

CURRICULUM VITAE



Personal details:

- Name: Bijoy Kumar Rai
- Designation: Assistant Professor
- Organisation: Paro College of Education, Royal University of Bhutan
- Qualification: PhD in Education
- Gender: Male
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Qualifications and education

- 2021: PhD in Education – University of Technology Sydney, NSW, Australia
- 2008: Master of Education (Science Education) – Edith Cowan University, WA, Australia
- 1994: Bachelors in Education (Physics and Mathematics) – National Institute of Education
- 1991: ISC Certificate in Computer Science – Sherubtse College

Employment history

- 2022-present; Asst Professor (Primary Science and Research)
- 2018-2021: Study leave (PhD from University of Technology Sydney)
- 2014-2017: Program Leader – M Ed in Educational Leadership & Management, Paro College of Education (PCE)
- 2008-2014: Lecturer, PCE
2009-2013 as Project Manager, UNFPA Life Skills Education program
2010 as Head of Health & PE Department
- 2007-2008: Study leave (M Ed from Edith Cowan University)
- 2003-2007: Teacher of Physics and Mathematics at Chukha Higher Secondary School
- 2000-2003: Teacher of Mathematics, History, Science and Geography at Tsimalakha Lower Secondary School
- 1994-2000: Teacher of Physics and Mathematics at Chukha High School

Publications

Rai, B. K. (2021). Pedagogical practices: Triggering and sustaining students' interest and engagement in Bhutanese science lessons [Doctoral dissertation, University of Technology Sydney]. OPUS at UTS. <https://opus.lib.uts.edu.au/handle/10453/158067>

Hopwood, N., Sherab, K., Rai, B.K. & Lhendup, K. (2016). Using a cultural-historical approach to promote Gross National Happiness (GNH) in Bhutan: Prospects for research and practice. In *Bhutan Journal for Research and Development*, 5(1), 49-59

Sherab, K. & Rai, B. K. (2016). Exploring the final year pre-service teachers' sense of self-efficacy beliefs. *RABSEL*, 17(2), 16-34

Choden, K., Zangmo, K. & Rai, B. K. (2017). Spelling difficulties of 4PCD student teachers at Paro College of Education. *Journal of Educational Action Research*, publication in press

Peday, K., Tenzin, U., Rai, B., K., Dorji, T., Dorji, J., Pelgen, U., & Ugyen (2016). Capacity development for out of school youth: A training package. Thimphu: Department of Youth and Sports, MoE.

Original application of knowledge to professional practice problems

Used the knowledge gap of youth, on sexuality education to convince the policy maker to introduce life skills based comprehensive sexuality education in the colleges of education for sustainability of program and the cascading effect it will have.

Evidence of leadership

- As Program Leader (M.Ed Educational Leadership & Management) I initiated and led a process of diversification (linked to AAF funding, see above); the course is currently focused on existing school leaders, and I have appointed and supported several teams at Paro College to develop new modules that will meet the needs of school teachers wishing to develop subject specialisms and become curriculum leaders in schools.
- As Head of Department (Health & Physical Education within PCE, 2010), I initiated the development of a new program (Diploma in Sports Education and Coaching) which is now offered by the College. Currently, the college has enrolled the second batch of students in the program.
- As Project Manager of UNFPA-funded Life Skills Education (2009-2013) project I led faculty on capacity development/exchange programs to India and Thailand leading to successful implementation of program in three colleges under Royal University of Bhutan. Life skills based comprehensive sexuality education module is offered as compulsory non credited module at the colleges of education.

Dissemination of knowledge to professional and academic communities

- Engaged directly with practising teachers in Bhutan through workshops building action research capacity in multiple schools from two districts. Organised workshops for teachers of Shaba Middle Secondary School (May 22-24, 2015), Khangkhu Middle Secondary school (April 2, 2016) and Final Year student teachers at Paro College of Education (October 22-23, 2016) in Paro District and, for teachers of

Rangtse, Sangbaykha and Servey schools on Haa District on December 10-12, 2016. Currently, most of the teachers are carrying out action research as mandated by the policy.

- Engaged directly with both in school and out-of-school youth on life skills education outcomes in some occasions to create awareness and provide skills to deal with everyday youth challenges pertaining to substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and peer pressure. Gave talk to out of school youth at Paro Youth Center on June 2015, Thimphu Youth Centre on April 2016 and Utpal Academy on February 9, 2017.
- Addressed international teacher education scholarly audiences at two conferences to disseminate knowledge outcomes from life skills project:
 - Presented peer-reviewed paper at International Society for Teacher Education (2013 Hong Kong), paper titled “Young people’s knowledge and attitude on comprehensive sexuality education”
 - Presented peer-reviewed paper at International Society for Teacher Education (2012 Bhutan), paper titled “Stakeholders’ perspectives on the introduction of life skills education in the colleges of education”

Research projects

- “Blended learning courses for teacher educators between Asia and Europe/ BL_TEAE”. KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education. Erasmus+
- “Research experience of the postgraduate research students at Paro College of Education”. With Ramesh Thapa. (Ongoing); survey and interview method; funded through competitive Royal University of Bhutan AURG scheme 80,000 Ngultrum.
- “Self-efficacy beliefs of final year pre-service student teachers in Paro College of Education.” With Kezang Sherab; published in RABSEL (see above) focus group and survey methods.
- “Spelling difficulties of 4PCD student teachers at Paro College of Education.” With Kezang Choden and Kinga Zangmo; publication in press (JEAR, see above); document analysis and interview methods.
- “Developing competency for laboratory management in Pre-service student teachers at Paro College of Education”. With Thinley Wangchuk and Hari Maya Gurung [ongoing]; survey method; Collaborative Action Research initiated by Dean of Research and Industrial Linkages, Centre of Educational Research and Development, Paro College of Education, Paro
- “Maximizing student interaction during micro lessons for effective teaching and learning at Paro College of Education”. With Yeshe Wangchuk [Submitted for publication in JEAR]

Committee service in research / professional activity

- On Paro College of Education Research Committee I have to assess, provide feedback and approve research proposals; organise seminars; be session chair based on the relevancy; and contribute to decision making of any issues brought up to the committee.
- I am Chair of PCE M Ed Program Committee (details of my leadership role are described below).
- As Member Secretary for the Program Board of Examiners for the M Ed I have to make sure that the students result is compiled, scrutinised and presented to the board for timely declaration of result and award.

Invitations to act in expert capacity

- Invited by Dzongkhag Education Office, Gasa Dzongkhag to provide workshop on Action Research to teachers of Gasa Dzongkhag
- Invited by UNFPA project to address Deans of Student Affairs and Faculty across Royal University of Bhutan's eight colleges and Royal Institute of Health Science – addressing a wide disciplinary audience as expert in life skills education. Also, invited by Institute of Management Studies (IMS) to develop manual for out of school youth in life skills education.
- Invited by CERD, CoE Paro to provide short courses on Action Research to teachers in Paro and Haa valley.
- Invited by TaYang to offer course on teaching skills to teachers in private school from across the country without formal teaching degree.

International and Interprofessional Collaboration

- Part of DFAT-funded Australia Awards Fellowship 2016 with UTS; Fellows selected as educational leaders to work on diversification of M.Ed program for subject specialists, and developing action research capacity in Paro College and Bhutanese schools.
- As a part of UNFPA funded Life Skills Education program,
 - Worked in close collaboration with international consultant Ms. Andrea Irvin in developing the facilitator manual for the program in 2014.
 - Worked with ARC Result based Management course to develop capacity to manage projects in 2013
 - Worked with PATH to Health and South-South Asia Pacific Cooperation on Life Skills Education

Drawing on scholarly knowledge in professional practice

- As teacher of M Ed and/or B Ed students in relation to psychology and research/primary science respectively, I use ideas/concepts given in the course material (The Learning Classroom: Theory into practice; and Mind, Brain and Experience: How we learn) to put theory into practice, promote life-long learning for Principals as instructional leaders in the school in M Ed program; and encourage students to engage in scholarly work through research, project based learning and use of technology in B Ed program.