

Editorial

As we present Volume 10, Issue 2 of the *A South Asian Journal of Research & Innovation*, the theme of this edition focuses on Higher Education and Research Practice in Nepal. It is a topic of growing importance in the regional academic discourse. In recent years, higher education in Nepal has witnessed remarkable growth. It is driven by increasing student enrollments. The expansion of universities, and a greater emphasis on research. However, this progress is accompanied by challenges that demand critical reflection and strategic action. One of the central challenges in higher education system of Nepal is the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. While universities produce a significant number of graduates, the integration of research into academic practice remains limited. Research culture, a critical driver of innovation and societal development. It often lacks the institutional support, funding, and infrastructure necessary for meaningful impact. This issue is compounded by the limited collaboration between academic institutions and industries, which could otherwise provide real-world platforms for students to apply their knowledge and contribute to national development.

Despite these obstacles, there are signs of positive change. Increasing efforts are being made to improve research capabilities through partnerships with international institutions. It is fostering cross-border academic exchange, and promoting interdisciplinary research. Furthermore, initiatives like the establishment of research centers and funding bodies, alongside a growing number of postgraduate programs, are building a foundation for a more research-driven higher education landscape. However, for Nepal to fully harness the potential of higher education, there needs to be a concerted effort toward policy reforms. Key areas include enhancing research funding, creating platforms for collaboration between universities and industries, and encouraging a culture of academic inquiry from undergraduate levels onward. There is a need for a shift in mindset one that values research as an integral part of education rather than a peripheral activity.

As we direct the complex landscape of higher education in Nepal, it is clear that the road ahead requires sustained commitment from both academic institutions and the government. Nepal has the potential to transform its higher education system into a dynamic force for innovation, growth, and societal progress. This issue explores various dimensions of these challenges and opportunities, insights and solutions from scholars across the region. We hope these contributions will inspire meaningful dialogue and action toward strengthening higher education and research practices in Nepal.

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