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Critical Readings Across Disciplines



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Aims of the Journal

The *Journal of Productive Discourse (ProD)* is an international, not for profit, blind peer-reviewed journal of critical readings across disciplines. It aims to provide teachers, students and learned members of the community an authentic open-access platform featuring scholarly research, reviews and perspectives on the state of current discourse on topics of interdisciplinary interest. The annual journal is published both in print and electronic forms once a year on the 3rd of the month of Jestha in the Bikram Sambat Calendar.

Mission

The journal will strive to create a platform where scholars, experts and thinkers exchange informed, critical and respectful discourses on important topics to advance human, social and political sciences for the larger good of the people.

Vision

The vision of the journal is to become the leading international platform for multi-disciplinary research and writing, known for its high standards, innovative approach, and impact on the learned community.

Methodology

The journal uses a rigorous peer-review process, led by a team of experts from Nepal and abroad, to ensure high quality and impact of published research and writing in pursuit of productive and practicable discourse. Articles are subject to initial editor screening followed by a blind peer review before publication. Submissions are invariably checked for plagiarism. Manuscripts must be between 4000 and 8000 words excluding references in APA 7th edition format.

Peer Review Process

Articles received from open calls and individual invitations undergo double-blind, peer-review process. The Managing Editor sends original articles to editors for initial review to assess their relevance for the journal. The editors submit the initially reviewed articles to the Editor-in-Chief for the final decision concerning the further process. The initial review process will be completed in six weeks.

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Editorial

The *Journal of Productive Discourse* is published to honor the intellectual and political legacy of Nepal Ratna and People's Leader, Madan Bhandari, on his Memorial Day, the 3rd of Jestha in the Bikram Sambat Calendar. This fourth volume coincidentally marks two significant institutional milestones for Madan Bhandari Memorial College: the celebration of its Silver Jubilee and the second year of Quality Assurance and Accreditation (QAA). These achievements reflect the college's sustained commitment to quality, accountability, and academic excellence — and inspire us to look ahead toward becoming a leading academic hub in Information Technology, Research, and Journalism, three fields central to Nepal's educational and developmental future. The vision driving this journal rests on what we call a "Triad of Progress: Information Technology, Research, and Journalism" — three mutually reinforcing disciplines that together advance knowledge, governance, and public life.

Information Technology is no longer confined to technical domains; it now drives education, business, governance, and social development. Our commitment is to promote practical skills and innovation that extend well beyond classroom learning. Research remains the intellectual backbone of academic growth. It cultivates critical thinking, rigorous inquiry, and knowledge production that serves both institutional integrity and national development — fully aligned with our QAA standards. Journalism, equally vital, serves as the communicative bridge between knowledge and society. Guided by our institutional vision, we are dedicated to strengthening journalism education in particular, and social sciences education more broadly, by fostering ethical responsibility, digital competence, and transparency. Through scholarship, teaching, and public engagement, we seek to contribute to the formation of an informed, critically reflective citizenry upon which a vibrant democratic society depends.

These three pillars are not parallel tracks but an integrated system: Information Technology enables data collection and dissemination; research ensures depth, credibility, and analytical rigor; and journalism translates that knowledge into responsible public communication. Together, they contribute meaningfully to Nepal's social, educational, economic, and technological advancement.

This volume brings together interdisciplinary scholarship addressing a broad range of contemporary concerns. Nepal's persistent emigration of skilled health workers is examined as a challenge with deep structural implications for the nation's human capital (Devkota et al., 2026). Micro, cottage, and small-scale enterprises are analyzed as engines of employment and poverty reduction, alongside key constraints related to finance, markets, management, policy, and innovation (Pathak & Rai, 2026). Research on public campuses shows that reliability and empathy are the strongest predictors of student satisfaction, with reliability emerging as the dominant factor (Gautam et al., 2026). Management audit, when used alongside statutory audit, is demonstrated to enhance decision-making, productivity, and ethical leadership in organizations (Shrestha, 2026). Studies of e-service quality indicate that security, value, and delivery are the primary drivers of user satisfaction, while usability, information quality, and promotional factors exert comparatively weaker influence in the Nepali context (Agrawal et al., 2026). Across these contributions, a shared concern emerges: how institutions—academic, economic,

public, and governmental—can be made more responsive, transparent, and effective in serving Nepal’s people and development goals.

We are especially encouraged by the growing participation of both faculty members in research activities. This momentum strengthens our college’s research culture and reflects the kind of sustained intellectual engagement that QAA accreditation both requires and rewards. Inquiry and innovation, when practiced as habits rather than obligations, transform an institution from a site of instruction into a genuine community of learning.

We invite readers to engage critically with the ideas presented here, offer constructive feedback, and join the collaborative conversation that this journal seeks to sustain. Our sincere gratitude goes to the College Management Committee, academic staff, reviewers, contributors, and students whose dedication makes this publication possible.

In sum, this volume underscores the enduring role of higher education as a space where knowledge, inquiry, and social responsibility converge. The diverse studies gathered here collectively highlight the importance of ethical leadership, evidence-based policymaking, technological advancement, and responsible communication in addressing contemporary societal challenges. They remind us that meaningful progress depends not only on innovation and expertise but also on critical reflection, collaboration, and public engagement. As readers move beyond these pages, we hope the insights presented will encourage continued dialogue, inspire further research, and reaffirm the shared responsibility of academia in contributing to a more informed, equitable, and forward-looking society.

Editorial Board

May 2026

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