

# ASSESSMENT OF MEDICAL / HEALTH AGENCIES DESIGNATED AS RESEARCH CENTRES IN NEPAL

## FINAL REPORT

July 2011  
Kathmandu, Nepal

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Professor (Dr.)Chop LalBhusal  
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## ABBREVIATIONS

CDO	Chief District Office
CDR	Central Development Region
DDC	District Development Committee
DHO	District Health Office
EDR	Eastern Development Region
ERB	Ethical Review Board
FWDR	Far-Western Development Region
GoN	Government of Nepal
IRC	Institutional Review Committee
MIC	Ministry of Information and Communication
MoHP	Ministry of Health & Population
MoI	Ministry of Industry
MWDR	Mid-Western Development Region
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NHRC	Nepal Health Research Council
NIB	National Intelligence Bureau
PPICD	Policy, Planning and International Co-operation Division
RCs	Research Centres
RHDO	Regional Health Directorate Office
SWC	Social Welfare Council
TV	Television
WDR	Western Development Region

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC) Act (1991) has given more emphasis to regulate various kinds of health research activities in the country. This is basically to protect the rights and safety of human participants involved in the health research.<sup>1</sup> National Ethical Guideline for Health Research (2001) stressed some direction towards conducting health research with application of ethical principles, but most of the organizations/individuals that are conducting health research in Nepal are not taking informed consent from the study participants, thus violating the rights and safety of such participants. Majority of organizations/individuals are not interested to submit their research proposal for ethical approval from any recognized review boards/committees.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, most of medical/health agencies (hospitals, polyclinics, NGOs etc.) designated as research centres were reluctant to collaborate and networking with each other. It has been argued that putting the word “Research” in any agency’s name made easier to get the various things (equipments, medical supplies etc.) from abroad without paying or paying minimum or discounted government tax than others.<sup>3</sup> It has been stated that more than 75 percent of the research centres that are functioning in the country are not conducting any health research although they have written the word “research” in their signboard. Study revealed that such practices were done to make their agency’s name fancy and catchy for the public to draw their attention.<sup>2</sup> It seems that the most of the agencies/organizations are using the word “research” for the purpose of their business strategy, probably not at all for the purpose of uplifting the health research scenario in the country.

Ministry of Health & Population (MoHP) has provisioned that each and every centres that are holding “Research” word in their title name should have to conduct at least two researches per year in different topics of their relevant health areas with the permission from NHRC. If such research centres couldn’t able to conduct any health researches within the period of two years after its establishments, the MoHP may warn such centres and they will have to take out the word “Research” from their signboard and relevant documents. It was a matter of huge discussion in the year 2005, not only in the national newspaper, but also in the famous TV channel (Image), run by the well-known

TV artist named Mr.KedarKhadka. Since then, NHRC and MoHP couldn't able to look back with their propositions and commitments to regulate such mal-practices in health research in the country. However, NHRC went on advocating the situations in different forums and meetings. Now, the time has come to initiate the same thing in different perspectives.

In this context, NHRC would like to update the number of Medical/Health Agencies (Hospitals, Polyclinics, NGOs etc.) designated as Research Centres established since 15 July 2005 to 31 December 2010, and assess those research centres that came into functional before 15 July 2005.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The major objectives of the study were:

- To find out the existing number of Medical/Health Agencies (Hospitals, Polyclinics, NGOs etc.) designated as Research Centres till 31 December 2010,
- To find out the distribution of health related research centres in Nepal,
- To assess these research centres in terms of its research related characteristics, and
- To find out the reasons for putting the word "research" into their signboard.

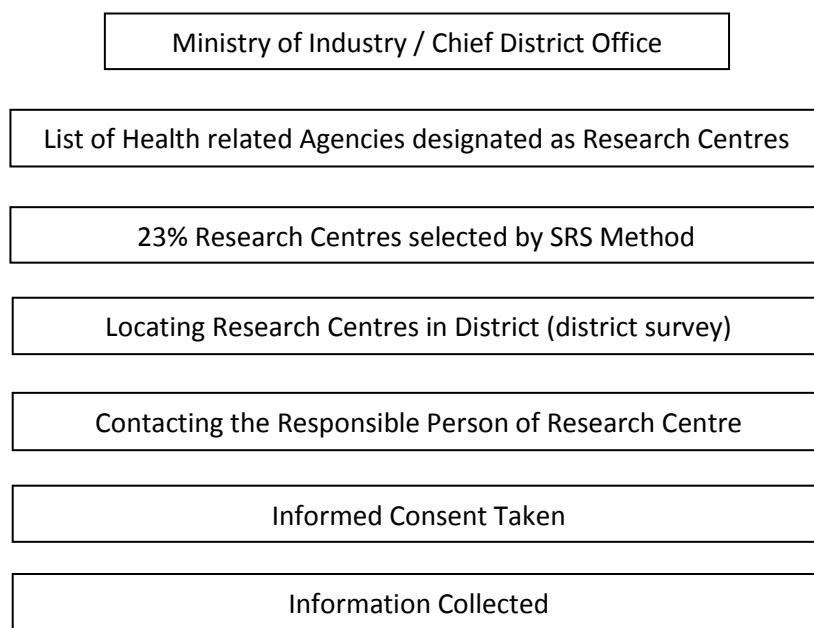
## **3. METHODOLOGY**

Assessment was done in order to find the number, at first Ministry of Industry (MoI) as well as Chief District Office (CDO) at the district level was contacted and collected the exact number of medical/health agencies (Hospitals, Polyclinics, NGOs etc.) that place the word "Research" in their title name since 15 July 2005 to 31 December 2010. Formative evaluation method was adopted in which information were added continuously, organized systematically and analysed periodically during the evaluation period. The evaluation period covered all the things conducted in the past to till the evaluation time. All the research based program documents including

progress reports, baseline study reports available during the study period were reviewed. Qualitative approach was used to examine the qualities of a specific research activities/programs carried out by the selected research centres. An evaluation tool was developed for the process.

### Sampling Procedure

All the registered research centers were included in the sampling frame, from which 23 percent research centers were selected for the evaluation study by simple random sampling (SRS) method. The flow chart for sampling the research centers and locating these centers in the district is given below:



All the selected research centers were grouped in their respective regions and districts. The responsible person of such centers was contacted and their informed consent was taken. If the responsible person of the selected research center did not provide their consent to give the information, another research center was randomly selected from the list for information collection.



## **Recruitment and Training of Information Collectors**

Four information collectors were recruited in order to collect the information from the sampled research centers. All of them were recruited from the central level. Intensive training was provided to them before information collection. During training, emphasis was given on information collection procedures focusing on interview technique. The information collection activities were supervised to ensure the quality of information. One field coordinator was also recruited for the evaluation study.

## **Entry to Study Area**

District Health Offices were contacted during the study. Their support was found to be essential for the success of the study. The responsible person in each selected research center was contacted and informed about the purpose and expected benefits of the study.

## **Evaluation of Research Center**

Each selected research centers situated in the district were visited, and information was collected using semi structured questionnaire (Annex-1) contained with cover letter (Annex-2). Pre-testing of the questionnaire was conducted in Kathmandu and necessary modification of questionnaire was done accordingly.

## **Data Management and Analysis**

The data management system was developed, which incorporated a system of editing and documentation at all levels of the study. All the information forms were checked and rechecked for consistency by the field coordinator. After obtaining the information, researcher had transferred all the information to Nepal Health Research Council, Kathmandu for data processing. These data were entered into the computer using standard data entry software for preliminary data analysis. The calculation of frequency distribution and percentage was done. Proportions of health facilities and NGOs designated as research center in each districts were calculated.

## Biases

The result of the study might be affected due to information bias during interviewing of responsible person of research center by different information collectors, but this was minimized to some extent by recruiting the educated information collectors and training. There was a little possibility of reporting wrong information to the information collectors, but these were minimized by asking the counter questions for tracking their real information.

Apart from these, following process was also adopted for sampled centres that actually conducted or involved in the research projects.

- Investigating team met the research team and discuss various aspects of their research projects/programs,
- If the selected centre has IRC, the team also met its members and try to assess whether they have followed the guidelines for IRCs for health research in Nepal (published by NHRC) or not,
- The team tries to look the research proposals if not submitted to NHRC,
- During discussion and spot observation, the team noted whether they have maintained their ethical standards while conducting the research projects in the identified research areas or not. The team also assessed the consistency of the methodology and objectives of the research,
- The resources needed for the project e.g. staffs, equipment, supplies, logistic support and fund whether available or not were supervised,
- Delays, difficulties and challenges encountered by the centre while conducting the research projects/programs at the field setting were assessed,
- The flow and quality of the data that were collected was also evaluated, and
- Proper communication and co-ordination of the centre with the study participants, collaborating groups and funding authorities were also evaluated.

## 4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The findings have been divided into following four sections:

- (1) Distribution of health related research centres in Nepal,
- (2) Distribution of Involvement of Research Program Characteristics,
- (3) Distribution of Following Research Process Characteristics, and
- (4) Distribution of Reasons for Putting the Word “Research” in the Signboard.

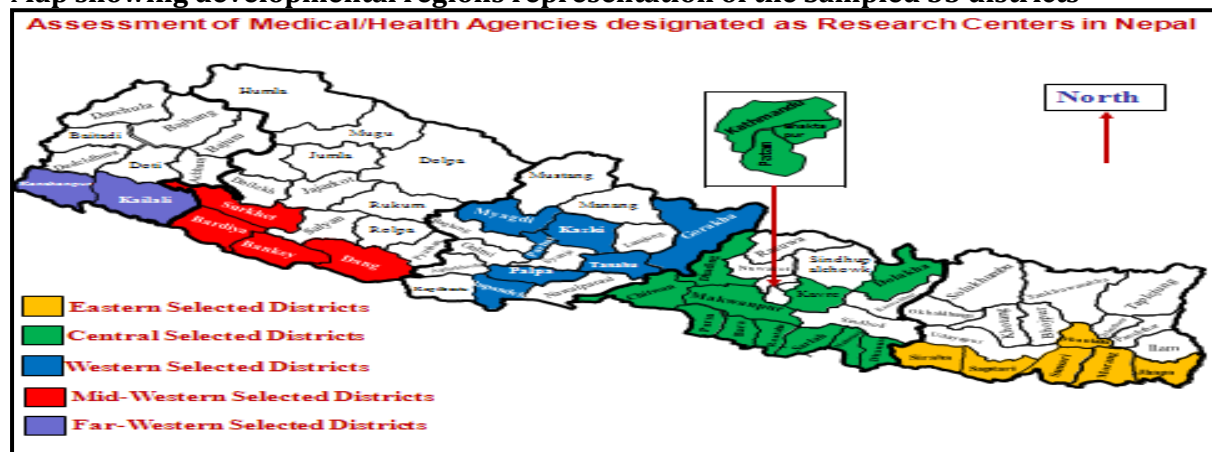
Apart from this, there is a separate section of conclusions and recommendations.

### SECTION 1

#### Distribution of Health related Research Centers in Nepal

There were altogether 370 health related research centers registered in MoI and CDO at the district level till 31 December 2010. These research centers were located in 33 districts of Nepal (Figure 1). The names of these districts were Dhankuta, Jhapa, Morang, Saptari, Sunsari, Siraha (eastern region), Bara, Bhaktapur, Chitwan, Dhading, Dhanusha, Kathmandu, Kavrepalanchowk, Lalitpur, Makawanpur, Parsa, Rautahat, Sarlahi, Dolakha, Mahottari (central region), Tanahu, Myagdi, Gorkha, Kaski, Prapat, Palpa, Rupendehi (western region), Banke, Dang, Surkhet, Bardiya (mid-western region), Kanchanpur, Kailali (far western region). It means that 44 percent of districts in Nepal have health related research centers.

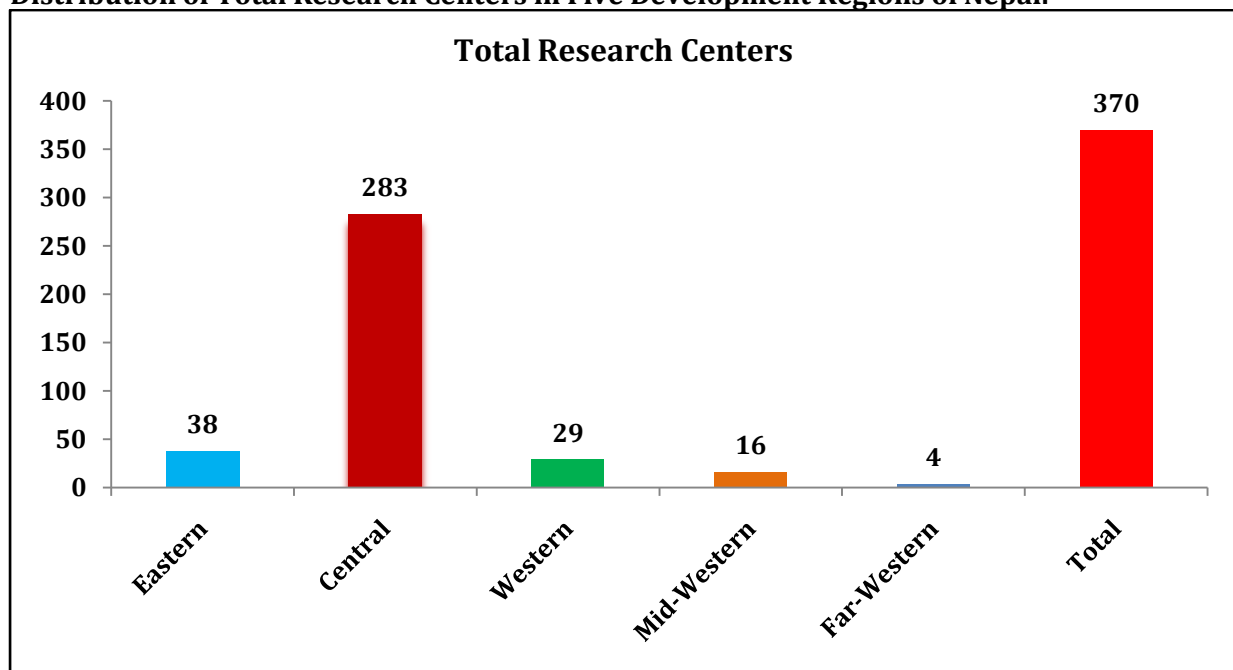
**Figure 1.**  
**Map showing developmental regions representation of the Sampled 33 districts**



Among these there were 65 (82%) health facilities and 305 (18%) NGOs designated as research centers. Their details such as names, addresses etc. were given in Appendix – A.

The region wise bar diagram (figure 2) showed that the range of number of research centers among five regions was 4 to 283. The highest number of research centers was found in Central Development Region (CDR) and lowest in Far-Western Development Region (FWDR). The distribution of health facility and NGOs related research centers by regions is given in Table 1.

**Figure 2.**  
**Distribution of Total Research Centers in Five Development Regions of Nepal.**

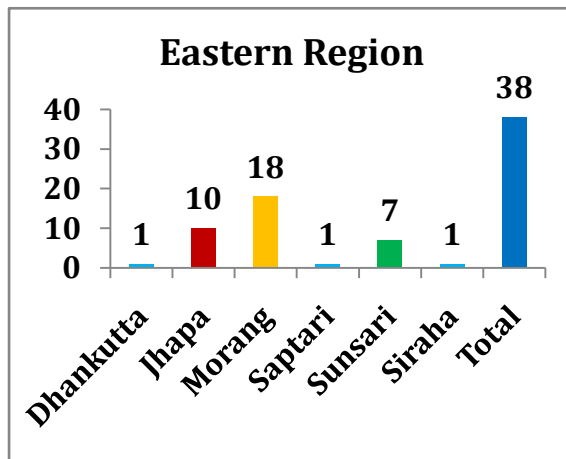


**Table 1.**  
**Distribution of Total Research Centers in Five Development Regions of Nepal.**

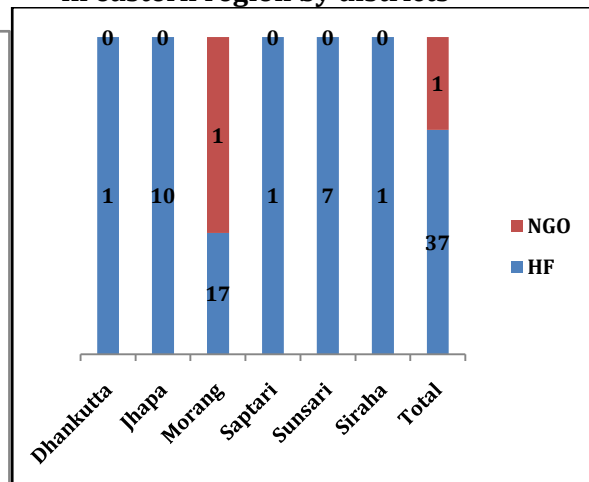
Regions	Health Facility related Research Center		NGO related Research Center		Total Research Center	
	n = 305	%	n = 65	%	N = 370	%
<b>Eastern</b>	37	12	1	1.5	38	10
<b>Central</b>	223	73	60	92	283	76
<b>Western</b>	29	10	3	5	32	9
<b>Mid-Western</b>	12	4	1	1.5	13	4
<b>Far-Western</b>	4	1	0	0	4	1

The district wise bar diagram for eastern (figure 3), central (figure 4), western (figure 5), mid-western (figure 6) and far-western (figure 7) development regions showed that the range of number of research centers among 33 districts was one to 196.

**Figure 3**  
Distribution of total research centers in eastern region



**Figure 3.1**  
Distribution of types of research centers in eastern region by districts

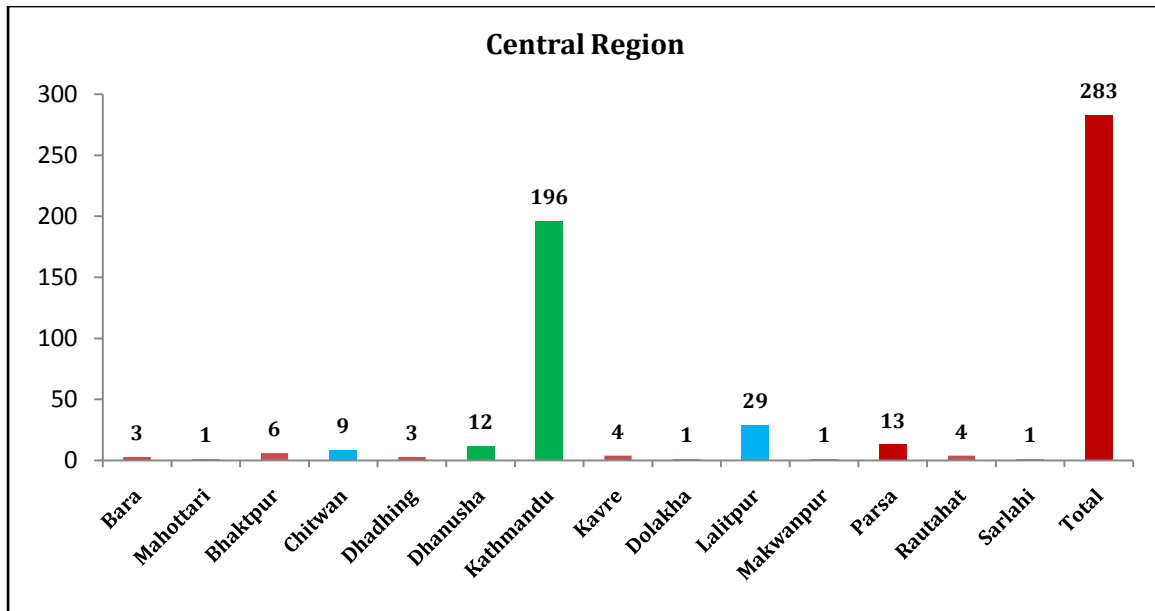


The highest number of research centers was found in Kathmandu district. There were eight districts such as Dhankuta, Saptari, Siraha (eastern region), Mahottari, Dolakha, Makwanpur, Sarlahi (central region), and Myagdi (western region) having only one research center and that too health facility related research center except in Mahottari where it was NGO related research. Excluding Kathmandu district, the range of number of research centers would be one to 29. Considering this, there were only five districts (Jhapa, Morang, Dhanusha, Lalitpur, Parsa, and Kaski) that have more than 10 research centers.

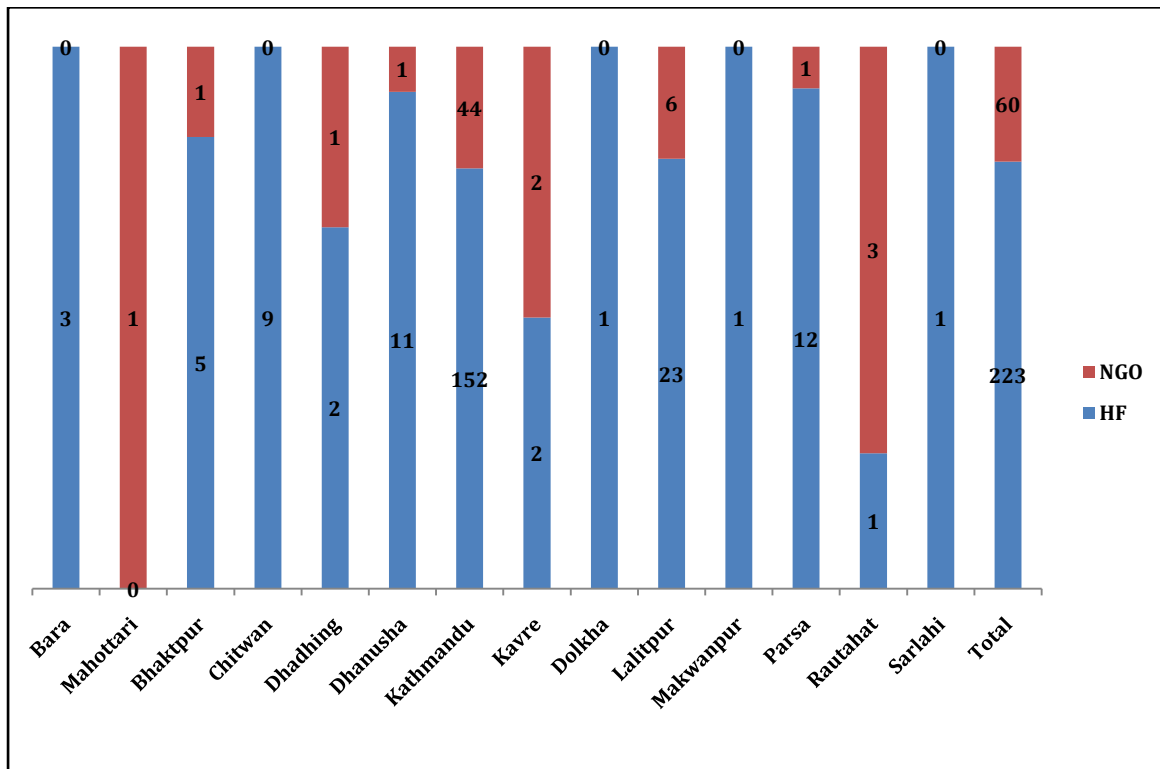
We didn't find any NGOs related research center in 19 districts such as Dhankuta, Saptari, Sunsari, Siraha from eastern region (figure 3.1); Bara, Chitwan, Dolakha, Makwanpur, Sarlahi from central region (figure 4.1), Tanahu, Myagdi, Gorkha, Prapat, Palpa, Rupendehi from western region (figure 5.1), Dang, Surkhet from mid-western region (figure 6.1), Kanchanpur, Kailali from far western region (figure 7.1).

We didn't find any of those so called research centers in the rest of other 42 districts.

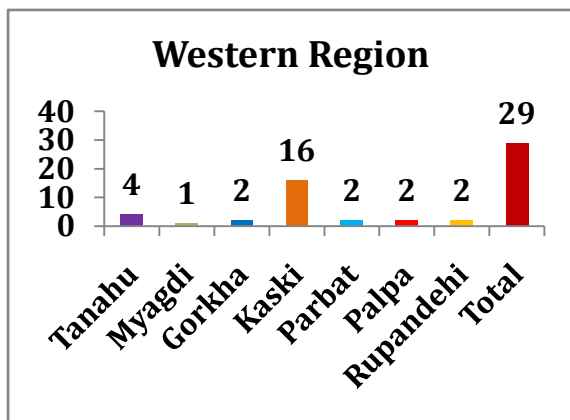
**Figure 4**  
**Distribution of total research centers in central region by districts**



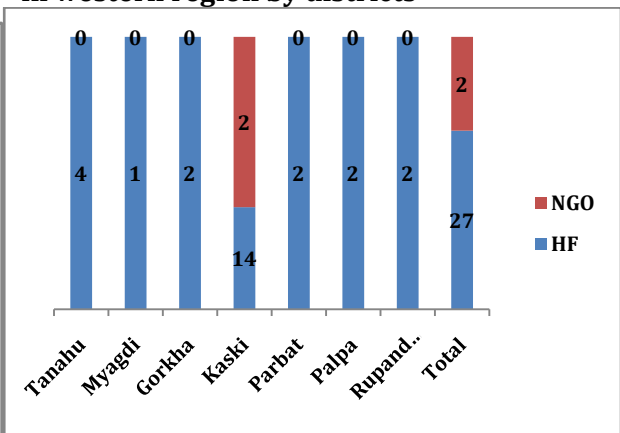
**Figure 4.1**  
**Distribution of types of research centers in central region by districts**



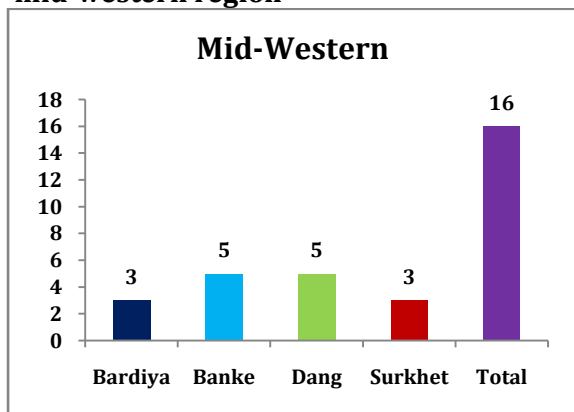
**Figure 5**  
Distribution of total research centers in western region



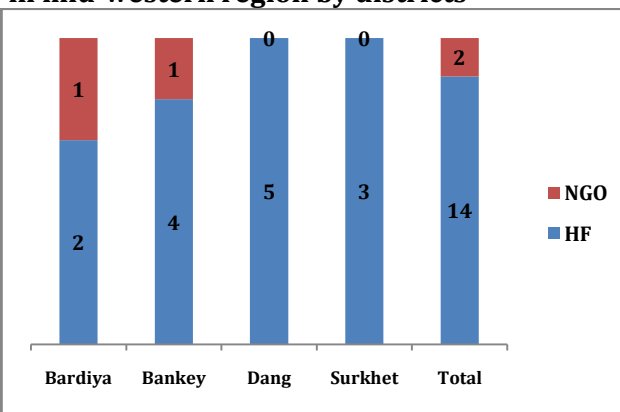
**Figure 5.1**  
Distribution of types of research centers in western region by districts



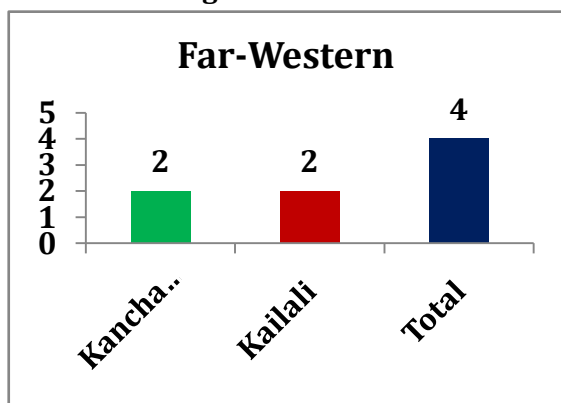
**Figure 6**  
Distribution of total research centers in mid-western region



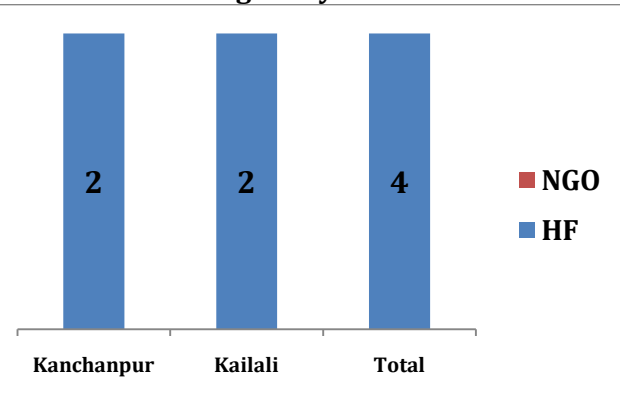
**Figure 6.1**  
Distribution of types of research centers in mid-western region by districts



**Figure 7**  
Distribution of total research centers in far-western region



**Figure 7.1**  
Distribution of type of research centers in far-western region by districts



Out of 370 research centers, 85 research centers (72 from among health facility related research centers and 13 from among NGO related research centers) were selected randomly for evaluation purpose, which represented 23 percent of sample selection. The sample selection was not below than 20 percent in each category of research centers (Table 2).

Twenty onedistricts were visited in order to locate the selected research centers. Visited districts were Dhankuta, Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari (eastern region), Bara, Bhaktapur, Chitwan, Dhanusha, Kathmandu, Kavrepalanchowk, Lalitpur, Parsa (central region), Kaski, Palpa, Rupendehi (western region), Banke, Dang, Surkhet, Bardiya (mid-western region), Kanchanpur, Kailali (far western region). Although we have found out from the register that there were two health facility related research centers in Rupendehi and Kailali districts, we didn't find any research centers in these districts during our study period. So we confined our evaluation study only in 19 districts (4 in eastern, 8 in central, 2 western, 4 in mid-western and 1 in far-western) (Table 2.1). All of these 85 research centers had given the informed consent to participate in the evaluation study.

**Table 2**  
**Distribution of types of sampled research centres by development regions**

Regions	Health Facility related Research Centers		NGO related Research Centers		Total Research Centers	
	Total n = 305	Sampled n = 72 (24)	Total n = 65	Sampled n = 13 (20)	Grand Total N = 370	Total Sampled N = 85 (23)
Eastern	37	16 (43)	1	0 (0)	38	16 (42)
Central	223	36 (16)	60	10 (17)	283	46 (16)
Western	29	10 (34)	3	2 (67)	32	12 (38)
Mid-Western	12	8 (67)	1	1 (100)	13	9 (69)
Far-Western	4	2 (50)	0	0 (0)	4	2 (50)

**Note:** Figure within the parenthesis is row percentage for its total appeared in the left side.



**Table 2.1**  
**Distribution of types of sampled research centres by districts**

Region	S. N.	District's Name	Total No. of RCs	No. of HFs	No. of NGOs	No of Sampled HF	No of Sampled NGOs	No. of Sampled RCs	No. of Consented RCs
Eastern	1	Dhankutta	1	1	-	1	-	1	1
	2	Jhapa	10	10	-	8	-	8	8
	3	Morang	18	17	1	6	-	6	6
	4	Saptari	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	5	Sunsari	7	7	-	1	-	1	1
	6	Siraha	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Central	7	Bara	3	3	-	1	-	1	1
	8	Mahottari	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
	9	Bhaktapur	6	5	1	2	1	3	3
	10	Chitwan	9	9	-	3	-	3	3
	11	Dhadhing	3	2	1	-	-	-	-
	12	Dhanusha	12	11	1	6	1	7	7
	13	Kathmandu	196	152	44	15	6	21	21
	14	Kavre	4	2	2	1	1	2	2
	15	Dolakha	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	16	Lalitpur	29	23	6	1	1	2	2
	17	Makwanpur	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	18	Parsa	13	12	1	7	-	7	7
	19	Rautahat	4	1	3	-	-	-	-
	20	Sarlahi	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Western	21	Tanahu	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
	22	Myagdi	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	23	Gorkha	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
	24	Kaski	16	14	2	8	2	10	10
	25	Parbat	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
	26	Palpa	2	2	-	1	-	1	1
	27	Rupandehi	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Mid - Western	28	Bardiya	3	2	1	1	-	1	1
	29	Banke	5	4	1	4	1	5	5
	30	Dang	5	5	-	3	-	3	3
	31	Surkhet	3	3	-	1	-	1	1
Far - Western	32	Kanchanpur	2	2	-	2	-	2	2
	33	Kailali	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>370</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Percentage</b>			<b>100%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>23%</b>

**Note:** RCs - Research Centers, HFs – Health Facilities designated as RCs,  
NGOs - Non-Government Organizations designated as RCs

## SECTION 2

### Distribution of Involvement of Research Program Characteristics

One fifth research centers were found to conduct health related research program. Among which majority (more than 50%) of NGO related research centers was found to conduct health research. There were few (14%) health facility related research centers that actually conducted health related research program. It means that the former centers were found to conduct health related research nearly four folds more than the latter one (Table 3). While observing by development regions, it was appeared that research centers located in mid-western region claimed that they had conducted more health related research program than any other research centers located in other regions. However, there were none of the research centers carried out any health related research program in the far-western region (Table 3.1).

**Table 3**  
Distribution of involvement of research program characteristics by the type of research centres

Involvement in Research program Characteristics		Health Facility related Research centers <i>n=72</i>		NGO related Research centers <i>n=13</i>		Total <i>N=85</i>	
		<i>N</i>	<i>%<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>N</i>	<i>%<sup>a</sup></i>
Conduction of any health related Research Program till date	Yes	10	14	7	54	17	20
	No	62	86	6	46	68	80
Pipelined any research Project	Yes	5	7	5	38	10	12
	No	55	76	6	46	61	72
	Not sure	12	17	2	15	14	16
Ever communicate about any research project	Yes	6	8	5	38	11	13
	No	66	92	8	62	74	87
Having Research Committee	Yes	6	8	5	38	11	13
	No	66	92	8	62	74	87
involvement in any other research programs conducted by other org.	Yes	2	3	4	31	6	7
	No	70	97	9	69	79	93

a: Column percentage to indicate the distribution of involvement of research program characteristics by the type of research centres

It was observed that the reasons for not conducting regular research programs were due to lack of research capacity and not having proper knowledge of research, research funds, proper infrastructure, and sufficient time to conduct research.

One tenth research centers informed us that they might have some research projects in days to come. We have observed that very less (7%) health facility related research centers pipelined some research projects to be conducted in future while more than five times of this percentage could be considered for the NGO related research centers. It indicates that NGO related research centers planned their research project more than health facility related research centers (Table 3). It was quite interesting to observe that there were not much difference in the distribution of percentages of having pipelined research project by all four regions except far-western region where none of the research centers planned any research project (Table 3.1).

**Table 3.1**  
**Distribution of research centre's involvement in research program characteristics by development regions**

Involvement in Research program Characteristics		Eastern n=16		Central n=46		Western n=11		Mid western n=10		Far-Western n=2		Total N=85	
		n	% <sup>a</sup>	N	% <sup>a</sup>	n	% <sup>a</sup>	n	% <sup>a</sup>	n	%	N	%
Conducting of any health related Research Program till date?	Yes	2	12.5	10	22	2	18	3	30	0	0	17	20
	No	14	87.5	36	78	9	82	7	70	2	100	68	80
Pipeline any Research Project	Yes	2	12.5	6	13	1	9	1	10	0	0	10	12
	No	14	87.5	30	65	6	54	9	90	2	100	61	72
	Not sure	0	0	10	22	4	36	0	0	0	0	14	16
Ever Communicate about any research project?	Yes	0	0	11	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	13
	No	16	100	35	76	11	100	10	100	2	100	74	87
Have Research Committee?	Yes	1	6	7	15	2	18	1	10	0	0	11	13
	No	15	94	39	85	9	82	9	90	2	100	74	87
Involvement in any other research programs conducted by other organizations	Yes	0	0	5	11	0	0	1	10	0	0	6	7
	No	16	100	41	89	11	100	9	90	2	100	79	93

a: Column percentage to indicate the distribution of research centre's involvement in research program characteristics by development regions.

Similarly, it was also found out that 13 percentage of research centers had started their communication about any research project and also had their research committees. It

came to our notice that very few (8%) health facility related research centers started their communication about any research project and also had their research committees (Table 3). While observing by development regions, only central region research centers were found to start their communication about any research project (Table 3.1). Regarding research committee, very few percentage (6%) of research center from easter region, 15 percent from central region, 18 percent from western region, and 10 percent from mid-western region had their research research, while none of the research centers located in far-western region had any research committees (Table 3.1).

Less number of research centers (7%) were found to be involved in other organizations research programs (Table 3). Such kind of involvement were found among those research centers located in central and mid-western regions, while rest other regions research centers were not found to be involved in other organizations research programs (Table 3.1). Very less number of health facility related research centers (3%) were found to be involved in other organizations research program wheareas nearly one third of the NGO related research centers were involved into such processes (Table 3).

## **SECTION 3**

### **Distribution of Following Research Process Characteristics**

Although it was said earlier that 20 percent of the research centers were found to conduct health related research progam, very less (5-7%) number of research centers were actually registered their research proposal to be submitted to some review committees from where research permission could be obtained. However, one tenth of the research centers were taking the informed consent while conducting their research. It was also found that insignificant (6%) number of research centers were actually received the ethical approval letter from an authentic review board or committees. It was also indicated that majority (86%) of the research centers didn't start the research yet (Table 4).

While observing development region, it came to our notice that only central region's research centers (6%) were taking ethical permission from an authentic review board or committees. None of other regions research centers were taking such permission. However, one among 16 and one among 11 research centers located in eastern and western regions respectively were found to obtaining informed consent while carrying out their research (Table 4.1).

**Table 4**  
**Distribution of following research process characteristics by the type of research centres**

Following the research process characteristics	Health Facility related Research centers n=72		NGO related Research centers n=13		Total N=85	
	N	% <sup>a</sup>	n	% <sup>a</sup>	N	% <sup>a</sup>
Registration of research Proposal	2	3	2	15	4	5
Submission of protocol according to the NHRC format/IRCs	2	3	4	31	6	7
Informed Consent	5	7	4	31	9	11
Permission letter of affiliated institute of researcher	5	7	2	15	7	8
Getting approval letter from IRCs or ERB of NHRC	1	1	4	31	5	6
Not started Yet	65	90	8	62	73	86

a: Column percentage to indicate the distribution of following research process characteristics by the type of research centres

Note: IRCs: Institutional Review Committees, ERB: Ethical Review Boards

**Table 4.1**

**Distribution of research centres that follow research process characteristics by development regions**

Following the research process characteristics	Eastern n=16		Central n=46		Western n=11		Mid western n=10		Far-Western n=2		Total n=85	
	n	% <sup>a</sup>	n	% <sup>a</sup>	n	% <sup>a</sup>	n	% <sup>a</sup>	n	% <sup>a</sup>	N	% <sup>a</sup>
Registration of research proposal	-	-	4	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5
Submission of protocol according to the NHRC format/IRCs	-	-	6	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	7
Informed Consent	1	6	7	15	1	9	-	-	-	-	9	11
Permission letter of affiliated institute of researcher	1	6	5	11	1	9	-	-	-	-	7	8
Getting approval letter from IRCs or ERB of NHRC	-	-	5	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6
Not started Yet	15	94	38	83	8	73	10	100	2	100	73	86

a: Column percentage to indicate the distribution of research centres that follow research process characteristics by development regions

Note: IRCs: Institutional Review Committees, ERB: Ethical Review Boards

## SECTION 4

### Distribution of Reasons for Putting the Word “Research” in the Signboard

During our field observation cum interaction, it was found that majority (60%) of the research centres were informing us that the reason for putting the word “research” into their signboard was actually to conduct the research, but rest of the research centres didn’t able to reply into this direction. It was quite interesting to know that 15 percent(13/85) research centres had written the word “research” into their signboard without properly knowing it (Table 5).This finding is in consistent with the previous findings. They said that somebody suggested them to write such word into their signboard, and these were 14 percent. There were some research centres (13%) that followed exactly what others in the same field were following (Table 5). It means that the reason behind writing such word is also due to the influence of other organization working in similar settings.

*One of the staff of research centre informed us that some research centres are even unaware about what sort of research activities should they do by themselves.*

Apart from these, some research centres (4%) said that routine examination of blood and urine samples was their research. It was also indicated that the main reason behind putting the word "Research" in their signboard was just to deduct the government and related tax (5%), make the word fancy and catchy for the public to draw their attention towards their centre (7%), and easy to get donation (8%) (Table 5).

*One of the staff of research centre informed us that they knew about the issues related to research activities only after some news related to health research appeared in the newspaper and broadcasted in the radio.*

We observed that health facility related research centres were found to be miss using such word more frequently than NGO related research centres as it was evident from the scenario that three fourth of such NGO centres indicated that they put such word just to conduct the research while one in two health facility related research centres

indicated the same thing. It means that more number of NGO related research centres were actually conducting the research compared to health facility related research centres (Table 5). However, all of the research centres offering academic courses were found to be involved in research and related activities and these were eight percent.

*One of the staff of research centre informed us that their lawyer suggested that putting the word research into their health facility names will make them easy to convert that facility into hospital in future.*

*One of the staff of research centre informed us that medical report made from the agency designated as research centre will be considered reliable and valid for those who are supposed to get authentic laboratory report for submission to foreign employment agencies.*

During field visit, we noticed that some research centres removed the word “research” from their signboard with white cement. When we asked with such centres, they were found to be very conscious while responding our queries. It means, they knew that they were miss-using the word “research”.

While observing the distribution of research centres in five development regions, all of those parameters of obtaining the information regarding reasons for putting the word “research” in the signboard were found to be more or less similar in percentage distribution except in some specific parameter and far-western region (Table 5.1).

**Table 5**

**Distribution of reasons for putting the word “Research” in the signboard by the type of research centres**

Reasons for putting the word “research” in the signboard		Health Facility related Research centers n=72		NGO related Research centers n=13		Total N=85	
		n	% <sup>a</sup>	N	% <sup>a</sup>	N	% <sup>a</sup>
	Just to conduct health research	41	57	10	77	51	60
	Just to draw public attention	6	8	-	-	6	7
	It is fancy and catchy word	7	10	-	-	7	7
	Most organizations are writing so we are writing	11	15	-	-	11	13
	It is easy to get donation	6	8	1	8	7	8
	It is very easy to deduct government and related tax	4	6	-	-	4	5
	Can impress health service through research	6	8	1	8	7	5
	We are examining routing laboratory test that's what we understood research	2	3	1	8	3	4
	Somebody suggested us to write	11	15	1	8	12	14
	Without knowing properly	13	18	-	-	13	15
	It is an academic Institution	6	8	1	8	7	8

a: Column percentage to indicate the distribution of reasons for putting the word “Research” in the signboard by the type of research centres

\*percent exceed >100 due to multiple responses

**Table 5.1**

**Distribution of research centres’ reasons for putting the word “Research” in the signboard by development regions**

Reasons for putting the word “research” in the signboard	Eastern n=16		Central n=46		Western n=11		Mid western n=10		Far-Western n=2		Total n=85		
	N	% <sup>a</sup>	n	% <sup>a</sup>	n	% <sup>a</sup>	n	% <sup>a</sup>	n	% <sup>a</sup>	N	% <sup>a</sup>	
	Just to conduct health research	9	56	30	65	5	45	7	70	-	-	51	60
	just to draw public attention	1	6	3	7	1	9	1	10	-	-	6	7
	It is fancy and catchy word	1	6	4	9	1	9	1	10	-	-	7	8
	Most org. are writing so we are writing	5	31	4	9	1	9	1	10	-	-	11	13
	It is easy to get donation	-	-	3	7	1	9	2	20	1	50	7	8
	It is very easy to deduct government and related tax	-	-	2	4	1	9	1	10	-	-	4	5
	Can impress health service through research	2	13	3	7	1	9	1	10	-	-	7	8
	We are examining routing laboratory test that's what we understood research	-	-	1	2	1	9	1	10	-	-	3	4
	Somebody suggested us to write	2	13	7	15	-	-	1	10	2	100	12	14
	Without knowing properly	2	13	6	13	3	27	1	10	1	50	13	15
	It is an academic Institution	3	19	3	7	1	9	-	-	-	-	7	8

a: Column percentage to indicate distribution of research centres’ reasons for putting the word “Research” in the signboard by development regions

\*percent exceed >100 due to multiple responses



## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It has been concluded that there were 370 research centers presented in Nepal till 31 December 2010. It was also concluded that only 20 percent research centers were found to conduct health related research program in Nepal. Forty percent of the research centers in Nepal didn't know the actual reason for putting the word "research" into their signboard.

Based on the findings, the most important recommendations are given as follows:

- Mass awareness campaign need to be broadcasted through appropriate channel of media for those centres that are holding "Research" word in their title name should have to conduct at least two researches per year in different topics of their relevant health areas with the permission from NHRC.
- Develop capacity of those research centres that are willing to conduct some sort of health research in their working areas.
- Promote regional level research meeting and workshop so that such centres will get an opportunity to share their research ideas/activities/concept proposal and receive feedback in order to promote research work at regional level.
- Strengthen the networking and coordination between such research centres. For which NHRC should play a facilitative role.
- Delays and difficulties encountered by the research team of respective research centres while implementing the research projects at the field setting should have to be informed to NHRC.
- Encourage these research centres to submit their research proposal(s) either at the ERB of NHRC or IRCof the respective institution and take the ethical approval letter(s).
- Strengthen surveillance system for monitoring these research centres and maintain a good harmony with National Intelligence Bureau (NIB), Social Welfare Council (SWC), NGO Federation, Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC), Ministry of Industry (MoI), CDO, District Development Committees(DDC), Regional Health Directorate Office (RHDO) and District Health Offices (DHO).

- Prepare the Terms and Conditions for putting the word "Research" in the title name of any organization / agency / centre / institute / polyclinic / hospital.
- Conduct series of orientation workshop in order to make aware lawyers and senior officials of NIB, SWC, MIC, MoI, CDO, DDC, RHDO, DHO and umbrella organization of Foreign Employment Agencies regarding putting the word research in any health facility and NGO names.

## 6. BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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BC RK. Management and Coordination Issues of health research and It's Key Challenges, Editorial, Journal of Nepal Health Research Council, October 2004.

## ANNEX - 1



## NEPAL HEALTH RESEARCH COUNCIL

RAMSHAH PATH, KATHMANDU

Phone: 00977-1-4254220/4227460, Fax: 00977-1-4262469

**Assessment of Medical/Health Agencies (Hospitals, Polyclinics, NGOs, etc)  
designated as Research Centers in Nepal**

I/we/am/are ..... from NHRC. This is to inform you that NHRC is going to conduct the Rapid Assessment of Medical/Health Agencies (Hospitals, Polyclinics, NGOs, etc.) designated as Research Centers in Nepal. The main objective of the study is to assess the health related research activities, program goals/objectives, functional aspects of Institutional Review Committee (if existed) in the research center. The information you will provide on behalf of your organization/agency will be kept confidential.

Your participation in this study will benefit your organization/agency in the long run. If you have any query/ questions regarding the assessment please feel free to call us.

Name of Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature & Seal: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Given consent:      Yes                       No

If no, provide reason:

\_\_\_\_\_

1. Established Date of Organization/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Chief of the Organization/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Full Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(With phone number)

5. Type of organization:       Profit Making Health Organization/Agencies  
 Non-Profit Making Health Organization/Agencies  
 Academic Institution  
 Others  
Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Main Goals or Objective(s) of the Organization / Agencies:

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7. Did your organization/agency conduct any health related Research Program/Project till this date?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, number of health related Research Projects/Program conducted till date:

Would you please tell us the titles of your health related research projects/programs since its establishment?

SN	Title	Study Area	Name of PI	Funding Year	Funding Agency	Project Duration	Status

8. Has your organization/agency pipeline (going to be started) any research projects?

- Yes  
 No  
 Not sure

If yes, please mention the following.

SN	Project Name	Study Area	Name of PI	Funding Agency	Project Duration

9. Do your organization/agency have Research Committee?

- Yes (*please attach the name list of committee members*)  
 No

10. Do your organization/agency follow the research process? (*Multiple answer possible*)

- Registration of Research Proposal  
 Submission of protocol according to the NHRC format / IRCs  
 Informed Consent  
 Permission letter of affiliated institute of researcher  
 Getting approval letter from IRCs/IRBs or ERB of NHRC  
 Not started yet

11. Was there any health related research programs/projects that are not conducted or incomplete although planned or pipelined?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, provide main reasons

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12. Did your organization/agency ever communicate with NHRC about any research project/process?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, what kind of communication, mention it?

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If no, please mention reason?

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13. Did your organization/agency involve in any other research programs / projects conducted by other organization / agency?

- Yes  
 No

If yes, please mention the followings.

S. N.	Project/Program Name	Study Area	Name of PI	Name of Organization	Funding Agency	Project Duration

14. Your opinion regarding putting the word "Research" or "Anushandhan" in your organization/agency's signboard. *(Multiple answer possible, please tick "✓" wherever respondent's opinion considered positive and "x" in negative opinion)*

- Just to conduct health research  
 Just to draw public attention  
 It is fancy and catchy word  
 Most organizations / agencies are writing so we are also writing  
 It is very easy to get donation  
 It is very easy to deduct government and related tax  
 Can impress our client that we provide health services through research  
 We are examining routing laboratory test that's what we understood research  
 Somebody suggesting us to write the word "research"

- We have written the word without knowing it properly
- It is an academic institution so we put the word "research"
- Others (specify)

---



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15. What could be the probable reason of not conducting/initiating any health research program/project till date by your organization/agency? *(Ask with those who didn't conduct/initiate any health research program/project) (Multiple answer possible, please tick ✓)*

- We don't have time to conduct research
- We don't have any capacity to conduct research
- We don't have infrastructure to conduct research
- We don't have fund to conduct research
- We don't know we need to conduct research
- Others (specify)

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16. What would be your organization/agency's future strategy in terms of health research in Nepal?

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17. What would you require in order to uplift the research capacity of your organization/agency?

Name of NHRC Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Time:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You!**

# ANNEX - 2

## Sample Cover Letter during Data Collection

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pk/f@mlj ifodf gkfn ; /sf/ , :j f:Y6 tyf hg; vof d@fno, gkfn :j f:Y6 cg; @fg kl/ifb^f/f ; ~r fng e@xsf] Assessment of Medical/Health Agencies (Hospital, Polyclinics, NGOs, etc) designated as Research Centers in Nepal ; D@Lij c@vbg cg; @fg sfosf] nflu ; D@Lij Format cg; f/sf lj j /@ cg; @fg sfodf ; D@Lij o; kl/ifb^sf sdf f/Inf@oyfzL3|pknAvu/f@bg xg cg/fw5 .

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**g@ Mj** gkfn clw/f@ el/ sg}klg l/; r {; [G/ gdfs :j f:Y6 ; :yf :yfkof ubf{ gkfn ; /sf/ , :j f:Y6 tyf hg; vof d@fnosf] lghLt yf u} ; /sf/L:j f:Y6 ; :yf -c:kt fn tyf gl; { xfd cfd\_ :yfkof, ; ~r fng glt , dfkb@B F +k' f@f/ lgbzsf @^! sf] ^a \_sf] abf g=&adfhhd sg}klg l/; r {; [G/ gdfs/@ xg]:j f:Y6 ; :yfx?n] gkfn :j f:Y6 cg; @fg kl/ifb\ -NHRC\_ ; E ; dGo u/Lij lwj t ?kdf j ifdf sD ldf @-bQ j @f :t /lo cg; @fg k'f u/ \$f] xg' kg@ . c@yf @; r {; [G/ Egdfs/@ x@p@' kg@ e@] Jb :yf /x@f] s/f o; kq; fy hfgsf/Lu/f@ .



## **ANNEX - 3**

### **LIST OF RESPONDENTS**

**Name list of Respondents**

<b>S.N</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Affiliated Research Centre</b>	<b>Contact No.</b>
1	Mr.Khandra Prasad Khatiwada	Secretary	Dhunkuta model Hospital & Research Centre	Dhankuta-7, 9842062440
2	Mr.Ratna Kumar Thamsuhang	Chairman	Jhapa Polyclinic & Research Centre	Birtamod, Jhapa, 9841702883
3	Mr.Hari Prasad Luitel	Director	Janasewa Dental Hospital & Research Centre	Damak-13, Jhapa, 023-584973
4	Mr.IshorKarki	President	Mechi Model Hospital & Research Centre	Damak-10, Jhapa, 023-543436
5	Dr.Pramod Kumar Ray	Director	Om International Machi Hospital & Research Hospital	Damak-11, 9842795185
6	Dr. Chandra DevYadav	Dentiest	Pro-public Dental Hospital & Research Centre	Amarmani-3, Birtamod, Jhapa,023541800
7	Mr.YuvarajGiri	Manager	Q&Q Hospital & Research Centre	Damak-10, Jhapa, 9852675546
8	Mr.Blteu Shah	Lab. Technnician	Ajay Diagnostic and Medical Research Centre	Damak-11, jhapa, 9842620815,023580956
9	Mr.KuberBhattarai	M.D.	Namaste Health Care & Research Centre	Damak-13,Jhapa, 9842630545
10	Ms.SubaniMagar	Accountant	Morang Hospital & Research Centre	Pathari-7, Morang
11	Mr. Rajesh Rajbanshi	Dental Assistant	Chirayeu Dental Hospital & Research Centre	Pokharia-1, Biratnagar, 9852021970
12	Dr.Ashu Deep Sharma	Medical Director	Birat Nursing Home & Research Centre	Biratnagar-3, Morang, 021-522144
13	Dr.ShambuBdr. Karki	Campus Chief	Birat Health College and Research Centre	Biratnagar-5, Morang
14	Mr. Krishna Kumar Khawas	Manager	Green Cross hospital & Research Centre Pvt. Ltd.	Biratnagar-12, Morang, 9852020104
15	Mr.NilamberJha	Professor	Nobel Medical College Teaching Hospital & Research Centre Pvt. Ltd.	Biratnagar-5, Morang, 021-460736
16	Mr. Jay PrakashUranw	Lab. Asst.	JeevanJyotiDiognostic& Research Centre	Itahari-1, 02-585164
17	Mr.Mahir Hussein	Accountant	Apshara Polyclinic and Health Research Centre	Jitpur, Bara, 9845310765
18	Dr.Surendra Kumar Yadav	M.D.	Janaki Health Care & Research Centre	Gairha Bhetpur-6, Mohottari
19	Dr.Aek Raj Chataut	Member	Prime Dental Hospital & Research Centre Pvt. Ltd	Bhaktpur, 9849160199,01-6619494
20	Ms.SaritaShrestha	Adminstrator	Dr.Iwamura Memorial Hospital& Research Centre	Sallaghari-17, Bhaktpur,01-6614816
21	Mr.Uttam Kumar Maharjan	Executive Director	Bhaktpur Model Clinic & Research Centre	Bhaktpur, 9851043067

22	Mr. Toy Nath Adhikari	Branch Manager	Suswasthya Dental Hospital and Research Centre	Bharatpur-10, Chitwan, 9845063425
23	Dr. Ajay Neupane		Sai Ram Dental Hospital & Research Centre	Bharatpur-10, Chitwan, 9845066291
24	Mr. Mahesh Kumar Gajurel	MD	Pushpanjali Polyclinic & Research Centre	Bharatpur-10, Chitwan
25	Mr. Sahadev Subedi	Administrator	Institute of Health Research Development	Janakpur Dhanusa
26	Mr. Ravi Kumar Pandey	Director	Mithilanchal Dental Hospital & Research Centre	Kishorinagar-2, Janakpur
27	Mr. Ram Prasad Shah	Chairperson	Jeevan Rekha Medical Polyclinic and Research Center	Sapahi-6, Dhanusha, 9844122239
28	Mr. Jay Prakash Yadav	MD	Mithila Medical Polyclinic & Research Centre	Ramananda Chowk, Janakpur
29	Dr. Laxmeshwor Mandal	Principal	Shree Mithila Ayurvedic College & Research Centre	Janakpur-1, Dhanusha, 9844037370
30	Mr. Mohammad Haque	In-charge	Sita Diagnosis and Research Centre	Mahuwa-1, Dhanusha, 9804852867
31	Mr. Bishnu Bajgain	Hospital Manager	Medicare National Hospital & Research Centre	Chabahil-7, Kathmandu, 01-4467067
32	Mr. Jyoti Raj Shrestha	Coordinator	Mother Infant research Activities	Thapathali Kathmandu, 01-4101546
33	Mr. Raman Bogati	MD	Jana Samudayek Swastha Polyclinic & Research Centre Pvt. Ltd.	Kalanki 14, Kathmandu
34	Mr. Tej Kumar Lama	MD	Reliance Medicare & Research Centre	Gausala, Kathmandu, 01-4465708
35	Mr. Binod Shiwakoti	Chairman	A.B. Damak Dental Hospital & Research Centre	Setopul, Kathmandu, 9851112509
36	Dr. Subodh Kumar Pokharel	Executive Chairman	Dhanwantari Ayurved Hospital & Research Centre Pvt. Ltd.	01-4379096, 9851032711
37	Dr. Ajit Rayamajhi	Consultant	Janak Medical and Research Centre	Balaju, Kathmandu, 01-4355748
38	Mr. Puspa Bdr. Barawal	MD	Alliance Medical & Research Centre Pvt. Ltd	Banashtali, Kathmandu, 9851075065
39	Mr. Kerh Man Sirpali	MD	Danf International Modern Health Care & Research Centre	Balaju, 16, Kathmandu, 01-209041
40	Mr. Karma Bdr. Gurung	Director	Himal Polyclinic & Research Centre	Sanobharyang, Kathmandu, 01-4278244
41	Dr. Ganesh Sah	Chairman	Lokhit Dental Hospital & Research Pvt. Ltd.	Tripureshwor, Kathmandu, 01-4101041

42	Mr.DibakarGautam	Director	Purnima Medical and Research Centre Pvt. Ltd	Gangabu, Kathmandu, 01-4357228
43	Dr.ReshmaShrestha	Dental Surgeon	Mero Dental Hospital and Research Centre	Gangabu, Kathmandu, 01-4382245
44	Dr.Buddhi Man Sherstha	CED	Kantipur Dental College teaching Hospital & Research Centre	Basubdhara, Kathmandu, 01-4385910
45	Mr. Ram Saran Gopali	Executive Director	Japan Nepal Health asnd Tuberculosis Research Association	Tinkune Kathmandu
46	Mr.HiraBaral	President	Jan SwasthyaBikasAnusandhan Kendra	Kathmandu
47	Dr.Sidharth Joshi	President	Jana SwasthaAnushandhanTathaBikasSamaj	Kathmandu
48	Mr.Deependra Singh	Director	SamayojitSwasthyaAnusandhan Ra BikasPratisthan	Subidhanagar, Kathmandu, 9803347418
49	Mr. Ashok Paudel	Research Manager	Health Research and Social Development Forum	Thapathali Kathmandu, 01-438045
50	Dr.Hari Kumar Shrestha	MD	Om Hospital & Research Centre	Chabahil - 7 , Kathmandu, 01-4476225
51	Dr.JeevanBdr. Sherchan	Medical Researcher	Dirghjeevan Healthcare and Research Centre	Tripureshwor, Kathmandu, 01-4264115
52	Mr. Ram Chandra Thapa	Chairman	Bhairab Hospital & Research Centre	Panauti 5, Kavre, 9841980270
53	Ms.RadhaPyariNakar mi	Program Officer	Nepal Network For Cancer Treatment and Research Centre	Banepa-1, 011-664524
54	Mr. Dinesh Dhungel	Program Manager	Centre for Research on Environment Health and Population Acivities	Lalitpur, 01-5546487
55	Mr.NirajMaharjan	Manager	Kumaripati Health Care & Research Centre Pvt. Ltd.	Kumaripati, Lalitpur, 01-5008556
56	Mr.Shaukat Ali	Managing Director	Bhawani Hospital & Research Centre	Chapkaiya 2, Birjung, Parsa,9845033123
57	Mr.BijayChaudhary	Director	JokhuChaudharySamudayik Health Care & Research Centre	Biruwaguthu-6, Parsa
58	Mr.DamodharAdhikari	Accountant	Krishna Hospital & Research Centre	Birjung-4, 9845038023
59	Mr. Anil Kumar Kushwaha	Chairman	Birgunj Diagnostic and Medical Research Centre Pvt. Ltd.	Birta-5, Parsa, 9855022542
60	Mr.Yudhishtir Prasad Rauniyar	Director	Mahabir Diagnostic and Medical Research Centre Pvt. Ltd.	Birgunj-14, 9845267614
61	Mr.KabiramKhatiwada	Adminstrator Officer	Advance Medicare Hospital & Research Centre	Birjung-5, 9845029883

62	Mr.Binaya Kumar Srivastav	Mananger	Divine Institute of Health training and Research	Birjung-2, Parsa, 9845405658,051-523628
63	Dr. Dinesh Maharjan	Director	Pokhara Dental Care & Research Centre	Mahendra pool 9, Pokhara, 9856024386
64	Mr.MadhavPoudel	Clinic Incharge	Dolfin Dental Care Centre Pvt. Ltd.	Pokhara, 9846040651
65	Mr.TribhuvanParajuli	Manager	Fewa City Hospital & Research Centre	Pokhara 7, 9846363900
66	Mr. Ram Chandra Gaire	Accountant	Om Hospital Diognostic& Research Centre	Pokhara-9, 9846183807
67	Mr.GyaneshworParajuli	Vice- President	WatawaraniyaShikshaTathaAnusandhan Nepal	Pokhara-2, 985602330
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69	Dr.NirmalLamichhane	Academic Director	Charak Hospital @ Research Centre Pvt. Ltd	NayabazarPokhara, 9856030780
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