

**While the youngsters in Nepal are more inclined towards moving to foreign countries, Mr. Bhanubhakta Lamichanne, an Electrical engineer and an entrepreneur working in the same field, has somehow managed to create a successful Transformer Manufacturing Company (Nepal transformer and Allied Engineering) of his own, here at Nepal itself. Here he shares some of his ideas and experiences about his career and his studies.**



scandal related to the import of below standard transformers by Nepal. Knowing about this, I went to India, where I learned how to build transformers. After training for almost 2 years I successfully made my first Transformer, came to Nepal and had it tested at NEA. The transformer was labeled to meet the Nepalese Standards. I had already realized that transformers can be manufactured in Nepal itself and upon developing the capability to do it myself I decided to start a Transformer Manufacturing Company Named 'Nepal Transformer'.

Initially I used my Father's Employees Provident Fund as the starting capital for my company. I also worked as a lecturer in Janakpur Engineering College. And I used the salary I received to the run company. Starting with a total of 3 staffs, all of mechanical field, I managed to do all the work related to the electrical field myself. The company slowly grew but the growth was brought to a cease by the earthquake of 2072 BS. Then after a lot of struggle, I somehow managed to bring the company back to operation in the year 2073 BS and now the company is doing pretty well.

Interviewed by:

Ranjai Baidya and Bivek Giri

**1. Starting a transformer company is not an overnight process, what triggered you to start a transformer company of your own? What kind of difficulties did you face initially?**

After completion of my bachelor studies, I went on a lookout for a job, then I was offered one at Yak and Yeti Hotel as an Electrical In charge of a new building under construction. But since we were not delivered with any course related to wiring during our bachelors studies, I didn't have any specialized knowledge to take up the job. So I asked the contractor to assign a supervisor to look after me at the job, rather than declaring me as the in charge, which he didn't agree upon, therefore I quit the job. I went on to some other projects but similar things happened there as well. This triggered me to do something extra in my field. I was unequipped with experience and I knew that I had to hone my skills as an Electrical Engineer.

During that same period, there was a huge

**2. There are other well-established transformers manufacturing and repairing companies in Nepal, wasn't it difficult to enter into this competitive market?**

Our company manufactures Laser core Transformers which have high durability and a efficiency above 99%. The price ranges from 2.30 lakhs to 50 lakhs and we also provide a 2 years of guarantee and a 5 years of warranty in all our products.

There may be lot of others in this market, but I believe that only few can offer what we do.

**3. While most of the Nepalese Students, specially technical line graduates, are choosing abroad countries as future destination for further studies and even settlement, what made you stay in Nepal and start your own business?**

I feel that, we, Nepalese over expect from the foreign countries. We expect to earn tons of money outside of the country, without even considering what works we may have to do there and what could be the consequences of the work.

I worked hard during my four years of undergraduate studies, so obviously after that I wanted to work in the same field as I completed my studies. Also I was not qualified even to work in my own country so I never expected that I could get employed in some foreign country in the same field. Yeah may be I would have earned a lot of money moving abroad, but certainly I wouldn't have been working in the field of my interest and also not in a place I could ever call home. I am glad that I stayed and I am still working in the field of my passion. Also I feel lucky to be contributing to my homeland.

**4. As an entrepreneur, you must have had a lot of sour and sweet experiences do you have any specific ones that you can share with us?**

The most remarkable memory would of course be the time the transformer that I made met the standards of Nepal Electricity Authority. Then the sourest experience would be the moment when I realized that I was technically incompetent as an engineer, even when I had an Engineering degree in my hand. And I am also inconsolable about the education system of Nepal, even the bachelors study of technical sub-

jects like engineering contain more theoretical portion than the practical ones. Engineers are technical professionals, which means sometimes they may have to work as technical labour in the field, but it is sad to know that those who are skilled they either migrate or settle abroad, while even the rest that are left behind don't want to work on the field, they look for some desk job with high salaries.

**5. You have a successful business and a one with reputation, why are you still pursuing your master's studies in Kathmandu University? Isn't it difficult to manage your academics along with your business?**

I have always wanted to complete my Master's studies, so I can't readily answer why now. But the main reason for pursuing my master's studies in Kathmandu University rather than other universities in Nepal would be the platform that is available here, to share our ideas and know about the international values through some international lecturers.

Yes, the schedule is quite hectic for me to manage my business along with the classes. So as a suggestion to the management of Kathmandu University I would like to say that, it would be better if the schedule was managed such that classes were be mostly in the morning and the evening. It would be the best for the working students like me. Also most importantly the (technical) courses definitely need to be re-structured, focusing more on the practical one rather than the theoretical ones also maybe increasing the duration of internship during the course duration would be a great decision.

We don't lack skilled manpower, every year we produce a huge number of skilled engineers who move to foreign lands in search of opportunities. Neither do we lack domestic investors, EPF (Employees Provident Fund), CIT, NTC and lot of other private investors are interested in investing in Hydropower projects. So what we need to do is, mobilize our domestic manpower and prioritize domestic investors. This way we can get cheap energy and nurture the skills of our manpower.