



GOVERNANCE

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Unpacking Development of Karnali Province

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Photo by Annapurna Post

Karnali Province is mostly associated with poverty, hardships, lack of facilities, and marginalization. However, the recent strides of the province prove the narrative to be a thing of the past. According to the National Population and Housing Census 2021, the average life expectancy in Karnali population has reached 72.5 years, surpassing other provinces and the national average of 71.3 years. This could be attributed to several factors such as accessibility of healthy foods, improvement in the healthcare sector, reduction in infant deaths, etc. The infant mortality rate of Karnali province is at 14 per thousand live births, compared to 12 per thousand live births in Bagmati and Gandaki provinces. This is also an improvement compared to previous figures.

The Karnali province with a population of 1,688,412, constitutes 5.79 percent of Nepal's total population. Its annual population growth rate is 0.70 percent. However, there is also a flip side to the infrastructure and education sector of the province that demands attention. The province hosts the highest number of population residing in rural areas; about 80.1 percent of the total population of Karnali lives in villages. Out of 718 wards in Karnali, 637 are rural areas while only 75 are urbanized. Similarly, 26.69 percent of the population living in the province are extremely poor, and nearly 52 percent live below the poverty line.

In addition, the literacy rate of Karnali province has reached 76.1 percent as per the recent census, compared to the national average of 76.2 percent. However, despite the encouraging literacy ratio, the data also suggests that only 8 percent of the population have completed school-level education, showcasing a need for continued effort to minimize school drop-out. Also, the data highlights that 17.1 percent of Karnali citizens are pursuing employment abroad.

In conclusion, now that each province is in the budget and program formulation process for the upcoming fiscal year including the Karnali province, they should revisit these indicators to streamline and strategically prioritize the development efforts.

Read more: [Annapurna Post](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) estimates that 1.8 million people from 400,000 households will be affected by floods and landslides, this monsoon. Moreover, the prediction also suggests that above-average rainfall will impact 600,000 more people than last year. This assessment of the monsoon preparedness plan has been presented to the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Executive Committee.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

2. The visually impaired teacher, Sangita Parajuli is protesting in Maitighar Mandala, Kathmandu, demanding a transfer to an accessible school. Parajuli, who passed the Teacher Service Commission exam and became a lower-secondary teacher, highlights the state's failure to place teachers with disabilities in suitable schools. Currently employed in Ramechhap, she reports facing multiple injuries due to a lack of disable-friendly infrastructure.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

3. The government has amended the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, of 2007 broadening the definition of human trafficking offenses. It has also included crimes such as creating fake documents, deceiving Nepali or foreign citizens to take them abroad, and sending a foreigner abroad illegally through the Nepali route. The amended law imposes stricter penalties, previously treated as cases of encouraging illegal foreign travel with one to two years of imprisonment.

Read more: [Online Khabar](#)

4. Nepal is preparing to reelect for some key UN positions, including the United Nations Human Rights Council for the year 2027 - 2029, where it ended its recent tenure in December 2023; and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the year 2029 - 2031, where it is an existing member for 2024 - 26. Notably, Nepal has announced its candidature for a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the year 2037-38 and has started lobbying efforts.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

5. The latest data from the Foreign Employment Board suggests that a total of 4,035 Nepali migrant workers abroad have died between the fiscal year 2020 - 2023. The percentage of such incidents has surged from 18.50% to 49.54 % during the period. The reported challenges include adverse weather conditions, increased workload, liquor consumption, lack of awareness of local laws and machinery operation, illness, etc.

Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)

6. The investigation committee of the Nepal police has concluded that the audio file broadcasted on Sidhakura.com under the dark file segment was fake. Sidhakura.com had published an audio news report, accusing some judges of the Supreme Court, senior lawyers, and media operators of attempting to settle four hundred corruption cases on the sting operation. Following that, a six-member committee led by the head of the cyber bureau was formed to investigate the audio case.

Read more: [Setopati](#)

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Presented by



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