



Symposium on Contextualizing the Understanding of Socio-Economic Vulnerability in Nepal

13th September 2024, Pokhara

Time: 07:30 – 19:00 Hrs.

Venue: Atithi Resort, Lakeside, Pokhara, Nepal



Symposium Agenda

Nepal's diverse and evolving context has shaped a unique landscape of socio-economic vulnerability. Geographic, socio-political, and economic factors intersect to influence the lives of its people. Vulnerability is a dynamic state influenced by various internal and external factors, including climate change, social behaviors, economic conditions, human mobility, agriculture practices, and exposure to violence. While traditional definitions often focus on poverty, discrimination, and marginalization, evolving societal dynamics require a more nuanced understanding. The constitution ensures equal rights for vulnerable groups, but challenges remain in implementation. To effectively address vulnerability, it is essential to reconsider existing frameworks and adopt a more contextualized approach that accounts for the evolving nature of vulnerability and its multifaceted determinants.

In support of UNDP Nepal, Pokhara University is organizing a symposium on “*Contextualizing the Understanding of Socio-Economic Vulnerability in Nepal*”. The symposium will bring together academicians, practitioners, policymakers, and political leaders to explore socio-economic vulnerability within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and human development in Nepal. It will provide a platform to discuss about various perspectives on vulnerability and identify new dimensions and approaches that can help state authorities, development partners, and the private sector reconsider who qualifies as vulnerable and how best to address their needs.

The key themes for discussion include economic inequalities, social stratification, climate change and disasters, and food, nutrition and health particularly, social structures, environmental and geographical dimensions, and factors, policy and governance, and community perspectives. The conference will involve open paper submissions, panel discussions, and a final report.

The expected specific outcomes of the symposium are:

- An enhanced understanding of socio-economic vulnerability in the Nepali context.
- Practical recommendations for policy and programmatic interventions.
- Strengthened collaboration among stakeholders.
- Increased awareness and engagement of local communities in addressing socio-economic challenges.



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SCHEDULE

Time	Activities	Notes
07:30	Arrival to Venue	Sabha Hall
07:30 - 08:30	Registration and Breakfast	Reporting at the Registration Desk Breakfast at Satkar Restaurant, Atithi Resort
8:30 - 9:00	Opening Ceremony	<u>Inaugural Session</u> Sittings, Welcome and Objective Sharing and (10 Minutes) – PU Opening Remarks (5 Minutes)- Ms. Kalpana Sarkar, Portfolio Manager, Inclusive Economic Growth, UNDP Nepal Opening Remarks (5 Minutes)- Hon'ble Member Ms. Maya Timsina, Gandaki Policy and Planning Commission Closing remarks of inaugural session: (10 Minutes) Prof Dr. Prem Narayan Aryal, Vice Chancellor, Pokhara University
9:00 - 9:45	Theme 1: Economic inequalities	Speaker: Mr. Naveen Adhikari, Asst Prof, Central Department of Economics
9:45 - 10:30	Panel Discussion	Open discussion on Economic Inequalities Panelists: Dr. Deepak Bahadur Bhandari, Professor and Registrar of Pokhara University Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina, Senior Deputy Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank Ms. Maya Timsina, Hon'ble Member, Gandaki Province Policy and Planning Commission Moderator: Sharad Ojha, Society of Economic Journalists, Nepal (SEJON)
10:30 - 10:45		BREAK
10:45 - 11:30	Theme 2: Social stratification	Speaker: Dr. Rishikesh Pandey, Associate Professor, School of Development and Social Engineering, Pokhara University
11:30 - 12:15	Panel Discussion	Open discussion on Social Stratification



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		<p>Panelist: Dr. Meena Poudel, Independent Researcher, Kathmandu Dr. Bishwa Kalyan Parajuli, Professor, Tribhuvan University Dr. Pranab Dahal, Freelancer, GEDSI and GBV specialist, Kathmandu</p> <p>Moderator: Smita Adhikari, Journalist, Annapurna Express</p>
12:15 - 13:15	LUNCH	
13:15 - 14:00	Theme 3: Climate change and natural disasters	<p>Speaker: Dr. Uttam Babu Shrestha Director, Global Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies (GIIS), Kathmandu</p>
14:00 - 14:45	Panel Discussion	<p>Open discussion on Climate Change and Natural Disasters</p> <p>Panelist: Dr. Binaya Kumar Mishra, Professor, School of Engineering, Pokhara University Dr. Ramesh Raj Pant, Assistant Professor, Central Department of Environmental Science, Tribhuvan University Ms. Finu Shrestha, Remote Sensing and Geo - information Analyst, ICIMOD</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Bishnu Prasad Devkota, Associate professor, Institute of Forestry, Tribhuvan University</p>
14:45 - 15:00	BREAK	
15:00 - 15:45	Theme 4: Food, Nutrition and Health	<p>Speaker: Dr. Aruna Upreti, Public Health Expert and Activist</p>
15:45 - 16:30	Panel Discussion	<p>Open discussion on Food, Nutrition and Health</p> <p>Panelist: Dr. Sharad Raj Onta, Professor, Public Health, Kathmandu Dr. Hari Bahadur KC, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Nepal</p>



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		Dr. Naba Raj Devkota, Vice Chancellor, Gandaki University Moderator: Dr. Damaru Prasad Paneru, Associate professor, School of Health and Allied Science, Pokhara University
16:30 - 17:00	Closing of Symposium	Closing remarks Participant, Panelist, Speaker, UNDP, Pokhara University
17:00 - 18:00	BREAK	Refreshment and Networking
18:00 – 19:00	DINNER	
19:00	DEPARTURE	

Further information:

Pokhara University Research Center (PURC), Pokhara University, Pokhara, 33700, Nepal

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Economic
Inequalities



Social
Stratification



Climate
Change and
Disasters



Food,
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