



Nepal Public Policy Review

Promoted by Policy Research Institute

Editorial

Stepping into the first public policy research journal

We are pleased to launch the first-ever policy journal – Nepal Public Policy Review (NPPR) – in Nepal. It focuses on a wide spectrum of policy domains but is especially aimed at enhancing an interface between academic research and public policy-making. To this end, it collects research-based evidence as well as ideas and experiences of policy practitioners and policy advocates that can be tapped for policy-making processes.

Launching a journal is challenging, more so an interdisciplinary journal like the NPPR whose scope is both broad and fraught with the danger of being vague. It needs a proper justification and reasoning why a journal is needed in this particular domain. Above all, it needs academic rigour and capacity to attract prospective contributors and deal with their contributions to ensure their quality and standard. All this is not possible without investing a remarkable amount of resources. The journal in your hand is a product of a dialogical process that has involved a series of interactions with authors, reviewers and members of the editorial board over a year.

A number of journals are published in Nepal. However, only a limited of them have a policy focus. The NPPR has been initiated – after a series of brainstorming meetings among policy experts in Nepal and diaspora – as a journal dedicated to public policymaking by adhering to scholarly rigour and bridging the divide that exists between academic researchers and policy practitioners. At the core of the NPPR is the aspiration to be a journal that institutionalizes an academic culture of critical enquiry and scholarly debates that ultimately contribute to policy innovation. Research for policy – and behavioural – change is NPPR's motto, which, we believe, is reflected in the articles and commentaries included in the issue.

The NPPR has adopted an editorial policy of not remunerating authors for research articles (to maintain the highest degree of academic integrity). The journal is committed to the following standards to ensure the quality of every article: (a) academic rigour to establish evidence; (b) appropriateness of research methodologies; (c) quality in

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policy messages and policy recommendations; (d) adherence to research ethics; and, (e) transparency in the management of the review process.

NPPR has been promoted by the Policy Research Institute, a think-tank of the Government of Nepal. It is an open-access journal. It does not charge any fee to process articles. The journal is open to everyone willing to contribute to Nepal's policy innovation by generating evidence through the data from Nepal – or relevant to Nepal. It also invites policy practitioners to write for the journal based on their practical knowledge and experiences, aware that practitioners may not have the rigour of the academics, but the insights practitioners may bring to a policy debate may not be generated from the academic inquiry. The invited articles from practitioners have been presented as 'policy commentaries' following a usual quality control processes and category-specific review.

For this issue, we received twenty-eight full-length research articles. After an initial screening, all of them were sent for peer review, and nine of them, included in the journal, passed through a double-blind review process. Expert reviewers in our network were engaged in the reviews. Expert-reviewed articles were further reviewed by internal reviewers. All the comments from the reviewers were sent to the authors to respond to. Articles that failed to incorporate comments by reviewers until the third round were considered unsuccessful. In the case of invited submissions, we received eight. We could however include only six of them in this issue.

We are thankful to all the contributors and reviewers. We look forward to their continuous support in the future to continue with the journey.

Editor-In-Chief

Bishnu Raj Upreti, PhD

September 26, 2021