

Knowledge for the world

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Globalization, knowledge economics, these are words bandied about by leaders all over the world in various international forums. The explosive rise in the economic growths of China and India in recent years has made the developed world sit up and take notice. India and China are producing thousands of technocrats every year. Even if a small percentage are quality wise acceptable by Western standard, the number is enormous. These Asian giants have been swift to adapt, willing to change and work hard. They now have the fastest growth and highest proportion of 'knowledge' workers. Globalization is meant to reallocate resources, restructure economics, and reorient societies for the future. World wide R&D is churning out knowledge which is being delivered by Google, Amazon, Yahoo, eBay and Wikipedia. We can now tap into the world's finest thinkers and intellect. This has revolutionized business, science, education and health.

Why do these changes leave us Nepalese with some sort of resource crunch in most things? Surely, the health sector which is one of the few services still functioning fairly well could capitalize on this vast ocean of knowledge bank, much of it free and available through the Internet. Reading of the many advances in medicine can be exciting. Stem cells are injected for treating surviving and noncontracting

heart muscle so that the heart pumping action is restored. Stem cells are useful because they have the potential to mature into blood, nerves, heart and other tissues. Tissue engineering has been helping in various specialities like using amnion in eye diseases and storing homograft of bones and skin in banks. Also, using bio artificial kidney in kidney failure, controlling tremors in Parkinson's disease with electrodes implanted in the brain, muscle implants to help paralysed patients to move, high tech limbs prosthesis to help amputees. There are cochlear implants, retinal prosthesis, engineered urinary bladder, gene therapy and the list is endless. Thus, by dissemination of knowledge the social benefit for mankind is immense. The 21st century is going to be a period for more miracles and it is time for us to take benefit of the same. Let us not be left behind in this information age. It is time to be alert and the wise teachers in the various medical colleges in the country must get together and share knowledge. We could for example avoid repetitions in research, thesis, provide best treatment option for puzzling cases, share libraries, journals, latest teaching procedures etc. This is knowledge economics that can be utilized in health services. Let us be aware of the new developments and use them so that our students can go out into the world and compete with the best.