

Federalism in Nepal: A Bibliography

Compiled by
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Introduction

After the Constituent Assembly promulgated the Constitution of Nepal on September 20, 2015, the system of governance in Nepal entered a federal structure. However, the federal democratic republic structure of governance thus adopted by the Constitution had not arisen abruptly in the Constituent Assembly. The decade-long Maoist Movement (1996–2006) and the People’s Movement of 2005–2006 had ended the traditional monarchy in the country, while a diverse array of disparate revolutionary movements had prepared the background for it. The Madhesh Movement, which began just when the debates regarding the state restructuring and the form of its governance were picking pace, provided an additional pathway for the way forward. After the Madhesh Movement, the *Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007* was amended on April 13, 2007 in order to ensure federalism in the state structure of Nepal. On May 28, 2008, the inaugural assembly of the Constituent Assembly formally declared that the state would be a federal democratic republic.

The federal, provincial and local governments are in operation today, just as adopted by the Constitution. Individuals and institutions from various levels and sectors of the society have been analyzing and interpreting the preparation for and practice of federalism – some in favor of it, and others opposed to it. This bibliography is a collection of such published resources in the form of opinions and explanations on federalism in Nepal.

The state restructuring and the transfer of power to newly instituted structures were important and novel aspects of the Constitution of Nepal. Most political debates in the Constituent Assembly focused on population and geography as the basis for restructuring. Issues relating to ethnic identity were also raised. This bibliography attempts to include written documentations and debates on various aspects pertaining to the state restructuring, elections, federalism and the Constitution.¹

This bibliography has been divided into six specialized categories on the basis of themes of resources collected. Resources pertaining to local and provincial governments are organized in the first section, elections and federalism in the second, fiscal federalism in the third, constitutional and judicial federalism in the fourth, diversity and federalism in the fifth, and resources pertaining to federalism in general are collected in the final section.

In the course of preparing this bibliography, resources published by various governmental and non-governmental organizations have been consulted. For instance, resources published by the ministries, their directorates, departments and sections of the federal and provincial governments; by constitutional bodies at the federal and provincial level; by sections of local governments; and additional resources available at their websites have been included. Keywords were employed to search for reference resources in online catalogues of libraries, and in other online search portals, for instance: Nepal, federalism, federal, province, provincial, local, constitution, judiciary, fiscal federalism, decentralization, identity politics, state restructuring, election commission, planning commission, national natural resources, fiscal commission, judicial committee, parliament, provincial assembly, constituent assembly, service delivery, governance, elections, etc.

We believe that this bibliography will serve as a reference point for students, teachers, researchers, academics, scholars, policymakers, professionals, activists and common citizens interested in federalism in Nepal in their quest to understand the debates around the justification for and the practice of federalism in Nepal. Utmost efforts have been made to include books, reports, journal articles, papers presented at workshops, and university research papers that are relevant to the themes. However, sectoral laws created by the federal, provincial and local governments have not been included here. We feel that a lot of valuable resources relevant to the subject

¹ We also suggest consulting a *A Bibliography of Academic Writings on the Federal Transition in Nepal* published by Martin Chautari.

might have been left out. Since it is our intention to periodically update this bibliography, recommendations and suggestions on missing resources or errata sent to info@democracyresource.org or ankalalchalaune@gmail.com will be addressed in subsequent editions.²

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² Shekhar Parajulee and Anubhav Ajeet served as the editors during the preparation of this bibliography.

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