

In Spite of Challenges ...

As we draft this editorial, a news feed pops up on our screen: “Nation finally gets a PM ending the six month long status quo.” Yes, it did take six months for our political world to do what should have taken a day or two. The 15th issue of NELTA Journal which is in your hands, on the contrary, is on time; similarly, the quality of scholarship in this journal is constantly improving and the professional work by our ELT community is characterized by new visions and voices. When those new voices not only come from “scholars” but also from teachers as researchers and writers, we can expect better days ahead for our society—even though tremendous challenges and roadblocks persist against our society at large.

In a situation where there is a little access to academic databases for teachers and researchers and where the lack of resources severely limits opportunities for their professional development, the range and quality of professional development initiatives that we have seen within the NELTA community in recent years are striking. That is, while socio-political mechanisms in the country have long been stagnated, the progress that educators have made should be seen in light of the adverse material and social conditions created by the system at large. Nepalese higher education has not yet been able to significantly integrate research and writing into academic work, as a result of which there is not much professional incentive for teachers to write. Writing for publication is yet to become an academic culture. It is in such a context that the scholarship represented in this journal should be seen.

Due to the circumstances like the above, the editorial policy of this journal is designed to not only select what could be considered high quality but to also help scholars and teachers on the ground to professionally develop while contributing their ideas and experiences. In other words, NELTA Journal adopts a rigorous peer review process including a double-fold blind review and having experts in related fields comment on the submitted drafts, but it also provides support and resources to writers. The rationale behind such a policy is that we want to represent the work of teachers as scholars and researchers, rather than adhere to the traditional top down flow of knowledge from the “scholars” to “teachers” as if they are necessarily separate agents, or by implication from geopolitical and socio-cultural centers to the peripheries.

In this issue, you will find a range of works contributed by teacher-scholars in Nepal and almost the same number of contributions from ELT scholars in the region and around the world. Some contributions from our guest writers deal with similar contexts and issues that Nepalese English teachers face in their work; others help us understand new trends and developments in ELT scholarship and pedagogy in

the world today. We hope that the articles by Nepalese writers will be equally useful to readers from outside.

Scholarship within the NELTA community as well as the organization itself have from the very outset been connected to the global community of ELT professionals, so with the intent of making our work available to the larger academic world, the editorial board has undertaken the initiative of indexation of the journal in international academic databases. The journal is currently under indexation review by the ERIC database.

It is up to us to create and share our knowledge with the world. With commitment, we can undertake challenges and overcome the obstacles posed by material limitations. The establishment and rapid professional progress of our organization, NELTA, should inspire younger scholars from across the country to write and contribute to this flagship journal. We strongly encourage aspiring writers to contribute to future issues. We look forward to more rigorous research studies, theoretical scholarship, and locally produced literature.

The editorial team extends its gratitude to all the contributors and the voluntary reviewers whose efforts have made us bring this journal to you. We expect your academic support in the forthcoming issues as well. A special acknowledgement goes to Dr. Barbara Lambert Law for helping us in the entire editorial process.

We hope you enjoy the contents of this issue and share your own work next time around.

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