

## Book Review

Bishwambher Pyakuryal (2013). **Nepal's Development Tragedy: Threats and Possibilities**, Fine Print, Bishalnagar, Kathmandu, p. 339, Price NRs. 700.00, ISBN 978-9937-8789-3-7 including figures and charts.

Since the First Five Year Plan (1956-1961) in Nepal, poverty alleviation has been the main focus but the poverty status remains almost the same. Moreover, income inequality is a major problem occurring due to lack of infrastructures, capital deficiency, lack of food security and unemployment. Inequalities reflect and reinforce inequalities in other domains, and these inequalities together act as a brake on economic growth and development.

The book under review points out development lapses in Nepal with a focus on political scenarios. The author has pointed out evidences related to Nepal's development tragedy in context to its political economy and discusses constraints, opportunities and alternatives in Nepalese agriculture, food security, unemployment, state restructuring and fiscal federalism in Nepal. The author has clearly explained the changing political scenarios in Nepal since the Rana regime to 2013. The book's highlight is its presentation of the relationship between changing political situation and the status of economic activities. In addition, Nepal is restructuring as a federalism government and adopting fiscal federalism. Therefore, the author has raised issues on economic viability during this important transition.

Development is a dream of every country and its citizens. But, there are threats and challenges to development, which can negatively impact people. This book not only focuses on tragedy and threat, but also includes the possibilities for development. The strength of this book is its detailed explanation of problems and solution with respect to development processes. In fact, this book is a good reference for Nepal's development.

The book contains seven chapters. Contents include: Chapter 1 - Nepal's Political economy: Reviewing Development Experiments; Chapter 2 - Nepal's Agriculture: Constraints, Opportunities and Alternatives; Chapter 3 - Food security in Nepal: why, to whom and how; Chapter 4 - Unemployment: determinants, constraints and policy choices; Chapter 5 - Infrastructure; Chapter 6 - State restricting and fiscal federalism in Nepal: Issues on Economic viability; and Chapter 7 - Inclusive growth: Nepal's perspective.

Each chapter focuses on uncertain socio-political practices responsible for economic uncertainties in Nepal. The author demonstrates trends of socio-political and economic status since Rana regime to the recently introduced federalism. But, since the government has not fixed provinces, the author has analyzed state restructure according to 11 provinces.

The book lists examples of agriculture, food security, unemployment and infrastructure. However, the book has presented limited examples. It does not include other development factors such as capital and human resources. In addition, the author has pointed out that Nepal's development has not only slowed down, but in some areas it has reversed. However, the author has not provided examples of the reversed development cases.

Regarding the 32 figures and 6 charts used in this book, there is no difference between a chart and a figure. Line graphs, pie-charts and bar-diagrams are used as both figures and charts, making the categorization seem unnecessary.

Over all, the book contains solutions to the developmental problems. Hoping it will become a standard reference in the field of development analysis and will be a wonderful guide to politicians, economists, planners, policy makers and programmers. It will attract a wide range of audience.

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