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Development Theories and Contemporary Issues Prof. Badri Dev Pandey- Ph.D.

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Development Theories and Contemporary Issues Prof. Badri Dev Pande¹

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Abstract

Mankind made a great stride in all fronts since the lifetime of Gautam Buddha. As a result of human development, development of human capital and technological miracles, status of natural resources and all aspects of human lives have changed. A wide variety of commodities are produced and processed offering a range of choices for human convenience and consumption. Movement of people and products have been quicker and more efficient. However, all these changes did not take place overnight. Evolution of theories and their practice are largely responsible for these changes. Not all these changes have benefited mankind and the mother earth. Population growth and human activities have degraded the environment to the extent that many parts of the world have become unfit as habitat for plants and animals including human beings and human beings are struggling to survive. Due to climate change, an increasing number of species is becoming extinct. The teachings of Buddha have become more relevant now than ever in order to restore the degraded environment and make sustainable living possible. Nepal's economic growth, social reforms and environmental conservation practices were guided by periodic plans and conservation strategies. The comparative advantages of this country are promising enough towards realization of sustainable development.

Key words: Human development, Buddhism, Poverty, Sustainable development, Climate Change.

Declaration: There is no conflict of interest and the article is based on consulted articles

Introduction

Human Development: Human development has been a concern of a state for time immemorial and continues to be so. In Nepal Rama Raja or the period of reign of Lord Rama is a household word to denote the state of governance where welfare of the general people is given utmost importance. Lord Rama is estimated to have born over 7,000 years back. During his reign, welfare of the people included not only financial security but also access to the ruler to lodge complains and happiness for all. The fact that human development is more than economic wellbeing is propagated also by philosopher like Aristotle (384-322 B.C.). In his view "wealth is evidently not the good we are seeking, for it is merely useful for the sake of something else." He argued that a good political arrangement enables people to lead "flourishing lives." While a country's resources are mobilized for economic growth, the increased wealth may not benefit all the citizens unless an arrangement is made for equitable distribution of such wealth.



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In their early stages of development, countries focused on increasing national income with little or no consideration for the welfare of those who contributed to economic growth. Economic growth is only a subset of human development paradigms. The key to this development is widening choices. People should be aware and educated enough to enjoy freedom. They should be enabled to enjoy a healthy life. Every person should be able to participate in social activities and have a respectful position in the society. No one should be discriminated on the ground of gender, economic status or any aspects of social status.

As indicated by UNDP published human development reports, there are many countries in the world with high per capita income but the status of human development in those countries is poor. Women do not enjoy the same amount of privileges in terms of education and freedom of movement as men do. Due to lack of adequate health care, life expectancy is lower than in some of the countries with less per capita income. Not all the high income countries have offered their subjects what is valuable to them such as freedom of movement and speech, assertion of cultural and religious values and participation in civil society (UNDP, 2006).

Human development includes educational opportunities for all children with special provisions for children from geographically and socially disadvantaged families. Adults who could not acquire any form of education for various reasons should have the opportunity for exposure to literacy classes and vocational education of their interest. All citizens must have the opportunity for continuing education in a wide variety of fields including music, sports and upgrading of skills.

Life expectancy with quality and affordable healthcare system are good indicators in any country towards achievement of an appreciable level of human development. People should be enabled to enjoy clean air and pollution free water to the extent possible. For a healthy and happy living, it is essential to have plenty of greenery both in urban and rural areas.

Human Capital and Human Capability: It is now an established fact that human productivity is enhanced with education and improved health. As formal and non-formal education provide knowledge and skill, production capacity of a person is increased. It is this productivity that is referred to as human capital. A healthy person is able to do more than an individual suffering from multiple ailments. Knowledge about healthcare is increased among population with education. Improved health services made available at little or no cost increase production capacity of working population.

In addition to direct impact of education and health services on productivity, there are many other indirect benefits as shown by a number of studies. With increased income people will have more money at their disposal to educate their children and provide healthcare. An educated mother is more conscious of health and education of her children. With education people earn respect in society.



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They become more capable to participate in social activities. They add to national income and prestige. With education and improved healthcare, people are enabled to live a fuller life. Their choices are enlarged.

Poverty: When people are poor, their whole effort is directed at meeting their basic needs (food, shelter and clothing). Education and improved health do not include in their priority. They prefer more children because the more working hands they have the more family earnings. The other characteristic of people living in poverty is that they have shorter life span.

UNDP (1997) in its human development report deliberated on global poverty situation. The report noted a significant progress in reducing poverty over the past 50 years. At the same time it pointed to limited choices that people living in a large number of countries enjoyed. The report elaborated on widespread disparities against different segments of population including discrimination against girls and women. It recommended governments to invest more financial resources for human development activities.

Natural Resources and Economic Growth: In order to meet the demand for food, shelter clothing and other necessities for ever increasing population, more production of such commodities is needed. There is over dependence on natural resources to meet the growing demand for those necessities. A large stock of manpower is and their marketing. Similarly, construction and transportation deployed for mobilizing natural resources for such economic activities as plantation and harvesting of agricultural products, extraction of mineral resources, processing of agricultural and industrial products sectors require a huge number of working hands. Increased employment means increased personal income which in turn adds to national economic growth.

While natural resources are source of economic growth, their excessive exploitation without proper consideration of their sustainability leads to depletion of those resources to the extent that many economic activities which depend on certain types of resources may cease to operate. Not all natural resources are renewable. Mineral resources such as petroleum products once exploited cannot be regenerated or are generated at a very slow pace.

The other side of economic growth is that many of the economic activities cause pollution. Industrial plants along river sides have polluted even the large sized river as the Ganges in India. Nepal's rivers and lakes are polluted due to such industrial and commercial establishments as manufacturing plants, hotels and shops. Due to population growth and haphazard use of water resources, it has become unsafe to drink tap water as well as water from rivers and streams. A large percentage of Nepal's population is suffering from water borne diseases.



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Human and industrial activities are polluting air to the extent that Nepal's urban areas have experienced air pollution well beyond the national standard and WHO standard. This has resulted in health problems among and old. Asthma, skin infection and eye irritation are common problem.

Land quality is degraded as a result of haphazard use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. In a bid to increase production, hybrid seeds are introduced. Indigenous food grain varieties are vanishing at a rapid pace.

Sustainable Development Goals: It has been over three decades since the world community raised voice for sustainable development. The Earth Summit held in Rio de Janerio, Brazil in 1992 was the beginning of planned effort to save earth. That UN organized summit had the participation of heads of states and heads of government from across the globe. Convention on Biological Diversity and Agenda 21 were landmark strategies approved by the summit. The participating countries committed themselves to launch conservation programs in their own countries.

The UN carried out follow-up programs to monitor progress and launched the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. The Millennium Declaration was signed in 2002. Through its eight goals, it aimed at combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. By 2015 some countries made impressive gains in achieving the Millennium Development Goals while many countries failed to do so due largely to high levels of HIV/AIDS, economic hardships or conflict.

In 2015 there were 17 new interlinked Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were set by the United Nations General Assembly, known as Agenda 30, these goals are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. There are 169 integrated and indivisible associated targets (United Nations 2015).

The 17 goals are as follows.

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for All
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



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- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment And decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster Innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable Development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss at all levels.
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable development.

SDGs are very relevant to the current situation in Nepal. The first target, poverty, is a burning issue. It is primarily due to poverty that youth are going in a large number to gulf countries, Malaysia, South Korea and many more countries in search of a more secure future for themselves and their families. Although hunger is not a major issue in Nepal, malnutrition is common among young and old. Therefore, the second agenda, zero hunger, also needs attention of the concerned authorities. The third SDG agenda, good health and wellbeing is a major concern in Nepal. Due to poverty, ignorance, lack of health facilities near home, people are suffering with a number of health problems. The fourth agenda, quality education, requires a lot of reforms. Although net and gross enrollments in Nepal's schools are satisfactorily high, drop-out and repetition rates in public schools are disappointingly high. There is a dearth of qualified, competent and committed teachers. Student and teacher irregularity in schools and less than specified number of classroom instruction are common features of most public schools. In general, school infrastructures are less than satisfactory.

The sixth SDC agenda, clean water and sanitation, urgently demands change in people's attitude and behavior as well as efforts on the part of local and central authorities to meet the financial and technical necessities. With increased population, migration from rural to urban areas and ever emerging cities and towns, sources of water are getting more polluted. People are increasingly relying on mineral water whose quality is also questionable.



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Because there is a shortage of clean water in many urban and rural areas, people are unable to maintain cleanliness even if they want to do so.

Affordable and clean energy, the seventh SDC agenda, is making more sense in Nepal. People's dependence on fossil fuels to meet their cooking needs is on the decline. Alternatively, people in rural areas are using bio-gas, liquefied petroleum gas and electricity. Since the production of hydroelectricity is on the increase. People in urban areas also are developing the habit of using electricity for cooking purposes. However, due to poverty, people's purchasing capacity is still low. Unless the price of electricity is drastically reduced, a large percentage of population will not be able to afford cooking and heating with water generated electricity. Although the use of bio-gas is on the increase, there are practical problems in its expanded and sustainable use.

Nepal is fortunate to have immense potential for hydroelectricity generation. However, there is a problem in raising the huge amount of investment to generate electricity and having transmission lines for supply of electricity. For lack of adequate and efficient infrastructures, a substantial amount of electricity is being leaked or stolen.

Gender equality, the next SDG agenda, also desires significant improvement in the context of Nepal. There is no legal discrimination against women in receiving benefits from the state and other agencies but a large number of girls and women continue to suffer economic, social and cultural discriminations. School enrollment of girls at primary level is as those of boys. Girls' enrollment declines in proportion to boys' enrollment at secondary and higher level of education.

Nepal has a long way to go in achieving the eighth SDC target, decent work and economic growth. Because the economy is unable to absorb the ever increasing youth in the job market, a large number of young women and men are forced to seek full of risk employment abroad. Worst form of child labor is common despite the legal restrictions against it. It is a challenge to achieve seven percent GDP growth annually. Most of the economic activities are labor intensive. Technological upgrading and innovations are minimal. The ninth SDC agenda, industry, innovation and infrastructure, is no less important in the context of Nepal. Over the past seven decades Nepal gives utmost importance to development of road infrastructure.



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Industrial growth has not kept pace with road infrastructure. In spite of a huge potential for a varieties of industries based on raw materials available within the country, the initiatives both at the governmental level and private sector are insignificant. Given Nepal's favorable climate and topography, there is ample opportunity for innovation in multiple areas including agriculture, horticulture and medicinal plants.

Reduced inequality is the 10th SDG target. Although Nepal is relatively small in land mass and population, she is rich in various cultures. There are over 120 ethnic groups with almost as many languages spoken. There is a great variation in terms of economic status too. Social discrimination on the ground of caste and ethnicity is also common. Although efforts were made to eliminate such ill practices, more awareness raising programs and legal measures are warranted.

A large number of unskilled and semi -skilled Nepali youth are employed in gulf countries, Malaysia and South Korea. They are reported to have gone through a great deal of hurdles in dealing with manpower companies within Nepal and with their employers abroad. It seems like there are no responsible governmental or other agencies to address the issues and problems faced by these workers.

Sustainable cities and communities is the eleventh SDG target. As the other parts of the world, Nepal is becoming increasingly urbanized. People are migrating to urban areas and the rural areas themselves are getting urbanized. This has resulted in pressure on essential services such as drinking water, transportation and open space in urban areas. The quality of air is also deteriorating. In order to make cities and communities sustainable, both the concerned authorities and community people need to be responsible. So far the municipalities are limiting themselves to garbage collection and minimum construction and maintenance of infrastructures within their jurisdiction. There are plans for sanitation and beautification of urban areas but they are rarely implemented.

Responsible consumption and production is the twelfth SDG b target. Due to easy access to junk food and busy life of urban population, young and old alike are becoming increasingly reliant on junk food and readymade imported products. Agricultural land is becoming scarce as construction work for residential and commercial purposes is on the rise. Because of it economic activities have increased and so has mobility of the people. After federalization of the country, provincial as well as the local governments have extensively invested on road infrastructure.

Use of chemical fertilizers for food grain production and use of pesticides for vegetable farming have degraded land quality and adversely affected people's health. Monitoring by concerned authorities to ensure quality food has been ineffective.

Climate action is the thirteenth agenda of SDG. No country is spared from the effect of climate change. The worse is yet to come.



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Nepal has recognized the need for developing policies and taking action to adapt and take mitigation measures against the effect of climate change. Climate change subject is included in school and college level curriculum. In line with the sustainable development goal, Nepal needs to do more to reduce the effect of climate change including precautionary measures against possible future events.

Life below water is the fourteenth goal of SDG. Being a landlocked country and away from sea shores, Nepal is not directly concerned with marine or coastal areas. However, there are many rivers and lakes with a variety of aquatic lives that need protection from human settlements and industrial and commercial activities. As a responsible member of the United Nations, Nepal needs to support the initiatives taken by member countries to safeguard life below water.

Life on land is the fifteenth goal of SDG. Nepal has designated nearly a quarter of her surface area as parks, wildlife reserves and protected areas. Many indigenous and rare wild lives are thriving in these conserved areas. Nepal's natural heritage has attracted domestic as well as international tourists. The mountain ecosystem of this country is of great international interest. There are many in the preservation of rare natural resources of Nepal. A number of factors including poachers, climate change, lack of research and financial resources pose threats to life on land in Nepal.

Peace and justice strong institutions is the sixteenth goal of SDG. Like in many countries, torture and violence against children and scheduled caste is common also in Nepal. Although there is the National Human Rights Commission and many civil rights organizations, all forms of prejudice and discriminations still prevail. Through their presence in the country, international agencies have played a significant role in supporting the government and civil societies in their efforts to provide justice and relief to the oppressed. These institutions need to be further strengthened and institutionalized.

Partnership to achieve the goal is the last and seventeenth goal of SDG. For achieving the sustainable development goals, a developing country like Nepal needs substantial amount of financial resources. The resources required should be mobilized both from internal as well as external resources.

Human Capital and Growth: Human capital is formed through investment to enhance human productivity. Expenditures on education, on the job training programs, medical care, motivational programs and other programs to improve skills and abilities result in human capital development. Formation of human capital alone does not cause economic growth. Physical capital in the form of tangible investment good such as plant and equipment and machinery and buildings are required.



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Economic growth in Nepal is slow due to short comings both in human capital formation and physical capital. Employees are not always placed in positions for which they are educated or trained. Nepal lacks educational institutions that are staffed with qualified and trained teachers. Those institutions are often ill equipped in physical facilities as well.

It is clear that human capital and productive manpower paves the way for economic growth. At the same time growth is necessary to generate human capital. In order to impart quality education and training, monetary investment to recruit qualified teachers and instructors, to construct appropriate buildings and infrastructures as well as to purchase necessary equipment and software.

Human Development Paradigm

Human development paradigm puts people at the center. People are looked as both means and end of development. Efforts are made to broaden choices and opportunities so that economic, social, cultural or political choices are enlarged. Mere economic expansion does not necessarily lead to enlargement of choices. Societies without much economic expansion can also provide opportunities for choices. Providing equal respect and opportunities to women does not cost much. Instilling democratic principles and practices in a society also does not cost money. The human development paradigm gives as much importance to political, cultural and social factors as the economic factors. There is a purpose in building human capability enhanced through investment on people. The educated and skilled manpower should be fully utilized for which they were educated and trained. Besides increasing productivity, the enlightened people will be better able to participate in social activities and have a broader perspective of the world around them. The state has an important role to play in such vital aspects as moderating inequality, restructuring national budget and accelerating pro-poor growth.

Measurement of Human Development

It is not an easy task to measure human development situation in a particular country. There is no unanimity as to what exactly human development indicators are and how to measure them. It is generally agreed that a country high in human development offers a wide variety of choices to its citizens. UNDP started measuring human development in 1990 for individual countries collecting data on life expectancy at birth, adult literacy and school and tertiary level enrollments and per capita income. The most critical human choices are to lead a long and healthy life, to acquire knowledge and to have financial resources for a decent standard of living.



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With the introduction of National Education System Plan in 1971, Nepal took many significant steps to boost human capability. The present day education system is the result of several experiments in varying geographical, social and cultural set-up of the country. Most recently, under the federal system of government, local governments are given the responsibility to manage school level education themselves. This has paved the way for paying closer attention to local needs. Nepal has achieved a remarkable progress in school enrollment both of girls as well as boys. Numerous technical education and vocational training centers at the initiative of the government and private sector entrepreneurs. However, much remains to be done towards quality improvement of general as well as technical education and vocational training.

Through the publication of human development report annually starting in 1990, UNDP has facilitated dialogues among member countries on human development issues. Each annual report covers a different topic stimulating debates on what went wrong and way forward to take corrective action. The 1990 report pointed out that poverty alleviation was one of the keys to human development. It reminded of the vast potential of human development in developing countries. In order to cash that potential, the report stressed the need for restructuring national priorities and foreign assistance allocation. The 1994 human development report analyzed that each country was spending a huge sum of money in the name of national security and border security. The report drew the attention of those countries about the need for investing on security of people for better lives and not just for better weapons.

Nepal started producing its own human development report from 1998. Poverty was the main theme of the 2001 Nepal Human Development Report. The next report produced in 2004 was on empowerment and poverty reduction. The HDR produced annually includes human development index (HDI) showing how a country compares with another. The limitation of this report is that many other choices such as political, economic social, and cultural freedom are not accounted for. UNDP developed gender disparity index (GDI) in 1995. In the same year social scientists developed gender empowerment measure (GEM) using the indicators measuring three dimensions namely political participation and decision making, economic participation and decision making and power over economic resources. In order to measure human poverty. Human poverty index (HPI) was introduced in 1999. Gross happiness index (GHI), first introduced by the King of Bhutan, is also being adapted by several countries in the world. All these indexes are trying to measure the level and extent of choices that different countries have made available to their citizens.



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Climate Change and Development

Climate change is affecting all countries in one way or another. It is now proven that due to greenhouse gas emission, the earth is getting warmer. When there is a rise in temperature, coastal areas get inundated. Due to flooding in those areas people living in coastal lines are displaced. Temperature rise has profound effect on biodiversity. A vast number of plant species, animals, insects and aquatic lives may get extinct. This obviously has affected development adversely.

In Nepal the visible effect of climate change is melting of snow in the Himalayan region. Unlike the snow-clad mountains in the past, even higher slopes of the mountains are looking bare. Melting snow has created glacial lakes. Many of these lakes are likely to outburst which will have devastating effect on the lives and property of settlements below the glacial lakes. Himalayas are considered perennial source of water. If the pace of snow melting continues unabated, the future of snow-fed rivers is uncertain. Major hydro power plants in Nepal depend on snow fed rivers. These rivers are providing the much needed water for irrigation and household consumption.

Human activities are blamed for most of climate change. Vehicle emissions are major contributors to greenhouse gas effect. Nepal's over dependence on fossil fuels for cooking purposes is also responsible for giving a boost to greenhouse gas effect. Increased industrial activities at home and in neighboring countries make widespread impact on climate change. While economic activities are important for creating jobs and economic growth of a country, they should not be at the cost of adversely affecting climate change.

The world community is increasingly becoming concerned of the consequences of climate change. At the initiative of the United Nations, the 2015 Paris accord on climate change was a significant step towards mitigating the effects of climate change. The main achievement of that accord was to reduce the worldwide average temperature increase by more than two degrees Celsius compared to the temperature of preindustrial era. There was a setback in this effort when the United States withdrew from Paris Agreement during the presidency of Donald Trump. With the decision of the new president, Joe Biden, to reenter the Paris Accord, there is optimism towards expedition of the process of achieving the goals of that accord. Nepal has much to do to adapt to climate change and take mitigation measures. The estimated 45 percent forest coverage needs to be preserved and expanded. Bhutan is a successful example in this regard where more than a half the country's land mass is covered with forest. Nepal is no longer a country of villages and rapidly urbanizing. Even the most remote parts of the country have access to vehicles. Petrol and diesel run vehicles are major contributors to greenhouse gases.



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Electric vehicles and bicycle culture need to be promoted in all urban settlements. Use of clean energy both for cooking and transportation purposes will go a long way translating national climate change policies into practice and in fulfilling the objectives of Paris Agreement.

Buddhism, Socioeconomics and Environment

Although environmental degradation during Buddhist era was not as bad as it is today, there is much to learn from Buddhism towards alleviation of the present day woes. The very name "Buddha" is synonym to peace. The teachings of Buddha is no more relevant now for peace building than any time before. With his own example, Buddha gave the message to the world that it was more important to follow a simple life style than to indulge in luxury by ignoring the reality of life. For Buddha inner happiness was the key for achieving sustainable development.

Unlike conventional economics which discusses about people's unlimited wants even at the cost of health hazards and waste of money, the Buddhist philosophy propagates quality of life. For instance, in the pretense of making food varieties tastier, all kinds of preservatives are added. These preservatives cost additional amount and may also be unhealthy. The Buddhist economics emphasizes on natural food and simple living thus enhancing quality of food. Buddhism is conscious of the need for conserving the environment. Gautam Buddha was born under a tree. He gained enlightenment under a tree. He preached and shared his wisdom under many trees. He died in the shade of trees. A symbol of peace himself, Buddha experienced inner peace of mind in natural environment.

Nepal's Development Efforts and Comparative Advantage

Nepal has the history of planned development of over six decades. The first five-year plan was brought out in 1956. By 2019, nine five-year plans and five three-year plans were formulated. Through these plans, Nepal aimed at making great strides in all fronts of socioeconomic development. However, for a number of reasons the objectives of these plans were only partially achieved. In the first place, many of the targets set were over ambitious. Secondly, the country did not have the skilled manpower needed for successful implementation of the plans.



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Thirdly, the financial resources required by these plans were simply not available. Moreover, unstable governments, rampant corruption, natural disasters, the great earthquake of 2015 and Covid-19 pandemic were deterrents to Nepal's economic growth and social order. Despite these setbacks, increase in school enrollment rate and adult literacy rate are impressive. The progress in health sector also is no less impressive. Massive investment on road infrastructure has made movement of goods and people easier. Access to communication networks like mobile phones and internet has not only entertained the public but also simplified economic transactions.

The periodic development plans included environmental conservation issues and plans to respond to those issues as well. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation of the Ministry of Forests was assigned with the important task of protecting and conserving national parks, wildlife reserves and protected areas comprising a large segment of surface area. According to 2018 data, 23.63 percent of the land is designated as terrestrial protected areas. Likewise, the Department of Forests of the same ministry is entrusted with the protection and conservation of national forests. This department played a pivotal role in promoting community forests to the extent of significantly impacting socio-economic lives of rural communities in all districts. Besides the periodic plans, sectorial plans were formulated complementing the periodic development plan. The National Conservation Strategy which was formulated in 1988, was a landmark document aimed at cross sectorial conservation of Nepal's natural and cultural heritage. This strategy was reviewed and revised resulting in a document entitled National Strategic Framework for Nature Conservation (2015-2030).

Nepal lags in economic development but there is no reason to be in that position for a long time to come as this country has comparative advantage in many fronts. It is a peaceful country with favorable climate for all types of food grains, cash crops, horticulture and herbs. Nepal already attracts a large number of tourists. This number can be substantially increased with planned promotional activities. Being the birth place of Buddha, Lumbini attracts thousands of tourists from countries like Japan, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia and Sri Lanka. With the construction of international airport near Lumbini, the number of visitors can be expected to substantially increase. There is also the potential for more mountain tourism and adventure tourism. Over the years, domestic tourism has also experienced a significant increase.



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