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Book Review

Prem R. Pant, (2016). **Social Science Research and Thesis Writing**, Buddha Publications Pvt. Ltd, Kathmandu, PP 453 including Appendices.

The world we live in, changes every now and then. The emerging perspectives and paradigm shifts in social science research have been acquiring new dimensions and forming a significant component and academic program in numerous disciplines of universities in Nepal and abroad. Write up like dissertations, theses, project works, field work, internship, term papers etc. are integral parts of teaching and learning processes. Research oriented activities in order to enhance analytical and research skills have gained momentum not only in colleges and universities but also for other professionals working in different fields.

The book under review is the constant part of author's long span of academic life. It is seventh edition which has been fully revised and updated, targeted towards master and M. Phil. courses in business and social sciences of the universities in Nepal. Moreover it has been written keeping in mind the shortcomings of the Nepali students.

The book consists thirteen chapters and appendices. The first four chapters deal with the introduction to social and management research, literature survey, and formulation of research problems and hypothesis. The second two chapters provide the issues related to quantitative and qualitative research designs. The third two chapters cover three vital components of research related to scaling, attitude measurement, and sampling. Data collection methods, procedures, data presentation and analysis are the themes of the ninth and tenth chapters. And finally chapters eleven, twelve and thirteen concern with thesis writing, topic selection, proposal preparation and research report writing. Each chapter deals with chapter summary; questions for review and discussions; exercises, cases and projects; references; and key terms. Structure, learning objectives, examples and illustrations, summary of learning objectives, readings and references are the notable features of the book which can help students to understand the principles, guidelines, and practices. Similarly pedagogical features include glossary, key terms, end-of-chapter questions, exercises and projects.

The book is praiseworthy for its response with a single source from which students can learn and develop their research skills. The book by no means provides an exhaustive list of materials in the behavioral and social sciences. The book also acquaints students with various topics for theses, dissertations and research reports along with samples, and checklist for evaluation. It also provides a list of leading journals, and glossary of terms. With an ever-increasing emphasis on the interdisciplinary approach, this book will be useful to anyone preparing to conduct a study within the domains of the behavioral and social sciences.

There is a plethora of literatures in this field rather this book aims to provide an insight in to the behavioral and social sciences, and hope sizeable number of students will follow it. The basic features of this book that makes it different from other books on the same subject are comprehensive coverage of a range of methodological concepts, techniques, approaches, figures, and illustrations that does not only make the subject more interesting to the people but also makes the book easy to understand. The book is in every sense the book of the practice, down-to-earth guide for those who wish to understand and conduct research. It is arranged in a manner that will allow readers to select from the menu of thoughts presented. In a nutshell, this book is useful; irrespective of the levels at which research is conducted.

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Congratulations to Pant on bringing out this practical book which is targeted to a broad readership. It is useful and thus worthy of keeping as a reference by those of behavioral and social sciences. To the writer and publisher, once again congratulations and thanks.

Central Department of Economics
Tribhuvan University

Sohan Kumar Karna, Ph.D.
Professor