

Scope and Definition of Cultural Industries In The Area of National Strategies And Policy

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Background

The Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal lies in between the two great countries India and China. Human history recorded the dawn of civilization in both the countries in ancient time. As Nepal remained as a transit point between her two great neighbours cultural interactions of both the countries passes through Nepal. As a result of it the essence of both the culture can be marked in Nepalese culture which gave birth to the original Nepalese culture.

One of the significant features of Nepalese culture is a unity in cultural diversity. The different ethnic groups composed Nepalese nationality. The Nepalese culture thus marked the characteristics of all these ethnic groups. It also indicated the significant features of religious toleration. The Hindu temple stood side by side the Buddhist stupa. The same shrine is regarded as a sanctum of sanctorium by the Hindus and the Buddhist. The same idol is worshipped by different sects of people in their own way.

The Nepalese culture is also marked by the intellectual, spiritual and moral values of life. Its cultural flavour indicates the way of life, the a esthetic sense of the people, their sense of imagination, emotion and wisdom, their sense of devotion and dedication etc. It also demonstrates the flavour of the soil, climatic as well as geo-physical effect. The food habit of the people, the language and literature, the dressing pattern and their habitation all are reflected in Nepalese culture. The reflection of the Nepalese culture is visible in their fine arts such as vocal and instrumental music as well as dancing.

The Nepalese art, architecture, sculpture and paintings also demonstrate Nepalese culture. All tangible and intangible cultural heritage are the best expression of the Nepalese culture. the Nepalese architecture design resembled with that of the structure of mountain. The roof of the house looked like the slope of the hill. Generally the typical Nepali house has roof with two slopes. The pinnacle of the house or temple looked like that of the peak of the mountain.

Riverine culture

Ancient civilization and culture flourished by the river side. As river Indus helped in the origin of Indus valley culture, river Nile contributed in the development of Egyptian culture. Nepalese culture has been influenced by the great rivers like Gandaki, Koshi, Karnali and Bagmati etc. The fertility of soil by the river valley, the availability of drinking water contributed in the origin and development of civilization and culture. Therefore, the Nepalese civilization and culture may be termed as riverine culture.

Cave dwelling

The other striking feature of the Nepalese civilization and culture is the cave dwelling. In India, China and Nepal, people in ancient time used to live in the caves. These caves are not only natural caves, rather they are made by human beings. As early as 900 B.C. the people of northern Nepal used to live in the caves made by human beings. It is evident from the archaeological explorations and excavations made in Mustang district lying by the boarder of China. The caves were used both for habitation as well as burial of dead bodies. We have been able to discover different tired caves in Muktinath valley of Mustang district. The cave painting, the habitational pattern, the storage of food grains in the caves reveal the fact that people used to live in the caves 2900 years ago.

Nepal is mountainous country. Life in the mountain is very hard. People have to go up and down in the mountain in meeting their needs of daily life. The Nepalese people

therefore, have to pass their hard life. So they are known as hardy mountaineers. Their muscles are strong and their nerves are just like iron and steel. So they serve in the army and they are very good fighters. They are renowned as Gokhas. But they are peaceful in nature. They are inspired by the doctrine of Buddhism. In the Buddhist stupa we find two eyes and one dot in the centre which symbolises Pragya and upaye, enlightenment and compassion. The central dot symbolises the way to eternity. So the Nepalese people are moved by this spiritual doctrine. The Nepalese people are peace loving and moved by the spirit of compassion and always look for the spiritual values of life. In other words they are moved by these high ideals of salvation. This high ideal is reflected in her proposal of declaring Nepal as the zone of peace. Many countries of the world has endorsed this proposal.

Lord Buddha, the apostle of peace was born in Nepal. He has shown the way of salvation to the humanity at large. More than one billion people follow the way today which Lord Buddha has shown. Buddha's doctrine of peace and compassion is honoured by all the peace loving people of the world. The Nepalese culture is marked by these ideals and theological principles.

Declaration of Cultural Policy

After the successful revival of parliamentary democracy in Nepal His Majesty the king while addressing in 1991 (2048 B.S.) declared that the new government will frame a new policy on culture.

In his address His Majesty proclaimed "My government will make a new policy decision relating to education and culture with the overall evaluation of the present education policy."

The new constitution of the kingdom of Nepal 1990 states in its preamble that the new constitution will secure the basic human rights of each citizen by promoting fraternity and unity among the Nepalese people on the basis of liberty and equality.

In the chapter IV of the constitution entitled "Directive Principle of State Policy the article 26 sub clause (2) entitled "Policies of State", it was mentioned that the state will follow policy to maintain national unity among cultural diversity in the country by developing language, literature, script, art and culture by developing sound and smooth social relationship of the people of different race, rank, religion, community and languages.

In 1991 the House of Representatives in its winter session passed a resolution which recommended that His Majesty's Government shall take immediate action for the practical implementation of effective programmes which will reflect the sense of the constitution with the aim of fostering national unity by avoiding inequality that existed in the present day society of the country by providing justifiable opportunity and make special provision in the field of education, health, government, semi-government as well as economic and social aspects in developing the backward class, different castes, tribal groups, and communities with different languages, culture, script and art and among them also develop the backward castes and tribal groups from economic, social, political point of view.

In December 1991 His Majesty's Government (9th Push 2048) formed a committee for the formulation of national cultural policy and programme. The committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ishwor Baral, the then Vice-chancellor of Royal Nepal Academy included nineteen members. In Jan. 1992 (21st Magh 2048) the committee formed a drafting sub-committee of six members. The sub-committee completed the draft in Feb. 1992 (11th Chaitra 2048) and finalised it. In March 1992 (23rd of Baisakh) the committee submitted the report to the Minister of Education and Culture. In the same year it was approved by the cabinet for implementation. The main points of National Cultural Policy are as follows.

Main points of national cultural policy

1. The desirable aim should be to work according to the constitution in providing liberty, facility and co-operation in respect of fundamental rights of different castes and community inhabiting in the kingdom of Nepal for the conservation, promotion of their language, script and culture.
2. The government will undertake active concern for the promotion and development of tribal group and community for cultural activities but it will not interfere and will not follow the policy of controlling in their activities.
3. The government itself should be active in the conservation and repair of cultural heritage and it will co-operate and encourage the non governmental, organisations, community as well as

- culture loving people in their constructive activities as far as possible.
4. Under the Policy of encouraging and supporting different cultural activities in the kingdom the government:
 - (a) will take the policy of co-operation in the establishment of foundation of local, regional and national level centre and academy
 - (b) will take the policy of providing special emphasis at all levels of education in the study and training of national and tribal group culture.
 5. His Majesty's Government should adopt positive policy in the mobilisation of national and international resources for the conservation and promotion of national culture.
 6. The government will collect separate datas for the overall study, research, review and analysis of specific branches of all culture of the country.
 7. It will be necessary to make conservation of archaeological site, historical monuments and cultural heritage.
 8. It is indispensable to provide education to the backward tribal groups and community in their own mother languages.
 9. His Majesty's Government will provide equal marks to candidates studying other national languages as to those who have studied Nepali and English in the recommendations for appointment and promotion by Public Service Commission and at the same time should recognise other national languages as optional subjects in the curriculum of the Public Service Commission.
 10. The use of art pieces like handicraft, woodcraft and paintings produced by the Nepalese artists should be made compulsory in every government and semi-government organisations.
 11. It will be justifiable to provide necessary support to different government and semi-government organisations and other persons who are involved in the study and research relating to cultural heritage.
 12. Certain portion of the income of the temple. Guthi (trust) corporation should be compulsorily used for the conservation and promotion of culture and presentation of cultural programmes.

The following programmes will be undertaken under the national cultural policy.

Programmes under national cultural policy

1. Archaeological Conservation

- (a) Conserve different archaeological sites in different parts of the country as far as possible after the collection of datas from excavation and research.
- (b) Conserve the sites of religious and cultural importance from industrial and population hazards and preserve their beauty without being destroyed.
- (c) Conserve and develop sites and monument zones which are important from national and international point of view.

- (d) Collect, repair and conserve the objects of cultural heritage which are thrown away, neglected and which are also not secured.
- (e) Conserve different river side spaces (ghats) which are important from cultural point of view.
- (f) Stop intervention on the Guthi (trust) land, monumental and archaeological sites and reorganise such corporation to make it functioning by increasing revenue.
- (g) Prepare a national inventory of important monuments and other important cultural objects, conserve monument on priority basis in view of their condition and prepare specific policy for the conservation of important tangible cultural property.
- (h) In view of present need review and revise the Acts relating to Ancient Monument Preservation, Guthi (trust) Corporation, Town Development Committee of Kathmandu Valley.

2. Study and Research

- (a) Make adequate provision of study and research cell for study, research and conservation of cultural heritage in the Department of Archaeology. Provide necessary financial support to cultural corporation for the construction of a proposed new auditorium. Provide financial support for the construction of new rooms in National Library.
- (b) Make archaeological map of the whole Nepal. Excavate important

archaeological sites, conserve the excavated sites as soon as possible, conserve the important archaeological sites from growing urbanisation process by excavating them as soon as possible.

- (c) Establish a cultural documentation (for registration of archives) at the centre.
- (d) Regularise the publication of journals in other national languages other than Nepali. For this provide grants to them. Along with this publish best journals and book by encouraging folk culture and literary pieces on zonal basis.

3. Presentation - Publicity and Broadcasting

- (a) Publication after the study and research of the culture of the country at central level and demonstrate the cultural property at international level.
- (b) Introduce and popularise distinctive features of culture of all ethnic groups in keeping with the main stream of national culture.
- (c) Make documentary film or actual picture of cultural property according to need and prepare pictorial books of cultural property, Organise cultural tour for the students.
- (d) Regular broadcasting of the programmes from radio Nepal relating to the conservation of cultural property.
- (e) Make the people aware on the conservation of cultural property by

organising lectures, seminars, conferences and workshops of the politicians, the administrators and the teachers.

- (f) Help in broadcasting the programme of Unesco and other organisations relating to cultural property.
- (g) Organise cultural exchange programme with SAARC and other neighbouring countries.
- (h) Organise cultural festivals in and outside the countries making bilateral and multilateral agreements.
- (i) To adopt the policy in expanding the culture of different tribal groups through government publicity media.
- (j) Make an arrangement for the appointment of cultural Attaché at the Royal Nepalese Embassies in the friendly countries and make exhibition gallery of handicraft architecture, paintings and other cultural objects in those embassies.

4. Folk Culture

- (a) Encourage for the conservation and development of language, script, art, folk story, folk literature and culture of different tribal groups.
- (b) Organise exchange programme for the introduction of literature, art and culture of the tribal groups
- (c) Conserve and promote different cultural disciplines like languages, philosophy, folk literature, folk culture, dress and ornaments, architecture, paintings and sculptures.

5. Educational Curriculum

- (a) Make cultural conservation subject compulsory in the education system of the country. Include subject like conservation in the curriculum of the education from primary to University level.
- (b) Establish one technical school for higher training to the skilled and semi skilled artists, painters and craftsman.
- (c) Include different components of geographical features, history, tradition, life style, culture, profile of national heroes in the curriculum of national language Nepali.
- (d) His Majesty's Government shall make provision of imparting education to the children of each tribal group and community in their mother languages.
- (e) Impart literary education to the backward communities of Nepal in their mother languages.

6. Encouragement and Respect

- (a) Create atmosphere for the respectable life of learned scholars artists and institutions involved in promotion of culture. Organise national competition every year in music, instrumental music, dancing, fine art, handicraft, woodcraft and give justifiable prize and give them subsistence allowance.
- (b) Organise competitions which will demonstrate different tribal group culture in certain place and award the successful competitors.

- (c) Provide scholarship and subsistence allowance to the learned scholars studying and experimenting fine arts, music, handicraft and sculpture every year at national level.
- 7. Tourism**
- (a) Develop tourism infrastructure for the development and expansion of cultural tourism
- (b) Attract tourist by developing important historical and archaeological sites of Nepal like Lumbini, Kapilvastu, Gorkha, Dailekh, Mustang etc.
- 8. Organisational aspect**
1. Establish a separate cultural Ministry
 2. Set up a co-ordination committee at national level to avoid duplication of the activities of the agencies and organisations involved in cultural activities.
 3. Increase budgetary allocations in view of the cultural activities.
 4. Establish regional and local cultural centres for the implementation of cultural policy of HMG/N.
 5. Provide gratis visa to the foreign scholars who would like to study, research on the Nepalese culture.
 6. Establish separate academy in different discipline of Nepalese art.
 7. Establish regional museums on the Nepalese handicrafts, woodcrafts and fine arts.
8. Construct one auditorium in each district of the country and organise programme of tribal culture.
 9. Develop cultural property by establishing one cultural centre in each region of the country.
 10. Create one cultural Heritage fund by allocating at least one percent of the total national expenditure. For the increment of the fund make fund raising campaign at international level.

Conclusion

His Majesty's Government has approved the cultural policy in 1992 and has also directed to mobilize the local resources for the implementation of the policy. A bill was submitted in the parliament for the fifth amendment of the Ancient Monument Preservation Act, 2013 (1956). The parliament has passed the bill. The bill envisages for the establishment of Heritage Conservation Fund. Any donation or grant for the conservation of cultural properties will be made tax free.

We are grateful to Unesco for launching an international campaign for safeguarding the monuments of Kathmandu Valley. Friendly countries like Germany, Austria, Japan, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Denmark and International Organisation like Unesco have been extending their support in monument conservation, excavating the monumental sites in Nepal and in display of regional museum gallery as well as strengthening Nepal National Library. The other agencies like GTZ, Kathmandu Valley Preservation Trust, Nippon

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67

Institute of Technology Japan, Cawfield
Misezahl Institute for High Asian Studies
Germany are also creditable for co-operating
with the Nepalese archaeologists in exploration
excavation and conservation of historical and
archaeological monuments and sites. We look
forward for further co-operation.

We are having cultural exchange
programmes with our friendly countries as well
as with the countries of SAARC region. As the
Nepalese people constituted of different races
and ethnic groups like Aryan, Mongolian, Indo
Mongolian Nepal has remained as the melting
pot of different culture and civilisation. In our
national languages we have many foreign
words too. Anthropological and lingual studies
will reveal many cultural similarities with the
countries of south east Asia like Korea, Japan,
China and Mongolia etc. Exploration in such
areas in quite desirable.

Philosophy and religion like Buddhism has
been a strong tie in Nepal's relation with many
countries of the world. The glorious tradition of
visiting Nepal as the birthplace of Lord Buddha
continued since 3rd century B.C. The Chinese
travellers like Fahien (5th century A.D.) Hiuen
Tsang (7th century A.D.) Wang Huentse (7th
century) visited Nepal. In the same way the

Buddhist monk from Korea venerable Hycho
visited Nepal in the 12th century A.D. The
mission of Lord Buddha as Universal peace and
brotherhood of mankind will be realised in
present time when we will have more visitors
from all over the world as tourist as well as
pilgrims. The International Buddhist Research
Institute established in Lumbini with Reyukai
support will have great scholars from different
parts of the globe for Buddhist learning and
higher research. We will have more interaction
with eminent scholars and this will widen the
scope of international co-operation and
collaboration.

Recently His Majesty's Government has
organised a new Ministry of Youth, Sports and
Culture. The ministry is already in operation.
We would like to conserve our cultural heritage
and promote cultural co-operation on bilateral
and multilateral basis and would like to foster
the sense of brotherhood of mankind in general
and enrich our culture in particular.

German Government

area, His Majesty

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Cooperation, all

p. 11