

## EDITORIAL NOTE

It is our pleasure to present yet another volume of the Occasional Papers in Sociology and Anthropology (OPSA) to the readers. The Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology (established in 1981) at Tribhuvan University began the publication of this series in 1987. A closer scrutiny of the table of contents and the papers published in the OPSA volumes so far (including this ninth volume) allow us to make some interesting observations. First, it becomes evident that a number of Sociologists and Anthropologists working within Tribhuvan University or at other places within Nepal have adopted OPSA as a viable publication outlet for their papers or research write-ups. Let us hope that an increasing number of researchers will choose OPSA as a space for publishing their scholarly works in the days to come. Second, a careful reading of the papers (published in OPSA so far) reveal that most of the write-ups have their basis on applied (read as consultancy) work done by the authors as a part of their engagements with development projects, agencies, NGOs and INGOs. This is a clear reflection of the fact that Sociological and Anthropological research opportunities of the applied nature are more easily available to the professionals of this discipline who have been working with TU or other agencies and organizations in Nepal.

One may ask: What could be the reason for most of the Nepali Sociologists and Anthropologists to be engaged in applied work? Are they not interested in basic research? Non-engagement or minimal engagement in fundamental research by Nepali scholars cannot be because of their dislike for the same. The reality is that research funds are hardly available within the country (more so for the faculty members of TU in particular) in order to enable scholars to be engaged in basic or fundamental research. Therefore, most of the Nepali Sociologists and Anthropologists end up joining the applied, advocacy and action work sponsored by development agencies and projects.

Most of the papers in the current volume of OPSA are not any different in their orientation towards applied work from the papers that have appeared in earlier volumes. There are twelve papers in this volume that are grouped under three cross-cutting thematic sections, viz., Caste/Ethnic Issues, Water Resources Management, and Trends in Local Development.

The Editors