

## TVET to Create Jobs and Spur Development

With the federalism in place, Nepal is striving for economic development and prosperity. The national ambition of '*Prosperous Nepal: Happy Nepali*' is reiterated by all three layers of government, and actors of policy, development and governance sectors. Creation of decent jobs, smooth operation of industries, development and expansion of entrepreneurs are essential to create atmosphere conducive for economic progress. Similarly, production of adequate technical human resources with skills, experiences and expertise prepares strong foundations for industries and economic activities.

CTEVT is an apex body for TVET, which produces competent technical human resources for both domestic and international job markets. Since its establishment in 1989, CTEVT has been providing pre-diploma, diploma, and market-oriented short courses and gradually expanding its programs in various sectors throughout the country. CTEVT's workforce is highly valued in international and domestic markets.

In addition, CTEVT has been connecting academia, researchers, industrialists, policy makers, government officials and other concerned stakeholders by publishing a journal of TVET. It has been given continuity for this year too. However, the editorial team acknowledges the importance of listening to the demands of our readers and giving due respect to the feedback they provide. As a result, we have made some changes to

the format of this edition to better serve our readers. Additionally, we have corrected the volume and issue numbers of this journal due to some errors in previous printings. We strive to provide our readers with the highest quality content and appreciate their continued support and input.

The publication of this journal comes at a time when the country has seen a huge pressure on economy, thereby forcing the government to cut the budget size. The issues raised by the articles incorporated in this edition therefore bear much relevance and significance to prop up national economy and help intensify development activities. The recommendations the articles have made for policy correction, legal reform, development and expansion of entrepreneurships, additional research, enhancement of quality in TVET, strong relations among wider stakeholders of TVET are some of the pertinent ones in the present time. The journal not only helps to build information and knowledge on TVET regime but also substantiates the relevance of CTEVT with timely reforms.

This edition consists of twelve articles. The article, '*Approaching Apprenticeship in Nepal: Lessons from Dual-VET of Germany*' jointly written by Mr. Prakash Kumar Paudel and Dr. Christiane Eberhardt compares the apprenticeship system in Nepal and Germany. They point out the need for enhancing the employment skills of apprentices in Nepal so

as to prepare them as the entrepreneurs and generate avenues for new employment. They argue that the preparation of such skilled human resources in Nepal, however, remains largely supply driven. The comparison they made between Germany and Nepal shows the orientation of Nepali TVET to the German dual system is only useful to a limited extent. The authors claim that Germany's example could not be a reference - especially with regard to key issues that are currently on the political agenda in Nepal.

Another article titled "Researching Informal Skills Learners: Considering Work Interruption and Vulnerabilities" by Dr. Durga Prasad Baral delves into the ethical challenges faced by researchers when studying informal skills. The author argues that informal skills learners are particularly vulnerable and that their vulnerability can be exacerbated by work interruptions caused by the researcher's interaction with them. The study aims to increase researchers' awareness of their responsibilities when working with vulnerable populations, and to provide guidance on how to minimize harm and maximize benefits. This article emphasizes the importance of conducting research in an ethical and responsible manner, taking into account the potential impact of the work on vulnerable populations.

The 'Effectiveness of TVET in Nepal' by Prof. Dr. Ramesh Adhikari, Prof. Dr. Shiva Raj Adhikari, Prof. Dilli Ram Upreti and Prof. Dr. Keshav Prasad Adhikari is another article dwelling on the need to enhance TVET quality

so that employments with good income could be created for many youths. Adopting the concurrent mixed methods, the writers conduct a survey among 1,231 Diploma and Pre-diploma (TSLC) graduates who studied in the institutions either affiliated to or constituent of the CTEVT. Similarly, 42 key informants' interviews (2 from each district) were conducted with key stakeholders. With this, they found a remarkable difference in average income before and after graduation (NRs 1,815 vs NRs 15,656). As per authors, the income difference was highest among the people who studied engineering (NRs 16,005) followed by health (NRs 14,908). The income of male was 1.6 times higher than that of female after graduation.

Likewise, 'Globalization, Global Political Economy and Technical and Vocational Education and Training: A Nexus' by Dr. Sabitri Devi Acharya (Adhikari) underscores the need for the TVET institutes to cater skills to the youths required in the international labor markets in terms of the migrant Nepali workers. She argues globalization is one of the challenges for TVET, and urges the concerned agencies to change TVET curriculum accordingly.

Similarly, 'Effectiveness of Vocational Training on Light Vehicle Mechanics in Underprivileged Children's Educational Program, Nepal', is the article showing the need for regular and up-to-date tools and equipment as per need of the industry. In the article, Mr. Ishwor Rimal further stresses the utilization of library facility and technology

in the teaching- learning methods, industry-institute linkage. Garnering views of the TVET graduates, the author measures the students' satisfaction with physical facilities and school environment.

In the article, 'Work-based Learning through School Production Unit in Polytechnic Institutes', Mr. Harish Singh Thapa emphasizes the sustainability of work-based learning (WBL) in the school production unit, arguing that it helps to foster experiential learning, active learning employability and entrepreneurship skills and increased cooperation/collaboration learning ability of students. To build the argument, author Thapa makes a systemic literature review with synthesis, comparison and contrasts on the approaches of the WBL in the production unit.

Dr. Kushmakar Bhatta, in his article, 'Quality Assurance Agenda in Nepali TVET System', argues that the world is becoming more quality focused, inclusive, and interdependent, and underscores a clear provision of quality assurance in Nepal's TVET system, which is a critical need to meet the demands of learners and the world's marketplace. He has presented examples of best practices in quality assurance based on the secondary data, observation, study, and experiences in the article. He finely outlines and discusses the relevancy, gap and need in Nepal's TEVT system to meet the requirements of competent and competitive human resources for the world of work.

Moreover, in the article, 'Technical and Vocational Education and Training Sector in Federal Nepal: A Critical Analysis', Dr. Usha Bhandari views the urgency of paradigm shift in action, thoughts and visions in line with the constitution to harness the benefit of TVET sector so that the goal of socio-economic prosperity could be achieved in the country. According to her, despite the rights and responsibilities of three tiers of governments stated well by the Constitution 2015, the national and sub-national governments are practicing their rights and responsibilities, thereby warranting activism for effective running of TVET.

Ms. Rojina Basnet and Mr. Chetan Karki Pyakurel in their article, 'Phasing out of Technical School Leaving Certificate Programs in Health: A Scenario Analysis', underscore the need for reconsidering the provision of the National Medical Education Act on re-launching TSLC programs in health so that there will not be scarce of skilled and technically competent mid-level human resource for health. Highlighting the importance of mid-level health workers and effect of phasing out TSLC programs by CTEVT in the health sector of Nepal, the writers argue the removal of the programs may cause less access to the service of skilled health workers, especially of the poor, women, and disadvantaged groups which, they have argued, created inequitable development of skills in the health workforce.

Mr. Bal Mukunda Neupane conducts a Rapid Market Appraisal (RMA) and explores

market prospects or the specific occupational skills in demand in the local markets of Madhesh Province so as to reintegrate the returnee migrant workers into the Nepali economic system. In his article, 'Need of Market-based Skills Training to Create Employment Opportunities for Returnee Migrants in Madhesh Province', Neupane writes based on the collected data from 204 key informants of labor market, 24 different occupations were identified as highly demanding occupations in three occupational sectors: nine were in the construction sector, eight in the agriculture sector, and six in the hospitality/tourism sector. It was also found that the Madhesh Province, having the largest area of cultivated land in Nepal, is very potential for employing a bigger number of youths and returnees in the agriculture sector. He urges the concerned agencies to ensure financial access to the returnee migrants so that agriculture sector could truly be attractive occupation.

Dr. Hari Prasad Lamsal and Mr. Anil Muni Bajracharya make all concerned stakeholders aware that TVET sector faces a host of challenges, including enrollment decline, supply-demand disparity, and concern over quality and relevance. In their article, 'TVET Sector Strategic Plan, 2023-2032: A Drive to Success', authors view the challenges could be addressed through a strategic plan that focuses on improvement of quality in TVET programs, strengthening of governance, and increase in enrollment and participation. Dwelling on a three-phase 10-year plan, they underline comprehensive approach with phase-wise attention and engagement so that TVET sector could be bolstered, thereby

making it a robust base of economic growth and prosperity of the country.

In the article 'Academic Performance of Fee Paying and Scholarship Students at CTEVT Affiliated Nursing Colleges in Nepal', Mr. Khagendra Prasad Adhikari compares the academic performance between the scholarship and fee-paying students of PCL nursing program and explores their perspectives on professional values they imbibe for nursing profession. The study, he writes, has revealed that the scholarship students perform better in learning than the fee-paying students. Their educational performance was measured with the indicators: frequency of library visit, frequency of reading course-related articles, duration of time spent by students on self-study (independent variables) and the marks they obtained (dependent variable) in the first and the second year of nursing courses.

Finally, the editorial team would like to express gratitude to the CTEVT management and staff for their necessary coordination and encouragement, which helped bring this publication to fruition. We also extend our thanks to the authors for their prompt cooperation. We look forward to similar cooperation and coordination in the future to enhance the TVET regime in Nepal through academic discourse. As always, feedback on the publication is welcome, and the team believes it will help us improve in the future.

It is important to note that the opinions and ideas expressed in these articles are solely those of the respective writers and do not reflect the views of CTEVT, nor are the institutional representations.