउदारवाद पर्यावरणीय विनाशमा पनि निमग्न सुतिरहेको बादशाह झैँ प्रतीत हुन्छ र यसले वर्तमान विश्व व्यवस्थालाई प्रश्न गर्दैन वा मौन समर्थन गरिरहन्छ। ७० को दशकमा नयाँ अर्थव्यवस्था (न्यु डिल) धराशायी भएपछि त्यही जगमा निर्विकल्परूपले नवउदारवादी अर्थव्यवस्था उठेको थियो। ग्यारी गर्स्टलको गत वर्ष प्रकाशित The Rise and Fall of the Neoliberal Order (२०२२) किताब नवउदारवादको यो आरोह अवरोहको जीवन्त चित्रण हो।

वैकल्पिक विकासको डिस्कोर्स

वैकल्पिक विकासको डिस्कोर्स सन् १९७० को दशक देखि आरम्भ भएको देखिन्छ जतिबेला आधुनिकतावाद र परनिर्भरतावादको टकराव उत्कर्षमा थियो। आलोचकहरू ठुला वाद (ism) वा परम्पराबाट मुक्त हुन चाहन्थे जसले विकासका कथित ठुला सिद्धान्तहरूलाई व्यवहारिक रूपमा निकम्मा बनाई सकेका थिए। यो अलिकति अराजकतावाद, अलिकति उत्तरआधुनिकतावाद र थोरै विनिर्माणवादबाट पनि प्रभावित छ। रोचक त के छ भने केही नव–मार्क्सवादी र केही वामपन्थी क्रिटिकल उदारवादीहरूले नै यसको पैरवी गरेका छन्।

वास्तवमा सन्१९९२ मा फ्रान्सिस फुकुयामाले लेखेको चर्चित पुस्तक The End of History and the Last Man भन्ने पुस्तकमा दावी गरिए झैँ के इतिहासको अन्त्य भएको हो त भन्ने प्रश्नबाट वैकल्पिक दर्शनको बीजारोपण भएको हो। यो पुस्तकले सोभियत कम्युनिष्ट सत्ताको विघटनलाई महानतम दिग्विजय मान्दछ, जसबाट अमेरिकी प्रजातन्त्र र पश्चिमा उदारवाद निर्विकल्प बन्न पुग्यो। के संसारमा कुनै पनि समाज, घटना, सभ्यता वा विज्ञान नै निर्विकल्प हुन्छन् त ? स्वयम भौतिक र अध्यात्मिक विज्ञानको दर्शनले यस कुरालाई मान्दैनन् । तसर्थ वैकल्पिक विकासको दर्शनले विकासको अन्त्य त होइन बरू असङ्ख्य बहुलतामा विश्व प्रवेश गरेको कुरालाई यसले इङ्गित गर्दछ। जसरी इतिहासको अन्त्य असम्भव छैन, त्यसरी नै विकासको अन्त्य असम्भव छ। यद्यपि विकासमा मूलधारका सिद्धान्त र अभ्यासहरू अब निष्प्रभावी र मृतप्राय भैसके भन्ने आलोचनात्मक चेत वैकल्पिक विकासवादमा रहेको छ।

त्यसो भए विकल्प के हो? सतहमा हेर्दा विकल्पवादले प्रकार्यवाद, आधुनिकतावाद र द्वन्द्ववाद (मार्क्सवाद सहित) सबैको विकल्पको खोजी गर्दछ। तर यो चुकेको कहाँ देखिन्छ कि यसले अन्ततः विकासको मूलधारमा केही सामान्य हेरफेर मात्र चाहन्छ र पुँजीवादी उत्पादन प्रणालीलाई मलजल गरेर थोरै वितरणमुखी (जो पहिला थिएन) र समन्वयमुखी (जो पहिला राज्य वा बजार दुईमध्ये एकमा जोड दिन्थ्यो) बनाउन चाहेको देखिन्छ। विकल्पवादीहरूको तर्क–विश्व तथा कथित ठुला र भव्य समाधानहरूले ग्रसित र थकित छ (Max Neef, 1991, pp. 110)। जो आफैँमा उत्तर–आधुनिकतावाद दर्शन सामिप्य छ। यसप्रकार विकल्पवाद क्रमशः अर्को विकासवाद अर्थात Another Development को अवधारणामा अन्तरघुलित हुँदै गयो, जो रूप र सार दुबै रूपले १९९० को दशकको अन्त्यसम्म आइपुग्दा एक नयाँ तर शक्तिहीन अस्त्र बनी सकेको थियो।

माथि भनिएझैँ वैकल्पिक विकासको अवधारणा खासगरी मूलधारको विकासको अभ्यासको आलोचना र परम्पराको विकल्पको रूपमा आएको देखिन्छ। खासगरी विकासशील देशहरूका मुख्य समस्याहरू जस्तै सामाजिक कुरीतिहरू, प्रविधिको उच्च तथा एकदमै न्युनतम प्रयोग, परनिर्भरता र पर्यावरणीय ह्रास आदिको बारेमा वैकल्पिक र आलोचनात्मक दृष्टिकोण राख्दछ। सन् १९८० को अन्त्य देखि नै यसले सहभागितामूलक विकास, जनता–केन्द्रित विकास, उचित प्रविधियुक्त विकास, सामाजिक विकास आदि जस्ता विकासवादी धारणाहरूको संवर्द्धनमा योगदान गरेको देखिन्छ।

हुन त प्रसिद्ध विद्वान Autouro Escobar (1995-2001) ले विकासका विकल्पहरू अर्थात Alternatives of Development र वैकल्पिक विकास अर्थात Development Alternatives बिच हुने भिन्नताको चर्चा गरेका छन। तसर्थ यो सम्पूर्णतामा नयाँ क्रान्ति भन्दा पनि प्रचलित विकासको भाष्यलाई स्थानीयकरण गर्ने अभियान हो । वैकल्पिक विकासले एकत्ववादको सिद्धान्ततः विरोध गर्दछ तर सँग–सँगै द्वन्द्ववादलाई स्वीकार गर्ने साहस पनि गर्न सक्दैन। तर यो बहुलवादमा अडेको छ र अमेरिकी तथा युरोपेली विकास भन्दा भिन्न वा पर अर्को पनि विकासको रूप छ भनी उद्घोष गर्दछ। त्यसो भनिरहँदा यसले प्रकृति, संस्कृति र समाजमा विविधता छ, जसको गर्भमै विकासको मौलिकता र स्थायित्व लुकेका हुन्छन् भन्ने तर्क गर्दछ। यद्यपि, Pieterse (2010) मान्दछन् कि वैकल्पिक विकास खासमा कुनै बलियो अवधारणा होइन, जति बलियो विकास वा उत्तर–विकासका अरू अवधारणाहरू छन् । एक अवधारणाका रूपमा वैकल्पिक विकासवादका विशेषताहरू निम्न छन् (हेर्नुहोस Geiser, 2014; Cooke & Kotharu, 2001; Simon, 1997):

१) यसले मूलधारको अर्थात् शासकीय विकास वा डिस्कोर्सको विरोध गर्दछ।

२) यसले आधुनिकतावादको विरोधमा भन्दा पनि यसको स्थानीय स्तरमा सामन्जस्यतामा जोड दिन्छ।

३) यो मूलधारको विकास भन्दा बाहिरी कक्षमा परिभ्रमण गर्दछ, तर यसको गुरूत्व सन्निहित छ।

४) यसले मानव जातिलाई विकासको एक सक्रिय र मौलिक तत्व मान्दछ।

५) यसले विकासका प्रचलित अभ्यास वा परियोजनाहरू (जस्तै सहभागिता र सुशासन् आदि) को प्रक्रिया वा उद्देश्यमासमेत नयाँ विकल्पहरूको खोजी गर्दछ, तर क्रान्तिलाई अस्वीकार गर्दछ।

माथि उल्लिखित विशेषताहरूलाई थप अध्ययन गर्दा के देखिन्छ भने वैकल्पिक विकासको अवधारणा त्रिकोणात्मक रूपले सङगठित छः

१) **कर्ता (Agent)**: मानव जाति आफैँमा कर्ता र भोक्ता

२) **विधिहरू (Methods)**: सहभागितामूलक, प्रविधि–मैत्री, विकेन्द्रित, जन–परिचालित र अनुमोदित

२) **विकासका मूल्यहरू (Values of development):** सर्व–जनित भलाई, मानव अधिकार, मुक्ति र रूपान्तरण, विकासमा मानविकीकरण (Humanization of Development) आदि

आलोचनात्मक विकास डिस्कोर्स

आलोचनात्मक विकास डिस्कोर्सले विकास वा त्यसका परिघटनाहरूमा धैरैजसो तर्क, कारण र परिणाम खोज्ने गर्छ। त्यसैस्वरूप, आलोचनात्मक सिद्धान्त भनेको वैचारिक स्कुल हो जसले सामाजिक विज्ञान र मानविकी ज्ञानहरूको प्रयोग गर्दै समाज र सस्कृतिको परावर्तित मूल्याङ्कन र आलोचनामाथि जोड दिन्छ । समाजशास्त्र र राजनैतिक दर्शनमा आलोचनात्मक सिद्धान्तलाई फ्रेङ्फर्ट स्कुलको नव मार्क्सवादी दर्शन हो भनेर व्याख्या गरिएको छ । सन् १९३० को दशकमा फ्रेङ्फर्ट स्कुल जर्मनीमा विकास भई सन् १९७० को दशक सम्म प्रमुख बन्यो । तर यसले सुरूका दशकहरूमा विकास सिद्धान्त वा अध्ययनमा आलोचनात्मक दृष्टिकोण खासै राख्न सकेन। वास्तवमा आलोचनात्मक धार फ्रेंक्फोर्ट स्कुल र नव मार्कसवादसंगको सम्मिश्रणबाट उत्तरवर्ती थियो । यद्यपि, धैरै भनाईहरू संरचनागत प्रश्नहरूबाट प्रभावित छन् जुन कुरा आलोचनात्मक विद्वानहरूले पहिले नै उठाएका थिए। ती प्रश्नहरूले असमान विकास, वर्तमान उत्पादन र वितरण प्रणाली, पहिचान, राजनीति र विकासका औचित्य आदिलाई समावेश गर्छन। लगत्तै यो डिस्कोर्समा सबार्लटन र प्रभुत्वका अवधारणा जोडिएको हो (हेर्नुहोस् Gramsci, 2009; Guha and Spivak, 2004)। विकास डिस्कोर्सले निम्न मुख्य आलोचनात्मक अवधारणहरूलाई समावेश गरेको छ।

विकासको परनिर्भता सिद्धान्त

वैचारिक तवरले परानिर्भताको सिद्धान्त आलोचनात्मक विकास डिस्कोर्ससँग सम्बन्धित छ। पउल ब्यारन, ए.जी. फ्रेन्क, समीर अमिन, टि.डि. सान्तोष जस्ता विद्वानहरूले परानिर्भताको सिद्धान्त (१९६०) लाई विकास र व्याख्या गरे। परानिर्भताको सिद्धान्तलाई औपचारिक रूपमा ल्याटिन अमेरिकाका लागि संयुक्तत राष्ट्रसंघ आर्थिक आयोगले (United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America) आगाडि सार्यो। यो विकासमा आधुनिकीकरण अवधारणको आमूल आलोचना हो । यो मार्क्सवादी विचारमा आधारित छ अनि यसले केही नव मार्क्सवादी

सत्ता मीमांसासँगै मान्यताहरू पनि राखेको छ। परनिर्भताको सिद्धान्तको मूल भनाइ भनेको आधुनिकीकरणले परनिर्भतालाई जन्म दियो अनि विकासशील देशहरूमा अविकास, असमानता जस्ता सवालहरूलाई आमन्त्रण गर्यो भन्ने हो।

परनिर्भरता सिद्धान्तका विचारकहरूले वकालत गर्छन कि विकासका स्रोतहरू गरिब र अवकसित देशहरूका सेरेफेरोबाट विकासित र धनी देशहरू केन्द्रमा जाने गर्छ जसले पछि व्यापार, मिडिया, राजनीति, शिक्षा आदिको रूपमा त्यही अविकसित अनि गरिब देशहरूको खर्चमा वृद्धि गर्छन र उनीहरूलाई स्रोत–विहीन र बेखर्ची बनाइ दिन्छन्। यसप्रकार परनिर्भरताको सिद्धान्तको केन्द्रीय भनाई भनेको यो हो कि गरिब राज्यहरूलाई आति गरिब बनाइन्छन् अनि धनीहरू त्यही परानिर्भर सम्बन्धले अझै धनी बनाइन्छन्। त्यसैकारणले यो सिद्धान्त समाजवादी मान्यताहरूले निर्देशित छ जसले केन्द्र र सेरोफेरोबिचको सम्बन्धलाई तोडिनु पर्छ भन्नेमा जोड दिन्छ। खुला बजार अर्थशास्त्री तथा अन्य उदारवादीहरूले परनिभर्ताको सिद्धान्तलाई आलोचना गरेका छन्। यसलाई पुँजीवादको विरोधका नाममा लादिएको राजनैतिक प्रतिकृयावाद, निराशावादी सोच अनि लफ्फाजी भनेर आलोचना गर्ने गरेको पाइन्छ। यस सिद्धान्तले आर्थिक वृद्धिलाई विकासको कारक तत्व मान्दैन फेरी तत्कालै वृद्धिको वैकल्पिक मुक्ति दिन असमर्थ पनि हुन्छ।

विश्व प्रणाली सिद्धान्त

प्रणाली सिद्धान्त (System Theory) अहिलेको समाजशास्त्र र राजनीतिक शास्त्रमा चल्तीको सैद्धान्तिक विमर्श हो। यसको प्रयोग दर्शन र विज्ञानमा उत्तिकै हुने गरेको छ। कुनै पनि वस्तु वा घटनाको अंश पनि हुन्छ र त्यसको समष्टिमा यो उत्तिकै महत्वपूर्ण छ भन्ने तर्क गर्दछ। विश्व प्रणाली सिद्धान्त विकास अध्ययनमा आएको अर्थ–राजनीतिक आख्यान हो। यो सिद्धान्त एउटा बहुविधा दृष्टिकोणको रूपमा उत्पत्ति भएको पाइन्छ। विश्व प्रणाली सिद्धान्तको वैचारिक धार नव मार्कसवादी विचारमा आधारित छ। त्यसैगरी यो परनिर्भताको सिद्धान्तबाट पनि प्रभावित भएको छ। सन् १९७० दशकको सुरूवातमा इमानुअल वालरस्टेनले एकदमै स्पष्ट रूपले यो विश्व प्रणालीको रूपमा छ र त्यो बिल्कुल असमान सम्बन्धमा आधारित छ भन्ने निष्कर्ष निकाले। उनले एकिन गरेका छन् कि १६ औँ शताब्दी देखि इतिहासको लामो यात्राबाट पुँजीवादी विश्व अर्थतन्त्रको उदय भएको हो (c. १५५०–१६४०)। उनको भनाई अनुसार सामन्तवादको दीर्घ र लामो सङ्गत (१२९०–१४५०) बाट अनि चुलिदै गएको संकटले गर्दा पुँजीवादको उदय आकस्मिक घटनाको रूपमा भएको हो। पश्चिमा वा युरोपियन देशहरू यसको फाइदाहरूलाई उपयोग गरे र धेरै देशहरूमाथि कब्जा जमाए। डच, ब्रिटिश, फ्रेन्च, पोर्तुगिज जस्ता ठुला साम्राज्यवादी उपनिवेशहरूले कुनै बेला विश्वकै दुइ–तिहाई भन्दा बढी भूभाग कब्जा गरेको थियो। अधिपत्य मात्र नभई ती देशहरूमा अर्थ–राजनीतिक नेतृत्व गर्दै पुँजीवादी अर्थतन्त्र र स्रोतको दोहन र औद्योगिकीकरणलाई विस्तार गरे। यसले अप्रत्यक्ष रूपमा असमान विकासलाई बढाव दिँदै गयो (Wallerstein, 2004)।

मार्क्सपछि सम्भवतः Wallerstein ले जस्तो यति धेरै व्यवस्थित रूपमा अरू सिद्धान्तकारहरूले विश्व व्यवस्थाको बारेमा व्याख्या गरेका छैनन्। यद्यपि उनी एक क्रान्तिकारी मार्क्सवादी हुन वा होइनन् भन्ने कुराको बहस गर्न सकिन्छ। पक्कै पनि मार्क्सले देखेको विश्व र वालरस्टेनले देखेको विश्व फरक थियो तर इतिहासको लगभग समान थियो। विश्व व्यवस्था निर्माण हुँदा वर्गसङ्घर्ष र क्रान्ति भन्दा पनि स्रोतको असमान वितरणका कारण विभिन्न देशहरूमा उत्पन्न सङ्कट र त्यसले पुँजीवादसँग गरेको आत्मसमपर्ण प्रमुख कारक थियो भन्ने कुरा मार्कसवादी सिद्धान्तमा एक नयाँ आयाम थियो। अर्कातिर मार्क्सवादमा खासगरी सोभियत संघको विघटन र शीत युद्धको अन्त्यपछि आएको संकटलाई पुनरूत्थान हुने गरी अर्को कुनै वैचारिकी विकसित नहुनु दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण भन्न सकिन्छ। विकासको दार्शनिक हिसाबले यहाँनीर निम्न कुराहरू महत्वपूर्ण देखिन्छन् :

१) के अब विकास र परिवर्तनको लागि निर्णायक तत्वहरू बदलिन लागेका हुन्? उत्तर मार्क्सवादी सिद्धान्तअनुसार आधार र उपरी संरचनाको रेखाङ्कन बदलिएको हो? आधार पराधीन बन्दै गइरहेको हो?

२) के मार्क्सले भने जस्तै वर्गको शुद्धता अहिलेको विश्वमा नरहेको हो? वर्गहरूको निर्माण र वर्ग सङ्घर्षमा देखिएको अलमलले विकासलाई सही दिशा निर्देश गर्न सक्छ कि सक्दैनन्?

३) अब के अल्थसरले भने जस्तै दमनकारी राज्ययन्त्र (Repressive State Appraratus–RSA) र वैचारिक राज्ययन्त्र (Ideological State Apparatus–ISA)

मा अब के क्रान्ति र मुक्ति सम्भव नै छैन त ? यसमा विकासको नियति के हुने हो? सारमा यो प्रतिक्रियात्मक र इलिट–सेन्ट्रीक नै हुने हो भने यसका कारण र प्रभावहरू के कस्ता हुने देखिन्छन्?

४) के अब क्रान्तिको लागि तम्तयार र वस्तुगत रूपले परिपक्क अवस्था छैन जसले विकासलाई दासत्वबाट मुक्तिको दर्शन बनाउन सकोस् ग्राम्सीले भने जस्तै सहमति र बलपूर्वक (Hegemony with Conset and Coercion) गरिने शासनले यो कुरा सम्भव छ त ?

चेवोस सिद्धान्त र विकासको ताओ

चेवोस सिद्धान्त भनेको विकास साहित्यमा हालसालै थप गरिएको एक दृष्टिकोण हो। यो धेरै सार्नदभिक देखिन्छ। यो अर्थमा कि परम्परागत विकासका सौँचाईमा एक–रेखीयता (Linearity) र एक–केन्द्रवाद (Singularity) समस्याको रूपमा देखिन्छन्। एक प्रकारले यो गणितीय विश्लेषण हो। समकालीन समाजहरूमा यो सार्वजनिक नीति विश्लेषणमा र आधुनिक मूल्य प्रणालीमा धेरै राम्रो विकल्प हुन सक्छ। यद्यपि चेवोस सिद्धान्तलाई यसको प्राकृतिक वा भौतिक विज्ञानबाट समाजिक विज्ञानमा रूपान्तरण गर्दा केही विरोधाभासहरू थिए। विकासको प्रतिफलमा यान्त्रिकता, यादृच्छिकता, अनुपस्थिती, अप्रत्यासित नियतिहरू रहन पुगे, जसलाई चेवोस सिद्धान्त निर्माणमा केही योगदान गरेका छन् (Werndl, 2009)। यस दृष्टिकोणले हेर्दा विकासमा घटनाहरू अप्रत्यासित जस्ता लाग्छन् तर विसङ्गतिपूर्ण रूपले सङ्गतिमा रहेका अर्थात पूर्वनिर्धारित र नियतिजन्य हुन्छन् भन्ने भाष्य यसबाट निकाल्न सकिन्छ। एउटा प्रचलित उदाहरण यो छ कि ब्राजिलमा पखेटा फटफटाइ रहने पुतलीले टेक्सासमा आँधी ल्याउन सक्छ। एक ठाउँको गरिबी र अर्को ठाउँको सम्वृद्धि, एक देशको विकास र अर्को देशको अविकास यस्तै कुनै विरोधाभास बन्न सक्छ। यद्यपि, चेवोस सिद्धान्त षडयन्त्रको सिद्धान्तजस्तै सन्देहास्पद छ। विकासका दार्शनिकहरूले यसको व्यवस्थित व्याख्या गर्न बाँकी नै देखिन्छ। अर्कातिर बौद्ध दर्शनको हेतु सिद्धान्त, अनित्यताको सिद्धान्त र प्रत्युत समुत्पाद (Theory of Independent Origination) को सिद्धान्तजस्तो वैज्ञानिक चिन्तन प्रणाली चेवोस थ्योरीमा आउन सकेको देखिँदैन।

अप्रत्यासित्तालाई पछ्याउँदै 'Tao of Development' केही वर्ष यता विकास डिस्कोर्सको रूपमा नवीन धारणा बन्दैछ। यसको वैचारिक प्रस्थान बिन्दु अमेरिकी भौतिकवादी वैज्ञानिक Fritjof Capra द्वारा सन् १९७५ मा लिखित Tao of Physics भन्ने पुस्तकलाई जान्छ। प्राचीन चिनियाँ दर्शन ताओवादले संसारिक जीवन/घटनामा यिन र यांग भन्ने दुई तत्वहरूको द्वन्द्व, एकत्व र अन्तरनिर्भरताको कुरा गर्दछ। यसको पृष्ठभूमिमा Tao of Physics ले सैद्धान्तिक भौतिकवाद र पूर्वीय दर्शन बिचको संयोजन अनि रहस्यवादलाई जनाउँछ। यसैगरी Tao of Development विकास भनेको अकारण हुने घटना वा विज्ञान वा विश्लेषणमात्र होइन बरू यो त अंश–अंशको व्यष्टि र समष्टि पनि हो भन्ने कुरा तर्क गर्दछ। यसले विकासमा अकार्यता र निषेधिता बीचको अन्तरसम्बन्धलाई इंगित गर्दछ र नयाँ नयाँ विकल्पको खोजी गर्दछ। यद्यपि नेपालमा यसको विमर्श एकदमै कमजोर देखिन्छ।

उत्तर विकासवादी डिस्कोर्स

उत्तर विकास डिस्कोर्स भनेको दुवै मूलप्रवाही र वैकल्पिक विकासका अभ्यासहरूको आलोचना हो। यो परम्परागत विकासका नाम भए गरिएका तथाकथित प्राप्ति, प्रगति र विकासको प्रचण्ड आलोचना हो। Arturo Escobar, Gustavo Esteva, Majid Rahnema, Wolfgang Sachs, James Feguson, Serge Latouche र Gilbert Rist जस्ता विद्वानहरू उत्तर विकास सिद्धान्तलाई सन् १९८० र १९९० को दशकमा विकास गरे। उत्तर विकास डिस्कोर्सका नेतृत्व गरेका विचारकहरूले वकालत गर्छन कि गरिब देश र समुदायका लागि विकास सँधै अन्यायपूर्ण र काम नगर्ने हुन्छ। यसलाई विकास विरोधी भन्ने पनि गरिन्छ। विकास भनेको पश्चिमा र उत्तरमा (Western World and Global North) रहेका विकसित देशहरूको विशेष गरी दक्षिणमा रहेका देशहरूमा लादिएको प्रभुत्वको परावर्तित रूप हो। यो डिस्कोर्स असफल विकासको आमूल प्रतिक्रियाको रूपमा उदय भयो जसले अचाक्ली तवरले आधारभूत संकटलाई चुनौती दिन्छ।

उत्तर विकासको मूल उद्देश्य भनेको समयसीमा नाघेको, केही हदसम्म मरितुल्य भएको, अनिश्चित र खतरनाक देखिने विकासका परिणाम र रूपहरूको स्तर मिलाउनु हो। केही सन्दर्भमा यो उत्तर आधुनिकतावादी डिस्कोर्स जस्तो पनि देखिन्छ तर यो वैचारिक रूपमा आशावादी र प्रियतावादी छ। आधुनिक विकासको चिन्तनमा जनहित, सहभागिता, स्थानीयता आदि जस्ता कुराहरू कति हदसम्म समेटिन सकेका छन्, त्यसको खोजी गर्दै जाँदा कतिपय उत्तर–आधुनिक विचारकहरू निरस, संवेदना र पलायनवादी लाग्दछन्। यद्पी विधाका रूपमा यो जति व्यापक छ, उति नै भेदहरू यसमा देखिन्छन् जसमा

रोला बार्थ, ज्याक डेरिडा, मिसेल फुको र पाल द म्यानको विशेष योगदान र हेबरमास, जेम्सन् आदि विद्धानहरूको विशेष आलोचना रहेको देखिन्छ।

प्राथमिकरूपमा यसले विकासमा नयाँ भाष्य ल्याएको छ, जसले विकसित देश भनिने र विकाशील देश भनाइने बिचको संकट र घृणालाई बाहिर ल्याउने प्रस्ताव गर्दछ, यद्यपि मूल प्रवाह र शक्तिलाई तोडने खासै सङ्घर्ष गर्न सक्दैन । अन्ततः उत्तरवर्ति विकास अवधारणाले पश्चिमा विकासका भनाईहरूलाई बढी महत्व दिन पुग्दछ । जुन तेस्रो विश्वका गरिब मानिसहरू तथा त्यहाँका सँस्कृतिहरूका लागि विपत्तिजनक हुन्छन् (Escobar, 1992, 1995, 2001) । फेरि पनि Sacs (2010) लाई उद्धृत गर्दा:

विकासको मूल कथानक बौद्धिक परिदृश्यमा विनास जस्तै उभिन्छ । भ्रम, निराशा, असफलता र अपराधहरू विकासका स्थिर साथीहरू हुन अनि तिनीहरूले त्यस्तैखालको कहानी भन्ने गर्छन, यिनीहरूले काम गर्दैनन। अझ पूर्ववर्ती प्रतिष्ठामा गणना गरिएका ऐतिहासिक अवस्थाहरू अब लोप भैसकेका छन्, त्यसैले विकास पुरातन बनेको छ – पृ.१)।

उत्तर विकासका बिचारकहरूले विकासका अर्थ र परिभाषालाई अस्विकार गर्दै यसलाई चित्रण गर्नेक्रममा पौराणिक लफ्फाजी भने। यसकारण विकास विनासकारी र विध्वंशकारी हो भने उत्तर विकासलाई मूलप्रवाही विकास र वैकल्पिक विकासहरूले उब्जाएका असन्तुष्टिहरूको नतिजाको रूपमा हेरिन्छ । यो भनेको दयालु तवरले फकाउने तरिकामात्र हो, सत्यता त धेरै फरक र दुखदायी छ। त्यसैले उत्तर विकास विकासको विरोध हो, विकास भन्दा परको कुरा हो र त्यो विकासका द्बिविधाको आमूल प्रतिक्रिया हो (Pieterse, 2010, उद्धृत ११०)। वास्तवमा दुईवटा कारणहरूले गर्दा उत्तर विकासका लेखकहरूले विकासलाई अस्विकार गर्छन। पहिलो, तिनीहरूले वकालत गर्छन कि सबै विकासहरूले सुधारका सम्भावनाहरूलाई जस्तै स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा र भौतिक भलाइहरूलाई बञ्चित गर्छ वा अस्वीकार गर्छ। दोस्रो, यसले विकासका एकै प्रकारको अभ्यासलाई स्थापित गर्नुलाई अस्वीकार गर्छन् । अर्थात केन्द्रीयता भंग गर्न चाहन्छ । उत्तर विकास डिस्कोर्सका मुख्य प्रवर्तक स्कोबारले उत्तर विकासलाई बुझ्न निम्न बमोजिमका विशेषताहरूलाई प्रस्तुत गरेका छन्:

१) यसले विकासको लागि विकल्पहरू खोज्छ न कि विकासको विकल्प,

२) शास्त्रीय विकासका प्याराडैमलाई आधारभूतरूपमा अस्वीकार गर्छ (जस्तो कि आधुनिकीकरण, विश्वव्यापीकरण,उदारवाद, मार्क्सवाद, पश्चिमाकरण आदि),

यसले स्थानीय सँस्कृति र ज्ञानमा जोड दिन्छ, र तल्लो तहको बहुलवादी आन्दोलनका लागि ऐक्यवद्धतालाई महत्व दिन्छ।

एक प्रकारले भन्ने हो भने उत्तर विकास औपनिवेशिक र उत्तर–औपनिवेशिक आलोचकहरूबाट प्रभावित छ । यसले औपनिवेशिक डिस्कोर्ससँग जरा गाडेको पाइन्छ जसले विकासलाई आधुनिकताको रूपमा बुझ्दछ, तर यसलाई आदिम र पतन भैसकेको भनि चित्रण पनि गर्दछ। यद्यपि, उत्तर विकास पनि आलोचनाबाट अलग छैन। उत्तर विकासले स्थापित भइसकेको विकासका अभ्यासहरूको आलोचना गरेता पनि यसले विश्वव्यापीकरणको बारेमा एक आयामीय विचारमात्र प्रस्तुत गरेको छ। यसले स्वतः र परम्परागत विकासको बारेमा बोलेको पाइन्छ । तर विकासशील देश जहाँ चेतनाको स्तर नै कम रहेको ठाउँमा कसरी स्वतः विकासको उदय हुन सक्छ र ? भएमा पनि त्यो इलाइटहरूको खटनपटनमा आश्रित हुने गर्दछ। त्यसैले यो डिस्कोर्स आफैँमा भ्रमित जस्तो छ। तत्व मीमांसाका दृष्टिकोणले भन्नु पर्दा सम्पूर्ण विकासहरूलाई अस्वीकार गर्नु भनेको भौतिक प्रगाति र रूपान्तरणहरूका सम्भाब्यताको अस्वीकार गर्नु पनि हो। त्यसर्थ उत्तर विकासका विचारहरू निराशावादी र अराजकतावादी छन् । आश्चर्य के छ भने उत्तरवादी विकास सिद्धान्तकारहरूले यसलाई प्रति–विकासवादी (Anti Development) अवधारणा हो भन्ने कुरा समेत अस्वीकार गर्दछन् । खासमा यसले मूर्त रूपान्तरणहरू, जीवनका अवसरहरू र भौतिक भलाई आदिलाई अस्वीकार गर्छ । अझ आलोचनात्मक रूपमा भन्ने हो भने उत्तर विकासले नव उदारवादी विचारलाई नै बढावा दिएको पाइन्छ जसले विकासका टप डाउन मोडेल र केन्द्रीय दृष्टिकोणलाई अस्वीकार गर्दै स्थानीय स्रोत र साधनहरूबाट विकासलाई प्रवर्द्धन गरिनुपर्नेमा जोड दिन्छ। नेपालमा पनि उपभोक्ता समितिको माध्यमबाट योजनाबद्ध तरिकाले पूर्वी व्यवस्थापनको अवधारणालाई अवलम्बन गर्दै विकास गर्ने प्रक्रिया प्रारम्भ भइसकेको छ (Mishra, 2022; Mishra, A.K. 2020).

निष्कर्ष

एक्काइसौँ शताब्दी विश्वव्यापीकरण तथा सामाजिक आन्दोलनहरूको युग जस्तो देखिन्छ। उत्तरवर्ती विकासको सौन्दर्यकरण र परम्परागत पुँजीवादी नवउदारवादको हेजेमोनिक विद्रुपीकरण दुबै यस युगका विशेषता हुने कुरामा शङ्का छैन । कुनै विशेष सन्दर्भमा विशेष सवालहरू महत्वपूर्ण र प्रमुख हुन सक्छन् जसले व्यापार, वित्त, प्रभुत्व, संस्थाहरू, असमानता, आतङ्कवाद, पर्यावरण परिवर्तन, प्राकृतिक विपत्ति र अन्तराष्ट्रिय विकासका सहयोग जस्ता विषयलाई समावेश गर्दछ। वास्तवमा नयाँ विकास युगको सुरूवातलाई निकट भविष्यमा एक बहुल र बहुआयामको रूपमा अस्वीकार गर्न सकिदैँन। राजनैतिक आन्दोलनहरू पनि विकास, विचार र एजेन्डहरूसँगै रूपान्तरण वा समायोजन हुँदैछन् । यसै सन्दर्भमा विकासका अध्ययनका विधाहरू जस्तो लैङ्गिकता, लोकतन्त्र, शुशासन, सशक्तिकरण, संस्कृति, सञ्चार, विकास आलोचना, समावेशी तथा राज्य र समाजको सम्बन्ध आदि धेरै नै महत्वपूर्ण छन् । यसको लागि विकासको भाष्य यो वा त्यो प्रकारले बृहत संरचनाबाट कर्ताभिमुखीकरण वा संस्थाहरूमा, आधुनिकताबाट उत्तर–आधुनिकतामा, मार्क्सवादबाट नव/उत्तर–मार्क्सवादमा, संरचनावादबाट निर्माणवादमा, नियतत्ववादबाट परतत्व व्याख्यामा र एकरूपत्वबाट फरकत्वमा रूपान्तरण हुँदै पुनः उत्तरवर्ती विकल्प खोतल्नु पर्दछ।

विकास भनेको सापेक्ष र मूलय बोकेको अबधारण हो जसले प्राथमिक रूपमा राम्रो आर्थिक क्षमता हुनु र सबै मानिसहरूको भलाई होस् भन्ने कुरालाई मान्यता राख्दछ। विकासको उदय भए देखि नै यो विवाद कायम (Contested Notion) छ। यस सन्दर्भमा 'ज्ञान हासेर मर्दछ, रोइ विज्ञान' जस्तो विकासको भाष्य कुनै बेला अविकासको दुष्चक्रबाट अपहरित हुन पनि सक्दछ र त्यसको लागि ठूलो वैचारिकी उथलपुथलको पनि जरूरी हुने देखिन्छ । वास्तवमा विकासको अर्थ र परिभाषा मात्र होइन यसका सिद्धान्त र अभ्यासमा पनि एक प्रकारको वैश्विक मतान्तर छ। त्यस्तैगरी आधुनिक युगमा कस्तो किसिमको विकास दृष्टिकोण र रणनीति उपयुक्त हुन्छ जसले मानिसहरूको गुणस्तरीय जीवनलाई सुनिश्चित र सशक्तीकरण गरोस् भन्ने सम्बन्धमा थुप्रै खालका वहस र चिन्तनहरू कायम छन् । यसप्रकार विकास दार्शनिक रूपले नै एक विवादास्पद भाष्य र रहस्यमय सिकाइको अर्थ–राजनैतिक मुद्दा बनेको छ। यसलाई 'वृन्दे वृन्दे तत्तवचिन्तानुवादः' र 'वादे वादे जायते तत्तवबोधः' भन्ने मान्यताबाट अझ सशक्त बनाउन जरूरी देखिन्छ।

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नेपालमा भाषायोजनाका प्रभावक तत्वहरूको अवस्था

हेमा जोशी
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ABSTRACT (लेखसार)

नेपालमा भाषायोजनाका प्रभावक तत्वहरूको अवस्था शीर्षकको यस लेखमा भाषिक विविधता, नेपालमा बोलिने विभिन्न भाषापरिवार अन्तर्गतका भाषाहरू, भाषिक भूगोल र भाषिक वितरणको अवस्था, भाषाको मानकीकरण, राज्यको नीति र अग्रसरता, लिपीको अवस्था, शब्दभण्डार, रोजगारीको अवसर, साहित्यिक समवृद्धिजस्ता उपशीर्षकहरूमा विषयको विश्लेषण गरिएको छ। विश्वका विभिन्न भाषाहरूका माभ्त नेपाली भाषाको स्थान, शक्ति तथा केही सीमाहरू रहेका छन्। यस भाषाको संरक्षण र संवर्धनका लागि नेपालमा के कस्ता प्रभावकहरू छन् भन्ने मूल समस्यामा यो अध्ययन केन्द्रित छ। राज्यको भाषासम्बन्धी नीतिको अधीनमा रही विद्यमान भाषाको भूमिकाअनुरूप प्रवर्धन गर्न तयार पारिएको कार्य योजना वा कार्यक्रम नै भाषा योजना हो। कुनै पनि राष्ट्र वा समाज त्यसमा पनि बहुभाषिक राष्ट्र र समाजको भाषा सम्बन्धी समस्याहरूको समाधान गरी राष्ट्रिय, स्थानीय, सामाजिक र सांस्कृतिक भाषा निर्धारण तथा स्तरोन्नयन गर्ने आधिकारिक र दीर्घकालीन प्रयासलाई नै भाषा योजना भनिन्छ। भाषायोजना निर्माण, भाषायोजना कार्यन्वयन र भाषायोजनाका मूलभूत उद्देश्य प्राप्तिको निम्ति आवश्यक तत्वहरुलाई नै भाषायोजनाका प्रभावक भनिन्छ। यस्ता प्रभावकहरु अनुकूल भए भने तिनले सकारात्मक प्रभाव पार्छन र भाषायोजनालाई सफल तुल्याउँछन् प्रतिकूल भए भने नकारात्मक प्रभाव पार्छन। पुस्तकालय अध्ययन कार्यका आधारमा द्वितीयक स्रोत सामग्री सङ्कलन गरी यिनै सामग्रीको अध्ययन र पुनरावलोकनबाट गुणात्मक अनुसन्धान ढाँचामा विश्लेषित यस अनुसन्धान लेखमा नेपाली भाषा नेपाल देशसँग सम्बन्धित रहेकाले यसको विकास र विस्तारमा भाषायोजनाका प्रभावकहरूको राष्ट्रियस्तरमै भरपर्दो दीर्घकालीन उपयुक्त नीति र योजना बन्नुपर्छ र नेपाली भाषाको सम्मान गर्नु सिङ्गो राष्ट्रको सम्मान हो भन्ने निष्कर्ष प्रस्तुत गरिएको छ।

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विषय परिचय

योजना भनेको देश, राज्य, समाज वा संघसंस्थाको कुनै पनि क्षेत्र वा शीर्षकमा रहेर विकास र सुधारका लागि तयार पारिने बृहत् दस्ताबेज हो। भाषा योजना भाषाको विकास, संरक्षण तथा संवर्द्धनका निम्ति सरकारी स्तरबाट बनाइने आधिकारिक र दीर्घकालिन योजना हो। भाषा योजनालाई भाषिक नीति र पद्धतिले समेटेको हुन्छ। राष्ट्रले अवलम्बन गरेका भाषिक नीतिलाई व्यावहारिक रूपमा कार्यान्वयन गर्नको लागि राष्ट्र, राज्य वा कुनै विशिष्ट संस्थाले निर्माण गरेको योजनालाई नै भाषायोजना भनिन्छ। साहित्यको विकास, शिक्षा माध्यमको कार्यान्वयन, पाठ्यक्रम तथा पाठ्यपुस्तक निर्माण र सुधार आदि सम्बन्धी विस्तृत योजना तयार पारिएको हुन्छ। यसप्रकारको योजनामा कुन कुन भाषालाई कति प्राथमिकता दिने र ती भाषाहरूको प्रयोग, अध्ययन, अनुसन्धान र चिन्तन मननलाई कसरी कार्यान्वयन गर्ने भन्ने बारेमा विस्तृत कार्यक्रम तयार पारिएको हुन्छ। यसरी भाषाको संरक्षण, संवर्धन र विकासका लागि तयार पारिएको नीति नियमलाई प्रयोगात्मक तहमा पुगेर कार्य सम्पादन गरी प्राप्तिको विश्लेषण, संशोधन र आवश्यक परिमार्जन गर्दै जाने कार्य भाषायोजनामा समाहित हुन्छ। भाषायोजनाको प्रयोगको प्रतिफलबाट भाषानीति प्रभावित र परिमार्जित हुने अवस्था सिर्जना हुन सक्छ। भाषायोजनाको कार्यान्वयनको परिणामबाट भावी कार्यदिशा निर्धारण हुन्छ। भाषानीति र भाषायोजना आपसमा अन्तरसम्बन्धित हुन्छन। भाषायोजनाको मूल उद्देश्य भनेको देशका सबै भाषाको विकास गर्दै लोपोन्मुख भाषाको संवर्धनमा थप ध्यान दिइ विकसित भाषाको कोटिमा पुर्‍याई सबल तुल्याउन र कमजोर भाषालाई माथि उठाई स्तरीकरण, कोडीकरण एवम् प्रायोगिक विस्तार गर्ने प्रक्रियालाई कार्यान्वयनको तहमा लैजानु हो।

अध्ययन विधि

प्रस्तुत लेखमा पुस्तकालयीय अध्ययन कार्यका आधारमा द्वितीयक स्रोतहरुबाट सामग्री सङ्कलन गरिएको छ। गुणात्मक अनुसन्धान ढाँचामा आधारित यस लेखमा उपलब्ध अभिलेख सामग्रीहरुबाट तथ्यहरुको सङ्कलन, व्याख्या र विश्लेषण गरी निचोडमा पुगिएको छ। अभिलेख सामग्रीहरुमा सम्बन्धित पुस्तक, पत्रपत्रिका, समीक्षात्मक तथा अनुसन्धानात्मक लेखहरु संलग्न छन्। यिनै सामग्रीको विश्लेषणबाट निष्कर्ष निकालिएको छ।

भाषायोजनाका प्रभावकहरू

भाषायोजना भनेको भाषाको विकास, संरक्षण तथा संवर्द्धनका निम्ति संस्थागत वा सरकारी स्तरबाट गरिने आधिकारिक र दीर्घकालीन प्रयास हो (पौडेल र भट्टराई, २०७७ : पृ.६०)। यसमा देशको भाषिक स्थितिको अध्ययनका आधारमा भाषिक विकास एवम् संरक्षण र संवर्धनसम्बन्धी निर्णय गर्ने, नीति–निर्धारण गर्ने, कार्यक्रम बनाउने आदि कुराहरु सम्बद्ध हुन्छन्। भाषानीति र योजना बहुभाषिक समाजमा भाषाहरुको भूमिकालाई ध्यानमा राखेर राष्ट्रभाषा, आधिकारिक भाषा, क्षेत्रीय भाषा, प्रादेशिक भाषा, अन्तराष्ट्रिय भाषाको निर्धारण गर्न आवश्यक हुन्छ। भाषायोजना निर्माण, भाषायोजना कार्यान्वयन र भाषायोजनाका मूलभूत उद्देश्य प्राप्तिको निम्ति आवश्यक तत्वहरुलाई नै भाषायोजनाका प्रभावक भनिन्छ। यस किसिमको भाषा निर्धारण गर्नमा थुप्रै प्रभावक तत्वहरुले प्रभाव पारेको हुन्छ जसलाई निम्नअनुसार चर्चा गरिएको छ।

भाषिक विविधता

एउटा भाषाभित्र विभिन्न रुप देखिनुलाई भाषिक विविधता भनिन्छ। नेपाल बहुभाषी, बहुजाति तथा बहु संस्कृति भएको मुलुक हो। यहाँ भाषिक विविधता पाइन्छ। एउटै भाषामा विविधता देखिनु कुनै नयाँ र नौलो कुरा होइन। भाषाका विविध रुप भन्नाले औपचारिक र अनौपचारिक, मानक र अमानक, स्तरीय र सामान्य, कथ्य र लेख्य, साहित्यिक र व्यक्ति भाषा, स्थानीय र क्षेत्रीय, शहरिया र ग्रामीण अनेक भेद भएको पाइन्छ। यो नेपाली भाषाको मात्र भेद होइन, अन्य भाषाको पनि तिनै साझा प्रवृति पाइन्छन्। यी भाषिक भेदहरुमा उच्चारण प्रकृया, उच्चरित ध्वनि, प्रयुक्त शब्द, व्याकरणका विभिन्न कोटिहरु लिङ्ग, वचन, पुरुष आदिका तहमा नै पृथकता र भिन्नता देखिन्छ। यसरी भाषिक विविधता ल्याउनमा समय र भौगोलिक अवस्था आदिले अहम् भूमिका खेलेको पाइन्छ यातायातको प्रचुर सुविधा, शिक्षाको विकास र सञ्चारका साधन आदिको पनि गहन भूमिका देखिन्छ। यस्तै वक्ता र श्रोता, सन्दर्भ र विषय, समय र क्षेत्र, जनसंख्या, चेतना, पेसा, व्यवसाय, बसाइँ–सराइँ, सम्पन्नता र विपन्नता, युद्ध र शान्ति, राजनैतिक, सामाजिक, आर्थिक सांस्कृतिक एवम् धार्मिक कारणले पनि महत्त्वपूर्ण योगदान दिएको पाइन्छ। नेपालको भौगोलिक विकटता, पूर्व मेचीदेखि पश्चिम महाकाली, भोट मधेस र पहाड र उपत्यका आदि विभिन्न ठाउँमा बसोबास गर्ने वक्ताको शारीरिक र मानसिक

अवस्थाले भाषामा विविध रुप देखिन्छ । भाषा परिवारका दृष्टिले हेर्दा नेपालमा बोलिने भाषा निम्नानुसार रहेका छन्:

नेपालमा बोलिने विभिन्न भाषापरिवार अन्तर्गतका भाषाहरू

१) **भारोपेली**: नेपाली, मैथिली, भोजपुरी, अवधि, थारू, डोटेली, बज्जिका, उर्दू, राजवंशी, हिन्दी, माझी, दनुवार, बङ्गाली, राजस्थानी, अङ्गिका, दरै, कुमाल, बोटे, पन्जाबी, अङ्ग्रेजी, संस्कृत, सिन्धी, कोचे, हरियान्वी, मगही, कर्माली, मुसलमान, ताजपुरिया, खस, अछामी, बैतडेली, जुम्ली, बझाङी, दैलेखी, डडेल्धुरेली, बाजुराली, दार्चुरेली, खस आदि ।

२) **चिनियाँ तिब्वती**: नेवारी, गुरूङ, तामाङ, लिम्बू, तिब्बती, शेर्पा, जिरेल, कागते, ल्होमे, डोल्पा, छितुरीङ, ल्होके, लेप्चा, घले, थकाली, मनाङ, पूर्वी केके, छन्तेल, व्याँसी, मगर, राजी, राउटे, पश्चिमी तामाङ, बुजा, दुरा, खाम, चेपाङ, थामी, भ्रँमु, हायु, पहरी, धिमाल, मेचे, कुसुण्डा, राई, किराँती, सुनुवारी, पहारी आदि ।

३) **आग्ननेय**: सतार वा सन्थाली ।

४) **द्रविड**: द्रविड उराउ (झाँगड)र किसान ।

५) **एकल**: कुसुन्डा ।

स्रोत: भाषा आयोगको प्रतिवेदन, २०७५

भाषिक भूगोल र भाषिक वितरणको अवस्था

नेपालमा पहिलोपटक राष्ट्रिय भाषा नेपाली बाहेक अन्य भाषाहरुलाई प्रदेशस्तरमा सरकारी कामकाजको भाषाको रुपमा प्रयोग गर्न सक्ने भाषा आयोगले नेपालको संविधानको धारा ७ को उपधारा ९३० बमोजिम सरकारी कामकाजको भाषाको रुपमा सिफारिस गरेको छ । वि.सं.२०७८ को जनगणना अनुसार नेपालमाबोलिने भाषाको सङ्ख्या १२४ पुगेको छ । नयाँ थपिएकाभाषामा मारेक (याक्खा) र नावा शेर्पा रहेका छन् । यसअगि भाषा आयोगले २०७५/७६ को अध्ययन प्रतिवेदन अनुसार ६ वटा भाषा थपिएका थिए । राना (कञ्चनपुर), नार फु (मनाङ), चुम (स्यार) गोरखा, पाइके (डोल्पा), सेराके(सेके) (मुस्ताङ), नुब्री, लार्के गरी ६ भाषा थपिएका छन् । राष्ट्रिय जनगणना २०६८ अनुसार नेपालमा बोलिने भाषाको संख्या १२३ वटा थियो । यिनीहरूमध्ये सबैभन्दा बढी जाति र वक्ताले बोल्ने भाषा नेपाली हो । यो भाषा परम्परादेखि समृद्ध, राष्ट्रभाषा, सरकारी कामकाजको भाषा, साझा सम्पर्क भाषा, पठनपाठनको माध्यम भाषाको भूमिकामा रहँदै आएको छ । जस्तै पूर्वमा बोलीने नेपाली र पश्चिममा बोलिने नेपालीमा केही फरक छ । भौगोलिक कारणले गर्दा हरेक ठाउँमा बोलिने भाषाको लवजमा फरक हुन्छ । जस्तो स्तरीय नेपालीमा जाउँ भन्ने शब्दलाई पूर्वतिर जुमजुम भनिन्छ भने पश्चिमतिर जामजाम भनिन्छ । भौगोलिक कारणले गर्दा पहाडमा बसेका मान्छेको उच्चारण अलि कसिलो, सुरिलो हुन्छ भने तराईतिर बसेका मान्छेहरुको उच्चारण अलि धोद्रे किसिमको खुलेको हुन्छ । यसको कारण हावा पानी र वातावरण नै हो । पहाडको प्रकृति र तराईको प्रकृतिमा फरक छ । पहाडतिर चिसोका कारण उच्चारण अङ्गहरू कम खुलेका हुन्छन् भने तराईतिर गर्मी भएका कारण बढी खुलेर स्वर धोद्रो भएको हुन्छ । यस्तै कारणले गर्दा भाषाको उच्चारणमा फरक आएको हुन्छ ।

नेपाली भाषा सर्वत्र एकैनासले बोलिदैन । यसका क्षेत्रीय भेदहरु छन् । विशाल क्षेत्रमा धैरै जनसंख्याद्वारा व्यवहृत हुने भाषाका ठाउँ–ठाउँमा बेग्लाबेग्लै विशेषताहरु देखिन्छन् । भाषिक क्षेत्रमा भौगोलिक–सामाजिक वातावरणले भिन्नता ल्याउँछ । विशेषत: भौगोलिक स्थितिको विकटताका कारण आवगमनमा बाधा उत्पन्न हुन्छ र ठाउँनैपिच्छे भाषामा फरकपन देखिन थाल्छ । नेपाली भाषाका सुदूरपश्चिमदेखि सुदूरपूर्वसम्म अनेक प्रकारका स्थानिय भाषिकाहरु देखापरेका छन् । यसरी भाषाको स्थानीय भेदहरु देखापर्नका लागि भौगोलिक विस्तारमात्र पर्याप्त हुँदैन त्यसका लागि समयको पनि आवश्यकता पर्दछ । स्थानको विकटताले भए पनि त्यस ठाउँमा समयको लामो अन्तराल छैन भने त्यहाँ भाषिक उपभेद सृजना हुन सक्दैन । यसरी कुनै पनि भाषाका उपभाषिकाको निर्माण हुनाका लागि भौगोलिक वातावरण, समयको अन्तराल, उक्त क्षेत्रका इतर भाषाभाषीसितको बढ्दो सम्पर्क तथा वक्ताहरुको संख्या आदिले प्रत्यक्ष प्रभाव पार्दछ ।

भाषायोजनाका प्रभावक तत्वहरु मा भौगैालिक दुरी भाषिक भेद देखिने प्रमुख कारण हो कुनै एक ठाँउमा विकसित भएको भाषाको प्रचारप्रसार समान रुपले सबै ठाँउमा हुन नसक्ने हुँदा भाषिक भेद जन्मन पुग्छ । यदि भौगोलिक दूरताको स्थिति छ वा भौगोलिक बनोट भिन्न भिन्न प्रकृतिको छ भने भाषिक समुदायका बिचमा सम्पर्क कम हुँदै जान्छ र भाषिक भेद जन्मन पुग्छ । विभिन्न प्राकृतिक प्रकोपका कारण समुदायका बीचमा सम्बन्ध विच्छेद भएमा एउटै भाषिक समाजमा प्रयोग हुने एउटै

भाषामा पनि विविधता पाउन सकिन्छ (पौडेल र भट्टराई, २०७७:पृ.६०)। त्यस्तै गरी भू- वनोट, हावापनी, दुर्गमता, सुगमता आदि भौगोलिक कारणले पनि भाषिकाको सृजना हुन्छ।

भाषाको मानकीकरण

भाषा विकास प्रक्रियामा लेख्यीकरण पछि भाषा मानकीकरण को आवश्यकता हुन्छ। भाषा मानकीकरणका लागि सम्बन्धित भाषाका वैकल्पिक प्रयोगहरु मध्ये कुनै एकको छनोट हुन्छ। भाषामा विभिन्न सामाजिक तथा क्षेत्रीय भेदहरु हुन सक्छन्। भाषाका विविध भेदहरु मध्ये सर्वस्वीकार्य, जीवन्त र सामर्थ्यवान भेदको छनोट उपयुक्त हुन्छ। यिनै अनेक भेद मध्ये कुनै एकलाई बढी महत्व दिई औपचारिक मान्यता प्रदान गरी विस्तारित र प्रतिष्ठित गराउने कार्य भाषाको मानकीकरण हो। भाषाको मानकीकरणले भाषाको विकास र कार्यक्षमतामा बढवा दिन्छ। भाषा स्तरीकरण वा मानकीकरणका प्रक्रियामा लिपि छनोट, व्याकरण प्रकाशन, शब्दकोश निर्माण, पत्रिकाहरु प्रकाशन तथा अन्य वैयक्तिक एवम् संस्थागत प्रयासहरु पर्दछन्। संसारमा भाषा मानकीकरणका प्रक्रिया र परिणामहरु एउटै पाइदैनन्। पुनर्जागरण समयदेखि नै युरोपमा भएका भाषा मानकीकरणका प्रक्रियामा सहर केन्द्रित मध्यमवर्गीय शिक्षितहरुको बोलीबाट विकसित हुनु, मानक भाषाको अवस्था अन्य भाषाका तुलनामा सामान्य लेख्य माध्यम बन्नु, स्तरीय भाषाको स्वीकृत नमुना साहित्य प्रयोगमा कुनै एक लेखक वा लेखक समूहले सेवा गर्नु, मानक भाषाले धार्मिक वा राष्ट्रिय पहिचानको प्रतीकका रुपमा सेवा गर्नु विशेषताको रहेको पाइन्छ। यसरी भाषा मानकीकरणमा मध्यम वर्गीय शिक्षित बोलीलाई प्राथमिकता दिनुका साथै सर्वस्वीकृत भाषिक रुपको खोजी र व्याख्या गरिन्छ। मानकीकृत भाषालाई सम्पर्क भाषा, राष्ट्रभाषा, कार्यालयीय भाषा र शैक्षिक संस्थानको शिक्षणीय भाषाका रुपमा प्राथमिकता दिइनुका साथै लिपिसुधार, हिज्जे सुधार, कोडहरुको विस्तार, व्याकरण निर्माण, शब्दकोश निर्माण तथा भाषाको मान्यताका लागि व्यापक प्रचार–प्रसार प्रक्रियामा समेत अगाडि बढाइन्छ (लम्साल, २०६५ : पृ.२)।

भाषाका विविध भेदहरु मध्ये सर्वस्वीकार्य, जीवन्त र सामर्थ्यवान भेदको छनोट गरी औपचारिक मान्यता प्रदान गर्ने तथा विस्तारित र प्रतिष्ठित गराउने कार्यलाई भाषाको मानकीकरण भनिन्छ। मानकीकरणमा छनोट, कोडीकरण, विस्तरण, स्वीकरण आदि यसको आधारभूत प्रक्रिया हुन्। साथै वर्णविन्यासमा सुधार, व्याकरण र शब्दकोश निर्माण, शिक्षा, सञ्चार, मनोरञ्जन र विज्ञानप्रविधिका हरेक क्षेत्रमा विस्तार गरी सर्वस्वीकार्य वा मान्यता प्राप्त बनाउनु नै भाषा मानकीकरणका प्रक्रिया हुन्। नेपाली भाषाको मानकीकरणमा पनि यी सबै प्रक्रियाहरु अवलम्बन गरिएको छ। भाषा वा भाषिकाको यही विस्तारित रुप नै मानक वा स्तरीय भाषा मानिन्छ। स्तरीय भाषा व्यापक क्षेत्रमा फैलिने हुनाले धेरै वक्ताहरुले प्रयोग गर्नुका साथै ज्ञान विज्ञान र साहित्यिक सिर्जनाको माध्यम बन्न पुग्छ। भाषाको मानकीकरणमा राज्यको भाषानीति, भाषायोजना र भाषा वैज्ञानिकहरुको महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रहन्छ।

राज्यको नीति र अग्रसरता

देश भित्र बोलिने सबै भाषाहरूप्रति राज्यले गर्ने व्यवहारको मार्गदर्शन नै भाषा नीति हो। कुनै देशमा बोलचाल वा प्रयोगमा आउने जति भाषा छन्, ती सबै भाषाहरूलाई राज्यका कुनकुन कामका लागि रोज्ने अथवा राज्यले कुन भाषाप्रति कस्तो व्यवहार गर्ने भन्ने नीतिलाई नै त्यस देशका सरकारको भाषा नीति भनिन्छ। देशमा रहेको भाषिक स्थिति नै भाषा नीति निर्माणको आधार हो राष्ट्का सबै भाषाहरूको संरक्षण, संवर्धन र विकास गर्नु, सरकारी कामकाजको भाषा निर्धारण गर्नु, भाषासम्बन्धी अध्ययन गरी आवश्यक सिफारिस गर्न उपयुक्त र आधिकारिक निकायको व्यवस्था गर्नु, भाषा योजना निर्माणको आधार तय गर्नु, औपचारिक मञ्च र निकायमा प्रयोग गरिने भाषा सुनिश्चित गर्नु, शिक्षाको माध्यम भाषा निर्धारण गर्नु, राज्यको भाषिक विशेषतालाई न्यायपूर्ण ढङ्गले सम्बोधन गर्नु जस्ता उद्देश्यमा आधारित भई भाषा नीति तय गरिएको हुन्छ।

राज्यमा बोलिने सबै भाषाले मान्यता पाउनु पर्छ। संविधानले भाषिक पक्षलाई समेटेको भने नेपालको संविधान २०१५ देखि हो। यसमा नेपालको राष्ट्रभाषा नेपाली हो भन्ने उल्लेख छ। पञ्चायतद्वारा जारी संविधान २०१९ मा नेपाली नागरिकता लिन नेपाली भाषा जान्नु पर्ने प्रावधान राखिएको पाइन्छ। यसले राज्यको एकभाषिक नीतिलाई पुष्टि गर्दछ। २०४६ को जनान्दोलनको उपलब्धी स्वरूप प्राप्त, नेपाल अधिराज्यको संविधान २०४७ ले नेपाल बहुभाषिक देश हो भन्ने यथार्थ स्वीकार गरेको छ। उक्त संविधानले नेपाली भाषा नेपालको राष्ट्रभाषा हुने स्पष्ट किटान गरी नेपालमा बोलिने अन्य सबै भाषालाई राष्ट्रिय भाषाको दर्जा दिएको थियो। नेपालको अन्तरिम संविधानले नेपालमा बोलिने

सबै भाषाहरूलाई राष्ट्रभाषा हुन भन्दै सम्पूर्ण भाषालाई समान महत्त्व दिने नीति अख्तियार गरेको थियो। नेपालको संविधान २०७२ ले पनि सोही व्यवस्थालाई निरन्तरता दिएको छ। २०७२ को संवैधानिक व्यवस्था अनुरूप देश संघीय र प्रादेशिक संरचनामा गएको छ। प्रादेशिक भाषिक विशेषता र आवश्यकता अनुरूप प्रदेश सरकारले लिने भाषिक नीतिका सन्दर्भमा र नयाँ संरचना अनुरूप राज्यले अपनाउनु पर्ने भाषिक नीतिका सम्बन्धमा भाषा आयोगको सिफारिस अनुरूप हुने संवैधानिक व्यवस्था छ। सोअनुरूप हाल आयोग क्रियाशील छ। मुलुकमा भाषाको संख्या बढेको एक अध्ययनले देखाएको छ। भाषा आयोगको प्रतिवेदन २०७६/०७७ अनुसार नेपालमा बोलिने भाषाहरुको संख्या १३१ पुगेको छ।

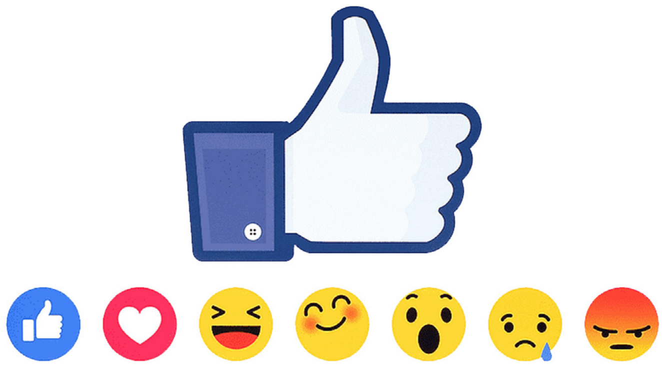
लिपिको अवस्था

लिपिको परिपेक्ष्यमा नेपालका राष्ट्रिय भाषाहरुलाई हेर्दा अधिकांश भाषाहरु देवनागिरी लिपिमा लेखिने गरिएको पाइन्छ। नेपाली भाषा देवनागिरी लिपिमा सरकारी कामकाजको भाषा हो। अभिव्यक्तिलाई अभिलेखमा राखिने भाषा लेख्य हो। लेख्य भन्ने बित्तिकै त्यसको सम्बन्ध लेखनका लागि आवश्यक लिपि चिह्नहरुसँग हुन्छ। त्यसमा वर्ण र अन्य सङ्केत व्यवस्था पर्दछन्। बोल्दा वर्णहरुका समूहको ध्वन्यात्मक उच्चारण हुन्छ। त्यसको आफ्नै गति, यति र लय हुन्छ। त्यससँगै मनोदशाको अभिव्यक्ति पनि हुने गर्दछ। अर्थात् मान्छेले रिसाउँदाको भाषा र खुसी हुँदाको भाषा भिन्न हुन्छ। त्यस्तै दया प्रकट गर्दा र तर्साउँदा बेग्लै भाषा हुन्छ। त्यसलाई भाषाको सामान्य परिभाषाबाट बुझिने भन्दा प्रायोगिक भाषाका रूपमा बुझ्नु उपयुक्त हुन्छ।

त्यही बोलीचालीको अर्थात् कथ्य भाषा कहिले आन्तरिक रूपबाट नै र कहिले प्रकटीकृत रूपबाट पनि लेख्य भाषामा रूपान्तरण हुन्छ। त्यसो गर्दा वर्ण र अन्य सङ्केत व्यवस्थाका चिह्न लेखनमा आउँछन्। तिनको सम्बन्ध अभिव्यक्तिकारको मनसँग हुन्छ। त्यस्ता चिह्नले मनको भाषालाई मनोसामाजिक अवस्थासँग तालमेल गर्दै लेख्य भाषामा प्राण सञ्चार गर्दछन्। हरेक भाषा लेखनका लागि लिपि अनिवार्य हुन्छ तर संसारमा जति भाषा छन् त्यति नै लिपि छैनन्। अर्थात् एउटा लिपि एकभन्दा बढी भाषाका लागि प्रयोग हुने हुन्छ। नेपाली भाषा लेखिने देवनागरी लिपि नेपालीका अतिरिक्त संस्कृत, मैथिली, भोजपुरी, हिन्दी, मराठी, प्राकृत आदि भाषाको पनि लिपि हो। तर यी भाषामा प्रयोग हुने देवनागरी लिपिमा पनि केही भिन्नता छ। रोमन लिपि अङ्ग्रेजी, फ्रेन्च, स्पेनिस, जर्मन, टर्केली आदि भाषा लेखिने लिपि हो।

लिपिहरुका आआफ्नै वर्ण व्यवस्था हुन्छन् र ती कथ्य भाषा वा उच्चारणसँग सम्बन्धित हुन्छन्। त्यसरी उच्चारण गर्दा बोलिने सबै भाषाले अभिव्यक्तिकारको मनोभाषालाई अभिव्यक्त गर्ने हुन्। अर्थात् मनोसामाजिक अवस्थालाई ध्वनि वा चित्रमा उतार्छन्। त्यस्ता ध्वनिका वा मनोदशाका चित्र वर्ण र चिह्नका रूपमा लिखित रूपमा आउँछन्। चिह्न भनेकै सङ्केत व्यवस्था रहेको हुँदा संसारका भाषाहरुमा आवश्यकता अनुरूप र प्रविधिको प्रयोगका आधारमा त्यस्ता चिह्नहरु थपघट भइरहने हुन्छ। उदाहरणका लागि नेपाली लेटर प्रेसमा छपाइका लागि प्रयोग हुने चिह्नहरु कम्प्युटर र अफसेट प्रेसको प्रविधिको विकाससँगै विलुप्त भएका छन्। त्यसैगरी समय परिस्थिति अनुसार विभिन्न चिह्नहरु थप हुन थालेका छन्। जस्तै : सूचना प्रविधिको विकासले सामाजिक सञ्जालका विभिन्न रूपलाई चिनाउने बेग्लै सङ्केत चिह्न छन्। जस्तैः

सामाजिक सञ्जाल फेसबुकमा मनोदशा जनाउन प्रयोग गरिने चिह्नहरु यस्ता छन् :



भाषा विकसित वस्तु हो। भाषा कुवाको पानी जस्तो जम्ने विषय हैन, बग्ने पानी जस्तो हो। बग्ने पानी सङ्लिदै गएजस्तै भाषामा शुद्धता र परिष्कार आउँदै जान्छ। यसले गर्दा यसका नियमहरूमा पनि परिवर्तन हुँदै जान्छ । यसै कारण प्राचीन नेपाली जस्तो थियो, मध्यकालीन र आधुनिक नेपाली त्यस्तो छैन । भानुभक्तकालीन नेपाली भाषा र अहिलेको भाषामा फरक छ । भाषा विकसित हुँदै जाँदा त्यसका नियमहरू पनि परिवर्तित हुँदै जान्छन्। तिनलाई अद्यावधिक गर्दै जानुपर्छ। अद्यावधिक गर्दा केही विवादहरू पनि जन्मन्छन्। केही वर्ष पहिला नेपाली भाषाको वर्णविन्यासलाई लिएर केही विवादहरु आए र अलि चर्कै पनि भए।

शब्दभण्डार

भाषाको आधारभूत एकाइ शब्द हो। शब्दको एकीकृत वा समष्टिगत रुपलाई शब्दभण्डार भनिन्छ। यसलाई शब्द ढुकुटीका रुपमा पनि चिनिन्छ।

रुपभन्दा ठूलो र पदावलीभन्दा सानो महत्त्वपूर्ण भाषिक एकाइ शब्द हो। शब्दबिना भाषिक कार्य सम्पन्न हुन नसक्ने हुँदा यो भाषाको प्राण हो । नेपाली भाषाको शब्दभण्डार भनेको नेपाली भाषामा भएका सम्पूर्ण शब्दहरुको भण्डार वा ढुकुटी हो । शब्दभण्डार शब्दकोशभित्र सङ्ग्रहीत वा जनजिब्रोमा प्रचलित कोशभित्र नसमेटिएको शब्द सहितको समष्टि रुप हो । प्राय हरेक भाषामा आफ्नो समुदायसँग सम्बन्धित प्रचलित विश्वास, धारणा आदिलाई व्यक्त गर्ने यथेष्ट शब्दभण्डार रहेको पाइन्छ र नयाँ अनुभव व्यक्त गर्ने प्रयास गर्दा पुराना शब्दहरुको अर्थमा परिवर्तन हुने तथा नयाँ शब्दहरुको प्रयोग हुने गरेको पाइन्छ तर कुनै भाषाको कार्यक्षेत्र विस्तार भएको स्थितिमा स्वाभाविक शब्दभण्डारको विकासमा मात्र पर्याप्त यसको योजनाबद्ध विकासको खाँचो पर्छ। जस्तैःसमाजिक सञ्जालमा विभिन्न क्षेत्र सित सम्बन्धित एप्सबाट धेरै शब्दभण्डारको विकास गर्न सकिन्छ।

नेपालमा पनि राष्ट्रिय भाषाहरुको संरक्षण र संवर्द्धन गर्न तथा मातृभाषालाई प्राथमिक तहसम्म शिक्षाको माध्यम बनाउने सकिने संवैधानिक प्रावधान रहेको परिपेक्ष्यमा विभिन्न राष्ट्रिय भाषाहरुमा शब्दभण्डारको क्षमतालाई वृद्धि गर्न उपयुक्त योजना गर्नु पर्ने देखिन्छ तर यस्तो योजनाको तर्जुमा र यसको कार्यन्वयन गर्दा विभिन्न राष्ट्रिय भाषाहरुको भाषिक स्वरुपका साथै सामाजिक आवश्यकता र अभिवृत्तितर्फ पनि समुचित रुपमा ध्यान दिनुपर्छ । मानवले गरेका आजसम्मका विभिन्न उपलब्धीको आधार नै भाषा हो। भाषाकै माध्यमबाट गरिने विज्ञान र प्रवृधिको विकाससँगै भाषा परिवर्तन भइरहन्छ । यसरी परिवर्तित भाषा नै आधुनिक भाषा हो। आधुनिक भाषा सक्षम भाषा पनि मानिन्छ। नेपाली भाषाको जननी भाषा संस्कृत हो। यस्तै नेपाली भाषाका झर्रा शब्द तथा आगन्तुक शब्दहरुबाट नेपाली शब्दभण्डार भरिएको छ। यसरी नै विज्ञान तथा प्रवृधि, शिक्षा, सञ्चार प्रवृधि, कानुन, व्यापार वाणिज्य, राजनीति, इतिहास, पुराण साथै साहित्यसँग सम्बन्धित नेपाली शब्दभण्डारले नेपाली भाषा निरन्तर अत्याधुनिक हुँदै गइरहेको छ। कुनै पनि व्यक्तिमा कति धेरै ज्ञानको भण्डार छ भन्ने कुरा व्यक्तिभित्र रहेको शब्द ढुकुटीको आँकलनबाट थाहा पाइन्छ। शब्द बुझाइका लागि शब्दभण्डार आवश्यक पर्छ।

रोजगारीको अवसर

जीवन निर्वाहका लागि गरिने काम, इलम, पेसा वा व्यवसायलाई रोजगार भनिन्छ। विश्वमा विविध भाषाभाषी समुदायका मानिसहरुको बसोबास रहेको छ । भाषाका निश्चित क्षेत्रहरु हुन्छन् । मानिसहरुका बीच व्यावहारिक कार्यका सन्दर्भमा एक भाषिक समुदायका मानिसको अर्को भाषिक समुदायका मानिससँग सम्पर्क हुनु स्वाभाविकै हो।

यसरी फरक फरक भाषा बोल्ने मानिसहरुका बीचमा सम्पर्क हुनुलाई भाषिक सम्पर्क भनिन्छ। विश्वमा नयाँ नयाँ खोज हुँदा त्यसको प्रभाव विभिन्न देश तथा त्यहाँका भाषाहरुमा पनि पर्छ। भाषा भाव व्यक्त गर्ने सर्वोत्तम माध्यम हो। भाषाका माध्यमबाट मानिसले विचार, भावना, जीवनशैली आदिमा परिवर्तन गर्दछ। विश्वमा भएको ज्ञानविज्ञानको द्रुत विकास, यातायात र सञ्चारका क्षेत्रमा देखापरेको विश्वव्यापीकरण एवम् समाजको विशिष्टीकरणले भाषामा प्रयोजनपरक भेदको सृष्टि गर्दछ। ज्ञान –विज्ञानका विभिन्न शाखाहरु हुन्छन् र प्रत्येकमा प्रयोग हुने भाषा भिन्न भिन्न खालको हुन्छ।

आफ्नो देशको माटो, पहिचान, स्थानीय झलक र जीवन संस्कृति बुझाउने भाषालाई स्वदेशी भाषा भनिन्छ। यो अघिल्लो पुस्ताबाट पुस्तान्तरित हुँदै आएको हुन्छ। विदेशी भाषा देशभित्रको पहिचान बोकेको नभएर बाह्य मुलुकबाट भित्रिएको भाषा हो। प्रयोग क्षेत्र र वक्ताको संस्कृति स्वदेशी परिवेशभन्दा भिन्न भएका तथा मौलिक जीवनशैली समावेश नभएका भाषालाई विदेशी भाषा भनिन्छ। स्वदेशी भाषामा स्वदेशको स्थानिक, कालिक, ऐतिहासिक, साँस्कृतिक, सामाजिक वा व्यावहारिक चालचलन र रीतिस्थितिको सम्बन्ध गाँसिएको हुन्छ। बाजागाजा, भेषभूषा, सङ्गीत, रोजगार, साहित्य, संस्कार आदिको स्वदेशी समाज अनुकूलको सम्बन्ध भएका र इतिहासमा प्रयोग हुँदै पुस्तान्तरित भएर आएका स्वदेशभित्रका भाषालाई मात्र स्वदेशी भाषा भन्न सकिन्छ।

भाषिक ज्ञान सबैभन्दा महत्त्वपूर्ण कुरा हो। जस्तैः विदेशमा रोजगारीका लागी जाने चाहने कामदारहरुका लागि सबैभन्दा महत्त्वपूर्ण कुरा भनेको भाषा नै हो। विदेशमा रोजगार तथा अन्य कार्यका लागि हरेक वर्ष तोकिने कोटा पूरा गर्ने मुख्य आधार भनेको भाषा सम्बन्धी परीक्षा हो। उक्त परीक्षामा कसले कति अङ्क ल्यायो भन्दा पनि माग भएको कुल सङ्ख्यामा आफूले प्राप्त गरेको अङ्क पुग्यो वा पुगेन भन्ने कुरा महत्त्वपूर्ण हुन्छ विभिन्न देशको भाषा सिक्नका लागि राजधानी काठमाण्डौँ र अन्य प्रमुख शहरहरुमा पर्याप्त रुपमा ल्याङ्वेज सेन्टर खुलेका छन्।

साहित्यिक समृद्धि

साहित्य भनेको सिर्जनात्मक अभिव्यक्ति हो। यसको सिर्जना प्रतिभाशाली व्यक्तिबाट हुन्छ। साहित्यमा मानिसका जीवनका भोगाइ र अनुभव समावेश हुन्छन्। भाषा यिनै अनुभव र भोगाइबाट विस्तारित हुँदै अगाडि बढ्छ। साहित्यले मानिसलाई सभ्य र सुसंस्कृत बनाउँछ। सामान्यतया साहित्य आनन्द प्राप्त गर्न र शिक्षा आर्जन गर्न सिर्जना गरिन्छ। साहित्यमा ज्ञानको विविध विषयहरु समावेश गरी सम्प्रेषण गरिएको हुन्छ। साहित्यले नैतिक पक्षलाई सबल बनाउने हुनाले यसको शैक्षिक प्रयोजन बढी भएको हो। संसारमा साहित्यलाई शैक्षिक व्यावहारिक र व्यावसायिक रुपले उपयोग गरिएको पाइन्छ।

यो गद्यात्मक र पद्यात्मक गरी शैलीगत दृष्टिले दुई प्रकारको हुन्छ। प्रमुख विधागत दृष्टिले यसका कविता, आख्यान, नाटक र निबन्ध गरी चार भेद छन्। नेपाली साहित्य विश्वका विभिन्न मुलुकहरूमा अनुवाद भएर प्रकाशित भएको छ। अङ्ग्रेजी भाषामा मात्र होइन नेपाली साहित्य जर्मनी, फ्रान्सेली, जापानी, चिनियाँ, रुसी लगायत कैयन् भाषामा अनुवाद भएका छन्। कति सग्लो कृतिका रुपमा प्रकाशित भएका छन्, कति संकलनको रुपमा प्रकाशित भएका छन्, कति फूटकर रुपमा प्रकाशित भएका छन्। तिनले अनुवाद भएर विश्व यात्रा गरेका छन्। प्रवासमा बसेर लेखिएका साहित्यलाई प्रवासी साहित्य, आप्रवासी साहित्य भन्ने पनि गरिन्छ। पछिल्लो चरणमा डायस्पोरिक साहित्यको नामाकरण भएको हो।

मान्छे प्राणीहरूमा सर्वश्रेष्ठ मानिन्छ। प्रकृतिले मानव जातिलाई अन्य प्राणीहरूभन्दा धेरै पृथक् गुणहरू दिएको छ। र, तीन क्षमता पनि दिएको छ– विवेक, कर्मण्यता र वाक्शक्ति। यसका अतिरिक्त केही मात्र मान्छेले पाउने अति विशिष्ट क्षमता हो– प्रतिभा। प्रतिभाले गर्दा नै मान्छेले कलाकारको हैसियत पाउँछ। मान्छे विवेकी प्राणी हो, अर्थात् उसमा बुद्धि र चेतना हुन्छ। असल–खराब, लाभदायी–हानिकारक, मित्र–सत्रु, न्याय–अन्याय छुट्याउन मान्छेको विवेक प्रयोग हुन्छ। परिवर्तनशीलता भाषाको विशेषता हो। अध्ययनका क्रममा हामीले पुरानो भाषा र समसामयिक भाषामा व्यापक भिन्नता पाउँछौँ। स्पष्ट व्याकरण र साहित्यका दृष्टिले समृद्ध हुन नसकेका कतिपय भाषा कालान्तरमा लोप भएका उदाहरणहरू भेटिन्छन्। भाषा र साहित्यसँग मानिसको नजिकको सम्बन्ध हुन्छ। भाषा साहित्य सभ्यताको सूचक मात्र नभई देशविदेशमा आफ्नो पहिचान, प्रतिष्ठा र प्रभावको मुख्य आधार पनि हो। त्यसैले पनि भाषा साहित्य हाम्रो मुख्य चासोको विषय हुनुपर्छ।

निष्कर्ष

नेपालमा बहुभाषिक शिक्षा पद्धतिको विकाससँग रोजगार तथा बालबालिकाको सर्वाङ्गीण विकासलाई जोड्ने नीतिको आवश्यकता रहेको देखिन्छ। लिखित र अलिखित भाषा, सञ्चारको भाषा, शिक्षाको भाषा, बहुभाषिक समुदायको आर्थिक अवस्था तथा चेतनास्तर विकास र रोजगारलाई भाषानीतिगत व्यवस्थापन र योजनामा जोड्नु आवश्यक छ। भाषा परिवर्तनशील हुने भएकाले

नेपाली भाषामा पनि परिवर्तन भएको छ। परिवर्तित नेपाली भाषाको मानकरुप निर्धारणका लागि संस्थागत कार्य गरिनु आवश्यक हुन्छ। नेपाली भाषाले ज्ञानविज्ञानका क्षेत्रमा धेरै उन्नति गरेको छ। यो भाषा आज बहुसङ्ख्ययक नेपालीले मातृभाषाका रुपमा प्रयोग गर्छन्। राज्यले नेपाली भाषाको विकास र समृद्धिप्रति चिन्ता र चासो देखाए पनि व्यवहारिक रुपमा तथा नीतिगत रुपमा हेर्दा यस्तो देखिँदैन्। भाषायोजना एकभाषिक तथा बहुभाषिक दुवै प्रकृतिको भाषिक अवस्था तथा तिनको संरक्षण, संवर्धन र विकासात्मक अध्ययनका लागि आवश्यक छ। विशेष गरेर बहुभाषिक मुलुकका लागि सबै भाषाको पहुँच विस्तार गर्न भाषायोजनाको विशेष महत्व रहेको छ। नेपालको सन्दर्भमा भाषायोजनाको मूल उद्देश्य भनेकै भाषाका अवस्था हेरी आवश्यक संरक्षण र विकास तथा विस्तारमा टेवा पुऱ्याउनु नै हो। वर्तमान सन्दर्भमा नेपालमा बोलिने सबै मातृभाषाहरूलाई विद्युतीय सामग्रीमा सुरक्षित राखेर वैज्ञानिक व्यवस्थापन गर्दै लैजानु आवश्यक रहेको देखिन्छ।

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Perspective

स्थानीय सरकारमा सुशासन : अवसर र चुनौती

नारायण प्रसाद सेढाई
अनुसन्धान व्यवस्थापन एकाइ संयोजक, गौरीशङ्कर बहुमुखी क्याम्पस, दोलखा, नेपाल

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ABSTRACT (लेखसार)

राज्य संयन्त्रलाई जनमुखी बनाई राज्य प्रणालीमा सरोकारवालाहरूको सक्रिय एवं सार्थक सहभागिताका साथै राज्यबाट उपलब्ध गराउने सेवालाई छिटो छरितो, र प्रभावकारी बनाई राज्य र जनताबिच नजिकको सम्बन्ध स्थापित हुनुलाई नै सुशासन भनिन्छ । जहाँ कानुनको पूर्ण परिपालना, दण्डहीनताको अन्त्य, जनमुखी एवम् पारदर्शी सरकार, भ्रष्टाचाररहित समाज रहेको हुन्छ। सुशासन सबै तहको प्राथमिकताको क्षेत्र हो। स्थानीय तहमा सुशासनको अवस्थाको बारेमा जानकारी लिन र सुशासनको सन्दर्भमा नीतिगत व्यवस्था र कार्यान्वयनको अवस्था बीचको लेखाजोखा गर्ने प्रयोजनको लागि द्वितयिक स्रोतमा आधारित भइ तयार पारिएको यस लेखमा विशेष गरी दोलखा जिल्लाका विभिन्न स्थानीय तहमा गरिएको स्थानीय तह संस्थागत क्षमता स्वमूल्याङ्कन प्रतिवेदनमा आधारित भइ यो लेख तयार गरिएको छ। सो सम्बन्धमा जानकार भएका व्यक्तिहरूको सल्लाह सुझावलाई पनि अधार मानिएको छ।

दोलखा जिल्लाको स्थानीय तहलाई आधार मानी गरिएको स्वमूल्याङ्कन अनुसार शैलुङ गाउँपालिका पहिलो (८९.५ प्रतिशत) र दोस्रोमा भीमेश्वर नगरपालिका (७३.५८ प्रतिशत) रहेको देखिन्छ। सबैभन्दा कम अङ्क प्राप्त गर्नेमा बैतेश्वर गाउँपालिका (४६.४ प्रतिशत) रहेको छ। सूचकगत अवस्था हेर्दा सबैभन्दा राम्रो न्यायिक समिति अन्तर्गतका सूचकको अवस्था देखिन्छ भने सेवा प्रवाहको सूचकको अवस्था पनि ठिकै रहेको देखिन्छ। विशेषगरी समन्वयको क्षेत्रमा सबै स्थानीय तहको सूचकको अवस्था सुधार गर्नु पर्ने, सहभागितात्मक योजना तर्जुमा प्रक्रिया अवलम्बन गर्नुपर्ने, सार्वजनिक सुनुवाई जस्ता पारदर्शिताका अभ्यासलाई नियमितता दिनुपर्ने, क्षमता विकास योजना तयारी र कार्यान्वयन गर्ने र प्रतिवेदन प्रणालीलाई संस्थागत गराउनु पर्ने देखिन्छ।

शब्दकुञ्जी (Keywords): सुशासन, ऐन, पारदर्शिता, सङ्घीय, न्यायिक, समावेशिता

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पृष्ठभूमि

नेपालमा २०६२/२०६३ मा भएको जनआन्दोलनपछि जारी भएको संविधानबाट राज्य संरचनामा परिवर्तन भइ नेपाल एक संघीय गणतान्त्रिक देशको रूपमा स्थापना भएको छ । एक निश्चित राजनीतिक संगठन अन्तर्गत सामान्य कानुनी स्वाभाव र रीतिरिवाजद्वारा परस्परमा बाँधिइ निश्चित क्षेत्र शाश्वत रूपमा कब्जा गरिएको मानिसहरूलाई राज्यको रूपमा लिने गरिन्छ । अष्टिनका अनुसार राज्य सार्वभौमको पर्याय हो यसले व्यक्ति वा व्यक्तिहरूको समूहलाई सूचित गर्दछ जो कि राजनीतिक रूपले स्वतन्त्र समाजमा सर्वश्रेष्ठ शक्ति धारणा गर्दछ।

Prof. Garner का अनुसार "राज्य मनुष्यको त्यो समुदाय हो, जुन सङ्ख्यामा चाहे त्यो ज्यादा होस या कम, तर एक निश्चित भू–भागमा स्थायी रूपमा रहन्छ जुन कुनैपनि बाह्य शक्तिको नियन्त्रणबाट पूर्णतया प्रायः स्वतन्त्र रहन्छ, जसमा एउटा यस्तो सङ्गठित सरकार हुन्छ जसको आदर्शको पालना त्यस भू–भागमा बस्ने सबैले प्रायः गर्दछन्" (The state is a Community of persons, more or less numerously, permanently, occupying a definite portion of teritory independent or nearly so, of external control and possessing an organised government to which the great body of inhabitants render habitual obedience) (भट्टराई, २०७९) ।

जनताले आफ्नो अधिकारको रक्षा गर्न, विकास निर्माणको प्रक्रियालाई सहज बनाउन, देशको रक्षा गर्न र आर्थिक सामाजिक रूपमा पछि परेका वर्ग तथा समुदायको अधिकारको रक्षाको लागि आफ्नो प्रतिनिधिहरूलाई सरकार सञ्चालनको अधिकार सहित सरकार सञ्चालनमा पठाएका हुन्छन् । जसमा जनताको आशा भरोसा रहनुको साथै जनता प्रतिको जवाफदेहिता रहेको हुन्छ। सो अनुसार जवाफदेहिता बहन गर्नु सरकारको दायित्व हुन आउँछ।

नेपालमा राज्यको पुनर्संरचना भई स्थानीय सरकारको निर्वाचन भएको पनि छ वर्ष व्यतित भइ सकेको छ। देशमा सुशासन कायम गर्नु र अमन चयन कायम गर्नु तीन वटै तहका सरकारको आ आफ्नो क्षेत्रमा जिम्मेवारी रहेको हुन्छ । सोही क्रममा दोलखा जिल्लामा रहेका स्थानीय सरकारहरूबाट सुशासन कायम राख्ने सन्दर्भमा भए गरेका कार्यहरूलाई आधार मानी यो लेख तयार पारिएको छ । विशेषगरी द्वीतियक सूचना एवम् स्थानीय तह स्थानीय तह संस्थागत क्षमता स्वमूल्याङ्कन – Local Government Institutional Capacity Self–Assessment -LISA) प्रतिवेदनमा आधारित भएर यो अध्ययन गरिएको छ । यसमा सुशासनको परिभाषा, स्थानीय सरकारमा सुशासन र सदाचार, सुशासनको सन्दर्भमा कानुनी व्यवस्था, स्थानीय सरकारमा सुशासनको अवस्था, सुशासनको क्षेत्रमा देखिएका चुनौतीहरू र सुशासन सुनिश्चिताका लागि गर्नु पर्ने सुधारहरूलाई समावेश गरिएको छ।

अध्ययनको उद्देश्य

अध्ययनको मुख्य उद्देश्य स्थानीय सरकारमा सुशासनको अवस्था सम्बन्धमा अध्ययन गरी नीति र व्यवहार बिचको रिक्तता पत्ता लगाई सुधारका लागि सुझाव प्रस्तुत गर्नु रहेको छ। अन्य उद्देश्यहरू यस प्रकार रहेका छन्।

१) स्थानीय सरकारबाट सुशासनको सन्दर्भमा भए गरेका कार्यहरूको सम्बन्धमा जानकारी लिने।

२) सुशासनको सन्दर्भमा नीतिगत व्यवस्था र कार्यान्वयनको अवस्था बिचको लेखाजोखा गर्ने।

३) स्थानीय सरकारमा सुशासन प्रवर्द्धनमा सुधार गर्नु पर्ने पक्षहरूको बारेमा सुझाव प्रस्तुत गर्ने।

अध्ययन विधि

उपरोक्त अधययनका उद्देश्यहरू हासिल गर्नको लागि विशेषगरी द्वितियक स्रोतको प्रयोग गरिएको छ । यसको लागि सुशासन सम्बन्धमा प्राप्त भएका सन्दर्भ सामग्रीहरू, स्थानीय तहको सन्दर्भमा गरिएको विभिन्न अध्ययन अनुसन्धानहरू र दोलखा जिल्लाका विभिन्न स्थानीय तहमा गरिएको स्थानीय तह संस्थागत क्षमता स्वमूल्याङ्कन प्रतिवेदनमा आधारित भइ यो लेख तयार गरिएको छ । सो सम्बन्धमा जानकार भएका व्यक्तिहरूको सल्लाह सुझावलाई पनि आधार मानिएको छ।

साहत्यिको पुनरावलोकन

यस लेखको तयारीको सन्दर्भमा नेपालको संविधान २०७२, स्थानीय सरकार सञ्चालन ऐन २०७४,सुशासन (व्यवस्थापन तथा सञ्चालन) ऐन, २०६४, सूचनाको हक सम्बन्धी ऐन, २०६४, भ्रष्टाचार निवारण ऐन, २०५९, अख्तियार दुरूपयोग अनुसन्धान आयोग ऐन, २०४८, सुशासन (व्यवस्थापन तथा सञ्चालन) ऐन, २०६४, मानव अधिकार ऐन, २०५३, अख्तियार दुरूपयोग अनुसन्धान आयोगको प्रतिवेदन, भागवत खनालबाट लेखिएको स्थानीय सरकार सुशासन र सदाचार दिनेश अर्यालबाट लेखिएको स्थानीय सरकार सुशासन र सूचना प्रविधि समेतको अध्ययनको आधारमा यो लेख तयार गरिएको छ।

सुशासन

वर्तमान अवस्थामा विश्व समुदाय एवम् नेपालमा सुशासनको बारेमा विभिन्न बहस भइ रहेकोछ। राज्यका विभिन्न जिम्मेवारीभित्र सुशासन पनि एक महत्वपूर्ण जिम्मेवारी रहेको छ। तसर्थ सुशासन भनेको के हो भन्ने विषयमा चर्चा गर्नु सान्दर्भिक भएको हुँदा यस खण्डमा सुशासनको बारेमा चर्चा गर्ने प्रयास गरिएको छ।

सुशासन भन्नाले असल, उत्तरदायी, इमान्दारी, पारदर्शी र जिम्मेवारीपूर्वक गरिएको शासन एवम् सामाजिक न्याय, दीगो र सन्तुलित विकास, भ्रष्टाचारमुक्त प्रशासन, उच्च नैतिक चरित्र र अनुशासित जननिर्वाचित पदाधिकारीहरू रहेको अवस्थालाई बुझ्न सकिन्छ। सुशासन तीनै तहको सरकारको लागि अनिवार्य शर्तको रूपमा रहेको छ।

"जनताको हित र कल्याणलाई सर्वोपरी मानी सहभागितामूलक, पारदर्शी स्वच्छ, सक्षम उत्तरदायी, निष्पक्ष र विधिसम्मत शासन सञ्चालन गर्नु नै सुशासन हो" (सेढाई २०६१)।

"स्थानीय सरकारले स्थानीय जनताका निम्ति आफ्नो हरेक संयन्त्रलाई जनचाहानाअनुरूप बनाई उनीहरूकै आवश्यकता परिपूर्तिका लागि सेवाप्रवाह गर्नु र शासन प्रणालीमा सरोकारवालाहरूको सार्थक सहभागिता गराई हरेक जनतालाई उपलब्ध गराउने वस्तु र सेवाहरू, सरल र सवल ढंगले न्यायिक रूपमा उपलब्ध गराई आम जनमानसलाई शासनको सकारात्मक अनुभूति गराउनु नै सुशासन हो" (अर्याल, २०७५)

विश्व बैंकका अनुसार आवाज र उत्तरदायित्व, राजनैतिक स्थायित्व र अहिंसा, सरकारको प्रभावकारिता, व्यवस्थापकीय गुणस्तर, विधिको शासन र भ्रष्टाचार नियन्त्रण जस्ता ६ वटा सुशासनका सूचकहरू पहिचान गरेको छ। त्यसैगरी संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघका अनुसार जनसहभागिता, विधिको शासन, पारदर्शिता, जवाफदेहिता, सहमति उन्मुख, समता र समावेशिता, कुशलता र प्रभावकारिता, र उत्तरदायित्व र रणनीतिक दृष्टिकोण जस्ता ६ वटा तत्वद्वारा सुशासनको मापन गर्न सकिने उल्लेख गरिएको छ(संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघीय विकास कार्यक्रम, १९९७)।

विश्व बैंकले सन् १९९२ मा प्रकाशित गरेको शासन र विकास नामक प्रतिवेदनले सुशासनलाई विकास व्यवस्थापनसँग जोड्दै जनताहरूलाई शासनको मियोको रूपमा लिएको छ। जसले सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रको सही व्यवस्थापन, कानुनी शासन, बढ्दो उत्तरदायित्व र जिम्मेवारी, सार्वजनिक निकायहरूको कार्यमा खुलापन र पारदर्शिता, समता र समावेशिता, जनसहभागिता र सरकारको बढ्दो प्रभावकारिताको वकालत गर्छ (रोकाया, २०८०)।

समग्रमा राज्यको सबै निकाय वा संयन्त्रलाई जनमुखी बनाई राज्य प्रणालीमा सरोकारवालाहरूको सक्रिय एवं सार्थक सहभागितामा राज्यले नागरिकलाई उपलब्ध गराउने वस्तु तथा सेवाहरू छिटो छरितो सरल रूपमा उपलब्ध गराई नागरिकलाई सुशासनको अनुभूति दिलाउनुलाई नै सुशासन भनिन्छ। जहाँ कानुनको पूर्ण परिपालना, दण्डहीनताको अन्त्य, जनमुखी एवं पारदर्शी सरकार, भ्रष्टाचार रहित समाज रहेको हुन्छ।

स्थानीय सुशासन

स्थानीय सुशासन भन्नाले स्थानीय सरकारको नीति निर्माण, कानुन तर्जुमा, राजस्व संकलन, खर्चको विनियोजन, योजना तर्जुमा, कार्यान्वयन, अनुगमन, सेवा प्रवाह आदि जस्ता विषयमा स्थानीय नागरिक समाज, राजनीतिक दल, गैर सरकारी संस्था, सामाजिक संस्था, बुद्धिजीवी, अनुभवी वरिष्ठ नागरिक, महिला र अन्य पछाडि परेका वा पारिएका वर्गको संलग्नता रहेको शासकीय प्रणाली बुझिन्छ। समग्रमा समस्त जनसमुदायको संलग्नता, सरोकार, सहमति र स्वामित्वमा सञ्चालन गरिने स्थानीय शासकीय पद्धति नै स्थानीय सुशासन हो (खनाल, २०७५)।

शक्ति र स्रोतसाधनको उपलब्धतामा नै स्थानीय तहमा तीव्र विकास र अनियमितताको विजारोपण समेत हुने भएकोले स्थानीय जनतामा स्रोत साधन पुगेपछि व्यक्तिगत लाभका अपेक्षा बढ्न गई एकातिर स्थानीय जनताको सक्रिय सहभागितामा जनताको हितमा काम गरेर आत्मसन्तुष्टि लिने प्रवृत्ति बढ्न सक्छ भने अर्कोतिर स्थानीय स्तरका नेता र कर्मचारी मिले भने अनियमितता हुने उत्तिकै सम्भावना रहन सक्छ। पारदर्शी र सहभागितामूलक विकास प्रक्रियाको अवलम्बनबाट नागरिकको विकासप्रति चासो अभिवृद्धि गर्न सकिएको अवस्थामा स्रोतको सदुपयोग भइ सामूहिक लाभको सम्भावना बढ्दछ। आर्थिक अनियमितता, समयमै कार्य सम्पन्न गराउन नसक्नु, राजनीतिक आस्थाको आधारमा सार्वजनिक स्रोतलाई सही ठाउँमा उपयोग गर्न नसक्नु, पक्षपात गर्नु, पछाडि परेका र पारिएका वर्ग तथा समुदायलाई सार्वजनिक गतिविधिमा संलग्न गराउन नसक्नु, नातावाद, कृपावाद र खर्चमा अपारदर्शिता जस्ता कुराहरूलाई सुशासनको बाधकको रूपमा लिने गरिन्छ।

स्थानीय तहलाई नेपालको संविधानले अधिकार सम्पन्न बनाएसँगै जनताको सबैभन्दा नजिकको सरकार स्थानीय तहमा बजेट एवम् साधन स्रोतको बढ्दो प्रवाहको साथसाथै विकास कार्यमा भूमिका धेरै नै बढेको छ तर, अख्तियार दुरूपयोग निवारण आयोग र महालेखा परीक्षकका हालैका प्रतिवेदनले स्थानीय तहमा बढ्दो अनियमितता र दुरूपयोगको अवस्थाबारे औंल्याएपछि सुशासनको विषय स्थानीय तहका लागि गम्भीर विषय बनेको छ। अख्तियार दुरूपयोग अनुसन्धान आयोगको तिसौं वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन अनुसार आर्थिक वर्ष २०७६/७७ मा विभिन्न मन्त्रालयगत तथा विषयगत उजुरीको संख्या हेर्दा सबैभन्दा बढी उजुरी संघीय मामिला (स्थानीय तह लगायत) मा ३०.०७ प्रतिशत उजुरी पर्न गएको उल्लेख गरिएको छ । त्यसैगरी शिक्षा क्षेत्रसँग सम्बन्धित १६.३६, भूमि सम्बन्धी ८.२९, वन वातावरण ४.२१, स्वास्थ्य जनसंख्या ४.०७, गृह प्रशासन ३.६५, भौतिक पूर्वाधार र यातायात ३.५९, उर्जा जलस्रोत सिंचाई २.६६, अर्थ मन्त्रालय तर्फ २.१७, नक्कली शैक्षिक प्रमाण पत्र सम्बन्धी ७.६३, गैरकानुनी सम्पति ६.३७ र अन्य निकायसँग सम्बन्धी १०.९४ प्रतिशत उजुरी परेको देखिन्छ। क्षेत्रगत उजुरीको अवस्थालाई हेर्ने हो भने सबैभन्दा बढी मधेश प्रदेश नं २८.५३, बागमती २३.४१ लुम्बीनी १२.८९ प्रदेश न १ मा ११.७४, सुदूर पश्चिम १०.०८कर्णली ६.९६,गण्डकी ६.३९ रहेको छ (अदुअआ,२०७७) महालेखा परीक्षकको कार्यालयले २०७८ भदौमा सार्वजनिक गरेको ५८ औं वार्षिक प्रतिवेदनले समेत कुल १ खर्ब ४ अर्ब रूपियाँ बेरूजुमध्ये स्थानीय तहतर्फको बेरूजु मात्र ४० अर्ब ८३ करोड रूपेया रहेको देखाएको छ(पराजुली, २०७८ फाल्गुन १००)। यसरी स्थानीय तहतर्फ धेरै बेरूजु धेरै उजुरी परेको भनी प्रतिवेदनहरू प्राप्त भएको सन्दर्भमा स्थानीय सरकारको अवस्था कस्तो रहेको छ भनी अध्ययन गर्नु उपयुक्त देखी यो लेख तयार गरिएको छ।

निर्णय गर्ने ठाउँमा रहेका राजनीतिक र कर्मचारी वृत्तका पदाधिकारीबाट साधन स्रोतको सही परिचालन नभई, दुरूपयोग हुँदा नै जनमानसमा असन्तुष्टि उत्पन्न हुने हो। अतः विकासका काम वा योजना कसरी सञ्चालन भएका छन् भन्ने कुराले ठूलो महत्व राख्दछ। त्यसैले स्थानीय सरकारका पदाधिकारी र जनप्रतिनिधि विकास र सुशासनको अवधारणा र प्रक्रियाबारे स्पष्ट हुनु आवश्यक छ।

विगतका अभ्यासबाट सिकेर योजना तर्जुमामा जनताको सार्थक सहभागिता सुनिश्चित गर्नुपर्नेमा अपेक्षाकृत रूपमा सुधार हुन सकिरहेको छैन। स्थानीय शासन प्रकृयामा आम नागरिकको सहभागिता सन्दर्भमा गरिएको एक सर्भेक्षणबाट ७१.६ प्रतिशत उत्तरदाताले आफनो स्थानीय सरकारले चालु आर्थिक वर्षमा कार्यान्वयन गर्न बनाउने कुनै पनि विकास परियोजना बजेट योजनाबारे जानकारी नभएको बताएका छन (गिरी र अन्य, २०२०)। जसको सवाल उसको सहभागिता हुन सकिरहेको छैन। जनता दैनिक जीवनयापन र आधारभूत आवश्यक्ताको क्षेत्रमा जानु पर्ने जति ध्यान जान सकिरहेको छैन। भौतिक पूर्वाधार नै विकास हो भन्ने मान्यताले प्रश्रय पाइरहेको छ। विकास योजनाको तर्जुमा र व्यवस्थापन जस्तै स्थानीय तहले सुशासन कायम गर्नुपर्ने अर्को क्षेत्र नागरिकका लागि सेवाप्रवाह हो।

सुशासन सम्बन्धमा गरिएको कानुनी व्यवस्था

नेपालमा सुशासनका नीतिगत व्यवस्था राम्रो रहेको छ । नेपालको संविधानको प्रस्तावनामा नै "संघीय लोकतान्त्रिक गणतन्त्रात्मक शासन व्यवस्थाको माध्यमद्वारा दिगो शान्ति, सुशासन, विकास र समृद्धिको आकांक्षा पूरा गर्ने" उल्लेख गरिएको छ (नेपालको संविधान, २०७२) संविधानको निर्देशक सिद्धान्त अन्तर्गत कानूनको शासन, सामाजिक न्यायको माध्यमबाट राष्ट्रिय जीवनका सबै क्षेत्रमा न्यायपूर्ण व्यवस्था कायम गर्ने र सार्वजनिक प्रशासनलाई स्वच्छ, सक्षम, निष्पक्ष, पारदर्शी, भ्रष्टाचार मुक्त, जनउत्तरदायी र सहभागितामूलक बनाउँदै राज्यबाट प्राप्त हुने सेवा सुविधामा जनताको समान र सहज पहुँच सुनिश्चित गरी सुशासनको प्रत्याभूति गर्ने, राजनीतिक, प्रशासनिक, न्यायिक, सामाजिक लगायत सबै क्षेत्रको भ्रष्टाचार र अनियमितता नियन्त्रणका लागि प्रभावकारी उपाय अवलम्बन गर्ने उल्लेख गरिएको छ (नेपालको संविधान, २०७२)।

सरकारका अंगहरू, कार्यपालिका, व्यवस्थापिका र न्यायपालिकाबिचको अन्तरसम्बन्ध र शक्ति पृथकीकरण सम्बन्धी व्यवस्थाले पनि सुशासनलाई महत्व दिएको छ। सूचनाको हक सम्बन्धी व्यवस्था, स्थानीय कार्यपालिका गाउँ तथा नगर सभा पनि सुशासन कायम राख्ने सन्दर्भमा जिम्मेवार रहेको कुरा संविधानमा नै उल्लेख गरिएको छ । महालेखा परीक्षक, लोक सेवा आयोग, निर्वाचन आयोग, राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग, अख्तियार दुरूपयोग अनुसन्धान आयोग जस्ता आयोगहरूको व्यवस्थाबाट पनि सुशासनको प्रत्याभूति गर्ने प्रयास गरेको देखिन्छ।

स्थानीय सरकार सञ्चालन ऐनमा स्थानीय तहमा सुशासनको लागि धेरै व्यवस्थाहरू गरिएका छन् । गाउँपालिका तथा नगरपालिकाको काम कर्तव्य र अधिकार अन्तर्गत विकास निर्माणका योजना तर्जुमा, कार्यान्वयन, अनुगमन नियमन, राजश्व अभिवृद्धि, स्थानीय सेवाको व्यवस्थापन, अभिलेख व्यवस्थापन, पर्यावरण संरक्षण, नीति नियमको तर्जुमा, असहाय विपन्नको संरक्षण, विपद व्यवस्थापन, आर्थिक सशक्तिकरण आदिको जिम्मेवारी तोकिएको छ । सो अनुसार सेवा प्रवाह गर्नु पर्ने दायित्व स्थानीय सरकारको रहेको छ (स्थानीय सरकार सञ्चालन ऐन, २०७४) ।

कार्यपालिकाको बैठक कम्तीमा महिनाको एक पटक बस्नु पर्ने व्यवस्था, गाउँनगर सभाको बैठक सामान्यतया वर्षको दुई पटक बस्नु पर्ने व्यवस्था, विधयेक पारित र प्रमाणित गर्ने विधि, लेखा समिति, विधायन समिति, सुशासन आदि समिति गठन गर्ने व्यवस्था, न्यायिक समिति, राजश्व परामर्श समिति आदि समितिको व्यवस्था गरेर स्थानीय तहमा सुशासनको प्रत्याभूति दिने व्यवस्था गरिएको छ(स्थानीय सरकार सञ्चालन ऐन, २०७४)।

सुशासन कायम गर्न नेपालमा नेपालको संविधान, २०७२, सुशासन (व्यवस्थापन तथा सञ्चालन) ऐन, २०६४, सूचनाको हक सम्बन्धी ऐन, २०६४, भ्रष्टाचार निवारण ऐन, २०५९, अख्तियार दुरूपयोग अनुसन्धान आयोग ऐन, २०४८, सुशासन (व्यवस्थापन तथा सञ्चालन) ऐन, २०६४, मानव अधिकार ऐन, २०५३ आदि कानुनी आधारहरू रहेका छन् । सुशासन (व्यवस्थापन तथा सञ्चालन) ऐन, २०६४ को दफा ६ मा प्रशासनिक कार्य सञ्चालनका आधारहरू राष्ट्र र जनताको वृहत्तर हित, समन्याय र समावेशीकरण, कानुनको शासन, मानव अधिकारको प्रत्याभूति, पारदर्शिता, वस्तुनिष्ठता, जवाफदेहिता तथा इमान्दारिता, आर्थिक अनुशासन, भ्रष्टाचारमुक्त, चुस्त र जनमुखी प्रशासन, प्रशासनिक संयन्त्रको तटस्थता तथा निष्पक्षता, प्रशासनिक संयन्त्रमा र निर्णयमा सर्वसाधारणको पहुँच, विकेन्द्रीकरण तथा अधिकार निक्षेपण र सहभागिता तथा स्थानीय स्रोतको अधिकतम उपयोग रहेका छन् (सुशासन (व्यवस्थापन तथा संचालन) ऐन,२०६४) । साथै सोही ऐनको दफा ७ अनुसार मुलुकको प्रशासनिक कार्य सञ्चालन गर्दा सरकारले अख्तियार गर्नुपर्ने नीतिहरूमा आर्थिक उदारीकरण, गरिबी निवारण, सामाजिक न्याय, प्राकृतिक तथा अन्य सार्वजनिक स्रोतको दीगो तथा कुशल व्यवस्थापन, महिला सशक्तीकरण तथा लैङ्गिक न्यायको विकास, वातावरणीय संरक्षण, जनजाति, दलित, आर्थिक तथा सामाजिक रूपमा पिछडिएको वर्गको उत्थान र दुर्गम क्षेत्रको विकास तथा सन्तुलित क्षेत्रीय विकास आदि उल्लेख गरिएका छन् (सुशासन व्यवस्थापन तथा संचालन ऐन, २०६४) ।

उक्त ऐनमा प्रशासनिक कार्य सम्पादन गर्दा निश्चित कार्यविधि र समय भित्र गर्नु पर्ने, निर्णय गर्दा पारदर्शिता कायम गर्नु पर्ने, स्वार्थ बाझ्न नहुने, निर्णय गर्दा आधार र कारण खुलाउनु पर्ने, सार्वजनिक चासोको विषय कार्यान्वयन गर्दा सरोकारवालासँग परामर्श गर्न सकिने, आफनो जिम्मेवारी पन्छाउन नमिल्ने, अधिकार प्रत्यायोजन गर्नसक्ने, पदीय आचरणको पालना गर्नु पर्ने नागरिक वडापत्र राख्नु पर्ने र सोको कार्यान्वयन गर्नु पर्ने, सार्वजनिक सुनुवाई गर्नु पर्ने, गुनासो सुनुवाईको व्यवस्था गराउनु पर्ने जस्ता व्यवस्था गरिएको छ (सुशासन यवस्थापन तथा संचालन ऐन,२०६४) । नेपाली जनमत सर्भेक्षण २०२० का अनुसार २३.२ प्रतिशत उत्तरदाताहरूले मात्र आफ्नो स्थानीय तहमा सार्वजनिक सुनुवाई भएको जानकारी पाएका र १६.६ प्रतिशत उत्तरदाताहरूले गएको एक वर्षमा उनीहरूको स्थानीय तहमा सामाजिक परीक्षण भएको थाहा पाएको जानकारी गराएका छन (गिरी र अन्य, २०२०) ।

अनुसन्धानको प्राप्ति र विश्लेषण

स्थानीय सरकारमा सुशासनको अवस्था

जनताको सबैभन्दा नजिकको सरकारको रूपमा रहेको स्थानीय सरकार नै सुशासनको महत्वपूर्ण स्थान हो । सुशासन कायम राख्नको लागि भएका नीतिगत व्यवस्थाको कार्यान्वयन गराउनु स्थानीय सरकारको प्रमुख भूमिका हुन आउँदछ। सोही प्रयोजनको लागि नेपाल सरकारबाट विभिन्न प्रयास हुँदै आएको छ। सोही प्रयास मध्येको एक प्रयासको रूपमा स्थानीय तहमा सुशासनको अवस्था अभिवृद्धिको लागि स्थानीय तह संस्थागत क्षमता स्वमूल्याङ्कन (LISA) लाई एक औजारको रूपमा लिई नियमित रूपमा मुल्यांकन भइ रहेको छ । शासकीय प्रवन्ध, संगठन तथा प्रशासन, वार्षिक बजेट तथा योजना व्यवस्थापन, वित्तीय एंव आर्थिक व्यवस्थापन, सार्वजनिक सेवा प्रवाह, न्यायिक कार्य सम्पादन, भौतिक पूर्वाधार सामाजिक समावेशीकरण, वातावरण संरक्षण तथा विपद व्यवस्थापन र सहकार्य र समन्वय जस्ता सूचकमा आधारित भइ प्रत्येक सूचकभित्र पनि समग्र स्थिती, प्रकृयागत स्थिती र परिमाणत्मक स्थिति गरी कुल १०० पूर्णाङ्कमा मापन गर्ने गरिएको छ ।उदाहरणका लागि दोलखा जिल्लामा रहेका स्थानीय तहहरूको संस्थागत क्षमता स्वमूल्याङ्कनको नतिजा यस प्रकार रहेको छः

तालिका नं. १ : सूचक अवस्था

नाम	वर्ष	प्रशाशकीय प्रबन्ध	संगठन तथा प्रशासन	वार्षिक बजेट तथा योजना व्यवस्थापन ९	वित्तीय एवम् आर्थिक व्यवस्थापन ११	सार्वजनिक सेवा प्रवाह १६	न्यायिक कार्य सम्पादन ७	भौतिक पूर्वाधार	सामाजिक समावेशीकरण १०	वातावरण संरक्षण तथा विपद व्यवस्थापन ९	सहकार्य र समन्वय ६	१००
भिनपा	०७६/७७	६।५	३।७५	५।५	६।२५	१०।२५	६।५	९।५	५।५	६।५	३।५	६३।७५
	०७७/७८	८।५	६	७।५	९।७५	१४	७	७।५	८	७	५	८०।२५
	०७८/७९	८।५	७।२५	९	११	११	७	१०।५	७	५।५	०	७६।७५
	औसत	७।८३	५।६७	७।३३	९।००	११।७५	६।८३	९।१७	६।८३	६।३३	२।८३	७३।५८
जिरी	०७६/७७	६	२।५	५	६	९।५	७	२।५	१।५	३।५	२	४५।५
	०७७/७८	७	४	६।५	९	१२	७	७	३	६	२	६३।५
	०७८/७९	८	६।७५	८	१०	१२	७	६।५	८।५	६	३	७५।७५
	औसत	७।००	४।४२	६।५०	८।३३	११।१७	७।००	५।३३	४।३३	५।१७	२।३३	६१।५८
गौरीशंकर	०७६/७७	७	२।५	४।५	६।५	७।७५	७	५।५	१	४	०	४५।७५
	०७७/७८	९	६।५	८।५	८।७५	१४	७	९	६।५	६	६	८१।२५
वैतेश्वर	०७८/७९	६।७५	३।२५	५।५	८।५	१२	७	५।५	६।५	४।२५	१	६०।२५
	औसत	७।५८	४।०८	६।१७	७।९२	११।२५	७।००	६।६७	४।६७	४।७५	२।३३	६२।४२
	०७६/७७	६।५	४	४	४।५	४।२५	५।७५	३।५	१	३	१।७५	३८।२५
	०७७/७८	७	३।२५	५	६।७५	८।७५	७	३।५	२।५	१	१।५	४५।७५
तामाकोशी	०७८/७९	८	६	५।५	७।२५	१०।५	७	६।५	१।५	२	१	५५।२५
	औसत	७।१७	४।४२	४।८३	६।१७	७।८३	६।५८	४।५०	१।६७	२।००	१।४२	४६।४२
	०७६/७७	७	५	४।५	६	६।७५	६	३	४	१	१।७५	४५
	०७७/७८	७	६	६।५	८	१०।५	७	५	६	३।५	२।५	६२
वैतेश्वर	०७८/७९	८	६	८।५	७।५	११।५	७	४।२५	६	५	०।७५	६४।५
	औसत	७।३३	५।६७	६।५०	७।१७	९।५८	६।६७	४।०८	५।३३	३।१७	१।६७	५७।१७
	०७६/७७	५	२	५	२	८।७५	५	१।५	२	४।२५	१	३६।५
	०७७/७८	६।२५	६।७५	५	६।५	११	६	७	५।२५	५।७५	३	६२।५
मैलुङ	०७८/७९	६।५	६।२५	८।५	७।२५	१०	७	५	८	५।५	१।५	६५।५
	औसत	५।९२	५।००	६।१७	५।२५	९।९२	६।००	४।५०	५।०८	५।१७	१।८३	५४।८३
	०७६/७७	९	८	११	११	१२	७	९।५	९	८	३।५	८८
	०७७/७८	९	७।५	१०।५	१०	१४	७	११	१०	७	३।५	८९।५
	०७८/७९	९	८	१०।५	९	१५।५	७	११	१०	७	४	९१
कालिञ्चोक	औसत	९।००	७।८३	१०।६७	१०।००	१३।८३	७।००	१०।५०	९।६७	७।३३	३।६७	८९।५०
	०७६/७७	५।७५	६।२५	७।५	६	९	६	४।५	१।५	३।५	२।५	५२।५
	०७७/७८	७।५	५	७।५	८।२५	११।५	७	६।२५	५।५	४।५	५	६८
	०७८/७९	८	६	६	८।२५	१३	७	८	६।५	४।५	०।५	६७।७५
	औसत	७।०८	५।७५	७।००	७।५०	११।१७	६।६७	६।२५	४।५०	४।१७	२।६७	६२।७५
विगु	०७६/७७	६	२।५	४	५	७।५	५।५	४	४	३	०	४१।५
	०७७/७८	६।२५	५	५।५	५	१०	५।५	४	३	४।५	४	५२।७५
	०७८/७९	७	४।५	५	५।७५	११।७५	६	५	४।५	४।५	२	५६
	औसत	६।४२	४।००	४।८३	५।२५	९।७५	५।६७	४।३३	३।८३	४।००	२।००	५०।०८

स्रोतः दोलखा जिल्लाका स्थानीय तह संस्थागत क्षमता स्वमूल्यांकन प्रतिवेदन२०७६/७७, २०७७ /७८ र २०७८/७९को प्रतिवेदन

दोलखा जिल्लाको उल्लिखित स्थानीय तहलाई आधारमानी गरिएको स्वमूल्याङ्कनको तीन वर्षको तथ्यलाई आधार मानी औसत अङ्क निकाल्दा समग्रमा पहिलो स्थानमा शैलुङ गाउँपालिका (८९.५ प्रतिशत) र दोस्रोमा भीमेश्वर नगरपालिका (७३.५८ प्रतिशत) देखिन्छ। सबै भन्दा कम अङ्क प्राप्त गर्नेमा बैतेश्वर गाउँपालिका (४६.४ प्रतिशत) रहेको छ। सुचकगत अवस्था हेर्दा सबैभन्दा राम्रो न्यायिक समिति अन्तर्गतका सूचकको अवस्था देखिन्छ भने सेवा प्रवाहको सूचकको अवस्था पनि ठिकै रहेको देखिन्छ। विशेष गरी समन्वयको क्षेत्रमा सबै स्थानीय तहको सूचकको अवस्था सुधार गर्नुपर्ने देखिन्छ। स्थानीय तहहरूको कम अङ्क प्राप्त गर्ने स्थानीय निकायहरूको समग्र मूल्याङ्कनमा सुशासनको क्षेत्रमा देखिएका कमी कमजोरीका क्षेत्रहरूमा सहभागितात्मक योजना तर्जुमा प्रक्रिया अवलम्बन हुन नसक्नु, सार्वजनिक सुनुवाई जस्ता पारदर्शिताका अभ्यास नहुनु, क्षमता विकासको क्षेत्रको योजना र कार्यक्रम नहुनु, प्रतिवेदन प्रणालीलाई संस्थागत गर्न नसक्नु आदि रहेका छन्।

नेपालमा सुशासनका चुनौतीहरू

सुशासनको मूल मर्म नै जनताप्रति जवाफदेही हुनु हो। यसका लागि अहिलेको सूचना र प्रविधिको युगमा यसको सही उपयोग गरेर उपयुक्त संस्थागत प्रणालीको विकास गर्न अति जरूरी भएको छ। विकास व्यवस्थापनको विषय होस् वा सेवाप्रवाहको,यसमा सुशासनको पद्धति र यसको इमान्दारीपूर्ण अभ्यास पहिलो सर्त हुन आउँछ। वास्तवमा सुशासनविनाको विकास विनाशमा परिणत हुने सम्भावना बढ्दछ। सुशासनयुक्त विकासका लागि जनसहभागिता, पारदर्शिता, जवाफदेहिता अनिवार्य मानिन्छन्। स्थानीय तहले विकासलाई जनमुखी बनाउन सुशासनलाई पहिलो प्राथमिकतामा राख्नु पर्दछ। जसको लागि राजनीतिक प्रतिबद्धता र दक्ष कर्मचारीको आवश्यकता पर्दछ।

हाल विकास भनेको अरू कसैसँग हात थापेर लिने वस्तु नभइ जनता वा समुदाय आफैँले गर्ने कार्य हो, जनताले आफ्नो आवश्यकता पूरा गर्न आफैँले गर्ने, स्वामित्व लिने र विकास नागरिकको अधिकार हो भन्ने मान्यता स्थापित रहेको छ। यही मान्यताका आधारमा स्थानीय तहले विकासमा जनताको निर्णायक भूमिकालाई सहजीकरण र नागरिकलाई सरल तवरमा सेवाप्रवाह गर्ने जवाफदेही भूमिका निर्वाह गरिरहेको छ। दक्ष र अनुभवी जनशक्तिले मात्र जनताबाट पहिचान भएका विकास र सेवाप्रवाहका आवश्यकतालाई निश्चित मापदण्ड र प्रक्रियाका आधारमा पारदर्शी तवरमा सहजीकरण गरेर उपलब्ध साधन, स्रोत र प्राविधिक सम्भाव्यताको लेखाजोखा गरेर जनप्रतिनिधिलाई उपयुक्त निर्णय लिन सहयोग गर्नु पर्दछ।

स्थानीय तह लोकतान्त्रिक शासन अभ्यासको जग हो। सबै तहका सरकारका लागि विकास र सेवाप्रवाहको मूल थलो पनि यही हो। त्यसैले स्थानीय तह बलियो भएमात्र लोकतन्त्र र संघीय प्रणाली प्रभावकारी हुन सक्छ। यसका लागि संघीय सरकारले सुशासनको वातावरण बनाउन अभिभावकको भूमिका खेल्नुपर्छ। प्रदेश र संघीय सरकारले स्थानीय तहलाई नियन्त्रणमुखी भएर होइन, सहकार्य गरेर क्षमता विकासमा सहयोग गर्नुपर्छ। यसका लागि आफ्ना अनुकूल र इच्छाका परियोजना थुपार्ने होइन कि स्थानीय तहका आवश्यकताका आधारमा स्थानीय तहको आवधिक तथा वार्षिक पुस्तिकामा समावेश भएका योजना तथा कार्यक्रमलाई प्राथमिकता दिई सहभागितात्मक योजना तर्जुमा प्रक्रिया प्रकृयालाई सम्मान गर्नु पर्दछ।

नेपालमा सुशासन कायम हुन नसक्नु विविध कारणहरू जिम्मेवार रहेका छन्। जसमध्ये स्थानीय तहका अधिकांश जनप्रतिनिधिहरू र केही कर्मचारीहरूमा सहभागितात्मक योजना तर्जुमा, योजना व्यवस्थापन, सेवा प्रवाह सम्बन्धमा आवश्यक ज्ञान र सिपको कमी रहनुको साथै सुशासन सम्बन्धी कानुनको पूर्ण रूपमा परिपालना नहुनु, जनतामा राज्यको स्रोत साधन हामी सबैको भएकोले संरक्षण गर्नुपर्दछ भन्ने भावनामा कमी आउनु, स्थानीय तहमा स्रोत साधनको कमी हुनुको साथै उपलब्ध स्रोत साधनको उचित परिचालन हुन नसक्नु, कानुन तर्जुमा गर्दा सरोकारवाला निकायसँगको समन्वय र सहकार्यतामा कमी रहनु, पारित गरिएका कानुनहरूको सम्बन्धमा आम जनतामा प्रभावकारी जानकारी पुऱ्याउन नसक्नु, सेवाग्राही नागरिकमा चेतनाको कमी हुनु, सेवा प्राप्त गर्ने प्रक्रिया झन्झटिलो, धेरै समय लाग्ने र कागजी प्रकृयामा आधारित रहनु र अनुगमन कार्य प्रभावकारी हुन नसक्नु आदि रहेका छन्।

सुशासन सुनिश्चितताका लागि गर्नु पर्ने सुधारहरू

उल्लिखित विद्यमान कारणहरूले गर्दा स्थानीय तहमा सुशासन अपेक्षित रूपमा सुधार हुन नसकिरहेको अवस्थामा देहाय बमोजिम सुशासन अभिवृद्धि गर्नको लागि सहयोग पुग्न सक्ने देखिन्छ। एसियाली विकास बैंक समेतको आयोजनामा २०१९ अप्रिलमा भएको दिगो विकास लक्ष्यको स्थानीयकरण सम्बन्धी स्थानीय सरकारको क्षमता विकास विषयक क्षेत्रीय कार्यशाला गोष्ठीले दिगो विकास लक्ष्यलाई स्थानीयकरणको लागि शासनमा सुधार, वित्तिय सुधार र सार्वजनिक व्यवस्थापनमा व्यापक सुधार गर्नुपर्ने कुरा औँल्याएको छ (Rohdewohld, 2023) । यसरी सुशासन अभिवृद्धिमा स्थानीय सरकारले गर्नु पर्ने केही महत्वपूर्ण कार्यहरू रहेका छन्। जस मार्फत सुशासन अभिवृद्धि गर्न सकिन्छ।

सुशासनका लागि सार्वजनिक जवाफदेहिता महत्वपूर्ण औजार हो। सरकार र नागरिक बिच दुरी कम गर्ने, विकेन्द्रीकरणलाई प्रभावकारी बनाउने, उत्तरदायित्वलाई ठाडो र तेर्सो रूपमा व्यवस्था गर्ने, नागरिक समाजको भूमिका बढाउने, सार्वजनिक पदाधिकारीको आचार संहिता निर्माण, कार्यान्वयन र भ्रष्टाचारमुक्त समाजबाट सार्वजनिक जफादेहिता कायम गर्न सकिन्छ (शर्मा, २०६३, पृ. ३३२–३३६)।

स्थानीय तहमा सहभागितात्मक योजना तर्जुमा प्रकृयाको सन्दर्भमा निर्णयमा सहभागी बनाएर, कार्यान्वयनमा संलग्न गराएर, स्वामित्व हस्तान्तरण गरेर, सरोकारवालाको मान्यता दिएर, निगरानीकर्ताको रूपमा सहभागी गराएर सहभागिता अभिवृद्धि गर्न सकिने भएको हुँदा स्थानीय सरकारले सहभागिताँमक विकासलाई अगाडि बढाउनु पर्दछ (अधिकारी, २०६३, पृ. ३९९–४०३)।

स्थानीय तहका जनप्रतिनिधिहरू र कर्मचारीहरूको लागि सहभागितात्मक विकास अवधारणा, सेवा प्रवाह जस्ता विषयमा क्षमता विकास योजना बनाई कार्यान्वयन गर्नु पर्ने देखिन्छ। विषयगत समिति र अन्य संरचनाहरको नियमित बैठक र कार्य योजना बनाई कार्यान्पयन गर्ने, सुशासन सम्बन्धी ऐन कानुनको पूर्ण परिपालना, सुशासन कायम गर्ने संस्थाहरूबिच कार्यगत समन्वय, कार्यसम्पादनमा आधारित मूल्याङ्कन पद्धतीको अवलम्बन, स्रोत साधनको उचित परिचालन, सरोकारवालाहरूसँग साझेदारी, समन्वय र सहकार्य, स्थानीय सरकारबाट बन्ने र बनेका ऐन कानुनको बारेमा आम नागरिकमा जानकारी गराई सुशासन अभिवृद्धि गर्न सकिन्छ । साथै गुनासो सुनुवाईलाई प्रभावकारी बनाउने, स्थायी उपभोक्ता समितिको संस्थागत व्यवस्था, पारदर्शिताका औजार मार्फत सरकारको कार्यहरू र बजेट बारेमा आम नागरिकमा जानकारी, टोलविकास संस्था मार्फत स्थानीय विकास निर्माण र सरसफाई अभियानलाई अगाडि बढाउने, कृषि सहकारी संस्थाको संस्थागत क्षमता र सुशासन अभिवृद्धि गराई त्यस्ता सहकारी मार्फत कृषि तथा पशु विकास कार्यक्रमलाई प्रभावकारी बनाउने र सेवा प्रवाहलाई सूचनामैत्री, प्रविधिमैत्री बनाई चुस्त र दुरूस्त बनाउनको लागि Online सेवा प्रवाह मार्फत सबल, सक्षम र जनमुखी सेवा प्रवाह गर्न सकिन्छ।

निष्कर्ष

राज्य सञ्चालनमा संलग्न सबै निकाय वा संयन्त्रलाई जनमुखी बनाई राज्य प्रणालीमा सरोकारवालाहरूको सक्रिय एवं सार्थक सहभागितामा नागरिकलाई प्रभावकारी सेवा उपलब्ध गराउनु नै सुशासन भएको हुँदा सुशासन अभिवृद्धिमा स्थानीय तहबाट धेरै प्रयासहरू भइरहेका छन्। तथापि नागरिकको नजिकको सरकार स्थानीय सरकारले नागरिकलाई सुशासनको अनुभूति दिलाउनको लागि प्रसस्त अवसरहरू रहेका छन। यी अवसरहरूको सदुपयोगबाट मात्र जनताले सुशासनको अनुभूति गर्न सक्ने भएको हुँदा सोको लागि सम्बद्ध पक्षहरूको ध्यान केन्द्रित हुनु पर्ने देखिन्छ।

राजनीतिलाई समाज सेवाको रूपमा लिई कानुनको परिपालना, सहभागितामूलक विकास, पारदर्शिता, आचारसंहिता निर्माण र कार्यान्वयन, पक्षपातरहित सेवा, खर्च विवरण सार्वजनिक, सार्वजनिक सुनुवाइ, गुनासो व्यवस्थापन, सम्पत्ति विवरणको सार्वजनिकीकरण जस्ता माध्यामबाट सुशासनको सुनिश्चित गर्न सकिन्छ।

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