

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FOR BORDER SECURITY OF NEPAL: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES



A Thesis

**Submitted to APF Command and Staff College,
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Tribhuvan University,
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Master Degree in
Security, Development and Peace Studies**

Submitted by

FURGELI SHERPA

Ninth Batch (2080-2082)

Roll No: 123740078

TU Registration No: 9-2-363-2-2000

**APF Command and Staff College
Sanogaucharan, Kathmandu, Nepal**

April 2025

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FOR BORDER SECURITY OF NEPAL: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES** submitted to APF Command and Staff College, entirely my original work prepared under guidance of my supervisor.

I have made due acknowledgement to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in course of preparing this thesis. The result of this thesis has not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has published in any form before. I shall be solely responsible if any evidences found against my research paper.

This thesis is being submitted to APF Command and Staff College, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University in Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree in Security, Development and Peace Studies.

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Furgeli Sherpa

APF command and Staff College

Sanogaucharan, Kathmandu, Nepal

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

I certify that this thesis entitled **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FOR BORDER SECURITY OF NEPAL: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES** was prepared by Mr. **FURGELI SHERPA** under my supervision. The research has fulfilled the criteria prescribed by the Department of Humanities and Social Science, Tribhuvan University. I hereby recommend this thesis for the final evaluation and approval.

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

This thesis entitled **ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FOR BORDER SECURITY OF NEPAL: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES** to APF, Command and Staff College, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Tribhuvan University in partial fulfillment of Master Degree in Security, Development and Peace Studies has been approved by the undersigned members of the Evaluation Committee.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis paper entitled “Advanced technology for border security of Nepal: prospects and challenges” is prepared in partial fulfillment for requirement of the APF Command and Staff course for Master Degree in Security, Development and Peace Studies. This study has been conducted with the consultations of various sources including books, published literature, journals, articles, reports, different websites, field observations, interviews, interactions and discussions with the participants, in the direct supervision of directing staffs and Academic Professor. First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to respected Commandant for the supervision, guideline and providing conducive environment for the study.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my academic professor for his valuable guidance, insightful feedback and continuous encouragement throughout this study. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to respected all Directing Staffs for their continued and outstanding guideline, support, and constructive comments throughout the preparation of this paper. Their relentless support and suggestion have made it possible to come up with this paper.

I am deeply thankful to the various authors and researchers whose works have provided a foundational understanding and critical perspectives on “Advanced technology for border security of Nepal: prospects and challenges”. I am indebted to library management and administration team of APF Command and Staff College for their support, assistance and providing suitable environment for the study.

Finally, I am also extremely grateful to my family and friends for their tireless support, love, prayers and caring during this study. Without the collective efforts and contributions of these individuals, this study would not have been possible.

Name: Furgeli Sherpa

April 2025

ABSTRACT

Advanced technology is cutting-edge innovations that push the boundaries of existing knowledge and capabilities which includes sophisticated tools, systems and techniques designed to improve efficiency, solve complex problems, enhance quality of life and effective service delivery. Use of latest technologies are necessary for the effective border security of Nepal. It's beneficial, positive, significances and good aspects are known as contributions, and difficulties, negative, threats and possible harmful aspects are considered as challenges. The future enabling possibilities are prospects. The objectives of the study are to: understand the significance of use of advanced technology in the effective border security of Nepal, find the prospects of use of advanced technology in effective border security of Nepal, and explore the challenges of use of advanced technology in effective border security of Nepal. This study applied qualitative exploratory, explanatory and descriptive method to meet the objectives. The primary data were collected through field observations, key informant's interactions, discussions, and open-ended interviews. The secondary data were collected through books, journals, articles, online publications, and websites. The significances are enhancing surveillance, monitoring, effective defensive offensive operations, prevention from transborder crime, efficient immigration, custom management, counter terrorism, national security, optimization of resource utilization, data driven decision making, strengthens international relations, economic benefits and assurance for face the challenges. The prospects are effective physical security, continuous surveillance, sound monitoring, artificial intelligence utilization, big data analysis, adequate internet of things, prompt cyber security, smart integrated border management, technological integration and collaboration as well as modern security technologies. The challenges are resource constraints, skill constraints, lack of clear legal provisions, cybersecurity threats, open border, global compliance provisions, disaster impacts, coordination cooperation difficulties, human security impacts, difficult geographical locations and technological errors. Technology is as good friend in all the fields nowadays. The effective border security of Nepal is possible through the use advance technologies as much as possible.

Keywords: Border Security, advanced technology, effective, surveillance, prospects.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
APF	Armed Police Force
API	Application Programming Interface
ASYCUDA	Automation System of Custom Data
BRRC	Border Resource Research Center
CBP	Customs and Border Protection
CIBMS	Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System
CPTA	Cross border Paperless Trade in Asia and Pacific
CTBT	Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DLT	Distributed Ledger Technology
ETA	Electronic Travel Authorizer
KETs	Key Enabling Technologies
KII	Key Informant Interaction
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICD	Inland Clearance Depot
ICP	Integrated Check Post
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IEA	International Energy Agency
IoT	Internet of Things
IOM	International Organization of Migration
IT	Information Technology
ITIS	Integrated Terminal Information System
ML	Machine Learning
NECAS	Nepal Customs Automation System
NID	National Investigation Department
NITDB	Nepal Intermodal Transport Development Board
NLP	Natural Language Processing
NNs	Natural Networks
NNSW	Nepal National Single Window System

NPT	Nuclear Non - Proliferation Treaty
NSP	National Security Policy
NTA	Nepal Telecommunication Authority
PBIMS	Personal Baggage Information Management System
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SIS	Schengen Information System
TOR	Term of Reference
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WCO	World Custom Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Technology is as the new frontier in national security. The expanding digital dimension also tends to be described as a new frontier to be conquered. A further association between technology and frontiers looks at the “new frontiers of technology”, a reference to emerging developments in various technological sectors and their potential impact on human interactions, for both the individual and wider society (Darnis, 2018).

Border is the conventional or contractual determined line on the maps and in the field used to separate the territory of one sovereign state from the territory of another sovereign state, or from being just a line is misleading and insufficient. In fact, a border may be visualized as a sort of bounding surface starting and penetrating through its surface to separate the airspace of a sovereign state. Border refers the bounding surface and the ground surface, including its map projection illustrates the border as a line (Dokoupl and Havlicek, 2002).

Security includes sovereignty, national integrity, physical, social, economic, cultural and humanitarian aspects of a nation. Security Policy also includes security and protection of public and private norms and values, national respect and dignity, lives and property and socio-cultural norms and values. It also includes aspects of environment, good governance, development and human rights (NSP, 2016). Paramount national interests of a nation are safeguarded through the implementation of the Security Policy by minimizing the problems and risks to be emerged in these sectors. This includes the aspects and dimensions of security priority and measures including military security.

Border security forms the cornerstone of a nation’s defense strategy, tasked with protecting territorial integrity while facilitating lawful interactions across boundaries. It encompasses a wide range of activities, including immigration control, customs enforcement, and counter smuggling operations (Weaver et al., 2021). Modern border security systems employ a combination of physical infrastructure, such as fences and walls, alongside advanced

technological solutions, including biometric scanning, surveillance drones, and artificial intelligence-driven monitoring systems.

Border security includes the aspects of national security. National security means complete safeguarding of a country in geographical, social, economic and political perspectives. Each country has identified the matters of its national aspirations and of vital national interests based on its fundamental norms and values (NSP, 2016). Such matters of national aspirations and vital national interests must be protected from external intervention and internal pressures and challenges, and they must be promoted and further enhanced.

Advanced technologies are a fusion of digital and key enabling technologies (KETs) and the integration of physical and digital systems. It gives rise to innovative business models and new processes, and the creation of smart products and services. Their importance makes them a key element of European industrial policy and they are increasingly contributing towards meeting today's most pressing societal challenges (European Commission, 2024). Technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), industrial data, advanced manufacturing, robotics, blockchain technologies and artificial intelligence offer a range of opportunities that will enable European industry to expand its leadership in the emerging markets for the products and services of the future.

Border security measures aim to strike a balance between ensuring national security and upholding human rights, as effective border management must consider both the legal and humanitarian dimensions of cross-border movement (Andreas, 2016). Well-regulated borders significantly contribute to economic stability by streamlining trade and tourism, highlighting their role beyond mere security concerns. Border security refers to the systematic measures and policies employed by a country to regulate and protect its boundaries from unauthorized activities, ensuring the safety, sovereignty, and economic stability of the nation. Borders serve as the physical and political boundaries separating one country from another and are crucial for controlling the movement of people, goods, and services. The primary goal of border security is to strike a balance between enabling legitimate trade and travel while preventing illegal activities such as unauthorized immigration, smuggling, human trafficking, and terrorism.

Advanced technology refers to tools, systems, devices, and methods that incorporate cutting-edge scientific knowledge and innovative engineering to solve complex problems, improve

efficiency, and create new possibilities across various fields. These technologies often represent the forefront of research and development, leveraging advancements in fields such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and renewable energy (Schwab, 2017).

Prospects refer to the potential opportunities, possibilities, or expectations for success, development, or growth in the future. The term is used across various contexts, including career growth, business opportunities, technological advancements, and economic progress. In general, prospects signify what is likely to happen or what could be achieved under certain conditions (Cambridge University Press, 2023). In a broader sense, prospects can also indicate future trends or outcomes in global issues such as technological innovation, climate change, or economic stability. For example, the prospects of renewable energy technologies are promising due to increasing global demand for sustainable solutions and advancements in the field (International Energy Agency, 2022).

Challenges refer to difficulties, obstacles, or issues that require effort, creativity, and problem solving to overcome. In various contexts, challenges often emerge as part of progress, innovation, or achieving goals. For instance, in technology, challenges include ethical concerns, cyber security threats, and the equitable distribution of advancements. In a broader societal context, challenges may include climate change, economic inequality, and resource scarcity (Schwab, 2017). While challenges can hinder progress, they also provide opportunities for growth, innovation, and collaboration. Addressing challenges often requires interdisciplinary approaches, global cooperation, and sustainable practices. For example, the challenge of climate change has spurred the development of renewable energy technologies and international agreements like the Paris Agreement (UN, 2015).

Border security is a critical aspect of national sovereignty and safety, designed to regulate and monitor the movement of people, goods, and services across a country's borders. Its primary objective is to prevent unauthorized entry, combat smuggling, and deter threats such as terrorism and human trafficking while enabling legitimate trade and travel. Modern border security involves a combination of physical barriers, surveillance technologies, biometric identification systems, and intelligence-sharing networks to address challenges posed by globalization and transnational crimes (Jones et al., 2020). In addition to protecting national security, effective border management ensures the economic stability of a country by facilitating lawful trade and tourism (Andreas, 2016).

The utilization and integration of high technology in border security has emerged as a crucial response to increasingly complex global threats, such as illegal immigration, human trafficking, and terrorism. Traditional border control methods, which largely rely on physical barriers and human intervention, are being increasingly supplemented or replaced by advanced technological solutions (Haggerty, 2006; Ziegler, 2018). These innovations utilize automation, data analytics, and cutting-edge surveillance to enhance efficiency, improve decision-making, and optimize resource allocation. Technologies such as biometric systems, drones, artificial intelligence (AI), and predictive analytics are now key components of modern border security. They facilitate more efficient surveillance, real-time monitoring, and automated identity verification, while significantly reducing human error. As global security challenges evolve, national governments and border authorities are increasingly leveraging high-tech solutions to create more robust and adaptive border security systems.

The introduction of high-tech solutions into border security offers several key advantages. It enhances operational efficiency by automating tasks that were traditionally labor-intensive, allowing border authorities to process more individuals and goods faster. AI and machine learning can enable predictive threat analysis, identifying potential security risks before they fully materialize (Boulton, 2017). Advanced surveillance technologies can improve real-time monitoring and create a more secure border environment for both countries and travelers.

The shift toward high-tech border security also presents challenges. One of the main concerns is the privacy of individuals crossing borders, especially with technologies like facial recognition that collect personal data. The use of these systems has sparked debates about the balance between enhancing security and protecting civil liberties (Schneier, 2020). The implementation of these technologies requires significant investment, both in terms of financial resources and skilled personnel, which may be challenging for some nations (Wagner, 2021).

Advanced technology is contextual in the basis of innovation, availability, and affordability. Advanced technology for someone may be the old one or traditional for others. Advanced technology typically goes beyond conventional approaches, enabling transformative changes in industries, societies, and global challenges. In the modern era, border security encompasses a combination of physical infrastructure, advanced technology, intelligence operations, and international cooperation. Effective border management not only safeguards national interests but also facilitates economic growth by ensuring smooth cross-border trade and travel.

1.2 Statement of problem

The modern age is the age of science and technology. This study aims to understand about the use of advanced technology for effective border security of Nepal with its prospect and challenges. National interest is the prime for all sovereign countries. Effective border security is directly connected or associated with national interest. It is the key determinants of Nepal's foreign relations, domestic politics, and economic progress. It is a wish, will and need of the state. Technological advancement with modernization is a base for effective border security.

Theoretical perspective reviews of the literature helped for theoretical gap. Realism is related with state power and state security. Game theory is related with the strategic preparation and moves for win over opponent or counterpart. Technocracy is related with the utilization of technology for effectiveness. Empirical perspective related to practices which is not mentioned in the literature related border security of Nepal. Policy perspective concerned with the guideline tools which lack and insufficient in the context of border security of Nepal.

The scholars mentioned about the technological importance in the border security relevance. However, the previous works or literature do not cover promptly or not adequately addressed or not mentioned properly or effectively about the use of advanced technology in effective border security and its prospects and challenges related to Nepal. With this backdrop, finding out or acquiring knowledge about the advance technology using prospect and challenges for effective border security of Nepal is necessary. The unavailability of the enough truths, facts, logics, relevancies and knowledge is as problem of the study.

1.3 Research questions

This study was focused to answer the following research questions:

- a) How the use of technology can contribute for effective border security of Nepal?
- b) What are the prospects of use of technology in effective border security of Nepal?
- c) What are the challenges of use of technology in effective border security of Nepal?

1.4 Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study were as follows:

- a) To analyze the contribution of technology in the effective border security of Nepal
- b) To find the prospects of use of technology in effective border security of Nepal.
- c) To explore the challenges of use of technology in effective border security of Nepal.

1.5 Significance of the study

This study aims to contribute to the field of advanced technology in effective border security of Nepal and its prospects and challenges. The findings are valuable for policymakers, researchers, security organizations, international organizations, development studies and the persons or institutions who work for management of the legal movement, migration, trade and custom. The significance of this study is in its potential to address critical issues and contribute to various areas like enhanced security, facilitation of trade and travel, humanitarian considerations, international cooperation, efficient resource allocation, mitigation of transnational threats, promotion of sustainable development etc. This study provides knowledge about the complex and interconnected prospects and challenges of the use of technology in effective border security, trade, migration and governance by generating evidence-based insights and policy considerations. This study enhances the potential to inform decision-making, improve practices and contribute to the development of more secure and efficient management of effective border security as well as international and diplomatic relation of Nepal.

1.6 Limitation of the study

The limitations of the study are as follows:

- a) Focuses only on Nepal's border security using advanced technology.
- b) Findings may not be applicable to other countries.
- c) Definition of advanced technology is contextual and varies by country.
- d) A technology considered advanced in Nepal may be outdated elsewhere.
- e) Relies on primary (observations, interviews) and secondary data, which may have limitations.
- f) Does not cover broader geopolitical, economic, or social implications.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature helps to find research gap and gives knowledge about the works done in the past in relevant field. It helps to understand possibility at present context. It helps to be able to identify the problem through the readings of past literature and helps to be able to seek the knowledge of interested area. It plays major role to identify the new aspects in desired topics. This study found key insights about the use of advanced technology in effective border security of Nepal: prospects and challenges.

2.1 Theoretical perspective

Realism is a theory that claims to explain the reality of international politics. It emphasizes the constraints on politics that result from humankind's egoistic nature and the absence of a central authority above the state (Antunes and Camisao, 2018). For realists, the highest goal is the survival of the state, which explains why states actions are judged according to the ethics of responsibility rather than by moral principles. The dominance of realism has generated a significant strand of literature criticizing its main tenets. However, despite the value of the criticisms, which will be explored in the rest of this work, realism continues to provide valuable insights and remains an important analytical tool for every student of International Relations.

Realism emphasizes on power, self-interest, and the anarchic international system. Key Elements of the realism are sovereign states, power politics and security of states. The theory explains about the conflicts and state behavior realistically. It provokes for need of strong state and effective and strong national security. Thucydides had examined power dynamics & human nature in conflict.

Hans Morgenthau introduced classical realism and principles of political power. Kenneth Waltz discussed about the levels of analysis individual, state, & system.

Game theory is the analysis of how decision makers interact in decision making to take into account reactions and choices of the other decision makers. International conflict and other phenomena in international relations occur as a result of decisions made by people

(Quakenbush, 2014). Game theory is a branch of mathematics and economics which is effectively applicable in social sciences. It studies about strategic interactions between individuals, groups, and entities, where the outcome of each participant depends not only on their own decisions but also on the decisions made by others. It is widely used to model and analyze competitive and cooperative situations in international relation, peace, security, diplomacy, economics, politics, biology, psychology, and more.

The key concepts in Game Theory are players, strategies, payoffs, games, equilibrium etc. The Types of Games are in general Cooperative vs. Non-Cooperative Games, Zero-Sum vs. Non-ZeroSum Games, Simultaneous vs. Sequential Games, and Perfect vs. Imperfect Information Games. The evolution of Game Theory focuses on the dynamics of strategy changes in populations over time. The scholars John Nash (1928–2015), Reinhard Selten (1930–2016) and John Harsanyi (1920–2000) contributed and got novel peace prize in economics in 1994.

Technocracy is a form of government that focuses on the technical management of society, in which decision-making and governing power are vested in experts who possess an advanced knowledge of scientific or technological processes. This type of government relies on the use of technology to maximize efficiency and effectiveness while minimizing bureaucracy and red tape (Mahr, 2023).

Technocracy is the advance scientific techno-based governance system or ideology in which decision-making is entrusted to technical experts, scientists, engineers, and other specialists who rely on data-driven and evidence-based approaches. It prioritizes efficiency, rationality, and expertise over traditional political processes, such as elections or ideological debates. The core principles of Technocracy are expert governance, data-driven Policy, focus on efficiency, and minimized external influences. The term “technocracy” was first used in 1919 by William H. Smyth, but the concept gained prominence during the 1930s Great Depression, when traditional economic and political systems were widely criticized. The Advantages of Technocracy are expertise in decision-making and the decisions are based on evidence and scientific facts as well as Encourages technological and scientific advancements in governance. The scholars Francis Fukuyama and Joseph Tainter contributed a lot in advocacy of technocracy.

2.2 Empirical perspective

According to Gartner (2024), advanced technology as a technology that is still immature but promises to deliver significant value, or that has some technical maturity but still has relatively few users. Among current examples: artificial intelligence, agents, speech and handwriting recognition, virtual reality and visualization, smart cards, real-time collaboration, enhanced user authentication, data mining, and knowledge management.

The lines which are borders are as flexible as they were once thought to be rigid, reflecting new territorial and aspatial patterns of human behavior. While modern technologies, particularly cyberspace, have made the barrier role of borders redundant in some areas, they have also served to create new sets of borders and boundaries, enclosing groups with common identities and interests who are dispersed throughout the globe, lacking any form of territorial compactness or contiguity (Newman, 2003).

According to Karki (2013), the border area is almost a no-man's land, with only 10 villages on Nepali side and 18 villages on the Chinese side of the Nepal China border. There are 34 major passes between the two countries but only four passes Hilsa, Rasuwagadhi, Kodari and Olanchunggola are operational. There are two all-weather roads connect central Nepal with Tibet through Rasuwagadhi and Kodari.

According to Sharma and Dahal (2023), rapid advancements in information and communication technologies (ICT) have radically transformed the world. It is difficult to find an area of the society and economy, whether commercial or non-commercial, that has not been touched upon by the ICT revolution. An important development of the ICT revolution has been in the area of digitalization. Going digital has become the most important priority today given the various advantages of digitalization such as reduction in cost and time, accessibility of people to services that were earlier out of reach due to geographical or other constraints, transparency, and good governance, and so on.

The World Customs Organization (WCO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have been examining blockchain and distributed ledger technology (DLT), the internet of things (IoT), and big data, data analytics, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to identify how these advanced technologies can promote trade facilitation and assist customs administrations

in fulfilling their objectives of ensuring, safety, security and fair revenue collection (WTO and WCO, 2022).

As per the (Boucher et. al, 2014), expert and technical responses to complex political and economic problems that threaten to impede or illicitly benefit from the global circulation of privileged people and commodities, these heterogeneous actors present different, and sometimes contradictory, answers to issues raised by the securing of borders. It is these answers that come together under the label border security. Taking security as variegated practices that maintain complex relationships with security discourses, legal regimes and policies constitutes an approach that adds a layer of complexity to our understanding of contemporary bordering.

According to Ghimire and Paudel (2025), as a national policy think-tank, apex advisory body of the Government of Nepal and specialized agency for development management, one of the major areas of concern for the National Planning Commission is the optimal integration of Information and Communication Technology in its operations and fulfillment of its core responsibilities. In order to formulate implementable and achievable national development plans, policies, sectoral policies; for identifying and mapping resource needs for development of nation; for monitoring and evaluation of plans, policies and programs; to act as an intellectual hub there must be optimal integration of Information and Communication Technology within National Planning Commission and between three tier of government, line ministries and stakeholder is indeed. It is equally applicable for the line ministries, entities, three tiers of government as well as stakeholders for the formulation of relevant plans, programs, directives and guidelines which align with national development policy and agenda.

Technology today is evolving at a rapid pace, enabling faster change and progress, causing an acceleration of the rate of change. However, it is not only technology trends and emerging technologies that are evolving a lot, more changed, and making IT professionals realize that their role will not stay the same in the contactless world tomorrow. IT professional in 2025 will constantly be learning, unlearning, and relearning (Duggal, 2025).

Nepal has repeatedly experienced the lurching effects of the increased tension between China and India (Karki, 2023). According to him, both countries have engaged in rigorous military modernization and securitization techniques. The emerging context has posed a question of how

Nepal can adopt a military strategy. The capacity of a small power to curtail the reeling effect of the tension between the great powers depends on its security preparedness policy. Historical military strategists require any country powerful or weak to conduct meticulous research about the opponent or the potential opponents' military strength before devising any military defense or offense. Acknowledging India's dominant position in the region and its overwhelming military engagement with the small powers in South Asia, the scholarly discourse on India's military capacity is voluminous.

The technologies enable border security forces to monitor large areas efficiently, reducing the need for extensive ground patrols and minimizing human risk. Drones can be deployed rapidly in emergency situations, offering a flexible and cost-effective solution for maintaining border integrity (Brown et al., 2020). China's military modernization in the new era under President Xi Jinping and what it connotes to the small powers in the south. In this regard, such a powerful buildup in the northern front makes it imperative for Nepal to rethink its security preparedness policy to deter the spillover effect of the conflict between the great powers in the region or beyond.

The emerging technologies and the latest technology trends refer the keeping your eyes on the future to know which skills you'll need to know to secure a safe job tomorrow and even learn how to get there (Duggal, 2025). According to the WTO and WCO (2022), there have been positive developments in the use of the internet of things (IoT) by customs authorities. Members are experimenting with the IoT to fully automate border-crossings and customs procedures in national ports. An initiative includes the integration of X-ray scanners into a cross-border image exchange to analyze the results of multiple scanning stations centrally. The specialized training facility for X-ray systems operators and the unified training software for image analysis under that initiative have optimized human resource allocation and enhanced the quality of image analysis. Other projects include the use of radio frequency identification antennas or e-seals to ensure traceability of goods and means of transport.

According to George (2020), immigration presents another pressing challenge for borders. The appearance of uncontrolled immigration has plagued successive governments across Europe and beyond, generating questions about their competence. The political impetus for improved border controls has been driven by government's desire to redress. This is seen in control of

immigration. Aside from loss of face for governments, illegal immigration threatens serious practical consequences.

George (2020), emphasized that the E-borders and the Border Management Program in the UK represent efforts, mirrored by most other advanced border control regimes, to more efficiently gather and risk assess border control data. This entails, for example, presenting industry with a single window through which it can provide its commercial information responding to the duplication of work historically involved in corresponding with a number of separate agencies. This has the dual advantage of saving industry time and resource as well as making use of modern technology to streamline the government's gathering and sifting of information.

Border protection agencies are under increasing pressure to maintain the highest level of security in the face of growing threats, such as increasing illegal migration and terrorism. As such, agencies are embracing advanced border security technologies to aid in effectively and reliably securing borders (Rookes, 2022).

The border security department of APF, Nepal has adopted a multifaceted method to strengthen border security and combat cross-border crimes. This includes enhancing intelligence gathering and analysis, improving border infrastructure and deploying advanced surveillance systems, including a digitalized border management system (Gautam, 2025). Additionally, APF, Nepal is engaging in community outreach programs aimed at fostering cooperation with local border communities. Through these varied and collaborative efforts, the Armed Police Force, Nepal remains committed to securing Nepal's borders and ensuring national peace, stability and sovereignty.

2.3 Policy perspective

According to the constitution of Nepal (2015), the national interest of Nepal is safeguarding of the freedom, sovereignty, territorial integrity, nationality, independence, dignity of Nepal, the rights of the Nepalese people, border security, economic wellbeing and prosperity shall be the basic elements of the national interest of Nepal. Any conduct and act contrary to the national interest shall be punishable by Federal law.

According to Information Technology Policy of Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA) (2023), the strictly Prohibited Activities are Unauthorized access, use, or disclosure of confidential information / data. It is also prohibited to Installation of viruses, or other malicious software and injection of malwares. As well as Hacking, cracking, or any attempt to compromise system security and Unauthorized sharing or distribution of confidential or proprietary information are prohibited too. Unauthorized modification or deletion of NTA's data or systems and Use of technology resources for illegal activities are strictly prohibited as well.

The world community has been involved in the study and research of nuclear science as the entire world is familiar with the fact that the level of nuclear science is an indicator of inherent power and symbol of prosperity of a nation. Importance of nuclear technology has increased since it is environment friendly and may be useful in different disciplines of medicines (National Nuclear policy, 2007).

The main strategy of the sixteenth plan is to achieve speedy development, good governance, social justice and prosperity through structural transformation of the economy. In this connection, internalize gender mainstreaming, use of modern technology, environmental conservation and disaster risk reduction in all sectors and dimensions of development is a macro strategy (Sixteenth plan, 2024).

2.4 Research gap

A research gap is a question or a problem that has not been answered by any of the existing studies or research. Sometimes, a research gap exists when there is a concept or new idea that hasn't been studied at all. Sometimes you'll find a research gap if all the existing research is outdated and in need of new or updated research (GS, 2024).

The scholars and academicians talked and mentioned importance of use of technologies in border security. They talked about the other aspects of the border security. This study wants to know about the use of advance technology in the effective border security of Nepal. Regarding this context, it is not clearly, adequately and promptly mentioned in the previous works and literature. So, it is the research gap and this study tried to fill this gap with exploring knowledge.

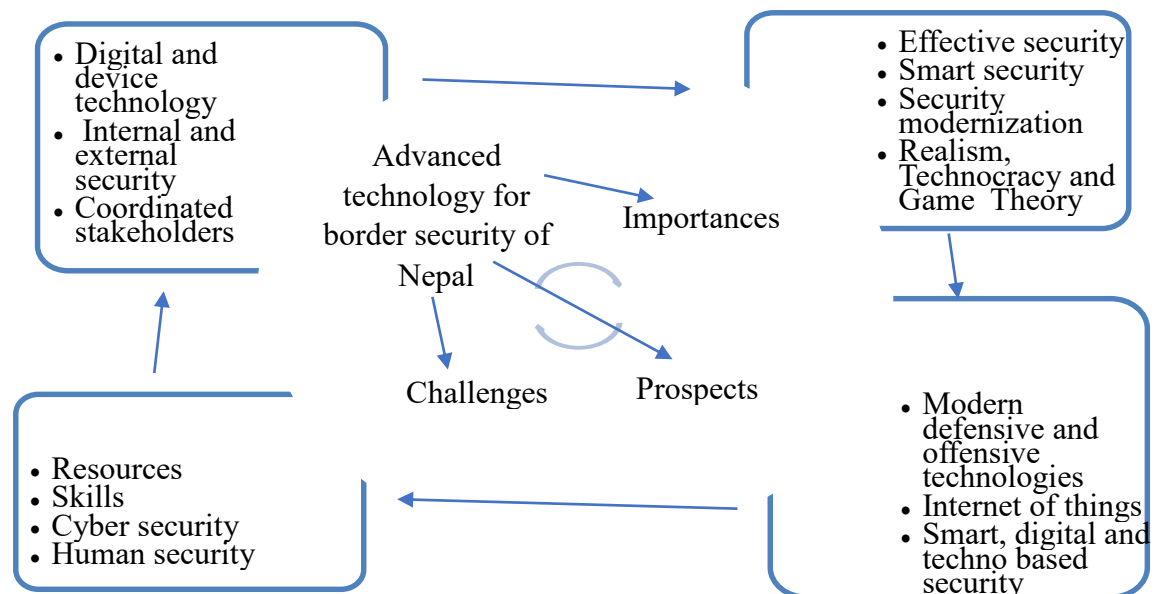
This study tried to find the conceptual aspect in relevance with the advance technological utilization in the effective border security. It is unable to find in the adequate way. This study also tried to find empirical aspect for the utilization of technology in the effective border security. As well as, this study tried to explore the prospects and challenges of use of advance technology in the effective border security of Nepal, but it is also unable to found addressing adequately. So, it is considered as research gap and considered as an opportunity to explore for address it.

2.5 Conceptual framework

Conceptual framework is designed to provide a structured visualization to explore the knowledge about use of advanced technology for effective border security for Nepal: prospect and challenges. The conceptual framework provided key concepts, and their relations for offer comprehensive understanding regarding the topic. The theoretical framework of the study is based on the connected concepts of realism, technocracy and game theory. The conceptual framework of the study is given in Figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1

Conceptual Framework of the Study



Source: Researcher's own work.

This conceptual framework served as a guide for data collection, analysis and interpretation. It helped for systematic process and authentic procedures to conduct or operationalize the research.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology is a structured and scientific approach used to collect, analyze, and interpret quantitative or qualitative data to answer research questions or test hypotheses. A research methodology is like a plan for carrying out research and helps keep researchers on track by limiting the scope of the research (Sreekumar, 2023).

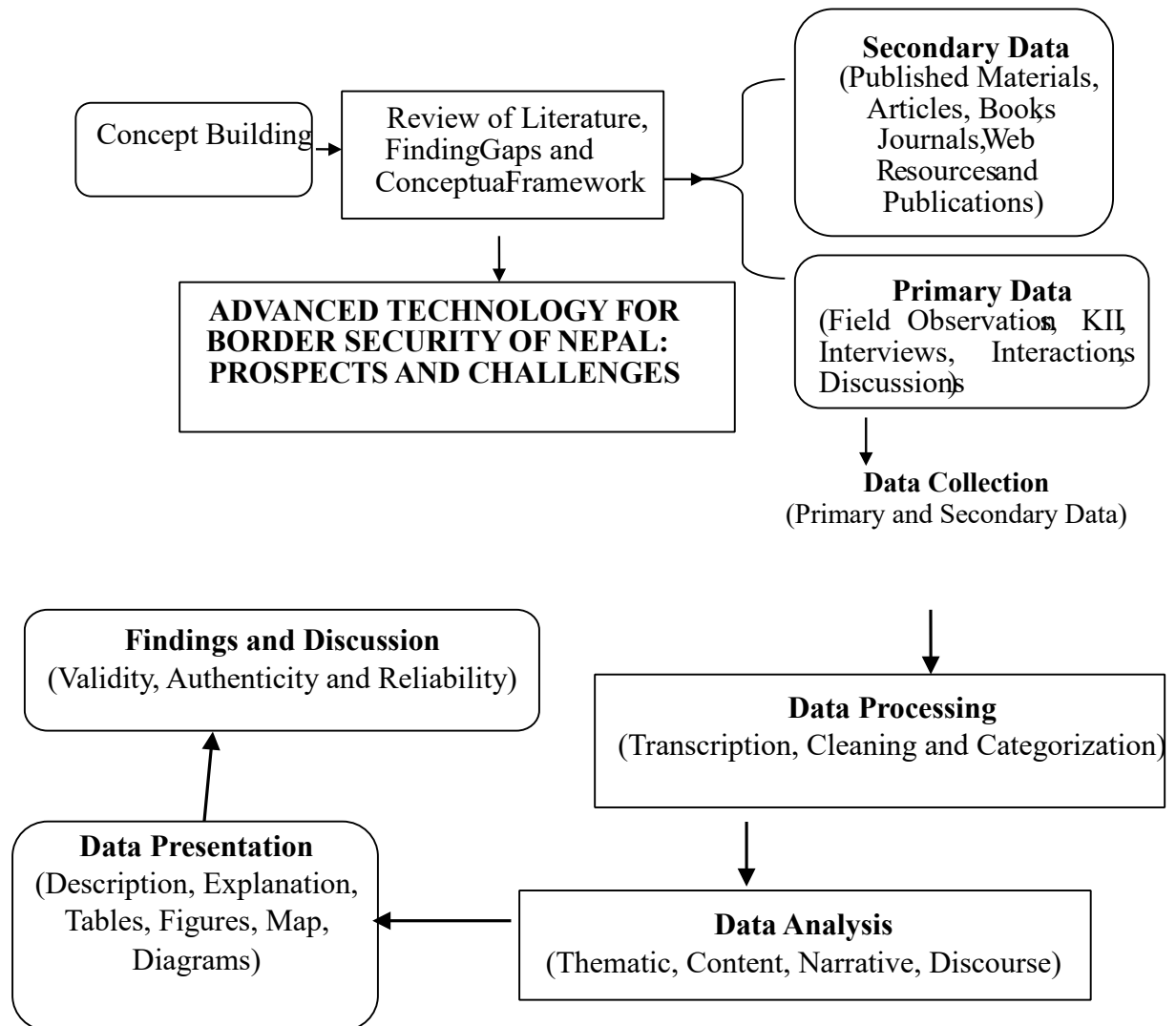
This research employed a qualitative approach. This study was applied exploratory, explanatory and descriptive in nature. The descriptive method was applied to collect qualitative data from the prior works done by different scholars based on it and finding the gaps. The method applied through collection of qualitative information from articles, books, webs, annual reports, publications, cases studies and other concerned organizations with the help of check lists and review of literature.

3.1 Research design

A research design is defined as the overall plan or structure that guides the process of conducting research. It is a critical component of the research process and serves as a blueprint for how a study will be carried out, including the methods and techniques that will be used to collect and analyze data. A well-designed research study is essential for ensuring that the research objectives are met and that the results are valid and reliable (Jain, 2023).

Research Design and approach used qualitative with utilize an exploratory and descriptive approach. descriptive for provide detailed account of phenomenon or themes, and exploratory for investigate new or unclear issues to define problems or opportunities. This study employed qualitative methods such as document analysis to gather rich and detailed insights for data collection. For the study, it contributed as much as possible in the topic based, as well as including key informant aspects, considerations regarding major coordinated stakeholder in border security such as custom, immigration and survey department. Figure 3.1 represents the research design of the study.

Figure 3.1

Research Design of the Study

Source: Designed by the Researcher.

The conceptual mapping of this study is connections and concepts relate the use of advanced technology in effective border security of Nepal: prospects and challenges. The framework organizes and contextualizes through data, ensuring that findings are aligned with the research objectives and theoretical underpinnings. This framework facilitates a focused data collection process and also aids in the systematic interpretation of results, offering a coherent way to understand and discuss.

3.2 Techniques of data collection

Primary data collection based on informant interviews and interactions. Interactions focused in Department of Custom, Department of Immigration, Border Section of Survey Department, Border Administration Offices, Quarantine Offices, APF Nepal border security department, and APF Nepal border area offices. It helped for key facts for the study. Data sampling for the interview was purposive and convenience. This study conducted face to interview in Ilam, Jhapa, Parsa and Kathmandu districts. The telephonic or email-based interview conducted in Kanchanpur, Darchula, Humla, Mustang and Taplejung districts.

Field observation was held in Ilam, Jhapa, Parsa and Kathmandu. It was observed in the border governance related agency offices, border areas, Integrated check posts, dry ports, and Department offices. The data collection is based on all about understandable phenomena from a deeper and more nuanced perspective. Past experiences, perceptions, social, national, regional and global contexts related with border security of Nepal was the key points for the study. The data collection techniques applied previous expert interviews hearings, literature study, Document Analysis, Audio and Visual aids studies, Field notes studies, photos and maps studies, Narrative studies, online studies, Digital means and library utilization.

3.3 Source of data

Data collection methods focused on the related reliable primary data and secondary data. Data sources were chosen to explore the possibilities, perspectives, experiences, and challenges related to the effective border security of Nepal through the utilization of advanced technologies. it was a main concern of the study.

3.4 Primary data

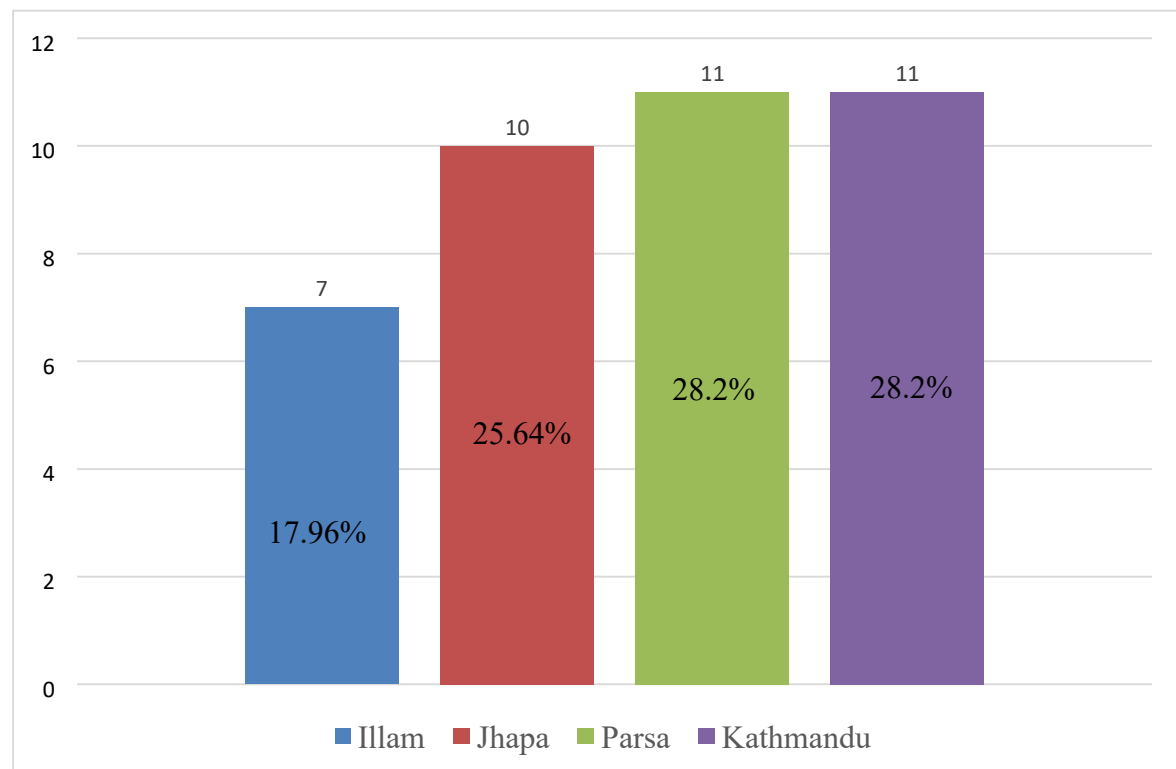
Primary data is the data that is collected for the first time through personal experiences or evidence particularly for research. It is also described as raw data or first-hand information. The mode of assembling the information is costly, as the analysis is done by an agency or an external organization, and needs human resources and investment. Primary data were collected through field observations, KIIs, and individual interviews and interactions. KIIs were conducted with relevant officials and service recipients such as custom office, security

personnel, and government officials. Additionally, in-depth interviews technical staffs have provided qualitative insights.

This study focused and conducted field observation in Ilam, Jhapa and Parsa districts. It was held in Pashupatinagr area of Ilam, Birgunj area of Parsa and Kakarvitta area of Jhapa district. It was visited local border governing agencies in the districts. It was observed border areas activities related with the border security and technological adaptation. This study also observed activities of Integrated Check Post and Inland Clearance Deports Birgunj and Chobhar. Figure 3.2 includes the number of interview participants of the study.

Figure 3.2

Involvement of the Interview Participants of the Study



Source: Field Work, 2025.

This study conducted open ended interviews for data collection. Seven interviews in Ilam, 10 interviews in Jhapa, 11 interviews in Birgunj and 11 interviews were conducted in Kathmandu. There were two Key informant interactions in Department of Custom and Department of Immigrations. Both are from technological backgrounds. They provided key insights of the

technological aspects. Continuous interactions and discussions with many more for the inputs to the study.

3.5 Secondary data

Secondary data is a second-hand data that is already collected and recorded by some researchers for their purpose. It is accessible in the form of data collected from different sources such as government publications, census, internal records of the organization, books, journal articles, websites and reports etc.

This method of gathering data is affordable, readily available, and saves cost and time. However, the one disadvantage is that the information assembled is for some other purpose and may not meet the present research purpose or may not be accurate. Secondary data were collected from research articles, online archives, journals, books and expert opinions. These sources have provided context and support for analyzing the primary data trends.

3.6 Data processing, analysis and presentation

The data was processed through transcription, data cleaning and categorization. Collected data were assembled and analyzed through relevancy and related with the themes. It was also incorporated the review of policy documents, reports and academic literature related to use of advanced technology in effective border security of Nepal: prospect and challenges to gain a comprehensive understanding of the subject. It was focused on analyze technological contributions for effective border security.

The data analysis was based on thematic analysis, content analysis, narrative analysis, and discourse analysis. The data was presented through the narrative description, tables, figures, matrices, concept maps, diagrams and specific instances of case studies. It played vital role for the study to be more systematic, credible and insightful. Analytical and critical discussion strongly supported for the data analysis and presentation.

3.7 Study area

The study was focused on the use of advanced technology for effective border security of Nepal: prospect and challenges. This study was mainly focused to find the technological

contribution in effective border security. It is mainly concerns with the effective international relation, free as well as safe flow of goods, services and peoples in the border area of Nepal. It helps to safeguards the national sovereignty and interest.

Field study allows researchers to identify and observe the subjects and helps draw relations between subjects and surroundings, and how the surroundings may influence the behavior. It gives in-depth information on subjects because they are observed and analyzed for a long period of time (Academy, 2022). The field and inter-field of the studys area are shown in the Figure 3.3.

Figure 3.3

Field and Inter-Field Areas of the Study



Source: Google Map, 2025.

During the field work, Pashupatinagar area of Ilam district, Kakarvitta area of Jhapa district, Birgunj area of Parsa district and concern offices in Kathmandu were physically visited. Similarly, Ministry of Home Affairs, APF Nepal Headquarters, Department of Survey, Department of Custom, Department of Immigration, Tribhuvan international airport, and quarantine related offices were also visited for the data collection. The inter-field of this study were Pashupatinagar, Birgunj, Kakarvitta and Kathmandu. Other key interaction-based places were Bairahawa area of Rupandehi, Gaddachouki area of Kanchanpur, Chhangru area of Darchula, Hilsa area of Humla, korala area of Mustang and border area of Taplejung. All the

visited areas are indicated with the stars and not visited but interacted area are indicated star with N inside the star in Figure 3.3.

3.8 Ethical considerations

This study assured for Ethical Considerations. It ensured informed consent from participants and guarantee confidentiality and anonymity. It made highly clear on respect multiple sensitivities and adhere to ethical guidelines throughout the research process. This study obtained necessary permissions for accessing official documents and sensitive information. This study cited the sources properly with paraphrase and summarize carefully. This study developed own analysis and voice. It used quotations correctly of someone's work in prior of the related field.

Research findings and implications presented the findings in a comprehensive manner, highlighting key themes, prospects and challenges identified through the study. This study discussed on the implications of the findings for policy development, practice and future research in the field of border management. It provided knowledge for enhancing the effectiveness of utilization of advanced technology for effective border security based on the insights.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Findings

Research findings are the key results or discoveries from a study that directly address the research question, revealing insights aligning with the objectives that helps or contributes for effective study. Findings are basically the key outcomes of the study. It is basically the key facts which can discover during the study. Research findings are facts and phrases, observations, and data resulting from research. This study dealt with the findings in main themes. The themes are significance, prospects and challenges.

4.1.1 Contributions of use of advance technology

Contribution means having the quality of being significant, meaningful, and important. Technological advance refers to the process of developing new and superior technologies that displace older ones, leading to significant improvements in organizational performance. This process involves cycles of incremental changes and technological discontinuities, ultimately resulting in the emergence of dominant designs in various sectors.

Technologically advanced nations have secured a higher level of security and stability and face little chance of all-out nuclear or conventional war threatening their security interests. Maintaining technological superiority over other nations, including friendly nations, continues to be an important aspect of safeguarding national security for most sovereign nations (Mallik, 2004).

The use of advanced technology in border security is an immense significance for Nepal, a landlocked country with open borders, particularly with India and China. Effective border management is a base for national security, economic stability, and sovereignty. The key reasons why advanced technology is being essential for Nepal's border security, supported by evidence and references are as follows:

a. Enhances surveillance and monitoring

Surveillance is the act of observing others in order to gather evidence. Surveillance is one of the most common methods law enforcement officials use to investigate suspects and gather evidence. According to TW (2024), Technology helps people work together, even when they are far apart. It enables businesses to collaborate across different locations by providing communication tools such as video conferencing, project management software, and collaborative platforms. These tools allow teams to share ideas, provide real-time updates, and work together seamlessly.

Advanced technologies like drones, satellite imagery, and CCTV cameras enable real-time monitoring of border areas, even in remote and difficult terrains. These tools help detect illegal crossings, smuggling, and other illicit activities, ensuring better control over the borders (Shrestha, 2020). For instance, drones have been effectively used in other countries for border surveillance, and Nepal can adopt similar strategies to monitor its challenging geography (Smith & Jones, 2019).

Surveillance is a main tool for security. Effective security is impossible without effective surveillance. During the interaction, an interview participant focused the investment in border security technology and she stated that:

Recognizing the importance of modernizing border security, Nepal seems to explore collaborations to adopt new technological tools. For instance, initiatives like hackathons are organized to identify cost-effective technological solutions for strengthening border security, focusing on innovations such as drone-based surveillance and anti-drone technologies. These technological advancements are part of Nepal's ongoing efforts to bolster border security, addressing challenges posed by its open borders. By integrating modern technology, it helps to enhance surveillance capabilities, improve trade facilitation, and ensure the safety and security of border.

During the field work, most of the participants involved in interviews stated about the significance of use of technology is effective surveillance and monitoring. Technology enhances the teamwork. Teamwork is essential for collective dreamwork. Security is collective work in general. Technology helps to join and hold the team members.

b. Effective defensive and offensive operations

Defensive and offensive operational readiness is key to robust border security. Smart fencing, motion sensors, and biometric systems can be deployed to secure vulnerable border points. Automated gates and e-gates at checkpoints streamline the movement of people and goods while maintaining security (Gurung, 2021). Such technologies have proven effective in reducing illegal activities in other regions, and Nepal can benefit from their implementation.

An interview participant focused in the emerging threats for the border security. He tried to about the conflict and warfare scenarios of the world and stated that:

The radiological, biological, nuclear, chemical and cyber threat is everywhere in the globe. It is as common threats of the global security scenario. Nepal must be focus in those threats for better security management in the border. It is the right time to address these issues in aligning these aspects. Otherwise, time flies so fast. If Nepal does not invest in it in time as much as possible, Nepal has to pay a lot in the future for it. It may be more costly.

During the field work, most of the participants focused on the offensive and defensive capability. Border security is connected and associated with the sovereign security and security from encroachments in the border.

c. Prevention of cross-border crime

Technologies such as facial recognition, license plate recognition, and AI-powered analytics can help identify and track criminals, terrorists, and smugglers attempting to cross the border. This reduces human trafficking, drug smuggling, and illegal trade (Adhikari, 2022).

Most of the participants of interview interaction, they focused in transborder crime. They related it with the technological utilization and its impact. An interview participant stated that:

Cross border crime is common problem of the neighboring countries. Criminals are the threats for society in the border areas of both sides. It is necessary for break the chain of criminals and criminal networks. The chance of technological utilization by the criminals is possible at all the time. To minimize the cross-border crime and win over

criminal activities, it is mandatory to use advanced technologies as much as possible. It ensures the quality performance in prevention of transborder crime.

An interview participant in the Birgunj stated that transborder crime is a major threat for border security. He stated that the transborder criminals are using technologies.

d. Efficient immigration and customs management

Biometric systems like fingerprint, iris scanning and e-passports can expedite the verification process at border checkpoints. Advanced databases and software can help track and manage the movement of people and goods, reducing delays and corruption (Poudel, 2021). Countries like the United States have implemented biometric systems at borders, significantly improving efficiency and security (DHS, 2018).

Custom and immigration are major agencies in border governance of Nepal. An interview participant from custom department stated that:

People's movements are eligible and free in Nepal India border if the peoples are citizen of both countries. Third country citizens movement are regulating in the Nepal India border. But the transport of goods is regulated. Immigration is responsible for lawful movement of peoples from one country to another and custom is responsible for lawful transportation of goods from one country to another. Effective management of people, goods and services are integral part of border security. Advanced technologies make it reliable and sound. It is part of robust border security too.

During the field work, it was observed that immigration office Kakarvitta, immigration office Birgunj and Immigration office Tribhuban international airport are operating in the base of technologies. Custom offices Pashupatinagar, Kakarvitta, and Birgunj are also utilizing technologies. Inland clearance Deports and integrated check posts are also utilizing technologies for the quality performance. An interview participant talked about the concern of international organization of migration (IOM) in immigration authority related with the movement and rights of movement in the international borders.

e. Counter-terrorism and national security

Advanced technology can help detect and prevent the infiltration of terrorist elements and unauthorized armed groups. Integration of intelligence systems with border security technologies ensures a proactive approach to national security (Khanal, 2020).

Terrorism is a main threat to national security. It's not limited in the national boundaries. It is transnational. It can utilize their weapon of terror anywhere at any time for their own suitable popular reason. During the interaction, a participant of Pashupatinagar area of Ilam stated that:

Terrorism is a major nontraditional challenge for effective border security. Terrorists are looking for safe havens for them. They are roaming from one place to another and looking for loopholes. They are trying to find opportunities for them to employ their purpose. It can be detected and prevented through the utilization of modern advanced technologies. So, it is a significant due protection from terrorist and effective for counter-terrorist operations and safeguard the national interest.

f. Optimization of resource utilization

Automation and technology reduce the reliance on manual patrolling, which is often resource-intensive and prone to human error. This allows border security forces to focus on strategic areas and respond more effectively to threats (Sharma, 2021). Studies have shown that technology-driven border management systems are more cost-effective in the long run (International Organization for Migration, 2020).

Technology trends are accepting and increasing day-by-day. During the interaction, a technical participant of the department of immigration department stated that:

The main features of the technology are accuracy, automation and all-time functional. It is a result-based reliable use and it helps for maximum utilization of resources. Technological optimization contributes to human resource and other resource management. All the immigration offices, airports, consul offices and embassies of Nepal who are working for visa processes are interlinked and working in an integrated form due to the utilization of technology. It is the optimization of resource utilization. It is considered a significant advanced technology utilization.

g. Data driven decision making

Big data analytics and AI can process vast amounts of data from border crossings, helping authorities identify patterns and predict potential security threats. This enables proactive measures rather than reactive responses (Bhattarai, 2022). The use of AI in border security has been successfully implemented in Singapore, providing a model for Nepal (Tan, 2021).

Big data analysis can be possible by the utilization of technology. It works better instead of manual works. An officer interview participant from Department of custom focused on data driven technology and stated that:

It prevents from human error. Somehow, human can be bias. Humans can be influenced by interest groups and gangs or organized way. Technology helps for cross verification. It helps for validity and liability. It helps for rational decision making and implement it in the effective ways and manner. Data helps for insist in burden of proofs. It helps for continuity, accuracy and balanced.

An interview participant of Kakarvitta stated that technologies help for real time information. It helps for integration with other systems. It works on the basis of data processing. It is as input for quick effective decision making and immediate response. An interview participant of APF Nepal stated that the data driven automation system in the procedural work helps for reliable and fair performance.

h. Strengthens international relations

Effective border management using advanced technology fosters trust and cooperation with neighboring countries India and China. It also demonstrates Nepal's commitment to global security standards, which can enhance its international standing (Thapa, 2020). The use of technology in border management has improved relations between the United States and Canada (Anderson, 2018).

Nation to nation or state to state good relation for effective communication, coordination and cooperation is important. It impacts the border security aspects. An interview participant stated that:

Border is separating lines as well as joining lines of states. It is separating institution as well as connecting lines. It is also as bond between the nations. Advanced technology helps for sound border security. Effective border security is the mutual interests of the states. It helps to each other for peace, progress and development. Effective border security is will of all sovereign countries. So, it contributes for strong international relation.

Technologically well-equipped security is supportive for better international and neighborhood country relations. Technological integration also helps for communication. It can contribute for the strong relationship with each other. It was observed that state to state coordination is easy due to communication and connection through the technology. Technology is helping for connection and creating cooperation and collaboration.

i. Real time information and immediate response

Secure borders facilitate legitimate trade and tourism, boosting the economy. Advanced systems reduce delays at checkpoints, making cross-border trade more efficient and attractive to investors (Giri, 2021). Studies have shown that efficient border management can increase trade volumes by up to 20% (World Bank, 2019).

Real and timely information are main inputs and assets for the effective response in the reliable security. An interview participant focused in intelligence and stated that:

Information is the key for effective security operation in the field. Information inputs, shapes and guides for employment of security. It is a base for implementation of security plans and planning formulations as well as execution of plans. Technology helps for real time information and it is mandatory for immediate response in time. It prepares ground for the immediate response if needed. It helps for operational plan and execution in effective way.

j. Easy for overcome security challenges

Nepal's diverse and challenging terrain, including mountains, forests, and rivers, makes traditional border patrolling difficult. Technology like drones and satellite imaging can overcome these challenges, providing comprehensive coverage (Rai, 2020).

An interview participant from a security organization focused on the security challenges and he linked it with the advanced technological utilization. Technological utilization is helpful for counter and encounter with the security threats and challenges. He stated that:

Technology and techno friendly manpower behind the technology is as best friends to each another. They can analyze, find, deter, detect, confront and win over the threat. Technology for security is complimentary to each other. It is being the part of and art of security. It helps for better, smarter, stronger and well equipped enough. It helps for self-sustain for border guarding forces. It helps for face the security challenges. So, it is considered as significance.

k. Grievances management of public

Locals inhabiting border areas are important stakeholders of border management. Border population is susceptible to border criminals, indoctrination by terrorists, drug menace, counterpart threat, shelling and firing. Borders need development at par with mainland. It is only when border areas are developed and deficiencies addressed that border population will feel emotionally integrated with border guarding forces. Border security must be made less intrusive for locals through technology integration to monitor their movements (Sharma, 2024).

It was observed and understood that in the Nepal- India and Nepal-China border, India and China border guarding forces and immigration personnel are using x-ray screening machines for checking of goods, luggage and baggage. They put it only in the X-ray and allowing the peoples to in and out. But Nepal's APF, Nepal is checking all the items thoroughly and manually as much as possible. It was noticed that people are feeling harassment from Nepal's border guarding force. They are comparing with counterpart behaviors. But it felt that, it happened due to absence of technological utilization. In this regard, technology helps for grievances handling of the people.

Comparative study helps for enhance the capability of own. Best practices adoption from the others is ways for progress. Nepal can take lots of benefits from the neighboring countries. Both neighboring countries are focusing on technological modernization. Nepal can learn a lot for effective border security. Technological adaption makes the relation more bonding too. It is absolute ways for scientific as well.

4.1.2 Prospects of use of advance technology

Border security is an essential function of sovereign nations, ensuring the regulation of movement while preventing illicit activities. According to Jones (2020), effective border security must integrate technology, legal frameworks, and cross-border cooperation. We are in the era of the digital customer. The global citizen expects the technological advances that have revolutionized global communications and transport also to apply to the travel process. While travelers have made it clear that they expect a seamless and secure journey, the steps of that journey require clarification (World Economic Forum, 2017).

According to Homeland Security (2024), the technology landscape is changing very rapidly. The introduction of cloud computing, agile development and mobility has provided new and innovative ways to deliver value in Information Technology within the Federal Government. DHS is committed to enabling better utilization of departmental data to improve the quality of services to the American people.

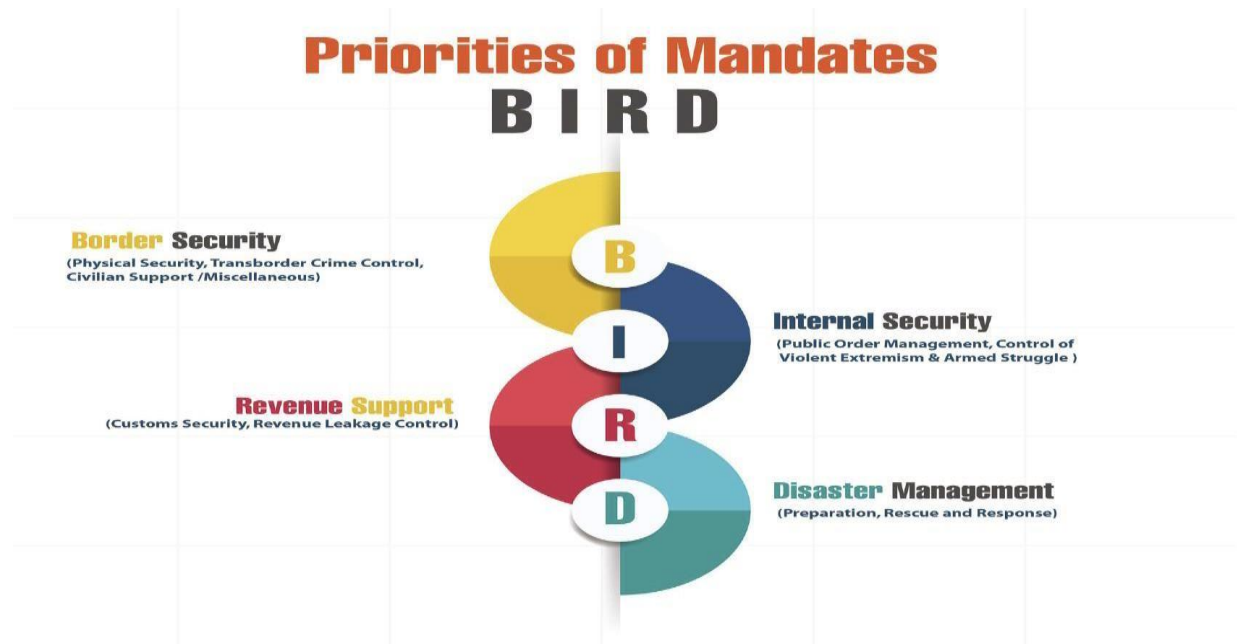
In the context of Nepal, the advanced technologies are not widely utilized yet. Nepal is planning for comply technologies for effective border security of Nepal. The prospects for effective border security of Nepal as per this study are as follows:

a. Physical security

Physical barriers, such as fences and walls, act as deterrents to illegal crossings. Smart fences embedded with motion sensors have been deployed along the U.S.-Mexico border (Brown & Miller, 2021). India's Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) utilizes AI-integrated fences (Mehta, 2020).

This study observed that the physical security condition of the border security of Nepal is based on traditional technologies. The participants were focusing and emphasizing on use of modern technologies. It is necessary for reliable utilization of modern technologies. It is mandatory to strengthen the border security and physical infrastructures.

Armed Police Force, Nepal is the border guarding force of Nepal with the primary responsibility of physical security. It prioritized its mandate and focusing in the border security. APF, Nepal's leadership conceptualized it as BIRD concept. Figure 4.1 includes the BIRD concept of APF, Nepal.

Figure 4.1*Priorities of Mandates of APF, Nepal*

Source: APF, Nepal Yearbook, 2025.

This study interacted and found that APF, Nepal is focusing and planning for smart, digital and technological border security with professional and skillful manpower. Message from the Inspector General of APF, Nepal in APF Yearbook 2025 emphasized in use of advanced technology. He messaged that:

The Armed Police Force, Nepal remains steadfast in fulfilling the priorities set by the Government of Nepal with efficiency and professionalism. As we navigate the evolving security landscape, we face new challenges, including the impacts of modern technology, emerging security vulnerabilities, and the rise of non-traditional threats such as transmissible diseases. In response, we are committed to continuous improvement and technological advancement to ensure we remain prepared for these challenges.

The message clearly stated about the priority for technological advancement of APF, Nepal. Border Security Department of APF, Nepal is responsible for operational activities of border security. Figure 4.2 includes the key responsibilities of Border Security Department of APF, Nepal.

Figure 4.2*Key Responsibilities of Border Security Department of Armed Police Force, Nepal*

Source: APF, Nepal Yearbook, 2025.

One of the key responsibilities of the Armed Police Force, Nepal is to ensure the security of the country's borders. To fulfill this duty, the APF has strategically stationed its personnel along Nepal's borders, where they actively enforce security measures. The Border Security Department is tasked with overseeing all border-related operations such as protecting border pillars and boundary markers, controlling illegal cross-border activities, combating human trafficking and preserving the territorial integrity of Nepal (Gautam, 2025).

The future prospects of the advanced technologies in the border security of Nepal are Smart Border infrastructures. As well as Underground & Seismic Sensors in definite location and area for detect tunneling activity often used for smuggling drugs, weapons, or illegal crossings. The U.S. and Mexico border has seismic sensors to detect underground tunnels (DHS, 2025). Automated Border Checkpoints with AI-powered entry or exit points with biometric screening to process travelers efficiently is useful for effectiveness. For example, the European Union's Entry and Exit System (EES) automates passport checks.

b. Surveillance and monitoring

Surveillance is the monitoring of individuals or observing something in order to gain information. Surveillance is used for a number of reasons and by numerous objectives. Surveillance can be used to protect private property, gain information on a certain objective, or find evidence on a person or organization (Woerner, 2023). Surveillance is most commonly used in law enforcement operations or in the military. Law enforcement and government agencies use surveillance to detect, prevent, and investigate crimes.

An interview participant stated that surveillance refers the close observation. Close observations are base for real time information. It ensures for systematic and ground-based information. It inputs for policy formulation, plan formulation and implementation. It is helpful for monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring helps for quality performance. It monitors and provide effective feedback for better capability. It plays the vital role to make liable, viable and responsible. It is also as system of check back and it prevents from the monopoly. It plays the positive role in the effective border security.

APF, Nepal is monitoring 56 cameras of all over the Nepal. It was observed that it is focusing in the main entry points of the borders of Nepal. It is contributing for effective border security of Nepal and APF, Nepal is planning for the increasing of the cameras and coverage for more areas of border.

Figure 4.3 shows the monitoring of border security activities from the APF, Nepal headquarters Kathmandu. It ensures the effective border security duties in the border areas. In addition to drones, CCTV systems and thermal imaging technologies play a critical role in modern border security. High-definition cameras integrated with AI-based anomaly detection can identify unauthorized movements, while thermal imaging ensures effective surveillance even in low-light or nighttime conditions. Satellite and geospatial intelligence offer a broader perspective by tracking smuggling routes, unauthorized crossings, and environmental changes that could impact border security.

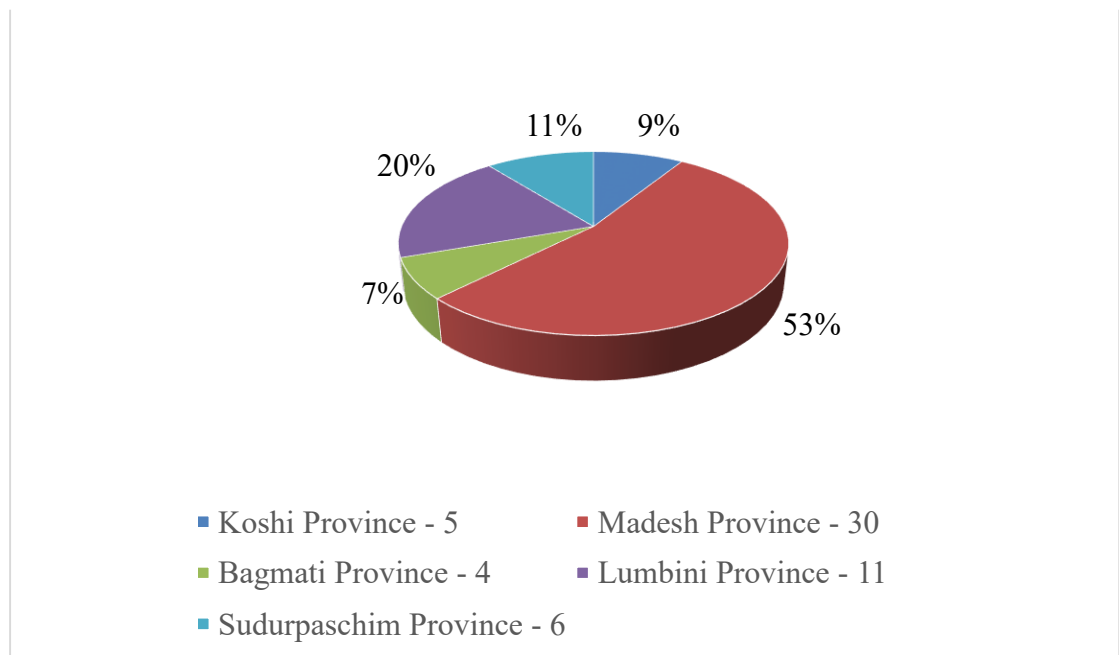
Figure 4.3

CCTV surveillance and monitoring from APF, Nepal Headquarters



Source: APF, Nepal CCTV Monitoring Section, 2025.

Figure 4.4 illustrates the CCTV monitoring by APF, Nepal in the provinces in the border areas. These locations are directly monitoring from APF, Nepal HQs. There is mainly monitoring in the 56 locations of five provinces. Karnali and Gandaki provinces are planning to connect in direct networks. It was observed that in the Koshi province, APF focused on surveillance in Kakarvitta area of Jhapa district and Rani area of Morang district. In the Madhes province, it was focused on Mardar area of Siraha district, Jaleswor area of Mahottari district, Gour area of Routahat district, and Birgunj area of Parsa district. In the Bagmati province it was focused in Timure area of Rasuwa district to the border of China in the North. Regarding the Lumbini province, it was focused in Danda area of Rupandehi district, Chakadchouda area of Kapilbastu district and Jamunaha area of banke district. In the Sudurpaschima province, it was focused in Trinagar area of Kailali district and Gaddachouki area of Kanchanpur district. The numbers written in figure with the province names in the figure indicates the number of monitoring cameras.

Figure 4.4*Border Activity Surveillance Cameras of APF Headquarters*

Source: APF, Nepal CCTV Monitoring Section, 2025.

Advanced surveillance technologies are essential for detecting unauthorized border crossings. AI-powered drones, thermal cameras, and satellite imagery are used to enhance border security (Smith, 2021). The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employ Predator drones for aerial surveillance (U.S. CBP, 2022).

This study interacted with the Border Resource Research Center (BRRC). It reflected the further way forward for the APF, Nepal. It was ensured that the prospect of future regarding effective border security of APF, Nepal is focusing on the digital border, techno-based security management and security modernization as much as possible.

c. Artificial intelligence and big data analytics

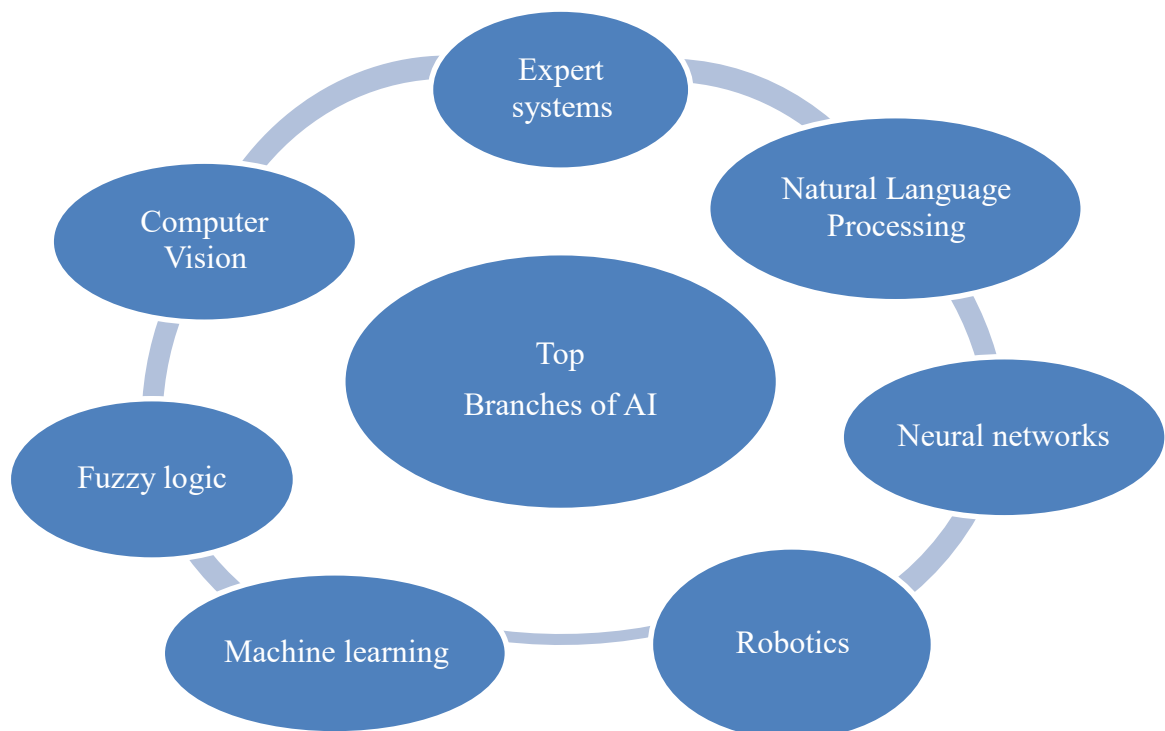
AI analytics, biometric technologies such as facial recognition, fingerprint scanning, and iris recognition are transforming identity verification at border crossings. These systems provide a seamless and secure way to authenticate travelers, reducing wait times and enhancing security. For example, the United Arab Emirates and Singapore have implemented fully

automated biometric border checks, allowing passengers to clear immigration without manual intervention (Singapore Immigration & Checkpoints Authority, 2021).

Figure 4.5 indicates that the Expert Systems are a branch of AI designed to simulate the decision-making ability of human experts. At their core, they are intelligent systems consisting of a knowledge base and inference engine. Natural Language Processing (NLP) focuses on the intersection between computers and human language. This branch of AI powers virtual assistants and intelligent machines to comprehend, interpret, manipulate, and generate human language. Neural Networks (NNs) are a powerful Machine Learning subfield that follows a set of linear instructions, similar to neurons in the human brain. Robotics blends engineering and science to design, build, and program robots to perform tasks, either autonomously or with human supervision. Robots can move and perform actions independently, often equipped with sensors to perceive and interact with their environment.

Figure 4.5

Top Branches of Artificial Intelligence



Source: Modified after Gomez (2025).

During the field visit, it was realized that the importance and the utilization of artificial intelligence is increasing day by day. AI is widely recognized in the field of technology. Regarding the prospects of use of advanced technology for the effective border security of Nepal, government of Nepal is going to focus in artificial intelligence. Recently, government of Nepal formulated artificial intelligence policy.

An interview participant stated that AI has strong network nexus in cyber space, digital world, device functions, machine learnings and global networks. States are regulating the AI policy for the positive impacts. Table 4.1 shows the composition of the artificial intelligence regulation council as per the artificial intelligence policy, 2025.

An interview participant expressed that the artificial intelligence is a pertinent issue. It's area is widespread in the globe. Most of the sectors are related and connected with the AI and big data analysis. Security sector is obviously linked and it is and impacting or effecting factor in the security. It will be definitely increase in the upcoming days.

Table 4.1

Composition of the Artificial Intelligence Regulation Council, Nepal

Minister, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology	Chairperson
Governor, Nepal Rashtra Bank	Member
Secretary, Office of Prime Minister and Council of Minister	Member
Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology	Member
Secretary, Ministry of Finance	Member
Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supply	Member
Secretary, National Planning Commission	Member
Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	Member
CEO, E-governance Board	Member
Chairperson, Nepal Telecommunication Authority	Member
Representatives, private sector 2 including a female	Member
Experts, (3 academicians including a female)	Member
Head, National Artificial Intelligence Center	Member Secretary

Source: Artificial Intelligence Policy of Nepal, 2025.

Table 4.1 illustrates that the artificial intelligence regulation council Nepal is including the experts and non-state actors too. It includes the private sectors as well. In the AI policy, there is also provision of AI center and AI excellence center. It is believed that it helps enhancement and betterment of the AI utilization in the effective border security of Nepal in the upcoming days.

An interview participant focused in the emerging trends of security and robotics deployments in the security duties. He stated that:

The technological innovation and evolution are developing day by day. Latest modern technology may not be latest one tomorrow. It can be replaced by another better one. The developed states and sharp innovators are in competition for better innovation of technologies. robotics deployments in the security duties are increasing day by day in the global context. It may be increase in robotics casualties or damages in the wars in future days than the soldiers.

Recent developing trend indicates the being more updated and better versions of technology. In 2025, it is being continuity. Table 4.2 includes the key advance technology trends in 2025 in the advanced technological world.

Table 4.2

Key Advanced Technology Trends in 2025

Generative AI	Quantum Computing	5G Expansion
Virtual Reality (VR) 2.0	Augmented Reality (AR)	Internet of Things
Biotechnology	Autonomous Vehicles	Blockchain
Edge Computing	Personalized Medicine	Neuromorphic Computing
Green Energy Technologies	Wearable Health Monitors	Extended Reality (XR)
Voice-Activated Technology	Space Tourism	Synthetic Media
Advanced Robotics	AI in Cybersecurity	Digital Twins
Sustainable Technology	Telemedicine	Nano-Technology
AI TriSM (trust, risk and security management)	Geographic information system	Nuclear, Biological, Chemical, and Radiological energy

Source: Modified after Duggal (2025).

Figure 4.2 indicates the evolution of technology day by day. Innovation is going on in the world. Technocracy impact is growing on. It is impacting on all aspects of life and issues. It also impacted border security. Development is depending in technology. Power dynamics and global major events impact in the security dynamics. These advancements not only improve the efficiency of border control processes but also ensure a higher level of accuracy in identifying individuals, making it harder for unauthorized persons to bypass security measures. These technologies impact in the border security technologies.

d. Internet of things and cybersecurity

Internet of Things (IoT) refers to the collective network of connected devices and the technology that facilitates communication between devices and the cloud, as well as between the devices themselves. Cyber threats pose a significant risk to border security. AI-driven threat detection and blockchain technology enhance data security and prevent unauthorized access to border management systems (Anderson, 2021).

The Schengen Information System (SIS) uses encrypted databases to safeguard sensitive border data (European Union Agency for Cybersecurity, 2022). These databases store critical information related to border security, law enforcement, and immigration, making them prime targets for cyber-attacks. Robust encryption, multi-factor authentication, and continuous monitoring are essential to protecting these systems from hacking and other cyber threats. Regular security audits and penetration testing can help identify vulnerabilities and enhance system resilience against evolving cyber risks.

Cybersecurity for border systems is crucial to safeguarding national security, preventing unauthorized access, and ensuring the integrity of sensitive data. Border management databases, such as the Schengen Information System (SIS) in the European Union, utilize encrypted, decentralized networks to mitigate cyber threats and prevent unauthorized data breaches (European Commission, 2024).

Digital technology and cyberspace impact in governance is increasing. Internet is as enter in net where connections are available. Internet is associated with network and it works as net worth. Network as net of many works to each other. It is also as technology behind the technical mind. Nepal is trying to apply and adopt new policies and technologies for the betterment of the country and its governance.

Cyberspace is the digital space and it related with the national security of the country. The cyber threats impact the border security issues of Nepal. The government of Nepal is understanding these issues and focusing on cyber security in Nepal. It is necessary for effective security management in Nepal. Government of Nepal is focusing in cyber security and Table 4.3 represents its policy provision.

Table 4.3

National Cyber Security Implementation Committee

Joint Secretary, Information Technology Division of Ministry of Communication and Information Technology	Chairperson
Director General, Department of Information Technology	Member
Controller, Office of Approval Controller	Member
Head, Integrated Government Data Center	Member
Director, Nepal Telecommunication Authority	Member
Director (IT), Nepal Rastra Bank	Member
Under-Secretary (IT), Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers	Member
Under-Secretary (IT), Ministry of Defense	Member
Under-Secretary (IT), Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
Lieutenant Colonel (IT), Nepali Army	Member
Superintendent of Police (IT), Nepal Police	Member
Superintendent of police (IT), Armed Police Force, Nepal	Member
Deputy Investigation Director, National Investigation Department	Member
Representative, Press Council Nepal	Member
Three persons (including a female among Experts/university academician/private sector/ Computer Association of Nepal	Member
Head, National Cyber Security Center	Member Secretary

Source: National Cyber Security Policy, 2024.

Table 4.3 illustrates the composition of and policy provision of National Cyber Security Implementation Committee. It reflects the future prospects, priorities and possibilities. Government of Nepal approved the data and cloud service directives, 2025 and envisioned the

regulation of provision of register and regulation of data and cloud services in Nepal. It definitely contributes for effective border security of Nepal.

During the field observation, policy reviews, interactions and discussions, it was widely noticed that Nepal has prioritized technological modernization. A participant stated that internet is best friend of all in recent day. Some people are facing betray from their best friend but the rest of the world are enjoying. Another participant stated that the cyber world is full with opportunities and challenges for service recipients and it is difficult to find the alternative of it. So, the effective utilization and the effective security is the way for better future for all.

Secure communication platforms for government and law enforcement agencies ensure that classified information is exchanged safely without interception. These platforms employ end-to-end encryption and advanced authentication measures to prevent unauthorized access (DHS, 2023). As cyber threats continue to evolve, adopting a multi-layered cyber security strategy is imperative to safeguarding border infrastructure, ensuring secure data exchange, and maintaining national security.

e. Smart and integrated border management

A well-managed border of a country improves trade, increases revenue; facilitate cross border movement and enhance the security measures. The approachable border between India and Nepal has acts as an opportunity and threat for both countries. Due to adverse terrain, social and cultural affinity, and porous landscape the border management in Nepal have been a daunting task (Upreti, 2022).

An interview participant focused in the smart and integrated border security management. He emphasized on all stakeholder's role and expressed that:

Border governance is combined integrated effort of governing agencies. It is directly related with sovereignty security, social security and service security. Effective role of all related sector and utilization of technologies effectively plays the effective role. It is mandatory for the effective border and related security service. There are many agencies in Nepal for serving in border areas and somehow relate with the border security issues. Collective, collaborative and integrated functions of relevant agencies are more fruitful for the effective border security of Nepal.

There are many different agencies are involving in the border governance of Nepal. It is necessary to understand about these state actors and non-state actor agencies. Table 4.4 includes the agencies in district level agencies in the area of border governance of Nepal.

Table No 4.4

Agencies at District level in the Area of Border Governance

<p>Administrative Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) District Administration Office b) Immigration Offices. c) District Forest office. d) District Transportation Office e) Local Government Offices 	<p>Custom & Trade Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Custom and Revenue Office. b) Commerce, Import and Export Office. c) ICP and Dry Ports d) Banks and Money Exchange Center e) Intermodal transport management committee
<p>Security Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) APF, Battalion/Company b) District Police Office. c) Nepal Army, Battalion d) National Investigation Department e) Armed Forest Guard 	<p>Health and Safety Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) District Quarantine Office. b) Hospitals and Health Posts. c) Fire Brigade office. d) Animal, food and plant quarantine offices
<p>Land Related Agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) District Land management Office b) Survey Office 	<p>Non-Governmental agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Maiti Nepal. b) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) c) Peace Restoration center.

Source: Modified After Upreti (2022).

Table 4.4 highlights four areas of cooperation by border governing agencies. They are technical area, operational area, legislative area and institutional area. The border governing agencies of Nepal relies on operational, technical and legislative areas for cooperation. The utilization of technology is increasing and it is being more advance in coming days. Table 4.5 includes the existing utilization prospect of agencies.

Table 4.5*Technological Utilization and Prospect of Agencies*

SN	Institutions	Existing Technology	Prospects
1	Armed Police Force, Nepal	CCTV, UAVs, GPS, Satellite Phones, Dog sniffing, Digital Camera	Digital and techno-based border management
2	Department of Custom	NNSW, ASYCUDA, NECAS, Beruju, Mudda system, PBMIS, X-ray machine, Metal detect machine	Vehicle scanner, and gold detect machine for modern advanced trade facilitation in global standard
3	Department of Immigration	Nepali port, ETA	E-gate, Advance Passenger Information System
4	Department of Survey	Field based, Air based, space based	E-service
5	Department of Food Technology and Quality Control	NNSW, Lab based	Capacity optimization
6	Border Administration Office	Desktop computer	TOR specification and modernization
7	Nepal Intermodal Transport Development Board	Terminal Management Software, ERP, Integrated Terminal Information System	Global standard trade and transport facilitation
8	Department of Livestock Services (Animal quarantine)	NNSW, Risk engine, Pest Risk Analysis Tool	E-surveillance of the pests
9	Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Center	Big data, risk analysis tool, risk engine, NNSW, Lab based	Capacity optimization
10	Human Quarantine / Health Desks	Diagnosis based	Health Assurance

Source: Researcher`s Own Work, 2025.

Table 4.5 shows that all the border governance agencies are using the modern technologies. It was observed, interacted, discussed and found that APF, Nepal is the security organization deployed for the border security of Nepal. APF, Nepal is utilizing Close Circuit Television, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Global Positioning System, satellite phones, dog sniffing, Digital Cameras, detector machines etc. in the border security. The future prospects of effective border security of Nepal are planning and implementation for digital, smart and techno-based border security of Nepal.

This study mainly focused on the existing use of technologies for relevance with the border security and probability of future aspects. The literature reviews, policy provisions reviews, interactions, interviews, discussions and observations centralized in the recent status and ways for future endeavors. The agencies related with border governance are utilizing technologies as much as possible.

During the field work, a participant interacted about the survey department utilizing technologies. He stated that the traditional tools for survey were plain table, chain survey and strip map using manual works. Table 4.6 shows the technologies utilizing by the Department of Survey for effective service delivery. The department is planning for e-service delivery in upcoming days. It is the prospects aspect of the department. It can contribute for effective border security of Nepal.

Table 4.6

Survey Department Utilizing Technologies

Field -Based	Air -Based	Space – Based
Total station	Photogrammetry	Satellite capture
Global Navigation Satellite System Receiver	Unmanned Aerial Vehicles	Ground Survey mapping, analysis and processing application
Global Positioning System	Light Detection and Ranging	

Source: Katuwal (participant), 2025.

This study observed that the department of custom is utilizing the digital based technologies which are Nepal national single window (NNSW), Automated system for customs Data (ASYCUDA), Nepal customs automation system (NECAS), Mudda system, Personal baggage information management system (PBIMS), Beruju portal, Export import (EXIM) code portal etc. According to official web page, the vision custom department of Nepal is excellence in Customs services to support the economic and social prosperity of Nepal. As well as the objective is to facilitate the trade through the use of modern information technology tools, to collect fair and accurate revenue and increase the contribution of the Customs in the supply chain and guarantee social safety.

The prospects of the custom department are modern advanced trade facilitation in global standard through the utilization of advanced technologies. It contributes for the effective border security of Nepal. Use of advance technology is key for effective and efficient service delivery as well as effective contribution in national security of Nepal.

The Vision of Department of Immigration is efficient combination between immigration regulation and tourism promotion for transparent and professional immigration in with the use of information technology. And the mission is to assist the state security system through the immigration regulation process, to establish the management as a center of excellence and to provide services in a fair and effective manner and establish a transparent and effective system to guarantee the highest satisfaction to the service recipients as well as create paperless immigration (Department of Immigration, 2025).

Department of Immigration of Nepal is using Nepali Port digital interface for visa process. It is a system integration or connected with all immigration offices of Nepal and all visa issuing offices of Nepal in international arena like embassies, and consulate offices. A participant of immigration stated for the further future prospects are e-gate system and advance passenger information system.

It was observed that the border administration office is working with desktop computer. All the quarantine offices are integrated in NNSW system and lab-based technology. Intermodal transport management committee is using terminal management software for system integration with all stakeholders.

f. Technological integration and collaboration

Customs authorities have embraced advanced analytical technologies. Around half of the customs use some combination of big data, data analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning. Those who do not currently use them have plans to do so in future. The majority of customs authorities see clear benefits from advanced technologies, in particular with regard to risk management and profiling, fraud detection and ensuring greater compliance (WTO and WCO, 2022).

i. Department of Custom

The Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA), which entered into force on 20 February 2021, is an UN treaty deposited with the Secretary General of the United Nations. The treaty aims at accelerating the implementation of digital trade facilitation measures for trade and development. Nepal is not yet a party to the treaty, but it has been making efforts, mostly unilaterally, to digitalize trade processes and create a paperless trade regime. The most important of these has been the progress made in the establishment and operationalization of the Nepal National Single Window (NNSW) (Sharma and Dahal, 2023).

This study observed that the department of custom is operating Nepal National Single Window (NNSW) digital software as technological integration and collaboration with the stakeholders. According to the NNSW operation directives 2022, it planned for integration of 48 stakeholders including all the ministries of government of Nepal. It is operating, monitoring and systemizing by department of custom of Nepal.

NNSW is a key step in the trade and custom facilitation in Nepal. It is progress in the field of e-governance of Nepal. Among the 48 stakeholders, the 33 stakeholders are integrated but 15 are remain for integration. It is operationalizing in the integrated way with the other all relevant aspects. NNSW is a major digital technology-based software which is utilizing by border governance related agencies in Nepal. It is playing effective role in effective service deliver mainly in the field of trade, transport and custom facilitation.

Table 4.7 includes the module development units of operational and the remaining stakeholders. There are 15 offices which are operational in integrate way and 13 are not operational yet. The prospects of the regarding aspect is it will be operational and that will be contribute in effective border security in better way.

Table 4.7*Module Development Agencies of NNSW*

Operational	Not operational
Food Technology & Quality Control Department	Ministry of Home Affairs
Plant Quarantine & Pesticide Management Center	Ministry of Defense
Department of Animal Livestock service	Ministry of Communication & Information Technology
Department of Transport	Ministry of Health and Population
Nepal Quality and Measurement Department	Nepal Civil Aviation Authority
Department of Archeology	Electricity Development Department
Film Development Board	Department of Tourism
Geography and Minerals Department	Alternative Energy Promotion Center
Nepal Industry and Commerce Federation	Nepal Investment Board
Nepal Industry Association	Trade And Export Promotion Center
Nepal Chamber of Commerce	Department of Conservation of Land and Forest
Nepal Handicraft Association	National Park & Wildlife Conservation Department
Nepal Copyright Register Office	Ministry Of Education Science and Technology
Department of Small and Cottage Industry	
Commercial Banks	

Source: Department of Custom. 2025.

It was understood that from the observation of NNSW functioning, the integrated system is useful and helpful for beneficiaries. It is promoting e-governance. It is useful for investigation as well. it is supportive for effective trade and transport facilitation. Table 4.8 includes the System Integration, Module Development and Reporting Agencies of NNSW.

Table 4.8

System Integration, Module Development and Reporting Agencies of Nepal National Single Window (NNSW)

System Integration	Module Development and System Integration	Reporting Agencies
Office of Auditor General	Custom Department	Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supply
Inland Revenue Department	Industry Department	Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs
Office of Company Register	Department of Commerce, Supply and Consumer Protection	Investigation of Revenue Department
Office of Approval Control	Nepal Rastra Bank	Department of Money Laundering
Nepal Telecommunication Authority	Department of Medicine Management (Not Integrated Yet)	Department of Immigration
Nepal Intermodal Transport Management Committee		Nepal Frate Forwards Association
Nepal Transit Warehouse Company		Custom Agents Association
Department of Consular Service (Not Integrated Yet)		

Source: Department of Custom. 2025.

Table 4.8 ensures that among the eight agencies of system integration of NNSW, only Department of Consular Service is not integrated yet. Other seven are functioning in integrated way with other all agencies. Among the five of module development and system integration both provisioned offices, only the department of medicine management is not integrated yet. Others are functioning smoothly in integrated way. This approach is emphasizing in the data integration and through the system integration. It is beneficial for the consumers and contributes in the effective service delivery.

ii. Nepal intermodal transport development board

Government of Nepal has established the Nepal Intermodal Transport Development Board (NITDB) on 19th January 1998 in accordance with the provisions of the Development Board Act

1956. NITDB is chaired by the Secretary of the Commerce from Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies and comprised of members from public and private sector entities. The main objective of NITDB is to oversee the economical and efficient management of Inland Clearance Depots (ICDs) for facilitation of Nepal's foreign trade.

ICD is a common user inland facility, other than a port or an airport, approved by a competent body, equipped with fixed installations and offering services for handling and temporary storage of any kind of goods (including container) carried under Customs transit by any applicable mode of inland surface transport, placed under customs control and with customs and other agencies competent to clear goods for home use, warehousing, re-export, temporary storage for onward transit and outright export. (Nepal Intermodal Transport Development Board official website, 2025). Table 4.9 incorporates the integration and collaborative function of ICPs and ICDs.

Table 4.9

ICPs and ICDs of Nepal

SN	ICDSs	SN	ICPs
1	Bhairahawa ICD	1	Bhairahawa ICP
2	Biratnagar ICD	2	Biratnagar ICP
3	Birgunj ICD	3	Birgunj ICP
4	Dodhara Chandani ICD (under construction)	4	Nepalgunj ICP
5	Chobhar ICD		
6	Kakarvitta ICD		
7	Tatopani ICD		
8	Rasuwa ICD		

Source: Nepal Intermodal Transport Development Board, 2025.

There are 8 (Eight) ICDs and 4 (Four) ICPs in Nepal. The ICD at Dodhara Chandani is under construction. It was observed that the ICPs and ICDs are enhancing the technological integration and collaboration in the work.

Table 4.10

Integrated Components of ICPs and ICDs of Nepal

SN	Components	Major Responsibility
1	Inter modal transport management committee	Main facilitation
2	Custom office	Custom clearance
3	Plant quarantine	Export / import quality approval
4	Animal quarantine	Export / import quality approval
5	Food quarantine	Export / import quality approval
6	APF, Nepal integrated check post	Security management
7	Bank	Payment clearance
8	Custom brokers and clearing agents	Procedure facilitation
9	Transport management private company	Transport management
10	Transport office (private)	Means of transport management

Source: NITMB, 2025.

Table 4.10 consists of components of ICPs and ICDs. It was observed during the field work at Birgunj, Kakarvitta and Chobhar. It is functioning with the integration with the ways and means of technological utilization.

iii. Cross-Border Cooperation & Intelligence Sharing

International collaboration enhances border security by allowing real-time intelligence sharing. The Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance (U.S., UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand) is an example of international security cooperation (Johnson, 2020). Joint task forces also combat transnational crime and terrorism (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2021).

Given its geopolitical location between two major powers, India and China, and its open borders that are vulnerable to transnational threats (Sharma, 2021). Cross border cooperation and intelligence sharing are essential components of Nepal's border security strategy. Transnational issues such as human trafficking, drug smuggling, illegal arms trade, and terrorism necessitate robust cooperation and intelligence sharing with neighboring countries. Nepal has established bilateral mechanisms, such as the Nepal-India Joint Working Group on Border Management and the Nepal-China Border Security Coordination Committee, to address these challenges collaboratively (Acharya, 2020). These platforms facilitate regular dialogue, joint patrols, and the exchange of real-time intelligence, enhancing the ability of security forces to respond to cross-border threats effectively.

Intelligence sharing plays a pivotal role in preempting and mitigating security risks along Nepal's borders. The Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, and National Investigation Department (NID) work closely with their counterparts in India and China to share information on criminal networks, suspicious activities, and emerging threats (Gurung, 2022). The establishment of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) at major border crossings has streamlined the flow of information and improved coordination between border security agencies. Nepal has adopted advanced technologies such as surveillance drones, biometric systems, and digital databases to enhance intelligence collection and sharing (Khanal, 2021). These technological advancements, combined with cross-border cooperation, have significantly improved Nepal's ability to monitor and secure the borders.

Despite these efforts, challenges remain in achieving seamless cross-border cooperation and intelligence sharing. Differences in legal frameworks, bureaucratic hurdles, and occasional political tensions can hinder effective collaboration (Poudel, 2023). The vast and often rugged terrain along Nepal's borders makes surveillance and enforcement difficult. To address these challenges, Nepal has been actively participating in regional and international forums, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to promote multilateral cooperation on border security (Bhattarai, 2022). By strengthening institutional mechanisms, leveraging technology, and fostering trust with neighboring countries, Nepal can enhance its border security and effectively combat transnational threats.

Biometric screening enhances border security by verifying traveler identities through fingerprint, facial recognition, and iris scanning (Williams, 2022). The European Union's

Entry/Exit System (EES) employs biometric authentication for efficient border management (European Commission, 2021). It was observed that APF Nepal is using dog sniffing squads in the alternative use of technology in explosive detection and drugs detection.

g. Modern security technology

i. Modern offensive weapons

Nepal has its own nuclear policy. According to national nuclear policy (2007), the world community has been involved in the study and research of nuclear science as the entire world is familiar with the fact that the level of nuclear science is an indicator of inherent power and symbol of prosperity of a nation. The fact is obvious that some international organizations such as International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are working to accelerate and extend the contribution of atomic energy for improving human health and raising the living standard of the people significantly through the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

During the interactions, the participants were eager to know and understand the aspects of offensive weapon technology. They urged that it is necessary to enhance modern offensive weapon technologies for effective border security concern. Global trends are also relevant for these issues. So, it is an aspect of consideration for the effective border security of Nepal.

ii. Modern defensive weapons

Modern defensive weapons significantly enhance effective border security by providing advanced tools to detect, deter, and respond to security threats. Technologies such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), sophisticated radar systems, and surveillance drones enable real-time monitoring of borders, allowing authorities to identify illegal crossings, smuggling activities, or terrorist threats swiftly (Shrestha, 2020). Automated defense systems, including ground sensors and electronic fencing, can trigger immediate responses to breaches, improving the efficiency of border security measures (Harris & Light, 2016).

Non-lethal weapons like directed energy devices and acoustic weapons, are also being increasingly deployed for crowd control and incapacitating intruders, providing a more strategic and humane response in border security scenarios (Bakker, 2017). The integration of these technologies and defensive systems strengthens national security while minimizing risks

to both security forces and civilians, ensuring a balanced approach to safety and human rights (Gould, 2018).

iii. Aerial and space security

The executive summary of United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) Geneva (2003), about the Outer Space and Global Security says that the Outer Space and Global Security examined the current and future uses of space, assessing ways to prevent the deployment or use of weapons in and from outer space. The governmental and non-governmental representatives discussed a wide range of short-term and long-term measures to enhance space security, including the possibility of a ban on the deployment of any weapons in space.

Space-based technologies, such as satellites, further augment aerial security by providing a broader and more comprehensive perspective. Satellites equipped with advanced imaging systems, radar, and communication capabilities can monitor border regions 24/7, regardless of weather conditions or geographical challenges (Lee & Martinez, 2022). They can detect changes in terrain, track the movement of large groups, and even identify hidden infrastructure used for illegal activities. The integration of satellite data with artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning algorithms allows for predictive analysis, enabling authorities to anticipate and respond to potential threats before they escalate (Garcia et al., 2021). This synergy between aerial and space-based systems creates a multi-layered security framework that significantly enhances border protection.

The use of advanced technology in aerial and space security also fosters international collaboration and information sharing. Many countries are now investing in joint satellite programs and sharing drone surveillance data to combat transnational threats such as terrorism, human trafficking, and drug smuggling (UNODC, 2023). The development of autonomous systems and AI-driven analytics reduces the reliance on human intervention, increasing operational efficiency and accuracy (Anderson & Clark, 2022). As technology continues to evolve, security systems become more sophisticated, offering unprecedented levels of border security.

Table 4.11 helps for understand the policy provision of nuclear steering committee. It is chaired by minister or State Minister of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology. The

member secretary is Joint Secretary from the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology. From the perspective of prospect, the committee can contribute for effective border security in future.

Table 4.11

Composition of Nuclear Steering Committee

Hon. Minister/State Minister, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology	- Chairperson
Hon. Member, National Planning Commission (Concerned sector)	- Member
Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology	- Member
Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs	- Member
Secretary, Ministry of Defense	- Member
Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	- Member
Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies	- Member
Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives	- Member
Secretary, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology	- Member
Chief, Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital, Bhaktapur	- Member
Chief, B.P. Koirala Cancer Hospital, Bharatpur	- Member
Head, Central Department of Physics, Tribhuvan University	- Member
Two experts nominated by the Government of Nepal from the Atomic Sector	- Member
Scientific Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology	- Member
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology	- Member Secretary

Source: National Nuclear Policy, 2064 (2007).

There is the policy provision of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2020. There is provision of National Science and technology Development and Coordination Council and the composition of the council is submitted in Appendix B. Nepal has policy and provision of nuclear steering committee. It is as hints for progress for future prospect in relevant field.

Aerial and space security have become critical components of modern border security strategies, leveraging advanced technology to enhance surveillance, monitoring, and response capabilities. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), or drones, are now indispensable tools for border patrol agencies. Equipped with high-resolution cameras, thermal imaging, and sensors,

drones provide real-time data on illegal crossings, smuggling activities, and potential threats across vast and often inaccessible terrains (Smith & Johnson, 2021).

4.1.3 Challenges of use of advance technology

Nepal as a peace-loving country has already signed Nuclear-Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) with the commitment of using nuclear energy in improving human health, world peace, and prosperity and not for military activities. In this context, it is urgent for the country like Nepal to adopt timely, dynamic and appropriate policy in the field of nuclear science (National Nuclear Policy, 2007).

Surveillance technologies, especially AI-based monitoring and biometric identification, raise concerns about personal privacy and data misuse. The absence of strict regulations on data protection further exacerbates these concerns (NIICE, 2023). Lack of awareness and trust among local border communities may lead to resistance to security technology adoption (Dhungana, 2021).

a. Resource constraints

Insufficient resource is a main challenge which is primarily related to cost, training, and infrastructure. The high financial investment required for procuring and maintaining technologies such as AI-driven surveillance, biometric identification systems, and cybersecurity frameworks is a significant burden on Nepal's limited budget (Shrestha, 2020). The successful deployment of these technologies depends on adequately trained border security personnel who can operate and maintain complex systems, yet the lack of specialized training programs remains a major hurdle (Gurung, 2021).

Reliable internet connectivity and a stable power supply are crucial for the continuous functioning of digital surveillance and automated border control systems, but these essential infrastructure components are often lacking in Nepal's remote border regions, making implementation difficult (Poudel, 2021). Addressing these challenges requires increased government investment, capacity-building initiatives, and improvements in infrastructure to ensure the effective use of advanced technology in border security.

A lack of trained personnel to operate and maintain advanced technology, along with limited cybersecurity expertise, weakens Nepal's border security (Rana, 2022). Without proper training and capacity-building programs, even high-end surveillance systems cannot be effectively utilized (Dhungana, 2021). Acquiring, installing, and maintaining advanced border security technology requires substantial financial investment, which is a challenge due to Nepal's budget limitations (Sharma & Khatri, 2022). Dependence on foreign technology also increases costs and creates compatibility issues (NIICE, 2023).

During the field work, it was observed that there was a lack of latest technologies in the customs/immigrations offices. Lack of budget, insufficient infrastructure, improper management, and lack of awareness are common lapses. In Pashupatinagar, the immigration office was not operatable due to lack of manpower and technology. In the Kakarvitta, it was functional. An interview participant in the Kakarvitta stated that there was no immigration service separate personnel system restate this sentence. The civil service personnel transfers to the immigration office and at the beginning, they are unaware about the technological system of immigration.

b. Capability constraints

Advanced technologies such as surveillance drones, biometric scanners, and automated border control systems significantly enhance border security. The integration of these technologies requires substantial financial investments and specialized training for border security personnel.

There are concerns over the maintenance and reliability of complex technological systems, which can become prone to malfunctions or hacking attempts (Bakker, 2017).

An interview participant from ministry of Home Affairs stressed on lack of investment and technological awareness and capability challenge as well. the participant stated that:

Technology itself does not automate all the time. Technologies as the technicians operate them and installed them. The functional time periods of are also affects by the operating knowledge, art and skills of the technicians. Lack of skillful manpower is also a cause of trouble. A skillful manpower behind the device to effectively operate it is important. Service recipients are also not technology friendly.

The complexity of managing and coordinating various technologies across multiple security agencies can also result in inefficiencies and delays in response times. Over reliance on technology might lead to the neglect of human oversight and judgment, which are crucial in handling unpredictable situations at borders.

c. Lack of legal aspects

Biometric data collection and surveillance systems, while effective in identifying threats, may infringe on privacy rights if not regulated properly. The global nature of technological tools raises questions about the jurisdictional boundaries of national laws, particularly when data crosses borders (Chimni, 2000).

Balancing security with humanitarian obligations is essential. Refugee and asylum policies must comply with international human rights standards (UNHCR, 2021). The ethical use of AI in border surveillance is necessary to prevent violations of privacy rights (European Data Protection Board, 2022). Nepal lacks a comprehensive policy framework for integrating advanced security technologies at its borders. The concerns about privacy, data protection, and human rights issues arise with the introduction of biometric surveillance and AI-driven monitoring systems (NIICE, 2023).

Lawful activity creates the legacy. It is concerned with responsibility and accountability. An interview participant from Department of Survey stated that:

The legal aspect is a challenge. Bilateral relation and multilateral concerns issues creates dilemma. Technological utilization in the border is also treated as per agreements, treaties and agreements. Clear law demarcation in the codified form is necessary. There is no border related separate law and policies in Nepal. Legal provisions systemize the roles and responsibilities. It is not clearly demarcated about the technological utilization in border related issues.

Border security technologies are compliant with both national and international legal frameworks is an ongoing challenge. The rapid pace of technological innovation often outpaces the development of corresponding legal norms and regulations, leaving security forces and legal authorities struggling to address emerging issues.

d. Cyber security

Cybersecurity becomes a significant challenge. Cyber-attacks on border systems could lead to the manipulation or compromise of sensitive data, disrupting border control processes, and even creating vulnerabilities in national security. Hackers targeting surveillance systems or border control databases could cause significant damage, such as identity theft or the illegal entry of individuals into secure areas (Gould, 2018). Robust cyber security infrastructure requires constant updates and monitoring to address evolving threats. There are concerns over the potential for cyber warfare and the difficulty of attributing attacks to specific actors, which complicates international cooperation on cyber security in border security contexts.

The increased reliance on digital security measures makes Nepal vulnerable to cyberattacks. Weak cyber security infrastructure and inadequate protection of sensitive border security data pose major risks (Shrestha, 2023). Hackers could exploit security system vulnerabilities, compromising national security (Adhikari, 2022).

An interview participant from Department of custom stated that data security is becoming a critical issue. Cyber world is full of challenges as well as potential threats. Misinformation and disinformation are spreading around and within the cyber space. It must be focus in the cyber security. Cybercrimes are as considered as physical boundaryless crime. It can attack from anywhere, for everyone and at any time. So, it can impact in border security aspects to making it a challenge.

e. Global compliance

Different countries have varying levels of technological development, which can result in discrepancies in the capabilities and implementation of security measures. Global organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) are working to create frameworks for technological compatibility and data sharing, but differing legal frameworks, technological standards, and security protocols can impede effective cooperation. Developing countries may face difficulties in acquiring and maintaining advanced technologies, creating inequalities in the global application of border security practices (WTO, 2022).

An interview participant from Department of Custom focused on the mandatory provisions of global compliance. He stated that:

The custom staffs of all over the world have speak the same language. It is considered as custom communication. It enhances the international trade facilitation. World trade organization and world custom organization are focusing on it. It helps for effective coordination and communication. Technological applicability is also in the same conceptual background. It is better for effective service delivery for the beneficiaries.

Nepal's custom system is adopting and utilizing global compliance. It is making mandatory for utilization of global standard technologies. The challenges and prospects are being compulsory for global norms, terms, and conditions. Therefore, it is a challenge and opportunity as well.

f. Open border

The introduction of advanced technology at open borders, while providing efficiency in security measures, presents specific challenges. Open borders inherently allow for the free movement of individuals, but integrating high-tech surveillance systems such as facial recognition or biometric scanning can lead to privacy concerns and public resistance (Newman, 2006). The challenge lies in ensuring that these technologies do not infringe on citizens' rights or lead to unnecessary surveillance, especially in regions with strong privacy laws. Managing cross-border data flows and ensuring interoperability between the security systems of different countries can be complex, particularly when open borders span multiple jurisdictions with varying security standards and technological capacities.

It was observed that there is open border system in the Nepal-India border for the movement of citizens of both countries. Only the peoples of two countries are moving freely from one to another. But the goods are not eligible for free transport. There is regulated system for goods from one country to another. Due to the free movement of person, criminals from one country can move to another country easily. It is a threat or challenge for effective border security.

It was also observed that the risk or challenge at all the time of transborder crime due free movement access to the peoples. It is also difficult to manage goods transportation facilitation due to limited custom offices in the border.

g. Maintenance

Maintaining advanced technology in border security is challenges, particularly due to the complex and expensive nature of the systems involved. Surveillance equipment, biometric systems, and drones require regular maintenance and updates to remain effective. Maintenance can be costly and time-consuming, especially in remote or difficult-to-access border areas (Shrestha, 2020).

During the key informant interaction, he focused in the maintenance issue. He insisted the aspects of side effects of technology and stated that:

The main challenge is unavailability of advanced technology. Technological presence poses the challenges. As newer technologies may require different infrastructure or software, necessitating frequent upgrades and replacements. These systems are always operational is a difficult task, as delays or breakdowns in technology can lead to significant vulnerabilities in border security. Adequate maintenance is mandatory for effective results.

Traditional border security methods, such as human patrols and physical barriers, remain the preferred approach for many security personnel in Nepal, leading to slow adoption of modern technology (Bista, 2021). Bureaucratic inefficiencies delay policy decisions and technological implementation (Dhakal, 2020).

Participants from Kakarvitta custom stated that the devices or the technologies need regular maintenance. Continuous supervision and proper effective and reliable maintenance are required for quality service delivery. It is related with technical manpower availability and the budget for the items are needed.

h. Coordination and collaboration

The border security requires close coordination and collaboration between various national and international agencies. One of the challenges is the lack of standardization of technological systems across countries, which can hinder the sharing of information and data between agencies (Buzan, 2006).

Nepal shares open borders with India and regulated border with China, making coordination in security operations crucial and challenging. Differences in border policies and security technology adoption between Nepal and its neighbors hinder effective monitoring and response (Joshi, 2022). Smuggling and transnational crimes exploit gaps in surveillance and enforcement (Vivekananda International Foundation, 2022).

An interview participant stressed in coordination and collaboration issues. He elaborated the internal and external coordination and collaboration contexts. He stated that:

Differences in technological capabilities, legal regulations, and operational protocols can create barriers to effective collaboration, leading to inefficiencies or delays in responding to border security threats. cross-border technological cooperation requires trust between nations, which can be difficult to establish, particularly in politically sensitive regions. In the internal agencies facing coordination and collaboration due to lack of technological integration.

An interview participant from APF, Nepal at Kakarvitta stated that effective coordination creates the environment of reliable cooperation and collaboration. Multisectoral agencies are involving in the border security governance. It was observed that in the ICPs and ICDs Birgunj as well as in Chobhar, there is involvement of non-state actors through intermodal transport management committee. It is responsible for transport and yard management. Multi ministerial linkage bodies are involving in border governance. Local government also playing roles in human security aspects. Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Land Reform etc are as part of border governance.

I. Disaster impacts

Disasters can disrupt technological infrastructure, such as communication systems or surveillance equipment, rendering them ineffective when they are needed most. In the aftermath of a disaster, the overwhelming number of displaced persons and the potential breakdown of border control systems can overwhelm high-tech security measures (Bakker, 2017).

Nepal's difficult terrain, including mountains and dense forests, poses significant challenges for installing and maintaining border security technology (Shrestha, 2021). Poor infrastructure,

including limited road access and disrupted electricity supply in remote areas, further hampers the deployment of surveillance systems (Dhakal, 2020). Extreme weather conditions, such as landslides, floods, and snowstorms, damage security infrastructure and disrupt electronic surveillance systems. Climate change has increased the frequency and intensity of such disasters, further complicating border security efforts (Earth Dialogue, 2023).

A local people as interview participant from Sunsari district focused in the disaster issues. He remembered the mega earthquake 2015 situation, covid 19 pandemic condition and mentioned that:

The disaster disrupts the normal life of people. Lose, damage, deaths, dead bodies, physical break downs, and critical health issues are possible due to the impacts of disasters. A mega disaster can create the chain of disasters. Nepal faced devastated 2015 earthquake and covid pandemic. It imposed hurdles in the border security. It was as major security challenges as those days. So, disaster impacts considered as border security challenge.

j. Human security

Border security is also instrumental in managing the safe passage of refugees and migrants, offering protection from conflict, persecution, and environmental hazards, which are core aspects of human security (Chimni, 2000). Maintaining the stability and resilience, effective border security is essential in fostering an environment where human security can thrive (Buzan, 2006).

Human security and effective border security are intrinsically linked, as a well-secured border helps safeguard individuals from a wide range of threats. Effective border security protects citizens from illegal activities such as human trafficking, terrorism, and the smuggling of drugs and weapons, which directly undermine public safety and social stability (Bajpai, 2000). Strong border controls are crucial for regulating the movement of people and goods, helping to protect economic interests and ensure the safe movement of resources (Newman, 2006).

An interview participant raised the issue of human security and expressed that human security components are concerned with effective border security. She stated that:

Human security is related with political, personal, community, environment, health, food and economic security. All these components are related with border security due to border area concerns. These components remain in the border areas of the states. These are connected and related with each other. Border security also related with all these components. Effective human security of Nepal definitely contributes the effective border security of Nepal.

Border security is linked with human security. Human security is major security aspect in the world and Nepal is no exception. Cross border activities are related with all those components of human security. As shown in Table 4.12 emphasized on human security aspect. Effective border security is connected and associated with the human security. Human security aspects are related with non-traditional security. It is based for human, nature and sustainable development for all.

Table 4.12

Components of Human Security

SN	Components of human security	Remarks
1	Economic Security	An individual's enjoyment of a basic income, either through gainful employment or from a social safety net
2	Food Security	An individual's access to quality food via his or her assets, employment, or income
3	Health Security	An individual's freedom from various diseases and debilitating illnesses and his or her access to health care
4	Environment Security	The integrity of land, air, and water, which make human habitation possible
5	Personal Security	An individual's freedom from crime and violence, especially women and children who are more vulnerable.
6	Community Security	Cultural dignity and to inter-community peace within which an individual lives and grow
7	Political Security	Protection against human rights violations

Source: UNDP Human Development Report, 1994.

Human security advocate, Caroline Thomas believes that human security is an integrative concept allowing for the bridging and interconnection of sector-specific threats to people in the international system, rather than states. For Thomas, human security means the provision of basic material needs and the realization of human dignity including emancipation from oppressive power structures, whether global, national or local in origin or scope (Thomas, 2004).

k. Difficult geographical locations

Nepal is a landlocked country located in South Asia with China in the north and India in the south, east and west. The country occupies 147,516 sq. km of land and lies between 28°N and 84°E. Nepal falls in the temperate zone north of the Tropic of Cancer. The entire distance from east to west is about 800 km while from north to south is only 150 to 250 km. Nepal has vast water systems which drain south into India. The country can be divided into five main geographical regions: Himalayan region, Mid hill region, Mahabharat range, Chure hills and the Tarai region. Within its north-south width, altitude varies from the Mt. Everest (top of the world) in the north to the Kechana Kalan in Jhapa (69 m) as the lowest point is in the Tarai plains.

A slight insight into the rapid rise of technology and scope of technology to exponentially enhance the efficiency and effectiveness presents to us the opportunity to widen scope of ICT integration in the policy and development management (Ghimire and Paudel, 2025). The appropriate and need based integration of ICT enables us for prompt data sharing among the respective government entities. A common framework and standard of data sharing architecture mitigates the issues of inconsistency among the data from different sectoral institutions.

It was observed that in the border areas of Nepal, there are the challenges as built-up areas, dense forests, rivers, cliffs, high hills and mountains. These aspects are also remaining as challenges for effective border security. Somehow, it is as opportunity from the view point of tactical aspect. But from the view point of effective utilization of advance technology in the effective border security, it is considered as challenge.

An interview participant assessed about the challenges due to geographical condition of Nepal. There geographical diversity in Nepal. He stated that:

Geographical location impacts in the plan formulation and implementation. Technological utilization effectiveness can be based on geography. The northern border of Nepal is located with the high Himalayas. It is difficult to patrol and surveillance over there. Other security activities are also difficult to conduct. Remote areas, river areas, dense forest areas, built up areas, and low temperature area difficult from the view point of technological utilization. So, difficult geographical locations are challenges as effective border security.

1. Technical error

A technical error is another key challenge in technological utilization. An interview participant from plant quarantine and pesticide management center focused in technical error as challenge. He stated that:

It is the failure, malfunction, or mistake in a system, device, or process due to technical reasons. These errors commonly occur in computing, engineering, telecommunications, and various digital applications. Common Causes of Technical Errors are software bugs, hardware failure, network issues, human error, power failures, system incompatibility etc.

The challenges are lack of clear mandate, lack of machines and devices, skilled manpower, proper maintenance and effective management. Through the minimization and the management of above-mentioned border security challenges, it is possible for effective border security of Nepal. Advanced technological utilization as much as possible is key for effective border security. It is as way forward or prospect of the effective border security of Nepal.

4.2 Discussion

Discussions in research is interpretation and synthesis of findings with the comparison of the previous studies. It includes the implications and limitations too. It focuses through the restate key findings. It is the base for summary and conclusion in the research. It is the part of critical analysis or comparative study in the study.

4.2.1 Contributions of use of advance technology in effective border security of Nepal

a. Enhances surveillance and monitoring

Among the literatures According to TW (2024), focuses in technology helps people work together, even when they're far apart. Shrestha (2020), emphasized in advanced technologies like drones, satellite imagery, and CCTV cameras enable real-time monitoring of border areas, even in remote and difficult terrains. Smith & Jones (2019) insisted that these tools help detect illegal crossings, smuggling, and other illicit activities, ensuring better control over the borders.

The interview participants also stated that surveillance is a main tool for security. Effective security is impossible without effective surveillance. It was observed the same during the field observation. Surveillance is one of the most common methods law enforcement officials use to investigate suspects and gather evidence advanced technology in the effective border security of Nepal.

During the field work, most of the participants involved in interviews stated about the significance of use of technology is effective surveillance and monitoring. The literature related to the significance also mentioned the same. Field observations also proved the responses of participants. So, enhanced the effective surveillance and monitoring is as the contribution in effective border security. Surveillance is the act of observing others in order to gather evidence.

b. Effective defensive and offensive operations

It was revealed that from the literatures, the radiological, biological, nuclear, chemical and cyber threat is everywhere in the globe. It is as common threats of the global security scenario. An interview participant focused in the emerging threats for the border security. He tried to about the conflict and warfare scenarios of the world and stated that Nepal must be focus in those threats for better security management in the border. It is the right time to address these issues in aligning these aspects. Otherwise, time flies so fast and. If Nepal does not invest in it, Nepal has to pay a lot in the future.

During the field work, most of the participants focused on the offensive and defensive capability. Border security is connected and associated with the sovereign security and security from encroachments in the border. Global trends also focusing on prioritization in the border security and enhancing security capability modernization. It is mandatory for effective border security and it contributes for effective defensive and offensive security operations in the adequate border security.

c. Artificial intelligence and big data analytics

Literature included that the technologies such as facial recognition, license plate recognition, and AI-powered analytics can help identify and track criminals, terrorists, and smugglers attempting to cross the border.

Most of the participants of interview interaction, they focused in transborder crime. They related and stated that Cross border crime is common problem of the neighboring countries. It is necessary for break the chain of criminals and criminal networks. The chance of technological utilization by the criminals is possible at all the time.

An interview participant in the Birgunj stated that transborder crime is a major threat for border security. He stated that the transborder criminals are using technologies. In India, border security forces are focusing in drone operation and anti-drone operation trainings. Border security force (BSF) is capturing drones from the India-Pakistan border which are using for transborder crime. In 2024, BSF caught 294 drones which were utilizing in illegal activities in the border areas. In these scenarios, use of advanced technology can help for the prevention from the criminal activities in the border.

d. Immigration and customs management

literatures revealed that the terrorism is a main threat to national security. It's not limits in the national boundaries. It is as transnational. It can utilize their weapon of terror anywhere at any time for their own suitable popular reason. Interview stated that Terrorism is a major nontraditional challenge for effective border security. Terrorists are looking safe haven for them.

Technological utilization shapes the effective operation and it helps for sound professionalism. Literatures, participants opinions, and interaction themes helped to understand about the use

of advanced technology insists for effective counter terrorism operation and it helps for effective national security.

e. Counter-terrorism and national security

Khanal (2020) emphasized that advanced technology can help detect and prevent the infiltration of terrorist elements and unauthorized armed groups. Integration of intelligence systems with border security technologies ensures a proactive approach to national security. Other literatures included that terrorism is a main threat to national security. It's not limits in the national boundaries. It is as transnational. It can utilize their weapon of terror anywhere at any time for their own suitable popular reason.

During the interaction, an interview participant stated that terrorism is a major nontraditional challenge for effective border security. Terrorists are looking safe haven for them. They are roaming one place to another and looking for loop holes. They are trying to find opportunities for them to employ their purpose. Technological utilization shapes the effective operation and it helps for sound professionalism. Literatures, participants opinions, and interaction themes helped to understand about the use of advanced technology insists for effective counter terrorism operation and it helps for effective national security.

f. Optimization of resource utilization

Sharma (2021) advocated that automation and technology reduce the reliance on manual patrolling, which is often resource-intensive and prone to human error. Technology trends is accepting and increasing day - by - day. During the interaction, a technical participant of stated that the main features of the technology are accuracy, automation and all time functional. It is a result based reliable uses and it helps for maximum utilization of resources. Technological optimization contributes for human resource and other resource management.

It was observed that all the immigration offices, airports, consul offices and embassies of Nepal who are working for visa process are interlinked and working integrated form due to utilization of technology. It is the optimization of resource utilization. It is considered a significance of advanced technology utilization. Technology contributes for economy. Most of the participant stated that the techno-based performances are reliable. Literatures, field observations, and

participants opinions are similar and aligned with the optimization of resource utilization. It helps for the effective border security of Nepal.

g. Data driven decision making

Bhattarai (2022) emphasized that big data analytics and AI can process vast amounts of data from border crossings, helping authorities identify patterns and predict potential security threats. This enables proactive measures rather than reactive responses. Tan, (2021) explores the use of AI in border security has been successfully implemented in Singapore, providing a model for Nepal.

Big data analysis can be possible by the utilization of technology. It works better instead of manual works. An officer interview participant stressed in technology to prevents from human error. Somehow, human can be bias. Humans can be influenced by interest groups and gangs or organized way. Technology helps for cross verification. It helps for validity and liability.

An interview participant of Kakarvitta stated that technologies help for real time information. It helps for integration with other systems. It works on the basis of data processing. It is as input for quick effective decision making and immediate response. An interview participant of APF Nepal stated that data driven automation system in the procedural work helps for reliable and fair performance. Literature's themes, participants opinions and field observations helped for the positive impacts of data driven decision makings in effective border security.

h. Strengthens international relations

Effective border management using advanced technology fosters trust and cooperation with neighboring countries India and China. It also demonstrates Nepal's commitment to global security standards, which can enhance its international standing (Thapa, 2020). For instance, the use of technology in border management has improved relations between the United States and Canada (Anderson, 2018).

The literature revealed that nation to nation or state to state good relation for effective communication, coordination and cooperation is important. It impacts the border security aspects. The interview participant also stated that Border is separating lines as well as joining lines of states. It is separating institution as well as connecting lines. It is also as bond between the nations.

Technologically well-equipped security is supportive for better international and neighborhood country relations. Technological integration also helps for communication. It can contribute for the strong relationship with each other. It was observed that state to state coordination is easy due to communication and connection through the technology. Technology is helping for connection and creating cooperation and collaboration.

In the border security, it was observed that digital technologies are utilizing in coordination with the counter parts. It helps for mutual cooperation and understandings. Literature themes, participants opinions, and field observations are in line. That's why utilization of technology in the border security strengthens the international relation.

i. Real time information and immediate response

The scholar's main inputs are real and timely information are main inputs and assets for the effective response in the reliable security. Secure borders facilitate legitimate trade and tourism, boosting the economy. Participant focused in intelligence statements also the same. Information is the key for effective security operation in the field.

Information inputs, shapes and guides for employment of security. Timely response is effective and delayed response is less effective at all. Most of the participants, literatures and field observation are in line with that the technologies are helpful for provide real time information and it is enhancing the timely response.

j. Easy for overcome security challenges

Rai (2020) explained that Nepal's diverse and challenging terrain, including mountains, forests, and rivers, makes traditional border patrolling difficult. Technology like drones and satellite imaging can overcome these challenges, providing comprehensive coverage. Participant also stated that technological utilization is helpful for counter and encounter with the security threats and challenges.

Participants argued that technology and techno friendly manpower behind the technology is as best friends to each another. They can analyze, find, deter, detect, confront and win over the threat. Technology for security is complimentary to each other. Threats and challenges are inevitable in the field of security management. Well management of threats and challenges are

as known as security. An interview participant stated that the technological utilization helps for threat assessment, findings, prevention and promotion of security.

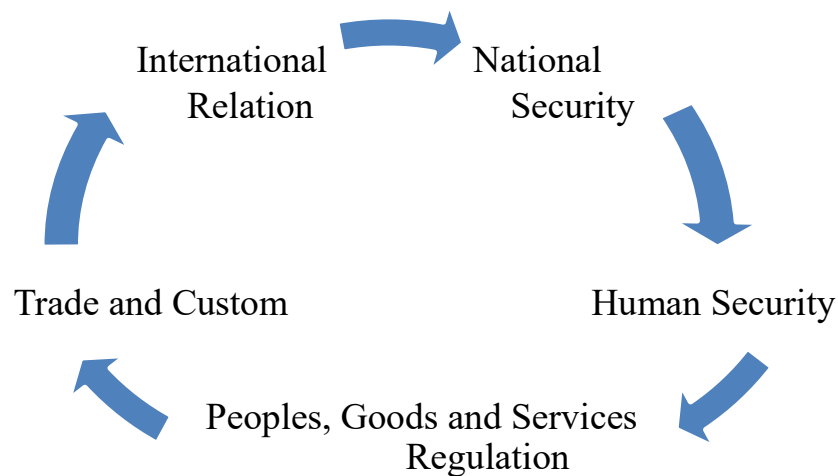
k. Grievances management of public

It was observed and understood that in the Nepal- India and Nepal-China border, India and China border guarding forces and immigration personnel are using x-ray screening machines for checking of goods, luggage and baggage. They put it only in the X-ray and allowing the peoples to in and out. But Nepal's APF, Nepal is checking all the items thoroughly and manually as much as possible. It was noticed that people are feeling harassment from Nepal's border guarding force. They are comparing with counterpart behaviors. But it felt that, it happened due to absence of technological utilization. In this regard, technology helps for grievances handling of the people.

Figure 4.6 incorporates the significance of use of technologies in border security. It contributes a lot for strong and sustainable foreign relation with the neighboring countries. Participants from immigration department and custom department focused on trade and custom facilitation through utilization of technology. They peoples, goods, and services effective regulation on the basis of safe and legal bases. Participants from APF, Nepal focused on national security and human security. As well as participant from ministry of home affairs focused on international relation. So, it is as significance of utilization of advanced technology.

Figure 4.6

Importances of Effective Border Security



Source: Researcher's Own Work, 2025.

Sharma (2024), incorporated that locals inhabiting border areas are important stakeholders of border management. Border population is susceptible to border criminals, indoctrination by terrorists, drug menace, counterpart threat, shelling and firing. Borders need development at par with mainland.

In nutshell, Technology is the base for security in depth. Technology is as the plus sense organs as security personnels. It is as mandatory and recommendatory component of border security. It helps for effective border security management and enhance the effective service delivery in border governance. Comparative study helps for enhance the capability of own. Best practices adoption from the others is ways for progress. Nepal can take lots of benefits from the neighboring countries. Both neighboring countries are focusing on technological modernization. Nepal can learn a lot for effective border security. Technological adaption makes the relation more bonding too. It is absolute ways for scientific as well. There are more other significances in the effective border security of Nepal from the use of advanced technology.

4.2.2 Prospects of use of advance technology in the effective border security of Nepal

Border security is a major national interest of the state. It is in a key point for strategic security of state. It is related with security management and facilitation of international trade, transport, custom, immigration and facility management. It plays role for trans-border crime prevention. It is related with recognition and identity of the state.

a. Physical security

Armed Police Force, Nepal is the border guarding force of Nepal with the primary responsibility of physical security. It prioritized its mandate and focusing in the border security. APF, Nepal's leadership conceptualized it as BIRD (Border security, Internal security, Revenue support and Disaster management) concept.

This study interacted and found that APF, Nepal is focusing and planning for smart, digital and technological border security with professional and skillful manpower. Message from the Inspector General of APF, Nepal emphasized in use of advanced technology. Border Security Department of APF, Nepal is responsible for operational activities of border security. One of

the key responsibilities of the Armed Police Force, Nepal is to ensure the security of the country's borders.

Literatures focused in the sound physical security for effective border security. Automated Border Checkpoints with AI-powered entry or exit points with biometric screening to process travelers efficiently is useful for effectiveness. Field observation, policies, practices, participant opinions, and literature all in aligned line. So, effective physical security is important for effective border security.

b. Surveillance and monitoring

literatures revealed that surveillance is most commonly used in law enforcement operations or in the military. Law enforcement and government agencies use surveillance to detect, prevent, and investigate crimes. An interview participant stated that surveillance refers the close observation. Close observations are base for real time information. It ensures for systematic and ground-based information.

APF, Nepal is monitoring 56 cameras of all over the Nepal. It was observed that it is focusing in the main entry points of the borders of Nepal. It is contributing for effective border security of Nepal and APF, Nepal is planning for the increasing of the cameras and coverage for more areas of border. There is mainly monitoring in the 56 locations of five provinces. Karnali and Gandaki provinces are planning to connect in direct networks.

It was observed that in the Koshi province, APF focused on surveillance in Kakarvitta area of Jhapa district and Rani area of Morang district. In the Madhes province, it was focused on Mardar area of Siraha district, Jaleswor area of Mahottari district, Gour area of Routahat district, and Birgunj area of Parsa district. In the Bagmati province it was focused in Timure area of Rasuwa district to the border of China in the North. Regarding the Lumbini province, it was focused in Danda area of Rupandehi district, Chakadchouda area of Kapilbastu district and Jamunaha area of banke district. In the Sudurpaschima province, it was focused in Trinagar area of Kailali district and Gaddachouki area of Kanchanpur district. The numbers written in figure with the province names in the figure indicates the number of monitoring cameras.

This study interacted with the Border Resource Research Center (BRRC). It reflected the further way forward for the APF, Nepal. Literature, field observation, interactions, discussions and practicing contexts are in line. It was ensured that the prospect of future regarding effective border security of APF, Nepal is focusing on the digital border, techno-based security management and security modernization as much as possible.

c. Artificial intelligence and big data analytics

Literatures revealed that AI analytics, biometric technologies such as facial recognition, fingerprint scanning, and iris recognition are transforming identity verification at border crossings. The top branches of AI are expert systems, natural language processing, neural networks, robotics, machine learning, fuzzy logic and computer vision.

An interview participant expressed that the artificial intelligence is a pertinent issue. It's area is widespread in the globe. Most of the sectors are related and connected with the AI and big data analysis. Security sector is obviously linked and it is an impacting or effecting factor in the security. It will be definitely increase in the upcoming days.

During the field visit, it was realized that the importance and the utilization of artificial intelligence is increasing day by day. AI is widely recognized in the field of technology. Regarding the prospects of use of advanced technology for the effective border security of Nepal, government of Nepal is going to focus in artificial intelligence. Recently, government of Nepal formulated artificial intelligence policy. There is provision of Composition of the Artificial Intelligence Regulation Council in the policy. In the AI policy, there is also provision of AI center and AI excellence center. It is believed that it helps enhancement and betterment of the AI utilization in the effective border security of Nepal in the upcoming days.

Key Advanced Technology Trends in 2025 indicates the evolution of technology day by day. Innovation is going on in the world. Technocracy impact is growing on. It is impacting on all aspects of life and issues. It also impacted border security. Development is depending in technology. Power dynamics and global major events impact in the security dynamics. These advancements not only improve the efficiency of border control processes but also ensure a higher level of accuracy in identifying individuals, making it harder for unauthorized persons to bypass security measures. These technologies impact in the border security technologies.

d. Internet of things and cybersecurity

Literature widely stressed and cleared that the Internet of Things (IoT) and Cyber threats pose a significant risk to border security. AI-driven threat detection and blockchain technology enhance data security and prevent unauthorized access to border management systems. Cybersecurity for border systems is crucial to safeguarding national security, preventing unauthorized access, and ensuring the integrity of sensitive data. Regular security audits and penetration testing can help identify vulnerabilities and enhance system resilience against evolving cyber risks.

Participants were focusing in the context content and stated that digital technology and cyberspace impact in governance is increasing. Internet is as enter in net where connections are available. Internet is associated with network and it works as net worth. Network as net of many works to each other. It is also as technology behind the technical mind. Nepal is trying to apply and adopt new policies and technologies for the betterment of the country and its governance.

There is National Cyber Security Implementation Committee *provision in* National Cyber Security Policy, 2024. It reflects the future prospects, priorities and possibilities. Government of Nepal approved the data and cloud service directives, 2025 and envisioned the regulation of provision of register and regulation of data and cloud services in Nepal. It definitely contributes for effective border security of Nepal.

During the field observation, policy reviews, interactions and discussions, it was widely noticed that Nepal has prioritized technological modernization. A participant stated that internet is best friend of all in recent day. As cyber threats continue to evolve, adopting a multi-layered cyber security strategy is imperative to safeguarding border infrastructure, ensuring secure data exchange, and maintaining national security.

e. Smart and integrated border management

An interview participant focused in the smart and integrated border security management. He emphasized on all stakeholder's role and expressed that border governance is combined integrated effort of governing agencies. It is directly related with sovereignty security, social security and service security. Literatures pinned that a well-managed border of a country improves trade, increases revenue; facilitate cross border movement and enhance the security

measures. There are many different agencies are involving in the border governance of Nepal. Mainly it can understand four areas of cooperation by border governing agencies. They are technical area, operational area, legislative area and institutional area. The border governing agencies of Nepal relies on operational, technical and legislative areas for cooperation.

All the border governance agencies are using the modern technologies. It was observed, interacted, discussed and found that APF, Nepal is the security organization deployed for the border security of Nepal. APF, Nepal is utilizing Close Circuit Television, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Global Positioning System, satellite phones, dog sniffing, Digital Cameras, detector machines etc. in the border security. The future prospects of effective border security of Nepal are planning and implementation for digital, smart and techno-based border security of Nepal.

During the field work, a participant interacted about the survey department utilizing technologies. He stated that the traditional tools for survey were plain table, chain survey and strip map using manual works. This study observed that the department of custom is utilizing the digital based technologies which are Nepal national single window (NNSW), Automated system for customs Data (ASYCUDA), Nepal customs automation system (NECAS), Mudda system, Personal baggage information management system (PBIMS), Beruju portal, Export import (EXIM) code portal etc.

The prospects of the custom department are modern advanced trade facilitation in global standard through the utilization of advanced technologies. It contributes for the effective border security of Nepal. Use of advance technology is key for effective and efficient service delivery as well as effective contribution in national security of Nepal. Department of Immigration of Nepal is using Nepali Port digital interface for visa process. It was observed that the border administration office is working with desktop computer. All the quarantine offices are integrated in NNSW system and lab-based technology. Intermodal transport management committee is using terminal management software for system integration with all stakeholders. It is assumed that these aspects are as better future connotations.

f. Technological integration and collaboration

Department Of Custom and Nepal intermodal transport development board are practicing technological integration. This study observed that the department of custom is operating Nepal National Single Window (NNSW) digital software as technological integration and collaboration with the stakeholders. According to the NNSW operation directives 2022, it

planned for integration of 48 stakeholders including all the ministries of government of Nepal. It is operating, monitoring and systemizing by department of custom of Nepal. Among the 48 stakeholders, the 33 stakeholders are integrated but 15 are remain for integration. It is operationalizing in the integrated way with the other all relevant aspects.

Nepal intermodal transport development board is functioning in integrated way with ICPs, ICDs and Integrated Components of ICPs and ICDs of Nepal. Cross-Border Cooperation & Intelligence Sharing. By strengthening institutional mechanisms, leveraging technology, and fostering trust with neighboring countries, Nepal can enhance its border security and effectively combat transnational threats. The literatures, field observations and participants opinions are in line. It is considered as a prospects of effective border security of Nepal.

g. Modern security technology

Modern offensive weapons technology is evolving in the world. Nepal has its own nuclear policy. According to national nuclear policy (2007), the world community has been involved in the study and research of nuclear science as the entire world is familiar with the fact that the level of nuclear science is an indicator of inherent power and symbol of prosperity of a nation. During the interactions, the participants were eager to know and understand the aspects of offensive weapon technology.

Modern defensive weapons technologies are key for effective border security. Automated defense systems, including ground sensors and electronic fencing, can trigger immediate responses to breaches, improving the efficiency of border security measures (Harris & Light, 2016). The integration of these technologies and defensive systems strengthens national security while minimizing risks to both security forces and civilians, ensuring a balanced approach to safety and human rights (Gould, 2018).

Space-based technologies, such as satellites, further augment aerial security by providing a broader and more comprehensive perspective. Satellites equipped with advanced imaging systems, radar, and communication capabilities can monitor border regions 24/7, regardless of weather conditions or geographical challenges. Synergy between aerial and space-based systems creates a multi-layered security framework that significantly enhances border protection.

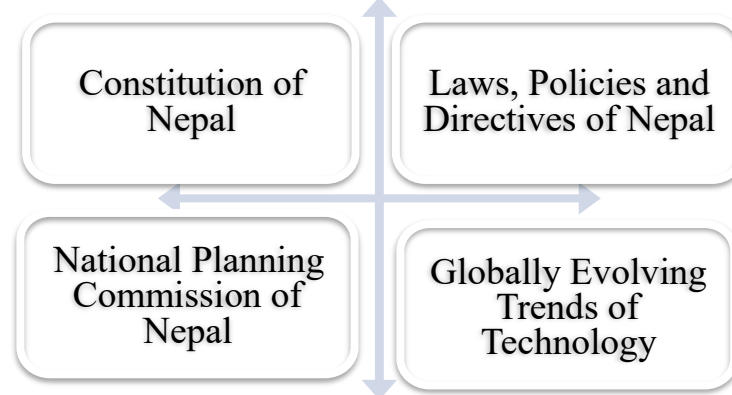
There is the policy provision of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2020. There is provision of National Science and technology Development and Coordination Council It is as hints for progress for future prospect in relevant field. It is necessary to enhance modern offensive weapon technologies for effective border security concern. Global trends are also relevant for these issues. So, it is an aspect of consideration for the effective border security of Nepal.

h. Key tools and prospects

Constitution of Nepal highlights for sound border security for national interest and national security. Many more policies highlight for technological adaptation. National security policy, cyber security policy, AI policy, nuclear policy etc. are insisting for technological adaptation. National planning commission is also incorporating technological capability enhancement. Figure 4.7 considered as guiding tool for the future prospects.

Figure 4.7

Guiding Tools for Adopt Advanced Technologies



Source: Researcher's Own Work, 2025.

Constitution of Nepal initiated the concept of effective border security of Nepal. Armed police act, 2058 provisioned border security of Nepal. National security policy focused in the effective border security too. Effective border security and advance technological utilization are compliment to each other. Advance technology in border security is the definite sound border security. Technology is as ways, tools and means for perfect security mechanism.

Time, resources, capabilities and availability with suitability of technology is important for more effectiveness. Priority effects in planning formulation and implementation. Periodic plans shape the implementation time schedules. It helps for the resource management for the plan execution. Border security is base of broader security of all other issues and trends. It impacts in other security and development related issues. So, it is very important and mandatory to manage well. Table 4.13 includes the prospects of technological utilization in the effective border security of Nepal.

Table 4.13

Prospects of Effective Border Security of Nepal

Short term	Mid term	Long term
More surveillance drones	Integrated data command center	Smart fencing
Thermal and night vision cameras	Blockchain transaction system	Unmanned ground vehicles
Mobile surveillance cameras	Advanced cargo scanners	Autonomous border patrol robots
More biometric system	E-gate system	Satellite based surveillance
Anti drone technology	Automated license plate recognition	Quantum encryption communication
Cyber security protocols	Ground sensors	Modern offensive and defensive weapons
NNSW integration	Advance Passenger Information System	Digital and techno-based border management
More scanner machines		

Source: Researcher`s Own Work, 2025.

Advance technologies are useful in the effective border security. The periodic prospects help for implementation of the plans in the basis of priorities. Literatures, interactions and practices of the many other countries or best practice of others helped for to form of short term, medium term and long-term technologies. it helps for effective digital and smart border security management of Nepal.

4.2.3 Challenges of use of advance technology in the effective border security of Nepal

a. Resource constraints

Shrestha (2020), explored that insufficient resource is a main challenge which is primarily related to cost, training, and infrastructure. Poudel (2021), emphasized in reliable internet connectivity and a stable power supply are crucial for the continuous functioning of digital surveillance and automated border control systems.

During the field work, it was observed that there was a lack of latest technologies in the customs/immigrations offices. Lack of budget, insufficient infrastructure, improper management, and lack of awareness are common lapses. In Pashupatinagar, the immigration office was not operatable due to lack of manpower and technology management. In the Kakarvitta, it was functional.

An interview participant in the Kakarvitta stated that there was no immigration service separate personnel system restate this sentence. The civil service personnel transfers to the immigration office and at the beginning, they are unaware about the technological system of immigration. The literature, field observation and participants opinions are aligned about the resource constraints which is as a challenge of technological utilization in the effective border security of Nepal.

b. Capability constraints

An interview participant from ministry of Home Affairs stressed on lack of investment and technological awareness and capability challenge as well. An interview participant stated that Technology itself does not automate all the time. Lack of skillful manpower is also a cause of trouble.

The complexity of managing and coordinating various technologies across multiple security agencies can also result in inefficiencies and delays in response times. Over reliance on technology might lead to the neglect of human oversight and judgment, which are crucial in handling unpredictable situations at borders. The literature, participants opinions, and field observations clearly remarks that the capability constraints are as challenges for the advance technological utilization of effective border security of Nepal.

c. Lack of legal aspects

Chimni (2000), described that biometric data collection and surveillance systems, while effective in identifying threats, may infringe on privacy rights if not regulated properly. Balancing security with humanitarian obligations is essential. Lawful activity creates the legacy. It is concerned with responsibility and accountability.

A participant from Department of Survey stated that the legal aspect is a challenge. Bilateral relation and multilateral concerns issues creates dilemma. Border security technologies are compliant with both national and international legal frameworks as an ongoing challenge. Through the literature, participants opinion, policy reviews and field observation ensure that the lack of clear provision of law is a key challenge effective border security.

f. Cyber security

literature revealed that cybersecurity becomes a significant challenge. Cyber-attacks on border systems could lead to the manipulation or compromise of sensitive data, disrupting border control processes, and even creating vulnerabilities in national security. There are concerns over the potential for cyber warfare and the difficulty of attributing attacks to specific actors, which complicates international cooperation on cyber security in border security contexts.

An interview participant from Department of custom stated that data security is becoming a critical issue. Cyber world is full of challenges as well as potential threats. Misinformation and disinformation are spreading around and within the cyber space. It must be focus in the cyber security. Cybercrimes are as considered as physical boundaryless crime. It can attack from anywhere, for everyone and at any time. So, it can impact in border security aspects to making it a challenge.

g. Global compliance

The rapid adoption of advanced technology in border security poses challenges for achieving global compliance with international standards. An interview participant from Department of Custom focused on the mandatory provisions of global compliance. He stated that the custom staffs of all over the world have speak the same language. It is considered as custom communication. It enhances the international trade facilitation.

According to literature sources, the global organizations United Nations, and world custom organization are practicing global standards in trade and custom facilitation. Nepal custom system is adopting and utilizing global compliance. It is making mandatory for utilization of global standard technologies. so, the challenges and prospects are being compulsory for global norms, terms, and conditions. Therefore, it is a challenge and opportunity as well.

h. Open border

The crux of the literature is the challenge lies in ensuring that these technologies do not infringe on citizens' rights or lead to unnecessary surveillance, especially in regions with strong privacy laws. It was observed that there is open border system in the Nepal-India border for the movement of citizens of both countries. Only the peoples of two countries are moving freely from one to another. But the goods are not eligible for free transport. There is regulated system for goods from one country to another. Due to the free movement of person, criminals from one country can move to another country easily. It is a threat or challenge for effective border security.

It was also observed that the risk or challenge at all the time of transborder crime due free movement access to the peoples. It is also difficult to manage goods transportation facilitation due to limited custom offices in the border. The literature, field observation and practices are same. So, open border system is a challenge in the effective border security of Nepal.

i. Maintenance

Maintenance can be costly and time-consuming, especially in remote or difficult-to-access border areas. During the interaction key informant, he focused in the maintenance issue. He insisted the aspects of side effects of technology and stated that the main challenge is unavailability of advanced technology. Technological presence poses the challenges.

Participants from Kakarvitta custom stated that the devices or the technologies need regular maintenance. Continuous supervision and proper effective and reliable maintenance are required for quality service delivery. It is related with technical manpower availability and the budget for the items are needed. So, effective maintenance of the technologies in time is crucial.

j. Coordination and collaboration

Joshi (20220, described that Nepal shares open borders with India and China, making coordination in security operations crucial and challenging. Smuggling and transnational crimes exploit gaps in surveillance and enforcement. The border security requires close coordination and collaboration between various national and international agencies.

An interview participant stressed in coordination and collaboration issues. He elaborated the internal and external coordination and collaboration contexts. He stated that differences in technological capabilities, legal regulations, and operational protocols can create barriers to effective collaboration, leading to inefficiencies or delays in responding to border security threats. An interview participant from APF, Nepal at Kakarvitta stated that effective coordination creates the environment of reliable cooperation and collaboration. Multisectoral agencies are involving in the border security governance.

It was observed that in the ICPs and ICDs Birgunj as well as in Chobhar, there is involvement of non-state actors through intermodal transport management committee. It is responsible for transport and yard management. Multi ministerial linkage bodies are involving in border governance. Local government also playing roles in human security aspects. Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Land Reform etc. are as part of border governance. So, adequate coordination among the bodies is a challenge.

I. Disaster impacts

The literature revealed that Nepal's difficult terrain, including mountains and dense forests, poses significant challenges for installing and maintaining border security technology. Extreme weather conditions, such as landslides, floods, and snowstorms, damage security infrastructure and disrupt electronic surveillance systems.

A local people as interview participant from Sunsari district focused in the disaster issues. He remembered the mega earthquake 2015 situation, covid 19 pandemic condition and mentioned that the disaster disrupts the normal life of people. Lose, damage, deaths, dead bodies, physical break downs, and critical health issues are possible due to the impacts of disasters. A mega disaster can create the chain of disasters.

The literature, participant opinions, and field observations aligned with the disaster impacts as a challenge for effective border security. The rapid movement of people in crisis situations may pose challenges for automated systems that require structured and predictable inputs. In such situations, border security must rely on a combination of high-tech and human-driven responses, which may not always be fully compatible.

j. Human security

Human security and effective border security are intrinsically linked, as a well-secured border helps safeguard individuals from a wide range of threats. Effective border security protects citizens from illegal activities such as human trafficking, terrorism, and the smuggling of drugs and weapons, which directly undermine public safety and social.

Border security is linked with human security. Human security is major security aspect in the world and Nepal is no exception. Cross border activities are related with all those components of human security. Human security advocate, Caroline Thomas believes that human security is an integrative concept allowing for the bridging and interconnection of sector-specific threats to people in the international system, rather than states.

An interview participant raised the issue of human security and expressed that human security components are concerned with effective border security. She stated that human security is related with political, personal, community, environment, health, food and economic security. All these components are related with border security due to border area concerns.

The literature, participants opinions, interacted and discussed themes related the human security is related with human security. Due to the emerging changes in economic, community, environment, health and food security challenges are related with border security challenges. So, it is considered as challenges of technological utilization.

k. Difficult geographical locations

The appropriate and need based integration of ICT enables us for prompt data sharing among the respective government entities. A common framework and standard of data sharing architecture mitigates the issues of inconsistency among the data from different sectoral institutions.

It was observed that in the border areas of Nepal, there are the challenges as built-up areas, dense forests, rivers, cliffs, high hills and mountains. These aspects are also remaining as challenges for effective border security. Somehow, it is as opportunity from the view point of tactical aspect. But from the view point of effective utilization of advance technology in the effective border security, it is considered as challenge.

An interview participant assessed about the challenges due to geographical condition of Nepal. There geographical diversity in Nepal. He stated that geographical location impacts in the plan formulation and implementation. Technological utilization effectiveness can be based on geography. The northern border of Nepal is located with the high Himalayas. The available literature themes, field observations, and participant opinions are in line regarding the geographical challenges. It is as natural phenomena of Nepal. It is being a technological service barrier.

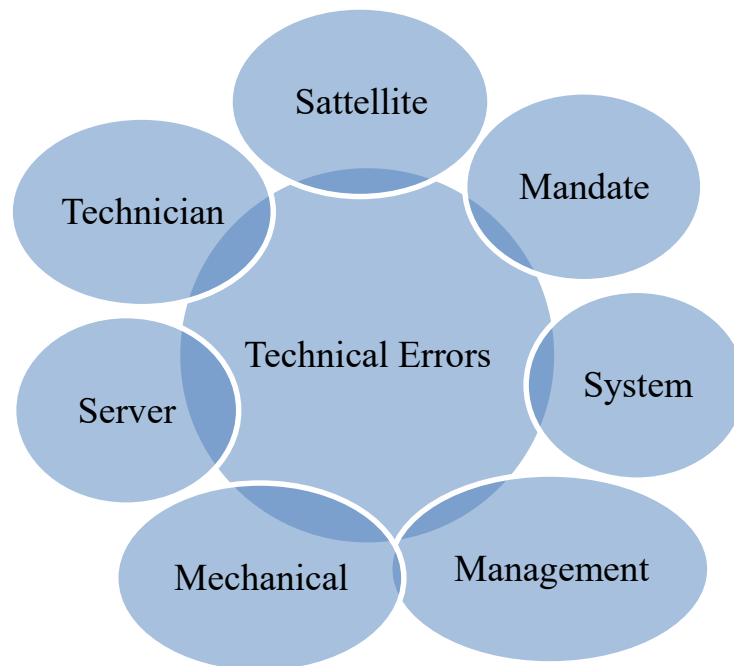
L. Technical error

An interview participant from plant quarantine and pesticide management center focused in technical error as challenge. He stated that it is the failure, malfunction, or mistake in a system, device, or process due to technical reasons. These errors commonly occur in computing, engineering, telecommunications, and various digital applications. Common Causes of Technical Errors are software bugs, hardware failure, network issues, human error, power failures, system incompatibility etc.

Figure 4.8 includes key technical error challenges of technology utilization. The challenges are lack of clear mandate, lack of machines and devices, skilled manpower, proper maintenance and effective management. Through the minimization and the management of above-mentioned border security challenges, it is possible for effective border security of Nepal. Advanced technological utilization as much as possible is key for effective border security. It is as way forward or prospect of the effective border security of Nepal.

Figure 4.8

Key Technical Error Challenges in Technology Utilization



Source: Researcher`s Own Work, 2025.

In nutshell, utilization of advance technology in the border security is the opportunity at all. For the implementation or practical applicability, it connects with the challenges. Overcome over these challenges are important in real ground. Nepal has to overcome over such challenges and must be manage effective border security. It is the necessity for the national security of Nepal. Inefficiency of management of technologies, lack of mandates for operationalize, unavailability of machines or devices for proper function, lack of skillful manpower and budgetary problems are as key challenges for the effective border security of Nepal.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary

Advanced Technologies are cutting edge innovations that push the boundaries of what currently possible. The integration of advanced technology in Nepal's border security presents significant opportunities for enhancing surveillance, threat detection, and overall operational efficiency. AI powered analytics can detect suspicious activities, while biometric systems, such as fingerprint and facial recognition, can streamline immigration processes and reduce illegal crossings.

The technological advancements have the potential to make border management more efficient and data-driven, allowing authorities to respond to threats proactively. The key significances of utilization of advanced technology in the border security are enhanced surveillance and monitoring, effective defensive and offensive operations, prevention of transborder crime, efficient custom and trade management, counter terrorism operations, reliable national security, optimization of resource utilization, strengthens international relations, real time intelligence, easy for overcome security challenges and effective grievances handling.

The prospects of advanced technological utilization in the effective border security are sound physical security, effective surveillance, continuous monitoring, adequate use of artificial intelligence, perfect use of internet of things, smart and integrated border management. It is also helpful for technological integration and collaboration. It helps for employ modern border security technologies.

Nepal faces significant challenges in implementing advanced border security technologies. One of the primary obstacles is the high cost of acquiring and maintaining such systems, which requires substantial investment in infrastructure and skilled personnel. Many of these technologies rely on high-speed internet, electricity, and secure data networks, which are not consistently available in Nepal's rugged and remote border regions.

Cyber security threats pose a major risk, as digital border systems can be targeted by hackers attempting to manipulate or steal sensitive information. The lack of a comprehensive cyber

security framework makes Nepal's border security infrastructure vulnerable to cyber-attacks, data breaches, and system failures, which could compromise national security. Secure cyber space is important for security, peace and development.

The challenges require the approach that includes increased government investment, international collaboration, and capacity building in technology and cyber security. Training law enforcement and border security personnel in digital literacy and cyber defense is crucial to ensuring the effective deployment of these technologies. Strengthening Nepal's cyber security policies and adopting global best practices will also play a vital role in safeguarding digital border systems. While the path to integrating advanced technology into border security is complex, strategic planning and investment can help Nepal overcome these challenges and build a more secure and efficient border management system.

Technological integration is the exemplary aspect of border governance agencies of Nepal. Department of Custom is operating Nepal national single window system. It was planning to integrate 48 agencies and out of them 35 agencies are functioning in integrated way. Only 13 agencies are remaining for integration. It is focusing in the technology friendly service delivery and transparent service provide for the beneficiaries.

Nepal intermodal transport development board is also providing service with the technological integration. Non state actors also collaborating with the trade and transport facilitation. Inland clearance deports and integrated check posts are managing, coordinating and facilitating by intermodal transport management committee in the field. It is managing through terminal management system. All the ICPs and IDPs are connected through technology and operationalize in integrated way. The integration is through the gate way software.

CCTV is widely utilizing technology by most of the border governance agencies. Security units, custom offices, immigration offices, quarantine offices, intermodal management committee offices, ICPs, IDPs, transport management offices, and private companies of trade facilitation are utilizing CCTV for surveillance, monitoring and record maintenance.

5.2 Conclusion

The utilization and adoption of the technology is increasing day by day. The replacement of technology is only with more advanced technology. It helps to become stronger, smarter,

resilient, effective, efficient, and reliable. Human resource and technology are complementary to each other. The advanced techno-based machine, device, tool and software with skillful techno friendly manpower is a need and will of all for worthy results. Effective border security of Nepal is possible through the utilization of use of advanced technologies of the world.

Effective border security requires a multi-faceted approach that integrates technology, legal frameworks, and international cooperation. Advancements in AI, biometric authentication, and cyber security will continue to shape the future of border management. While technological progress enhances security, maintaining ethical and humanitarian considerations is equally important. Effective border security and technology go hand in hand, as advanced technologies play a crucial role in protecting nations from threats, managing emergencies, and ensuring public safety. Effective border security is not just about walls and fences. it requires a combination of advanced technology, international cooperation, and strategic intelligence.

Expert Systems streamlining complex tasks to Natural Language Processing fostering seamless communication, Artificial Intelligence is poised to revolutionize numerous industries. By demystifying the different branches of AI, we can identify opportunities to leverage this technology for personal or professional growth. The integration of advanced technology in Nepal's border security is crucial for safeguarding its sovereignty, preventing cross-border crimes, and promoting economic growth. While challenges exist, strategic investments and international cooperation can help Nepal build a robust and modern border security system. This will not only enhance national security but also contribute to regional stability and development.

Technological integration among the border governance related agencies is crucial in the effective border security. It ensures the coordinated and collaborated effort for quality performance. Adequate legal provision for the utilization is mandatory for comply in the practical way. APF, Nepal is trying their best with the limited resources and moving forward for digital and techno based effective border security. Contribution for the technology is the right investment in national security. It helps for adopt best practices of the world and further innovation for fulfil the gaps and lapses.

Smart digital techno-based border security and system integration for the collaboration, coordination and cooperation in need basis is the right way for the effective border security of Nepal. Technology and technician may be costly in the beginning but it pays more, matters

more and sounds more. Quality service can be expensive in some extent but in the absence of quality service, it can be more expensive when it becomes late and it may be in the beyond of the control.

Realism perspective is related for effective border security and sound state power. Game theory is in the basis of continuity with strategic moves to win over the opponents. Technocracy needs to align with utilization of advanced technology for the effective border security of Nepal. Technology with the skillful technician is the decisive in the security operations. Technology works as frontier and first line of defense of the state. It works as communication and coordination tools for strengthen the international relation.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Interview script (purpose of data and information from custom / immigration / survey / APF Nepal, quarantine / border administration / intermodal / security personnels)

Name:

Office:

Designation:

Contact number:

- a) What do you mean by advance technology?
- b) What are the existing using advance technologies in the effective border security of Nepal?
- c) What are the prospects of better use advanced technologies in the effective border security of Nepal?
- d) What are the challenges for use of advanced technologies in effective border security of Nepal?
- e) How the advance technologies contributes in effective border security?
- f) What are the advance technologies using in the effective border security of Nepal?
- g) Why is the effective border security important
- h) How the effective border security can be managed?
- i) Who are responsible for the effective border security in Nepal?
- j) Other additional remarks

Signature:

Date:

Appendix B

National Science and technology Development and Coordination Council

1.	Minister, Education, Science and Technology Ministry	President
2.	Member, National Planning Commission (looking after the concerned sector)	Member
3.	Vice Chancellor, Tribhuvan University	Member
4.	One Vice Chancellor from other universities	Member
5.	Secretary, Ministry of Finance	Member
6.	Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs	Member
7.	Secretary, Ministry of Industries, Commerce and Supplies	Member
8.	Secretary, Ministry of Defense	Member
9.	Secretary, Ministry of Forest and Environment	Member
10.	Secretary, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transportation	Member
11.	Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation	Member
12.	Secretary, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology	Member
13.	Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development	Member
14.	Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population	Member
15.	Secretary, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General	Member
16.	Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	Member
17.	Vice Chancellor, Nepal Science and Technology Academy	Member
18.	Executive Director, Nepal Agriculture Investigation Council	Member
19.	President, Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries	Member
20.	One person from the related organizations	Member
21.	Four persons, including at least two women, from the renowned scientists and technicians working in the field of science, technology and innovation	Member
22.	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	Member
		Secretary

Source: National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, 2019. Government of Nepal, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

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