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*Rig  
Tshoel*



**Research Journal of the Royal Thimphu College**

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Rig Tshoel – Research Journal of the Royal Thimphu College is an open-access peer-reviewed journal intended to align with a key mission of Royal Thimphu College “stimulate new ideas, knowledge, and practices that serve to enrich people’s lives and enhance the welfare of society.” The journal aims to issue at least once a year and invites contributions on a wide range of subjects. Authors are encouraged to develop their own scholarship in areas of general relevance to Bhutan, submit work that advances knowledge in their fields, and is written in a broadly accessible manner. High-quality original articles in English and Dzongkha including theoretical and empirical research, commentaries, editorials, and reviews are welcome.

The views expressed herein are those of the authors themselves and not necessarily those of the Royal Thimphu College.

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# Editorial

This marks the seventh volume of Rig Tshoel: Research Journal of the Royal Thimphu College. The title Rig Tshoel can be translated to English as the "pursuit of knowledge," reflecting the journal's foundation and aims, which align with RTC's mission to "stimulate new ideas, knowledge, and practices that serve to enrich people's lives and enhance the welfare of society." The journal adopts a multi-disciplinary approach, encompassing fields such as the humanities, business studies, and the social sciences. Additionally, Rig Tshoel is committed to inclusivity, striving to offer a platform for emerging and early-career researchers to cultivate and disseminate their scholarly work. I extend my sincere appreciation to the editorial board and reviewers for their invaluable time and expertise in facilitating this endeavor.

This volume carries six articles. We open with an article by the outgoing RTC President Dasho Tshewang Tandin. His article is titled: 'The Forgotten Battle: Unearthing Bhutan's Triumph at Paro', and complements textual accounts on the first Bhutan-Tibet war in 1617 with oral narratives that continue to be told in the Paro Valley. The second is by Chencho Dorji and Sonam Tobgay, both RTC faculty, and historically traces and places Ngabiphu, the site which houses Royal Thimphu College. They argue that while the Ngabiphu monastery has been instrumental in shaping Bhutan's socio-political landscape since at least the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, its importance has been variously overlooked and misrepresented; a deficit they seek to overcome through this article.

The third article is Tshering Yangki and Jigme Dorji of the College of Language and Culture Studies in Taktse and offers a critical study of gender hierarchies embedded in the Dzongkha language. They do so through a compilation and analysis of selected phrases, proverbs, and excerpts of literature. They argue that gender hierarchies within the language are reflecting, and reflective of, existing sociocultural norms and expected roles of women in Bhutanese society. Their article is titled: 'Inherent Linguistic Bias against Women in the Dzongkha Language: An Explorative study on Female Stereotyping and Gender Discrimination.'

The fourth article is by a staff, student, and faculty of RTC, namely Jigme Wangchuk,

Karma Dechen, and Richard Kamei, and carries the title: 'Flow of Liquor Across Time in Bhutan: Culture and Consumption of Liquor.' Through ethnography, including embodied ethnography, the article situates the production, distribution, and consumption of alcohol within the history and culture of Bhutan, also identifying its changes, continuities, and changing continuities over time. The penultimate article is by Kuenzang Dorji, a faculty at Norbuling Rigter College and assesses the faculty mentoring programme at that College. The article is titled: 'Faculty mentoring programme at Norbuling Rigter College – Analysis through the lens of self-determination theory', and applies the theory of self-determination to assess the opportunities, outcomes, and challenges of faculty mentor-mentee programmes to enhance career development and teaching-learning. The final article is by Dawa Tshering, who is the Principal of Lungtenzampa Middle Secondary School in Thimphu and offers an expansive and critical analysis of Data-Driven Decision-Making (DDDM) strategies to improve students' academic success. Dawa Tshering combines quantitative and qualitative data and insights to trace both the positive impacts and enduring challenges of implementing, and working with, DDDM in the context of Bhutan's educational system and strategies.

Jelle J.P. Wouters  
Editor-in-Chief