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Critical Readings Across Disciplines

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Aims of the Journal

The *Journal of Productive Discourse* (ProD) is an international, not for profit, blind peer-reviewed journal of critical readings across disciplines. It aims to provide teachers, students and learned members of the community an authentic open-access platform featuring scholarly research, reviews and perspectives on the state of current discourse on topics of interdisciplinary interest. The annual journal is published both in print and electronic forms once a year on the 3rd of the month of Jestha in the Nepali calendar.

Mission

The journal will strive to create a platform where scholars, experts and thinkers exchange informed, critical and respectful discourses on important topics to advance human, social and political sciences for the larger good of the people.

Vision

The vision of the journal is to become the leading international platform for multi-disciplinary research and writing, known for its high standards, innovative approach, and impact on the learned community.

Methodology

The journal uses a rigorous peer-review process, led by a team of experts from Nepal and abroad, to ensure high quality and impact of published research and writing in pursuit of productive and practicable discourse. Articles are subject to initial editor screening followed by a blind peer review before publication. Submissions are invariably checked for plagiarism. Manuscripts must be between 5 and 20 pages, in APA formats, that is between (4000 and 8000 words), excluding references.

Peer Review Process

Peer Review Process: Research and review articles received from open calls and individual invitations undergo peer-review, which is double-blind, before publication. The Managing Editor sends original research and review articles to editors for initial review of the work's relevance to the journal. They submit draft decisions to the Editor-in-Chief for final decision about further review or acceptance. The initial review process will be brief, and not last longer than six weeks. Perspectives, including case studies and interviews, are reviewed by editors and cleared with the Editor-in-Chief. These are not subject to double blind peer review.

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Editorial

The *Journal of Productive Discourse (ProD)* is a global hub for critical inquiry across disciplines. It offers a blind peer-reviewed platform for scholarly exploration and embraces diverse perspectives. ProD aims to lead in multidisciplinary research, known for its excellence and innovative methodologies. Published annually both in print and electronic forms, it commemorates the People's Leader and Nepal Ratna, Madan Bhandari, on the 3rd of Jestha in the Nepali calendar. This esteemed journal leaves a permanent mark on academia, symbolizing intellectual rigor and the enduring legacy of the People's Leader.

The articles featured in this issue encompass a diverse range of scholarly topics, including body politics, good governance, corporate social responsibility, early child development and education, social event networking, adoption of electric vehicles, social security allowances, environmental sustainability, and the discourse surrounding Nepali statehood in the 1920s. In this line, Sangita Sigdel explores the historical evolution of commodification in fashion and cosmetics in her paper "Artificial Look: Body Narcissism in the Fashion and Cosmetic Industry," shedding light on its societal implications from colonial times to the present day. In "Citizen Charter as Governance Reform Initiative for Quality Services," Sushmita Kaphle discusses how the implementation of the Citizen Charter in Nepal has improved procedural transparency and service delivery. Kaphle emphasizes the need for reliability, responsiveness, and accuracy to ensure effective reform and quality service delivery at the grassroots level. Similarly, Kriti Sharma and Tara Prasad Gautam examine how businesses in developing nations, particularly India, are adopting corporate social responsibility (CSR) in their study "Collaborating a Dependent Business Model: Corporate Social Responsibility - Evidence from India." The authors stress the importance of stakeholders and policymakers understanding CSR's evolution to promote sustainable and responsible business practices.

Meenakshi Dahal highlights the critical role of high-quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) programs in providing opportunities for all children, especially those facing adversities, in her article "Early Childhood Development Programs in Nepal: Opportunities and Challenges." Dahal advocates for increased investments in ECD and advocacy for its developmental benefits. Phul Babu Jha, Bidur Nepal, Anjay Kumar Mishra, Naseeb Dangi, and Prajwal Bhandari discuss the innovative features of their article "Enhancing Event Exploration and Engagement: A Social Events Networking Platform Leveraging Cosine Similarity Recommendations and Google Maps Integration," which facilitates efficient event planning and community building. Similarly, Samulson Neupane and Binju Shakya analyze the factors influencing the adoption of Two-Wheeler Electric Vehicles (EVs) in Nepal in their study. They recommend government interventions such as financial incentives, environmental awareness, and infrastructural development to promote EV adoption effectively.

Dev Raj Rai advocates for strengthening local governance in Nepal to support federalism and democracy in his article "Local Governance Based on Citizens' Opinion Method in Municipalities of Madhesh Province." Chandra Parajuli, Suman Kharel, and Prajwal Man Pradhan emphasize the importance of social security allowances for single women in their article "Social Security Allowances to Single Women: A Case Study". They propose increasing the allowance amount and ensuring its effective distribution to enhance independence. Anjay Kumar Mishra, Ritesh Kumar Thakur, and Sitaram Dhakal discuss the relationship between Entrepreneurial Orientation (EO), Environmental Sustainability Orientation (ESO), and organizational performance in their article. The authors stress the integration of EO dimensions into strategies for competitive advantage and the adoption of ESO for reputation enhancement and cost reduction through eco-friendly practices. Tika Prasad Dhakal in his article "The

Intersection of ‘Hindu’, ‘Independence,’ and ‘Sovereignty’ in the Nepali Public Discourse of the 1920s" examines the 1923 treaty's theme of safeguarding Nepal’s independence and sovereignty in his article. He explores how this historical discourse informs contemporary discussions on Nepali statehood.

We trust these scholarly articles will illuminate readers and researchers with contemporary discourses. With your insightful feedback and contribution, we hope the journal will evolve into a dynamic platform for productive dialogues on interdisciplinary discourses.

In conclusion, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all esteemed contributors, discerning reviewers, meticulous editors, diligent technicians, and other valued stakeholders whose collective efforts have been instrumental in bringing this esteemed journal to fruition.

Editorial Board

May 2024

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