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Libraries And Information Centres In Nepal:
CEDA Library & Documentation Branch

By

Indira Dali
LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION CENTRES IN NEPAL
CEDA Library & Documentation Branch

A Country Paper

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Presented by

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August 1991
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INTRODUCTION

The paper starts with a general background of Nepal explaining briefly about its physical setting, administrative division and socio-economic conditions. The second part highlights upon the development of mass communication in Nepal. A picture of libraries and information centres of the country is presented in the third part. The fourth part introduces the Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) specially focussing on the role of CEDA Library and Documentation Branch and its participation in a regional network called Development Information Network for South Asia (DEVINS A). The last part gives the concluding remarks.

The papers is mainly based on various government documents such as Statistical Yearbook of 1991, Population Census of 1981, etc published by the Central Bureau of Statistics documents by Ministry of Finance, and other documents and papers prepared and published by individuals and institutions.
GENERAL BACKGROUND

1. Physical Setting

Nepal is a small landlocked country sandwiched between the two giant countries of Asia-China in the North and India in the East, South and West, with rectangular shape slanting slightly. Located in between 26 22’N to 30 27’N latitude and 80 4’E to 88 12’E longitude, the country has a total of 1,47,181 sq. km. with an average East West length of 885 km. and North South width of 193 km. Its topographic relief is the world’s most dramatic extending from near sea level (as 152 m) in the South to the Mt. Everest’s 8848m. summit on the North. The small country encompasses a tremendous diversity of climate, landscapes, languages and culture. It is broadly divided into three ecological regions each with its own unique ecosystem and ways of life. The Terai, a narrow flat and fertile plain, popularly known as the Grainway of Nepal, support much of its industrial and agricultural production and a bare majority of its population as 46.65% (CBS 1981). To the North the land rises in a series of increasingly ragged ranges. These are the Hills, the traditional heartland of Nepal, with its capital at Kathmandu, a corrugated region of deep valleys and terraced ridges. About 47.68% of population dwell here, scattered among more than 4000 small villages, many accessible only with days or weeks of walking. Finally towering above the rest of Nepal are the high mountains jagged peaks of the Himalayan range, the World’s highest lining the Northern border. It covers one third of the total land area of which 15% is perpetually snowclad and forbids habitation and vegetation. According to 1981 Census, only 8.67% of the population inhabits this rugged region depending upon 2% of agriculturally suitable land area.

Due to great topographical variation, the small country faces diversity of climate. The Northern Himalayan belt is always severely cold (upto -13.9 C), the mid Hill belt is temperate except in winter and the Terai has subtropical climate (upto 43 C). It acquires 60 to 80% of annual rainfall during the monsoon season (June-September).

2. Administrative Division

The recent government has not made any substantial change so far in the administrative system of the part one. The country is divided into 5 development regions, 14 zones and 75 districts consisting of 33 municipalities and 4015 village development committees. Each district is staffed with a Chief District Officer for maintaining law and order and coordinating the works of field agencies of different ministries and a Local Development Officer in order to supervise and coordinate the development plans and projects of the village development committees and municipalities.

3. Population

Though the new Population Census 1991 has already taken (June 1991) it data are yet to come. So the data are mostly on the 1981 census.

According to 1981 census, the total population was 15,022,839 (7695336 males/7327503 females causing sex ratio 105 males per 100 females). The urban population constitutes 6.4% while the rural one, 93.6%. Ecologically, about 46.65% lived in the Terai, 47.68% in the Hill and 8.6% in the Mountain. These were 25,85,154 households in all with an average size of 5.8 persons.
Population density was 102 person/sq. km. in 1981 and it reached 125.30 in 1989. The Terai bears the highest density followed by the Hill and the Mountain. Life expectancy at birth for both sexes was 49.53 years and total fertility rate was 6.3. About 70% of the total population was in working age group, out of which 65.1% was economically active. Among them 91.4% was in agriculture and allied activities.

4. Cultural Heritage

Nepal, though small in size and poor in economy, is very rich in its cultural heritage and natural beauties which are the main focus of attraction for foreigners. It is popularly known as the “Treasure of Arts and Architects”, “Land of Temples/Pagodas/Buddha Steeps” and the like.

The people of Nepal are as diverse as their land, a cultural mosaic of several dozens ethnic groups speaking as many languages and dialects. It is said that there are more than 75 castes under 4 main groups the Brahmans (priests), the Kshyatriyes (warriors), the Vaishyas (traders) and the Sudras (untouchables). Similarly, there are more than 50 dialects, although the Nepal, written in Devnagari, is the national language, claiming 58.36% of population in it.

Nepal, constitutionally a Hindu State, is a unique country with merging of Hindu (89.5%), Budhist (5.3%), Muslim (2.7%) and others into one single system or synthesis which has endured for centuries.

The main racial stock comprises mongoloid or Tibeto-Nepalese origin at emperate highlands, while the rest are largely inhabited by the Indo-Arians. Its culture is very traditional dominated by century old traditional beliefs, attitudes and practices except that of 3 urban centres Kathmandu, Bhaktepus and Lalitpur. The peculiarity of Nepalese culture lies in Unity in Diversity.

5. Political Heritage

Nepal was not a contiguous territorial stae until 1770. At that time, the Kathmandu Valley, consisting of 4 principalities; Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur and Kiritpur, ruled by 4 different royalties was known as “Nepal”. The rest of the territory was divided into several states ruled by several Kings and Princes.

In 1770, Prithvinarayan Shah, a highly ambitious ruler of the Gorkha State, conquered all the states including the Kathamandu Valley and established the unified Nepal with Kathmandu as its capital. So he is the founder of Shahdynasty-heridity of monarchy in Nepal. The present King Birendra also is the descendent of this dynasty. Since then, the country has gone through a series of political changes.

Rana Regime started in the country after the dramatic emergence of Prime Minister Jung Bds. Rana on the political stage of Nepal in 1846. He founded the hereditary prime-ministership in Nepal by unsurping all powers of the King. During 104 years of this regions, people were exploited like anything. So this age is regarded as ‘Dark Age’ in Nepalese history.

First multiparty parliamentary system began after the advent of democracy in 3 February 1951 bought by the people’s revolution by overthrowing the 104 year of powerful Rana Regime. But this system lasted only for 18 months in the country.

Paralyless Panchayat System was established in 1962 after banning all political parties in 1961 by the King Mahendra due to its unfavourable impact in the country. This system lasted about 30 long years without any substantial change and development in Nepal and its people’s living standard. So last year 1990, people revolted against the Government, under the joint leadership of Nepali Congress and United Left Front. Despite of maximum oppression by the Government, people succeeded to restore the new democracy within 50 days of bloody violence.

At present, the country is at the hand of new Government made by the Nepali Congress who
won the majority seats during the general election held on May 12, 1991. since the very beginning, Nepal's foreign policy has been dominated by her geographical situation. Its diplomatic relations, limited to 4 countries India, UK, USSR, and France in 1951, has been extended to majority of world's countries. Its foreign policy is based on the "Principle of Panchsila and it adheres the UN charter. Nepal is the founder member of Non-Aligned Movement as well as SAARC. The Secretariat of the SAARC is situated here at Kathmandu.

6. Economy

Nepal is one of the least developed countries ranked in the 8th position having per capita income less than 200 US$ according to the recent World Development Report 1991 by the World Bank. Its economy is predominantly based on agriculture that absorbs more than 90% of the total labour force and contributes about 52% of the GDD and 75 of the total exports. Despite several plans and programmes in all sectors of economu during the 35 years of 7 successive development plans (1956-1990) the overall economic performance is not encouraging. The country has still a subsistence level agrarian economy which is reflected by the following characters: problems of low productivity unable to cope with high population growth rate, low income with skewed distribution, low rate of saving resulting low rate of capital formation, widespread poverty with more than 40% of population below subsistence level, very high rate of inflation, unfavourable terms of trade, low literacy rate, poor technological know-how, unemployment and underemployment, a strong dependence on foreign aid, insufficient infrastructural development, insufficient management of resources and the like. However, some remarkable progress has been certainly recorded in creating basic infrastructure and institution building.

Regarding its natural resources, water resources is an inexhaustible resource whose harnessing will strengthen the whole economy of the country. It possesses about 2.27% of the world's total water resource with a capacity of 83,000 MW of hydroelectricity power potentiality. So it is ranked the second richest country after Brazil. Similarly, forest resources are the next major natural resource supplying about 90% of the total fuel needed and 50% of fodder to the animals. It covers about 42.8% of total land supplying fuel, timber, fodder, herbs and other raw materials for various industries. About mineral resources, there is no real statistics of due to lack of proper scientific and technical know-how needed for extensive geological survey. However, the preliminary surveys indicate the presence of some iron, copper, mica, gold lead, zinc, limestone, slates, mineral oils and gas, nickel, etc. But they are not properly exploited.

7. Education

7.1 School Education

Until 1859, there was not a single public school for the Nepalese people. The opening of Durbar School (now Bhani Madhyamic Vidyalaya) in 1859 is the foundation stone in the history of education in this country. After that, it started to develop slowly. After the implementation of the New Education System Plan, 1971, it developed rapidly resulting, increase in member of schools, students and teachers respectively.

There are 3 levels in school education:

(i) the primary level (Grade 1-5)
(ii) the lower secondary level (Grade 6-7), and
(iii) the higher secondary level (Grade 8-10)

Since 1975, the primary education was made free. The country has 3 types of schools one run by the government grant, two run by the private individual or institution and three run by foreign...
The literacy rates are recorded as following:
5.3% in 1952/54, 8.9% in 1961, 13.9% in 1971-1973, 18% in 1981, 36.4% in 1989. Thus it shows the positive impact of the New Education System Plan of 1971. At present there are altogether 13514 primary schools with 2108739 students, 3897 lower secondary school with 305509 students and 1638 higher secondary schools with 307534 students. (according to 1988 education statistics)

7.2. Higher Education

The development of higher education is a recent phenomenon. Tri Chandra College is the first public college established in 1918. Then other colleges started slowly, but all of them were affiliated with Patna University, India. The year 1959 remarked another milestone in the history of educational development in Nepal with the establishment of Tribhuvan University (TU). Its main aim is to produce basic lower, middle, higher and specialized trained manpower needed for national development. In the beginning, it had only 4 faculties: Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Commerce and Faculty of Law. But now it has 5 technical and 4 faculties institutes: Institutes of Engineering, Medicine, Agriculture, Forestry and Science and Technology and Faculties of Education, Management, Law, and Humanities and Social Sciences.

In 1986/87, the second University, was established named Mahendra Sanskrit University for promoting the Hindu culture and Sanskrit literature. According to the 30th Annual Report of TU 1989/90, there are altogether 133 colleges (65 TU and 68 private colleges) with a total student numbers of 1,02,130 (79432 in TU (ie 77.7%) and 22698 in private colleges (ie 22.22%). The total number of teachers is 4694 and staff 5434.

In addition to these, there are 4 different research centres under the umbrella of TU. They are:
(i) Centre for Economic Development and Administration,
(ii) Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies,
(iii) Research Centre for Applied Science and Technology and
(iv) Research Centre for Educational Innovation and Development.

7.3 Others

The New Education System Plan 1971, initiated the vocational education to meet the necessary technical manpower in the field of agronomy, horticulture, metal work, furniture making, home science, secretarial science etc. Similarly, trade schools were set up for producing basic level of skilled manpower in mechanics, electricity, sanitation, health etc. Besides, there are adult literacy programmes providing general literacy classes for illiterate adults and functional literacy centre for the out-of-school youths. For the handicapped like deaf, dumb, blind etc, there are special educational provision in the country.

8. Health Services

Upto 1950 the country had a very poor health facility. People suffered a lot from diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, small pox, leprosy, malnutrition etc. The Government started to take several measures to solve this problem since 1951. As a result, considerable progress has been made in this sector. Still the country lacks adequate health facility to meet the growing needs of the people, though life expectancy, which was only about 30 years during 1950s, has risen to around 52 years (CBS 1987). The former government had a strategy of health for all by the year 2000. For this, the country has to do a lot.

At present, there are 123 hospitals with 4329 beds staffed with 951 doctors and 601 nurses. Besides, there are 16 health centres, 816 health posts, and 153 ayurvedic dispensaries. Similarly,
there are 2379 assistant nurses, 83248 senior health workers (CBS, 1991).

9. Transport and Communication

Being a mountainous country, it is very difficult to develop transport system/network in Nepal. So, the government has emphasised for the development of this sector since its first plan 1956-1961. The transport system in Nepal can be divided into the following categories:

9.1 Road Transport

The 376 km of road in 1951, increased to 700 km in 1989 of which 41% is black topped and 30% of the total road falls in highways catagory. At present, there are 12 major highways of 2087 km, feeder roads of 1871 km. Still, the country needs more network of road transport specially in rural areas.

9.2 Ropeways

The first ropeway started with the contraction of Dhorring-Mata Tirtha ropeway of 22.5km with a capacity of 8 m ton per hour. Then the second one was constructed in 1964 linking Kathmandu - Hetauda of 43km with a capacity of 22.5 m ton per hour. But since then, no progress has been made in this sector though it is very suitable for the country with hills and mountains.

9.3 Railways

The year 1928 remarked the beginning of railways in Nepal with the construction of Raxaul-Amlekh going railway of 29 mile in the Terai. In 1953, the Jamakpur-Jayanagar and Janakpur-Bijalpura railways were constructed along with India-Nepal border. But this sector also remained unextended during the last several years.

9.4 Airways

Air transport plays a vital role in this country because of difficulty in developing road network due to topographical constraints. The government has given top priority to develop air transport as a means of bringing transport and communication to the remote and hilly parts of the country.

Nepal entered into the age of air transport in 1959 when Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation (RNAC) began its domestic air services in the country. Right now, there are 43 airports including one international airport with a runway of 10,000 m equipped with all modern facilities in Kathmandu. RNAC flight goes to 38 domestic places and 8 foreign places as Delhi, Calcutta, Bangkok, Hong kong, Singapore, Dubai, London and Frankfurt. The RNAC possesses 2 (757) Boeing, 2 (727) Boeings), 1 Auro, 10 Twimantos, 10 Pilatus (Acharya, 1990). Within a short span of life RNAC has progressed a lot in this sector.

9.5 Trolley Bus

The first electric-powered trolley bus was started in 1975/76 linking Kathmandu and Bhaktapur covering a distance of 13km. There are 22 trolley buses. The Government is planning to extend this service in the Ring Road also around the valley.
9.6 Others

There are about 6000 rivers having 45000 km length. So, there are several small and big bridges, suspension bridges and others to cross the rivers. Besides, boats are used to use the waterways, so waterways also if properly developed, plays a vital role in transport of this country.
DEVELOPMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION

1. History of Mass Communication

During the Rana period 1846-1950, along with other sectors, the communication sector also was quite neglected depriving the Nepalese people of their right to information. At that time the common people could not dare to subscribe or read a foreign newspaper for fear of being imprisoned or harassed by the Ranas. Once, a gentleman, named Baburam Pandit, was fined Rs.30.00 for going through the Columns of a foreign newspaper in 1930 (7.B Khatri, 1983)

During the Panchayat System 1962-1990, some remarkable progress has been achieved in this field specially after the implementation of the National Communication Plan 1971, which was further replaced by the National Communication Policies and Programmes in 1988. That Government had taken several steps and measures for making various communication channels more accessible and dependable by laying emphasis on the application of the latest technology in the process of their development and network expansion. The present Government has not yet formulated any plans and policies in this sector.

The following table (I) presents the successive landmarks in the history of mass communication development in Nepal:

Table: Pioneer Events of Development

<table>
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Years (A.D)</th>
<th>Items</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1850</td>
<td>Import of a hand press from England</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Issue of postage stamp</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Introduction of postal system</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Use of magnet telephone for the Ranas</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Public telephone between Kathmandu Birgy</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>1934/35</td>
<td>Set up of automatic telephone</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Broadcast by Nepal Democracy Radio (Malaysia)</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>1951, Apr</td>
<td>Production of Nepali film “Satya Marischandra”</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Starting of trunk telephone</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Set up of the Department of Telecommunication</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>International telecommunication linkage between Kathmandu-Delhi, and Calcutta</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Production of Nepali film by HMGIN (nama)</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>1970-75</td>
<td>Starting of International telex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Establishment of Royal Nepal Film Corp.</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Installation of “Sagarmatha” the earth satellite station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Transmission of Nepali Television</td>
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2. Types of Mass Media

The mass media referred to here are: folk/traditional media, press media, postal services, radio broadcasting, audio-visual media & supporting institutions.
2.1 **Folk/Traditional Media**

Nepal is practicing folk/traditional media since a long time. They include the masked dances, the stringed puppets, dramas, pasting of public notification in the public places, beating of drums and bells to communicate official information in the public, shouting loudly from the top of high hills and mountain to announce messages etc. Realising their popularity and effectiveness, even the advocates of modern mass media stress for their maximum use in modified forms and their integration with modern mass media in order to avoid the wastage and extravagant technologies of the modern mass media and to achieve optimum impact on rural society.

2.2 **Press Media**

2.2.1 **Printing Press**

The first printing press entered into Nepal in 1851 only. It was called “Gidde Chhapakhana” used primarily to producing official documents, postcards and postage stamps. During 19th century, even Nepalese scientists like Mr Kuber Ratna Bajrachary (in 1892) General Gehendra Shumshere, Pandit Nisthananda (in 1910) had manufactured various types of printing presses. According to the statistics of 1985-86, there were about 792 printing press all over the country. But only a handful of them are modern using limotype, photosetter, monotype, offset printing etc. Due to low quality and high cost of printing especially for colour printing, a large volume of printing work is done outside the country especially in India, Bangkok, Hong Kong etc.

2.2.2 **Press Media**

The Nepalese library magazine came in vogue before the advent of newspaper (T.Bdr Khatri 1983). The “Gorkha-Bharat-Jeevan” printed in 1886 was the first Nepali monthly edited and published by Motizam Bhatta, a poet. The “Gorkhapatra” the first vernacular newspaper, published in 1901, as a weekly paper brought a new era of journalism in Nepal. Its first editor was Pandit Nardev Panday. Its frequency gradually changed from weekly to daily. The Nepalese journalism, which started to progress after 1951, was again retarded following the ban on political parties in 1961. However, it resulted into the publication of various underground political papers. During the past 30 years, no doubt a number of newspapers and the level of readership have risen as has the degree of professionalism in reporting due to various rules and act developed by the Government in order to promote healthy journalism. According to the statistics of 1989/90 of Central Bureau of Statistics, there are about 509 newspapers (to daily, 1 twice weekly, 391 Weekly and 47 Fortnightly). Among them 90% are in Nepali, 7% in English and the rest in Mewari, Hindu etc.

At present the Gorkhapatra Corporation, publishes two daily newspapers : The Gorkhapatra (Nepali) and The Rising Nepal (English) and a monthly magazine Madhupark (Nepali). The former one has 30,000 circulation daily and the second 9,000 daily. Thet are the largest newspaper reaching to every nook and corner of the country. Either private papers are very limited to urban areas only.

2.3 **Postal Services**

Nepal has passed through a series of stages for postal services development as carrying official document by messengers on horse back, postal sunner, the stick post etc. The first postage stamp was issued in 1881 to serve both public and the private sectors. In 1911, the Hindu Goswara (Post Office) was set-up. Its services gradually expanded resulting 75 district post offices by the year 1982. At present its services includes moneyorder system, developed in 1932, and air mail system in 1954. There is a Postal Training manpower. Foreign Post Office was established in 1968. In 1988, there
were 75 district post offices, 428 sub-post offices, 1,441 additional post offices, 6,511 postmen, 239 money order facility and 86 Banking facility.

2.4 Telecommunication

The first telecommunication contact was made in 1913 in the country with the installment of a magnet telephone the public telephone started in 1914. Automatic telephone with 25 lines was set up in 1935. Thus a series of events took place in this field also. After the establishment of the Department of Telecommunication in 1959, this service expanded rapidly resulting international telecommunication linkage in 1964, international telex in 1970-75 etc.

The installation of a highly sophisticated earth satellite station ‘Sagarmatha’ in Kathmandu in 1982, helped to provide more sophisticated facilities to the people especially journalist, diplomats, and other mass media workers, businessmen, industrialists etc. and enabled Nepal to join the family of satellite communicators of the world.

The services, provided by Nepal Telecommunication Corporation include local telephone, trunk domestic and international, subscriber trunk dialing, telex, telegraph, telefax and the like.

2.5 Radio Broadcasting

Until 1945, Nepal did not possess a single radio set. During the second World War the Rana Prime Minister allowed some Rana families only to import radio sets for listening foreign broadcasts. The historic start of the broadcast service for the public was initiated through a humble transmitters installed at a room during 1945. It included hymons and other program ones.

In March 1950, Nepal Brajatantra Radio, an underground party radio transmitted its first broadcast in Nepali directly from the struggle front of Besatnagar. Radio Nepal was inaugurated at Singh Durbar on April 12, 1951 with a small wireless set of 250 watts to transmit the regular programme. Then each successive development plan attempted to develop and expand this service. Accordingly its services started to develop both quantitatively and qualitatively. According to 1981 Census there were 225,526 radio sets and at present it serves about 90% of total population. There are 7 broadcasting stations in the country.

The future of radio broadcast is brighter than those of other mass media available in Nepal. It is easy to penetrate rural mass media as TV which needs development of basic infrastructure, rural electrification and so on. Similarly print media needs higher literacy percent. But radio broadcast can leap forward crossing the barriers of distance, illiteracy, etc.

2.6 Audio-Visual Media

2.6.1 Films and Cinema

For a long time, the Nepalese were totally depended on Hindu films due to lack of Nepali films. But nowadays a good number of Nepali films also have been already produced. The first Nepali film was “Satya Harischandra” produced by Nepalese domiciles in India in 1951. (WIF 1988). The Nepale Government produced the first Nepali film “Asma” in 1965. “Jansewa” (destroyed by fire in 1968) was the first public cinema hall established in the heart of Kathmandu in 1949. (T.B. Khatri 1983).

After the establishment of the Royal Nepal Film Corporation (RNFC) in 1972, the film industry started to progress with its support. Even the private sectors are attracted to this industry resulting a good number of films which are highly appreciated by Nepalese mass. It benefits especially to them who are poor in foreign languages. So even the illiterate rural mass are enjoying the Nepalese films which are taking market with a satisfactory speed substituting Hindu films in the country. At present there are 50 cinema halls in 11 of the 14 zones with a seat capacity of 37,196. (WIF 1988).
2.6.2 Video

The video technology is rapidly developing due to its growing popularity among the Nepalese mass specially the youth. The main seasons for such fast development are: easy access, easy availability of cassettes at low cost, lack of other entertainment facilities like cinemal halls, theatres, sports, games, easy operation even in rural areas without electricity.

There are about 30,000 video sets owned especially by private sectors covering all districts to show the Indian and other films to the general public at reasonable price. Worldview International Foundation (WIF) was the first institute to use video technology in development activities in Nepal since 1981. It is actively engaged in rural communication programme on multi-media basis including seminars, workshops, training on basic issues like health care, nutrition, hygiene, food production etc. It has produced a good number of video cassettes on various development activities of Nepal.

In real sense, video plays a very important role in mass communication in Nepal with high rural population, low infrastruct rural development which are necessary for other medias.

2.6.3 Television

With the inauguration of Nepal Television on the auspicious 41st Birthday of King Birendra on 29th Dec 1985, Nepal also got chance to enter into the era of television (TV) which is one of the latest and the most powerful and popular media of mass communication. This enabled the Nepalese people to enjoy the audio-visual entertainment and the update of the local and the international current events right in their homes. Today viewing TV has become a daily schedule of the Nepalese people. TV, which a year ago, was a luxury for Nepalese; has become an absolute necessity in the national life considering its educative and informative purposes, despite the fact that 40% of the people still live below the poverty line and many among the rest live in subsistence economy. TV is gaining its popularity very rapidly in this country despite of its poor schedule and repetition of some programmes for many times due to lack of sufficient programmes and resources. It was and is on greater demand during special occasions like World Cup Football, Asian Games, Olympic Games, SAARC Summit, Triparlete Mountaineering Expedition of Mt Everest by the Nepalese, Japanese and Chinese nationals, etc. On such occasion, the markets become unable to fulfill the overwhelming demands of the people who wants to buy TV even by taking loans from offices or from sources.

Due to growing popularity, NTV (Nepal TV) has succeeded to expand its transmission outside the Kathmandu Valley with substations set in Pakhera, Biratnagar, and Hetauda. At present, it has served 23% of the total population. In order to provide TV facilities to the rural people, the Government has set up 750 community TV Centre in various parts of the country. This facility has done a lot for mass communication in rural areas.

2.7 Support Services

After the advent of democracy, the country starts to establish some supporting institutions at both governmental and nongovernmental levels. The governmental level institutions, according to the National Communication Policies and Programmes, 1988, includes (1) Department of Postal Service, (ii) Department of Press Information, (iii) Department of Printing and Publications, (iv) Radio Broadcasting Services Development Board, (v) Nepal Telecommunication Corporation, (vi) Gorkhapatra Corporation, (vii) Nepal Television Corporation, (viii) National News Agency (ix) Royal Nepal Film Corporation, (x) Shree Ratna Recording Corporation and (xi) Press Council, all under the Ministry of Communication.

There are several nongovernmental organizations contributing towards communication of
development messages from the community level to the national level. They are more efficient than the public ones. Some of the major institutions in this field are: Action Aid Nepal, APROSC, CARE/Nepal, Centre for Women and Development, Communication Media Nepal, Development Communication and Research Consultancy. Group (DECOR), Development Information Network for South Asia (DEVINSA) Human Rights Organizations of Nepal, Information Network Women in Development (INWID), Integrated Development System, ICIMOD, National Press Club, Nepal Journalist Association, Press Institute, Save the Children Fund UK and USA, Service Centre Adult Education Programme (SPACE), Tribhuvan University and its research centres, UMN, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, USAID etc, Women’s Information and Communication Centre (WINCOM) Worldview International Foundation, etc.

All of them occasionally use the governmental mass media for their programmes. They often disseminate information and message following meetings, seminars, workshops, training, field days, personal contacts, method demonstration print media, videos etc. The choice of media depends upon the level of target groups.

2.8 Manpower Development : Training

Tribhuvan University is the first institute to initiate journalism class in Nepal in 1976. It offers both certificate and graduate level courses.

Similarly Postal Service Training Centre and Telecommunication Centres also conduct training courses in their respective fields.

Press Institute, which provides one year course in journalism has produced 106 young journalists out of which 6 are females. Due to lack of sufficient school in journalism, the interested youths go to abroad for having journalism degree and training.
1. **History**

Library and information centre also play a vital role in Mass Communication in country like Nepal where other mass media are not so well developed. The development of modern library and information centre in Nepal is a very recent one. For a long years in the past, the people were totally deprived of these services. During the Rama period in 1930, there was a movement by 45 youths to obtain permission to establish a public library 'Saraswati Pustakalaya.' to the enthusiasts' dismay the them rulers refused their request and fined them Rs100.00 instead. This movement was started by Mr Yog Bir Singh and other intellectuals including the late 'Great Poet' Laxmi Prasad devkota (WIF,1988). Before 1951, there were only a few number of private collections owned by some members of Rama family, such as Big Collection (later Bir Pustakalaya) of Bir Shumisher, Kesher collection (later Keshar Pustakalaya) of Keshar Shumshere, Singh collection (later donated to the Central Library of T.V.) of Singh Shumshere, etc.

2. **Library Situation Prior to 1951.**

Despite the various constraints, some conscious Nepalese youth were able to open up public libraries in some urban centre like the following: (1) Dhawal Pustakalaya (1936), Palpa, Adarsha Pustakalaya (1946) Biratnagar, Pradipta Pustakalaya (1946), Kathmandu, Mahavir Pustakalaya (1947) Butwal and Vidya Bhawan Pustakalaya (1947) Dharan. They were the milestones in the history of library development.

3. **Library Situation After 1951**

After the advent of Democracy in 1951, along with other sectors, the library also started to develop to some extent. AT present, there are all types of libraries as public, government, academic, special, research, friendship and foreign mission, private libraries etc. Compared to the libraries and information centres of other developed countries which have already revolutionized their services due to fast growing information technology specially after the introduction centres in Nepal are still working in traditional manners. They have not been able to provide even basic library services they are merely a store house of books. Their are several reasons behind it as lack of adequate resources ie inadequate professional manpower due to absence of library school and training facilities in the country, inadequate budget for library section, low rate of book and other document production, least priority for library development by the authority, lack of consciousness about library use among general people, lack of interest for library development even among the professional staff due to low recognition of their job by the society and so on. However there are some efficient libraries and information centres attached either with some research centres, or with some academic institute or with some international organizations which have been albe to develop with the help of foreign assistance (financial and technical both). But the conditions of public libraries, which are developed and run by a handful of local youths, of school libraries specially public schools and other government libraries are horrible. They don’t have even a professional staff. Luckily the academic libraries ie college libraries (133 now) have a good libraries staffed with at least a professional ones.

About 600 libraries are there in Nepal. Among them the Cnetral Libray of Tribhuvan University is the biggest one holding near about 2 lacks of books, and staffed with a number of professionals,
equipped with necessary machines like photocopy, microfilm, computer and soon it serves whole Nepal in a sense because it provides services to the whole intellectual mass of university, Government officials, private scholars and researchers, and foreign researchers also. Some of the major libraries are: Agricultural Projectsservices Centre (APROSC) Library; Forest Research Information Centre (FRIC), Library; Keshr Library, Madam Puraskar Library; National archives; Nepal national Library; national planning Commission, Library; Royal Nepal Academy for Science and Technology (RONAST) Library; T.V. CEDA, Library; T.V. CNAS Library; T.V. Central Library, T.V. RECAST Library. They are the libraries owned by Nepalese institutions. There are other libraries also owned by foreign bodies such as British Council Librrary, French Cultral Centre, ICIMOD Library, Nepal Bharat Cultural Centre, Nepal USSR Cultural Association Library, Swiss Development Cooperation, Library; United Mission to nepal Library; UNDP Library, USAID library; United States Information Service (USIS) Library; World Bank Library etc.

Comparing to Nepalese libraries, these foreign owned libraries and information centres are more active and efficient due to more equiped with necessary facililtes. So they are serving a great mass of people.

4 Library Automation

The computer, the magic box of information technology, entered into Nepalese libraries very late, although it has already been used for business and other fields. The libraries and information centres having the computer can be counted into figures. T.V. Central Library, the most well organized library, also is still waiting to introduce the automation system in its daily functions and services due to lack of a dequate technical know how though it already has purchased a compter. However the other libraries of ICIMOD, FRIC, SDC, CNAS, USAID etc have already created data bases mostly following CDSIISIS V.2.3. But there are some other libraries also which are going to start automation in near future.

5. Library Networking

Nepales libraries are still far behind in the networking / resource sharing activities at national level. However some libraries named APROSC Library, Bir Hospital Library, T.V.CEDA Library have already been participating international network system such as AGRIS, HELLIS and DEVINSA respectively.
1. Introduction

The Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) was established as an autonomous research centre on May 1969 under the Tripartite agreement between His Majesty's Government of Nepal, Tribhuvan University T.V. and the Ford Foundation. Later it was integrated into T.V. with the status of a research centre on 15 Dec. 1975 following the implementation of national Education System Plan. At present the Centre has become a major policy research centre of T>V, contributing towards national development.

2. Objectives

The Centre, set up mainly for conducting applied research activities and providing high level training and consultancy services besides assisting in the improvement of the T.V., has the following objectives.

i. To undertake research and provide consultancy services relating to plan formulation, evaluation of development activities, sectoral development programmes, investments, effects of exogenous factors on national economy, employment and income generation;

ii. To undertake studies relating to various socio-economic factors like transport, communication, regional development, rural development, growth centrics, resource mobilization, national and regional plans and policies, rural skills, population and human resource, environment etc.;

iii. To conduct action research;

iv. To evaluate programmes and projects; and

v. To disseminate the findings of both the research and seminars to the institutions, organizations and other intellectual circle within and outside the university.

3. Organization

The management of the centre is entrusted to the Research Centre Executive Committee, which offers the necessary suggestions to the Executive Director, the Chief of the Centre, for running the Centre. The Centre has set up three main wings: Research Committee, Training Committee and Administration Bureau.

3.1 Research Committee

The research Committee has various functions such as coordination of core groups, research programmes and projects, review and evaluation of the ongoing projects, solution to the problems, discussion, comments suggestion and approval of the project proposal. The committee consists of the chiefs and convenors of all core groups and the Executive Director as its Chairman and one Deputy Administrator.
3.2 Research Faculty

For ensuring high quality of research and career development of its faculty members, the Centre has created six core research groups with broad areas as following:

(i) Planning and Economic Policy Group;
(ii) Rural Development Group;
(iii) Population and Human resources Group;
(iv) Management System and Administration Group;
(v) Action research group; and

3.3 Training Committee

The Training Committee’s duty is to conduct, manage and coordinate various training programmes. It consists of three persons. The Executive Director as the Chairman, programme Coordinator and a Deputy Administrator (training) as Member Secretary.

3.4 Administrative Bureau

The Administrative Bureau helps manage both the research and training and other programmes held in the centre.

4. Programmes

Programmes launched in the centre includes:
Talk programmes since 1980, on current issues in development by inviting distinguished national and international scholars to deliver speech, display of CEDA publications on special occasions, meeting, seminars, workshops etc at both national and international levels.

5. Publications

Until now, the centre has already published more than 300 titles of its research reports, seminar papers, case studies, feasibility studies etc. It has its own quarterly newsletter CEDA SAMACHR to inform the progress of the ongoing projects/activities to the public. Further it brings out a bi-annual journal ‘Journal of Development and Administrative Studies‘ (JODAS) containing various scholarly articles on development management and administrative problems of Nepal and that of others developing countries.

6. Computer

The Centre has computer facility since a few years back for training and research purposes. But the automation of its Library is still waiting due to lack of certain technical know how about the software.
7. Linkages

The Centre has been able to establish and maintain smooth and healthy relationship with both the national and international organisation such as different ministries, departments, research scholars and institutes in the country and IDRC, Canada, CIDA, Canada; Dalhousie University, Canada; Ford Foundation, USA; Winrock International, USA, ADB, Manila; APDC, Kuala Lumpur; CSCD, Colombo; AMIC, Singapore etc.

8. Disseminating Role

The Centre is one of the pioneer research institutes for promoting the dissemination services through wide circulation of its outputs which reach each and every ministry, departments, other research centre, libraries, foreign diplomats, etc in the country and international organizations like UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank, Library of Congress, etc. Thus it is playing a great role in the field of mass communication in its own way.

9. Library and Documentation Branch

The Centre has its own library and documentation branch since its inception in order to facilitate its research and other activities.

9.1 Holdings

The Branch or the Library concentrates always to strengthen its collection on the subjects interested to the Centre by acquiring with varios methods such as purchase, gift, exchange and request. Its holdings constitutes:

(i) General Books - 3741 volumes
(ii) General documents - 6000 volumes
(iii) Books on Nepal - 600 volumes
(iv) Document on Nepal - 2970 volumes
(v) CEDA publications - 1481 volumes
(vi) Documents on South Asia - 100 volumes
(vii) Thesis - 33 volumes
(viii) Village profiles - 133 volumes

15058 volumes

The library holds a good number of research journals, acquired mostly by gift and exchange.

9.2 Subject Coverage

The collection consists manily of development, public administration, management, economic policy and planning, population and human resources, energy, environment, rural development, anthropology, sociology, women and development, trade, etc.
9.3 **Language**

Most of the collection are of English languages only few of them specially, government publication and literary works are in Nepali.

9.4 **Standards/Tools**

For technical processing, the library is using: (i) Dewey Decimal Classification (18th ed), (ii) Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (2nd ed), (iii) Macrothesaurus for Information Processing in the field of Economic and Social Development, (iv) DEVINSA input (IDIN).

9.5 **Clients**

The main clients are the research and other staff of the Centre. However, it provides services to the outsiders also specially the university students, teachers, research scholars, government officials, foreign research scholars, etc.

9.6 **Staff**

There are altogether 5 staff (2 professional). But there is one part time staff for DEVINSA.

9.7 **Budget**

The library solely depends upon the internal source of budget given by the Tribhuvan University. The amount is very very low comparing to needs, such as Rs 12,000 for books and Rs 7,000 for journals and newspapers.

9.8 **Borrowing Privileges**

Only the centre’s staff can borrow the library books, documents and journals as a research staff can borrow two books at a time for two weeks and the project chief can loan 10 - 15 books at a time for two weeks. The outsiders are strictly prohibited for this service.

9.9 **Other Services**

As a research library, the library also provides all the necessary services to its researchers such as reference, referral, general bibliography, subject bibliography, abstracting, indexing, photocopy, inter-library loan, etc. The last two services are very much used by the outsiders because they cannot borrow books for home reading.
The library is depository for publications of various national and international organizations such as Central Bureau of Statistics, Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance of Nepal, IDRC Canada, World Bank, CIRDAP, Dhaka, OECD, etc.

9.11 Publication

The library publishes new addition list regularly once a year. But due to lack of staff and other resources, it has prepared only typed copies of various bibliographies. However, the following are its major publications:

(i) Total Stock of Classified Books in CEDA Library .... 1978
(ii) Classified Catalogue of CEDA Publications in Library .. 1987
(iii) List of Publication of Centre for Economic Development and Administration.... 1987

9.12 Participation in a Regional Network

The library is the national focal point of Development Information Network for South Asia (DEVINSA). The DEVINSA is a regional network established in 1986 for resource sharing in South Asia specially to provide information service to its parent organization Committee on Studies for Cooperation in Development in South Asia (CSCD). For detailed information about DEVINSA, a photocopy of its brochure is attached with this report at the end.

9.12.1 Progress

The library has been able to collect a good number of relevant documents as about 2000 from various sources. It is regularly sending input sheets to its coordinating centre, Colombo. In the beginning, the work was slow but after a few years experience, the speed rose up. It has provided a good number of photocopy services to the users of home and abroad. It has already prepared the authority lists of corporate authors, geographic names, local subjects, etc. During 1988 it had organized a national seminar-cum-workshop for popularising DEVINSA services. It has sold a few numbers but this work is little bit difficult because mostly the users try to acquire it freely. The library is trying to establish a national network also but most of the expected participants hesitate to participate in it without some incentives. Still it is trying for this networking. The library has already purchased a computer which is provided by DEVINSA. But due to lack of sufficient technical know how, the library staff is just practicing in it and in near future library automation is expected, if the staff gets chance to have adequate training in CDS/ISISV2.3.
CONCLUSION

According to a great scholar, Mr Schramim, if development is to occur, people must have information about the need to change, the opportunities and methods and means. Secondly, they must have opportunity to participate intelligently in the decision-making process, and finally, the needed skills must be taught. In absence of the above atmosphere, no country can develop rapidly as proved by the past history of this country itself. The sum total of the above discussion in the foregone parts indicates that though the latest technology has already penetrated the communication sector and library field, the country has not been able to take full advantages of it due to lack of sufficient trained manpower and technical know-how. So it is urgent need for the concerned authority to give attention to this manpower development, because among all factors man, machine, money, management, the human factor play the vital role, without which the other factors will be not only useless and unproductive but will be harmful or destructive also due to mishandling of sophisticated and complex machine by little knowledge. Besides, the international organizations, which are involved in development activities of the country and are providing lots of financial support for various projects, should be generous enough for the upgrading of the technical knowledge and human resource development. Then only the desired goal can be achieved and internal and external effort will be fruitful in real sense.

Thank You!