INTELLIGENCE IN INTERNAL SECURITY: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES IN NEPAL

A Thesis

Submitted to APF Command and Staff College,

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,

Tribhuvan University

in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of

Master's Degree in Security, Development, and Peace Studies

Submitted by

ASHOK PAUDEL

9th Batch (2080-082)

Roll No: 123740113

TU Registration No: 7-2-48-2770-2005

APF Command and Staff College

Sanogaucharan, Kathmandu, Nepal

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DECLARATION

I, ASHOK PAUDEL, hereby declare that this research paper, titled **"INTELLIGENCE IN INTERNAL SECURITY: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES IN NEPAL"** submitted to the **APF Command and Staff College,** is my original work, conducted under the guidance and supervision of **Prof. Dr. Ramesh Raj Kunwar.** I have duly acknowledged all sources of ideas and information referenced in the preparation of this paper. Furthermore, I confirm that the findings of this research have not been previously presented or submitted for any academic degree or any other purpose. I also affirm that no part of this research paper has been published in any form before. If any evidence contradicting this declaration is found, I accept full responsibility.

…….

Ashok Paudel

APF command and Staff College

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled **INTELLIGENCE IN INTERNAL SECURITY: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES IN NEPAL** has been prepared by Mr. ASHOK PAUDEL under my guidance and supervision. I hereby recommend it in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Security, Development and Peace Studies Final Examination.

.....

Prof. Dr. Ramesh Raj Kunwar

Thesis Supervisor

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

This thesis, titled **INTELLIGENCE IN INTERNAL SECURITY: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES IN NEPAL** submitted by **ASHOK PAUDEL** to the APF Command and Staff College, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a MASTER'S DEGREE IN SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT, AND PEACE STUDIES has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as part of the said degree.

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Ashok Paudel

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the critical role of intelligence in internal security of Nepal, analyzing its definitions, applications, and effectiveness in safeguarding national interests. Intelligence is examined as a product, process, and mission integral to informed decision-making and proactive security strategies. Drawing from both Western and Asian perspectives, the study highlights how intelligence is perceived and applied in various contexts, including military, law enforcement, and policy formulation. The research employs a qualitative approach, utilizing content analysis of legal frameworks, academic literature, and interviews with current and former officials from intelligence and security agencies in Nepal. Findings reveal that intelligence significantly contributes to internal security by aiding strategic planning, resource allocation, and inter-agency coordination. It enables military preparedness, law enforcement effectiveness, and national security resilience by anticipating threats such as cybercrime, terrorism, and organized crime. However, intelligence practices in Nepal face several challenges, including weak legal frameworks, poor coordination, outdated technology, and insufficient oversight mechanisms. The study identifies a lack of clear separation between foreign and domestic intelligence, inadequate real-time information sharing, and limited integration of intelligence-led approaches in law enforcement. Drawing lessons from international intelligence practices such as those of the UK and India, the study underscores the need for Nepal to modernize its intelligence infrastructure, enhance collaboration between agencies, and improve accountability. Strengthening intelligence-sharing mechanisms, investing in advanced surveillance technologies, and ensuring better prioritization in intelligence assessments can significantly enhance national security preparedness. By addressing these gaps, Nepal's intelligence community can shift from a reactive to a proactive security approach, contributing to a more stable and resilient internal security framework.

Keywords: Intelligence, internal security, law enforcement, national security

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
APA	American Psychological Association
APF	Armed Police Force, Nepal
CI	Counter Intelligence
DCAF	Democratic Control of Armed Forces
DIA	Defense Intelligence Agency
HUMINT	Human Intelligence
IB	Intelligence Bureau
ILP	Intelligence-Led Policing
ISIS	Islamic State in Iraq and Syria
JIC	Joint Intelligence Committee
LEAs	Law Enforcement Agencies
MI5	Military Intelligence
NA	Nepali Army
NID	National Investigation Department
NP	Nepal Police
NSC	National Security Council
NSP	National Security Policy
OPMCM	Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers
TECHINT	Technical Intelligence
UK	United Kingdom

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The term ‘intelligence’ is originated from a Latin word that originally meant to perceive, comprehend and was linked to several general abilities of the person that will ultimately help one to survive or adjust in the environment (Kunwar, 2021).

There are different ideas of intelligence and these ideas manifest themselves in varying ways but most and perhaps all practitioners and students in the field of security agree that intelligence helps leaders acquire and utilize information against competitors (Stout & Warner, 2018). Most intelligence scholars and practitioners agree that intelligence also entails Counter Intelligence (CI) to protect the integrity of the intelligence function from foreign threats (Stout & warner, 2018).

Intelligence involves activities like the gathering, analysis, and distribution of data essential for comprehending, forecasting, and countering these threats, such as monitoring terrorist activities, cyber operations, and organized crime (Juneau & Carvin, 2021). Davies and Gustafson (2013) have introduced the idea of ‘core functions’ of intelligence, these core functions include setting requirements, collection, analysis, and dissemination.

National security comprehends strategies and measures adopted by governments to protect against various threats, including military aggression, terrorism, cyberattacks, and economic vulnerabilities (Williams, 2018). Similarly, Qureshi (2021) also argued that internal security involves maintaining peace within a nation's borders by upholding national law and defending against internal threats.

Putra et al. (2021) emphasized that in today's fast-paced information environment, a government's ability to effectively communicate during crises is paramount to maintaining stability and public trust. Additionally, internal security is intricately linked to national security, as internal disruptions can have significant international repercussions, affecting a country's global standing and relations with neighboring states (Johnson, 2017).

Intelligence plays role in threat detection to strategic decision-making, ensuring timely responses, and facilitating coordination among security agencies, as a systematic process of gathering, analyzing, and disseminating information, and serves as the backbone of internal security efforts (Burke, 2022). And intelligence contributes in internal security by gathering, analyzing, and disseminating crucial information necessary for understanding, predicting, and mitigating these threats.

In spite of advancements in intelligence methodologies, there are persistent gaps in the timely and accurate dissemination of intelligence information to relevant stakeholders, as Burke (2022) suggested. This inadequacy can lead to uncoordinated responses to threats, reducing the effectiveness of internal security measures. Furthermore, internal disruptions can have far-reaching international implications, affecting a nation's global standing and diplomatic relations, as emphasized by Johnson (2017).

The problem is compounded by the need for intelligence agencies to balance proactive threat detection with the protection of civil liberties and public trust, a challenge that Lemieux (2018) discussed. The intersection of advanced technological tools, ethical considerations, and the need for international cooperation requires a fine approach to intelligence operations.

To have the better understanding of the term ‘intelligence’ and its other aspects, this study has segregated scholars and literature as ‘Eastern’ and ‘Western’. The conceptual division between Western and Eastern civilizations is deeply rooted in historical, philosophical, and political traditions that have evolved over centuries.

Western civilization, primarily encompassing Europe and North America, has been shaped by ancient Greek philosophy, Roman law, the Renaissance, and the Enlightenment, which fostered a cultural ethos centered on individualism, rationalism, and scientific inquiry (Nisbett, 2003). Politically, Western societies emphasize democratic governance, personal autonomy, and the protection of individual rights, reflecting a tradition of questioning authority and valuing personal freedom (Wallerstein, 2006). This individualistic orientation encourages self-expression and personal achievement, shaping various aspects of social and political life (Acharya, 2023).

In contrast, Eastern civilization, which includes countries such as China, Japan, and India, has been shaped by philosophical traditions like Confucianism and Buddhism, which emphasize collectivism, social harmony, and respect for authority (Sellers, 2022). The cultural focus is on

community well-being and adherence to established social norms, which often results in governance structures that prioritize communal goals over individual desires (Balbo et al., 2021). Political systems in Eastern societies tend to reflect hierarchical and consensus-based approaches, fostering a sense of duty to family and society (Nisbett, 2003). However, it is important to acknowledge that these distinctions are generalized, as globalization and cultural exchange have led to significant overlaps and integrations between Eastern and Western ideologies in the contemporary world (Acharya, 2023).

As the term 'intelligence' has various meanings in relation to the field it is used for, the meaning is related more about the foreknowledge about the ideas and issues needed for the decision makers of the security field. Similarly, the agency established for such responsibility is also termed as intelligence, which is otherwise named as intelligence agency. The process, and output in the form of information is also termed as intelligence, making it usable in multi aspects.

With varying functions like collection, analysis, dissemination, CI, the intelligence basically plays role in maintaining internal security, where internal security being a part of national security, encompasses the various activities aimed in maintaining law and order, also needs such intelligence. While internal security faces multiple challenges like cybersecurity, ideological extremism, natural disasters, trade irregularities, intelligence contributes by informing decision makers to overcome such challenges.

Intelligence faces challenges like lack of motivation and resources, priority of leadership, competitiveness, technology, coordination, and many others, while performing its role. But such challenges can be overcome and the practitioners have more realistic ideas on that area, which is tried in this study.

The constitution of Nepal (2015), being law of the land, has mentioned about the issues of national security in different parts along with provisions concerning National Investigation Department (NID), Nepal Police (NP), and Armed Police Force, Nepal (APF) in article 268. Similarly, Nepal Government regulations on its work division, and work execution have further cleared the responsibilities related to national security aspects belonging to Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM), internal security to Ministry of Home Affairs along with different aspects of security to other ministries as well.

Nepal Special Service Act (1985) is the guiding act for the NID which is very precise and does not have details about its roles and responsibilities, which are provisioned in the Nepal Special Service Regulations. But the provisions made in the Act restricts the regulations to be available in the open domain. Thus, the legal documents of Nepal do not define intelligence.

But in respect to the roles, NSP (2016) of Nepal is the only document available in open domain, that has mentioned the roles of the NID, which are mentioned in Appendix 'B' and described as below.

To safeguard the nation's security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, responsibilities include collecting, analyzing, and disseminating intelligence related to threats against Nepal's freedom, unity, and social cohesion. It also has to closely monitor activities that violate the Constitution, laws, and state interests, identifying individuals and organizations involved in such actions. It also has to provide critical insights on national security and CI, assisting the government in making informed decisions.

Its role furthers to gather intelligence on political, economic, social, religious, and diplomatic activities that may pose a risk to national interests and ensures that the relevant authorities are informed to take necessary actions. NID is responsible for monitoring and analyzing both domestic and foreign threats, including espionage, terrorism, and organized crime networks that could endanger national security. It needs to track intelligence and CI activities, particularly those targeting Nepal from within and outside the country.

The department also has to focus on preventing economic crimes such as corruption, financial irregularities, and revenue leakages, which could have a detrimental impact on the national economy. Formulating long-term strategic plans to strengthen its capabilities, ensuring that it remains a reliable and effective intelligence agency is another role. In alignment with constitutional provisions and national laws, NID should perform additional duties as mandated by the Government of Nepal, reinforcing its role in maintaining national stability and security.

Thus, to understand the concept of intelligence in security, its role and contribution in internal security, and challenges of intelligence practice in Nepal, the study has gone through different literature from the scholars of 'West' and 'East'. Similarly, it has also looked into the legal provisions about the internal security and intelligence roles. And finally, the study had tried to cover the understanding of the practitioners' views about the idea, role, contribution, and challenges in practice.

With the categorization of the sources based on civilization and political ideology into Western and Eastern, and collection of understanding of the practitioner, this study aims to explore the understanding about the intelligence in security field, and the role played by intelligence in internal security. Similarly, it also aims to explore how intelligence effectively contributes to prevent and mitigate internal security challenges with special focus to Nepal. Specifically, it seeks to identify the aspects of theoretical assumptions, legal provisions, and prospect of key stakeholders like law enforcement agencies (LEAs), military, intelligence, and coordination mechanism. Finally, it will analyze the gap between theoretical assumptions, legal provisions, and major stakeholders as mentioned above, again being focused in Nepal.

1.2 Research Questions

This research was guided by the following research questions:

1.2.1 What are the major roles of intelligence in internal security of Nepal?

1.2.2 How does intelligence contribute to prevent and mitigate internal security challenges of Nepal?

1.2.3 Why are there challenges with Nepal's existing intelligence practices?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The study had aim to meet the following objectives in regard to Nepali intelligence community while relating with international development:

1.3.1 To explore the roles of intelligence in internal security of Nepal.

1.3.2 To assess the intelligence contribution to prevent and mitigate internal security challenges.

1.3.3 To analyze the challenges of existing intelligence practices in Nepal.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study holds significant importance in understanding intelligence in the area of internal security, through the comparison of Eastern, Western views along with empirical experiences

of Nepali stakeholders, especially in the context of evolving security challenges and the increasing interconnectedness of global systems. In Nepal, where internal security challenges are often compounded by limited resources, competitiveness of the personnel, clear demarcation of responsibilities, political and bureaucratic leaders' priority, and technological constraints, the study is particularly relevant. It highlights the critical need to modernize Nepal's intelligence infrastructure while drawing lessons from international best practices.

The research also looks to assess the intelligence contribution to prevent and mitigate the challenges in internal security respecting civil liberties, fostering public trust, and ensuring ethical conduct in intelligence operations. This study also provides a platform for the analysis of Nepali intelligence practice and its challenges based on major factors like resources, capabilities, work division, and how innovations, such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics, can revolutionize intelligence practices, making them more responsive and proactive. The outcomes of this research could serve as a roadmap for Nepal and other nations in similar conditions, facing similar challenges in strengthening their internal security frameworks.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

The limitations of the study are listed below as:

a) It is limited to the concept of intelligence which deals with internal security and agencies with such responsibilities in Nepal.

b) This research, limited to publicly available sources, defying the use of restricted, classified or sensitive information, might impact the effectiveness of the study.

c) The sensitivity of the security applications and limited availability of practitioners to share the deep knowledge has limited in getting better overview of the subject.

d) The ethical and legal considerations surrounding intelligence practices impacted in obtaining a balanced perspective on the role performed by intelligence and their societal impact.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A literature review is "the process of searching for, reading, summarizing, and synthesizing existing work on a topic or the resulting written summary of the search" (Adler & Clark, 2011, p. 89). The primary purpose of a literature review is to help researchers become familiar with the work that has already been conducted in their selected topic areas (Geoffrey et. Al., 2005).

In this part of the study, literature related to major areas of the study are briefly reviewed as following:

2.1 Major Theories of Intelligence for Internal Security

Various intelligence theories help explain the mechanisms through which intelligence operates, its role in policy formulation, and the challenges associated with intelligence failures. These theories provide a structured approach to understanding intelligence as both a process and a strategic tool for state security. The following section discusses key intelligence theories relevant to internal security, intelligence-led decision-making, and the challenges faced by intelligence mechanism in Nepal.

2.1.1 Intelligence Cycle Theory

The Intelligence Cycle Theory provides a structured framework for intelligence operations, emphasizing a systematic approach to gathering, processing, analyzing, and disseminating intelligence (Lowenthal, 2017). This theory is particularly relevant to internal security, as it ensures intelligence agencies function efficiently by following a continuous loop of planning and direction, collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination. Effective intelligence cycles help security agencies prevent and respond to internal security threats, such as terrorism, organized crime, and cyber threats.

2.1.2 Intelligence as a Tool for State Policy

Intelligence plays a crucial role in shaping state policies by providing decision-makers with timely and relevant information on security threats, political stability, and economic conditions

(Gill & Phythian, 2018). This perspective views intelligence as more than just information gathering; it is a strategic tool that influences national security policies and defense strategies. For instance, intelligence assessments guide counterterrorism measures, border security policies, and diplomatic decisions. In Nepal, intelligence is used for national security and political stability; however, its effectiveness is often compromised by political interference and lack of coordination among intelligence agencies (Shrestha, 2023).

2.1.3 Intelligence Failure and Organizational Theory

The theory of intelligence failure explains how bureaucratic inefficiencies, poor coordination, and cognitive biases can lead to lapses in security and major intelligence failures (Betts, 2007). Lessons from intelligence failures worldwide suggest that reforms, better training, and improved coordination mechanisms can mitigate these risks and enhance national security (Grongstad & Lasoen, 2020).

2.1.4 Intelligence-Led Policing (ILP) Model

The Intelligence-Led Policing (ILP) model focuses on the proactive use of intelligence to prevent crimes and internal security threats (Ratcliffe, 2016). This model emphasizes data-driven decision-making, real-time intelligence sharing, and strategic law enforcement operations to counter criminal activities effectively. ILP has been successfully implemented in Western countries, enhancing crime prevention and counterterrorism efforts.

2.2 Security

The language of security has deep Roman and Greek roots (Rothschild, 1995; Arends & Frederik, 2008) connected with images of freedom from care or concern, but the crystallization of a distinctly modern preoccupation with security coincides with the rise of the modern state. Security, for Thomas Hobbes, is a precondition for civil and law governed life, and requires political institutions to provide that which individuals in the state of nature cannot obtain, since "we cannot expect security from others, or assure it to ourselves" (Hobbes 1998 (1651)). This multifaceted nature renders security a complex and often contested concept, as it involves diverse threats and protective measures across different contexts (Baldwin, 1997).

The classical concept of security has been predominantly state-centric, focusing on the protection of a nation's territorial integrity and sovereignty from external military threats. This perspective emphasizes the role of national defense and military capabilities in safeguarding the state against aggression. The realist school of thought in international relations underscores this view, positing that states operate in an anarchic international system where security is achieved through power and deterrence (Walt, 1991).

In contrast, modern interpretations of security have expanded beyond the narrow confines of military threats to encompass a broader range of concerns. This evolution reflects the recognition that non-military issues, such as economic stability, environmental challenges, and human rights, significantly impact national and international security. The concept of human security, for instance, shifts the focus from state security to the protection of individuals, addressing issues like poverty, health, and personal safety (Krause, 2018).

With the basic meaning of freedom from care or concern to the classical concept of security centers on state sovereignty and military defense, modern perspectives advocate for a more comprehensive approach that includes various dimensions affecting both states and individuals. This understanding acknowledges the complex and interconnected nature of contemporary security challenges, necessitating complicated strategies and policies.

2.3 Internal Security

Internal security involves measures implemented by nations to protect their sovereignty, constitutional order, and public safety from threats originating within their borders.

According to Romaniuk et al. (2023), the concept of homeland security extends the traditional notion of internal security to include broader threats such as natural disasters and pandemics. These challenges encompass terrorism, espionage, organized crime, cyberattacks, and civil unrest. Additionally, organized crime and civil unrest pose substantial challenges to internal security, as they can destabilize societal structures and undermine public safety (Bjelopera & Finklea, 2012).

Effective internal security measures not only protect national interests but also contribute to regional and global security frameworks, thereby fostering diplomatic engagement and international cooperation in combating transnational threats (Miller & Vaccari, 2020).

Espionage activities have been identified as significant threats to national security, with foreign actors engaging in cyber espionage to access sensitive information (Borghard & Lonergan, 2021).

Comprehensive perspective is essential for addressing the multifaceted nature of internal threats and for developing effective strategies to mitigate them (Qureshi, 2021). Internal security strategies are pivotal in maintaining social stability and preventing the erosion of trust in government institutions. Effective governance relies on robust internal security measures to uphold the rule of law and ensure public safety, thereby fostering confidence in state institutions (Burgess, 2025).

Thus, as the measures implemented by nations to protect sovereignty, border integrity, constitutional order, and many other challenges, effective strategies to mitigate them is necessary to uphold the rule of law and ensure public safety.

2.4 Intelligence

Herman (2001) defined intelligence as a particular kind of knowledge, the type of organization producing this knowledge, and the activity pursued by the organization. Johnson (2007) described intelligence as the knowledge and foreknowledge of the world around us and for that, most intelligence gather reliable, timely information about the world, as well as to assess its meaning accurately.

Johnson (2017) further took the intelligence categorizing into product, process, and missions described as the knowledge and foresight of the world around us constitute intelligence as a product; nevertheless, it differs from ordinary information in that it typically contains a secret component. The process by which intelligence is developed is known as ‘intelligence cycle’. It is a group of individuals and institutions created to fulfill three tasks: gathering and analyzing information, conducting covert operations, and CI. Reliable information is gathered through collection and analysis, history is discreetly altered through covert activities, and a country's secrets are protected from outside threats by CI.

The covert actions mentioned above are described by Johnson (2017) as an attempt to change the course of history secretly, through the use of propaganda, political and economic operations, and paramilitary activities. Similarly, CI is the act to guard a nation's secrets and

institutions against secret penetration and deception by hostile foreign governments or factions or, in the case of terrorists, their outright attack against the nation.

According to Stout and Warner (2018), intelligence helps leaders acquire and utilize information against competitors, entails CI to protect the integrity of the intelligence function from foreign threats. While the functions mentioned above might seem similar to the functions performed by other government agencies, but difference can be seen as information is always used by the state, some of such information, which frequently refer to as intelligence, calls for particular procedures or processing. They disseminate this information as intelligence since some of the information that operations generate as a byproduct may also be of interest to others. Therefore, intelligence is what intelligence agencies do, and their actions are influenced by strategic culture, interagency interactions within the government, and the leader's wishes.

Discussing on differences, Lowenthal (2020) claimed that intelligence is distinct from other government functions due to its secrecy, which governments use to protect information from other governments, which in turn seeks to discover it. This secrecy can cause concern to citizens, particularly in democratic countries. Regarding intelligence as agency, Johnson (2017) explained as government's specialist on certain collection and exploitation methods, but partly also the expert on certain subjects, using both intelligence and non-intelligence material for its all-source analysis.

Meanwhile, Lemieux (2018) had different view, defining intelligence can be thought of as that which states do in secret to support their efforts to mitigate, influence, or merely understand other nations (or various enemies) that could harm them. Cawthra and Luckham (2003) defined intelligence not just any government activity along with other security functions, but has a “peculiarly intimate relationship to political power”.

Now, while discussing about the Chinese view, here will be appropriate to put Sun Tzu forward (Eftimiades, 1993), who had many uses for espionage and spies: as agents, informers, assassins, and counter-spies. Intelligence as rendered in Chinese implied information that is actionable, it was as early as 1915, the standard scholarly dictionary (Cihai) defined ‘intelligence’ as being ‘wartime reports on the adversary’s condition’. Meanwhile, Hughes and Chen (2018) claimed that one of the reasons Chinese intelligence operations do not seem to make sense to observers is that they mistake intelligence for the theft of secrets.

Continuing on eastern view, classical Hindu texts such as the *Mahabharata*, *Ramayana*, and *Arthashastra* provided extensive insights into the use of intelligence in statecraft and warfare. Kautilya's *Arthashastra* (c. 4th century BCE) is one of the earliest treatises on political strategy, emphasizing espionage, CI, and covert operations as essential tools for governance and security (Boesche, 2003). Similarly, the *Mahabharata* illustrated the strategic use of spies, as seen in Krishna's advisory role, where intelligence gathering and deception play crucial roles in military planning (Yadav & Yadav, 2024). The *Ramayana* also highlighted intelligence operations, particularly through Hanuman's reconnaissance mission in Lanka, demonstrating the significance of surveillance and information gathering in warfare (Yadav & Yadav, 2024). These ancient texts emphasized the foundational role of intelligence in governance, diplomacy, and security, reflecting principles that continue to influence modern intelligence practices.

In Nepali context, Kunwar (2021) discussed about varieties of concept of intelligence and its application arguing human's intelligence as an important construct being used to apply skills, knowledge and ideas in different fields. The discussion of different theories, broadly grouped into four main types being psychometric theories, cognitive theories, cognitive-contextual theories, and biological theories is done by the scholar. Similarly, discussion of intelligence studies in diverse areas like emotional, cultural, spiritual, tourism and artificial, military, and pandemic is done. The exploration of intelligence agencies around the world covering United States of America, NATO and their use of Human Intelligence (HUMINT), Signal Intelligence (SIGINT), Imagery Intelligence (IMINT) etc. is explained. Discussing about the intelligence studies in Nepal, the scholar mentioned the works about intelligence relation with foreign policy, AI, and emotional intelligence by different other Nepali scholars as well.

Bhandari (2021) defined intelligence as one of the major aspects of national security decision-making, and beyond the framework of national security and foreign policy, the scope of intelligence is broad and taken as an effective measure of domestic policy and human security.

2.5 Role of Intelligence in Internal Security

Herman (2001) highlighted intelligence's primary role as information-gathering and exploitation of targets like foreign movements and individuals, and protection against threats to national integrity.

Herman (2001) further articulated the roles of intelligence in being dual as operational security and national protection. For military leaders, the operational role is essential because it offers thorough understanding of the operational environment and enemies, which makes it easier to plan and carry out operations Charged with protecting national data, especially by defending the "National Information Infrastructure" and implementing electronic security measures.

Herman (2001) further described the role in the area of security in the context of UK where national information is protected, especially electronic security and the so-called 'National Information Infrastructure' as defined by the British government. Near deception and the emerging field of information warfare, covert action is typically conducted as an intelligence function. Additionally, it offered an alternative and occasionally a competitor to diplomacy, interactions with terrorist organizations and opposing groups. Governments use both diplomacy and intelligence to educate themselves.

Furthering the role of intelligence, Juneau and Carvin (2021) explained the activities of collection, analysis, and dissemination of data is crucial for understanding and countering diverse threats such as terrorism, cyberattacks, and organized crime. Moreover, intelligence plays a pivotal role in enhancing the resilience of nations by enabling proactive measures to mitigate emerging threats and ensuring a coordinated response among various security agencies (Bury & Chertoff, 2020).

Burke (2022) argued that intelligence plays a pivotal role in internal security by providing decision-makers with timely and accurate information necessary for assessing threats, anticipating challenges, and formulating effective countermeasures. This stressed the interconnectedness between intelligence gathering, policy formulation, and operational responses in safeguarding national interests and societal well-being.

The evolving nature of intelligence in the digital age, where technological advancements and the proliferation of digital communication channels have transformed both the methods of intelligence collection and the types of threats faced (Romaniuk et al., 2023). This transformation necessitates continuous adaptation and innovation within intelligence agencies to effectively navigate complex digital landscapes and combat cyber threats (Management Association, 2018).

Additionally, the integration of AI and big data analytics has revolutionized intelligence practices, offering new tools for pattern recognition, predictive analysis, and real-time threat

assessment (Pashentsev, 2023). As such, contemporary studies emphasized the importance of leveraging these technologies to enhance the accuracy, speed, and effectiveness of intelligence operations in safeguarding national security.

Discussing more about the roles played, Stout & Warner (2018) mentioned gathering, analyzing, and disseminating information on rivals; typically, protecting those procedures; and occasionally, taking covert action against rivals, all of which are made possible by the preceding four tasks. In fact, a variety of what refer to as "peripheral functions" are carried out by services worldwide. These auxiliary tasks tend to be specific to each intelligence organization and differ in time and location.

Johnson (2007) described intelligence role as the collection and analysis of intelligence and CI as gathering intelligence, whether by Technical Intelligence (TECHINT) or HUMINT, then interpreting it and applying human perspective to the vast amount of data gathered, is the primary goal of intelligence. The phrase "CI" refers to a variety of strategies used to defend the United States from hostile activities carried out by terrorist organizations and foreign intelligence services.

Gilad, Pecht and Tishler (2020) described intelligence role being focused on three major areas as the evaluation of the rival's capabilities and intentions, enhancing the effectiveness of the nation's own weapon systems and decreasing the effectiveness of its rival's weapon systems, and gaining intelligence superiority over rivals are the three main objectives of intelligence activities, especially the process of data collection, knowledge development, and analysis for decision-making by military and governmental hierarchies.

CI being one of the roles of intelligence, is defined by Johnson (2017) as the process of countering the hostile intelligence activities of other states or foreign entities, to identify, assess, prioritize, and CI threats to the country.

2.6 Nepali Context

In Nepal, the constitution of Nepal (2015) has provisioned different structures and organizations for the enhancement of national security. While the constitution (2015) provisioned NA to safeguard of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and freedom and national unity of Nepal, and National Security Policy (NSP, 2016) provisioned it to assist

in maintaining internal security in case of arising out of circumstance beyond the control of the local administration and other situations as mentioned. Beyond this, NP, APF, and NID are then engaged in internal security (Upreti, 2021).

NSP (2016) has mentioned the role of NP, APF and NID role for the maintenance of internal security, where it envisioned NP to collect, analyze and flow information, which is fulfilled by its units. The APF also functions the role of intelligence for the maintenance of internal security mobilizing Intelligence Bureau as provisioned in its act (APF, 2001). As the dedicated intelligence agency of Nepal, NID is primarily responsible to collect, analyze, and disseminate information related to Nepal's freedom, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and those against law and the state, CI, terrorists and international criminal organizations and network of terrorism and the threats etc. (NSP, 2016).

2.7 Challenges to Internal Security and Intelligence Practices

Ateş (2020) categorized challenges for intelligence practices into technological, financial, organizational, and political categories, including increasing meta-data, social media, cybersecurity, virtual currencies, competition, and nationalism. The scholar also highlighted trends like cyber divisions, IT recruitment, open-source intelligence, right-wing groups, Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) returnees, hybrid warfare, and increased populism, making propaganda dissemination easier.

Burch (2007) highlighted MI5's role as an assessment agency and collection entity, supporting the UK's Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) for intelligence prioritization and assessment. Treverton (2002) emphasized forming a joint mechanism to facilitate intelligence sharing and reduce cross-agency barriers. Marrin (2007) discussed the importance of understanding how intelligence analysis is utilized by decision-makers, highlighting that the effectiveness of intelligence is closely tied to its alignment with the specific requirements and contexts of those making decisions. Marrin's work emphasized the critical role of intelligence in the decision-making process.

One of the reason intelligence agencies being ineffective is due to the lack of proper legal and structural mechanism, which can be overcome by reforming of law by parliament, as Herman (2001) presented the example of formation of coordination mechanism in United Kingdom (UK) to overcome the coordination slackness.

Burch (2007) highlighted the growing issues in domestic intelligence, including the divergence between law enforcement and intelligence, increased bureaucratization, and concerns about civil liberties and effective oversight, as well as the need for a more unified approach. Further discussing on the challenges and getting them in control, saw on organizing capabilities, ensuring information sharing, and implementing oversight mechanisms to protect civil liberties and ensure accountability of intelligence operations.

2.8 Research Gap

After reviewing the literature, scholars have described about the broader concept of security but not focused on internal security and intelligence. Moving further, some scholars focused on different aspects of internal security, measures to mitigate the internal security threats but covering overall strategies. Regarding intelligence, the scholars covered the theoretical aspects, its role, differences from other government agencies, but nothing about the context of Nepal. Meanwhile, Nepali scholar broadly analyzed different fields related to intelligence and its application but less focused on security intelligence of Nepal and agencies related with it.

Thus, this study is a nature of prime distinction from all the literature mentioned, and focuses on security intelligence in relation to Nepal's internal security. The studies done in special reference to other countries might be guidance to theoretical aspect but application may not be suitable for Nepali context.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

According to Creswell and Creswell (2023) research approaches (or methodologies) are procedures for research that span the steps from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection, analysis, and interpretation. Similarly, Leavy (2017) stated the combination of method and theory combine to create a methodology, which is a plan and combination of different elements of research, which results into a plan of specific research project. Leavy (2017) also mentioned that the methodology is what the researcher actually does once he/she has combined the different elements of research.

This study investigating the role of intelligence in internal security using key interviews with practitioners has followed qualitative approach with descriptive-explanatory design. The details of the components about the methodologies to get practical insights about the topic is presented in the following parts.

3.1 Research Design

Leavy (2017) described research design as the process of building a structure, or plan, for research project which involves preparing and designing project. To guide for the decision of choosing any research design, Creswell & Creswell (2023) suggested that a constructivist or social constructivist worldview (often combined with interpretivism) is a philosophical position used in qualitative research, and the historic origin for qualitative research comes from anthropology, sociology, the humanities, and evaluation.

Thus, this research being a part of humanities studies, has adopted a qualitative descriptive explanatory design, utilizing both historical and contemporary analyses. The descriptive aspect provides a detailed account of intelligence, structures, and challenges, while the explanatory aspect analyzes why intelligence faces certain challenges (e.g., political interference, lack of resources) and how these challenges impact national security.

3.2 Study Area

Study areas are locations where a researcher plans to carry out an in-depth study about a topic or existing problem (ResearchPages, 2025). The study has focused on role of intelligence in internal security by studying various literature including laws and regulations, which can be taken as content analysis as Leavy (2017) emphasized as a method for systematically investigating texts (Leavy, 2017).

Similarly, primary data collection was done through key interviews with the officials in different levels of government security agencies currently serving in Kathmandu Valley. The officials were chosen to get empirical knowledge based on their experience in the field of intelligence.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

The study has used both the primary and secondary data. For the primary data, researcher has used interviews, as Briggs (1986) estimated that 90% of all social science investigations make use of interviews. Similarly, open ended questions were asked as mentioned in appendix 'A' because qualitative researchers tend to use open-ended questions so that the participants can share their views (Creswell & Creswell, 2023).

Interview was conducted with the officials from intelligence agencies, security agencies to know multiple aspects of the area they are/were associated. Similarly, Secondary sources of data were documents, academic journals, books, and reports from various sources and organizations.

3.4 Technique and Tools for Sampling and Data Collection

Qualitative research aims to purposefully sample to select participants or sites (or documents or visual material) that will best help the researcher understand the problem and the research question (Creswell & Creswell, 2023). Purposeful sampling (also called purposive or judgment sampling) is based on the premise that seeking out the best cases for the study produces the best data, and research results are a direct result of the cases sampled (Patton, 2015).

Thus, the study was done by applying purposive sampling to select data sources. While secondary sources of data were selected according to their relevancy of the topic, and availability to download the full material. Similarly, primary data sources being interviewee from four security agencies i.e. NA, NP, APF, and NID, the respondents were selected based on their involvement on intelligence field within those organizations, special applicable for the agencies other than NID. The interviewee from those agencies were selected purposefully because the involvement of the officials on the field of intelligence is selective, and thus researcher intended to get better views about the topic.

Creswell and Creswell (2023) suggested major four types of data collection methods in many qualitative studies being qualitative observations, key interviews, documents, and audiovisual, social media, and, digital materials. Among them, qualitative interviews were conducted during this study and face-to-face interview with the analysis of differences between the methods applied based on the following table.

Table 3.1

Data Collection Method, Options Available, Strengths, and Limitations

Interview Options	Strengths	Limitations
Face-to-face	When not observable	Indirect information
Telephone	Provide historical information.	Designated place
Focus group	Control over the line of questioning.	Probability of bias responses
E-mail internet		Limited articulative and perceptive

Source: Adapted and modified from Creswell and Creswell (2023)

As presented in table 3.1, face-to-face interviews allow direct interaction but may be influenced by interviewees' perspectives. Telephone interviews provide historical insights but lack a natural setting. Focus group discussions enable controlled questioning but risk biased responses due to the researcher's presence. Online interviews offer flexibility but may be limited by participants' varying articulation and perception.

With those features of different types of data collection methods, face-to- face interview was selected as a method to conduct interview, and was done primarily during the field visit in Kathmandu valley from 18th to 29th Poush, 2081 with some additional inputs on later dates also. The respondents for the interviews were 15 officials from NA, NP, APF & NID, holding positions in the respective organizations and had experience over 15 years. Those interviewees were asked the questions as mentioned in Appendix 'A'. Those questions covered the theoretical idea about intelligence, role and contribution, and challenges in practices in Nepal.

3.5 Data Processing, Analysis and Presentation

Data analysis in qualitative research will proceed hand in hand with other parts of developing the qualitative study, namely, the data collection and the write-up of findings (Creswell & Creswell, 2023). Descriptive method in qualitative research is an approach to analysis where the researcher stays close to the data, uses limited frameworks and interpretation for explaining the data, and catalogues the information into themes (Creswell & Creswell, 2023).

Thus, the study has followed the qualitative design and descriptive method by involving a combination of document analysis and interviews to gather comprehensive data on the topic. Similarly, data was also processed and analyzed using thematic analysis to identify key patterns and themes related to intelligence in internal security, its prospects, and challenges. Findings are presented through a combination of narrative descriptions, and tables to provide a clear and comprehensive understanding of the research outcomes.

Validity is one of the strengths of qualitative research and is based on determining whether the findings are accurate from the researcher's standpoint, the participant, or the readers of an account (Creswell & Miller, 2000). There are eight primary strategies, organized from those used most frequently and easiest to implement to those used occasionally and more difficult to implement (Creswell & Creswell, 2023), among those strategies member checking can be done to determine the accuracy of the qualitative findings by taking the final report or specific descriptions or themes back to participants and determining whether these participants feel that they are accurate.

Thus, researcher has followed member checking to validate the specific description or theme from the participant as far as possible.

3.6 Ethical Considerations

The study has adhered to the ethical guidelines, ensuring informed consent, and confidentiality. Authentic and approved sources were used for data collection. Ethical approval was sought from relevant institutions to conduct the research. The standard prescribed by American Psychological Association (APA) 7th edition is followed for the study. The researcher has abided by the ethical responsibilities and has ensured proper citations without altering the meaning of the subject matter.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Findings

The objective of the study was to explore the role of intelligence in internal security, how intelligence effectively contributes to prevent and mitigate internal security challenges, and analyze the challenges in practice of intelligence in Nepal. The data were collected from different secondary sources like international literature about intelligence and primary data from interviews of different stakeholders related to internal security of Nepal.

The respondents for interview were officials from government security agencies like NA, NP, APF, and NID with the job experience of more than 15 years even up to 30 years. As, talking about intelligence, taken as sensitive and discreet in nature in Nepali context by the persons involved in those sectors, in comparison to the western world, some of the planned interviews were not been possible and new respondents have to be included.

4.1.1 Role of Intelligence in Internal Security

Being the first objective of the study, role of intelligence in internal security of Nepal is presented based on different aspects. One of the aspects is the exploration of role based on literature done in literature review. Similarly, another aspect being legal, defined by the legal documents, which is base for any legal entity to perform their responsibility. This is done in the introduction part, by exploring the role of intelligence on maintaining internal security of the state in different legal and policy documents.

Another aspect is the real-life experience of the stakeholders, which was taken through interview. In this section, the view of the practitioners from different professional background is mentioned in the following part, which was collected by the researcher using interview.

The respondents from military background define intelligence as the process of getting data, analyzing them for the decision making by military needs to safeguard country's security. The response of the respondent was:

> The intelligence is the process of getting rival's capabilities and intentions, increasing the effectiveness of the country's own weapon systems and reducing the effectiveness of its rival's weapon systems, and gaining intelligence superiority over rivals.

By defining the intelligence, the respondents from military background see its role in internal security of the country very important narrated in the following words:

> Intelligence plays a major role in evaluating the rival's military capability and intentions. Accurate knowledge of the rival's capabilities and intentions is likely to lead to a more effective process of planning and building the country's own military capabilities and, hence, achieve high level of national security. Since the country's decision-makers possess incomplete and, possibly, unreliable knowledge about the rival's military capabilities they must plan (and build capabilities) for several (possibly very diverse) scenarios of the rival's potential actions.

Accordingly, the role in the operational part is mentioned as

> The intelligence enhances the country's military capabilities by increasing the effectiveness of its weapon systems and reducing the effectiveness of the rival's weapon systems. Air strikes, for example, are more effective when accurate and up-to-date intelligence on enemy targets is available. Quality intelligence on the rival's weapon systems and intentions may lead to the development of systems that will be able to reduce the effectiveness of the rival's weapon systems in combat (or terror) situations. Hence, accurate operational intelligence enhances the country's military/security capabilities.

Intelligence also helps in reducing uncertainty by collecting both abilities and intentions in a reality that is dynamic and constantly changing.

> One of the primary missions of intelligence is to reduce uncertainty about a country's information on its rival's capabilities, views, and intentions over time. This uncertainty may be reduced by increasing the quantity, accuracy, and reliability of the outputs of the intelligence process and by improving the valuation of their effects on the country's military capabilities.

Respondent from law enforcement see the intelligence a bit differently, which is replicated as following:

> Intelligence refers to the systematic process of gathering, analyzing, and utilizing information to anticipate and counter threats to public safety and national security. Intelligence is not just about collecting raw data; it involves assessing the reliability of sources, identifying patterns, and providing actionable insights to decision-makers. Effective intelligence operations help LEAs prevent criminal activities, disrupt organized crime networks, and respond to emerging threats such as cybercrimes and terrorism.

After defining intelligence, the focus on the role for internal security is on planning, allocation of the resources, enhancing coordination, as the respondent mentioned:

> Intelligence plays a crucial role in strategic planning, enabling agencies to allocate resources efficiently and enhance coordination among different security units. Without accurate and timely intelligence, law enforcement efforts would be reactive rather than proactive, making it difficult to maintain internal security and uphold the rule of law.

Meanwhile, the respondents from the intelligence background have a bit different view. The response from them is focused on the process, use of methodologies and use of different methods of collection as:

> Intelligence is the process of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting information to produce actionable insights that support decision-making at strategic, operational, and tactical levels. Unlike routine information gathering, intelligence involves a structured methodology to assess threats, anticipate risks, and provide foresight into potential security challenges. It is not limited to law enforcement but extends to national security, defense, and geopolitical analysis. Intelligence focuses on both covert and open-source collection methods, ensuring that policymakers and security agencies have the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions.

The respondents also talked about the effectiveness to prevent crises, determining policies, and work focused on long term assessment.

The effectiveness of intelligence lies in its ability to transform fragmented data into a coherent picture that helps prevent crises, shape security policies, and safeguard national interests. In contrast to law enforcement, which often relies on intelligence for immediate action, pure intelligence work emphasizes long-term threat assessment, strategic planning, and CI efforts to protect sensitive information and national security infrastructure.

4.1.2 Contribution of Intelligence to Prevent and Mitigate Internal Security Challenges of Nepal

To understand the contribution of intelligence to prevent and mitigate internal security challenges of Nepal, first we have to discuss about the internal security challenges of Nepal.

a) Challenges for Internal Security

The challenges and threats for national security of the country (refer to Appendix C) mentioned in Nepal's NSP (2016), which is the guiding document for Nepali stakeholders for internal security as well is summarized as:

Political challenges due to its evolving governance system, transitional phase, and instability. Internal divisions, factionalism, and unconstitutional activities weaken democratic institutions. External influences and unconstitutional activities threaten state stability. Strategic interventions are needed to safeguard democratic governance.

The politicization of crime and political criminalization in Nepal is threatening law and order, resulting in a weakened justice system. Misuse of technology, violent crimes, illegal arms imports, and social instability necessitate strong legal frameworks and efficient law enforcement to address these threats.

Economic challenges due to dependence on foreign aid, weak national production, rising unemployment, economic inequality, population growth, unmanaged migration, misallocation of resources, financial crimes, external financial crises, social unrest, and health crises. Addressing these requires inclusive policies, equitable resource distribution, and sustainable economic strategies.

Significant threats from both human-induced and natural disasters, including urbanization, deforestation, pollution, natural calamities, climate change, and emerging threats like chemical, radiation, and technology-induced disasters, necessitating enhanced preparedness and disaster management strategies.

Extremism in Nepal poses a significant security threat, causing disorder and instability. Terrorists' involvement in arms smuggling, drug trafficking, and unregulated sectors like tourism and foreign investment exposes vulnerable sectors. Strengthening intelligence networks, border security, and international cooperation is crucial.

The NSP being the guiding document for the security actors to shape their actions, the view about the challenges to national security is aligned with the same. The respondent from military background mentioned such challenges by categorizing them in different aspects as:

> Nepal faces complicated challenges that can be categorized mainly into political, law and order, socio-economic, environmental, and extremist threats. Politically, instability, weak governance, and external interference can undermine national sovereignty and create internal conflicts.

Although the army is not regularly involved maintaining law and order, but the views on maintaining law and order, and other aspects are expressed as:

> Maintaining law and order is another significant challenge, as organized crime, insurgencies, and cyber threats continue to evolve, requiring adaptive security measures. Socio-economic disparities, including unemployment, poverty, and lack of access to essential services, fuel unrest and can be exploited by hostile elements to destabilize the nation.

The force, being one of the authorities for response, and rescue during the time of disasters, saw its challenges as:

> Also, disasters and natural resource scarcity pose strategic risks, as climate change-induced calamities and competition over resources can trigger conflicts. Lastly, extremism remains a persistent threat, with radical ideologies exploiting vulnerabilities in society to recruit and carry out attacks.

But the LEAs see the challenges a bit differently, with the increased cases related to cybercrimes and other areas, which is replicated in the following response by one of the interviewees from LEA:

> Nepal's national security is increasingly threatened by the rise of cybercrime, radicalization, terrorism, and organized transnational crimes. Cybercrime and cyber terrorism have become major concerns as criminal networks exploit digital platforms to conduct financial fraud, data breaches, and attacks on critical infrastructure, posing severe risks to national stability.

Similarly, rise in the number of recent unrests related to extremists worldwide along with some parts of the country, challenges related with this are expressed as:

> Radicalization, whether ethnic, regional, religious, or linguistic, is another pressing issue, as extremist ideologies spread rapidly through social media and underground networks, leading to divisions and potential violence. Terrorism, whether driven by Islamic, Hindu, or other extremist factions, continues to pose direct threats to public safety and national security, requiring constant vigilance and intelligence-driven countermeasures.

With the globalization, sophisticated technologies, other challenges are increasing as:

> Additionally, organized and transnational crimes, including drug trafficking, human smuggling, and arms trade, weaken law enforcement efforts by fueling corruption and funding terrorist activities. Addressing these challenges demands stronger cyber capabilities, community engagement to counter radicalization, enhanced intelligence-sharing mechanisms, and regional cooperation to dismantle transnational criminal networks effectively.

The view of intelligence is alike of those respondents from military and law enforcement agencies but a bit more focus on tackling the hidden factors who create instability and insecurity as:

> The greatest challenges to national security often lie in hidden and evolving threats that are difficult to detect. Covert foreign influence, espionage, and misinformation campaigns undermine stability by manipulating public perception and policy decisions.

> The growing use of social platforms, encrypted communications and the dark web makes it harder to track terrorist networks, organized crime, and cyber threats. Additionally, insider threats and intelligence leaks compromise operations, weakening national defenses. Intelligence agencies must constantly adapt to these challenges by refining analytical methods, enhancing CI efforts, and leveraging advanced technology to uncover and neutralize threats before they materialize.

The challenges to internal security, encompassed by the theories, legal document and respondents are further presented in the discussion part.

b) Contribution of Intelligence to Prevent and Mitigate the Challenges

After getting acquainted with the challenges for national security, following part is focused on the contribution of intelligence to prevent and mitigate the challenges.

To have an integrated response for the challenges to national security, the respondent from military background emphasized on common effort from the agencies responsible:

> Addressing the challenges requires a comprehensive security approach, integrating military capabilities with intelligence, law enforcement, and socio-political stability measures to ensure long-term national resilience.

Focusing on intelligence role, the respondent emphasized on providing strategic foresight, threat assessment, and others as:

> Intelligence plays a critical role in mitigating national security challenges by providing strategic foresight, real-time threat assessments, and actionable insights to military and security forces. In addressing political instability, intelligence helps identify emerging threats, track foreign influence, and support policy decisions that enhance stability. For maintaining law and order, intelligence enables proactive countermeasures against organized crime, cyber threats, and insurgencies through early warning systems and coordinated operations. Socio-economic threats are mitigated by intelligence-driven risk assessments that guide resource allocation and security planning.

Similarly, analysis of risks, tracking extremists' activities, and integrated efforts are expressed as:

> Additionally, intelligence aids in disaster preparedness by analyzing environmental risks and ensuring the protection of critical infrastructure. In countering extremism, intelligence operations track recruitment networks, disrupt radical movements, and prevent terrorist attacks. By integrating intelligence into military strategy, law enforcement coordination, and policy formulation, nations can develop a more resilient and adaptive security framework to address evolving threats effectively.

The law enforcement viewpoint of intelligence contribution is briefly covered focused in the area of cyber intelligence, radicalization, propaganda etc. in the following response from a respondent of LEA as:

> Intelligence is essential for law enforcement in tackling modern security threats such as cybercrime, radicalization, terrorism, and organized transnational crimes. Cyber intelligence helps track and neutralize cybercriminal networks by identifying digital footprints, analyzing threat patterns, and enhancing cybersecurity defenses. To counter radicalization, intelligence agencies monitor online extremist propaganda, identify vulnerable individuals, and disrupt recruitment efforts.

Along with the efforts above, prioritizing funding sources, cooperation with counterparts, and proactive measures in collaboration with LEAs as:

> In combating terrorism, intelligence gathering on terrorist cells, funding sources, and attack planning enables preemptive action to dismantle threats before they materialize. Additionally, intelligence cooperation across borders is crucial for disrupting transnational criminal syndicates involved in drug trafficking, human smuggling, and arms proliferation. By enhancing intelligence-sharing mechanisms, predictive analytics, and surveillance capabilities, law enforcement can adopt a proactive approach to neutralizing threats and ensuring national security.

Intelligence saw the challenges more from the hidden factors and thus emphasizes on addressing them differently, which is replicated in the following response by an officer from intelligence as:

> Addressing hidden threats to national security requires sophisticated CI, advanced surveillance, and strategic deception techniques. Intelligence agencies play a key role

in uncovering covert foreign influence, espionage, and misinformation campaigns that destabilize governance and public trust.

To address such challenges, the use of AI and human resources accordingly, following preventive measures, and early detection are major areas as responded below:

> The use of artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and HUMINT helps detect encrypted terrorist communications, cyber threats on the dark web, and clandestine financial transactions linked to organized crime. CI operations protect national security by identifying and neutralizing insider threats, preventing intelligence leaks, and securing classified information. Furthermore, intelligence enables early threat detection and strategic responses, ensuring that emerging risks are managed before they escalate into full-scale security crises.

4.1.3 Challenges in Practices of Intelligence in Nepal

Although contributing for national and internal security, there are challenges in practice of intelligence in Nepal. The view about the challenges is presented thematically as expressed by the respondents during interview.

Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), an organization working for promoting governance has some benchmarks to evaluate the structural mechanism. The benchmarks set by DCAF (2006) are domestic intelligence and collection are subject to national laws, the separation of foreign versus domestic intelligence requires an effective coordination of collection, coordination is performed by an executive branch entity, joint assessments are ideally undertaken by an independent body, executive, legislative, and judicial branches exercise oversight.

The respondents evaluate Nepali intelligence mechanism based on similar points as mentioned above and is presented in the following:

a) Legal Mechanism

Assessing the Nepali intelligence based on those benchmarks set by DCAF, Nepal's intelligence mechanism is operated in accordance to the national law, supported by the respondent's view from intelligence background as following:

> Nepal's intelligence mechanism operates within the national legal framework, adhering to government directives and security-related legislation. Its focus is on safeguarding national security, preventing threats, and protecting public order while upholding fundamental rights and freedoms, while adhering to constitutional provisions.

Talking about the need of strong oversight mechanism, the respondent elaborated as:

> Nepal's intelligence community, despite challenges like resource constraints and evolving security threats, remains committed to lawful intelligence gathering, analysis, and dissemination to support national security objectives without overstepping legal or ethical boundaries, amidst the weak oversight mechanism.

b) Separation of Area of Responsibility

Similarly, another criterion being separation of foreign versus domestic intelligence along with role of executive branch, with the single intelligence entity, focused on internal security aspects, is not the issue for the country. The idea about the separation by the interviewee from intelligence expressed as:

> Nepal has a single dedicated intelligence agency focused on internal security, ensuring a streamlined approach to addressing threats like organized crime, cyber threats, and political instability. This structure centralizes information gathering, analysis, and dissemination under one authority, allowing for better coordination and resource utilization, making it a functional model for Nepal's security needs.

c) Priority of Leadership

The assessment part seems to be highly neglected as the sector of intelligence is not in the priority of political and bureaucratic leadership, which is expressed from one of the respondents from LEAs as follow:

> One of the major gaps in Nepal’s intelligence mechanism is the neglect of the assessment phase, primarily due to the lack of priority given to the intelligence sector by political and bureaucratic leadership. Intelligence collection efforts may be ongoing, but without proper analysis and assessment, raw information holds little strategic value.

The impact of low priorities by the leaders is mentioned by the respondent as:

> Decision-makers often fail to invest in enhancing analytical capabilities, training personnel, or integrating intelligence into policy formulation. As a result, intelligence remains reactive rather than proactive, leading to missed opportunities in preventing security threats. Strengthening intelligence assessment through institutional support, political will, and resource allocation is crucial for improving national security preparedness.

d) Oversight Mechanism

Oversight mechanism representing executive, legislative, and judicial branches is not an issue because of the low priority towards intelligence and its performance as pointed out by a respondent:

> Nepal's intelligence sector lack oversight mechanisms due to political and bureaucratic leadership's lack of priority for intelligence. This results in minimal external oversight and few formal mechanisms to evaluate its operations, efficiency, or impact on national security. This lack of institutional focus leads to stagnation, outdated methodologies, and inadequate reforms. Without political will to strengthen intelligence oversight and integrate it into national security strategies, intelligence will remain an underutilized tool in Nepal's security landscape.

e) Politicization

Politicization is inherent in the production of intelligence because information is crucial to gaining and preserving political power and a domestic intelligence agency has the unique potential of becoming politicized. The view of respondent representing intelligence agency also supports the statement as:

> …intelligence often operate under the influence of the ruling political party, which affects their neutrality and effectiveness. Instead of functioning as independent entities focused solely on national security, intelligence units are sometimes used to serve political interests, including monitoring opposition figures, suppressing dissent, and advancing the agenda of those in power. This politicization weakens the agency's credibility, diverts resources from genuine security threats, and hampers long-term intelligence reforms. The lack of institutional independence prevents intelligence

agencies from providing unbiased assessments, ultimately compromising national security.

f) Information Sharing

Burch (2007) highlighting on of the weaknesses being information sharing a problematic issue despite the UK's well established intelligence mechanisms, clearly defined missions and roles, and assessment organs, a respondent from LEAs had similar views as:

> One of the major weaknesses in Nepal's intelligence mechanism is the lack of an effective intelligence-sharing system among security agencies. Intelligence remains compartmentalized, with different institutions working in isolation rather than collaborating for a comprehensive security approach. This lack of coordination leads to delays in responding to threats, duplication of efforts, and missed opportunities to prevent security incidents. The absence of a structured framework for timely and secure information exchange weakens national security preparedness. Establishing a formalized intelligence-sharing mechanism, enhance inter-agency trust, and leverage modern technology to facilitate seamless communication among intelligence, law enforcement, and military entities would help to overcome.

g) Coordination

Iype (2006) highlighted the lack of coordination between Indian intelligence agencies in the National Security Council (NSC), ineffective in orchestrating the various agencies towards a single purpose. Having similar view, an interviewee from LEAs mentioned:

> Coordination between intelligence units and local LEAs is often hindered by bureaucratic delays and jurisdictional overlaps, which have led the agencies to be based on traditional methods rather than intelligence led operations.

similarly, the NSC being rarely convened and not having a dedicated staff structure to support this process, where senior officials state about being little to no coordination between the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research & Analysis Wing, and the newly formed Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). One of the respondents had similar views about the NSP of Nepal as:

> Key players struggle with collaboration and a cohesive security policy, which hinders NSC's effectiveness. In addition to lacking a committed staff structure to guarantee ongoing strategic oversight, the council rarely meets and does not successfully coordinate different security agencies toward a unified national security goal. Senior officials frequently admit that there is little to no coordination between security and intelligence agencies, which leads to disjointed reactions to attacks. Nepal's intelligence community is fragmented in the absence of a well-organized and consistently operating NSC, which compromises its capacity to successfully handle intricate and changing security issues.

h) Enforcement Rights

The respondent from intelligence argued to be less effective in performance due to some law enforcement rights as:

> Intelligence agencies are crucial in gathering, analyzing, and disseminating information to support national security objectives. However, they lack law enforcement powers, limiting their ability to act swiftly and effectively. This disconnects between intelligence gathering and actionable outcomes leads to delays in responses and reduced impact of their efforts. This gap can hinder timely and cohesive security threat mitigation, potentially leading to potential risks.

i) Investment and Resources

Intelligence needs a lot of financial investment and expenses but Nepal has not been able to do so, expressed by a respondent from LEAs as:

> The limited integration of modern surveillance technology and intelligence-driven defense strategies reduces the intelligence's ability to anticipate and counter emerging threats. Strengthening intelligence capabilities through advanced technological tools, and structured intelligence training needs a lot of financial investment and resources, which has not been experienced so far.

j) Address Evolving Challenges

There is a lot to improve on Nepal's intelligence mechanism primarily focused on addressing the evolving challenges as respondent from military emphasized:

> Nepal's intelligence mechanism lacks a strong strategic intelligence framework to address evolving security threats. The country faces challenges in long-term threat assessment, particularly in areas such as border security, geopolitical tensions, and hybrid warfare tactics, including cyber and psychological operations. Intelligence-sharing between military and civilian agencies remains weak, leading to delayed responses and ineffective coordination in crisis situations.

k) Database and Technology

The gap lies in lack of central database as mentioned by a respondent from LEAs as following:

> The intelligence infrastructure lacks a centralized database for tracking criminal activities, cyber threats, and transnational crimes, making it difficult to connect crucial intelligence dots.

The recent development in the information and technology sector has not been utilized as interviewee from intelligence explained:

> Nepal’s intelligence agencies struggle with outdated surveillance technology, insufficient cyber intelligence capabilities, and a lack of specialized training programs for analysts.

l) Others

With the evolving nature of threats and challenges, there are many gaps and Challenges, some of other are expressed by a respondent from LEAs as following:

> The increasing complexity of cybercrime, radicalization, and organized crime demands intelligence-led policing, yet Nepal’s LEAs still rely heavily on traditional investigative approaches.

Adding to above, an interviewee from intelligence sector mentioned as:

> Improving intelligence collection by motivating employees and making them more capable, investing in digital forensics, and fostering inter-agency cooperation would significantly enhance Nepal’s ability to tackle modern security challenges.

The gap is further explained in structural and operational gaps like analyzing, as one of the respondents from intelligence said:

> We face significant structural and operational gaps in its intelligence mechanism, mainly in analytical capacity, technological adaptation, and CI measures. Current intelligence operations are often reactive rather than proactive, leading to missed opportunities in preventing security crises.

Similarly, the weakness in the CI part is expressed as:

> CI measures are also underdeveloped, increasing vulnerability to foreign espionage and internal leaks. To bridge these gaps, Nepal must modernize its intelligence infrastructure, establish clear operational guidelines, and adopt a data-driven approach to intelligence analysis and threat mitigation.

4.2 Discussions

The findings are discussed in this part in alignment with the objectives of the study.

The first objective being explore the role of intelligence in internal security, legal provisions and views of the practitioners align in the main theme of intelligence supporting the decision makers by making them informed on critical internal security issues. The respondents from military background focused on understanding rival capabilities and intentions, enhancing a country's weapon systems' effectiveness, and gaining intelligence superiority over rivals. Similarly, respondents from LEAs described as a systematic process of gathering, analyzing, and using information to anticipate and counter threats to public safety and national security. Intelligence practitioners defined as a structured method for gathering, analyzing, and interpreting information to support strategic, operational, and tactical decision-making, encompassing law enforcement, national security, defense, and geopolitical analysis.

The theoretical views are seen to be differing on wider aspects, with the representations of the educational and governance system, area of roles and responsibility assigned to the agency by respective country, availability of resources etc. Those findings are summarized as:

Table 4.1

Roles of Intelligence (theory)

S.N.	Roles	How	Remarks
1.	Information gathering and exploitation	Mobilizing human and technological resources	Process
2.	Analysis and dissemination		
3.	Understanding the adversary and operational environment		
5.	Counterintelligence	Using covert means and methods	Mission
6.	Propaganda		
7.	Political and economic operations		
8.	Paramilitary activities		
9.	Information warfare		
10	Inform leaders to take decisions	Providing the intelligence	Product

Source: Researcher compilation from findings (2025)

As presented in table 4.1 above, the context of Nepal, all the roles as theorized by scholars are found to be less applied. The process functions like information gathering, analysis, dissemination, and understanding the adversary and operational environment are being practiced though. But, the missions like CI, propaganda, political and economic operations etc. do not seem to be practiced much due to many factors, which are discussed in the part of Challenges as third objective of the study.

Similarly, the views of the respondents about the role of intelligence also align in the main agenda of assisting in decision making but the procedures and priorities differed according to their job nature, which is summarized in the table below:

Table 4.2

Roles of Intelligence (response)

S.N.	Roles	Respondent
1.	Getting rival's capabilities and intentions	Military
2.	Increase effectiveness of the country's weapon system	
3.	Gaining intelligence superiority	
4.	Inform decision makers	
5.	Anticipate and counter threats	LEAs
6.	Enable to allocate resources	
7.	Enhance coordination	
8.	Proactive law enforcement	
9.	Maintain rule of law	
10.	Prevent crises	Intelligence
11.	Shape security policies	
12.	Safeguard national interests	
13.	Long term threat assessment	
14.	Counterintelligence	

Source: Researcher compilation from findings (2025)

As presented in table 4.2, respondents from military profession defined intelligence role being crucial in evaluating rivals' military capabilities and intentions, enhancing national security. It

also helps reduce uncertainty by collecting and valuing capabilities and intentions in a dynamic, constantly changing reality, thereby improving the country's military capabilities. While respondents from LEAs saw the intelligence playing vital role for strategic planning, resource allocation, and coordination among security units, preventing reactive law enforcement efforts and maintaining internal security and the rule of law. Intelligence practitioners described the role as effectively transforming data into a coherent picture, preventing crises, shaping security policies, and safeguarding national interests, contrasting law enforcement's immediate action-oriented approach.

The second objective being contribution of intelligence to prevent and mitigate internal security challenges, again is based on the variables that have shaped national security challenge or threat. NSP, the guiding document for Nepali stakeholders in national security has categorized the challenges in many parts as political, socio-economic, disaster and natural resources, law and order, and extremism. Similarly, the challenges mentioned by the respondents does not vary much from the NSP, but their prioritization is seen according to the affiliation of their profession.

Table 4.3

Security Challenges, and Areas

S.N.	Challenges	Area
1.	Use of meta data, social media	Technological
2.	Cyber security	
3.	Increasing use of virtual currencies	Financial
4.	Increasing competition within sector	Organizational
5.	Increasing nationalism and anarchism	Political
6.	Increase of populism, Extremism	
7.	Dissemination of propaganda	
8.	Expansion of hybrid warfare	

Source: Researcher compilation from findings (2025)

Military respondents saw the challenges in political, law and order, socio-economic, environmental, and extremist threats along with responding to disasters, addressing natural resource scarcity, and combating extremism. LEAs interviewees described the major challenges being cybercrime, radicalization, terrorism, and organized transnational crimes, which are almost similar to the intelligence view apart from the challenges from hidden threats, including foreign influence, espionage, misinformation, and insider threats.

The third objective being to analyze the challenges of existing intelligence practices in Nepal, is again can be seen that the practitioners have agreed on the presence of gap in application. As different countries have multidimensional challenges, security scenario, availability of resources, involvement of mechanisms, those variables have caused the differences in the shortcomings of the intelligence accordingly. The findings about the challenges are shown in the table 4.4 and described below.

Table 4.4

Challenges in the Practices of Intelligence in Nepal

S.N.	Challenges	Ways to Response
1.	Legal and structural mechanism	Reforming law by legislative
2.	Coordination mechanism	Establish a formalized intelligence sharing mechanism
3.	Duplication of efforts	
4.	Sharing information	
5.	Protection of civil liberties and effective oversight	Activate oversight bodies
6.	Separation of foreign and domestic intelligence	
7.	Resource constraints	Allocation of adequate resources

8.	Invest in enhancing capabilities	
9.	Training personnel	
10.	Limited integration of modern technology	Use of advanced tools
11.	Centralized database	Establish Database
12.	Lack of motivation	Provide trainings, financial benefits
13.	Evolving nature of challenges	Focus on upgradation
14.	Leaders' priority	Sensitize leadership
15.	Politicization	
16.	NSC ineffectiveness	Dedicated staff, Enhance coordination between agencies

Source: Researcher compilation from findings (2025)

Nepal's intelligence mechanism faces challenges like resource constraints and evolving threats, but remains committed to lawful gathering, analysis, and dissemination to support national security objectives without overstepping legal or ethical boundaries. With single intelligence agency, the country streamlines internal security by addressing organized crime, cyber threats, and political instability, ensuring better coordination and resource utilization.

The views from respondents also coincides in the point that the intelligence mechanism suffers from neglect of assessment due to political and bureaucratic leadership's low priorities, leading to reactive intelligence and missed opportunities in security preparedness. The challenges are further seen in the area of minimal oversight due to political and bureaucratic leadership's lack of priority, leading to stagnation and outdated methodologies. Political will is needed to strengthen oversight and integrate intelligence into national security strategies.

Ineffective intelligence-sharing, leading to delays in response and missed opportunities asks for the implementation of a formalized mechanism and modern technology could improve

preparedness. The presence of NSC is there, but faces challenges in coordination with local LEAs due to bureaucratic delays and jurisdictional overlaps, resulting in fragmented responses to threats and hindering effective security challenges.

Intelligence practitioners claim the struggle due to the lack of law enforcement powers, resulting in delays in response and reduced impact on security threats along with limited investment and resources for modern surveillance technology and defense strategies. But LEAs express over reliance on traditional investigative approaches to tackle modern security challenges due to the lack of proper intelligence which shows the need to improve intelligence collection, invest in digital forensics, and foster inter-agency cooperation.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary

This study explores the role of intelligence in internal security of Nepal with the help of theories, legal provisions and through the experience of the practitioners. The term intelligence, having multiple meaning in different context, is here explored as product, process and missions related to internal security, which helps in informed decision making (Johnson, 2017) for the leaders. Intelligence, being practiced from ancient times but discussed lately in academia, and very less in Nepali context, has lot to explore yet.

This study discovers various definitions of intelligence, focusing on its role as knowledge, organizational function, and strategic process. Western scholars define it as a specific type of knowledge, shaped by leadership (Stout & Warner, 2018), interagency dynamics, and strategic culture. Intelligence is essential for decision-making due to its secret nature and structured processes (Johnson, 2017). In Chinese context, it is viewed as actionable information, including espionage, but is often misunderstood as mere theft of secrets (Hughes & Chen, 2018). In Nepali context, intelligence is a key element of national security decision-making, extending beyond security to domestic policy and human security.

The data from interview revealed that military respondents define intelligence as the process of acquiring and analyzing data to support national security decision-making. They emphasize intelligence's importance in assessing rival capabilities, enhancing weapon systems, and countering adversaries. Intelligence also plays a crucial operational role in enabling precise strikes and countermeasures, strengthening military effectiveness and reducing uncertainty in an evolving security environment.

Meanwhile, law enforcement professionals view intelligence as a systematic process for anticipating and countering threats to public safety and national security. Their focus is on assessing sources, identifying patterns, and generating actionable insights to prevent crime, disrupt organized networks, and address emerging threats like cybercrime and terrorism.

Intelligence provides commanders with a comprehensive understanding of adversaries (Herman,2001) and the operational environment for effective planning. They ensure national security through electronic security and safeguard critical information infrastructure. Their roles extend beyond collection and analysis (Johnson, 2017), including CI measures, leadership protection, and evaluating rival capabilities to enhance domestic military effectiveness. Ultimately, intelligence remains a multidimensional function critical for national security, strategic decision-making, and operational effectiveness.

Intelligence plays a crucial role in internal security by aiding strategic planning, resource allocation, and coordination (Burke, 2022) among security units. It involves collecting, analyzing, and interpreting information to generate actionable insights. Intelligence extends beyond law enforcement to national security, defense, and geopolitical analysis. It transforms fragmented data into comprehensive threats understanding, enabling crisis prevention, policy determination, and long-term security assessments.

Unlike law enforcement, intelligence work prioritizes strategic planning and CI (Johnson,2007). Intelligence supports the government's approach to counterterrorism, focusing on capacity-building, information-sharing, detection, and law enforcement coordination. Intelligence also adds value to decision-making by providing tailored insights and shaping security policies.

The respondents believe intelligence contributes to national security through an integrated approach involving military, intelligence, and LEAs. Intelligence provides strategic foresight, real-time threat assessments, and actionable insights to mitigate security risks like political instability, organized crime, cyber threats, and extremism. It also supports socio-economic stability, disaster preparedness, and infrastructure protection. Law enforcement uses intelligence to counter modern security challenges, uncover hidden threats, and ensure resilience against visible and covert threats.

Albeit the crucial role in national security, gaps in legal frameworks, coordination, oversight, and operational efficiency have led to underperformance worldwide. The coordination mechanisms demonstrate the importance of legislative reforms, while bureaucratization and competing priorities between law enforcement and intelligence hinder efficiency. Balancing information sharing and civil liberties remains a challenge in any country.

Nepal's intelligence system operates under national laws but faces challenges like dedicated separation between foreign and domestic intelligence due to its single-agency model. This lack of prioritization limits strategic value and results in inefficiency. Structural inefficiencies are further exacerbated by debates over creating additional agencies and politics, which weaken intelligence credibility. Intelligence-sharing remains a challenge, with agencies operating in silos, delaying responses and reducing effectiveness. It also faces challenges in effective collaboration between security institutions, with NSC experiencing poor coordination and infrequent convening, necessitating strengthening intelligence coordination, depoliticization, and systematic oversight for improved security preparedness.

Intelligence efforts in Nepal face challenges due to a lack of a strong strategic intelligence framework, weak intelligence-sharing between military and civilian agencies, and limited integration of modern surveillance technology. Inefficiencies in real-time information sharing, inter-agency collaboration, and outdated technology further hinder intelligence efforts. Strengthening coordination, digital forensics, and employee motivation is crucial for improving security capabilities. The mechanism also faces structural and operational gaps, lacking analytical capacity and technological adaptation. Modernization, clear operational guidelines, and data-driven analysis are essential for enhancing national security.

5.2 Conclusion

The study explores the role of intelligence in internal security in Nepal, its evolution, application, and importance in modern governance. It examines its various interpretations, from statecraft and espionage to its modern application as a strategic tool for informed decision-making. Western scholars define intelligence as knowledge, organizational dynamics, and strategic imperatives, while Chinese scholars view it as actionable information for espionage and strategic insight. Nepali scholars view it as a broader role in national security, extending into domestic policy and human security.

The intelligence theory, where Lowenthal (2017) emphasizes a systematic approach to gathering, processing, analyzing, and disseminating, is also seen to be relevant in the context of Nepal. This theory is particularly relevant to internal security, as it ensures intelligence agencies function efficiently by following a continuous loop of planning and direction, collection, processing, analysis, and dissemination. However, inefficiencies in information

sharing and outdated intelligence practices hinder the smooth operation of this cycle, affecting national security preparedness (Shrestha, 2015).

The study also highlights the importance of intelligence in military and law enforcement sectors, as highlighted by Gill and Phythian (20180) in the context of intelligence as a tool for state policy. Military professionals believe intelligence is crucial for assessing adversary capabilities, enhancing readiness, and strategic planning. Law enforcement uses intelligence to anticipate and address public safety threats, including crime, terrorism, and cyber. Both sectors agree on intelligence's critical role in operational effectiveness, decision-making, and strengthening national security, however often compromised by political interference and lack of coordination as Shrestha (2023) mentioned.

The theory of intelligence failure explained by Betts (2007) alerts the possible areas of lapses which is also found by the study where intelligence is important in mitigating internal security challenges by fostering an integrated, multi-agency approach to national security. The study also shows that by addressing challenges from political extremism to critical infrastructure protection, providing actionable insights for military, law enforcement, and socio-economic stability, the possibility of failure is minimized by intelligence. Lessons from intelligence failures worldwide suggest that reforms, better training, and improved coordination mechanisms can mitigate these risks and enhance national security (Grongstad & Lasoen, 2020). Advanced technologies like AI-driven analytics and surveillance bolster intelligence efforts, ensuring a proactive and resilient security framework.

The ILP model described by Ratcliffe (2016), which focuses on the proactive use of intelligence to prevent crimes and internal security threats is also seen contextual by the study. The use of data-driven decision-making, real-time intelligence sharing, and strategic law enforcement operations to counter criminal activities effectively is necessary but still underdeveloped in Nepal due to a lack of technological integration, limited resources, and weak inter-agency cooperation (Sharma, 2022). Ineffective oversight mechanisms contribute to stagnation, making the intelligence system reactive rather than proactive. Legislative reforms, better coordination, and systematic oversight are needed to improve intelligence operations and national security preparedness.

Appendix A

(Refer to Page No. 18 & 20)

Interview Questions for Members/Ex-Members of Intelligence/Security Organizations & Other Government Agencies

Form Serial No: Date:2081/ /

The following questions are the part of practices for academic propose to get the knowledge about "Role of Intelligence in Internal Security" conducted by Ashok Paudel, an investigator/student of Master in Security, Development and Peace Studies (MSDPS) at APF Command and Staff College, Sanogaucharan, Kathmandu. Your candid answer will provide invaluable information about my research topic. I assure that your participation in this interview is completely voluntary, if you do not want to take part in this interview or if there are any particular questions you do not wish to answer, you can just inform me anytime. All personal information shared will remain secret. The confidentiality of your participation will be maintained and your responses will not be accessible to government officials or others entities. Please reply to every question to the best of your ability.

Details of Respondent:

Name:

Organization:

Responsibility:

Experience in Job:

Education Background:

QUESTIONS

1. How do you understand the intelligence?

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2. What are the components of internal security of the country?

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3. What could be the role of intelligence in internal security?

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4. What might be major challenges to internal security of Nepal?

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5. How intelligence could contribute to prevent and mitigate internal security challenges?

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6. What are the weaknesses of intelligence community in Nepal?

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7. How state could overcome intelligence weaknesses?

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Appendix B

(Refer to Page No. 4)

Role of NID (NSP, 2016)

i. To collect, analyze and disseminate information on Nepal's freedom, sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence, dignity, unity, interests and those against social cohesion

ii. To collect and analyze information on the activities to be committed against the Constitution of Nepal, law and the state and the persons and organizations involved in such activities and to report them to the necessary agency and to suggest Government of Nepal in providing information on national security and in counterintelligence

iii. To collect and analyze information on political, economic, social, religious, communal and diplomatic activities against national interests and to inform the concerned agency or official

iv. To collect and analyze information on intelligence and counterintelligence inside and outside the country by native or foreign nationals against the country and to inform the concerned agency or official

v. To collect information on violence-oriented activities in religious, communal, ethnic, regional nature and on financial activities

vi. To collect and analyze information on activities causing adverse impact on economy including corruption, financial irregularities, revenue leakages

vii. To collect and analyze information on terrorists and international criminal organizations and network of terrorism and the threats that might invite against the country

viii. To formulate a long-term plan for development of the department as a reliable and capable organization for collecting and analyzing information necessary for coping up with the challenges likely to be faced by the nation and to implement it in a phase-wise manner

ix. To carry out other functions specified by Government of Nepal according to the Constitution of Nepal and the prevailing laws.

Appendix C

(Refer to Page No. 25)

Threats and Challenges to National Security (NSP, 2016)

a) Political challenges and threats
   i. System of governance, transformation and transitional phase
   ii. Political instability and division
   iii. Polarization of unwarranted groups
   iv. Unconstitutional activities, and
   v. Unwarranted external influence

b) Challenges and threats related to law and order
   i. Trend of politicization of crimes and criminalization of politics
   ii. Obstructions to the culture of rule of law
   iii. Trends of violation of law and impunity
   iv. Abuse of modern technology in commission of crimes
   v. Increase in violence and armed crimes
   vi. Increase in organized crimes
   vii. Illicit smuggling of narcotic drugs
   viii. Unlawful import of arms and explosives
   ix. Increasing incidents of violence in community
   x. Looting, kidnapping, white collar crimes and cyber crimes
   xi. Corruption
   xii. Traffic in human beings
   xiii. Narrow communalism and regionalism.

c) Socio-economic challenges and threats
   i. Weak economy and dependence on others
   ii. Illiteracy, increasing unemployment and poverty
   iii. Minimal national production
   iv. Economic inequality
   v. Population growth and unmanaged migration
   vi. Negligence to national interests while allocating, consuming and utilizing national resources and means

vii. Financial crimes and revenue leakage; impact of external financial crisis and infirmities
viii. Insecure environment having direct adverse impact on investment
ix. Industrial disharmony
x. Abuse of civil rights
xi. Conflicts among various classes, regions, tribes and communities and activities causing adverse impact on social cohesion
xii. Negligence towards social and moral values
xiii. Inadequacy of assistance and resources necessary for deprived communities and regions
xiv. Increase of HIV/AIDS, epidemics and other infectious diseases
xv. Narrow ethnic and regional trends and activities
xvi. Effects of religious extremism.

d) Challenges and threats related to disasters and natural resources
   i. Disasters emerged by human-induced problems such as unmanaged settlement, forests degradation, pollution
   ii. Natural disasters such as earthquake, soil erosion, flood, landslide, and water submergence
   iii. Unmanaged and irregular exploitation of natural resources
   iv. Climate change and environmental loss
   v. Chemical, radiation and technology-induced disasters.

e) Challenges and threats posed by extremism
   i. Threats created in society due to disorder, insecurity, terrorism, and chaos
   ii. Likelihood of involvement of terrorists in smuggling of arms, explosives and narcotic drugs
   iii. Undesirable and illegal activities in tourism, investment and foreign currency earning sectors
   iv. External collusion and undesirable movements
   v. Inter-country and trans-border crimes
   vi. Various types of extremism and disorder arising out of them
   vii. Involvement of extremists in misuse of foreign currency and smuggling.

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