

An Overview Of South Asia Poverty Alleviation Programme Launched In Syangja, Nepal

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INTRODUCTION

Nepal is a less-developed country, sandwiched between two giant and super power nations, India and China, is a classical example of poor country. The current socio-economic indicators of the country such as life expectancy, 56.5 years, infant mortality, 79 number per thousand, material mortality, 539 number per hundred thousand, literacy, 42 percent, adult female literacy, 13 percent, availability of safe drinking water, 65 percent, road density, 21 km. per thousand square km., access to electricity, 9 percent households and per capita income, US\$210, are one of the lowest in the world (WB 1998). In the development scale, HDI prepared by UNDP (1998), Nepal is placed in 144th position in 1998, among 173 countries of the world. Poverty in Nepal is rural in nature and an increasing phenomenon. As indicated by government's official documents, around 40 percent of total population was under the line of poverty in the late of 70s' decade, whereas this figure had reached to 42.5 percent in the late of 80s' and in 1996, it was 45 percent. Government recent estimate shows that half of its population is living in absolute poverty however, the independent studies conducted by the imminent Nepalese and foreign scholars do not confirm it, rather their studies have revealed that Nepal's poverty, over the years, has increased both in terms of absolute numbers as well as in percentage. This clearly shows the failures of government's past poverty alleviation policies and programmes. In this context *Islamabad and Hyderabad Planning Workshops* organised by UNDP in 1991 rephrased the over-riding problematic issue as *Emphasis on Growth rather than Poverty Alleviation*, and the following factors were identified as major contributors to the problem (Khan 1998).

- Distant relationship of the policy makers to the poor.
- Lack of participation of the poor in the policy formulation and planning processes.
- Lack of a clear understanding of the nature and quality of growth that promotes poverty alleviation and particularly the potential contribution of the poor to the process.

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- Insufficient policy co-ordinations leading to policies working at cross purposes.
- Weak planning and implementation capacity of the poor.
- Inadequate institutional mechanisms for social mobilisation.
- Lack of effective participatory monitoring system with feedback capacity.

Realising the failure of past poverty alleviation efforts and in order to trickle down the problem of poverty in South Asian region a new poverty alleviation effort based on social mobilisation philosophy was initiated in this region with the financial support of UNDP in 1994 with the name *Institutional Development at the Grassroots for Poverty Alleviation*. The preparatory phase of the programme was succeeded by demonstration in February 1996 under the name of South Asia Poverty Alleviation Programme (SAPAP), which is operational in the SAARC countries with three major programme components:

- A pro-poor development perspective with set targets for poverty reduction in national plans.
- Social mobilisation at the grassroots through participatory community organisation of the poor.
- Participatory monitoring mechanism for assessing the impact of poverty alleviation measures.

The Nepal component of the programme has been operational in Syangja district, which is one of the first six districts in Nepal to have carried out participatory development planning under Decentralisation Support Project of UNDP.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The programme aims to demonstrate the effectiveness of social mobilisation for (a) rapid scaling up of poverty alleviation efforts, and (b) improved participatory development planning. The approach of scaling up of poverty alleviation efforts through social mobilisation, is based on two packages: (a) The conceptual package, and (b) The programme package. The former involves three element namely: Organisation Development, Capital Generation and Skill Enhancement. These three elements are mandatory as they form the foundation of social mobilisation and the latter involves investment in organisation by developing a programme package including a grant for productiv/physical infrastructure, seed capital credit facility to village organisations (VOs) and human resource development. The approach does not discriminate people by caste/ethnicity, level of affluence or gender but ensures participation of the weaker groups in the organisation.

Assumption

Economic, technological and institutional growths are essential for development vis-a-vis poverty alleviation. The programme uses direct or indirect measures to encompass these three elements while focusing on the third. The approach followed by the programme is based on the following assumptions:

- Organisation, capital formation and skill development apply universally as the basic principles of development.
- Models cannot be replicated but can be adopted.
- Social, cultural, political, economic, geographical and environmental contexts determine the actual contexts of a development programme.
- People get organised to work together if they live in geographical proximity and share common interests.
- People can be organised as multipurpose broad-based groups which could lead to special interest groups for the purposes.
- A system of participation involving all the people is more effective for the sustainability of development initiatives.
- Level of participation depends on the people's perception towards the person or team delivering the message.
- People are willing to enter into a partnership to get access to required sectoral services, and the form of such partnership depends on : (i) cost of the service, (ii) the state of public sector programme in the locality, (iii) presence of local genuine workers, (iv) capacity of the people to pay for the service.

Strategy

With these assumptions, the programme has adopted the following strategies to meet its objectives:

- Development of multipurpose broad-based village/community organisations.
- Mobilisation of locally available resources for socio-economic development and reduced the dependency on external resources and service system.
- Technical assistance and skill enhancement to: improve delivery of services with sustain-ability; raise agricultural productivity; commercialise the rural economy and improve participatory development planning.
- Establishment of linkages between village/community organisations and development agencies.

Methods

- People of each settlement of the VDC are introduced to the philosophy and approach of the programme and are invited to get organised and enter into partnership with the programme.
- If they come forward for such a partnership, the programme works with them to formalise their organisations establish transparency and regularise savings.
- Needs of high priority are identified for skill enhancement, productive infrastructure and activities for socio-economic development.
- Resource gap (financial, technological and human) and possible sources of support to fill in these gaps are identified.
- Implementation of activities is undertaken by the VOs to meet their needs on the basis of specific Terms of Partnership (TOP) between the programme and the village/community organisation.
- Local level participation is ensured for operation and maintenance of facilities established, adoption of technology introduced, and utilisation of skills enhanced.

Target Areas And Population

The Nepal component of *South Asia Poverty Alleviation Programme (SAPAP)* is operational in Syangja district. Initiating from two VDCs- Arjun Chaupari and Shri Krishna Gandaki in 1994, the programme has cover 7 VDCs- of Syangja district up to 1999 February. And additional 10 VDCs are going to be covered soon although the target of the programme is to cover the whole district.

The programme considers all households of all the settlements as its target without any discrimination but endeavours full participation of the poorer and weaker households.

MAIN ACTIVITIES OF SAPAP

In order to uplift the living standard of people vis-a-vis poverty alleviation, numbers of activities are carried out by SAPAP, which can be summarised as follows.

Creation Of Institution At The Grassroots

The concept of creating groups at the village level emerged in Nepal during mid 1970s when SFDP under the aegis of ADB/N was initiated. SAPAP has remodelled the group concept in its own way. It has tried to transform the groups created in its programme VDCs, to such institutions, which would be self reliant financially, technically and socially.

SAPAP's Process Of Forming Non -Targeted VOs

In the course of initiating its activities in the programme area, it has introduced the methodology of three interactive dialogues (Annes 1). The first dialogue is applied before the formation of VOs, to invite men and women to get organised. In the same way, second dialogue is used after the formation of VOs to identify high priority needs of VOs in terms of skill enhancement, productive infrastructures and activities for socio-economic development. The third dialogue is applied when VOs begin to show self sufficiency to make VOs effective enough to mobilise resource for infrastructure development and for various other socio-economic activities. One special feature SAPAP has tried to experiment is its formation of VOs in each settlement of the VDC without any creed or economic or ethnic bias. Men and women from all households in the settlement are encouraged to get organised in a group, which is named as village organisation (VO.) The VO serves as a forum for collective action for the villagers. Up to December 1998, 8391 persons, 50.51 percent women and 49.49 percent men, coming from 6165 households, 98.28 percent of total potential households of 6273 in the programme area, were organised to form 215 VOs (Ghimire 1999).

Generation And Use Of Resources

Among its three important mottoes of organisations, savings and skills to alleviate poverty, SAPAP has laid greater emphasis on generation of resources among its VOs. Three types of resources are being generated and mobilised by SAPAP in its VDCs, which are: saving generated internally by VOs, seed capital and revolving fund, water based productive physical infrastructure (PPI).

Saving Generated Internally By VOs

Saving has been an invariable component of a VO and is associated with VOs' strength. After the formation of VO, savings are started to be generated from the very first meeting of a VO. This saving forms the source of capital formation at the VO level and is mobilised among the VO's members to fulfil their needs. The VOs are given full authority to fix the internal interest rates, decide the purposes and repayment period of such loans. These VOs themselves are enunciating rules, get the rules sanctioned through VOs' meetings and strictly enforced them.

By December 1998, the amount saved by VO members were reported to have reached NRs. 7.653 million. Out of this total savings, women members belonging to MXOs (Mixed Organisations) and WOs (Women Organisations) were able to save around NRs. 3.6 millions. Of the total saving, 4.26 percent was in the form of cash, 0.57 percent was in bank

and 95.17 percent was invested among the VO members themselves in the form of loan (Ghimire 1999).

It is to be appreciated that within less than 5 years period, rural people have been able to saving around NRs. 7.26 million. A strong sense of ownership and belongings were found among VO members which have been strongly contributing group cohesion and helping VOs financial availability to a large extent. VOs were mobilising almost 95 percent of their saving to meet various credit needs of their members.

External Resources In The Form Of Seed Capital/Revolving Fund Being Provided To VOs

Seed capital/revolving fund is the most important gluing factors to remain in the VOs for the provision of extra fund to them. Seed capital is provided to VO in order to meet their demand for productive purposes. This amount, upon repayment made by VOs is converted into *revolving fund at the Chair Person Manager Conference (CMC)* in each VDC. SAPAP has made its policy to provide seed capital/revolving fund to VOs with a view to: enhance financial management capacity; to prepare VOs for any future undertaking with other financial institutions and to build up resource base of the VOs.

SAPAP has its policy to provide seed capital/revolving fund assistance to each and every household of all VOs in due course of time, as its mottoes should have been comprehended by majority members of the VOs and the VOs should have gained experience in mobilising its own saving along with family micro plan of each member of the VO.

Up to December 1998, total seed capital/revolving fund mobilised by SAPAP among its 144,66.98 percent of the total, VOs of seven VDCs had been reported to be NRs. 11.918 millions in order to carry out various income generating activities. Of total member HHs 6165, 2319, 37.62 percent of total member, HHs belonging to 144,66.98 percent of total, VOs were benefited from the provision of seed capital/revolving fund facilities. The recovery rate of the loan was reported to be 96 percent (Ghimire 1999).

Productive Physical Infrastructure

Creation of productive physical infrastructure mainly based on available water resources are very important facets of the programme. To strengthen the capacity of the VOs and to enhance cohesiveness among VOs' members, there is a provision of one time investment in organisation. It is in the form of small grant. This grant is provided to VOs for developing infrastructure in their area based on three criteria: productivity, equity and sustainability i.e., the infrastructure to be built must directly or indirectly support increase in production/income, must benefit at least 80 percent of the households, it must be maintained by the users themselves.

Till now, the programme has limited itself to drinking water and irrigation schemes.

The main objective of creating productive physical infrastructure is to strengthen VOs by enhancing transparency, accountability, sustainability, social cohesion and income generation.

Up to December 1998, a total of 92 productive physical infrastructure were identified at the cost of NRs. 27.00 million, out of which NRs. 15.40 million being provided by the programme in the form of grant among its 7 VDCs (Ghimire 1999).

Human Resource Development And Transfer Of Technology

Human resource development is one of the three elements of social mobilisation. It is carried out to enhance the skills of the VO members for: laying the foundation for grassroot institution development, bringing improvement in the sectoral service delivery in the community, and improving efficiency of individual VO members carrying out or willing to undertake socio-economic activities.

SAPAP has identified two types of training for human resource development: sectoral training to create village specialists/activists, and specific training to promote skills of individual interest.

The training to chairpersons/managers of the VOs, para-veterinary workers, rural technicians and maternity do fall in the first category. The objective of it has been to improve delivery of services required by the people. The second category of the training is provided to VO members by the village specialists themselves or the sectoral agencies. It is conducting exposure visits for the VO's chairmen, managers and promising members. Similarly, it is providing orientation courses related to various trades, Up to December 1998, 105 regular courses, 26 refresher courses, 220 chairperson/manager conferences, 46 orientation/workshops/seminar and 21 exposure visits were organised. A total of 4004 persons participated in the training packages through which 826 villagers become trained specialists (Ghimire 1999).

IMPACT OF SAPAP ON INCOME GENERATION IN SYANGJA DISTRICT

The impact of SAPAP's activities on income generation has been analysed, focusing on:

- Impact of Seed Capital/Revolving Fund on Income Generation.
- Impact of VOs' Saving on Income Generation.
- Impact of Human Resource Development and Transfer of Technology on Income Generation.
- Impact of the programme's activities on saving habit.

Impact Of Seed Capital/Revolving Fund On Income Generation

Seed Capital/Revolving Fund is a purely production oriented loan provided by the programme to the VOs, from which VO's members are benefited to carry out income generating and production oriented activities. The Table 1 and shows the use of seed capital/revolving fund with respect to their purposes.

Table 1
Use Of Seed Capital/Revolving Fund By VOs Members

Activities	No. of HHs	Loan Amount (NRs.)
Livestock Raising	62 (55.85 percent)	4,16,000 (57.22 percent)
Petty Trade	12 (10.81 percent)	84,500 (11.62 percent)
Gardening	6 (5.40 percent)	24,500 (3.38 percent)
Ginger Farming	8 (7.20 percent)	50,500 (6.94 percent)
Crop Farming	5 (4.50 percent)	22,000 (3.03 percent)
Vegetable Farming	3 (2.70 percent)	42,500 (5.84 percent)
Domestic Expenses	15 (13.52 percent)	86,900 (11.96 percent)
Total	111 (100 percent)	7,26,900 (100 percent)

Source : Field Survey by the Author, 1999.

The Table 1 shows that out of the 200 sample households 111, 55.50 percent, HHs have been benefited from the provision of seed capital/revolving fund. Livestock raising occupied major part of loan portfolio, 57.22 percent, followed by consumption expenses, 11.96 percent, petty trade, 11.62 percent, ginger farming, 6.94 percent, vegetable farming, 5.84 percent, gardening, 3.38 percent and crop farming, 3.03 percent. The Table 1 shows that 15, 13.52 percent HHs misused seed capital/revolving fund on consumption expenses. The analysis of the impact of the seed capital/revolving fund on income generation is given in Table 2.

Table 2
**Annual Increase In HHs' Income After Borrowing
Loan From Seed Capital/Revolving Fund**

Increase In Income (NRs.)	No. of HHs
0	4 (3.60 percent)
≤ 2500	6 (5.40 percent)
2,500-5,000	38 (34.23 percent)
5,000-7,500	16 (14.41 percent)
7,500-10,000	16 (14.41 percent)
10,000-15,000	15 (13.51 percent)
15,000-20,000	5 (4.50 percent)
20,000-25,000	5 (4.50 percent)
≥ 25,000	6 (5.40 percent)
Total	111 (1000 percent)

Source : Field Survey by the Author, 1999.

Table 2 reveals that 76 HHs have been benefited from the increment in their income by less or equal to NRs. 10,000 annually, 20 HHs are in between NRs. 10,000 to 20,000 annually, 11 HHs in between NRs. 20,000 to 25,000. It is also observed that there has not been any change in the income of 4,360 percent, HHs even after taking seed capital/revolving funds provided by the programmes. This may be due to the misuse of soft loan on domestic expenses.

Increase In Average Income Per Year

Before borrowing loan from seed capital/revolving fund, average income per year of HHs was NRs. 38,100.50. After borrowing loan from seed capital/revolving fund, average income per year of HHs is NRs. 46,946.80. Increase in income per year of HHs is NRs. 8,846.35. Percentage increase in income per year of HHs is NRs. 23.22 percent. If we subtract this from current inflation rate, 11.8 percent, we can get net increase in income per year, which is, 23.22 percent-11.8 percent, 11.42 percent. This shows that, participants have increased their average net annual income by 11.42 percent per year after the seed capital/revolving fund intervention by the programme.

Impact Of VO's Saving On Income Generation

Capital internally generated by VO's members in terms of VO's saving have been found to carry out numbers of economic activities besides consumption expenses, which is shown in Table 3.

Table 3
Use Of VO's Saving On Different Activities

Activities	No. of HHs	Amount (NRs.)
Consumption Expenses	31 (56.36 percent)	404000 (44.34 percent)
Livestock Raising	4 (7.27 percent)	10700 (11.48 percent)
Ginger Farming	5 (9.00 percent)	12800 (13.74 percent)
Orange Farming	2 (3.73 percent)	6000 (6.43 percent)
Vegetable Farming		
Total	55 (100 percent)	93200 (100 percent)

Source: Field Survey by the Author, 1999.

The Table 3 shows that capital internally generated by VO's has also been used to carry many income generating activities beside consumption expenses, 44.34 percent, such as livestock raising, 25.00 percent, orange farming, 13.74 percent, ginger farming, 11.48 percent and vegetable farming, 6.43 percent. The analysis of the impact of VO's saving on income generation is given in Table 4.

Table 4
Annual Increase In HHs' Income After Taking Loan From VO's Saving

Increase in Income (NRs.)	NO. of HHs
0	12 (21.82 percent)
≤ 500	9 (16.37 percent)
500-1,000	4 (7.28 percent)
1,000-2,000	10 (18.18 percent)
2,000-3,000	11 (20.00 percent)
3,000-4,000	4 (7.20 percent)
4,000-5,000	2 (3.60 percent)
5,000-6,000	2 (3.60 percent)
6,000-7,000	1 (1.80 percent)
Total	55 (100 percent)

Source: Field Survey by the Author, 1999.

The Table 4 shows that HHs have been found to raise their income after taking loan from VO's saving. Besides this, among 55 HHs, a total of 12, 21.82 percent, are unaffected in their total income even after taking loan from VO's saving.

Increase In Average Income Per Year

Before borrowing loan from VO's saving, average income of the households was NRs. 32914.69. After borrowing loan from VO's saving, average income of the households is NRs. 34961.97. Increase in income per year of the households is, thus, NRs. 2047.28. Percentage increase in income per year is 6.21 percent. If we subtract this from current inflation rate, 11.8 percent, we obtain average growth rate of income, which is negative which implies that participants could not sufficiently raise their income from loan taken from VO's saving. However, it is appreciated that even the loan from VO's saving has been used to carry out numbers of economic activities as VO's saving is supposed to be used to fulfil only domestic consumption expenses.

Impact Of Human Resource Development And Transfer Of Technology On Income Generation

Although SAPAP has provided different training programmes for human resource development and transfer of technology, only income and employment oriented training has been analysed hereunder.

Table 5
List Of Income Generating And Employment Oriented Training Programmes Provided By SAPAP For Beneficiary Households

Type of Training	Benefited HHs
Book Keeping	3 (6.82 percent)
Maternal Care	3 (6.82 percent)
Mushroom Farming	2 (4.55 percent)
Ginger Farming	7 (15.9 percent)
Vegetable Farming	7 (15.9 percent)
Hotel Management	2 (4.55 percent)
Buffalo/Cow Keeping	7 (15.9 percent)
Rabbit Keeping	2 (4.55 percent)
Bee Keeping	2 (4.55 percent)
Milk Processing	1 (2.28 percent)
Potato Farming	2 (4.55 percent)
Super Visor Training	1 (2.28 percent)
Cardamom Cultivation	1 (2.28 percent)
Orange Farming	2 (4.55 percent)
Others	2 (4.55 percent)
Total	44 (100 percent)

Source: Field Survey by the Author, 1999.

The Table 5 shows that out of 200 HHs 44,22.00 percent HHs have been benefited from employment oriented and income generating training programmes provided by SAPAP in the study area. Similarly Table 6 shows the marked improvement in income distribution after training intervention.

Table 6
Annual Income Distribution Pattern 1995-1999

After Training Intervention (HHs)	Income Class (NRs.)	Before the Training Intervention (HHs)
4 (9.00 percent)	≤ 10000	10 (22.73 percent)
13 (29.55 percent)	10000-20000	12 (27.28 percent)
11 (25.00 percent)	30000-50000	8 (18.19 percent)
5 (11.37 percent)	30000-50000	7 (15.90 percent)
5 (11.37 percent)	50000-75000	2 (4.55 percent)
1 (2.28 percent)	75000-100000	0 (0.00 percent)
5 (11.37 percent)	≥ 100000	5 (11.37 percent)
44 (100 percent)	Total	44 (100 percent)

Source : Field Survey by the Author, 1999.

These all show that HHs participating in training programmes provided by SAPAP for income generating and employment oriented activities have significantly increased their average income.

Impact Of The Programme's Activities On Saving Habit

Rise in income can also be depicted by the rise in saving, as saving is the positive function of income. The Table 7 shows the positive impact of SAPAP's activities on saving habit of the HHs, which also justifies that increment in income has been taken place.

Table 7
Annual Saving Of The HHs 1995-1999

After the Programme Intervention (HHs)	Saving Groups (NRs.)	Before the Programme Intervention (HHs)
114	< 500	0
15	500-1,000	5
10	1,00-10,000	16
25	5,000-10,000	18
24	10,000-20,000	19
10	20,000-50,000	8
2	> 50,000	2
200	Total	68

Source : Field Survey by the Author, 1999

The Table 7 shows that before the programme intervention, 114 HHs were not capable for any saving i.e., their income was not sufficient to maintain daily expenses which means they were poor and deprived groups in the society. However, after the programme intervention the 114 HHs has been capable to save around NRs. 500 annually, which shows that increment in income has been taken place.

CONCLUSION

South Asia Poverty Alleviation Programme, the showcase poverty alleviation model of UNDP, has successfully completed its four years and running its fifth years, first two years as preparatory phase and then as a demonstration phase. During these time, the programme was able to establish the process and norms for implementing social mobilisation to cover the target population fast, and to enable them to exploit their own potential for their own benefit. Due to these reasons, the model has been quite popular, which is depicted by the replication of the model to more than 200 VDCs of the various parts of the country.

HHs taking loan from seed capital/revolving fund are having increment in average net annual income by 11.42 percent. Capital

internally generated by VOs (VOs' saving) is also used to carryout many income generating and employment oriented activities, 55.67 percent except consumption expenses, 44.34 percent. The programme has shown that the poor have developed banking habit and they are able to save and mobilise saving. Utilisation of VOs' saving on different income generating and employment oriented activities is the appreciative outcome of the programme. The training provided by the programme on income generating and employment oriented activities has been found to have greater multiplier effect on income generation. Loan provided from seed capital/revolving fund are very much effective on income generation. In sum, the programme has been successful to raise the income of the participated HHs.

But the result has not yet been seen whether same type of appreciable results as of programme district Syangja is observed where the model is replicated. If it could give such type of result to the replicated area, it is the ray of hope for one fifth of world's poor who live on South Asia region with miserable condition.

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ANNEX

SAPAP's Three Interactive Dialogues

First Dialogue

- Objectives : To introduce the philosophy and community development vis-a-vis poverty alleviation approach of the programme and people are invited to get organised and enter into partnership with SAPAP.
- Expected outcome : People of the settlement become ready to form their own VOs.
- Activities : (a) Interacting with the sensitising the people,
(b) Formalising VOs through:
(i) Regularisation of VO meetings,
(ii) Discipline of savings,
(c) Transparency in decision-making and account keeping system,
(d) Creating an environment of accountability whereby the sovereignty lies with the VO members.

Second Dialogue

- Objectives : To identify high priority needs of VO members in terms of skill enhancement, productive infrastructure and activities for socio-economic development.
- Expected outcome : Additional resources in the forms of SC given to VO members, village based technicians are developed, needs for PPI identified and explored.
- Activities : (a) Preparation of PRA-based village profiles,
(b) Preparation of VDC plans,
(c) Assessment of further credit needs,

- (d) Development of village specialists,
- (e) Facilitating VDC level planning process.

Third Dialogue

- Objectives** : To make VO effective enough to mobilise resources for infrastructure development and for various, other socio-economic activities.
- Expected Outcome** : VOs becomes self-reliant and are able to receive and mobilise resources for its socio-economic development from various other agencies and donors.
- Activities** :
- (a) Making VOs accountable to other funding agencies,
 - (b) Establishment of linkages with various private/public agencies,
 - (c) Establishment of monitoring, evaluation and auditing system within the VOs.

Book Review

Dawadi, Ramesh Nath and Khagendra Prasad Subedi (1999), *Micro and Macro Economic Analysis*, Bhundipuram Prakashan, Kathmandu, pp. 419. Price: NRS 180.00.

Tribhuvan University has found many textbooks written by Nepalese writers in the Nepalese book market after the introduction of its three year Bachelor's programme. Such textbooks are published with a target to Bachelor's level students. Books on economics are no exception in this case as well.

Increase in the number of textbooks in the market has created some sort of competition among such books and it has substituted Indian books in the Nepalese market. This is a good indication that Nepalese writers are also now being able to produce quality textbooks of their own.

Economics is a very popular and important subject in Bachelor's level education in Nepal. Economics is also taught for BBS and BEd students. But many textbook writers have written economics textbooks in Nepali language. There was really a dearth of economics textbooks written in English. The present book under review has fulfilled this lacuna to a great extent.

Micro and Macro Economic Analysis is a new book that has appeared in the textbook market recently. This book is written by two young Nepali authors. This book is written in English and contains both the two major branches of economics—microeconomics and macroeconomics. This book is principally intended as a textbook for the students of BBS and BEd studying under Tribhuvan University. The book covers the courses of study of those two levels.

The book is divided into twenty one chapters. The first eight chapters deal with the subject matter related to microeconomics and the remaining thirteen chapters are devoted to the discussion of macroeconomic topics, fiscal policy and monetary policy. The book also contains about 145 figures, 20 tables, and 6 boxes to fit in 419 pages of the book.

While dealing with the subject matter related to microeconomics, the authors have begun the discussion with an objective to answer the question, "What is economics?" They have not only distinguished between microeconomics and macroeconomics but they have also pointed out the interdependence between them. Demand analysis, utility analysis (both cardinal and ordinal), cost curves, theory of production, product pricing and factor pricing are discussed in a very simple way.

Similarly, while discussing the topics related to macroeconomics, the authors have started the discussion with the origin of macroeconomics. They have also described about national income accounting, theory of employment, Keynesian theory, consumption function, investment, trade cycle, inflation, macroeconomic policy, fiscal policy and monetary policy.

The book is written in a lucid and interactive way. The examples given in the book are from Nepalese goods such as *Mahi* and *Nanglo* bread. While other textbooks available in the market are written in a traditional style, the authors of this book have tried to publish it in a quite different way, though it was published in only 1.5 months (footnote 3, p. 118). The authors have written this book in such a style as if they are talking to their audience. They have tried to make their book reader-friendly while preparing this book. The book also contains some approaches that are not available in ordinary textbooks, such as Figure 4.3 (p. 70) and Conversion Table (p.248), which are very much helpful for the students to understand about the subject matter.

The book was published in a very short period of 1.5 months as mentioned in page 118. It seems from a skim of the book that the authors were not able to catch all the mistakes and typographical errors because they were in a rush to publish the book. The scheme of the book is given only in page 26, only after the completion of the second chapter. There are typographical errors in mathematical symbols, references, and elsewhere too. The authors have erroneously called the Latin word *ceteris paribus* a French word in page 33 while they have correctly called it in page 32. Besides, it would have been better if the sources for Boxes were also provided. Though the book is designed for BBS and BEd students, it seems that the authors were focusing only the BBS students; because they have provided the syllabus and questions only for the BBS course but not for BEd course. The pages belonging to the preliminaries and the reference materials have not been paginated.

Despite some of the shortcomings, which can be taken care of during the next edition of the book, the book is very useful to the target group as well as the general readers who want to know what economics is about. The authors have done a commendable work by bringing out this book in the textbook market.

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