

Editorial

A peer-reviewed open-access journal indexed in NepJol

ISSN 2990-7640 (online); ISSN 2542-2596 (print)

Published by Molung Foundation, Kathmandu, Nepal

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3126/mef.v14i01.67894>

Bhupa P. Dhamala  <https://orcid.org/0009-0003-3642-2520>

Editor-in-Chief

Internationalization of Research

In the rapidly globalizing world, educational research cannot remain confined to one university or a research centre that belongs to one nation. There is growing realization among university scholars and researchers that research should go beyond the limited territory and expand its universe: it should cross the geographical borders of a particular nation and expand across the globe; it should cross the traditional borders of a particular community and invite the people of multiple cultures; and it should cross the conventional borders of a particular discipline and seek to link multiple disciplines together. In summary, research has to discard traditional borders of all kinds and adapt globalization, multiculturalism, and interdisciplinarity to meet the growing demands of the day.

In today's world researchers cannot remain tied to a fixed institution established in a particular place. Instead, they like to travel across institutions globally to open up new avenues of knowledge. It is not simply that scholars from third-world countries move out to developed countries but the very reverse is also true. Researchers from Europe and America are moving to many Asian and South East Asian countries for their education. They can be exposed to new geography and culture if they dare to cross the border and move out. Further, they need to know the issues of global concern ranging from economic growth to conservation of the environment, which apparently are mutually exclusive but are closely

interconnected. One cannot remain unaffected by ecological imbalance caused by global warming due to climate change. In this sense, research is becoming more and more transnational. By the same token, the nature of research has become more multicultural today. Since students from different geographies come together, they can see different landscapes in different parts of the world. Likewise, researchers from different ethnic, linguistic, and religious communities meet at a common place and can share their unique cultures. Almost every research institution invites international researchers from different countries to make the research activities multicultural.

Furthermore, research has become more interdisciplinary today. Many disciplines of natural science, social science, and other areas, such as politics and governance, are closely interconnected in terms of concept and process. The knowledge of mathematics can be applied to the better study of economics, and the study of biology can be useful in understanding anthropology. We can easily understand the close relationship between science, politics, and economics. There can be dozens of examples of this kind to illustrate the point. The assumption behind it is that any knowledge that one gains from a particular discipline is inadequate.

One more significant issue is climate change, which has to be addressed collaboratively by all nations. Global warming has become a threat to all nations. Environmental pollution caused by excessive industrialization has threatened the general health of people of all nations. If such things continue to happen, our earth may have to face unprecedented danger. Understanding that natural phenomena cannot be a national issue is essential. Hence, researchers need to go beyond a particular nation and be engaged in exploring the issues of international nature and finding solutions to the common problems.

Since research has crossed its conventional borders and begun to establish new boundaries of transnationality, multiculturalism, interdisciplinarity, and globalization, there is no point in insisting that research is a matter of one nation, one culture, and one discipline only. Therefore, internationalization of research is undoubtedly an urgent demand of the day. In order to put internationalization of research into practice, we need to collaborate internationally and engage in joint research activities. In this practice, partner countries, universities, and research centers should be involved in joint research activities by establishing formal relations within the existing rules and regulations of those institutions and the nations they belong to, with the primary goal of working together to share knowledge and experiences. Such relations facilitate building understanding between universities, forging international research alliances and forming groups of intellectuals and scholars for specific research projects.

Molung Foundation aims to contribute to researchers' endeavors by engaging researchers from multiple fields to write their research outcomes as research papers. This volume contains 12 articles in different disciplines that aim to contribute to a better understanding of recent research trends in the contemporary world.

June 2024

Kathmandu, Nepal