

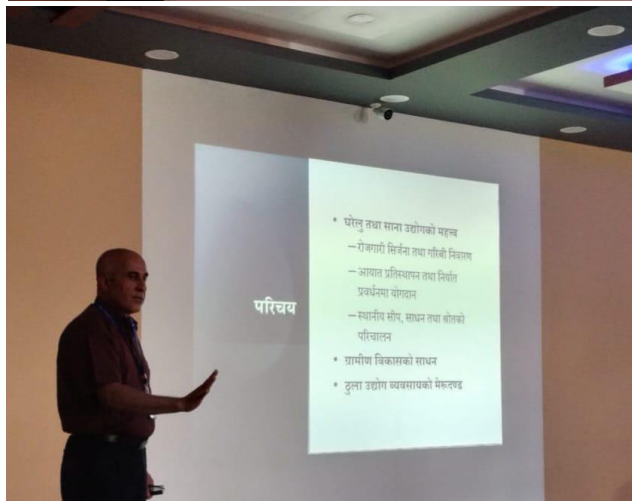
Provincial Workshop for Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprise (Sudurpashchim Province)



On June 21st, 2024, the research team of the Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) conducted a one-day provincial workshop at Rato Guransh Resort, in Dadeldhura district, Sudur Paschim. This workshop was part of the project titled “Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal” in collaboration with IDRC, Canada.

The workshop witnessed participants from various municipalities and rural municipalities of Sudurpashchim Province, including Amargadhi Municipality, Badhimatika Municipality, Dhangadhi Sub Metropolitan City, Janaki Rural Municipality, and Tikapur Municipality. The event brought together Enterprise Development Facilitators (EDFs), Employment Coordinators, Loan Facilitators from the Youth and Small Entrepreneur Self-Employment Fund (YSEF) program, and the officials from the Directorate of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Welfare Conservation, Sudurpashchim Province.

The workshop began with welcome remarks from Ms. Nirmita Shrestha, Research Associate of NDRI. Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai, the Principal Investigator for the project, delivered a presentation on the growth of micro, small, and medium enterprises, emphasizing the application of Japanese business models within the Nepalese business environment. Subsequently, Mr. Rajendra Khatri, (Project Manager, NDRI) gave an overview of the project and presented findings from the baseline survey. Following the presentations, a discussion session took place where participants discussed the importance of promoting local production and building an interdependent and reciprocal business ecosystem. The need for entrepreneurship development programs such as MEDPA and YSEF to formulate policies and strategies that promote innovation among their beneficiaries and borrowers for sustainable business growth was also discussed. Attendees provided valuable and constructive suggestions for the project's implementation and successful completion. The one-day workshop concluded successfully, with all representatives committing to support the project's future interventions.



Conception and Misconception of Nepal's Security

The Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE) organized a talk titled "Conception and Misconception of Nepal's Security" on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 which was participated by Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, Senior Research Specialist, NDRI. The event was held at the NIICE seminar hall, Hatiban, Lalitpur, as part of the regular monthly talk series. The speaker was Dr. Purna Bahadur Silwal, Major General (Retd). NIICE focuses on areas of discourse concerning international relations and security.



About two dozen keen critical mass participants from diverse sectors (army, police, academia, journalists, researchers, etc.) attended the program. Dr. Silwal, during his presentation, addressed some prevalent misconceptions regarding security in Nepal. He highlighted that, contrary to popular belief, the Nepalese army is not solely responsible for the nation's security. Instead, the Honorable Prime Minister, in close coordination with the Security Council, oversees security matters in Nepal. Unlike countries such as India and the US, Nepal does not have a centralized security agency like RAW or the CIA to manage its overall security framework. Several pertinent questions were raised during the presentation: Why does Nepal seem to experience no security lapses during visits from foreign heads of state, unlike other countries? Why is there a security strategy in place that is not fully implemented? Is the current size of the Nepalese army adequate? Additionally, there is an ongoing debate about the army's involvement in developmental activities.



Dr. Silwal emphasized that the army alone cannot ensure complete national security. Security must be understood in a comprehensive manner, encompassing aspects such as sovereignty, food security, health security, and more. Security concerns are inherently strategic. A common misconception is that neighboring giants, India and China, prioritize Nepal's development; however, their primary concern is security, not Nepal's development. Nepal is committed to ensuring that its territory is not used against any other country, which necessitates vigilance and balanced international relations.

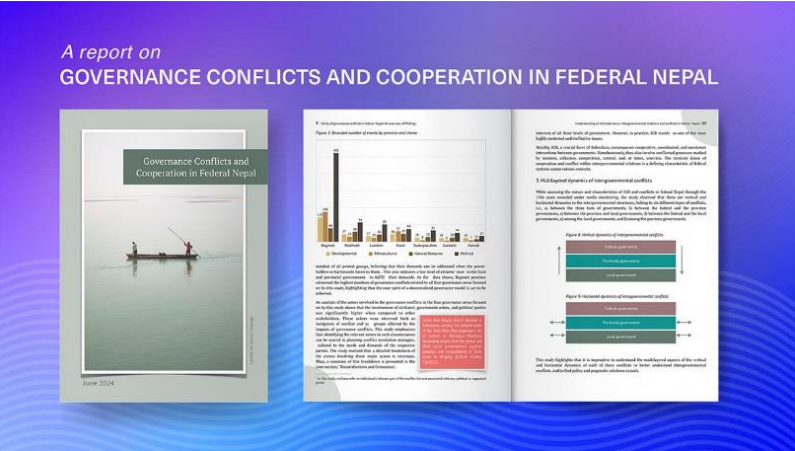
The overarching message of the presentation was that political stability is crucial for national security. Security should not be viewed in isolation but rather as a collective responsibility. Every citizen should be conscious of and take responsibility for security concerns. It is evident that a nation's downfall is often due to internal failures rather than external factors

Insights on National Dialogue on Governance Conflicts in Nepal

Dr. Rudra Suwal, Senior Economist and Lead of the Economic Development Program at Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), participated in the "National Dialogue on Governance Conflicts and Cooperation in Federal Nepal," hosted by the Centre for Social Change (CSC) on June 21 at Basera Boutique Hotel, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu. The event, which started from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, convened government officials, civil society members, private sector leaders, and policymakers to discuss governance conflicts in Nepal. It focused on natural resources, development, ethno-cultural issues, and political conflicts. CSC presented findings from its two-year media monitoring study of governance conflicts.

The session included insights from three panelists and an open floor discussion on inter-governmental conflicts and civil unrest.

CSC, through its Governance Monitoring Centre (GMC Nepal), regularly shares such findings via reports, infographics, and blog articles. Dr. Suwal was positive towards CSC's initiatives, advocating for ongoing collaboration to address governance issues.



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As the event concluded, participants voiced optimism about the prospects for improved governance practices and conflict resolution mechanisms in Nepal. The collective insights and recommendations from the dialogue are anticipated to significantly influence policy formulation and implementation strategies, enhancing governance and cooperation within the federal system.

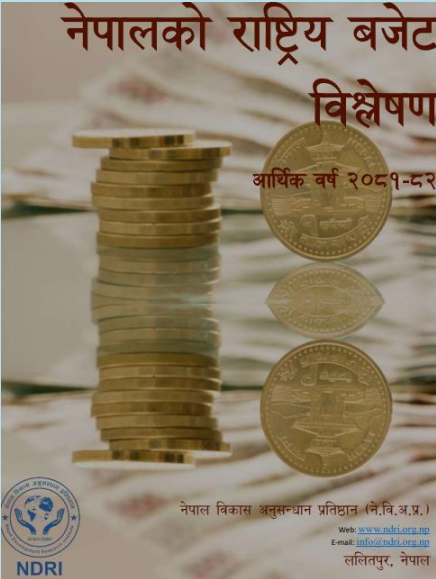


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