

Indo-Nepal Educational Relationship: New Generational Perspective

By Khushhi Mahensaria

India and Nepal's educational partnership has a long history, influenced by shared religious, cultural, historical, and geographic experiences. Over time, this connection has changed to meet the needs of new generations and follow international trends in education. As a student who has studied in both India and Nepal, I would like to offer new insight into this successful partnership. This article examines the changing educational connection between India and Nepal with a focus on the perspectives of the younger generation.

India and Nepal have long-standing religious and cultural ties. India has always been a popular destination for Nepalese students pursuing higher education because of its close location, shared culture and religion, and high caliber teaching. Indian colleges have produced many well-known Nepalese professionals and leaders who have contributed to the country's growth. Though new dynamics and obstacles exist, this pattern is still there.

As a student who moved from Nepal to Pune, I saw first-hand the differences between educational institutions. Nepali students frequently chose Indian colleges because of their closeness, language proficiency, and academic standing. The Nepali curriculum, greatly inspired by the Indian system, focused on rote learning and rigorous assessment. It helped foster a love of languages (Nepali, English, and Hindi) and a strong feeling of associated cultural history with India. Textbooks frequently included stories from Indian mythology, and history lectures emphasized the interwoven traditions of both civilizations. This made the shift from Nepal to India somewhat easier. However, the large number of colleges and specialties in India was a revelation, opening up a universe of choices that were not readily available at home.

My experience in Pune demonstrated the benefits and drawbacks of the Indo-Nepal educational partnership. In many cases, Indian universities are less expensive than Western schools. Furthermore, the foundation created in Nepali schools forms a reasonable basis for further study in India. With specific changes, shared disciplines such as science, math, and literature make the transfer easier. Nepalese students additionally benefit from India's enormous pool of highly trained teachers and researchers.

The educational system in Pune was better organized and had more resources. The focus was on exposure to international academic norms, research, and the real-world application of knowledge. Cutting-edge facilities, good libraries, and internship possibilities considerably improved my education. Independent thought, creativity, and problem-solving were promoted by the educational philosophy at Indian colleges, especially in Pune. Mentors and professors helped students navigate complex subjects and encouraged a curiosity-driven mindset. The more rigorous and test-focused method I used in Nepal differed significantly from this.

A comparison of the educational systems in India and Nepal exposes both countries' advantages and disadvantages. In Nepal, education is firmly entwined with moral and cultural norms, promoting belonging and community. Schools generally prioritize extracurricular activities to foster well-rounded growth. Smaller class sizes and intimate ties between teachers and students enhance personalized learning experiences. Inadequate resources and facilities, especially in rural regions, compromise quality in education. A heavy concentration on memorization might hinder innovation and analytical thinking. Numerous individuals are forced to pursue education overseas due to a need for more options for further research and specialized courses.

Numerous institutions and courses covering various subject areas are available within the Indian education system. Research, creativity, and the practical application of knowledge are highly valued. Students get a competitive edge through working with foreign universities and learning about global educational requirements. However, students may experience anxiety and mental health problems as a result of fierce rivalry and academic pressure. Academic advancement can occasionally be hampered by differences in the availability of high-quality education across various socioeconomic classes and geographical areas, as well as by administrative inefficiencies and barriers.

Indian universities provide various courses, research possibilities, and global outlook. Both countries' rigid curricula offer a solid foundation but may inhibit critical thinking and innovation. For the younger generation, a more flexible strategy that promotes self-directed study and problem-solving skills would be advantageous. Furthermore, India may have fewer research possibilities and job opportunities while studying than in western nations but the Indian certificates are recognized and respected world-wide. Lastly, although Indian education is far less expensive than in the West, some Nepali students may still find it a barrier. Enhancements to financial assistance and scholarship programs are necessary to provide fair access to high-quality education. Embassy of India in Nepal provides hundreds of scholarships across disciplines to Nepalese students. Also, remitting fees from Nepal to Indian colleges and universities need to be eased and facilitated.

The next generation of students exploring for higher studies in India by not falling into the lure of other countries in the West and Australia carries new goals and viewpoints and this should be prioritized by the two governments as this is a glue of bilateral ties. Nepalese studying in India will return to Nepal and contribute to economic development. They will also build personal friendship with their Indian class-mates which will be beneficial later on in life. Due to globalization and technological breakthroughs, students now have more access to knowledge, a wider variety of educational materials, and chances for collaboration across borders. The advent of the internet and online educational resources has transformed access to information, allowing students in Nepal to use materials and courses provided by Indian universities and vice versa.

Interdisciplinary education is becoming increasingly popular, enabling students to study various subjects and combine their knowledge from other sectors. Furthermore, the younger generation is more focused on their careers and looks for programs that give them skills that employers value. One way could be to have more Indian university affiliated colleges in Nepal wherein Nepalese students can study half of the course in Nepal and the remaining in India.

Due to the open border, shared religious and cultural ties, and the changing interest of the emerging generation, the Indo-Nepali educational partnership is strong but needs to be given a new direction by both the governments. There is a great deal of opportunity to improve academic results for students in both nations by utilizing the advantages of both systems while also addressing their shortcomings. Being a Nepali student studying in India, I am fortunate to be involved in this interchange of ideas. My experience has allowed me to learn new things and make new friends. Institutions in India and Nepal must collaborate to design a system that meets the requirements of the younger generation and equips them to be global citizens who can make significant contribution to their home countries and the international community.

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