

Editorial

The Education Review Office (ERO), established in 2010 in accordance with the Education Act, 2028 (8th amendment), is a department-level authority of the Government of Nepal, under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. ERO is responsible for reviewing the performance and quality of the entire school education system. This body has been authorized with a mandate to carry out national assessments of students' achievement and performance audits of schools and other educational organizations. Over the past 14 years, this office has gathered a wealth of experiences to conduct different reviews, publish reports, and disseminate the information and experiences gathered from them.

Review functions fundamentally include two major domains: The National Assessment of Student Achievement (NASA) and the Performance Audit (PA) of community schools and other organizations. In the past, NASA studies were conducted in Mathematics, Science, English, and Nepali for grades 3, 5, 8, and 10 among the students who have completed their studies but in 2020 the National Assessment for Reading and Numeracy (NARN) was conducted for grade 3. Meanwhile, several studies have been undertaken to assess Early Childhood Education and Development (ECED). Similarly, this office has completed 89-point indicator-based performance audit of 5940 community secondary schools. The performance audit concludes with a comprehensive report that includes national ranking of all schools based on their merit scores awarded during the audit.

In addition to the regular tasks mentioned above, this office is also involved in research and publication activities. Every year, it publishes a scholarly journal, Education Review Journal to assemble knowledge, and practical experiences based on evidence. This journal aims at disseminating applied knowledge produced after the assessment and audit tasks. It is assumed that major sources of knowledge are based on statistical evidence and practical experiences of those professionals who have been involved in assessment and audit activities over the years. The journal aims to publish professional articles that are beyond mere academic ones by encouraging working professionals to contribute to upgrading their confidence and capacity in their performance. In order to make this journal a quality product, ERO issued comprehensive 'Journal Guidelines and Journal Review Form' in advance that would provide educational insights to the potential authors for composing the articles.

According to the guidelines, only three categories of articles were invited from the selected, concerned, and interested professionals. The article categories are (a) Story of Experience, (b) Review Article, and (c) Research Article.

The first category of articles is expected to build on historical facts, statistical evidence, practical experiences, and feelings about assessment and audit activities carried out by the authors over the past years. The second category is expected to summarize knowledge, theories, technical evidence, and implications by reviewing books, authentic reports, and journal articles written in student assessment and performance audits and officially published. The third category of articles is expected to be written based on fresh case studies or field research conducted by the authors on the given areas (assessment and audit) based on proven evidence.

The journal's present volume includes 11 articles covering the first, second and third types, i.e., stories of experience, review, and research-based articles. Two authors are ERO professionals, and some are from outside ERO but have been involved in educational research and audit as well as assessment related activities for many years.

Being a highly professional venture, the process of publication has involved several quality controls mechanisms, such as circulation of journal guidelines, formulation of an editorial team, selection of high-level intellectuals for the peer-review process, editing the content, language, and mechanics of writing, and document design.

This volume is produced from strenuous efforts made by each individual involved – article contributors, reviewers, editors, and the office holders of ERO. In this connection, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to honorable Sumana Shrestha, Minister of Education, Science and Technology for her guidance, inspiration and encouragement.

I would also like to thank respected secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Dr. Dipak Kafle for his deep concern and guidance during the whole process of journal production. Likewise, Prof. Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari and Prof. Dr. Bhupa Prasad Dhamala, having well experience in editing and publishing scholarly journals for more than a decade to their credit, are among others who worked through the whole process of this work to bring this product to the present shape. So, I would like to sincerely thank them for their input and effort. In the same way, I would like to thank all the reviewers of the articles for their serious effort and dedication.

Furthermore, I am pleased to take the names of the authors: they are Dr. Kul Prasad Khanal, Dr. Purna Bahadur Kadel, Dr. Shyam Prasad Acharya, Mr. Yubaraj Adhikari, Mr. Uttar Kumar Parajuli, Mr. Ramesh Awasthi, Mr. Deviram Acharya, Mrs. Renuka Adhikari, Mr. Dhan Bhahadur Oli, Mr. Pawan Mijar. I would like to acknowledge them for their contribution in the form of articles. Lastly, I am thankful

to the ERO directors Mr. Yubaraj Adhikari, Mr. Damodar Chapagain, Mr. Narayan Prasad Jha, Mr. Hari Prasad Niraula and all the concerned staff for their serious efforts. Similarly, I sincerely thank MoEST's officer Mr. Gopal Narayan Shrestha as well as ERO officers Mr. Min Bahadur Thapa, Mr. Khagendra Shrestha and ERO staff involved in this journal's publication process.

Chandra Kanta Bhusal

Director General