

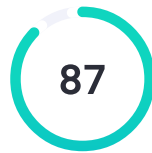
Cultural Relevance of Math - Acharya et al.

by Shashidhar Belbase

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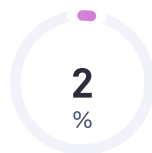


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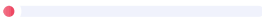





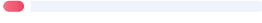













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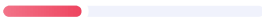


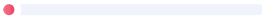
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76	Passive voice misuse	
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48	Engagement	
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27 Inappropriate colloquialisms 

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Measures average sentence length

words per sentence

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MATHEMATICS EDUCATORS' PERSPECTIVES ON CULTURAL RELEVANCE OF BASIC LEVEL MATHEMATICS IN NEPAL

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Abstract

The main purpose of this paper was to explore mathematics educators' perception of the cultural relevance of basic level mathematics in Nepal. The design of this study involved an interpretive qualitative approach by administering in-depth interviews with five purposively selected mathematics educators teaching at five higher education institutions in the Kathmandu valley. Each interview was audio recorded and transcribed for coding and constructing themes. The major themes that emerged were teaching in a mother language, contextualized ethnomathematics, and the local knowledge in the curriculum as a teaching approach. The findings of the study can be helpful to curriculum designers and teachers at the basic level mathematics. The study also adds in the literature of cultural aspects of mathematics teaching and learning and curriculum design.

Keywords: Cultural relevance, Curriculum, Pedagogy, Basic level mathematics, Nepal

Abstrak

Tujuan utama dari makalah ini adalah untuk mengeksplorasi persepsi pendidik matematika tentang relevansi budaya matematika tingkat dasar di Nepal. Desain penelitian ini melibatkan pendekatan kualitatif interpretif dengan melakukan wawancara mendalam dengan lima pendidik matematika yang dipilih secara purposif yang mengajar di lima institusi pendidikan tinggi di lembah Kathmandu. Setiap wawancara direkam audio dan ditranskrip untuk pengkodean dan membangun tema. Tema utama yang muncul adalah pengajaran dalam bahasa ibu, etnomatematika yang dikontekstualisasikan, dan kearifan lokal dalam kurikulum sebagai pendekatan pengajaran. Temuan studi ini dapat membantu perancang kurikulum dan guru matematika tingkat dasar. Studi tersebut menambahkan dalam literatur aspek budaya pembelajaran matematika dan desain kurikulum.

Kata kunci: Relevansi budaya, Kurikulum, Pedagogi, Matematika tingkat dasar, Nepal

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One of the meanings of culture can be depicted¹¹ as how the members of a cultural group make sense of experience through their language, symbols, values, norms, social practices, and use of¹² material artifacts (Banks, 2016). The origin and development of mathematics have been traced¹³ to different cultures, for example, Harappa, Egyptian, African, Minoan, Mycenaean, Greek, Roman, Arabic, Indian, Chinese, Aztec, Mayan, Incas, Native Americans (Indians), and Eskimos (Scriba & Schreiber, 2015). Therefore, historically, mathematics and its teaching–learning¹⁴ process have been a part of cultural reproduction and advancement of knowledge¹⁵ for generations. Mathematicians have attempted to standardize the knowledge and process of mathematics for developing shared understandings and uses. The standardization of mathematics became a norm through the Renaissance, the scientific revolution, Enlightenment, and modernism with the dominance of Eurocentrism¹⁶ (Ravn & Skovsmose, 2019). The curriculum and teaching and learning of mathematics have been affected by Eurocentrism, directly (under colonialism) and subtly. There was a "widespread attitude that mathematics lacking a utilitarian bent is in some sense a finer or better mathematics," which also influenced the mathematics curriculum in schools to promote elitism in mathematics (Joseph, 1997, p.75). Nonetheless, the root of mathematics lies in the material and artifact development to solve practical problems before taking the form of¹⁷ cognitive

and metacognitive, logical and formal structures (Joseph, 1997). Standard Eurocentric mathematics and its pedagogical practice alienate learners from mathematics in the family, society, culture, and nature¹⁸. In this context, ethnomathematics can be an appropriate approach for the classroom¹⁹ as a cultural group's mathematics (D'Ambrosio, 1984). In other words, ethnomathematics examines how different cultural groups use mathematics to solve day-to-day problems. This view reiterates that teaching and learning mathematics in schools should be culturally relevant to the students (Aronson & Laughter, 2016; D'Ambrosio, 1985),²⁰ so that it helps in reducing the achievement gap (Jordt et al., 2017).²¹ However, teacher education programs, despite offering multicultural and social justice courses, have not been able to connect the preservice teachers' mathematical experiences to the community and culture to understand issues of equity, fairness, and justice (Jackson & Roberts, 2017).²²

In this respect, mathematics is a product of human creation. Its uses are dependent on individuals' actions grounded on their lived or living experience, and "it is limited and structured by the human brain and mental capacities" (Lakoff & Nunez, 2000, p.1). This view was supported by Hersh and Rudnick (1997), who stated, "The rule of language and of mathematics are historically determined by the working of society that evolves under the pressure of the inner workings and interactions of social groups and physical and biological environment of the earth" (p. 8). These views signify how mathematics is deeply connected to people, their practices, and the environment that collectively determine their cultural and social identities and values. Ravn and Skovsmose (2019) stated, "Today, we busy ourselves with little else than to measure, weigh, model, approximate, and calculate on our environment, nature and culture alike" (p. 21). Their view of mathematics is and should be practically

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connected to students' life and culture, making it culturally relevant to what they do and what they must do as part of their everyday life (Garfield & Sterenberg, 2020).²³

Historically, mathematics is deeply rooted in culture through symbols, operational processes, and representations in arts, crafts, and literature (Barton, Poisard, & Domite, 2006). Therefore, mathematics is inseparable from culture and the evolution of cultures. In this sense, there is no difference between using mathematics and doing mathematics. The learning of mathematics seems to be influenced by learners' cultural background (Acharya, 2015) and how they connect mathematics to day-to-day life through games, plays, and artifacts (Pradhan, 2017). Therefore, mathematics should enable learners to perform operations of mathematics²⁴ in their cultural milieu (Acharya, 2020).

The students should be able to ask for their role in a democratic and multicultural community in the classroom (Ladson-Billings & Henry, 1990) through a culturally relevant pedagogy of supporting and engaging them with funds of knowledge (Civil, 2016; Gallivan, 2017). However, the practice of culturally relevant mathematics in the classroom depends on the national curriculum policy, framework, curriculum, teacher preparation and training, assessment, and daily classroom activities. Some scholars and researchers (Krasnoff, 2016; Moyer, 2001; Wachira & Mburu, 2017) have discussed the symbiosis of culture and mathematics in curriculum and teaching in the forms of culture and mathematics teaching, making mathematics culturally relevant,²⁵ and culturally responsive teaching. They have focused on varieties of activities to promote the cultural relevance of mathematics, for example, caring and community²⁶ building, building cross-cultural communication, recognizing diversity, maintaining an equitable classroom, counting in different cultures,

recording and calculating practices in different cultures, developing mathematical plays, using learner-centered activities, valuing students' prior knowledge, and creating a collaborative learning environment.

Few studies have investigated the cultural aspects of school mathematics in Nepal. For example, Pradhan (2017) studied the relation of chunara culture (an occupational culture to produce wooden artifacts) and mathematics by outlining what types of mathematical concepts ²⁷ are used in chunara cultural artifacts and how they can ²⁸ be connected to classroom mathematics. Likewise, Sharma and Orey (2017) discussed mathematics concepts in making drums and how the connection between mathematics and artifacts can support culturally relevant pedagogy in Nepal. ²⁹ In another study, Wagley et al. (2008) outlined some mathematics concepts of middle school mathematics in children's play, daily farming duties, and basket weaving practices by Gopali and Tamang people in Nepal. These studies have been artifact-based and based on local contexts without focusing on the school mathematics curriculum in Nepal and the perspectives of teachers and mathematics educators. ³⁰ It is ³¹ important to study the perceptions of mathematics educators ³² about cultural relevance of school mathematics ³³ because these perceptions may affect their actions in teacher education programs in Nepal for inclusiveness, social justice ³⁴ and cultural relevance. Mathematics teacher educators' perceptions of the cultural relevance of basic mathematics may influence the way they develop or train mathematics teachers. ³⁵

⁴³¹ | In this context, the purpose of this study was to explore the selected mathematics educators' perceptions of culturally relevant mathematics at the ⁴³² | basic ³⁶ level of education in Nepal. To achieve the objective of this study, ³⁷ we focused on the following research question: How do mathematics educators perceive the cultural relevance of basic level mathematics in Nepal? The

research question is justified in the context of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) of Nepal (Curriculum Development Center [CDC], 2007), which emphasizes cultural aspects as one of the challenges to be mitigated³⁸ while developing the school curriculum of all grade levels. We focused on the basic level curriculum for which the framework envisioned an integrated curriculum to be child-centered, inclusive, local, and need-based. The NCF stated: The curriculum will be developed³⁹ on the basis of⁴⁰ the child-centered approach. The growth and learning of children are possible in various methods. When their learning order and strategies are hindered⁴¹ internally, the external elements of learning like classroom learning technique, environment, and medium of instruction, sociocultural⁴² and economic background affect their learning achievement. Therefore, in the process of curriculum development, the child-centered approach will be adopted in selecting subject matter, teaching-learning⁴³ activities, assessment procedures according to their interest, needs, and their pace of development.⁴⁴ (CDC, 2007)

Further, the NCF outlined the precedence of mother tongue in basic level education in Nepal:

Mother tongue will be the medium of elementary education. The medium of school-level education can be in Nepali or English language or both of them. However, in the first stage of elementary education (Grades 1–3), the medium of education will generally be in the mother tongue. In the case of the non-Nepali citizen, there will be a special provision of choosing any other language as a subject instead of Nepali." (CDC, 2007, p.34)

The curriculum framework also highlights the priorities of the local needs while designing the curriculum. These priorities comprise local knowledge and historical and cultural contexts⁴⁵, to localize the curriculum socially and ensure its cultural relevance. In this regard, NCF outlines these priorities:

In the course of designing the curriculum, priority will ⁴⁶ be given to the local needs. While incorporating local knowledge and skills, historical and cultural aspects in the curriculum, the local and need-based studies can be one of the ⁴⁷ areas of teaching and learning. The provision of the local need-based studies ⁴⁸ should be brought into effect to fulfill the various needs and interest of students and to give room for localization in the curriculum to make it relevant. ⁴
(CDC, 2007, p.35)

Basic level mathematics is the mathematics for the primary and lower secondary schools (grades 1-8) in Nepal. The NCF of 2007 has categorized school education as ⁵⁰ basic education in grades one through eight and secondary school education in grades nine through twelve (CDC, 2007). In this scenario, this study focused on mathematics educators' perception of the cultural relevance of basic level mathematics in ⁵¹ schools of Nepal because they teach, prepare, and supervise preservice teachers and engage in curriculum design and in-service teacher training in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Some of these educators have teaching experience in basic level mathematics. This paper ⁵² was mostly derived from the first author's doctoral dissertation research (Acharya, 2015). In the remainder of the article, we present a review of ⁵³ the literature, a theoretical framework, the methodology of the study, the results and discussion, a conclusion, and the implications.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Several studies have focused on the production and implementation of culturally relevant pedagogical resources in school mathematics. Some of these studies and their contributions to culturally relevant mathematics teaching and learning have been discussed briefly in the following reviews. Gutstein, Lipman, Hernandez, and Reyes (1997) conducted a study to examine culturally relevant mathematics instruction in an elementary/middle school.

The school ⁵⁴ was located in a Mexican American community in the United States. The project ⁵⁵ was based on the Mathematics in Context middle school curriculum, and subsequently, the project ⁵⁶ was extended to study culturally relevant pedagogy in the school. The participants of the study were three elementary grade teachers and two middle-grade teachers. This study used a qualitative method with observations while applying ethnographic fieldwork. The qualitative data comprised field notes, open-ended interviews, materials produced by the teachers, classroom assignments, students' tasks, meeting records and notes, teachers' reflections, and the school's documents. They applied a grounded theory approach to code the data and generated the categories. The findings of the study revealed that the teachers used the children's informal mathematics knowledge with critical thinking, built a connection of school mathematics with families and their practices for the empowerment of students, and opened a multilevel dialogue for the collaborative endeavors of educational communities for reform in mathematics education through culturally relevant teaching–learning ⁵⁷ (Gutstein et al., 1997).⁵⁸ Education Sector Advisory Team (ESAT). (2005) published a report on the study and analysis of curriculum from the Janjatis (indigenous people) perspective. This study critically examined the injustice of language issues, teaching methods, and evaluation techniques from indigenous perspectives and suggested adopting cultural knowledge, artifacts, and objects, such as poems, folk songs, and household objects in creative art. The study also suggested applying the local contexts and artifacts familiar to the indigenous people in science curricula and the indigenous number system in mathematics curricula. The outcomes of the study recommended diversified teaching methods and evaluation techniques to improve student learning and participation in science and mathematics activities in the classroom by applying various teaching

methods, such as active participation, cooperative learning, and panel discussions.⁵⁹

Sharp and Stevens (2007) explored culturally relevant algebra teaching in the case of African drumming. They focused on algebra teachers to provide teaching and learning opportunities that promoted access for more students through insightful pedagogical knowledge and algebra knowledge practicing culturally relevant pedagogy and suggested that teachers develop and apply the types of knowledge that would allow students to respect, appreciate, and celebrate other cultures.⁶⁰ Wagley et al. (2008) conducted a study on contextualized mathematics based on the observations of local daily life practices of the Tamang and Gopali people near Kathmandu valley.⁶¹ The study was a collaborative project of Kathmandu University and UNESCO Kathmandu. The project aimed to develop a set of culturally relevant and contextualized mathematics resources for the curriculum of middle schools in Nepal.⁶² More specifically, the project focused on the sociocultural context of the indigenous practices of women and disadvantaged ethnic communities, such as the Tamang and Gopali people of the hilly regions of Nepal (Wagley et al., 2008).⁶³ The research findings suggest that numerous local practices are linked to the formal mathematics of grades 6–8.⁶⁴ In particular, they designed the materials based on local farming, business, and daily household activities. The curricular materials also included children's games, local cultural rituals, and material artifacts. Subsequent analysis of the mathematics curriculum of grades 6–8 in Nepal demonstrated that the concepts in geometry, arithmetic, algebra, and basic set theory could be integrated into the local social and cultural practices and day-to-day activities (Wagley et al., 2008).⁶⁵

Gallivan (2017) conducted an intervention study to support prospective teachers' learning of culturally relevant mathematical tasks. A three-week

intervention was planned⁶⁷ as a part of the methods of teaching mathematics⁶⁸ coursework for four preservice elementary and middle school teachers. The intervention was planned with three phases: knowing the students, revising the tasks, and conducting post-interviews. In the first phase, the classroom discussion on the method of teaching mathematics⁶⁹ was related⁷⁰ to students' culture and funds of knowledge through their critical consciousness (David, 2016; Llopart & Esteban-Guitart, 2018). In the class, the preservice teachers had opportunities to read papers, watch videos, and discuss what makes a pedagogy culturally relevant and a mathematical task culturally rich. The participants⁷¹ were taught how to be familiar with a student culturally different from themselves and how to⁷² gather information on students' interests, activities, families, and other academic strengths and weaknesses. In the second phase, the participants identified and constructed culturally relevant tasks for teaching mathematics by focusing on the cognitive demands of memorizing, connecting, and performing mathematics. They used an analytical framework to revise the school mathematics tasks to be culturally relevant. In the third phase, the researcher conducted semi-structured interviews with the participants. These interviews focused on the participant experiences of revising the high-level mathematical tasks to observe the cultural relevance of implementing the tasks. The findings suggested that a majority of⁷³ preservice teachers could revise the high-level mathematical tasks to link them to the local culture,⁷⁴ although some participants required additional support to understand the task revision. The intervention-based classroom activity helped preservice teachers⁷⁵ to their knowledge, skills, and positive attitudes toward culturally relevant pedagogy by considering their experiences and funds of knowledge (Gallivan, 2017).

Lim, Tan, and Saito (2019) studied culturally relevant pedagogy to offer a theoretical framework for describing pedagogical practices that involved teachers' struggles in relating mathematics and culture. They employed a qualitative research design to study how five Singaporean teachers engaged students in tasks or activities related to the students'⁷⁶ cultural backgrounds. The data collection tools were class observations, semi-structured interviews with teachers, small group interviews with students from the observed⁷⁷ classes, research team members' field notes, and analytic memos. The findings of the study revealed important constructs that related content relevancy to personal experience, representative artwork, accessible forms of cultural capital, transformative opportunities, and hierarchical patterns of culture (framed). These constructs provided the teachers and students opportunities to add various cultural, social, and political dimensions to classroom discourse to build students' identity in terms of "who they are" and "what they want to be like." They used external classification and internal frames to categorize the cultural experiences of students and teachers in classroom discourses (Lim et al., 2019).⁷⁸

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In a recent study, Prahmana and D'Ambrosio (2020) explored batik patterns from Indonesian⁷⁹ cultural context integrating geometry concepts to the local contexts and artifacts. They applied ethnographic⁸⁰ approach to study geometric patterns in batik art in motifs. The findings of the study revealed several interesting geometric patterns that can be integrated^{81 82} to school mathematics. For example, symmetric patterns in the Babon Angrem, translation of patterns in Parang Barang, reflection transformation in Parang klitik, and two⁸³ transformations (reflection and translation) in Sidomukti patterns.⁸⁴ These patterns and others they explored have a deep cultural values and connection⁸⁵

to and relevance in Indonesian school mathematics ([Prahmana & D'Ambriso, 2020](#)).⁸⁶

The [aforementioned reviews](#)⁸⁷ have demonstrated a sustained effort to acknowledge and justify the need for developing and implementing culturally relevant mathematics curricular materials. The discussion also reveals a need to prepare teachers for such an endeavor to promote social justice in mathematics education through school mathematics as a cultural process and action.⁸⁸

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Culturally relevant education can be defined as an "appropriate relief" of an educational problem that prompts questions of whose problem it is, where it is [located](#),⁸⁹ what should [be done](#),⁹⁰ and who should be involved (Nicol, Archibald, & Baker, 2013, p. 75). [The main component of the culturally relevant pedagogical model is the connection between critical mathematical thinking and a critical view of knowledge.](#)⁹¹ The connections between students' informal mathematical knowledge, the local culture and practice of mathematics, and the students' orientation to their home culture and day-to-day experiences are the major components in this model. The model presents a relationship between the standard document (NCTM, 1989) and the cultural relevance of mathematics teaching (Figure 1).

Cultural Relevance of Mathematics Teaching (NCTM Standards)

Critical Thinking in Context

Children's Prior Knowledge

Critical Orientation of Life

Cultural View of Knowledge

Informal Knowledge

Knowledge from Culture and Experiment

Deficit View of Knowledge

Knowledge for Empowerment

Self and Family

Folkloric Conception

Lack of Ability to Face Challenge

Group Solidarity

Dialectical Relationship

Educational

Challenges

Figure 1. Culturally relevant teaching is based⁹² on the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) standards (adopted from Gutstein et al.,⁹³ 1997).

Students should internalize mathematical knowledge in a critical manner⁹⁴; that is, they should develop as a critical thinker in the mathematical context so that⁹⁴ they can⁹⁵ make conjectures and arguments. Students should investigate mathematical ideas and justify their solutions to problems and be able to⁹⁶ validate their thinking and reasoning. These aspects are the principal

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components of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
standards (NCTM, 1989). Thus, teachers should encourage students to develop
multiple perspectives while reasoning through mathematics. Also important is
to develop students' questioning skills to raise their voices and concerns while
constructing mathematical knowledge (Gutstein, Lipman, Hernandez, & Reyes,
⁹⁸
1997). The second aspect of this model involves a perspective of children's
knowledge; that is, the teachers should use children's prior knowledge and
day-to-day experiences in classroom activities. According to NCTM (2000),
children's informal knowledge is vital in the process of teaching–learning ⁹⁹ ¹⁰⁰
with
the cultural relevance of mathematical concepts and meanings. Mathematics
teachers should be conscious of local contexts to add children's prior
knowledge into the mathematics classroom.

The third main component of this model depicts two orientations: the local
culture, ¹⁰¹ and experience with a deficit model (Aguirre, Berry, Gutiérrez, Martin, &
Wager, 2016) and knowledge for empowerment. ¹⁰² In this model, the mathematics
teachers should be familiar with students and their home culture. Teachers
might be aware of individual and community relationships and folklores in the
community but lack the ability to face the ¹⁰³ challenges within the cultural
orientation. ¹⁰⁴ By contrast, the concept of knowledge for empowerment helps
teachers orient themselves toward the surroundings and students' home
culture to connect their experiences to develop a sense of empowerment
(Gutstein et al., 1997). Ladson-Billings (2009) emphasized three criteria for
culturally responsive pedagogy: (i) students' experience of academic success
when applying critical thinking, (ii) students' cultural competence for
empowerment and self-identity, and (iii) students' development of critical
consciousness and agency to challenge the social and developmental status
quo state of the power relation and social order.

This theoretical framework integrates these criteria through the interconnection of critical thinking and children's knowledge. These theoretical constructs guided the ontological, epistemological, methodological, and axiological assumptions of this study while identifying research problems, constructing research questions, designing the study, collecting the data through in-depth interviews, and analyzing and interpreting the data to draw viable interpretations of the cultural relevance of mathematics curriculum and pedagogy from the participants' views.¹⁰⁵

METHOD OF STUDY

This section elaborates on the research methodology: the selection of the study site and participants, the in-depth interviews as the data collection tool, the data collection procedure, and the analysis.¹⁰⁶ The study attempted to explore the cultural relevance of mathematics on the basis of teachers' perceptions, experiences, and daily classroom practices at the basic level.¹⁰⁷ The researcher adopted an interpretative research paradigm to conduct this study because it assumes a relativist ontology, a subjective epistemology, and a naturalistic set of methodological procedures (Creswell & Poth, 2018).¹⁰⁸ The ontological stance of the study was that different teachers have different experiences because they have diverse cultural backgrounds, embodied knowledge, and practices.¹⁰⁹ To understand the reality of the cultural relevance of mathematics, educators experienced in teaching students of different cultural backgrounds were interviewed¹¹⁰ . The interviews were conducted with the following purpose: understanding the interviewees' multiple narratives and interpretations as per sociocultural diversities.¹¹¹ We critically discussed before assessing the meanings of the participants' narratives.¹¹² In this manner, the knowledge on the cultural relevance of mathematics was generated by analyzing and interpreting individual educators' experiences, perceptions, and day-to-day working¹¹³ .¹¹⁴

¹¹⁵practices. While interpreting the data, we assumed that there existed multiple truths of social realities from the ¹¹⁶perspectives of the participants. In this sense, this study was ¹¹⁷guided by an interpretive research paradigm.

Study Site and Selection of Participants

⁴³⁶ Kathmandu valley ¹¹⁸was selected as the study site. This valley is the center of ⁴³⁷ social, cultural, political, and business activities in Nepal. People from different parts of the country come and stay here for jobs, education, business, and other purposes; there is a mix of ¹¹⁹all the cultural groups. This study was ¹²⁰based on the cultural perspectives of the Indio–Aryan, Tibeto–Burman, and Newar cultural groups, and the Kathmandu valley represented the country's multicultural and multiethnic or ¹²¹multicaste system. For this reason, the three districts of the Kathmandu valley ¹²²were used as the site for this study.

Qualitative researchers usually work with a small sample of people nested in their context and conduct an in-depth study (Miles & Huberman, 1994). The objectives of the research, ¹²³nature of the questions, and the characteristics of

⁴³⁸ the study population determine which and how many people to select as research participants. ¹²⁴The qualitative information ¹²⁵is based on participants' subjective views. In this study, it was ¹²⁶important to identify the appropriate respondents who could fulfill our ¹²⁷criteria for the interviewees. Further, to capture the cultural spectra of the multidimensional realities in the studied ¹²⁸societies, it was necessary to connect with the appropriate potential respondents. Some mathematics educators in the sampled areas were contacted and prepared a list of the most appropriate teachers as the potential respondents.

This list of potential participants helped identify the most appropriate teacher educators based on their familiarity with the culture, context, and mathematics education practices in schools and higher education in Nepal. The researcher

purposefully selected the participants who had taught preservice mathematics teachers and supervised them during their practicum. One of the participants also had teaching experience at basic level mathematics. These participants were engaged in designing the basic level mathematics curriculum with the Ministry of Education. They were also engaged in curricular ¹²⁹research, and training the basic level mathematics teachers in collaboration with the National Center for Educational Development. The researchers selected five mathematics educators working at different schools and higher education institutions from the Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur districts within the Kathmandu valley.

Participants of the Study

The five participants of the study were Saurya, Rabindra, Eshu, Maheshwor, and Chaitan (pseudonyms). ¹³⁰Saurya (a male participant) had an M.Phil. ¹³¹degree and years of experience teaching elementary and high school mathematics at the school level. ¹³²He ¹³³had been teaching undergraduate and graduate students (preservice teachers) at a university in Nepal for six years. The second participant, Rabindra (a male participant) ¹³⁴had an M.Ed. ¹³⁵degree ¹³⁶and had been a school teacher for twenty years. He was involved in a team ¹³⁷that was designing the mathematics curriculum at the school level and had ¹³⁸been invited to do so by the Ministry of Education. He had ¹³⁹been involved in teacher training as a mathematics subject expert. The third participant, Eshu (a female teacher) ¹⁴⁰had an M.Ed. ¹⁴¹degree ¹⁴², ¹⁴³had been teaching school mathematics (i.e., elementary and secondary grades) for 15 years ¹⁴⁴and ¹⁴⁵was working as a headteacher in a school. The fourth participant was Maheshwor (a male professor). He was a ¹⁴⁶professor of mathematics education at a public university in Nepal with 30 ¹⁴⁷years' of teaching experience in mathematics and pedagogical courses at various levels. He was also an author of several textbooks of mathematics for

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the school level and had supervised preservice teachers in their practicum. The fifth participant, Chaitan (a male participant), had an M.Phil. degree and a few ¹⁴⁸years' of teaching experience in teaching school mathematics (i.e., elementary and high school). He had been teaching various content and pedagogy subjects at a public university for 15 ¹⁴⁹years; had supervised several undergraduate students in their practice ¹⁵⁰teaching; and had published research articles related to ¹⁵¹teaching–learning, social justice, and equity in the mathematics classroom.

In-depth Interviews

An in-depth interview is a flexible tool for qualitative data collection that enables multisensory channels to ¹⁵²be used, for example, verbal, spoken, and heard (Cohen, Manion, & Morrison, 2008). The in-depth interviews were administered by deeply ¹⁵³exploring the issues related to the study topic and the full range of concepts and ideas of the cultural relevance of mathematics (Sullivan, 2001). ¹⁵⁴An interview guideline was prepared with a sequence of questions to evoke a descriptive account of the participants' opinions (Moustakas, 1994). The interview often began with a social conversation to build trust and create a relaxed atmosphere so that the researcher could establish a rapport with the participants. The interviews focused on questions related to one main question: To what extent does basic mathematics education emphasize critical thinking with multiple perspectives and children's prior knowledge of mathematics from their homes and communities that they bring to the classrooms? The interviews also emphasized the link of mathematics curriculum and pedagogy to the students' funds of cultural knowledge, diversity, and sense of empowerment. Each interview session was audio recorded for transcribing, translating, and analyzing.

Data Analysis

441 | Qualitative data ¹⁵⁵ were collected through in-depth interviews with the five research participants. After the interviews, the recorded data ¹ were transcribed and translated from Nepali to English. The translated transcripts were read and re-read several times to make sense of the ideas and concepts that emerged and were related to the main research question. After having a full understanding of the data, the ¹⁵⁷ important concepts and ideas in the data were coded based on the ¹⁵⁸ meanings, and their relevance to the ¹⁵⁹ major research questions. The coding involved segmenting and labeling concepts from the transcription text to form descriptions and broad themes in the data. A focus was the four domains highlighted in the theoretical framework of the study—critical thinking and the children's knowledge, deficit, and empowerment—while making sense of the data. ¹⁶⁰ After the encoding, meaningful categories ¹⁶¹ were generated from the data. This process helped to link the codes to themes and align the themes to the research questions. While performing this step, we adopted the Mishler (1995) models of narrative analysis and focused on "reconstructing the told from the telling" (p.95). We reconstructed the participants' narratives from the ¹⁶² pieces of interview data while organizing them into a coherent thematic construction and interpretation. Several themes ¹⁶³ were generated from the data, and we discuss three major themes in the next section. ¹⁶⁴ A follow-up interview was conducted with each participant and focused on the three themes while considering the theoretical domains from the framework—critical thinking and children's knowledge, deficit, and ¹⁶⁵ empowerment. The follow-up interview data helped us consolidate the themes. The other remaining themes have been commissioned in other companion manuscripts.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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This section discusses the research question: How do mathematics educators perceive the cultural relevance of basic level mathematics in Nepal? The main themes that emerged from the analysis of the data¹⁶⁶ were teaching in the mother language, contextualized ethnomathematics, and the local knowledge used in the curriculum as a teaching approach. These themes evolved through thematic analysis of the interview data. However, these themes not only highlight the significant perceptual categories of mathematics teacher educators on the cultural relevance of basic¹⁶⁷ mathematics in Nepal, but they also extend further studies and theories of culturally relevant and culturally responsive pedagogy explored¹⁶⁸ in Abacioglu, Volman, and Fischer (2020) and Lim, Tan, and Saito (2019). Each theme is described and interpreted in the following subsections.

Teaching in the Native Language

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Native language instruction, in general, refers to using learners' home language as the medium of instruction in the classroom (UNESCO, 2003). The instructional language in the classroom affects the quality of students' learning in the elementary grades. Providing classroom instructions in students' mother language helps them develop their competencies naturally and improves student achievement in mathematics and other disciplines.

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS, 2001), Nepal is a multilingual country with more than 92 spoken languages. The students in Nepalese school classrooms are children from different social, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds. In this situation, employing the students' mother language in teaching and learning activities in mathematics classrooms has become a challenging task.¹⁶⁹ Another substantial challenge is for the centrally established curriculum development system to address the diverse needs, values, and

aspirations of the diverse population. In this regard, the participants expressed their views, which we present as Narrative 1

Participant Narrative 1

Saurya. ¹⁷⁰First, I think language is a matter of raising the active involvement of students in the learning process. ¹⁷¹As we commonly agreed, it is not so easy to switch to another language from the language that we learned at home. ¹⁷²In this regard, when there is a difference in language between home and school, mostly in early grades, students become puzzled, and we become unable to obtain the desired learning outcomes from the students. ¹⁷³So, I first recommend ¹⁷⁴allowing students to use their mother language, and ¹⁷⁵as far as we can, as teachers, we must use their mother language in the ¹⁷⁶teaching–learning process that helps create a culture friendly environment in the mathematics classroom.

⁴⁴⁶ Rabindra. There are many advantages and disadvantages of teaching in the mother language. Especially at the primary level, the mother language is necessary ¹⁷⁷so that students can have a clear concept of various objects and things in general, particularly in mathematics. As we have multiracial and multiethnic classrooms, we should thus first identify the individual identity, level of language, level of students, and use of language ¹⁷⁸for the improvement of students' performance. When the language of schooling begins from the primary school in a different language, it is difficult for students to develop mathematical concepts. The reason is that mathematical symbols ¹⁷⁹are introduced through written language rather than informal oral language. The second language comes to hinder the children's learning of mathematical ideas through symbols. In this context, it is necessary to integrate mathematics teaching with language so that the language will ¹⁸⁰be helpful in understanding the mathematical concepts.

447 Eshu. The mother language is the one that a child hears first. Many researchers have pointed out that the use of the mother language as a medium of instruction is effective, and this attracts children to school as well. The Constitution of Nepal has made provisions for basic education in a mother tongue as a fundamental right. The integrated curriculum of grades 1–3 also has focused on the mother language in classroom teaching. But it has great issues and challenges when applied at the school level because Nepal is a multilingual and multicultural country. In many places, the country has a mixed society. Its influences can be observed in the classrooms too. Then, the teachers face language problems in the classroom. On the other hand, many languages do not have their scripts. There is insufficient manpower to develop curriculum materials in different languages for the basic level mathematics curriculum.

Maheshwor. First, every child uses a particular language at home for conversation. S/he exchanges her/his views or ideas by using that language, the mother tongue. A child goes to his/ her school with the capacity to deliver her/his feelings in the mother language. I think if the teaching and learning activities are being operated in the children's mother language, the learning will be easier. The child can obtain high learning achievements. S/he can share her/his confusion about the subject matters to the teacher. S/he can express her/ his other problems to the teachers. S/he can be adjusted in school and peer groups easily in a short period of time. Her/his elaborated code of language makes her/his learning easier. By understanding this reality, there is a tendency toward a greater focus on education in the mother tongue. The Constitution of Nepal (2015) also states that every Nepalese community in Nepal shall have the right to obtain a basic education in their mother tongue. Because of these reasons, I am also in favor of teaching mathematics in the

mother language. To achieve this objective, the teachers should know the languages such that s/he can facilitate students' learning in their mother tongue. If that is not possible, the teacher should at least know the local culture in order to teach with references to the local language.¹⁹⁷

The major¹⁹⁸ concepts from the narrative are the strength of the mother tongue,¹⁹⁹ hindrance from the second language, language for teaching with understanding, and teacher being familiar with a student's language. The aforementioned narrative²⁰⁰ text data reveal that teaching-learning²⁰¹ mathematics activities must be conducted in the children's mother tongue. This approach helps them understand the mathematical concepts without having to learn the structures of their second language. Young students learn the content of their ethnicities, cultures, and identities through the medium of their parents' dialect, which is in their mother tongue. Therefore, teachers may have a significant impact on students' cultural sensibility and multicultural attitudes integrating multilingual perspectives in teaching-learning mathematics (Abacioglu, Volman, & Fischer, 2020). The bilingual or multilingual social and school contexts have been reported²⁰² as detrimental for students to²⁰³ effective learning (Chronaki & Planas, 2018).

Constructivist learning encourages students to discuss mathematical tasks and negotiate mathematical meaning and develop mathematical concepts. In this context, the notion that students are capable of constructing their knowledge of mathematics in their unique manners (Ernest, 2009) is acceptable to most teachers; notably, this approach is one of the means²⁰⁴ of acquiring mathematical learning. Becoming an effective mathematics teacher requires the development of²⁰⁵ various professional skills, including being familiar with students' language. One fundamental skill is the ability to enter a classroom and speak in a manner that holds the attention of pupils. The

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implication of this process is that it may be at least as valuable for pupils to negotiate, construct, and articulate their understanding of mathematics in their language. Hence, language plays a significant role in sense of belonging in the classroom and school environment if students' mother language and classroom language is the same (Harrison & Tanner, 2018). A single-language (the mainstream language) policy in education may cause an adverse impact on children's learning outcomes, specifically for those from the ethnic communities whose language is different from the mainstream. A growth mindset of teachers is an essential element to help students improve in their learning of mathematics and other disciplines, and it is more prominent for the minority group students (Fink et al., 2018). Culture-based contextual teaching-learning of mathematics problem-solving may support in addressing the multilingual and multicultural aspects of mathematics at school and higher education (Samo, Darhim, & Kartasasmita, 2018).

Corson (1998) proposed a perspective of this phenomenon, "Language is the vehicle for identifying, manipulating and changing power relations between people" (p. 5). Educational discourse can routinely repress and dominate certain minority groups through the use of the dominant language. Perpetual domination leads to the disempowerment of the diverse groups due to discrimination among races and castes. The teachers should acknowledge the racial disparities in the classroom to address these discriminatory practices (Carter et al., 2017). Implementing a uniform language policy over a language diversity policy has negatively affected the education of many children, such as those from diverse communities, who in our study are mostly from the Tamang, Gurung, Rai, and Newar communities in Nepal (Awasthi, 2004).

Contextualized Ethnomathematics

Luitel (2009) argued that the contextualization of mathematics education is essential to promoting pluralistic mathematics education and valuing non-Western corpora of knowledge traditions for developing a justifiable mathematics education. To devise culturally relevant mathematics education,²¹¹ the concepts of mathematics should be integrated with the work of carpenters,²¹² businessmen, tailors, homemakers, or children playing games.²¹⁴ Creating a link²¹⁵ between academic mathematics and students' experience is important because then,²¹⁶ they can simplify abstract content and enjoy mathematics. The benefits of mathematics for students are at least twofold: It develops their logical thinking and increases their opportunities, for example, courses for further study career paths.

If mathematics is taught as a body of knowledge, activating students' intrinsic motivation for learning becomes challenging. Students then perceive mathematics as a difficult subject; notably, most teachers find it challenging to create lesson plans that inspire learners to be active, creative, and imaginative. From the cultural perspective, learners may feel that their ownership of mathematics activates them to learn mathematics. Applying contextualized ethnomathematics may help identify the connection between school mathematics and mathematical knowledge in a society that provides space for imagination and uses of mathematics in daily life. Therefore, cultural contextualization of mathematics helps students to motivate toward learning mathematics. Thus, to create culture friendly mathematics, the curricula must change from the traditional type of teaching–learning processes to those of ethnomathematics. The practice of ethnomathematics would also help students understand the role of mathematics in their life and its impact on their school and social life. Regarding this connection, Davison and Mitchel (2008) said, "If mathematics is taught as a body of knowledge to be memorized

or to regurgitate, it may lose its dynamic character and become a set of painful mind game only" (p.151). To illustrate this connection, the participants' views are portrayed in Narrative 2.

Participant Narrative 2

Rabindra. While developing a mathematics curriculum, the focus should be the context and practical application in life. Local knowledge and activities should be considered in the basic level mathematics curriculum. In the context of Nepal, the basic level mathematics curriculum should be provided by the local government; however, the implementation has been very weak. The authorities at the school level should consider indigenous knowledge while developing the basic level mathematics curriculum. Mathematics supports culture. The culture may create knowledge of mathematics. Therefore, using various artifacts and materials can facilitate mathematics teaching–learning and curriculum design. Mathematics can be interlinked with social, cultural, and historical contexts. Ethnomathematics is the empowerment of cultures. The main component is how much time a teacher gives to a child while teaching. In Nepal, teachers are paid low salaries; thus, they must have a second job and can neither devote a fulltime schedule to their students at school nor take the time to reflect on how to deliver the most effective teaching.

Saurya. The curriculum always needs to pay attention to the local knowledge (e.g., counting, measuring, calculating, estimating) of the community in the curriculum of basic mathematics. This helps to preserve and enhance the deep-seated local ideas of the people that lead our students to a deeper understanding of the concept. That is why integrating indigenous ideas/knowledge in curricula makes students motivated to learn mathematics, which helps in creating the foundation of culturally relevant teaching.

Gradually, it may help in changing the public image of mathematics from a dry subject to an interesting subject. Mathematics can be connected to social, cultural, and historical contexts. For example, for Judgyey at puja (a cultural ritual of worship and prayer), we observe several geometrical patterns, and we can relate these patterns to the teaching of geometry in basic mathematics. This may help in student motivation, and they can easily understand the concept of basic geometry.

Maheshwor. Ethnomathematics represents a way of life that has evolved through time with the local culture and environment. Thus, indigenous knowledge is adapted to the requirements of local conditions by the local people. Indigenous knowledge must be incorporated into every subject of the curriculum, to make teaching–learning more effective. Children are more familiar with the indigenous knowledge in their community than the other types of knowledge. If the indigenous knowledge is contextualized in subject matters, such as basic level mathematics, students will more easily learn and improve their achievement in mathematics. The students may perceive that learning and understanding the content is easier. Basic mathematics is the study of numbers, shapes, and patterns. Therefore, teaching basic mathematics includes the teaching of numbers, shapes, patterns, and their applications or uses. To make the teaching–learning of mathematics easier and more effective, it is necessary to contextualize the students' knowledge in the subject matter of mathematics. In the starting grades of basic education, indigenous commodities can be used for teaching mathematical matters. We can teach the numbers by showing the pictures or models of indigenous goods. By showing the shapes of indigenous goods (artifacts), mathematical shapes can also be taught. Thus far, mathematics and culture are concerned, culture is associated with human behavior, and mathematics aims at its applications in human

service and use. To sustain day-to-day operations, human beings have shaped a system, namely, culture. In this sense, mathematics and culture are means to increase the convenience of human beings' lives and have a very close relationship with each other.

Chaitan. Indigenous knowledge is adapted from the life affairs of the indigenous people living in a certain part of the country. The indigenous people are those who belong to this part of the land over a long chain of ancestors. They have their own culture, habits, and occupation-based skills. These cultural, habitual, and occupational matters represent their unique life and antique records. These aspects are universally unique and antique. These matters must be included in the school curriculum and basic mathematics. Therefore, I think that the addition of these matters in schools and curricula may help people think about who they are and how their lifestyle is valuable. Mathematics can be linked to social, cultural, and historical contexts, but we are still unable to show how they are related. If we relate these components in teaching mathematics, it will become more interesting, which ultimately helps students in their understanding of mathematics at the basic level.

Eshu. Contextual indigenous knowledge is crucial to making the curriculum more relevant and promoting context-based knowledge. Indigenous knowledge consists of a local community's traditional technology, social, economic, and philosophical learning grounded on spiritual skills, practices, and ways of being in nature. The integrated curriculum should focus on indigenous knowledge. Because of the globalization of knowledge, different impacts can be observed in the indigenous contextual knowledge of mathematics. In my opinion, these are the major issues. Almost all students and teachers are familiar with the connection of ethnomathematical practices, namely, the use of indigenous knowledge, and this way of knowing is more relevant. And students want to

learn things related to their communities. Teachers can explain the indigenous phenomenon with the use of teaching materials on the subject. The school textbooks can contain indigenous knowledge. I argue that ethnomathematical practice is a more powerful approach to learn modern mathematics. There are students from a range of cultural backgrounds in our classrooms. They have different cultural practices at home. So, we must apply these practices in teaching-learning modern mathematics in the basic level curriculum. The practices differ from one situation to another situation, from one person to another person and one place to another place.

The major concepts from Participants' Narrative 2 are empowerment, teacher motivation, geometry in rituals, mathematics as a service subject, and cultural network.

Mathematics should play a leading role in every social arena and be flexible per the context and support. Every problematic feature of any mathematics education should be a means of empowerment and not be an element of oppression and discrimination. Although empowerment is contextual, mathematics can empower individuals through the concept of ethnomathematics. Related to this perspective, Acharya (2020) reported that the mathematical practices in the classroom should support students' managing of their daily life problems. Likewise, Gallivan (2017) suggested that teachers should engage students in mathematics by applying a culturally relevant and rich pedagogy to hone their funds of knowledge. Every child has an equal right to read and write mathematics; thus, there should be no racial and other discrimination, for example, ethnicity and gender (Joseph, Spencer, Johnson, & Kitchen, 2016). Mathematics teachers may teach math concepts using the perspective of ethnomathematics, in which the cultural diversity of pupils' is respected, and their everyday mathematical practices in and out of

school are considered relevant (François, 2007), being aware of their own and students' racial differences (Russell, Haynes, & Cobb, 2016).²⁷⁵ The students from minority and marginalized groups perform low in mathematics and many of them drop out of school (Christian, 2017; Mathema & Bista, 2006).²⁷⁶ Therefore, they need mentoring from the teachers to retain in schools (Braun, Gormally, & Clark, 2017). Students can be confident in constructing and critically assessing the teaching process. From our experiences and the findings in the literature,²⁷⁷ we conclude that ethnomathematics enables students to question themselves and reflect on their journeys to becoming more aware of, more critical, more appreciative, and more self-confident in mathematics and its use in problem-solving. Thus, the practice of ethnomathematics in mainstream pedagogies empowers teachers and students to change their visions of mathematical knowledge and teaching with diversity beliefs and transformation of knowledge and skills (Alhanachi, de Meijer, & Severiens, 2021).²⁷⁸²⁷⁹²⁸⁰²⁸¹

D'Ambrosio (1985) introduced the mathematics of cultural groups through informal education. This introduction inspired several types of research on the sociocultural basis of mathematics education. Before discussing the role of culture in developing mathematics knowledge, we introduce ethnomathematics. Ethnomathematics is the mathematics practiced by distinct cultural groups, identified as indigenous societies, groups of workers, professional organizations, and groups of children of a certain age (Upadhyay, 2001). It comprises the mathematical ideas, perspectives, and practices of individuals in different cultures as manifested and transmitted in diverse modes (D'Ambrosio, 1985). Culture is depicted²⁸² as a manner in which a particular group develops symbols, artifacts, and language to exchange the meanings of their beliefs and social practices (Banks, 2016). Therefore, teaching mathematics requires accommodating the diversity of the pupils of

different cultures and linguistic backgrounds. Mathematics might play a vital role in the advancement of culture and civilization²⁸³ if school mathematics accounts for this social need. Then, the development of culture and mathematics may enhance each other. Furthermore²⁸⁴, mathematics helps individuals transmit, preserve, and enrich their culture. In this context, Prahmana and D'Ambrosio (2020) interrelated Indonesian cultural art, such as Sidowirasat pattern, Soblog²⁸⁵, Sidoluhur, Semen Bodhat, Sidomukti, Parang klitik²⁸⁶, Parang Barong, and Babon Angrem²⁸⁷. These arts deeply connect the geometric patterns to the school mathematics in Yogyakarta. Likewise, Supiyati, Hanum, and Jailani (2019) explored the culture of sasak²⁸⁸ community building and their cultural relevance to mathematics in terms of housing architecture. Ethnomathematics has been a growing interest in mathematics education in terms of multicultural aspects of mathematics and its cultural relevance to school curriculum and pedagogy (D' Ambrosio, 2006; Rosa & Orey, 2016).

In our opinion, knowledge is not absolute but a cumulative product of historical and cultural practices. We considered that the everyday life of a person or group in culture was amalgamated with their prior knowledge and practice²⁸⁹ within social and cultural values²⁹⁰. In this regard, Upadhyay (2008) claimed that "mathematics is the body of knowledge accumulated thought culture and historical development, and it is shared experience" (p. 233). Therefore, ethnomathematics emphasizes the historical importance of mathematics. History is a significant²⁹¹ tool to assess human behavior in different situations to manage that situation. If schools and teachers consider students' social and cultural values inside the mathematics classroom, their learning will be more meaningful. In this regard, Ladson-Billings (1994) argued that all children, despite their backgrounds, can be successful in mathematics when their

learning in the classroom ²⁹² is integrated with their home cultures and material referents.

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Student engagement in the classroom can be increased by incorporating culturally responsive mathematical practices in teaching and learning (McCallops et al., 2019; Powell et al., 2016). Such ²⁹³ types of practices help students have a deeper understanding of the local environment and circumstances by including and enhancing the sense of sharing respect and cooperation with others. When a cultural perspective in the school teaching and learning process ²⁹⁴ is implemented, it becomes dialogical, and a network between culture and mathematics practices forms. This networking provides opportunities to interact with teachers, community members, and students. Ultimately, these interactions between culture and others create a learning system for students and could help in realizing new possibilities for transformative education. ²⁹⁵ Social constructivism emphasizes education for social transformation. Individual development ²⁹⁶ is derived from social interactions within which cultural meanings lead to new understandings. The subject of this study is the "dialectical relationship between the individual and the social and cultural milieu" (Akar, 2003, pp.76–77). In this regard, the practice of mathematics with culture is crucial. Thus, promoting a cultural perspective in the context, we have presented would help realize the latent capacity of learners and relate their cognition to mathematics contents. ²⁹⁷ When developing a mathematics curriculum at the school level, D'Ambrosio (2007) emphasized three terms: literacy, numeracy, and technocracy. In our context, the majority of people are inadequately literate but require mathematics to perform everyday activities. Therefore, mathematical literacy is a critical factor in integrating mathematics with culture.

Local Knowledge for Teaching

Mathematics learning of children can be empowering if they are engaged in real-life situations and challenges. In this context, mathematics learning can be a fun, ²⁹⁸interesting activity when children are deeply engaged in mathematics connected to their day-to-day activities. Making mathematics learning a fun activity does not mean avoiding or reducing ²⁹⁹the standard of mathematics in instructions and processes. Teachers should engage students to find a meaningful connection between the localized mathematical practices in communities and families and help them bridge standardized mathematics to their daily life and informal practices. Regarding this connection, the participants' views have ³⁰⁰been portrayed in Narrative 3.

Participant Narrative 3

Saurya. In the ³⁰¹teaching–learning process, we must always focus on those activities and materials that they (students) are familiar ^{302,303}within their day-to-day life. ³⁰⁴I mean, the learning in school should be connected and based on the students' common practices and culture, which encourages students to actively participate in the learning process, and helps us in creating a culturally relevant teaching–learning environment. ³⁰⁵Mathematics is the outcome of the social process. Therefore, I try to relate the topics of mathematics to social contexts. I am familiar with the students' community, language, and culture. It ³⁰⁶helps me a lot in giving examples from cultural contexts while introducing new concepts in mathematics. Students understand mathematics faster when ³⁰it is related to their culture or social contexts; otherwise, it takes more time. If we follow the methods, it will be ³⁰⁸difficult to finish all the ³content of the curriculum within the specified time frame. It is ³¹⁰difficult to finish the content if we try to relate it to day-to-day life situations. However, without doing this, ³¹¹the majority of the students cannot understand the concepts we are teaching.

Rabindra. The aim of education is to identify the social difficulties and find the proper solution to enrich and simplify the living standard of individuals, families, and communities. So, we should focus on the local people's viewpoints while designing the curriculum. Likewise, the newly formed multidisciplinary integrated curricula of grades 1–3 include physical, emotional, mental, social, cultural, moral, intellectual, and language skills and knowledge on health, nutrition, safety, and the environment. To provide such skills and knowledge, we should integrate and inter-relate their [students'] previous knowledge in the process of creating a curriculum with a multidisciplinary approach. As a matter of fact, this is the issue of research. In my opinion, there is an interrelation between culture and mathematics. There is always a wide use of mathematics in culture. Similarly, there is a culture in mathematics. In my opinion, our basic mathematics curriculum does not incorporate any culture. It could be culturally inclusive. For example, while teaching ratio and proportion, we can give the example of preparing Jibanjal (a mixture of salt, sugar, and water in a certain proportion). It could be a good example of teaching ratio and proportion. Similarly, while teaching a rectangle, triangle, angle, and right angle, we could use the structure of schools, houses, playgrounds, temples, etc. In addition, the local objects available can be used, for example, a plow, yoke, and other things that can be used as effective teaching material. To make the class enjoyable, the subject matter can be related to local knowledge and activities. Students understand better if they can link to their experiences.

Chaitan. During my five-year-long service in a government school as a mathematics teacher and a faculty member of mathematics education at a university for the last fifteen years, I have not seen or did not have any sort of experience of primary or secondary level school curriculum incorporating the

local knowledge.³³⁰ Most of the schools are running through general streams, which has³³¹ a language, mathematical, and social context curriculum, but none³³² of them focuses³³³ on the local skills, costumes and³³⁴ culture, language, etc.³³⁵ It is obvious³³⁶ that the school is a society in miniature where children from the multiple local contexts are represented.³³⁸ If we could only collect their local life-skills, it could enrich the other community children with intelligibility, decision power, and lifestyles. It certainly adds variety³³⁹ in their life. The way they³⁴⁰ make food, farm, harvest, greet, receive, and suppose, etc.,³⁴¹ could be universalized. Therefore, I³⁴² understand that we need to teach children by showing different types³⁴³ of cultural heritage and artifacts connecting with different types of mathematical concepts; then, mathematics teaching-learning³⁴⁴ can be meaningful and contextual. Mainly, the teacher should be skillful.

Eshu. Mainly, the teacher should be skillful. A child can enjoy if the role of a teacher³⁴⁵ is of a guide or a helper who makes the teaching in the form of guided discovery. We have to develop a curriculum in a way that the teacher can relate every topic to the daily life of the children.³⁴⁶ To make the curriculum more relevant to culture, we have to give puzzles and emphasize home arithmetic related to the students' culture. In my opinion, puzzles enrich students' thinking ability, and home arithmetic is directly linked³⁴⁷ to their day-to-day events. Students are already familiar with such problems; thus, it helps motivate them. It's³⁴⁸ indisputable that children learn better if they understand the language of instruction. Therefore, while designing the curriculum for basic level mathematics, we should consider the background of the students and their culture.³⁴⁹

Some major³⁵⁰ concepts drawn from the aforementioned narratives³⁵¹ are teaching with examples, difficulty with³⁵² contextualizing mathematics, teaching with cultural artifacts, the local contexts in the curriculum, and teacher knowledge

of the local context. In this sense, the mathematical knowledge for teaching in the classroom can be integrated³⁵³ with "culturally³⁵⁴ diverse knowledge base..." (Abacioglu, Volman, & Fisher, 2020, p. 737).

The curriculum should respect the indigenous methods of learning and teaching. Thus, the curriculum must link students' personal experience with mathematics with formal mathematics. If students enjoy solving practical problems embedded in the cultural setting rather than the problems in the text,³ mathematics education becomes culturally relevant and responsive (Brown & Crippen, 2017). The views of other mathematics educators on this topic were also explored.³⁵⁶ Notably, Rabindra considered it important³⁵⁷ to relate mathematics with the daily life problems of the children. Other participants expressed similar views. They think that the curriculum becomes more appropriate if it incorporates realistic strategies as much as possible. Contexts should be from the real world that the children are familiar with.³⁵⁸ Indigenous mathematics is acquired by learners³⁵⁹ through the accumulation of experiences, informal experiments, and an intimate understanding of the environment in their culture (Akullo et al., 2007).³⁶⁰ However, this systematic body of knowledge is disappearing because of the preference for³⁶¹ modern, imported non-local/indigenous knowledge and modern mathematical knowledge. Therefore, it is generally accepted³⁶² that such mathematics has often been forgotten or neglected in schools (Sharma, Bajracharya, & Sitaula, 2009).

For us, this corpus of mathematics knowledge is significant informal mathematics education; since this mathematical knowledge arises out of the children's real-life experiences, its incorporation into school-work can serve to motivate students as they begin to see that recognition is given to what they do and say in their communities (Mawere, 2015).³⁶³ Mathematics identity is closely connected³⁶⁴ to cultural identity (Abdulrahim & Orosco, 2019); therefore, school

teachers should use cultural referents to explain mathematical concepts connected to their students' cultural and experiential knowledge (Clarke, Badertscher, & Napp, 2013). They should have local knowledge for effective engagement of students in various actions and learning processes (Nergaard, 2017). ³⁶⁵ Especially, teachers' indigenous knowledge at the personal and social level may help in several functions in mathematics education, such as the cultural connection of class activities, assessing students' learning through cultural projects and artifacts, and creating an environment of self-respect and respect of otherness in opinion and value (Tsindoll, Ongeti, Chang'ach, 2018). ³⁶⁶ Notably, the inclusion of students' prior knowledge in the school mathematics curriculum fits squarely into the constructivist philosophy (both Piagetian constructivism and radical constructivism) that "learner's abstract understanding from experience" (George, 2005, p.84). ³⁶⁷ We argue that the education system of Nepal has given less preference ³⁶⁸ to protecting and promoting the local mathematical knowledge. ³⁶⁹ In other words, "the main hurdle to be overcome is the fact that the local mathematical knowledge is not normally 'packaged' as school materials are" (George, 2005, p.84). ³⁷⁰ It is from the perspective of critical theory that formal learning has been structured and limited by the unequal exercise of power and "it must understand adult education as a political process in which certain interests and agendas are always pursued ³⁷¹ at the expense of others, in which curriculum inevitably promotes some content as 'better' than other content, and in which evaluation is an exercise of the power of some to judge the efforts of others" (Taylor et al., 2012, p.135). ³⁷² In this case, from the Freirean perspective of banking education, the formal structured education does not focus on creativity and transformation of knowledge ³⁷³ and it does not help learners critically consider their reality (Freire, 1993). ³⁷⁴ This view is against the problem-posing instructional

strategy weakening the students' cultural bond in the classroom (Nicol, 2018). Before discussing the participants' views on a child-friendly learning environment, we share a quotation:

When you³⁷⁵ allow students the choice of working alone or working with others, you³⁷⁶ address their need for belonging. When you³⁷⁷ put students in charge of choosing which activity to complete, you³⁷⁸ focus on their need for power and freedom. When you³⁷⁹ offer students creative ways to show what they know, you³⁸⁰ address these needs, the more we foster intrinsic motivation of learners. (Dodge, 2005, p.51)

This quotation indicates that if learners have the opportunity to³⁸² do work and behave according to their needs and interest, they create what they know. This phenomenon also motivates a learner. Regarding this topic, a participant, Maheshwor, said that culture friendly teaching means incorporating the students' culture in teaching mathematics. Nepal is a multicultural country, and this cultural pluralism can be observed³⁸³ in mathematics classrooms. The subject matter of mathematics should be related to the students' experience and local knowledge and activities. Students understand better if they can relate the subject matter to local knowledge and activities. The teacher should be familiar with the students' culture and understand that mathematics is a desirable subject. He or she should ensure equitable access to mathematics by all students developing their agency and identity (Larson, 2016). Lim et al. (2019) also emphasized the importance of the strong relationship between culture and teaching. The teacher should have theoretical and practical knowledge of culturally responsive teaching or culturally responsive pedagogy (Aceves & Orosco, 2014; Civitillo et al., 2019). Culturally responsive mathematics teaching provides an educational environment

(Gutiérrez, 2008) within the equitable framework for mathematics instruction (Celedón-Pattichis et al., 2018).

The book "Responsible Classroom Discipline," by Jones and Louise (1981), explains how to create a learning environment appropriate for children in elementary schools.³⁸⁴ According to Jones and Louise (1981), "Student disruptions will frequently occur in classes that are poorly organized³⁸⁵ and managed where students are not provided³⁸⁶ with appropriate and interesting instructional tasks" (p.101). Thomas (2000) stated that the significant characteristics of student-friendly teachers are as follows: (i) teachers must continually monitor students to be aware of students' difficulties, and (ii) teachers must understand students' problems, fears, or confusion to improve their understanding of students' learning difficulties.³⁸⁷ On becoming aware of a student's problem, the teacher will have more patience with that student, making the students³⁸⁸ feel secure or less confused during learning in the classroom.

The three themes analyzed and discussed above focused on language, contextualization, and local knowledge of teaching mathematics for culturally relevant basic mathematics in Nepal. These interpretive findings from the qualitative analysis of the perceptions of five mathematics educators are also related to other contexts and studies³⁸⁹ for example, use of wooden artifacts³⁹⁰ constructed by Chundara in teaching-learning mathematics in Nepal (Pradhan, 2017), developing mathematical meaning by using musical instruments such as dhol constructed by indigenous people Rai in Nepal (Sharma & Orey, 2017), culturally responsive schooling through pedagogical and assessment practices in Australia (Vass, 2017), cultural transmission of mathematical knowledge in India (Divakaran, 2016), integration of ethnomathematics in African nations (Zaslavsky, 1994) and geometry in their cultural heritage of Sub-Saharan

people (Gerdes, 1999). However, more study is needed to explore the cultural aspects of Nepalese mathematics and its relevance with basic level mathematics in the school curriculum and pedagogy. There are several studies in connection of cultural artifacts, and geometric and numeric patterns in Javanese Primbon (Utami, Sayuti, & Jailani, 2019), Yogyakarta batik pattern (Prahmana & D'Ambrosio, 2020), Kuba and Chokwe network in Africa (Zaslavsky, 1994), Mexican, Colombian and other Latin and South American cultural contexts (Campos, 2004).

CONCLUSION

This study explored five mathematics educators' perceptions about cultural relevance of basic level mathematics in Nepal. The three central themes related to instruction in native language, contextualization of mathematics with the notion of ethnomathematics, and integration of local language as means of instruction signify a pressing need of culturally relevant mathematics at the basic level curriculum and pedagogy. The notion of native language for instruction demands strengthening basic education in children's mother tongue, which is also a national priority in Nepal to provide basic education in local language. This provision may reduce the hindrance in mathematics learning due to compulsion to learn it in the second language. There is a growing concern about teaching mathematics by contextualizing it in the local community practices. Therefore, the participants' views about contextualization of mathematics education for empowering and promoting cultural capital through mathematics teaching and learning signifies the need for teacher motivation, integration of mathematics concepts with the cultural rituals, and developing basic level mathematics as a service subject rather than a pure discipline of logic and reasoning with contextless numbers, shapes and variables. The notion of local cultural knowledge for teaching implies

teaching basic level mathematics with examples using cultural artifacts and transforming the curriculum and teacher practice.

IMPLICATIONS

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The major themes that emerged from the analysis of data are teaching in mother language, contextualized ethnomathematics, and local knowledge integrated into the curriculum as a teaching approach. This study could be perceived as an essential document for all the related stakeholders, for example, students, teachers, researchers, teacher educators, curriculum planners, and policymakers. Among these stakeholders, student researchers will benefit the most. In this regard, the themes of this study may inspire further research to generate more knowledge in the area of the cultural relevance of school mathematics curricula. Although students at the basic level have sufficient content knowledge of mathematics, they feel comfortable in working in their cultural context. In this regard, this study helps researchers accumulate the real experiences of participants for generating research on the basic level mathematics curriculum. The thematic results in this study may guide neophyte researchers to problematize the everyday experience of mathematics in and out of the classroom for further research. The first theme related to teaching mathematics in a mother language may help teachers relate mathematics activities to students' daily life and culture.

The teachers should focus on culturally contextualized mathematics in the implementation of the basic level curriculum in schools. The teachers should play a major political role to empower students in collaboration with parents, other teachers, school leaders, and other stakeholders (Gutiérrez, 2016). The mathematics teacher educators and teacher education programs should emphasize the training and development of the basic level mathematics teachers to blend mathematics with culture, awareness about inequities, and

related pedagogical issues (White, Crespo, & Civil, 2016). The policy leaders in education should be aware of how the synchronization of the local knowledge and mathematics curricula facilitates the meaningful teaching–learning of mathematics in schools.⁴⁰⁶ ⁴⁰⁷ The overall education system should reform all basic level curricula in general and mathematics education, in particular, to transform the country's education to culture friendly teaching and learning. Therefore, if taken seriously by all concerned stakeholders of basic education in Nepal and elsewhere, the themes generated in this study have pedagogical, research, and policy implications for transforming teacher education in Nepal, in general, and basic level school mathematics, in particular.⁴⁰⁸ ⁴⁰⁹ The thematic findings may help in school policy to address racial and gender differences of students to promote inclusiveness in the classrooms (Killpack & Melon, 2016; Moss-Racusin et al., 2018; Rainey et al., 2018).⁴¹⁰ Mathematics educators' perceptions about the cultural relevance of basic level mathematics may have a significant impact on the development of curriculum and pedagogy in promoting instructions in the native language, contextualizing of mathematics, and educating children in the local language.⁴¹¹ ⁴¹² Their perceptions about cultural relevancy of mathematics might reflect their beliefs and values and influence teacher training and development for socially just and culturally rich mathematics teaching–learning in Nepal and elsewhere in a similar contexts.⁴¹³ ⁴¹⁴ ⁴¹⁵ Therefore, these findings suggest that teacher education programs should focus on these three key areas to enhance the cultural relevance of mathematics teacher education,⁴¹⁶ and school mathematics teaching and curriculum.

LIMITATIONS

There are three general limitations of this study: theoretical frame, sample size, and interpretive themes. We proposed the theoretical framework of this study to observe deficits and empowerment orientation. The study subjects or participants were five selected teacher educators, who were interviewed⁴¹⁷. The participants' views in the interviews explicated some referents of deficit and empowerment orientation in general. For example, they reported their perspectives on culture friendly teaching and the synchronization of mathematics with culture. However, these referents were not the practical points but an elusive intellectual voice of a small sample of educated elites in Nepal⁴¹⁸. Therefore, the theoretical framework of the study had a limited scope of the potential impact on the production and implementation of culturally relevant mathematics in Nepalese schools⁴¹⁹. The second limitation was related to the sample size of the study. The source of data⁴²⁰ was in-depth interviews with five mathematics teacher educators of the Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur districts of Nepal. The interview data from the five participants was insufficient to draw generalizable findings or themes. Therefore, similar to most of the qualitative studies, the results of this study cannot be examined⁴²¹⁴²² from the generalizability criteria. The third limitation is associated with the interpretive accounts of the participants and the researchers. The qualitative data analysis was intended to observe a pattern of concepts and then generate themes or categories⁴²³. While attempting to achieve this objective, much of the information is lost due to the analytical filter that researchers use to determine the specific or dominant concepts or ideas that relate to the major themes⁴²⁴⁴²⁵. In quantitative data analysis, every data point is considered (counted) in the analysis, whereas in qualitative interpretive analysis, meanings are generated from the most significant voices of the research participants⁴²⁶⁴²⁷. Therefore, the themes in this study do not incorporate all the ideas in the transcribed texts or verbal

expressions (intonations) in the records and the body language of the
participants.⁴²⁸

1.	xxxx	Unknown words	Correctness
2.	xxxx	Unknown words	Correctness
3.	xxx → xx-xx	Misspelled words	Correctness
4.	a qualitative interpretive	Misplaced words or phrases	Correctness
5.	<i>The design of this study involved an interpretive qualitative approach by administering in-depth interviews with five purposively selected mathematics educators teaching at five higher education institutions in the Kathmandu valley.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
6.	audio recorded → audio-recorded	Misspelled words	Correctness
7.	<i>The major themes that emerged were teaching in a mother language, contextualized ethnomathematics, and the local knowledge in the curriculum as a teaching approach.</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
8.	basic → primary	Word choice	Engagement
9.	of mathematics	Wrong or missing prepositions	Correctness
10.	in → to	Wrong or missing prepositions	Correctness
11.	<i>be depicted</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
12.	use of	Wordy sentences	Clarity
13.	<i>been traced</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
14.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
15.	knowledge advancement	Wordy sentences	Clarity
16.	<i>The standardization of mathematics became a norm through the Renaissance, the scientific</i>	Intricate text	Clarity

revolution, Enlightenment, and modernism with the dominance of Eurocentrism (Ravn & Skovsmose, 2019).

17.	the form of	Wordy sentences	Clarity
18.	<i>Standard Eurocentric mathematics and its pedagogical practice alienate learners from mathematics in the family, society, culture, and nature (Alangui, 2017).</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
19.	classroom approach	Wordy sentences	Clarity
20.),	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
21.	<i>This view reiterates that teaching and learning mathematics in schools should be culturally relevant to the students (Aronson & Laughter, 2016; D'Ambrosio, 1985), so that it helps in reducing the achievement gap (Jordt et al., 2017).</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
22.	<i>However, teacher education programs, despite offering multicultural and social justice courses, have not been able to connect the preservice teachers' mathematical experiences to the community and culture to understand issues of equity, fairness, and justice (Jackson & Roberts, 2017).</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
23.	<i>Their view of mathematics is and should be practically connected to students' life and culture, making it culturally relevant to what they do and what they must do as part of their everyday life (Garfield & Sterenberg, 2020).</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
24.	mathematics operations	Wordy sentences	Clarity

25.	relevant,	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
26.	and community → . Community	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
27.	are used	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
28.	be connected	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
29.	<i>Likewise, Sharma and Orey (2017) discussed mathematics concepts in making drums and how the connection between mathematics and artifacts can support culturally relevant pedagogy in Nepal.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
30.	<i>These studies have been artifact-based and based on local contexts without focusing on the school mathematics curriculum in Nepal and the perspectives of teachers and mathematics educators.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
31.	important → essential, crucial	Word choice	Engagement
32.	the cultural	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	Correctness
33.	school mathematics's cultural relevance	Wordy sentences	Clarity
34.	, and	Comma misuse within clauses	Correctness
35.	<i>Mathematics teacher educators' perceptions of the cultural relevance of basic mathematics may influence the way they develop or train mathematics teachers.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
36.	basic → necessary	Word choice	Engagement
37.	this study's objective	Wordy sentences	Clarity
38.	be mitigated	Passive voice misuse	Clarity

39.	<i>be developed</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
40.	on the basis of → based on	Wordy sentences	Clarity
41.	<i>are hindered</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
42.	sociocultural → socio-cultural	Confused words	Correctness
43.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
44.	<i>Therefore, in the process of curriculum development, the child-centered approach will be adopted in selecting subject matter, teaching-learning activities, assessment procedures according to their interest, needs, and their pace of development.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
45.	contexts,	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
46.	<i>be given</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
47.	of the areas → area	Wordy sentences	Clarity
48.	interest → interests	Incorrect noun number	Correctness
49.	<i>The provision of the local need-based studies should be brought into effect to fulfill the various needs and interest of students and to give room for localization in the curriculum to make it relevant.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
50.	basic → primary	Word choice	Engagement
51.	schools of Nepal → Nepal schools	Wordy sentences	Clarity
52.	<i>was mostly derived</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
53.	study's methodology	Wordy sentences	Clarity

54.	<i>was located</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
55.	<i>was based</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
56.	<i>was extended</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
57.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
58.	<i>The findings of the study revealed that the teachers used the children's informal mathematics knowledge with critical thinking, built a connection of school mathematics with families and their practices for the empowerment of students, and opened a multilevel dialogue for the collaborative endeavor...</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
59.	<i>The outcomes of the study recommended diversified teaching methods and evaluation techniques to improve student learning and participation in science and mathematics activities in the classroom by applying various teaching methods, such as active participation, cooperative learning, and panel discu...</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
60.	<i>They focused on algebra teachers to provide teaching and learning opportunities that promoted access for more students through insightful pedagogical knowledge and algebra knowledge practicing culturally relevant pedagogy and suggested that teachers develop and apply the types of knowledge that wou...</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
61.	<i>Wagley et al. (2008) conducted a study on contextualized mathematics based on the observations of local daily life practices of the Tamang and Gopali people near Kathmandu valley.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity

62.	middle schools' curriculum	Wordy sentences	Clarity
63.	<i>More specifically, the project focused on the sociocultural context of the indigenous practices of women and disadvantaged ethnic communities, such as the Tamang and Gopali people of the hilly regions of Nepal (Wagley et al., 2008).</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
64.	are linked	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
65.	the concepts in	Wordy sentences	Clarity
66.	be integrated	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
67.	was planned	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
68.	<i>A three-week intervention was planned as a part of the methods of teaching mathematics coursework for four preservice elementary and middle school teachers.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
69.	the method of	Wordy sentences	Clarity
70.	was related	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
71.	were taught	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
72.	how to	Wordy sentences	Clarity
73.	a majority of → most	Wordy sentences	Clarity
74.	, although → . However,	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
75.	to	Wordy sentences	Clarity
76.	the students' → their	Wordy sentences	Clarity
77.	observed → practical	Word choice	Engagement
78.	<i>They used external classification and</i>	Intricate text	Clarity

internal frames to categorize the cultural experiences of students and teachers in classroom discourses (Lim et al., 2019).

79.	the Indonesian	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	Correctness
80.	an ethnographic	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	Correctness
81.	be integrated	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
82.	to → into	Wrong or missing prepositions	Correctness
83.	klitik	Unknown words	Correctness
84.	<i>For example, symmetric patterns in the Babon Angrem, translation of patterns in Parang Barang, reflection transformation in Parang klitik, and two transformations (reflection and translation) in Sidomukti patterns.</i>	Incomplete sentences	Correctness
85.	a deep cultural value, deep cultural values	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	Correctness
86.	<i>These patterns and others they explored have a deep cultural values and connection to and relevance in Indonesian school mathematics (Prahmana & D'Ambrasio, 2020).</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
87.	aforementioned → previous	Word choice	Engagement
88.	reviews above, reviews mentioned above, reviews as mentioned above, reviews as mentioned earlier	Outdated language	Clarity
89.	is located	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
90.	be done	Passive voice misuse	Clarity

91.	<i>The main component of the culturally relevant pedagogical model is the connection between critical mathematical thinking and a critical view of knowledge.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
92.	<i>is based</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
93.	adopted from	Wordy sentences	Clarity
94.	in a critical manner → critically	Wordy sentences	Clarity
95.	so that they can → to	Wordy sentences	Clarity
96.	be able to	Wordy sentences	Clarity
97.	the principal components of	Wordy sentences	Clarity
98.	<i>Also important is to develop students' questioning skills to raise their voices and concerns while constructing mathematical knowledge (Gutstein, Lipman, Hernandez, & Reyes, 1997).</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
99.	the process of	Wordy sentences	Clarity
100.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
101.	culture,	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
102.	and knowledge for	Wordy sentences	Clarity
103.	lack the ability to → cannot	Wordy sentences	Clarity
104.	cultural orientation challenges	Wordy sentences	Clarity
105.	<i>These theoretical constructs guided the ontological, epistemological, methodological, and axiological</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity

	<i>assumptions of this study while identifying research problems, constructing research questions, designing the study, collecting the data through in-depth interviews, and analyzing and interpreting ...</i>		
106.	the selection of → selecting	Wordy sentences	Clarity
107.	on the basis of → based on	Wordy sentences	Clarity
108.	basic → primary	Word choice	Engagement
109.	<i>The researcher adopted an interpretative research paradigm to conduct this study because it assumes a relativist ontology, a subjective epistemology, and a naturalistic set of methodological procedures (Creswell & Poth, 2018).</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
110.	<i>The ontological stance of the study was that different teachers have different experiences because they have diverse cultural backgrounds, embodied knowledge, and practices.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
111.	<i>were interviewed</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
112.	<i>To understand the reality of the cultural relevance of mathematics, educators experienced in teaching students of different cultural backgrounds were interviewed.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
113.	<i>were conducted</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
114.	<i>The interviews were conducted with the following purpose: understanding the interviewees' multiple narratives and interpretations as per sociocultural diversities.</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
115.	<i>In this manner, the knowledge on the cultural relevance of mathematics</i>	Intricate text	Clarity

was generated by analyzing and interpreting individual educators' experiences, perceptions, and day-to-day working practices.

116.	participants' perspectives	Wordy sentences	Clarity
117.	<i>was guided</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
118.	<i>was selected</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
119.	all the	Wordy sentences	Clarity
120.	<i>was based</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
121.	multicaste → multicast	Misspelled words	Correctness
122.	<i>were used</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
123.	the nature	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	Correctness
124.	<i>The objectives of the research, nature of the questions, and the characteristics of the study population determine which and how many people to select as research participants.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
125.	<i>is based</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
126.	important → essential	Word choice	Engagement
127.	interviewees' criteria	Wordy sentences	Clarity
128.	studied societies' multidimensional realities	Wordy sentences	Clarity
129.	research,	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
130.	<i>The five participants of the study were Saurya, Rabindra, Eshu,</i>	Intricate text	Clarity

	<i>Maheshwor, and Chaitan (pseudonyms).</i>		
131.	degree → Degree	Improper formatting	Correctness
132.	<i>The five participants of the study were Saurya, Rabindra, Eshu, Maheshwor, and Chaitan (pseudonyms). Saurya (a male participant) had an M.Phil. degree and years of experience teaching elementary and high school mathematics at the school level.</i>	Monotonous sentences	Engagement
133.	had been teaching → taught	Wordy sentences	Clarity
134.),	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
135.	.) had	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
136.	degree → Degree	Improper formatting	Correctness
137.	that was	Wordy sentences	Clarity
138.	<i>been invited</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
139.	<i>been involved</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
140.),	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
141.	degree → Degree	Improper formatting	Correctness
142.	degree,	Comma misuse within clauses	Correctness
143.	degree, had → ¶ degree, had	Intricate text	Clarity
144.	, and	Comma misuse within clauses	Correctness
145.	was working → worked	Wordy sentences	Clarity

146.	mathematics education professor	Wordy sentences	Clarity
147.	years! → years	Incorrect noun number	Correctness
148.	years! → years	Incorrect noun number	Correctness
149.	years; → years,	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
150.	teaching; → teaching,	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
151.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
152.	be used	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
153.	deeply → profoundly	Word choice	Engagement
154.	<i>The in-depth interviews were administered by deeply exploring the issues related to the study topic and the full range of concepts and ideas of the cultural relevance of mathematics (Sullivan, 2001).</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
155.	<i>were collected</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
156.	<i>were transcribed</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
157.	important → essential, critical, crucial	Word choice	Engagement
158.	meanings,	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
159.	major → central, primary	Word choice	Engagement
160.	<i>A focus was the four domains highlighted in the theoretical framework of the study—critical thinking and the children's knowledge, deficit, and empowerment—while making sense of the data.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity

161.	<i>were generated</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
162.	<i>interview data pieces</i>	Wordy sentences	Clarity
163.	<i>were generated</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
164.	<i>A follow-up interview was conducted with each participant and focused on the three themes while considering the theoretical domains from the framework—critical thinking and children's knowledge, deficit, and empowerment.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
165.	<i>been commissioned</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
166.	<i>data analysis</i>	Wordy sentences	Clarity
167.	<i>basic</i> → <i>fundamental</i>	Word choice	Engagement
168.	<i>pedagogy explored</i>	Improper formatting	Correctness
169.	<i>In this situation, employing the students' mother language in teaching and learning activities in mathematics classrooms has become a challenging task.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
170.	<i>I</i>	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
171.	<i>First, I think language is a matter of raising the active involvement of students in the learning process.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
172.	<i>As we commonly agreed, it is not so easy to switch to another language from the language that we learned at home.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
173.	<i>In this regard, when there is a difference in language between home and school, mostly in early grades, students become puzzled, and we</i>	Intricate text	Clarity

	<i>become unable to obtain the desired learning outcomes from the students.</i>		
174.	/	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
175.	, and as → . As	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
176.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
177.	so that students can → to	Wordy sentences	Clarity
178.	to improve	Wordy sentences	Clarity
179.	are introduced	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
180.	help understand	Wordy sentences	Clarity
181.	effective → useful	Word choice	Engagement
182.	<i>Many researchers have pointed out that the use of the mother language as a medium of instruction is effective, and this attracts children to school as well.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
183.	basic → primary	Word choice	Engagement
184.	But → However,, Nevertheless,	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
185.	great → significant	Word choice	Engagement
186.	great → excellent	Word choice	Engagement
187.	a mixed → a diverse	Word choice	Engagement
188.	manpower → workforce, human resources	Potentially sensitive language	Delivery
189.	/	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
190.	I think if → If	Wordy sentences	Clarity

191.	<i>being operated</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
192.	easier → more comfortable	Word choice	Engagement
193.	to → with	Wrong or missing prepositions	Correctness
194.	period of time → period, time	Wordy sentences	Clarity
195.	basic → primary	Word choice	Engagement
196.	/	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
197.	<i>If that is not possible, the teacher should at least know the local culture in order to teach with references to the local language.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
198.	major → significant	Word choice	Engagement
199.	mother tongue's strength	Wordy sentences	Clarity
200.	narrative above, narrative mentioned above, narrative as mentioned above, narrative as mentioned earlier	Outdated language	Clarity
201.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
202.	<i>been reported</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
203.	for students to → to students'	Wordy sentences	Clarity
204.	of the means → way	Wordy sentences	Clarity
205.	the development of → developing	Wordy sentences	Clarity
206.	cause an adverse impact on → hurt, harm	Wordy sentences	Clarity
207.	help address	Wordy sentences	Clarity

208.	<i>The teachers should acknowledge the racial disparities in the classroom to address these discriminatory practices (Carter et al., 2017).</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
209.	many children's education	Wordy sentences	Clarity
210.	who → which	Pronoun use	Correctness
211.	<i>To devise culturally relevant mathematics education</i>	Misplaced words or phrases	Correctness
212.	<i>be integrated</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
213.	businessmen → business people, people in business	Potentially sensitive language	Delivery
214.	<i>To devise culturally relevant mathematics education, the concepts of mathematics should be integrated with the work of carpenters, businessmen, tailors, homemakers, or children playing games.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
215.	important → essential	Word choice	Engagement
216.	then,	Wordy sentences	Clarity
217.	<i>are portrayed</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
218.	<i>be considered</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
219.	basic → primary	Word choice	Engagement
220.	<i>be provided</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
221.	very weak → fragile	Word choice	Engagement
222.	<i>In the context of Nepal, the basic level mathematics curriculum should be provided by the local government;</i>	Intricate text	Clarity

	<i>however, the implementation has been very weak.</i>		
223.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
224.	<i>be interlinked</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
225.	<i>are paid</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
226.	fulltime → full-time	Confused words	Correctness
227.	basic mathematics curriculum	Wordy sentences	Clarity
228.	<i>This</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
229.	to	Wordy sentences	Clarity
230.	in creating → create	Wordy sentences	Clarity
231.	an interesting → a fascinating	Word choice	Engagement
232.	<i>Gradually, it may help in changing the public image of mathematics from a dry subject to an interesting subject.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
233.	<i>be connected</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
234.	, and we → . We	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
235.	<i>This</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
236.	<i>is adapted</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
237.	curriculum,	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
238.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
239.	<i>Indigenous knowledge must be incorporated into every subject of the curriculum, to make teaching-learning more effective.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity

240.	<i>is contextualized</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
241.	mathematics achievement	Wordy sentences	Clarity
242.	easier → more comfortable, more leisurely, more effortless, more straightforward	Word choice	Engagement
243.	their	Pronoun use	Correctness
244.	Therefore, teaching basic mathematics includes the teaching of numbers, shapes, patterns, and their applications or uses.	Intricate text	Clarity
245.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
246.	To make the teaching–learning of mathematics easier and more effective	Misplaced words or phrases	Correctness
247.	with each other	Wordy sentences	Clarity
248.	is adapted	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
249.	certain → specific, particular	Word choice	Engagement
250.	are those who	Wordy sentences	Clarity
251.	be included	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
252.	I	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
253.	the addition of	Wordy sentences	Clarity
254.	be linked	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
255.	Mathematics can be linked to social, cultural, and historical contexts, but we are still unable to show how they are related.	Intricate text	Clarity

256.	more attractive	Word choice	Engagement
257.	understand	Wordy sentences	Clarity
258.	basic → primary	Word choice	Engagement
259.	be observed	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
260.	my	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
261.	the major	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	Correctness
262.	major → significant	Word choice	Engagement
263.	the connection of	Wordy sentences	Clarity
264.	, namely → . Namely, ; namely	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
265.	knowledge,	Comma misuse within clauses	Correctness
266.	more relevant	Incomplete sentences	Correctness
267.	And → Moreover,, Furthermore,	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
268.	I	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
269.	more powerful → more assertive, more robust	Word choice	Engagement
270.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
271.	basic → primary	Word choice	Engagement
272.	major → significant	Word choice	Engagement
273.	Related to this perspective, Acharya (2020) reported that the mathematical practices in the classroom should support students' managing of their daily life problems.	Intricate text	Clarity

274.	knowledge funds	Wordy sentences	Clarity
275.	<i>Mathematics teachers may teach math concepts using the perspective of ethnomathematics, in which the cultural diversity of pupils' is respected, and their everyday mathematical practices in and out of school are considered relevant (François, 2007), being aware of their own and students' racial dif...</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
276.	, and	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
277.	<i>The students from minority and marginalized groups perform low in mathematics and many of them drop out of school (Christian, 2017; Mathema & Bista, 2006).</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
278.	literature findings	Wordy sentences	Clarity
279.	diversity → diverse	Confused words	Correctness
280.	Severions → Severin's, Series	Misspelled words	Correctness
281.	<i>Thus, the practice of ethnomathematics in mainstream pedagogies empowers teachers and students to change their visions of mathematical knowledge and teaching with diversity beliefs and transformation of knowledge and skills (Alhanachi, de Meijer, & Severiens, 2021).</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
282.	is depicted	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
283.	the advancement of → advancing	Wordy sentences	Clarity
284.	Furthermore → ¶ Furthermore	Intricate text	Clarity
285.	Soblog → So blog	Misspelled words	Correctness

286.	<i>klitik</i>	Unknown words	Correctness
287.	Angrem → Anagram	Misspelled words	Correctness
288.	sasak → Sasak	Misspelled words	Correctness
289.	<i>was amalgamated</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
290.	<i>We considered that the everyday life of a person or group in culture was amalgamated with their prior knowledge and practice within social and cultural values.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
291.	a significant → a powerful, an important, an effective	Word choice	Engagement
292.	<i>is integrated</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
293.	types of	Wordy sentences	Clarity
294.	<i>is implemented</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
295.	<i>Ultimately, these interactions between culture and others create a learning system for students and could help in realizing new possibilities for transformative education.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
296.	<i>is derived</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
297.	<i>Thus, promoting a cultural perspective in the context, we have presented would help realize the latent capacity of learners and relate their cognition to mathematics contents.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
298.	interesting → exciting	Word choice	Engagement
299.	mathematics standards	Wordy sentences	Clarity

300.	<i>been portrayed</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
301.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
302.	within → with in	Confused words	Correctness
303.	with within	Wrong or missing prepositions	Correctness
304.	I	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
305.	<i>I mean, the learning in school should be connected and based on the students' common practices and culture, which encourages students to actively participate in the learning process, and helps us in creating a culturally relevant teaching-learning environment.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
306.	me	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
307.	it is	Wordy sentences	Clarity
308.	difficult → challenging	Word choice	Engagement
309.	curriculum content	Wordy sentences	Clarity
310.	difficult → challenging	Word choice	Engagement
311.	the majority of the → most	Wordy sentences	Clarity
312.	Education aims	Wordy sentences	Clarity
313.	As a matter of fact, this	Wordy sentences	Clarity
314.	my	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
315.	Similarly → ¶ Similarly	Intricate text	Clarity
316.	my	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery

317.	basic → primary	Word choice	Engagement
318.	prepare	Wordy sentences	Clarity
319.	certain → particular	Word choice	Engagement
320.	a good → an excellent	Word choice	Engagement
321.	Similarly → ¶ Similarly	Intricate text	Clarity
322.	etc	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
323.	In addition → Also, Besides	Wordy sentences	Clarity
324.	be used	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
325.	be used	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
326.	effective → useful	Word choice	Engagement
327.	To make the class enjoyable	Misplaced words or phrases	Correctness
328.	my	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
329.	I	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
330.	<i>During my five-year-long service in a government school as a mathematics teacher and a faculty member of mathematics education at a university for the last fifteen years, I have not seen or did not have any sort of experience of primary or secondary level school curriculum incorporating the local k...</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
331.	has → have	Faulty subject-verb agreement	Correctness
332.	, but none → . However, none	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
333.	of them	Wordy sentences	Clarity
334.	, and	Comma misuse within clauses	Correctness

335.	<i>etc</i>	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
336.	is obvious → is evident, was evident	Word choice	Engagement
337.	It is obvious that the	Wordy sentences	Clarity
338.	<i>are represented</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
339.	in → to	Wrong or missing prepositions	Correctness
340.	The way they → They	Wordy sentences	Clarity
341.	<i>etc.</i>	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
342.	<i>I</i>	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
343.	types of	Wordy sentences	Clarity
344.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
345.	a teacher's role	Wordy sentences	Clarity
346.	<i>We have to develop a curriculum in a way that the teacher can relate every topic to the daily life of the children.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
347.	<i>is directly linked</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
348.	It's → It is	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
349.	<i>Therefore, while designing the curriculum for basic level mathematics, we should consider the background of the students and their culture.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
350.	major → significant	Word choice	Engagement
351.	narratives above, narratives mentioned above, narratives as mentioned above, narratives as mentioned earlier	Outdated language	Clarity

352.	with	Wordy sentences	Clarity
353.	<i>be integrated</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
354.	a "culturally	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	Correctness
355.	text's problems	Wordy sentences	Clarity
356.	<i>were also explored</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
357.	important → essential	Word choice	Engagement
358.	<i>with</i>	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
359.	by accumulating	Wordy sentences	Clarity
360.	<i>Indigenous mathematics is acquired by learners through the accumulation of experiences, informal experiments, and an intimate understanding of the environment in their culture (Akullo et al., 2007).</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
361.	the preference for	Wordy sentences	Clarity
362.	<i>is generally accepted</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
363.	<i>For us, this corpus of mathematics knowledge is significant informal mathematics education; since this mathematical knowledge arises out of the children's real-life experiences, its incorporation into school-work can serve to motivate students as they begin to see that recognition is given to what ...</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
364.	<i>is closely connected</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
365.	<i>They should have local knowledge for effective engagement of students in</i>	Intricate text	Clarity

various actions and learning processes (Nergaard, 2017).

366.	Especially → Significantly, Mostly, Primarily, Incredibly	Word choice	Engagement
367.	<i>Especially, teachers' indigenous knowledge at the personal and social level may help in several functions in mathematics education, such as the cultural connection of class activities, assessing students' learning through cultural projects and artifacts, and creating an environment of self-respect ...</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
368.	<i>Notably, the inclusion of students' prior knowledge in the school mathematics curriculum fits squarely into the constructivist philosophy (both Piagetian constructivism and radical constructivism) that "learner's abstract understanding from experience" (George, 2005, p.84).</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
369.	to → for	Wrong or missing prepositions	Correctness
370.	<i>We argue that the education system of Nepal has given less preference to protecting and promoting the local mathematical knowledge.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
371.	<i>are always pursued</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
372.	<i>It is from the perspective of critical theory that formal learning has been structured and limited by the unequal exercise of power and "it must understand adult education as a political process in which certain interests and agendas are always pursued at the expense of others, in which curriculum ...</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity

373.	, and	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
374.	<i>In this case, from the Freirean perspective of banking education, the formal structured education does not focus on creativity and transformation of knowledge and it does not help learners critically consider their reality (Freire, 1993).</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
375.	you	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
376.	you	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
377.	you	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
378.	you	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
379.	you	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
380.	you	Inappropriate colloquialisms	Delivery
381.	you	Wordy sentences	Clarity
382.	have the opportunity to → can	Wordy sentences	Clarity
383.	be observed	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
384.	<i>The book "Responsible Classroom Discipline," by Jones and Louise (1981), explains how to create a learning environment appropriate for children in elementary schools.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
385.	are poorly organized	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
386.	are not provided	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
387.	<i>Thomas (2000) stated that the significant characteristics of student-friendly teachers are as follows: (i) teachers must continually</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity

	<i>monitor students to be aware of students' difficulties, and (ii) teachers must understand students' problems, fears, or confusion to improve their understanding of st...</i>		
388.	the students → them	Wordy sentences	Clarity
389.	, for	Comma misuse within clauses	Correctness
390.	the use	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	Correctness
391.	<i>These interpretive findings from the qualitative analysis of the perceptions of five mathematics educators are also related to other contexts and studies for example, use of wooden artifacts constructed by Chundara in teaching-learning mathematics in Nepal (Pradhan, 2017), developing mathematical m...</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity
392.	<i>However, more study is needed to explore the cultural aspects of Nepalese mathematics and its relevance with basic level mathematics in the school curriculum and pedagogy.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
393.	of → with	Wrong or missing prepositions	Correctness
394.	artifacts,	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
395.	, and	Comma misuse within clauses	Correctness
396.	service subject	Improper formatting	Correctness
397.	the mother	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	Correctness
398.	<i>The major themes that emerged from the analysis of data are teaching in mother language, contextualized</i>	Hard-to-read text	Clarity

ethnomathematics, and local knowledge integrated into the curriculum as a teaching approach.

399.	this study's themes	Wordy sentences	Clarity
400.	basic → primary	Word choice	Engagement
401.	<i>Although students at the basic level have sufficient content knowledge of mathematics, they feel comfortable in working in their cultural context.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
402.	<i>In this regard, this study helps researchers accumulate the real experiences of participants for generating research on the basic level mathematics curriculum.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
403.	<i>The thematic results in this study may guide neophyte researchers to problematize the everyday experience of mathematics in and out of the classroom for further research.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
404.	<i>The first theme related to teaching mathematics in a mother language may help teachers relate mathematics activities to students' daily life and culture.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
405.	major → significant	Word choice	Engagement
406.	teaching-learning	Misspelled words	Correctness
407.	<i>The policy leaders in education should be aware of how the synchronization of the local knowledge and mathematics curricula facilitates the meaningful teaching–learning of mathematics in schools.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
408.	basic → primary	Word choice	Engagement

409.	<i>Therefore, if taken seriously by all concerned stakeholders of basic education in Nepal and elsewhere, the themes generated in this study have pedagogical, research, and policy implications for transforming teacher education in Nepal, in general, and basic level school mathematics, in particular.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
410.	<i>The thematic findings may help in school policy to address racial and gender differences of students to promote inclusiveness in the classrooms (Killpack & Melon, 2016; Moss-Racusin et al., 2018; Rainey et al., 2018).</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
411.	ef	Wrong or missing prepositions	Correctness
412.	<i>Mathematics educators' perceptions about the cultural relevance of basic level mathematics may have a significant impact on the development of curriculum and pedagogy in promoting instructions in the native language, contextualizing of mathematics, and educating children in the local language.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
413.	the cultural	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	Correctness
414.	a similar	Determiner use (a/an/the/this, etc.)	Correctness
415.	<i>Their perceptions about cultural relevancy of mathematics might reflect their beliefs and values and influence teacher training and development for socially just and culturally rich mathematics teaching-learning in Nepal and elsewhere in a similar contexts.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity

416.	education,	Punctuation in compound/complex sentences	Correctness
417.	<i>were interviewed</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
418.	<i>However, these referents were not the practical points but an elusive intellectual voice of a small sample of educated elites in Nepal.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
419.	<i>Therefore, the theoretical framework of the study had a limited scope of the potential impact on the production and implementation of culturally relevant mathematics in Nepalese schools.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
420.	source of data → data source	Wordy sentences	Clarity
421.	this study's results	Wordy sentences	Clarity
422.	<i>be examined</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
423.	<i>was intended</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
424.	<i>is lost</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
425.	that relate → related	Wordy sentences	Clarity
426.	<i>are generated</i>	Passive voice misuse	Clarity
427.	<i>In quantitative data analysis, every data point is considered (counted) in the analysis, whereas in qualitative interpretive analysis, meanings are generated from the most significant voices of the research participants.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity
428.	<i>Therefore, the themes in this study do not incorporate all the ideas in the transcribed texts or verbal expressions (intonations) in the records and the body language of the participants.</i>	Intricate text	Clarity

429.	<i>Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE</i>	Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates UAE Business ... https://www.locate.ae/united-arab-emirates/abu-dhabi/al-ain/education	Originality
430.	<i>pressure of the inner workings and interactions of social groups and</i>	What Is Mathematics, Really? http://www.ams.org/notices/199909/rev-dubinsky.pdf	Originality
431.	<i>In this context, the purpose of this study</i>	Study on coordination and harmonisation of the ESI funds and other EU instruments [Tender documents : T28696897]	Originality
432.	<i>To achieve the objective of this study, we</i>	An Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ardl) Analysis Of The Nexus Between Savings And Investment In The Three Asian Economies	Originality
433.	<i>the methodology of the study, the results and</i>	The Impact of Intellectual Capital on the Performance of Firms in Nigeria	Originality
434.	<i>The participants of the study were three elementary</i>	비디오 모델링이 중도 지적장애 초등 학생의 자전거 타기에 미치는 효과 https://www.kci.go.kr/kciportal/ci/sereArticleSearch/ciSereArtiView.kci?sereArticleSearchBean.artild=ART001627157	Originality
435.	<i>The findings of the study revealed several interesting</i>	MA Student Capstone Abstracts – Teaching English as a ... https://tefl.aua.am/students/abstracts/	Originality
436.	<i>Kathmandu valley was selected as the study site.</i>	Effect of deworming on milk production in dairy cattle and ... https://vetrecordopen.bmj.com/content/7/1/e000380	Originality
437.	<i>People from different parts of the country come</i>	Socio-cultural constraints for HIV/AIDS patients	Originality
438.	<i>determine which and how many</i>	Module 1 Qualitative Research	Originality

	<i>people to select</i>	Methods Overview https://course.ccs.neu.edu/is4800sp12/resources/qualmethods.pdf	
439.	<i>and had been invited to do so by the</i>	AdvanFort - Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AdvanFort	Originality
440.	<i>He was a professor of mathematics education at</i>	In Memoriam Mathematical Association of America https://www.maa.org/news/memoriam	Originality
441.	<i>Qualitative data were collected through in-depth interviews with</i>	Availability, accessibility, and impact of social support on breast cancer treatment among breast cancer patients in Kumasi, Ghana: A qualitative study	Originality
442.	<i>Several themes were generated from the data, and</i>	Feeling Lucky: The Serendipitous Nature of Field Education ... https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10615-018-0688-z	Originality
443.	<i>A follow-up interview was conducted with each participant</i>	Cybersecurity Knowledge Requirements for Strategic Level Decision Makers	Originality
444.	<i>The main themes that emerged from the analysis of the data</i>	Aboriginal Mentoring in Saskatoon: A cultural perspective https://cuirs.usask.ca/documents/publications/2005-2009/Aboriginal%20Mentoring%20in%20Saskatoon.pdf	Originality
445.	<i>According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS,</i>	Netherlands : The Netherlands is home to over 10,000 fast-growing companies	Originality
446.	<i>There are many advantages and disadvantages of teaching in</i>	APPLICATIONS IN THE FOCUS: PHYSICS TEACHING FROM A NOVEL ... http://shrek.unideb.hu/~learner/application_inthefocus.pdf	Originality
447.	<i>Many researchers have pointed out</i>	Summary Report of the Workshop	Originality

	<i>that the use of</i>	on Aircraft Noise Impacts ... https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/apl/research/science_integrated_modeling/noise_workshops/media/dc/DC%20Final%20Summary%20Report.pdf	
448.	<i>On the other hand, many languages do not</i>	Personal pronoun - Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_pronoun	Originality
449.	<i>The implication of this process is that it</i>	Robert Lazzarini - Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Lazzarini	Originality
450.	<i>and have a very close relationship with each other.</i>	3 Guardian Angel Prayers for Strength, Courage, and Protection https://www.ask-angels.com/spiritual-guidance/guardian-angel-prayer/	Originality
451.	<i>think about who they are and how their</i>	Innovative Courses Teach Critical Thinking, Open Inquiry https://www.forbes.com/sites/mariaklawe/2019/12/27/innovative-courses-teach-critical-thinking-open-inquiry/	Originality
452.	<i>In my opinion, these are the major issues.</i>	Crafting Table: creating a more dynamic 0.0 experience - INN https://imperium.news/crafting-table-creating-dynamic-0-0-experience/	Originality
453.	<i>There are students from a range of cultural backgrounds in</i>	Why indigenous knowledge has a place in the school science ... https://theconversation.com/why-indigenous-knowledge-has-a-place-in-the-school-science-curriculum-44378	Originality
454.	<i>Student engagement in the classroom can be increased</i>	8 Ways for Teachers to Increase Student Engagement - WittyPen https://wittypen.com/blog/8-ways-teachers-increase-student-engagement/	Originality

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| 455. | <i>in classes that are poorly organized and managed where students are not provided with appropriate and interesting instructional tasks</i> | Teacher-student relationship - Daily Excelsior
https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/teacher-student-relationship/ | Originality |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 456. | <i>The major themes that emerged from the analysis</i> | Misconceptions about brain injury among the general public ...
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02699050117322 | Originality |