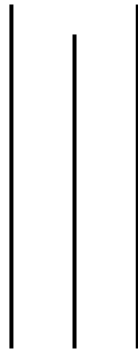


**A Proposal for inquiry on  
Mahabir Pun's Impact on the National Innovation Center:  
A Catalyst for Change**



**An Academic Proposal**

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## Table of Contents

### Chapter I: Introduction

1.1 Background .....	
1.2 Statement of the problem.....	
1.3 Significance/ Rational of the research.....	
1.4 Formulating the research questions.....	
1.5 Formulating the specific objectives.....	
1.6 Limitations of the research.....	
1.7 Hypothesis.....	

### Chapter II: Literature Review

2.1 Review of literature .....	
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### Chapter III: Research Methodology

3.1 Research design.....	
3.2 Document Analysis.....	
3.5 Case study Research.....	
3.6 Action Research.....	

### Bibliography /References

.....

# **Mahabir Pun's Impact on the National Innovation Center:**

## **A Catalyst for Change**

### **1.1 Background**

Mahabir Pun, a visionary social entrepreneur and technologist, has been a transformative figure in Nepal's journey towards digital empowerment and socio-economic development. His pioneering initiatives, particularly in the context of the National Innovation Center, have brought significant positive change in Nepal's innovation ecosystem. This research aims to explore Mahabir Pun's impact on the National Innovation Center and assess his role as a catalyst for change in fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and inclusive growth in Nepal.

Mahabir Pun, originating from a remote village called Nangi in Nepal, surpassed geographical barriers to attend college in Kathmandu, where he obtained a science degree. Recognizing the transformative potential of technology, Pun initiated rural telecommunication projects, notably bringing wireless internet to villages like Nangi, thus opening new pathways for education and empowerment.

His visionary outlook led to the establishment of the National Innovation Center, which focuses on using Nepal's unused innovation abilities to make society better. Under Pun's guidance, the organization has become a hub for nurturing startups and initiatives focused on addressing pressing challenges in agriculture, healthcare, and renewable energy.

Despite earning international recognition, including the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, Pun remains deeply rooted in his commitment to serving his community and advocating for inclusive development. Through his steadfast dedication and visionary leadership, Mahabir Pun continues to inspire and uplift individuals and communities, leaving a lasting mark on Nepal's path towards progress and prosperity.

### **National Innovation Center**

The National Innovation Center stands as a symbol of progress and creativity in Nepal, leading initiatives to tackle important social issues. Created with the goal of unlocking Nepal's potential for innovation, the National Innovation Center is a lively center for supporting business startups, advancing technology, and making a difference in society. Guided by inspiring figures like Mahabir Pun, the organization focuses on making ideas a reality, bringing positive changes in areas such as farming, healthcare, and clean energy. With its creative projects, teamwork, and commitment to excellence, the National Innovation Center is ready to guide Nepal towards a brighter future.

### **Catalyst**

A catalyst refers to something or someone that accelerates or facilitates a process or change without being directly involved or consumed in the process.

American sociologist Everett Rogers (March 6, 1931 – October 21, 2004) defined a catalyst as an individual or group that accelerates the adoption of an innovation by influencing others and facilitating its spread within a social system. In his seminal work "**Diffusion of Innovations**," Rogers describes catalysts as agents who play a pivotal role in the diffusion process by promoting awareness, reducing resistance, and encouraging the adoption of new ideas or practices.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Nepal holds promise in innovation and entrepreneurship, yet it struggles to harness these potentials for sustainable development due to systemic challenges. Limited access to technology, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of robust support systems have hindered the cultivation of a dynamic innovation landscape. Against this backdrop, Mahabir Pun's effort within the National Innovation Center emerge as a vital response to these obstacles. By bridging the gap between ideation and implementation, Pun aims to unlock Nepal's hidden innovation potential, kickstarting big changes and encouraging a culture where people are creative and start businesses.

## **1.3 Significance of Research**

Despite Mahabir Pun's notable contributions to the National Innovation Center (NIC) in Nepal, there remains a significant gap in scholarly research addressing the extent and impact of his influence on the center's initiatives. While Pun is widely recognized for his pioneering work in rural connectivity and education, there has been very little systematic investigation into his specific role in driving innovation and technology development through the NIC. This lack of research hinders a comprehensive understanding of Pun's contributions as a catalyst for change within the NIC and its broader implications for Nepal's socio-economic development. Therefore, there is a pressing need to conduct in-depth research to explore and analyze Mahabir Pun's impact on the National Innovation Center, elucidating his role as a driving force for innovation and change in Nepal.

## **1.4 Research Questions**

While addressing the topic of Mahabir Pun's impact on the National Innovation Center, the following research questions arise:

- a.** How Mahabir Pun established National Innovation Center as a research center in developing country like Nepal?
- b.** What specific challenges and barriers exist within Nepal's innovation ecosystem that hinder the effective utilization of its potential for sustainable development?
- c.** What can we learn from Mahabir Pun's way of promoting innovation and entrepreneurship through the NIC, and how can these lessons help improve future efforts to boost innovation in Nepal?

## **1.5 Objectives of the Research**

The specific objectives of this research include:

- To analyze the impact of Mahabir Pun's leadership on the growth and development of the National Innovation Center as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.
- To evaluate the challenges faced by Mahabir Pun and the organization in achieving their goals.
- To identify potential areas for improvement and future directions for Mahabir Pun and the NIC to continue driving innovation and social change in Nepal.

## 1.6 Limitations of the Research

The research will be confined to a specific geographical area, potentially limiting coverage of all relevant portions and organizations contributing to the development of the National Innovation Center. Additionally, due to constraints such as limited investment and time, as well as restricted access to authoritative resources, the research may not fully capture all expected outcomes. Despite of the limitations and time constraints, the research will try to cover up as much information as possible to make it valuable to the readers.

## 1.7 Hypothesis

- Mahabir Pun's work with the National Innovation Center (NIC) encourages talented Nepalis to stay in Nepal. His influence and support for innovation inspire young people to contribute to the country's progress.
- Mahabir Pun helps the National Innovation Center (NIC) create more successful projects and startups in Nepal. His guidance inspires local innovators to bring their ideas to life and succeed in business.

## Chapter II Literature Review

Nepal's economic struggles stem from its heavy dependence on imports and a lack of emphasis on fostering homegrown innovation. This has resulted in a significant brain drain, with many talented Nepalis leaving the country in search of better opportunities abroad, thereby impeding the nation's development efforts despite receiving foreign aid. Recognizing the need for change, the National Innovation Center (NIC) was established in 2012 to tackle these challenges head-on.

The organization's primary goal is to retain, nurture, and promote Nepal's top human capital by creating an environment conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship. By providing support and resources to local inventors, innovators, and scientists, NIC aims to harness their creativity and talent to drive social and economic progress within the country. Additionally, NIC serves as a platform to engage donor communities and international partners in supporting Nepal's development aspirations. Through initiatives like the NIC, there is hope for Nepal to reverse the brain drain phenomenon and retain its skilled workforce, thereby laying the foundation for sustainable economic growth and prosperity. (Article review from Nicnepal.org)

Similarly (Article review from Collegenepal.com)

Mahabir Pun's work in Nepal's rural areas, like bringing internet access to remote villages, shows how using technology can help address big problems. He didn't start because he was inspired; he started because he saw what people needed and wanted to help. Now, he's focused on the National Innovation Center (NIC), a place where young people can come up with new ideas. He's working on making sure it can keep going by finding ways to make money.

Pun thinks scientists can make big changes globally by coming up with new ideas to solve problems. But in Nepal, things are tough for scientists because the government doesn't support them enough. Pun's story is important because it shows how local ideas can make a big difference, even on a global scale. But for this to happen in Nepal, the government needs to help more and make it easier for new ideas to become real businesses. Building better infrastructure, like roads and buildings, is important for Nepal's progress, but it's not enough. We also need to support local talent and help them turn their ideas into businesses.

In short, Mahabir Pun's journey teaches us those local ideas can have a big impact, but they need support to become reality. We need to make it easier for people with good ideas to succeed, and that starts with better support from the government.

## Chapter III: Research Methodology

In order to find the impact of Mahabir Pun's on the National Innovation Center several research methodologies could be employed. Here are some potential methodologies:

### 3.1 Research design

The research methodology section describes the methods that has been used in the research work. It comprises of sampling procedures, research designs, and tools and techniques of data collection. The Research Design states the overall plan, strategy, and entire image of the study. It has tried to give answer to the research questions fulfilling the objectives of the research too.

This study will adopt a mixed-methods research design, combining qualitative and quantitative methods to provide comprehensive understanding of the research topic. The qualitative methodology would involve conducting structured interviews with NIC staff, project beneficiaries, and other stakeholders to gather in-depth insights into the NIC's operations, challenges, and successes. Certainly! As part of our research methodology, we will perform **content analysis** of NIC reports and publications. Additionally, we will actively **observe NIC activities and events** to gain a comprehensive understanding of Mahabir Pun's impact on the National Innovation Center. These qualitative methods will provide valuable insights into the NIC's operations, challenges, and overall success. Quantitative methods would include the collection of numerical data through surveys and questionnaires distributed to a broad range of NIC affiliates. This data would be analyzed to quantify the NIC's impact on innovation, economic development, and technology adoption rates in Nepal.

### 3.2 Document Analysis

Document Analysis is a systematic approach to evaluating a wide array of documents, including policy papers, official records, and other relevant texts, to extract information about the initiatives, public services, and employment opportunities fostered by the National Innovation Center (NIC). This process encompasses the examination of diverse materials such as books, periodicals, correspondence, administrative reports, personal diaries, and visual aids like maps and photographs. The objective is to decode the content, comprehend the underlying messages, and infer conclusions that contribute to our understanding of the NIC's role in technological and social advancements. Additionally, this analysis will consider the context in which these documents were created, the audience they were intended for, and the impact they have had on shaping public perception and policy regarding the NIC's contributions to innovation and community development.

### 3.3 Case Study Research

Case study research is a comprehensive method used to examine a specific entity or phenomenon in detail. It's commonly applied in disciplines like social sciences, business, and healthcare to gain nuanced insights. This approach involves collecting extensive data through various means such as interviews, observations, and document reviews. Its application could be examining the impact of technological advancements at the National Innovation Centre (NIC) and assessing Nepal's progress in science and technology since the NIC's inception.

### 3.4 Action Research

Action research is a methodology that emphasizes conducting research and implementing solutions simultaneously. It is commonly used in the social sciences to effect change and enhance practices by actively involving participants in the research process. This method can be applied to engage stakeholders and conduct needs assessments within the National Innovation Center (NIC) to identify challenges and co-design solutions.

## **Bibliography /References**

Here are the references for your research on Mahabir Pun's impact on the National Innovation Center and his role as a catalyst for change in Nepal:

1. "Mahabir Pun - The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation" for his community leadership and innovative application of wireless technology in Nepal<sup>1</sup>.
2. "Mahabir Pun's Wikipedia page" for information on his early life and contributions<sup>2</sup>.
3. "National Innovation Center - Wikipedia page" for details on the center's establishment and notable projects<sup>3</sup>.
4. "NIC | Mahabir Pun's dream of National Innovation Center, Nepal" for insights on Pun's vision and the center's objectives<sup>4</sup>.
5. "Diffusion of Innovations - Wikipedia" for understanding Everett Rogers' theory on catalysts<sup>5</sup>.
6. "The Emerging Role of Nepali Entrepreneurs in Driving Innovation and Job Creation" for context on the challenges and opportunities in Nepal's entrepreneurial ecosystem<sup>6</sup>.
7. "Nepal ranks way down in digital entrepreneurship and innovation" for a perspective on Nepal's global standing in innovation<sup>7</sup>.
8. "Digital Infrastructure in Nepal" for information on the state of digital infrastructure in Nepal<sup>8</sup>.
9. "Technology in Nepal: Exploring Its Impact on Society and Culture" for the impact of technology adoption and digitalization in Nepal<sup>9</sup>.
10. "Unleashing IT: Advancing Nepal's Digital Economy" for recommendations on advancing Nepal's IT sector<sup>10</sup>.

These references provide a comprehensive overview of Mahabir Pun's influence, the National Innovation Center's achievements, and the broader context of innovation and entrepreneurship in Nepal.