

MGT 236: Business Environment

BIM 6th Semester

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours: 48

Course Objectives

This course aims to equip students to examine environmental forces essentially influencing the business activities. The course provides overall concepts of firm-specific and general environmental forces and an understanding of some of the analytical tools that managers apply to understand, scan, and forecast potential influence on business, business problems and techniques to solve business problems.

Course Description

The topics include socio-cultural, economic, political-legal, technological, and global business environment incorporating business-government relations, performance of industry and agricultural sectors, business support agencies in Nepal, and financial sector policy reforms. Through a blend of theoretical frameworks, case studies, and practical applications, students will develop the analytical skills necessary to navigate the complex and dynamic landscape in which businesses operate.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- To understand fundamental knowledge and concept about Nepalese and global business environment
- To be able in applying the concept of business environmental issues in real life situation
- To know the conceptual issues and dimensions of micro and macro environment forces
- To understand the business support agencies in Nepal
- To be familiar with how environmental forces influence to business activities

Learning strategies/ Tools for pedagogy

The following tools for pedagogy are recommended to faculties and instructors to facilitate in the class rooms. The instructor should strictly follow the ongoing evaluation and assessment process as per the following dimensions

- Case development and analysis
- Thematic presentation on the contemporary issues of business environment
- Term paper writing (theoretical and conceptual) based on syllabic contents
- Project work and assignment

Course Details

Unit 1: Introduction and Framework of Business Environment

4 LHs

Introduction of business environment and its components, classification of business environment, framework of business environment; Environmental Scanning: process, techniques, methods and types; emerging business environment in Nepal.

Unit 2: Understanding Firm-specific Environment

4 LHs

Definition and scope of the firm-specific business environment; importance of understanding the internal dynamics of firms; organizational structure; organizational culture, role of culture in shaping employee behaviour and organizational performance, cultural alignment and strategic fit; operations management, operations management principles, production processes and capacity planning, supply chain management and logistics, quality management and continuous improvement; human resource management, human competencies and resources.

Unit 3: Understanding Macro Environment

a. Macroeconomic Environment

12 LHs

Dimensions of Nepalese economy; employment trends and labour market issues, labour migration on economic imbalance; economic development plans; industry and agricultural sectors-performance; economic policies and reforms- industrial policy, privatization policy, trade policy, tourism policy, and monetary policy; liberalization of the Nepalese economy and capital market reforms, factors contributing to competitive business environment in Nepal; constitutional arrangement for economic environment in Nepal.

b. Political-Legal Environment

5 LHs

Political structure in Nepal; political structure of Nepal and business-government relations in different levels of governments; political risks involved with Nepalese political environment; Legal provisions on business start-ups, market regulation, and competitive environment; legislations relating to labour, finance, investment, intellectual property, e-business, and consumer protection.

c. Socio-cultural Environment

5 LHs

Components of socio-cultural environment: shifting marriage age, female education, changing family structure and size, social organizations, class structure and classification, acculturation and assimilation trends in Nepalese society, socio-cultural changes and their influence on business.

d. Technology, Energy Management and Natural Environment

4 LHs

Current status of technology in Nepal, technology transfer issues, IT Policy of Nepal, natural environmental issues, energy situation in Nepal, Natural environment : concept and issues; effects of natural environment in business; environment and energy management issues in Nepal; Artificial intelligence and future of business in Nepal.

e. Global Business Environment and Nepalese Business

6 LHs

Regional grouping of nations, regional trade agreements in South Asia– SAARC, SAPTA, SAFTA and BIMSTEC; Regional grouping related issues of Nepalese

business; Concept of globalization and its trends, foreign direct investment trends and causes for low FDI inflow in Nepal, WTO membership and Nepalese business.

Unit 4: Understanding Business Support Agencies in Nepal

8 LHs

Department of Industry (DoI); Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB); Nepal Chamber of Commerce (NCC); Trade and Export Promotion Centre (TEPC); Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI); Small and Cottage Industry Development Board (SCIDB); Nepal Trade Information Portal (NTIP); Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security; and Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Supplies.

Suggesting Readings

Francis Cherunilam. Business Environment: Text and Cases. Himalaya Publishing House.

Richard Welford, Richard Starkey. Business and the Environment. Routledge

David P. Baron. Business and Its Environment. Pearson

Legal documents published by Nepal Government. Nepal Law Commission,
<https://lawcommission.gov.np/en/>