

financial support of the Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Entwicklung, a curriculum for a three-month course to train Local Development Officers. That despite their good qualification these LDOs failed to effect a decisive and long-term impact must be attributed to the fact that the above-mentioned criterion of communication remained unfulfilled, since the officials of the various ministries were unwilling to come to an agreement with the LDOs over individual projects.

In addition, the Panchayat System with its political hierarchies also impeded participation. Not only was it a rigid partyless system which left no room for dissenters, but it also made decentralization the task of its highly centralized political structure - a system - immanent *contradictio in adjecto*. This is not to assert that the Panchayat era lacked in successful projects, but to presume that with more people's participation much more could have been achieved. The example of the Small Farmers Development Programme (SFDP) demonstrates how it was possible to stimulate participation among the poor with subsidies from the state during the Panchayat period. Initiated by FAO, the Programme came under the management of the Agricultural Development Bank whose qualified workers, the so-called Group Organizers, were commissioned to organize groups among poor small farmers and motivate them to take up credits for income-relevant activities, such as crop cultivation, irrigation, livestock, bio-gas plants, etc. Credits were also provided for activities of social importance, such as the construction of latrines, washing places, initiatives in family planning, adult education and the like. Group Organizers acted as advisors to the farmers and as mediators between them and the ministries. Being organized by external agents, the SFDP cannot be regarded as participation from below in the strict sense of the term, but it is a positive fact that by now more than 40 such projects could be set up in a total of 75 districts, and in most cases with lasting

success. The Programme has had its limitations in the increasing difficulty to recruit adequately trained and psychologically capable Group Organizers. Another limitation became manifest in those instances where local Panchayat elites managed to misuse such projects for their own benefit.

The Dhading Project, supported by German development aid, provides a second example of a successful undertaking that dates back to the Panchayat period. This is the first rural development project to be executed in accordance with the Decentralization Law. It gives the rural population the opportunity to decide on all those measures that concern the village and is designed as a self-supporting project to be continued even beyond the term of external financing. As observations show, villagers are definitely in a position to identify their problems, formulate and carry out action programmes in their sole responsibility; their technical abilities have also exceeded the expectations of the administration. Among the negative, critical factors were the deficient professional qualification of the population and the dullness of the administrative machinery, not least of the Panchayat bureaucracy into which the project was integrated.

Article 25 of the new democratic Constitution of the 9th November 1990 lays down briefly and unequivocally that "It shall be the main responsibility of the State to bring about conditions for the enjoyment of the fruits of democracy through maximum participation of the people in the governance of the country through the medium of decentralization of administration." In June 1990 already three laws were promulgated to determine the roles of the District Development Committee, the Town Development Committee and the Village Development Committee. The new Government under G.P. Koirala has adopted the decentralization policy, and the function of the Development Committee at the different levels has been the object of a number of deliberations since the summer of 1991. Thus, the Ministry of Local Development organized a

meeting in August 1991, in which MPs and Nepalese experts exchanged their views on form and function of these future "local governments". Convened by the Tribhuvan University, the political parties and other non-governmental organizations, several seminars and symposia provided a forum for discussing the tasks of the Local Development Committees. In October 1991, an Administrative Reform Commission was established with the aim of formulating proposals for a more efficient administration and a more adequate personnel structure with due regard to the principles of decentralization. In March 1992, Parliament had passed a Local Body Election Procedure Bill regulating the modalities of the elections to the Village, Town and District Development Committee, which took place in last May and June.

This development laid the institutional foundations of a democratic decentraliza-

tion and a more efficient people's participation. Fortunately and quite in contrast to the Panchayat System, the Government now aims at an intensive cooperation with non-governmental organizations, too, in the conception and execution of economic and social projects. It should also be noted that the eighth Development Plan (1992-1997) gives particular consideration to improving the living standard of the poor; up to 70% of the public development expenditure shall be for the benefit of the rural and backward areas.

To conclude, Nepal has arrived at a turning point by taking important steps towards economic development, decentralization and people's participation. Their success, however, presupposes an improvement of the so-called talk-action ratio: the hitherto prevalent discrepancy between word and deed must diminish considerably, indeed.

European Researchers affiliated with Tribhuvan University

Mangala Shrestha

Nepal was opened formally for foreigners after 1950. The foreigners were attracted to Nepal on account of its natural beauties, the virgin land, its unique and hidden culture, history, unique anthropological background, diversified geographical conditions, art and architecture and the high Himalayan ranges. The affiliation of foreign researchers with Tribhuvan University (TU) began only in 1968 (Shakya, 1984). However, many foreign scholars had done their researches on different disciplines even before the establishment of Tribhuvan University (1957) in Nepal.

The first authentic foreign researcher in Nepal was Kirkpatrick followed by Hamilton and Hodgson. In 1952, the Swiss government appointed with the permission of the Nepalese government a geologist,

Toni Hagen, to conduct a geological survey for Nepal. At present, there are many foreign researchers formally affiliated with different institutions or central departments or R.D. of T.U. The Research Division of T.U. renders academic administrative service to foreign researchers, i.e., receiving application forms and research proposals, evaluating the research proposals by the departments concerned and research centres, accepting or rejecting the proposals, affiliating the researchers to the departments concerned or research centres and recommending non-tourist visas through the Ministry of Education, Culture and Social Welfare.

The aim of this paper is to explore the number of European researchers formally affiliated with T.U. between the year 1980-

1990 and their areas and fields of research.

Number of European researchers affiliated with T.U. (1980-1990)

There were altogether 104 European Researchers registered for their research studies in T.U. during the years 1980-1990. It was found from the Research Division's records that researchers from 14 different European countries were registered to conduct their researches in affiliation with T.U. during the years 1980-1990. Among these 104 foreign researchers, 34 came from Germany, 30 from U.K., 8 from France, 7 from Switzerland, 6 from the Netherlands, 5 from Norway, 3 each from Sweden, Austria and Denmark, and 1 each from Spain, Hungary, Finland, Belgium and Ireland. The percentages of researchers from different European countries were 32.69% from Germany, 28.84% from U.K., 7.69% from France, 6.73% from Switzerland, 5.76% from the Netherlands and 4.80% from Norway. Likewise 2.88% researchers were from Sweden, Austria and Denmark and 0.96% researchers were from Spain, Hungary, Finland, Belgium and Ireland.

Popular Fields of Research for European Researchers

Out of 104 European researchers affiliated with T.U. over the year 1980-1990, 68 research studies were related to the social sciences, 15 were related to science and technology, 7 were related to medicine, 5 were related to forestry, 4 were related to agriculture and 2 were related to education. Likewise 1 each was related to music, law and management. Among the different subjects of the social sciences, the most popular fields of research for the researchers were anthropology, sociology and culture.

The percentage of foreign researchers occupied in the field of social sciences was 68.38%. Similarly the percentage of those researchers who did their researches in the fields of science and technology, and medicine were 14.42% and 6.73% respectively. The percentage in forestry, agriculture and

education were 4.80%, 3.84% and 1.92% respectively. Likewise in management, music and law the share of percentage was only 0.96% (Thapa, Shrestha, Sharma et al., 1991). The most attractive fields of research for the Europeans were anthropology, sociology, culture, science and technology, geography, medicine, forestry and so on.

Conclusion

After the political change in Nepal, the country was opened for foreigners in 1950. Like other foreigners, Europeans also started taking an interest in Nepal. The European researchers were interested in Nepalese culture, history, archeology, and the sociological and anthropological aspects of Nepal. Some also were interested in medicine, science and technology, forestry and so on. Nepalese life, its cultural heritage, castes, geological structure and other aspects were new to Europe, so the European researchers were attracted towards these subjects. Through its Research Division, Tribhuvan University helped to affiliate those researchers with T.U. who came to Nepal to undertake research projects on subjects related to Nepal.

As a consequence, the flow of European researchers has been increasing every year. However, T.U. has not had maximal benefit from these researchers due to the fact that many of the researchers collected the information and data in Nepal and returned to their countries without submitting the final reports to the Research Division (Thapa, Shrestha, Sharma et al., 1992.)

Among the European researchers German researchers were highest in number. The reason for this may be due to the fact that Tribhuvan University has an agreement with the Nepal Research Centre and Heidelberg University regarding the conducting of research by their researchers through these institutions.

References

Shakya, Soorya Bahadur. 1984. *Establishing and Development of Tribhuvan*

University (1955-1973). Research Division, Rector's Office, T.U., Kirtipur.

Kirtipur.

Thapa, K.B., Shrestha, M., Sharma, N. et al. 1991. *Foreign Researchers in Tribhuvan University (1980-1990): A Profile*. Research Division, Rector's Office, T.U.,

Thapa, K.B., Shrestha, M., Sharma, N. et al. 1991. *A Survey on Foreigner's Research Reports 1980-1990*. Research Division, Rector's Office, T.U., Kirtipur.

Table 1: Countrywise European Researchers and their field researches (1980-1990)

Field of Research	Social Science	Science & Technology	Medicine	Education	Forestry	Agriculture	Management	Music	Law	Total	
Countries											
Germany	27	3	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	34	32.69
U.K.	16	6	3	-	4	1	-	-	-	30	28.84
France	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	7.69
Switzerland	5	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	7	6.73
Netherlands	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	6	5.76
Norway	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	4.80
Norway	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	2.88
Sweden	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2.88
Austria	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2.88
Denmark	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.96
Spain	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.96
Hungary	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.96
Belgium	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.96
Ireland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.96
Finland	68	15	7	2	5	4	1	1	1	104	
Total	65.8	14.42	6.73	1.92	4.80	3.84	0.96	0.96	0.96	100	

Source: Research Division, Rector's Office, T.U.