

**ASSESSMENT OF THE COST IN OBTAINING
CITIZENSHIP IN SINDHUPALCHOK DISTRICT,
NEPAL**

A Thesis

**Submitted to the Department of Economics, Patan Multiple Campus
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University,
Nepal, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
of the Degree of**

MASTER OF ARTS

in

ECONOMICS

By

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July, 2024

DECLARATION

I, hereby declare that this thesis entitled “ASSESSMENT OF THE COST IN OBTAINING CITIZENSHIP IN SUNDHUPALCHOK DISTRICT, NEPAL” which I have submitted to Department of Economics, Patan Multiple Campus, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of MASTER OF ARTS in ECONOMICS, is entirely my original work prepared under the guidance of my supervisor. I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of writing this thesis. The results of this thesis have not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree. I shall be solely responsible for any evidence found against my declaration.

.....

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LETTER OF RECCOMENDATION

This thesis entitled “ASSESSMENT OF THE COST IN OBTAINING CITIZENSHIP IN SUNDHUPALCHOK DISTRICT, NEPAL” has been prepared by MR. JHAKKA PRASAD ACHARYA under my guidance and supervision. I hereby, recommend it in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in ECONOMICS for final examination.

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

We certify that this thesis entitled “ASSESSMENT OF THE COST IN OBTAINING CITIZENSHIP IN SUNDHUPALCHOK DISTRICT, NEPAL” submitted by MR. JHAKKA PRASAD ACHARYA to the Department of Economics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Patan Multiple Campus, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of MASTER OF ARTS in ECONOMIC has been found satisfactory in scope and quality. Therefore, we accept this thesis as a part of the said Degree.

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ABSTRACT

Citizenship is not merely a legal status but a fundamental right, crucial for accessing various social services and political participation. This study examines the financial implications and procedural intricacies associated with obtaining citizenship in Sindhupalchok District, Nepal. The cost and complexities involved in obtaining citizenship can present significant barriers, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. In the purview, the study questions examine the overall financial and opportunity cost associated with citizenship receiver residing in seven different local levels of Sindhupalchok district which are at the proximity and remote area from the District Administration Office (DAO). The objective of the study was to estimate the direct financial costs and opportunity cost associated with obtaining citizenship and compare those costs on the basis of their proximity and remoteness from the District Administration Office. The study used descriptive statistics, direct and opportunity cost estimation method, and t-test method. The study employed cross sectional data sets collected from survey on the sample of 385 in the Chautara sangachokgadhi Municipality and other six local levels of Sindhuplachok district. The respondents were asked about the socio-economic conditions, citizenship obtaining process, obstacles and hurdles faced, costs associated, and the time invested in citizenship. The majority of the respondents were Janajatis and they followed Buddhism. Most of the respondents were middle income group. The average cost of obtaining citizenship was highest for Bhotekoshi municipality i.e. NRs 4353 while it was lowest for Chautra Sangachokgadhi municipality. There were no significant differences in direct, indirect and opportunity cost based on the type of citizenship, gender of the respondents, and economic status. However, there was significant differences for direct and indirect cost of male and female, and depending on the distance. Significant differences in direct and indirect expenses between various local entities indicate systemic obstacles and inefficiencies. Since, Sindhupalchok district is geographically larger and also has diverse and complex topography, it would be easier to provide important public services such as citizenship form different regional center such as Melamchi and Barahbishe. A piloting of this decentralization is highly recommended.

Keywords: Direct cost, indirect cost, opportunity cost, average cost, citizenship, social services

ACCRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AD	Anno Domini
BS	Bikram Sambat
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CCIMS	Centralised Citizenship Information Management System
DAO	District Administration Office
DC	Direct Cost
IC	Indirect Cost
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MUN	Municipality
NASC	Nepal Administrative Staff college
NSO	National Statistics Office
RM	Rural Municipality
USA	United States of America

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The Master Thesis titled 'ASSESSMENT OF THE COST IN OBTAINING CITIZENSHIP IN SINDHUPALCHOK DISTRICT, NEPAL' submitted by JHAKKA PRASAD ACHARYA for plagiarism test on 11th July 2024, has been checked by the iThenticate plagiarism checker software. The software found an overall similarity index of 1% based on the following criteria.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

A person's citizenship is a vital component for the self-identity and legal position, giving them rights and privileges inside a certain nation-state. Citizenship encourages people working together to make positive changes in the society in which they are part of locally, nationally and globally (Rutte, 2022). As in many countries across the world, citizenship obtaining in Nepal is also a complex and often costly process, influenced by legal, bureaucratic and socio-economic factors (Bista, 2018). The process of becoming a citizen is complex and requires large financial outlays, have multifaceted nature, which can vary greatly based on the individual applicant's circumstances. There are various other expenditures that need to be taken into account in addition to the obvious application, legal, and certification fees. These consist of prospective relocation expenses, travel expenses for assessments and meetings, and lost income from time spent on the application process.

There are various legal provisions which are amended frequently to ensure that all citizens obtain their citizenship as per the Constitution of Nepal 2015 and the Citizenship Act 2006. However, there is still differential access and marginalized populations are still deprived of the citizenship as a result of various administrative and bureaucratic hurdles, socio-economic disparities despite the existing legal provisions and regulatory approaches (Thapa, 2017). Sindhupalchok district is located in the central part of Nepal having geographical diversities, socio-economic dynamics and administrative which complexities can present an interesting case study for assessing the cost of obtaining citizenship. Sindhupalchok is mostly an agrarian region characterized by high rates of poverty and little economic prospects. Many of the district's citizens depend on subsistence farming and seasonal labour, and the district's average income is much lower than the national average.

There is a significant financial cost associated with obtaining a citizenship in Sindhupalchok. A lot of residents may find it unaffordable to cover direct expenditures including application fees, legal counsel, and other paperwork. An additional level of complication is introduced by the indirect costs. The expenses

associated with travelling to and from government offices situated distant from rural areas, lodging fees for individuals who must remain overnight to finish the required procedures, and lost income resulting from time spent navigating the bureaucratic process are among them. The complexities involved in becoming a citizen in Sindhupalchok District is vital to comprehend for a number of reasons. Firstly, person's socioeconomic well-being, which includes their access to jobs, healthcare, and educational possibilities depends on person's citizenship status. Secondly, citizenship rights are closely related to the general issues of identity, belonging, and political participation. They impact people's sense of authority and involvement in the state (Sharma, 2016).

The situation is far more difficult for those who are marginalized and live in isolated parts of Sindhupalchok. Because of the district's rough topography and inadequate infrastructure, travel can be costly and time-consuming. Marginalized groups, like women and ethnic minorities, frequently encounter further obstacles on their journey to citizenship, such as restricted access to information and legal services. This study will go deeply into these financial difficulties and offer a thorough summary of the financial obstacles that Sindhupalchok inhabitants must overcome in order to become citizens. By drawing attention to these problems, the study hopes to raise awareness of the necessity of more equal and accessible citizenship procedures, especially for communities that are geographically and economically marginalized.

Despite the importance of citizenship, not much empirical study has been done to assess the specific costs associated with obtaining citizenship especially in Sindhupalchok district. Comprehensive study and analysis on this particular topic is noticeably missing. The past experience of citizen has suggested that the practice of obtaining citizenship can be costly and time-consuming. Available past studies have identified the monetary, administrative, and sociocultural issues that affects in obtaining citizenship in the complex setting like that of Sindhupalchok which is to be studied for understanding the situation in depth.

The purpose of this study is to fulfill the existing study void by providing a thorough assessment of the costs involved in obtaining citizenship in the Sindhupalchok district of Nepal. This study aims to provide insight on the challenges encountered by individuals seeking to exercise their right to citizenship in this district as a result of financial costs associated with the process as well as its broader socio-economic

effects. Additionally, this study aims to provide policy recommendations aimed at supporting more fair and accessible citizenship obtaining procedures in Sindhupalchok district by identifying bottlenecks and inefficiencies within the current system.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Getting citizenship is a complicated procedure with several facets that interacts with many political and socioeconomic elements (Kafle, 2010). A crucial component of statehood is the citizenship process, which has an immediate effect on people's rights and ability to access services. Nevertheless, obtaining citizenship can be costly and involve complicated bureaucratic processes, especially in poorer nations. Research has shown that these difficulties frequently become worse in rural locations, where additional informal expenses and ineffective administrative practices can make the procedure much more difficult (Acharya, 2015; Shrestha, 2019; Dahal, 2021; Lama, 2020). For instance, research findings show that people living in these areas have to comply with complicated bureaucratic requirements, like presenting multiple forms of identification and receiving confirmation from local authorities, which may be costly and time-consuming (Rai, 2017; Singh, 2018). This is a crucial problem because citizenship provides access to a number of basic services, such as property rights, healthcare, and education. Additionally, the absence of citizenship paperwork can result in limited participation in democratic processes and social marginalization, which exacerbates poverty and inequality (Bhandari, 2018; KC, 2022).

The obtaining of citizenship is a fundamental right that ensures individuals legal recognition and access to various social, economic and political benefits within a nation state (Thapa, 2017). However, in many regions, including Sindhupalchok district, Nepal, the process of obtaining citizenship particularly by marginalized populations is more difficult and complex. Despite legal provisions outlining citizenship obtaining procedures, the implementation and associated costs may vary, leading to inequalities and barriers to citizenship access (Thapa, 2017). There is a lack of comprehensive understanding regarding the various costs incurred by individuals' during the process of obtaining citizenship from the District Administration Office (DAO) in Sindhupalchok especially for vulnerable populations like women, minorities, and marginalized ethnic groups, restricted access to citizenship paperwork

can prolong marginalization and exclusion (Bhandari, 2019). Moreover, the dearth of empirical studies investigating the particular expenses associated with getting citizenship in Nepal impedes endeavors to tackle disparities and optimize citizenship protocols.

It is very difficult to acquire the status of a citizen of Nepal, particularly in outlying areas like Sindhupalchok. The prerequisites for citizenship are outlined in the nation's legislative framework, but putting them into practice locally frequently faces many challenges. According to reports, residents of rural and hilly areas face significant challenges, such as having to make repeated trips to government offices, travelling great distances to administrative centers, and lacking the necessary paperwork (Nepal Law Commission, 2020). For instance, people could have to travel for several hours or even days to go to the closest administrative office, which would result in expensive travel and lodging. (Sharma, 2019; Rai, 2020). Furthermore, for economically disadvantaged communities, the related costs—both official and unofficial—may be unreasonably high, making the process even more difficult. These obstacles not only obstruct personal development but also exacerbate more general problems of marginalization and societal inequity. These obstacles have a significant socioeconomic impact since they restrict access to chances for work, healthcare, and education, which feeds poverty cycles (Thapa, 2020; Adhikari, 2021).

While statutory fees are specified by law, there may be additional informal costs, administrative charges and hidden expenses that are not transparently documented or accounted for. In addition, different socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment and lack of financial resources may hinder individuals' ability to afford the costs associated with citizenship obtaining. The bureaucratic procedures and administrative requirements involved in obtaining citizenship from DAO in Sindhupalchok may be convoluted, time consuming and prone to inefficiencies. Individuals may encounter obstacles such as excessive paperwork, lengthy processing times and inconsistent application of regulations, which can increase the overall cost and difficulty of acquiring citizenship. There is a risk of corruption and informal payments within the citizenship obtaining process, where individuals may be compelled to pay bribes or unofficial fees to expedite their applications or bypass bureaucratic hurdles. Limited access to citizenship rights can have far-reaching consequences for individuals' social inclusion, economic opportunities and enjoyment

of human rights (Bhandari, 2019). The majority of the literature that has been published about the expense of becoming a citizen is on the legal requirements and procedural factors, with little attention paid to the financial burden that individuals must bear. Studies such as those by Gautam (2017), Koirala (2018), and Maharjan (2019) have investigated the role of middlemen and inefficiencies in the official system in obtaining citizenship. Nevertheless, there is a paucity of thorough studies that particularly examine the financial consequences for residents of rural areas. The majority of research has focused on cities or offered a broad national viewpoint, leaving a large knowledge vacuum on the specific difficulties faced by districts such as Sindhupalchok. Furthermore, there is not enough information on the long-term impacts of these financial burdens, despite the fact that some research has touched on how these expenses affect marginalized populations (Joshi, 2019; Lama, 2021). Additionally, there isn't a thorough examination of the unofficial fees and bribes that might significantly raise the total cost of gaining citizenship in the literature that is now in publication (Kafle, 2020; Gurung, 2021).

This study attempts to close this gap by estimating the price of becoming a citizen in Nepal's Sindhupalchok area. "What are the financial and non-financial costs faced by individuals in Sindhupalchok district when obtaining citizenship, and how do these costs impact their access to essential services?" is the main study question that needs to be answered. This study aims to provide a comprehensive and nuanced knowledge of the economic hurdles to citizenship by concentrating on a particular district. This information will help shape policy initiatives that attempt to streamline the process and lower associated expenses. Both quantitative and qualitative methodologies will be used in this study to get a complete picture of the difficulties that people experience. It is anticipated that the results would add to the larger conversation on costs associated with citizenship and governance in Nepal by providing useful suggestions to legislators on how to improve accessibility and lessen the financial load on residents. The study intends to foster more fair and inclusive access to citizenship and the benefits that come with it by addressing these challenges.

The existing body of literature on citizenship in Nepal sometimes ignores the complex socio-economic implications of acquiring citizenship in favour of concentrating on the more general legal and political components. While a number of studies have looked at citizenship-related topics like gender discrimination, statelessness, and restrictive

citizenship laws, very few have taken a systematic look at expenses that the people must pay in order to exercise their right to citizenship. Furthermore, most study that has been done thus far has focused on urban areas, while ignoring the particular difficulties that people who live in isolated and rural places. In this context, this study states the following research questions.

1.3 Research Questions

This study has been focused to fill the gap that exist in present literature by using the following study questions:

- i. What are the direct, indirect and opportunity cost associated with obtaining citizenship ranging from different local levels in Sindhupalchok District, Nepal?
- ii. What is the difference in cost between local levels situated at proximity and remote area from DAO?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of this study is to find out the cost of obtaining citizenship for general public in Sindhupalchok district. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- i. To explore the direct, indirect and opportunity cost in obtaining citizenship in the study area.
- ii. To compare the difference in cost between local levels situated at proximity and remote area from DAO.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is significant for several reasons:

- i. This study will provide information on how marginalized and economically disadvantaged individuals are disproportionately affected by economic barriers. This may result in the creation of more inclusive laws that guarantee all citizens, irrespective of socioeconomic background, fair access to citizenship.

- ii. Specific administrative and procedural obstacles particular to rural and distant places can be identified with the aid of comprehensive data on the financial and non-financial costs of obtaining citizenship in Sindhupalchok.
- iii. The study will provide useful suggestions for expediting the citizenship acquisition procedure, including cutting down on the quantity of paperwork needed, delegating administrative tasks to local staff, and utilizing digital technologies to cut down on trip expenses.
- iv. The study sheds light on unofficial expenses including bribes and unofficial fees, which are not well-documented in the body of existing research. This can improve knowledge of the unspoken financial costs that citizens face.

1.6 Limitations of the Study

There are some limitations of the study which are as follows;

- i. Due to the small sample, a study may not accurately represent the diverse range of experiences and perspectives within the population of Sindhupalchok, Nepal.
- ii. The study's scope is restricted to the Sindhupalchok District, which may result in an incomplete representation of the range of experiences and obstacles related to obtaining citizenship in other parts of Nepal, because various regions of the nation have different socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, it's possible that the study's conclusions may not be applied there.
- iii. The study may not fully address all facets of citizenship rights and governance in Nepal, despite its goal of offering insights on the expenses and obstacles related to obtaining citizenship. Beyond the purview of this study, additional study may be necessary on a few aspects, including political dynamics, cultural norms, and legal difficulties.
- iv. The study is limited within seven local level of Sindhupalchok district of Nepal.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

There are several facets to the concept of citizenship, including social, legal, and economic aspects. Fundamentally, citizenship is a legal status that bestows upon people specific rights and obligations within a state. However, the process of becoming a citizen is frequently difficult and expensive, especially in developing nations where corruption and inefficient bureaucracy can greatly raise the costs, both monetary and non-monetary. The economic aspect of obtaining citizenship has not received much attention, even though it plays a vital role in deciding one's ability to obtain citizenship and, by extension, a number of other fundamental rights and benefits.

2.2. Literature Review: International Context

Kouadio and Diop (2023) investigated the social and economic consequences of attaining citizenship in three West African nations through focus groups and household surveys. According to the report, acquiring citizenship can cost anywhere between USD 50 and \$400 in total, including direct, indirect, and unofficial expenses. For many households, these expenses were a substantial financial burden, which resulted in social exclusion and restricted access to necessary services. The authors advocated for changes to policy to lower these expenses and enhance citizenship opportunities. This study offers a helpful comparison to comprehend the financial cost of obtaining citizenship in Nepal.

Adeyemi and Olayinka (2022) investigated the socioeconomic impact of citizenship fees using a mixed-methods methodology that combined quantitative data from national surveys with qualitative interviews from five.se

African nations. According to the report, official and informal citizenship payments varied from USD 40 to \$300. Low-income families were disproportionately affected by these expenses, which frequently accounted for a sizeable portion of their yearly income. The authors concluded that social inequality is made worse by high

citizenship fees. The results of this study are pertinent to comprehending the comparable socioeconomic effects in Nepal.

Garcia and Hernandez (2022) focused on the direct and indirect expenses of establishing legal identification by analyzing administrative data and interviewing 500 candidates for citizenship from five Latin American nations. According to the research, direct expenditures can reach USD 30-150, while indirect costs—like lost earnings and travel—could surpass USD 200. The poorest candidates may have to pay up to 20% of their yearly salary in total, according to the authors' research. The substantial financial cost of getting citizenship is highlighted in this study; this is a worry that is also apparent in the Nepalese context.

Johnson and Smith (2021) employed a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews with 300 applicants and quantitative data from government records in 15 developing countries. Their focus was on the financial costs associated with obtaining citizenship, such as official fees, travel expenses, and unofficial payments. According to the report, depending on the nation, the direct expenses of becoming a citizen could range from USD 50 to USD 300. Furthermore, unofficial expenses like bribes frequently caused the total cost to increase. Johnson and Smith came to the conclusion that marginalized groups are disproportionately impacted by these economic barriers, which restrict their access to necessary services and exacerbate social injustices. This study emphasizes the high cost associated with getting citizenship, which is comparable to the problems seen in Nepal.

Patel (2021) carried out an ethnographic study with 200 citizenship seekers in three rural Indian regions. The study used participant observation and in-depth interviews. The study found that candidates frequently had delays of up to two years, and that the expenses incurred from recurrent travel and unofficial fees added up. The overall expenses were between INR 5000 and INR 20000, or around USD 70 and 280. Patel's research highlights how much the cost of gaining citizenship is impacted by inefficiencies in the bureaucracy. These observations are essential to comprehending comparable difficulties in the rural areas of Nepal.

Mwangi and Njoroge (2021) investigated the hidden expenses connected to obtaining citizenship by combining focus group discussions with survey data from ten Sub-Saharan African nations. The research revealed that applicants frequently paid

informal fees equivalent to 50–2000% of the official charges, on top of official fees, which typically ranged from USD 20–100. Bribery to get documents faster or to speed up the procedure was one of these hidden costs. The authors contend that these financial obstacles seriously obstruct citizenship, especially for the underprivileged. The unofficial cost problems found in Nepal are parallel in this study.

Al-Hassan and El-Sayed (2020) investigated the administrative expenses associated with getting citizenship by examining official documents and speaking with officials and applicants in four Middle Eastern nations. According to the survey, official fees varied from USD 50 to USD 200; however, extra expenses for travel and document verification might make this price quadruple. The authors pointed out that inefficient administrative procedures frequently resulted in more visits and costs. These results emphasize the value of expediting administrative processes—a suggestion that also holds true for Nepal.

Nguyen et al. (2020) examined the role of corruption in South-east Asian citizenship acquisition processes using administrative data, surveys, and interviews with 400 candidates. According to the report, the official costs of getting citizenship increased by 30–100% due to corruption. For instance, in certain instances, candidates paid bribes of up to \$500 USD in addition to official costs. The authors came to the conclusion that corruption causes major delays and disparities in citizenship access in addition to raising the financial burden. These results are important for comprehending related problems in Nepal, where corruption is a recognized obstacle.

Kovacs and Szabo (2019) evaluated the effect of citizenship acquisition expenses on household finances using survey data and economic modelling from six Eastern European nations. According to the study, the entire cost of becoming a citizen, including official fees and related costs, might vary from \$100 to \$500. These expenses took up a considerable amount of household income, especially for households with low incomes. The writers emphasized the necessity of changing policies in order to lower these expenses and increase citizenship eligibility. This analysis backs up the necessity of comparable changes in Nepal to lessen the financial strain on applicants.

Devit (2018) explores the legal and historical aspects of citizenship practices in the Caribbean after colonization, demonstrating the colonial legacy' continuing impact on

modern legislation. Through interviews, legal analysis, and archival research, the study demonstrates how hierarchies from the colonial era continue to influence citizenship laws that are restrictive and frequently exclude marginalized people. Devit's research shows how legal changes are required to correct past wrongs and advance more inclusive civic behavior. This study highlights the need for reform to ensure that all citizens in post-colonial contexts have fair access to citizenship by offering insightful information about how historical legacies influence current citizenship rules.

Hollifield (2018) synthesizes the body of research and data from international surveys to provide a comprehensive review of the major ideas and debates in citizenship and migration studies. The study emphasizes the significance of transnationalism and dual citizenship while highlighting how citizenship regimes are changing in response to shifting migration trends. The dynamic and adaptable character of citizenship laws, which increasingly consider a diverse population, is revealed by Hollifield's meta-analytic method. This study provides a thorough framework for comprehending the current state of citizenship and migration studies, highlighting the necessity for continued policy adaptation to match modern migratory realities.

Levitt, Schiller, and Reddy (2018) present a transnational social field perspective that aims to comprehend the connections between social networks, migration, and citizenship. Through qualitative interviews, quantitative surveys, and anthropological fieldwork, they illustrate how people's experiences of migration and citizenship are influenced by transnational social networks. Their findings advocate for more inclusive and flexible approaches to citizenship rules by highlighting the need for policies that acknowledge and encourage these transnational linkages. This study offers insightful information about the real-life experiences of migrants and emphasizes the significance of taking into account the transnational aspects of citizenship and migration.

Bloemraad (2017) uses a mixed-methods approach that combines quantitative national surveys with focus groups and qualitative interviews to investigate the idea of citizenship as a means of making claims. The study sheds insight on how people bargain for access to social and political advantages by utilizing their citizenship status. Bloemraad highlights the need for inclusive government that strengthens

marginalized groups and makes it easier for them to participate in society through comparative analysis. According to the findings, citizenship policies ought to be created to encourage the various ways that individuals stand up for their rights and interests. In addressing the diverse needs and experiences of various demographic groups, inclusive policies are crucial, and this research closes a significant knowledge gap on citizenship dynamics.

Singh et al. (2017) investigated the hidden costs and delays in the citizenship process through a cross-country analysis in South Asia utilizing information from official databases, surveys, and interviews with 600 candidates. According to the study, official fees, which varied from USD 20 to USD 150, were frequently increased by hidden expenditures, such as bribes and unofficial fees. Additionally, applicants had to pay for additional fees like lost earnings and recurrent travel expenses as a result of the procedure's delays. The writers emphasized the necessity of stronger anti-corruption initiatives and greater transparency. These results hold significance for tackling analogous issues in Nepal.

2.3 National Context

Dahal (2021) investigated the hidden expenses of getting citizenship by conducting focus groups and qualitative interviews with 150 applicants in the Terai region. According to this research, applicants frequently paid bribes between NPR 1000 to NPR 5000 in addition to official costs in order to speed up the application process or obtain required documentation. For the impoverished, these unofficial expenses created obstacles as they considerably raised the whole cost. The report highlighted how widespread corruption is in the citizenship process and recommended anti-corruption measures to guarantee fair access. This research has bearing on Sindhupalchok's informal cost problems.

In the hilly Dolakha region, Lama (2020) undertook a case study that involved in-depth interviews with one hundred applicants for citizenship. The socioeconomic effects of citizenship costs on rural areas were the main focus of Lama's research. The investigation discovered that, considering the distance to administrative offices, travel expenses alone could be more than NPR 5000. An additional burden for candidates was lost pay as a result of many visits. Lama came to the conclusion that decentralized administrative services are necessary due to the high expenses and

logistical difficulties in remote places. These results shed light on comparable difficulties in the isolated regions of Sindhupalchok.

In-depth interviews with 150 applicants in the Far-Western Development Region were used in a qualitative study by Bhattarai (2020). This study investigated how sociocultural elements affect the price of naturalization. The study discovered that because of prejudice and exploitation by local officials, marginalized communities—like Dalits and ethnic minorities faced additional unofficial costs. The range of these expenses was NPR 2000–6000. This research concluded that these socio-cultural impediments require focused interventions to be addressed. The convergence of social and economic barriers to obtaining citizenship is shown by this study.

Maharjan (2019) interviewed 200 applicants nationwide as well as 50 government officials across the country for a policy analysis based on administrative data. The main emphasis of this research was how well the existing laws lower the price of obtaining citizenship. While several programs sought to reduce official fees, the substantial indirect and informal expenses were not addressed, according to the research. This study suggested anti-corruption initiatives and decentralized services as part of a comprehensive policy reform package to successfully lower total expenses. In order to effectively address comparable problems in Sindhupalchok, this study emphasizes the necessity of comprehensive policy measures.

Using a mixed-methods approach, Shrestha (2019) combined 200 applicants' qualitative interviews with quantitative data from government databases in the Kathmandu Valley. Shrestha's research concentrated on the financial and administrative difficulties associated with obtaining citizenship. The results showed that delays brought on by ineffective bureaucracy frequently resulted in higher expenses, with applicants spending an average of NPR 3000-7000. Shrestha concluded that marginalized groups were disproportionately impacted by these delays and higher expenditures, highlighting the necessity of streamlining administrative procedures. This study emphasizes the administrative roadblocks that are comparable to those in Sindhupalchok.

Thapa (2018) employed a longitudinal methodology, monitoring 200 candidates for citizenship in the Eastern Development Region over a two-year period. This research looked at the long-term financial effects of citizenship process delays. According to

the results, applicants had to pay an average of NPR 10,000 over the course of two years for follow-up visits and related fees as a result of extended delays. He came to the conclusion that applicants' financial burden may be considerably reduced by cutting down on bureaucratic red tape. This study emphasizes how crucial effective administrative procedures are to cutting expenses.

In the Western Development Region, Karki (2017) surveyed 300 candidates in both rural and urban areas while analyzing government data. This research sought to examine the price of becoming a citizen in various geographic locations. According to the research, candidates from rural areas had more travel charges, while those from cities had lower indirect costs but higher official fees. Total expenses ranged from NPR 2000 to NPR 8000 on average. This research sheds light on the differences in citizenship procedures across different regions, which is important to comprehend the variances in costs in Sindhupalchok.

Rai (2017) looked into the connection between income levels and the price of becoming a citizen using a cross-sectional survey with 300 applicants in the Central Development Region. According to Rai's research, candidates with lower incomes had to pay between NPR 3000 and NPR 10,000 for the citizenship process, which accounted for a larger percentage of their income. The study emphasized how these expenses are regressive and disproportionately impact the impoverished. In order to lessen the financial strain on low-income households, Rai advocated for income-based subsidies. This research sheds light on the differences in citizenship fees based on economic status.

Gurung (2016) conducted a mixed-methods study with 250 applicants in the Mid-Western Development Region, including surveys and interviews. This study concentrated on the gendered dimensions of citizenship expenses and discovered that women encountered extra difficulties, such as the necessity for support from male relatives and higher expenses for child care while visiting. According to the report, women spent, on average, NPR 4000–9000 more than men did. The study demanded that these discrepancies be addressed by gender-sensitive policy. These results are pertinent to Sindhupalchok's efforts to solve issues that are unique to gender.

Acharya (2015) carried out a quantitative investigation utilizing survey information from 500 individuals seeking citizenship in different districts of Nepal. Analyzing the

direct and indirect expenses associated with becoming a citizen was the goal of the study. This study discovered that the official fees varied between NPR 500 and NPR 2000, and that other indirect costs like lost earnings and travel expenditures greatly raised the overall cost. The report urged for legislative changes to lower these expenses and brought attention to the financial hardship that low-income families, especially those in rural areas, endure. This study highlights the financial obstacles to getting Nepalese citizenship, which is pertinent to the difficulties encountered in the Sindhupalchok district.

In addition to legal frameworks and bureaucratic processes, regional considerations might introduce considerable differences in accessibility and expense when it comes to the obtaining of citizenship. When it comes to obtaining citizenship paperwork, people who live in distant areas of Nepal where administrative services are frequently concentrated in urban centers face different obstacles than those who live near district administration offices.

2.4 Research Gap

Vink and Dronkers (2017) draw attention to the growing acceptance of dual citizenship in Europe, highlighting the ways in which this development influences the creation of identities and fosters transnational links. In his examination of citizenship as claims-making, Bloemraad (2017) makes the case for inclusive governance and comparative analysis as tools for comprehending citizenship dynamics. Devit (2018) investigates the ways in which legal structures, socio-political forces, and historical legacies influence citizenship practices in the Caribbean, providing insights into the particular difficulties encountered by post-colonial governments. Feldblum and Oberoi (2016) examine the impact of intersectionality between gender, class, and ethnicity on the acquisition of citizenship rights in South Asia by focusing on gender-based barriers to citizenship.

The emphasis on inclusive policies, transnational perspectives, and the intersectionality of many socio-economic elements in shaping citizenship acquisition is increasing, according to current research trends. But even with these advances, there are still a lot of unanswered questions, especially about how much it actually costs to become a citizen. Although gender-based hurdles have been studied by Feldblum and Oberoi (2016), there aren't many thorough studies that cover the

opportunity, administrative, and financial costs of obtaining citizenship in various socioeconomic and geographic circumstances. Furthermore, not enough research has been done on how corrupt and inefficient bureaucracy affects the cost of becoming a citizen, especially in rural and marginalized regions.

A number of research have found important information about obtaining citizenship in Nepal based on the literature review. In his discussion of the financial obstacles to gaining Nepalese citizenship, Acharya (2015) points out that candidates encounter a number of substantial financial challenges. Adhikari (2021) highlights the differences between urban and rural contexts by focusing on the procedural and economic difficulties that exist in rural communities. In his 2018 book, Bhandari examines social exclusion as well as the administrative barriers that underprivileged groups must overcome to become citizens. A socio-legal analysis of citizenship rights in Nepal is given by Bista (2018), who highlights the intricate interactions that exist between social norms and legal frameworks. These studies show that the process of getting citizenship in Nepal is greatly impacted by social, bureaucratic, and economic hurdles.

Current study trends in Nepal show that administrative inefficiencies and socioeconomic discrepancies that impede obtaining citizenship are receiving more and more attention. For instance, Bhandari (2019) and Bhattarai (2020) have investigated the ways in which bureaucratic red tape and socio-cultural factors add to the high expenses and lengthy processing times associated with obtaining citizenship. The incidence of unofficial fees and bribes has been recorded by Gurung (2021), which adds to the financial pressure placed on candidates. Despite these efforts, there are still a lot of unanswered questions about the whole cost structures of becoming a citizen, especially when it comes to opportunity costs and direct and indirect expenses.

By offering a thorough examination of the expenses related to getting citizenship in Sindhupalchok, Nepal, this study seeks to close these gaps. It will look into the diverse opportunity, administrative, and financial expenses that applicants have to pay, with an emphasis on the differences across the district's local levels. By filling up these gaps, this study will advance our understanding of the complexity of citizenship acquisition obstacles and provide guidance for policy actions that aim to lower costs and advance more equitable citizenship access in Nepal.

CHAPTER III

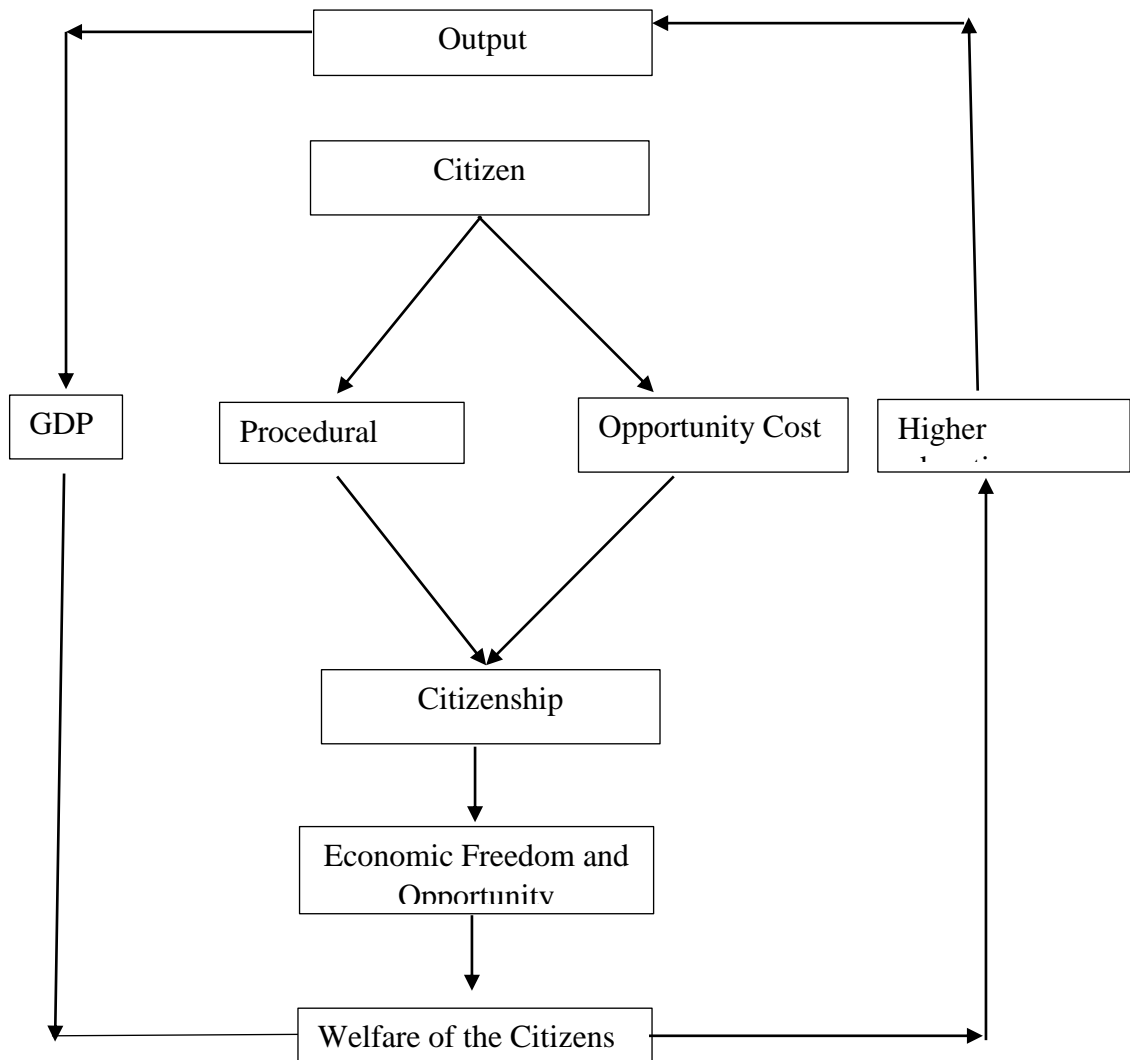
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Study methodology refers to the various sequential steps the adopted by a researcher in studying a problem to meet the objective. This section of the study deals with the methodologies to be applied to carry out this study which includes study design, study area, universe and sample size, sampling procedure, method of data collection and data processing and analysis. This study explores the complex process of obtaining a citizenship in Sindhupalchok, Nepal, with an emphasis on the economic obstacles that candidates confront on the legal, administrative, and socioeconomic fronts. This study's research technique is built to thoroughly record both quantitative and qualitative data, offering a solid framework for analysis and interpretation. Primary data is gathered via structured surveys as part of the technique, while secondary data is extracted from reliable sources. The study hopes to provide a thorough analysis of the expenses, time, and labor related to the citizenship acquisition process by combining these approaches.

3.2 Conceptual Framework

This conceptual framework illustrates the interplay between various independent variables that influence the dependent variable, which is the cost of obtaining citizenship in Sindhupalchok District, Nepal. It allows for the systematic analysis of factors contributing to the overall cost and accessibility of the citizenship application process (Figure 1)



Source: Mwangi and Njoroge (2021)

Figure: 1 Conceptual Framework of the Study

3.3 Research Design

The study on "Assessment of the Cost in Obtaining Citizenship in Sindhupalchok District, Nepal" employed a combination of quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods to comprehensively explore the study topic. Quantitative data are gathered through structured surveys administered to individuals in the district, capturing information on direct financial costs, demographic characteristics, and perceptions of affordability and accessibility. The survey tool included standardized questions to ensure consistency and allow for central tendency and descriptive statistical analysis techniques such as mean, median standard deviation etc. Additionally, qualitative insights have been obtained through semi-structured interviews with key informants such as government officials and

representatives of marginalized groups, as well as through document analysis of relevant citizenship application forms, regulations, and legal documents. Thematic analysis has been conducted to identify patterns and themes in the qualitative data. These tools, including surveys, interviews, and document analysis enabled a comprehensive examination of the costs and associated factors of obtaining citizenship in Sindhupalchok District, Nepal.

3.4 Nature and Sources of Data

3.4.1 Primary Data

These are the first-hand data collected directly from the study area and in discussion with the recipient of citizenship from the study area. For primary data collection tools like survey, informal meeting and discussion with local leaders, and other related stakeholders of citizenship were considered. Among various tools, survey was done using questionnaire to assess various costs and perception of the respondents in receiving citizenship.

Survey

The questionnaire was subjected to a pre-testing procedure to guarantee its validity, reliability, and clarity prior to the survey being administered. A small, representative sample of respondents who were similar to the target population were given the questionnaire as part of the pre-testing process. This stage attempted to determine whether any of the questions were unclear or confusing, evaluate how thorough the response alternatives were, and make sure the questions successfully conveyed the necessary information. The pre-test participants' feedback was gathered and utilized to improve the clarity, relevance, and general efficacy of the questionnaire by making the necessary changes. The final version of the questionnaire was well-structured and able to reliably capture the necessary data thanks to this method, which also helped to minimize potential biases and inaccuracies.

The main tool used in this study to collect data was a questionnaire that was intended to provide detailed information on the complex process of becoming a citizen. It was methodically divided into four categories in order to gather pertinent information:

i. Socio-economic Data:

The respondents' age, gender, education level, occupation, income, and household size were all gathered in this part along with other demographic and socioeconomic data. Understanding the respondents' circumstances and how they might affect their experiences with the citizenship process was made easier with the use of this contextual background information.

ii. Charges Associated with Citizenship:

The various charges incurred during the process of obtaining citizenship were the main topic of this section. Direct expenditures like application fees, attorney fees, travel expenses, and any unreported payments or bribes were all addressed by the questions. Quantifying the cost of becoming a citizen was the goal of this section.

iii. Time Spent in Obtaining Citizenship:

Information regarding the amount of time respondents invested in the citizenship process was gathered in this area. The length of time from the beginning of the application to obtaining citizenship, the quantity of trips to government agencies, and any delays encountered were among the questions. Understanding the temporal component of the citizenship acquisition process required knowledge of this information.

iv. Effort made in Obtaining Citizenship:

The purpose of this part was to document the difficulties and effort that respondents encountered in obtaining citizenship. Concerns included how hard it is to navigate bureaucratic processes, if there have been any cases of prejudice or corruption, and how simple or complex the process is overall. This section shed light on the non-monetary costs related to becoming a citizen.

3.4.2 Secondary Data

In addition to primary data collection through surveys, the study also relied on various secondary sources to gather comprehensive information. The secondary documents were collected from the Tribhuvan University's library and the content was analyzed for developing research methodology, shaping the research design. For demographic data, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) was a valuable resource. Population statistics, age distribution, gender ratios, employment rates, literacy rates, and household sizes were among the data taken from CBS for the various local levels in the Sindhupalchok district. The socioeconomic background of the survey participants

was analyzed for selection of study area, foundation for comprehending the region's larger population patterns. The total population and household data of district was obtained the National Statistics Office (NSO).

The status of issue of citizenship certificates was made available in detail by the Centralized Citizenship Information Management System (CCIMS). Information obtained from CCIMS encompassed the quantity of citizenship certificates awarded, the categories of citizenship bestowed (such as through naturalization, birth, or descent), and the duration of time required to complete citizenship petitions. Analyzing the efficacy and efficiency of the citizenship acquisition process at various local levels required the use of this information.

Information about the expenses and procedures involved in processing applications for citizenship were collected from Ministry of Home Affairs. This includes documented instances of administrative corruption or inefficiencies, as well as official fee schedules, necessary paperwork, and procedural requirements. This data made it easier to determine the expenses, both direct and indirect, that applicants had to pay to obtain citizenship.

3.5 Data Collection Method

3.5.1 Study Area

The study was conducted in Sindhupalchowk district of Nepal which represents the mountain region and has complex topography ranging from 2450 ft. to 23238 ft. above the sea level. It lies between 27°27' to 28°13' north latitude and 85°27' to 86°06' east longitude.

Sindhupalchok district was selected as the study area due to its geographic diversity, demographic composition, and relevance to the study topic. The district's geographical diversity, proximity to Kathmandu and its varied socio-economic landscape make it an ideal setting for investigating the costs, barriers, and socio-economic implications of obtaining citizenship in a rural context within Nepal. The study was conducted in seven local levels of Sindhupalchok, which are purposively selected. Among them Chautara Sangachowkgadhi Municipality is at the proximity of DAO while Lisankhupakhar, Melamchi, and Tripurasundari Rural Municipality (RM) from constituency one and Helambu, Bhotekoshi and Pachpokhari Thangpal rural

municipality from constituency two are at the remoteness from DAO. These four Rural Municipality are very far from DAO and there is limited access to road as well. These local level's living standard is poor, far from DAO and there is difficulty in obtaining citizenship as a result of inaccessibility, low income and poor education level and the unavailability of means of transportations. Helambu and Pachpokhari Thangpal are in the border of Rasuwa district while Tripurasundari and Lisankhupakhar are in the border of Dolakha district. Thus, the study provides reliable information based on the significant difference of cost between local bodies, and provide insights on hurdle faced by people of these remote area to achieve citizenship as well.

3.5.2 Sampling Design

Population over 16 years' old who are eligible for obtaining citizenship of the selected area were the target population. The seven local levels were purposively selected among which one is very near to district headquarter and four at some remote area. The respondents of the survey were the recipient of the public service from DAO. Out of sampling frame in the selected area total of 385 peoples were surveyed. The sample size for the survey comprising respondents were determined on the basis of household number of selected local levels. The sample size was determined by using Daniel (1999) formula,

$$n = \frac{Z^2 P(1-P)}{d^2}$$

Since population size is unknown

n = sample size

Z= statistic for a level of confidence (for the level of confidence of confidence of 95%, which is conventional, Z value is 1.96)

P = expected prevalence or proportion. (P is considered 0.5)

d = precision (d is considered to 0.05 to produce good precision and small error of estimate)

Five weeks, from the first week of Baisakh to the first week of Jestha, were allocated for conducting the survey. The respondents came from different local levels in the Sindhupalchok district and had recently received their citizenship from the District Administration Office (DAO). Face-to-face interviews were used to collect data,

which ensured a high response rate and allowed for the clarification of any questions that respondents felt were unclear. This strategy made it easier to gather more complex information by capturing the respondents' in-depth perspectives and experiences with the citizenship acquisition procedure.

3.6 Tools of Analysis

Both primary and secondary data were carefully put into Microsoft Excel after being gathered. Excel was selected since it is user-friendly and works with a variety of statistical software programs. To guarantee accuracy and consistency, meticulous coding and categorization were used during the data entry process. The primary survey data was arranged into columns that represented several characteristics, including time and effort expended, various costs related to attaining citizenship, and socioeconomic statistics.

After data entry in Excel, the dataset was imported into Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for advanced statistical analysis. SPSS was selected due to its powerful analytical capabilities and user-friendly interface. The import process involved mapping the Excel columns to SPSS variables, ensuring that all data was correctly formatted and categorized. The data analysis was focused on estimating important discrepancies, patterns, and trends in the process of obtaining citizenship. The average expenses and time investments were estimated by descriptive statistics, and significant differences between the various groups were shown by t-tests. The examination emphasized the opportunity costs incurred, the direct and indirect expenses candidates faced, and the socioeconomic aspects impacting the selection process.

T-tests

T-tests were conducted to compare the mean values of the costs, time, and effort across the different groups. This method allowed us to determine if there were statistically significant differences between the groups, which could highlight disparities and inequities in the citizenship acquisition process.

For instance, a t-test was used to compare the average costs incurred by male and female applicants, as well as by applicants from urban versus rural areas. Similarly,

the time invested in obtaining citizenship was compared across different income levels and educational backgrounds. By conducting these t-tests, we aimed to identify whether certain groups faced higher financial burdens or longer processing times, thereby uncovering potential areas of inequality.

Formula to calculate t-value is:

$$t = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S_1^2}{N_1} + \frac{S_2^2}{N_2}}}$$

\bar{X}_1 Sample mean of group 1

\bar{X}_2 Sample mean of group 2

s_1^2 Variance of group 1

s_2^2 Variance of group 2

n_1 Sample size of group 1

n_2 Sample size of group 2

CHAPTER IV

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Citizenship is a legal status that bestows upon people specific rights and obligations within a state. However, the process of becoming a citizen is frequently difficult and expensive, especially in developing nations where corruption and inefficient bureaucracy can greatly raise the costs, both monetary and non-monetary. The economic aspect of obtaining citizenship has not received much attention, even though it plays a vital role in deciding one's ability to obtain citizenship and, by extension, a number of other fundamental rights and benefits. Obtaining an understanding of the global citizenship context can help one better understand how various nations handle this crucial component of identity and governance.

4.1 Overview

Citizenship acquisition varies significantly worldwide, shaped by legal frameworks, administrative practices, and socio-economic conditions. More open citizenship laws have been implemented throughout Europe, especially with regard to dual citizenship, which has strengthened international relations (Vink & Dronkers, 2017). With the goal of redressing historical injustices, the Caribbean's post-colonial citizenship practices are shaped by historical legacies and sociopolitical processes (Devit, 2018). The intersections of gender, class, and ethnicity in South Asia impact citizenship rights, underscoring the necessity of policies that remove these obstacles (Feldblum & Oberoi, 2016). The citizenship laws in North America oversee a diverse population while striking a balance between economic requirements, human rights, and national security (Hollifield, 2018). Koopmans (2017) investigates the connections between anti-outgroup sentiment in Europe and religious fanaticism, proposing that inclusive policies can foster social cohesion. Transnational approaches challenge conventional ideas of single-nation citizenship by highlighting the connections between citizenship, migration, and social networks (Levitt, Schiller, & Reddy, 2018).

The cost associated with obtaining citizenship in various parts of the world can be as shown in the figure and may vary depends on the residency status (Table 1

Table 1:*Cost of Obtaining Citizenship in Different Countries*

Country	Cost of Citizenship (Approximate)	Additional Notes
USA	\$725 application fee + legal fees	Additional costs may include biometric services fee and medical examination fees.
England	£1,330 application fee	Applicants may also need to pay for the Life in the UK test (£50) and English language test (if applicable). Legal fees may apply.
Russia	Varies	Russia does not have a fixed application fee for citizenship. Costs may include legal fees, document verification fees, and other administrative expenses.
China	Varies	China's citizenship process can be complex, and costs may vary depending on factors such as residency status, language proficiency, and legal fees.
India	₹ 1,200 application fee	Additional costs may include legal fees and other administrative expenses.
Japan	Varies	Japan's citizenship process can be lengthy and may involve multiple steps. Costs may include application fees, legal fees, and other administrative expenses.
Korea	Varies	South Korea's citizenship process can be complex, and costs may vary depending on factors such as residency status, language proficiency, and legal fees.
Canada	\$630 application fee	Additional costs may include biometrics fee, language testing fee (if applicable), and legal fees.
Israel	1₪,035 application fee	Additional costs may include language proficiency test fees, legal fees, and other administrative expenses.
Iran	Varies	Iran's citizenship process can be complex, and costs may vary depending on factors such as residency status, legal fees, and other administrative expenses.

Source: Ringold, Holla, Koziol, & Srinivasan, 2022

The costs associated with citizenship for foreign citizens seeking citizenship in the specified countries through investment programs, special provisions, or other means (Table 2).

Table 2:*Cost of Citizenship for Foreign Citizens*

Country	Citizenship Program	Investment Required (Approximate)	Additional Costs/Requirements
USA	EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program	\$900,000 to \$1.8 million	Legal fees, administrative fees, immigration processing fees, investment-related expenses
England	Tier 1 Investor Visa	£2 million	Legal fees, visa application fees, healthcare surcharge, biometric appointment fees
Russia	Investment Citizenship Program	Varies	Investment amount determined by government regulations; additional fees may include legal fees, due diligence fees, processing fees
China	China Green Card Program	Varies	Investment amount and requirements vary depending on the specific provincial program; additional costs may include legal fees, application fees
India	Citizenship by Investment Scheme	Varies	India does not have a formal citizenship by investment program, but foreign investors may obtain citizenship through residency and naturalization; costs may include investment in Indian businesses, legal fees, application fees
Japan	Investor Visa Program	¥5 million to ¥100 million	Investment amount varies depending on the specific visa category and investment type; additional costs may include legal fees, visa processing fees
Korea	Korea Investor Visa Program	Varies	Investment amount and requirements vary depending on the specific visa category; additional costs may include legal fees, visa application fees
Canada	Quebec Immigrant Investor Program (QIIP)	CAD \$1.2 million	Legal fees, due diligence fees, processing fees, government application fees
Israel	Israeli Citizenship by Investment Program	Varies	Investment amount and requirements vary depending on the specific investment option; additional costs may include legal fees, processing fees
Iran	Iran Citizenship by Investment Program	Varies	Investment amount and requirements determined by government regulations; additional costs may include legal fees, due diligence fees, processing fees

Source: Ringold, Holla, Koziol, & Srinivasan, 2022

The provisions related to citizenship in Nepal, as stipulated in Part 2 of the Constitution, issued on the 2015, provide for the granting of citizenship from Article 10 to Article 15, primarily ensuring that citizens are not deprived of citizenship and establishing a system of providing single federal citizenship with provincial identity. It is observed that those born in Nepal before the 2015 AD, who have Nepali parents, are Nepali citizens by descent. In 2005/2006 AD, a provision was made to grant citizenship to the children born on the basis of birth from the mother's name if the father's citizenship address is not in Nepal. Similarly, Nepali citizenship can be obtained by individuals born in Nepal from foreign nationals through marriage and residing in Nepal, but without obtaining foreign citizenship, and non-resident Nepalese can renounce their Nepali citizenship after which they can enjoy political rights except other rights, under the provision of non-resident citizenship. After lengthy deliberations amid various disputes, the Citizenship Act of Nepal 2005 was first amended in 2011 and the Citizenship Rules of Nepal 2005 were amended in 2012, updating the citizenship distribution process to be implemented in an easier manner. The directives and circulars issued at various times by the MOHA for the purpose of organizing citizenship have made this work more systematic.

4.2 Evolution of Citizenship Policies

Getting citizenship in Nepal was a less formal and more informal procedure prior to the political upheavals in the middle of the 20th century. Instead of official paperwork, citizenship was frequently determined by ancestry and social approval. For the most part, local verification by community leaders was the only expense involved in attaining citizenship during this time.

Post 1950's political change

A more structured citizenship application process was introduced in the wake of the 1951 formation of a constitutional monarchy and subsequent political upheavals. Legislation to standardize citizenship procedures was first attempted with the Citizenship Act of 1952. This is the time when official expenses for paperwork and application processing started to be included in the costs of becoming a citizen which costs around NPR 5- 10 for official application and 10-20 for documentation. To offset administrative expenditures, these costs were, nevertheless, rather modest.

Panchayat Era (1960-1990)

The Panchayat era brought about a centralized and bureaucratic process for getting citizenship. The citizenship requirements, which now include obtaining numerous pieces of documents and local government verification, were further codified by the Citizenship Act of 1964. The necessity to travel to administrative centres and the associated bureaucratic difficulties resulted in an increase in costs throughout this period. Bribery and other informal costs increased along with the level of corruption in the administrative system.

Democratic Period (1990-2006)

The 1990 democratic restoration of Nepal resulted in substantial modifications to the country's judicial and administrative structures, including the citizenship application process. Although the Citizenship Act of 1990 attempted to streamline the procedure, corruption and inefficient bureaucracy continued to be major obstacles. The direct expenses—such as government fees—related to becoming a citizen stayed mostly consistent during this time. But the indirect expenses were high, particularly for people living in rural areas, and included transport, lodging, and lost pay.

Post-2006 Political Transition

The 2006 fall of the monarchy and the 2008 founding of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal brought about a political shift that resulted in additional modifications to the citizenship procedure. The goal of the Citizenship Act of 2006 was to simplify the application procedure and remove some administrative roadblocks. The price of gaining citizenship did not go down much in spite of these attempts. The direct costs were kept at a level meant to pay for administrative overhead, including official fees. But the unofficial and indirect expenses remained substantial, especially in rural and isolated places.

Recent Developments (2010-Present)

The citizenship procedure has been undergoing continuous revision in an attempt to improve accessibility and efficiency in recent years. In an effort to decentralize the procedure and lessen the need for travel to central administrative hubs, the government has implemented steps. But the price of becoming a citizen still presents a big obstacle for a lot of people. Research carried out over the past 10 years has

demonstrated the continued existence of substantial indirect costs, such as lodging and travel expenses, in addition to unofficial expenditures like bribery. These expenses' socioeconomic effects are still a big worry, especially for underprivileged and marginalized groups of people.

The estimation of cost of Public services is still contentious. There are several points what actually explains the cost of public services provided by government. It has not yet been included into public decision-making processes that the price of public services must be ascertained from the viewpoint of the citizen (Denhardt, 2007). Moreover, the cost and accessibility of public services are always dependent on the caliber of public sector organizations (Recanatini, 2008). The practice of assessing the cost of public services from a citizen's perspective is typically limited. This might be difficult, however it's a significant component of public sector delivery. Based on the concepts of social justice and welfare, the state has the authority to impose minimal or nonexistent fees for a variety of public services. This does not guarantee that individuals are not incurring expenses for that. It's possible that people were paying a significant amount of money to receive them, which providers view as free or inexpensive services. Do individuals believe that the state mechanisms have provided them with public service at a reasonable or cheaper cost? Prottas (1981) makes the case that humiliating experiences with public services may have greater non-financial costs. This can be the result of lengthy and convoluted procedures that force individuals to pay for services in terms of both time and psychological distress.

In this context, cost of obtaining public services vary significantly. Since, citizenship is mandatory need of citizenship, and every individual visit the office at least once in a lifetime. This cost estimation is essential and for the district like Sindhupalchok its crucial as there is diversity in population and economic activities. The economic barriers in getting citizenship for poor would lead to failure of state in service delivery.

4.3 Description of the Study Area

The present study has been carried out in Sindhupalchok District which lies in Bagmati province of Nepal. It covers 2542 square kilometers and to the north lies Tibet, south lies Kavre and Ramechhap district, Tibet lies east of the district and to the west lies Kathmandu and Nuwakot district.

The district has fertile plain land covered with agricultural land and forest. The majority of the people living in this district are farmers. The district headquarters, Chautara lies in Chautara SangachokGadhi municipality. According to the census 2021 the total population of Sindhupalchok district is 2,62,624. The numbers of male and female are 129,205 and 133,419 respectively. The total household number is 71697. Similarly, average household size of the district 4.33 which is lesser than national average household size of 4.37 (CBS, 2021)

However, access to essential services like healthcare, education, and administrative support is difficult in many parts of Sindhupalchok because of the region's undeveloped infrastructure and rough terrain. The 2015 earthquake had a significant impact on the district, resulting in extensive damage and enduring effects on its socio-economic progress.

Melamchi Municipality is about 40 kilometres away from the district capital. It is quite developed, having benefited from more local employment and better infrastructure thanks to the Melamchi Water Supply Project. With multiple schools and universities nearby, Melamchi has greater educational standards than other parts of the region. Residents work in trade, services, and agriculture, contributing to the region's diverse economy. Low-income families may find it difficult to afford the indirect costs associated with getting citizenship, even with improved infrastructure. Examples of these costs include lost wages.

Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality is roughly 70 km from Chautara and is mostly dependent on agriculture and tourism. It is well-known for its trekking trails and the Panchpokhari lakes. There aren't many schools with a moderate degree of education. The district headquarters is a costly destination to travel to because of its isolated position and bad road conditions. The cost of getting citizenship, including travel and lost wages, is substantial for the rural population with modest incomes.

The Helambu Rural Municipality is Situated around 60 km away from Chautara is well-known for its breathtaking scenery and rich cultural legacy. In addition to remittances, which are vital, the local economy is bolstered by agriculture, horticulture, and tourism. With a few elementary and high schools, there are mediocre educational facilities. Residents' financial burden is exacerbated by the high cost of

getting citizenship, which is a result of the remote location and the need for substantial travel fees and time away from work.

The Bhotekoshi Rural Municipality is about 80 km from Chautara, is known for its hydropower plants. Hydropower earnings and agriculture both boost the local economy. But there are few facilities and low to moderate educational levels. The procedure of getting citizenship is costly due to the high expense of travel and the possibility of losing daily wage income. The financial load on residents is further exacerbated by informal costs and corruption.

Tripurasundari Rural Municipality is almost ninety kilometres away from Chautara. Many households in the area live below the subsistence level, and the economy is based primarily on agriculture. The populace has low levels of education due to the lack of educational institutions. Getting citizenship is expensive because of travel costs and lost wages from frequent trips to the headquarters. For subsistence farmers—who already have little financial resources—the financial burden is especially great.

The district headquarters, Chautara Sangachowkgadi Municipality, enjoys comparatively greater access to administrative and infrastructural facilities. The economy is broad, with important roles played by the commerce, service, and agricultural sectors. There are more schools and colleges, and the educational level is greater. While living close to administrative services lowers travel expenses, residents are nonetheless burdened by missed income and other unofficial expenses.

The Lisankhupakhar Rural Municipality is situated in a remote region with difficult terrain approximately 100 kilometres from Chautara. The mainstay of the local economy is subsistence farming. The populace has low levels of education due to the lack of adequate educational institutions. Obtaining citizenship comes at a great cost because getting to the headquarters requires a lengthy voyage and substantial travel fees. The financial strain of frequent travel and unofficial expenses is especially great for subsistence farmers.

The complete cost and accessibility of getting citizenship in Sindhupalchok are determined by the distinct geographical and socioeconomic setting of each local body. These differences demonstrate the necessity of focused policy interventions to address the unique issues that inhabitants in various districts are facing.

Table 3:*Status of Citizenship Distribution*

Particulars	Number
Citizenship by descent	2,75,99,470
Married woman becoming Nepali citizen	4,92,962
Naturalized citizenship	40,273
Non-residential citizenship	3,047
Honorary citizenship	6
Total	2,83,57,185
Sindhupalchok district	
Old	3,36,612
New	1,11,826
Total	4,48,438
Sindhupalchok district Local level Wise	
Melamchi Municipality	23258
Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality	9139
Helambu Rural Municipality	10,400
Chautara Sangachokgadhi Municipality	10726
Bhotekoshi Rural Municipality	6602
Tripura Sundari Rural Municipality	6099
Lishankhupakhar Rural Municipality	6723
Total	4,48,438

In Nepal, the most common way to become a citizen is by descent; of the 28,357,185 citizens granted countrywide, 27,599,470 are citizens of this sort. Married women who have obtained Nepali citizenship 492,962, naturalized citizens 40,273, non-residential citizens 3,047, and an extremely small number of honorary citizens 6 are among the other groups. A total of 448,438 citizenships 336,612 old and 111,826 new have been granted within the Sindhupalchok district. The district's efforts to fulfil historical and current citizenship needs are reflected in this distribution.

When we look at Sindhupalchok's seven local levels, we find some interesting differences. 23,358 citizenships have been granted by Melamchi Municipality, which has probably benefited from improved administrative accessibility and infrastructure. The number of citizenships granted by Panchpokhari Thangpal and Helambu Rural Municipalities, 9,139 and 10,400, respectively, shows that access is still somewhat restricted but not impossible. The district headquarters, Chautara Sangachokgadhi Municipality, has granted 20,726 citizenships, demonstrating its core administrative

function. The impact of geographic and socioeconomic restrictions on citizenship acquisition is demonstrated by the issuance of 6,602, 6,099, and 6,723 citizenships, respectively, by the more remote districts such as Bhotekoshi, Tripura Sundari, and Lishankhupakhar Rural Municipalities. These numbers highlight the necessity of focused actions to increase accessibility and lessen inequalities in the district's issuance of citizenship.

4.4 Socio-Economic Status of the Respondents

4.4.1 Educational Status of Respondents

The respondents came for the citizenship were from across different local bodies of Sindhupalchok district and the results reflect significant variations. The education level of respondents is presented in accordance to its distribution based on local level names which is given in the table 4:

Table 4:

Educational Level by Local Level

District	Illiterate (%)	Primary (%)	Secondary (%)	HSEB (%)	Bachelors (%)	Total
Chautara Sanchokgadhi MUN	0.78	1.56	12.49	6.78	0.26	21.82
Lisankhupakhar RM	0.00	0.78	5.71	5.97	0.00	12.49
Tripurasundari RM	0.26	1.56	5.97	8.05	0.52	16.36
Helambu RM	0.26	1.30	7.53	11.69	0.26	21.04
Panchpokhari Thangpal RM	0.00	0.78	7.53	6.49	0.00	14.78
Bhotekoshi RM	0.00	0.52	4.15	6.23	0.00	10.91
Melamchi MUN	0.00	0.78	0.52	1.30	0.00	2.60
Total	1.3	7.28	43.9	46.51	1.04	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The educational levels across different municipalities and rural municipalities in Sindhupalchok reveal significant disparities. In Chautara Sanguchowkgadhi Municipality, the highest level of education achieved by respondents is distributed across secondary 12.4 percentage, HSEB 6.78 percentage, and bachelors 0.26 percentage. The higher levels of education in Chautara Sangachokgadhi can be attributed to better access to educational facilities and infrastructure. Conversely, Lisankhupakhar shows lower educational attainment, with primary education at 0.78 percentage and secondary education at 5.71 percentage, indicating limited access to higher education facilities. This educational disparity impacts the cost and ease of obtaining citizenship, as lower educational levels may correlate with lower awareness of administrative processes and higher dependency on intermediaries, increasing indirect and informal costs.

4.4.2 Distribution of the Respondents by Caste/Ethnicity and Religion

The respondents came for the citizenship from different local levels of the district were from different caste/ethnic groups. The caste ethnicity and religious status of respondents is presented in accordance to its distribution based on local level names which is given in Table 5:

Table 5:

Caste and Ethnicity of the Respondents

District	Brahmin (%)	Chettri (%)	Janajati (%)	Dalit (%)	Hindu (%)	Buddhist (%)	Christianity (%)	Islam (%)
Chautara MUN	3.12	4.91	12.49	1.30	15.06	5.71	1.04	0.00
Lisankhupakhar RM	1.04	2.08	8.31	1.04	5.71	5.20	1.04	0.52
Tripurasundari RM	1.30	2.60	10.91	1.56	8.31	5.97	2.08	0.00
Helambu RM	2.08	2.34	14.57	2.08	9.09	10.91	1.04	0.00
Panchpokhari Thangpal RM	0.78	1.30	11.95	0.78	7.04	7.53	0.26	0.00
Bhotekoshi RM	3.12	1.30	4.91	1.56	6.49	3.12	1.30	0.00
Melamchi MUN	0.78	0.26	1.56	0.00	1.30	1.04	0.26	0.52

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

The data on caste and religion highlight the diversity within Sindhupalchok. In Chautara Sangachowkgadhi, Janajatis form the largest group 12.49 percentage, followed by Brahmins 3.12 percentage, and Chhetri 4.91 percentage. The religious composition is predominantly Hindu 15.06 percentage with a significant Buddhist minority 5.71 percentage. In Lisankhupakhar, Janajatis 8.31 percentage and Chhetri 2.08 percentage are prominent, with Hindus 5.71 percentage and Buddhists 5.20 percentage making up the major religious groups. The diverse socio-religious landscape indicates varying degrees of socio-economic challenges faced by different communities. The intersection of caste and religion with administrative processes could result in systemic biases and additional hurdles for marginalized groups, affecting their cost and access to citizenship documentation.

4.4.3 Distribution of the Respondents by Family Type

The family type of the respondents came for the citizenship were from different local bodies of Sindhupalchok district. They were of nuclear and joint types. The distribution of family type of is given in Table 6.

Table 6 :

Family Type by Local Levels

Local Levels	Nuclear (%)	Joint(%)
Chautara Sangachokgadhi MUN	11.68	10.12
Lisankhupakhar RM	7.53	4.93
Tripurasundari RM	9.61	6.75
Helambu RM	10.64	10.38
PanchpokhariThangpal RM	10.10	4.67
Bhotekoshi RM	4.93	5.97
Melamchi MUN	1.55	1.03
Total	56.04	43.85

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Family structure also varies significantly, with Chautara Sangachokgadhi Municipality having a balanced distribution of nuclear 11.68 percentage and joint families 10.12 percentage. Helambu has similar figures for nuclear 10.64 percentage

and joint families 10.38 percentage. However, Melamchi shows a stark contrast with a lower percentage of nuclear 1.55 percentage and joint families 1.03 percentage. The type of family structure impacts the economic burden of obtaining citizenship, as joint families might pool resources more effectively to cover associated costs, whereas nuclear families, particularly in economically disadvantaged areas, may find it harder to manage the expenses and logistical challenges.

4.4.4 Distribution of the Respondents by Level of Education

The educational attainment by caste/ethnicity of the respondents who came for the citizenship from different local levels of Sindhupalchok district is divided into literate, illiterate, primary, secondary, HSEB and up to Bachelors. The distribution of respondents is given in Table .

Table 7:

Educational Level by Caste/Ethnicity

Caste	Illiterate (%)	Primary (%)	Secondary (%)	HSEB (%)	Bachelors (%)	Total
Brahmin	0.00	0.26	4.41	7.53	0.00	12.19
Chettri	0.26	1.30	4.91	2.60	0.26	9.33
Janajati	0.78	4.68	29.35	29.35	0.52	64.68
Dalit	0.26	1.04	2.60	4.41	0.00	8.31

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The educational attainment among different castes shows that Janajatis have the highest overall educational level, with secondary education at 29.35 percentage and HSEB at 29.35 percentage. Brahmins have a significant proportion of secondary 4.41 percentage and HSEB 7.53 percentage education. Dalits show the lowest educational attainment, with secondary education at 2.60 percentage and HSEB at 4.41 percentage. This disparity suggests that caste influences educational opportunities, which in turn affects awareness and the ability to navigate bureaucratic processes. Lower educational attainment among Dalits and other marginalized groups may result in higher costs for obtaining citizenship due to increased reliance on intermediaries and a higher likelihood of facing bureaucratic hurdles.

4.4.5 Distribution of the Respondents by Religion

The respondents of the study were particularly Brahmin, Chettri, Janajatis, and Dalits. The people belonging are diverse by the religion. The Table 8 shows the religion of the respondents belonging to different caste and ethnicity.

Table 8:

Religion by Ethnic Group

Caste/Ethnicity	Hindu	Buddhism	Christianity	Islam
Brahmin	11.43	0.52	0.00	0.26
Chettri	13.25	0.26	1.04	0.26
Janajati	23.64	38.44	2.60	0.00
Dalits	76.36	39.48	3.38	0.00

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The religious distribution among castes indicates that Janajatis have a substantial representation in both Hinduism 23.64 percentage and Buddhism 38.44 percentage. Dalits predominantly follow Hinduism 76.36 percentage with a smaller proportion practicing Buddhism 39.48 percentage. Brahmins and Chhetris are almost exclusively Hindu. The intersection of caste and religion suggests that religious minorities within castes might face unique challenges in accessing citizenship documentation, potentially due to systemic biases or lack of tailored services. This could increase both direct and indirect costs for these groups.

4.4.6 Distribution of the Respondents by Caste and Family Type

The respondents who came for citizenship were mainly Brahmin, Chhetri, Janajati, and Dalits. The distribution of respondent's caste and their type of family in the study area can be shown in the table 9:

Table 9:

Family Type of the Respondents by Ethnicity

Caste	Nuclear Family	Joint Family	Total
Brahmin	6.26	5.97	12.23
Chhetri	8.83	5.97	14.80
Janajati	37.43	27.27	64.70
Dalit	3.64	4.68	8.31

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Analyzing the family types among different castes, Janajatis have the highest percentage of nuclear families 37.43 percentage and joint families 27.27 percentage, indicating a balanced family structure. Brahmins and Chettris also show a substantial proportion of both nuclear and joint families. Dalits have a relatively lower proportion of nuclear 3.64 percentage and joint families 4.68 percentage. The family structure impacts the economic dynamics of obtaining citizenship. Joint families, particularly in Janajati communities, may manage the associated costs more efficiently, whereas nuclear families, especially among Dalits, may face greater financial strain.

4.4.7 Distribution of Respondents by Gender

The respondents who were present in DAO for citizenship received were both male and female but the percentage of female was higher. The Table 10 shows the proportion of male and female respondents who received citizenship from DAO.

Table 10:

Distribution of Respondents According to the Gender

Gender	N	Percent
Male	186	48.3
Female	199	51.7
Total	385	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The gender distribution of the respondents was relatively balanced, with females slightly outnumbering male. This nearly equal representation ensures that the findings reflect the perspectives of both genders, highlighting the need of citizenship to both irrespective of gender.

4.4.8 Distribution of the Respondents by Age

The respondents who came for obtaining citizenship were belonging to different age groups. The distribution of respondents based on age can be given in Table 11.

Table 11:*Age of the Respondents*

Minimum	16
Mean	18.21
Standard Deviation	1.986
Maximum	31

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The age distribution of respondents ranges from a minimum of 16 years to a maximum of 31 years, with a mean age of 18.21 years and a standard deviation of 1.986. This suggests that the majority of respondents are relatively young, with the age group closely clustered around the late teens. The narrow age range and low standard deviation indicate a relatively homogeneous sample in terms of age, likely reflective of the demographic targeted for the study.

4.4.9 Distribution of the Respondents by Monthly Family Income

Respondents coming to DAO for citizenship has varied level of the family income monthly. These respondents are classified as low, middle and high income for the monthly income of less than twenty thousand, twenty to forty thousand, and higher than forty thousand respectively. The table 12 gives the detail information about the monthly income of the respondents.

Table 12:*Distribution of Respondents by Monthly Family Income*

Income Category	Frequency	Percent	Mean
Low income(<20000)	184	47.8	20611.43
Middle income(20000-40000)	182	47.3	
High income(40000<)	19	4.9	
Total	385	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

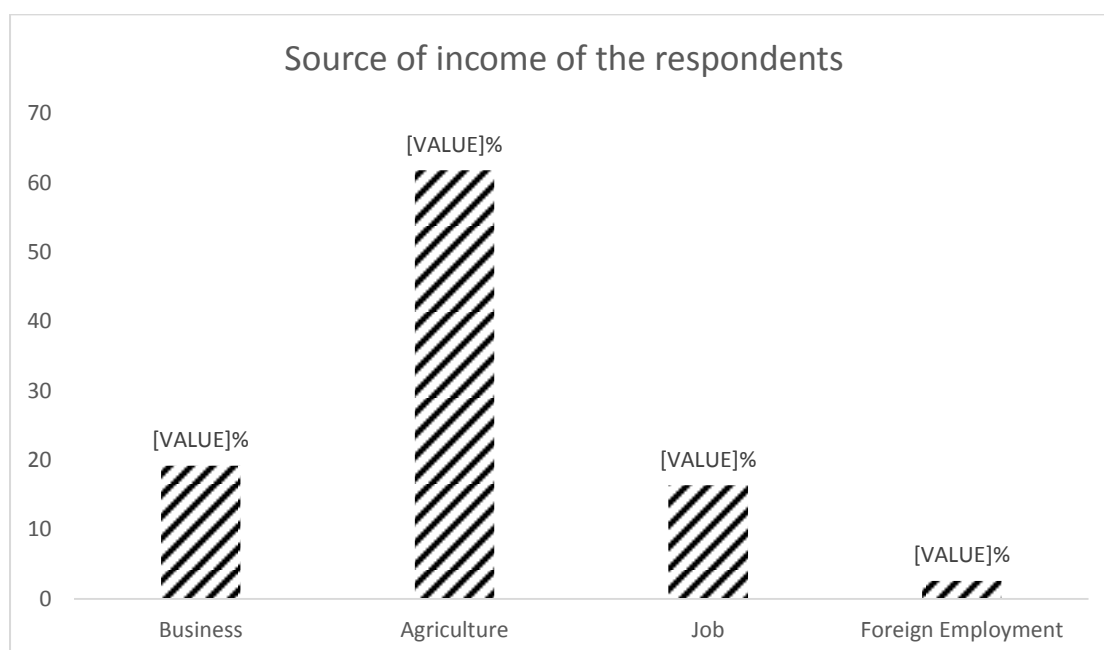
Respondents' monthly incomes vary widely, with a mean of 20,611.43 NPR and a range from 1,000 to 50,000 NPR. This distribution indicates significant economic diversity, with a large portion of respondents in the low-income 47.8 percentage, followed by middle-income 47.3 percentage and a small high-income group 4.9 percentage.

4.4.10 Distribution of the Respondents by Source of Income

Respondents belonging to various employment for living and earning visits the DAO for obtaining citizenship. These respondents are involved in business, agriculture, or foreign employment. The figure 13 shows the proportion of respondent involved in various activities for earning.

Table 13:

Source of Income



Source: Field Survey, 2024

The major sources of income among respondents are agriculture 61.8 percentage and business 19.2 percentage, followed by jobs 16.4 percentage and foreign employment 2.6 percentage. This highlights the rural and agrarian nature of the district's economy, with a significant portion also engaged in business and employment.

4.5 Direct and Indirect Cost: Distance and Time Factors

The respondents being from different part of Sindhupalchok district has to travel a considerable distance to reach DAO to obtain citizenship. In addition, the application procedure and other bureaucratic affairs may lead to increase in time required to complete the work. In this section, it has been discussed about the distance and other time factors associated with obtaining citizenship.

4.5.1 Distribution of the Respondents by type of Citizenship Obtained

The respondents visiting DAO has received the various types of citizenship according to the rights guaranteed by Constitution of Nepal. The distribution of respondents based on the type of citizenship obtained is shown in the table 14

Table 14:

Citizenship Type

Particulars	Frequency	Percent
Descent	356	92.5
Naturalization	23	6
Others	6	1.5
Total	385	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The majority of respondents 92.5 percentage have obtained citizenship by descent, while a smaller proportion 6 percentage have acquired it through naturalization. A very small number 1.5 percentage fall into other categories of citizenship. This distribution highlights the predominance of descent-based citizenship in the district, with naturalization and other forms of citizenship being relatively less.

4.5.2 Direct Cost Associated with Obtaining Citizenship

Obtaining citizenship involves various application, and legal procedures to be completed and is distributed from some specified locations only. There are various direct and indirect expenses associated with obtaining citizenship. The table 15 provide the average cost associated with transportation, food, lodging by local levels

Table 15:

Direct Cost Associated with Obtaining Citizenship

Particulars	Direct Costs			
	Application	Citizenship	Postal Ticket	Total
Chautara MUN	100	200	16	316
Lisankhupokhar MUN	200	100	16	316
Tripurasundari RM	200	200	16	416
Helambu RM	150	100	16	266
PanchpohariThangpal	100	100	16	216
Bhotekoshi RM	100	100	16	216
Melamchi MUN	200	0	16	216

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Application fees, citizenship issuing fees, and postal ticket fee are examples of direct costs. PanchpokhariThangpal and Bhotekoshi RM have the lowest total direct cost at NPR 216, whereas Tripurasundari RM has the highest overall cost at NPR 416. The variance in expenses can be attributed to variations in administrative charges among various municipal tiers. Helambu RM and Melamchi MUN have direct costs of NPR 266 and NPR 216, respectively, while Chautara MUN and Lisankhupokhari MUN have direct costs of NPR 316 each.

4.5.3 Indirect Cost Associated with Obtaining Citizenship

The cost associated with obtaining citizenship is varied by the local levels. These costs include the additional expenses made in obtaining citizenship apart from the application procedure, and are dependents on various factors. The table 16 provides the information about indirect cost incurred in the process.

Table 16:

Indirect Cost Associated with Obtaining Citizenship

Particulars	Indirect Cost				Total
	Stationary	Transport	Hotel	Food	
Chautara MUN	89	350	573	474	1603
Lisankhupokhar MUN	80	966	565	588	2593
Tripurasundari RM	84	692	635	638	2338
Helambu RM	86	737	804	635	2284
PanchpohariThangpal	85	697	1024	345	2796
Bhotekoshi RM	92	945	1000	804	2842
Melamchi MUN	80	765	565	319	2720

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The cost associated with obtaining citizenship is varied by the local levels. The average stationery cost is highest for Bhotekoshi Rural Municipality. The transportation cost is highest for Lisankuhpakhar municipality. Similarly, average cost of hotel is found to be highest for respondent of PanchpokhariThangapal municipality. Likewise, expenses in food is highest for Bhotekoshi. In total, the average cost of obtaining citizenship is highest for Bhotekoshi municipality while it was lowest for Chautra Sangchokgadhi municipality. This discrepancy can be attributed to the

remote location of Bhotekoshi RM, resulting in higher transportation and lodging costs.

4.5.4 Opportunity Cost Associated with Obtaining Citizenship

Citizenship obtaining is a lengthy process- it includes number of process from getting recommendation from ward office, submission of application, visiting to DAO at Chautara and getting the citizenship. Opportunity cost refers to the other income gaining opportunity missed as an obligation to receive the citizenship. We took the reference from Labor act of Nepal as well as the best pay rate existing in the district at the normal wage rate.

Table 17:

Opportunity Cost based on the No of Days Invested

Local Levels	No of Days Invested					Opportunity Cost
	1	2	3	4	5	
Chautara Mun	51	27	6	0	0	1171.42
Lisankhupokhari RM	23	20	4	0	1	1333.33
Tripurasundari RM	34	22	7	0	0	1257.14
Helambu RM	34	38	9	0	0	1353.08
Panchpokahri RM	36	16	4	1	0	1178.94
Bhotekoshi RM	19	20	3	0	0	1295.23
Melamchi MUN	3	5	2	0	0	1245.56
Total	200	148	35	1	1	1267.532
Opportunity Cost	160000	236800	84000	3200	4000	

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Opportunity costs are calculated based on the number of days invested in obtaining citizenship. The highest opportunity cost is observed in Helambu RM at NPR 1353.08, followed by Lisankhupokhari RM at NPR 1333.33, indicating that residents in these areas spend more time and resources in the process. Chautara MUN has the lowest opportunity cost at NPR 1171.42. These costs reflect the economic impact of time lost from work or other productive activities while seeking citizenship.

Table 18:*Opportunity cost based on Local levels*

Local Levels	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Opportunity cost
Chautara Mun	40800	43200	14400	0	0	98400	1171.42
Lisankhupokhari RM	18400	32000	9600	0	4000	64000	1333.33
Tripurasundari RM	27200	35200	16800	0	0	79200	1257.14
Helambu RM	27200	60800	21600	0	0	109600	1353.08
Panchpokahri RM	28800	25600	9600	3200	0	67200	1178.94
Bhotekoshi RM	15200	32000	7200	0	0	54400	1295.23
Melamchi MUN	2400	8000	4800	0	0	15200	1245.56
Total	160000	236800	84000	3200	4000	488000	1267.53

*Source: Field Survey, 2024***4.5.5 Total Cost of Obtaining Citizenship by Local Levels**

There is various cost associated with obtaining citizenship. Culmination of this cost related to application procedure, other additional expenditure for food, accommodation, transportation, and the missed economic opportunities gives the total expenses incurred in obtaining citizenship.

Table 19:*Total costs of obtaining citizenship based on Local levels*

Local Levels	Direct Cost	Indirect Cost	Opportunity Cost	Total
Chautara Mun	316	1603	1171.42	3090.42
Lisankhupokhari RM	316	2593	1333.33	4242.33
Tripurasundari RM	416	2338	1257.14	4011.14
Helambu RM	266	2284	1353.08	3903.08
Panchpokahri RM	216	2796	1178.94	4190.94
Bhotekoshi RM	216	2842	1295.23	4353.23
Melamchi MUN	216	2720	1245.56	4181.56
Chautara Mun	316	1603	1267.53	3186.53

Source: Field Survey, 2024

When opportunity, indirect, and direct costs are combined, the total cost of becoming a citizen is NPR 3090.42 in Chautara MUN and NPR 4353.23 in Bhotekoshi RM. This striking disparity draws attention to the financial hardship experienced by locals in more isolated and difficult-to-reach places. The high overall cost of NPR 4242.33 reported by Lisankhupokhari RM further highlights the need for more economical and efficient administrative procedures. The substantial financial burden throughout the district is highlighted by the total costs of NPR 4011.14 and NPR 3903.08 for other local levels, such as Tripurasundari RM and Helambu RM, respectively.

The findings show that accessibility and geographic location are important factors in deciding how much becoming a citizen would cost. Transportation and housing prices are greater in remote places like Bhotekoshi RM, which adds to the total increased expenditures. Due to larger travel distances and inefficient administrative procedures, the opportunity costs imply that a significant time investment is also needed in these locations. This emphasizes how decentralized and efficient administrative services are necessary to lessen the time and cost constraints placed on citizens. In order to guarantee fair access to citizenship, policy interventions should also concentrate on offering financial aid or subsidies to people living in expensive regions. In general, the information emphasizes how critical it is to address both direct and indirect expenses in order to build a more inclusive and accessible citizenship acquisition process.

4.5.6 Distance Travelled by the Respondents to Reach DAO

The area under study are at a varied distance from DAO. The distance travelled by the respondents to reach to DAO is shown as in the Table 20.

Table 20:

Distance of DAO from House

Minimum	1
Mean	50.08
Standard Deviation	28.964
Maximum	196

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The distance respondents have to travel to reach the District Administration Office (DAO) varies widely, with a minimum distance of 1 kilometer and a maximum of 196 kilometers. The mean distance is 50.08 kilometers with a standard deviation of 28.964, indicating considerable variability in travel distances. This wide range suggests significant disparities in access to administrative services, potentially impacting the ease with which different respondents can obtain citizenship.

4.5.7 Number of Days Invested in Obtaining Citizenship

The respondents who have received the citizenship has to spend a few days from preparing the recommendations from ward office, visiting the ADO, and fulfilment of the other requirements, in obtaining the citizenship. The table 21 shows the information about time invested in obtaining the citizenship.

Table 21:

Number of Days Invested in Obtaining Citizenship

Days Invested	Frequency	Percent	Mean	Maximum	Minimum
1	200	51.9	1.58	5	1
2	148	38.4			
3	35	9.1			
4	1	.3			
5	1	.3			

Source: Field Survey, 2024

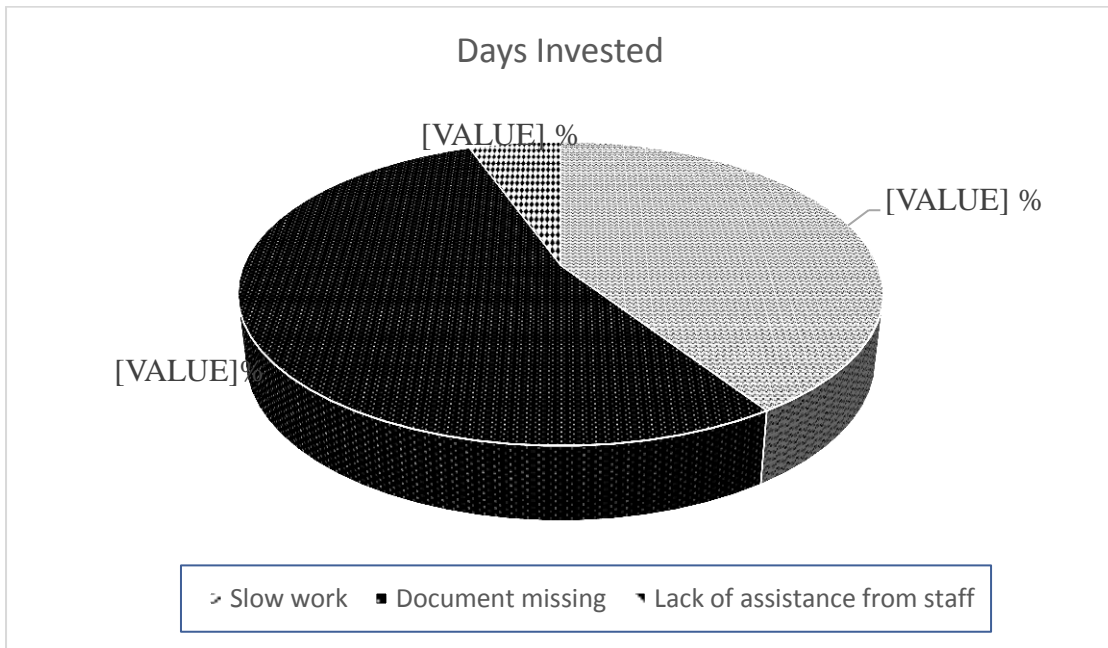
The time invested in obtaining citizenship varies, with the majority completing the process in one day 51.9 percentage, two days 38.4 percentage. A smaller number take three days 9.1 percentage, and very few need four or five days 0.3 percentage. The mean number of days is 1.58, indicating that most respondents complete the process relatively quickly.

4.5.8 Reason for taking more than One Days

Normally, it is supposed to take one to two days in obtaining citizenship. However, due to improper documentation, hectic work procedure, inefficiency of staff delayed in issuing the citizenship certificate. The chart shows the reason for delay in work.

Figure 3:

Reason for taking more than one Days



Source: Field Survey, 2024

The primary reasons for taking more days include slow work processes (40.8 %), missing documents 53.8 percentage, and lack of assistance from staff 5.5 percentage. This highlights procedural inefficiencies and documentation issues as major factors of taking more than one day for this service.

4.5.9 Distribution of the Respondents by Number of Times Visited

The respondents being from different geographical location of Sindhupalchok district, have to visit DAO until the citizenship is obtained. The number of times respondents visited DAO varied significantly, and the table 22 shows the distribution of respondents based on the number of times they visit to DAO.

Table 22:

Number of times visited

Minimum	1
Mean	1.26
Standard Deviation	0.496
Maximum	3

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Respondents visited the DAO a minimum of once and a maximum of three times, with an average of 1.26 visits and a standard deviation of 0.496. This suggests that while some respondents manage to complete the process in a single visit, others require multiple visits, reflecting variability in the efficiency and complexity of the process.

4.5.10 Mode of Travel to reach DAO

Since respondents from various municipalities come to DAO for receiving the citizenship, they use various means of transportation. The table 23 provided gives the details about the means of transportation used by the respondents.

Table 23:

Mode of Travel to Reach DAO

Reason Citizenship	Frequency	Percent
Own vehicles	61	15.8
Hired vehicles	118	30.6
Public buses	197	51.2
Hitch hikes	9	2.3

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Respondents primarily use public buses 51.2 percentage or hired vehicles 30.6 percentage to reach the DAO, with fewer using their own vehicles 15.8 percentage. This reflects the reliance on public and hired transport for accessing administrative services.

4.5.11 Time taken to reach to DAO

There is significant variation in the time taken to reach to the DAO. In addition, some remote area lacks the access to bus service and hence other means are being used which has resulted the varied time taken as in the table 24.

Table 24:

Time Taken to Reach DAO

Time to reach DAO(Hours)	Frequency	Percent
Less than one hour	75	19.5
2 to 4 hours	163	42.3
1-2 hours	74	19.2
More than 4 hours	73	19

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The time taken to reach the DAO varies, with for the majority i.e. 42.3 percentage, it took 2 to 4 hours and it was 19.5 percentage for whom the time taken was less than one hour. Others 19.2 percentage of respondents took 1 to 2 hours and remaining 19 percentage took more than 4 hours, reflecting significant travel times for many respondents.

4.5.12 Reason for obtaining citizenship

Citizenship is pre-requisite for being the member and is the fundamental aspects as identity of a country. Beside this, it is required for obtaining various public services. The table 25 gives the insights about respondents’ purpose behind obtaining citizenship.

Table 25:

Reason for Obtaining Citizenship

Reason Citizenship	Frequency	Percent
Make passport	100	26
Higher study	161	41.8
Job application	50	13
Civic responsibility	74	19.2

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The main reasons for obtaining citizenship include higher education 41.8 percentage, making a passport 26 percentage, civic responsibility 19.2 percentage, and job applications 13 percentage. This underscores the importance of citizenship for educational purpose as most of the respondents were at the age below twenty and for whom to enroll in higher level citizenship is mandatory and professional opportunities, as well as fulfilling civic duties.

4.6 Comparison of Various Costs Involved in Citizenship Acquisition

To compare the means of two independent groups, such as comparing the costs incurred by male and female applicants, we use the following formula for the t-test:

$$t = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S_1^2}{N_1} + \frac{S_2^2}{N_2}}}$$

\bar{X}_1 Sample mean of group 1

\bar{X}_2 Sample mean of group 2

s_1^2 Variance of group 1

s_2^2 Variance of group 2

n_1 Sample size of group 1

n_2 Sample size of group 2

The results of the t-test showed if costs, time, and effort varied significantly between groups. For example, there was a significant difference between the groups if the p-value from the t-test was less than the significance level, which is typically 0.05. These results highlighted potential disparities in the citizenship acquisition process and provided guidance for policy recommendations by pointing out locations where some groups had greater difficulties or longer processing durations. We were able to provide a solid statistical analysis of the data by utilizing the t-test, which guaranteed that our conclusions were supported by rigorous comparisons and added insightful information to the investigation of citizenship procedures in Sindhupalchok.

4.6.1 T-test for Comparison of Average Cost Based on Income Level

There are various direct, indirect and opportunity cost associated with citizenship acquisition process. The table 26 compares the average costs according to the income level of the respondents.

Table 26:*Costs Comparison Based on Respondent's Income*

Costs	Level of income	Number	Mean	SD	P-value	Status
Direct	Poor	145	254.96	64.94	0.011	Significant
	Non-Poor	240	273.5	74.35		
Indirect	Poor	145	1844.37	1844.37	0.000	Significant
	Non-Poor	240	2197.74	2197.74		
Opportunity Cost	Poor	145	1202.75	508.80	0.092	Insignificant
	Non-Poor	240	1296.66	539.01		

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The table 26 compares the direct, indirect and opportunity cost associated with respondent's income. The difference between average earning of poor and non-poor is significantly different in case of direct and indirect cost, while there is insignificant difference with respect to opportunity cost. The difference in direct and indirect cost may be attributed to the amount of expenditure made by people having high income than that of the poor people.

4.6.2 T-test for Average Cost Based on Type of Citizenship

There are various direct, indirect and opportunity cost associated with citizenship acquisition process. The table 27 compares the average costs according to the type of citizenship received by the respondents.

Table 27:*Cost Comparison Based on Type of Citizenship*

Costs	Type of Citizenship	Number	Mean	SD	P-value	Status
Direct	Descent	356	267.12	71.39	0.788	Insignificant
	Naturalization	23	261.65	78.20		
	Others	6	249.33	51.63		
Indirect	Descent	356	2050.36	954.5	0.201	Insignificant
	Naturalization	23	2105	1042.6		
	Others	6	2758.65	1224.35		
Opportunity	Descent	356	1247.191	526.5	0.152	Insignificant
	Naturalization	23	1460.870	520.26		
	Others	6	1333.33	653.19		

Source: Field Survey, 2024

There are no significant differences for all the direct, indirect and opportunity cost according to the type of citizenship like descent, naturalization, or other type citizenship acquisition.

4.6.3 Comparison of Average Cost Based on Gender

There are various direct, indirect and opportunity cost associated with citizenship acquisition process. The table 28 compares the average costs according to the type gender of the respondents.

Table 28:

Cost Comparison Based on Gender

Cost	Gender	Number	Mean	SD	P-value	Status
Direct	Male	186	268.4194	73.38942	.504	Insignificant
	Female	189	264.7437	69.71029		
Indirect	Male	186	2146.9140	1099.95883	1.604	Insignificant
	Female	189	1987.7739	815.18833		
Opportunity	Male	186	1260.2151	550.01519	0.039	Significant
	Female	189	1262.3116	510.23532		

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The opportunity cost of male and female varied significantly while there are no significant differences between male and female in case of the direct and indirect costs.

4.6.4 Comparison of Proximal and Remote Area from DAO

There are various direct, indirect and opportunity cost associated with citizenship acquisition process. The table 29 compares the average costs for the proximal and distal area from the DAO for the respondents.

Table 29:

Cost Comparison Based on Proximity

Cost	N		Mean		Std. Deviation		P-value	Status
	Distance		Distance		Distance			
	Proximity	Remote	Proximity	Remote	Proximity	Remote		
Direct	94	291	226.6	279.4	30.9	75.94	.615	Insignificant
Indirect	94	291	1495.9	2248.3	669.9	975.3	.110	Insignificant
Opportunity	94	291	1208.5	1278.3	521.3	531.4	.969	Insignificant

Source: Field Survey, 2024

There is no significant differences between the direct, indirect and opportunity costs on proximity and distant places from DAO.

4.6.5 Comparison of Cost for Local Levels Under Consideration

There are various direct, indirect and opportunity cost associated with citizenship acquisition process. The table 30 compares the average costs according to the local bodies under consideration.

Table 30:

Costs Comparison for Different Local Levels

Particulars		N	Mean	SD	P-value	P-value
Direct	ChautaraMun	84	216	.000	0.000	Significant
	Lisankhupakhar RM	48	216	.00		
	Tripurasundari	63	216	.00		
	Helambu RM	81	251.1	22.97		
	Panchpokahri	57	416.0	.000		
	Bhotekoshi RM	42	316.0	.00		
	Melamchi MUN	10	316.	.00		
Indirect	Chautara MUN	84	1387.85	424.65	0.00	Significant
	Lisankhupakhar	48	2377.50	1091.1		
	Tripurasundari	63	2122.38	657.17		
	Helambu	81	2032.92	984.91		
	Panchpokahri	57	2380.01	920.57		
	Bhotekoshi	42	2526.5	1192.3		
	Melamchi	10	2404.0	1396.3		
Opportunity	Chautara MUN	84	1171.42	503.61	0.143	Insignificant
	Lisankhupakhar	48	1300.0	537.92		
	Tripurasundari	63	1257.1	551.16		
	Helambu RM	81	1353.08	531.29		
	Panchpokahri	57	1164.9	525.25		
	Bhotekoshi	42	1295.2	498.26		
	Melamchi	10	1520.0	590.29		

Source: Field Survey, 2024

There are no significant differences for opportunity cost among the respondents of various local levels while direct and indirect cost varied significantly between the local levels under consideration.

4.7 Aspects of Citizenship Acquisition

The respondents visiting DAO for obtaining citizenship were asked if they have the relationship with officials at DAO which is supposed to affect the citizenship acquisition procedure directly. Those respondents were asked about if there is significance of achieving citizenship in addition to the problems they had to go through because of procedure associated with obtaining citizenship.

4.7.1 Citizenship Acquisition

Table 31:

Citizenship Acquisition

Particulars	Relation	Frequency	Percent
Relation with staff	Yes	79	20.5
	No	306	79.5
Benefit of citizenship	Yes	345	89.6
	No	40	10.4
Problem due to Citizenship	Yes	62	15.8
	No	324	84.2

Source: Field Survey, 2024

A minority of respondents 20.5 percentage reported having a relationship with DAO staff, while the majority 79.5 percentage did not. This suggests that personal connections with staff are not common among respondents.

Furthermore, the vast majority of respondents 89.6 percentage acknowledged the benefits of obtaining citizenship, while a smaller proportion 10.4 percentage did not. This underscores the perceived value of citizenship among the respondents.

In addition, most of the respondents 84.2 percentage did not report any problems due to citizenship, while a minority 15.8 percentage reported such causes and it might be due to their proper information regarding its utilization. This indicates that while the majority experience no issues, there is still a notable portion facing challenges.

4.7.2 Reason for Obtaining Citizenship

Citizenship is pre-requisite for being the member and is the fundamental aspects as identity of a country. Beside this, it is required for obtaining various public services. The table 32 gives the insights about respondent's purpose behind obtaining citizenship.

Table 32:

Reason for Obtaining Citizenship

Reason Citizenship	Frequency	Percentage
Make passport	100	26
Higher study	161	41.8
Job application	50	13
Civic responsibility	74	19.2

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The main reasons for obtaining citizenship include higher education 41.8 percentage, making a passport 26 percentage, civic responsibility 19.2 percentage, and job applications 13 percentage. This underscores the importance of citizenship for educational purpose as most of the respondents were at the age below twenty and for whom to enroll in higher level citizenship is mandatory and professional opportunities, as well as fulfilling civic duties.

4.7.3 Perception on Expenses Incurred

Various costs are supposed to involve in the process of acquisition citizenship. The respondents were asked if they had trouble due to expenses of citizenship, any other additional expenses involve in the form of bribe, agent charge, or miscellaneous expenses. Additionally, they were asked about the various techniques that can be adopted to minimize the cost associated with obtaining citizenship. The table 33 shows the detail information about perception of respondents to expenses, and the way to minimize the expenses especially from the local level.

Table 33:*Respondents Perception on Expenses Incurred*

Particulars	Perception	Frequency	Percent
Problem due to expenses	Yes	69	17.9
	No	316	82.1
	Total	385	100
Other expenses	Yes	12	3.1
	No	373	96.9
	Total	385	100
Views on expenses	Very cheap	124	32.2
	Cheap	163	42.3
	Nothing to say	62	16.1
	Expensive	36	9.4
	Total	385	100
Cost minimization	From local level	202	52.5
	Ward	54	14
	E-application	123	31.9
	Others	6	1.6
	Total	385	100

*Source: Field Survey, 2024***Problem Due to Expenses**

About one fifth of the respondents 17.9 percentage reported problems due to expenses, while the majority 82.1 percentage did not. This highlights the financial burden that obtaining citizenship can impose on some respondents.

Other Expenses

Most respondents 96.9 percentage did not incur other expenses, while a small fraction 3.1 percentage did. This suggests that additional costs beyond the primary expenses are relatively uncommon.

Views on Expenses

Respondents' views on expenses are varied, with the largest group finding them cheap 42.3 percentage or very cheap 32.2 percentage, while some are neutral 16.1

percentage or find them expensive 9.4 percentage. This distribution indicates a positive perception of the costs, though a notable minority finds them burdensome.

Cost Minimization

To minimize costs, respondents suggest measures such as support from the local level 52.5 percentage, ward-level interventions 14 percentage, e-application processes 31.9 percentage, and other unspecified methods 1.6 percentage. This indicates a demand for more accessible and cost-effective procedures from their respective local levels as this will reduce the number of days invested, and other indirect cost associated with the procedure.

4.7.4 Distribution of the Respondents by Service Satisfaction

The satisfaction level of the respondents after receiving the citizenship showed a significant variation due to various factors associated with the receiving procedure. The table below 34 the level of satisfaction to the service provided by the DAO.

Table 34:

Level of Satisfaction in Service Provided by DAO

Level of satisfaction	Frequency	Percent
Highly satisfied	207	53.8
Satisfied	151	39.2
Nothing to say	13	3.4
Dissatisfied	7	1.8
Highly dissatisfied	7	1.8
Total	385	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Respondents' satisfaction with the services provided by the DAO varies, with the majority expressing satisfaction 53.8 percentage and being highly satisfied 39.2 percentage. A smaller proportion are neutral 3.4 percentage, dissatisfied 1.8 , or highly dissatisfied 1.8 percentage. This suggests that while the majority of respondents are generally satisfied with the services, there is still a notable percentage of respondents also perceives room for improvement.

4.7.5 Distribution of the Respondents by Reason Behind Satisfaction

The respondents were asked about the level of satisfaction after the service they received from DAO. The satisfaction is guided by easiness in service availability, without any trouble, and as per the expectation of the respondents. The table 35 provided explicitly the reason for satisfaction to the service provided by DAO.

Table 35:

Reason for Satisfaction

Particulars	Yes (%)	No (%)
Easy Service	50.6	49.4
Service Expected	83.6	16.4
Nice delivery	84.7	15.3
Low expenses	85.5	14.5
Least time taken	92.2	7.8

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The reasons for satisfaction among respondents are multifaceted. A significant portion 50.6 percentage finds the service taking process to be easy and matches to their expectations 83.6 percentage. Many respondents appreciate the nice delivery of services 84.7 percentage and low expenses 85.5 percentag, with the least time taken 92.2 percentage being a crucial factor for most of them. However, there is still a nearly equal number of respondents who did not find the service easy, indicating variability in their experiences in taking the service from DAO.

4.7.6 Distribution of the Respondents bases on the reason for support sought

The respondents from different geographical location and socio-economic condition come to DAO for receiving the citizenship. These respondents look the support from the various means in order to make the service receiving procedure easy and hustle free. The table 36 shows the source of help for the respondents coming to DAO.

Table 36:*Reason for Seeking Help*

Reasons for seeking help	Frequency	Percent
Citizenship needed	180	46.8
For easiness	93	24.2
No enough information	80	20.8
Easy to deal with staff	32	8.3
Total	385	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The primary reasons for seeking help include the need for citizenship itself 46.8 percentage, ease of the process 24.2 percentage, lack of sufficient information 20.8 percentage, and ease of dealing with staff 8.3 percentage. This indicates that while obtaining citizenship is a primary motivator, the complexities of the process and the need for information also drive respondents to seek assistance.

4.7.7 Distribution of the Respondents on the Source of Expenses

The respondents coming to DAO for citizenship incur a various expense throughout the citizenship receiving procedure. The expenses varied from few hundreds to thousands. The table 37 shows the distribution of respondents based on the sources who bear the expenses.

Table 37:*Bearing Expenses*

Particulars	Frequency	Percent
Self	94	24.4
Family members	291	75.6
Total	385	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Most respondents 75.6 percentage had their expenses borne by family members, while a smaller proportion 24.4 percentage managed the expenses themselves. This reliance on family support for financial aspects underscores the economic challenges associated with the citizenship acquisition process.

4.7.8 Distribution of the Respondents by Support Received

The respondents from different geographical location and socio economic condition came to DAO for receiving the citizenship. These respondents look for support from the various means in order to make the service receiving procedure easy and hustle free. The table 38 shows the source of help for the respondents coming to DAO.

Table 38:

Distribution of Respondents by Support Received

Particulars	Frequency	Percent
Self	155	40.3
Family members	228	59.2
Others	2	0.5
Total	385	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

A majority of respondents 59.2 percentage sought help from family members, while 40.3 percentage managed the process themselves. A minimal number 0.5 percentage relied on others. This highlights the significant role of family support in navigating the citizenship acquisition process, with a considerable proportion of respondents able to handle the process independently.

4.7.9 Distribution of the Respondents based on Service Experience

The respondents had varied service experience to the service provided by DAO. The experience was classified as easy and troublesome. The table 39 shows the distribution of the respondents on the basis of experience while receiving the service.

Table 39:

Service Experience

Particulars	Frequency	Percent
Easy	202	52.5
Hard	183	47.5
Total	385	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The service experience is divided, with 52.5 percentage of respondents finding the process easy and 47.5 percentage finding it hard. This nearly equal split indicates that while many respondents have a smooth experience, a significant portion encounters difficulty. This suggest the need of improvement in the process of service delivery of the DAO.

4.7.10 Distribution of the Respondents by Source of Information for Service

The respondents while visiting to the DAO get hustled by the administrative procedure as well as the document requirement. Most of the respondents do it by themselves while remaining uses various source for getting this information. The table 40 provide the information about the source respondents used for getting information about procedure related to citizenship.

Table 40:
Information for Service Reception

Particulars	Frequency	Percent
Self	153	39.7
Citizen charter	124	32.2
Asking with previous recipient	90	23.4
Staffs of DAO	18	4.7
Total	385	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Respondents primarily obtained information through self-study 39.7 percentage, citizen character references 32.2 percentage, asking previous recipients 23.4 percentage, and, to a lesser extent, DAO staff 4.7 percentage. This suggests that informal networks and personal initiative are crucial in navigating the citizenship process.

4.7.11 Distribution of the Respondents by Service Satisfaction

The satisfaction level of the respondents after receiving the citizenship showed a significant variation due to various factors associated with the receiving procedure. The table 41 states the level of satisfaction to the service provided by the DAO.

Table 41:*Level of Satisfaction in Service Provided by DAO*

Level of satisfaction	Frequency	Percent
Highly satisfied	207	53.8
Satisfied	151	39.2
Nothing to say	13	3.4
Dissatisfied	7	1.8
Highly dissatisfied	7	1.8
Total	385	100

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Respondents' satisfaction with the services provided by the DAO varies, with the majority expressing satisfaction 53.8 percentage and being highly satisfied 39.2 percentage. A smaller proportion are neutral 3.4 percentage, dissatisfied 1.8 percentage, or highly dissatisfied 1.8 percentage. This suggests that while the majority of respondents are generally satisfied with the services, there is still a notable percentage of respondents also perceives room for improvement.

4.7.12 Distribution of the Respondents by Reason Behind Satisfaction

The respondents were asked about the level of satisfaction after the service they received from DAO. The satisfaction is guided by easiness in service availability, without any trouble, and as per the expectation of the respondents. The table 42 provided explicitly the reason for satisfaction to the service provided by DAO.

Table 42:*Reason for Satisfaction*

Particulars	Yes (%)	No (%)
Easy Service	50.6	49.4
Service Expected	83.6	16.4
Nice delivery	84.7	15.3
Low expenses	85.5	14.5
Least time taken	92.2	7.8

Source: Field Survey, 2024

The reasons for satisfaction among respondents are multifaceted. A significant portion 50.6 percentage finds the service taking process to be easy and matches to their

expectations 83.6 percentage. Many respondents appreciate the nice delivery of services 84.7 percentage and low expenses 85.5 percentage, with the least time taken 92.2 percentage being a crucial factor for most of them. However, there is still a nearly equal number of respondents who did not find the service easy, indicating variability in their experiences in taking the service from DAO.

The cost of getting citizenship varies greatly throughout the several local entities in the district of Sindhupalchok. Lisankhupokhar Municipality bears the highest transportation costs, whilst Bhotekoshi Municipality has the highest average stationery expenditures. The most expensive hotels are found in Panchpokhari Thangpal Municipality, whereas Bhotekoshi has the highest meal expenditures. The total cost of becoming a citizen is cheapest in Chautara Municipality and highest in Bhotekoshi. The District Administration Office's (DAO) distance and the municipalities' remote locations are two reasons for this cost discrepancy. This result is consistent with previous research that indicates the costs and accessibility of public services, such as obtaining citizenship, are highly influenced by geography and infrastructure variables (Sharma, 2019).

The study employed a t-test to compare the average costs of obtaining citizenship based on respondents' income levels. The results indicate that both direct and indirect costs are significantly higher for non-poor respondents compared to poor ones. However, the difference in opportunity costs is not statistically significant. This suggests that individuals with higher incomes tend to spend more on obtaining citizenship, possibly due to better financial capacity to cover higher-quality services or additional bureaucratic expenses. This observation is supported by similar studies in other regions where higher-income groups incur more costs for public service procedures due to their preference for faster and more efficient services (Ghimire, 2018).

The average costs of gaining citizenship were compared based on respondents' income levels using a t-test in the study. The findings show that respondents who are not poor have considerably higher direct and indirect costs than those who are impoverished. Nevertheless, there is no statistically significant difference in opportunity costs. This implies that those with greater earnings typically spend more money applying for citizenship, maybe because they can afford better services or

more bureaucratic costs. Studies conducted in other areas have found that higher-income groups pay more for public service procedures because they expect quicker and more effective service delivery. These findings corroborate this observation (Ghimire, 2018).

In terms of direct, indirect, and opportunity costs, the study showed no statistically significant variations when comparing costs according to citizenship type (naturalization, descent, and others). This suggests that, regardless of the kind of citizenship, the application procedure and related expenses are often the same. This consistency may be the result of uniform policies and charges put in place by the government to guarantee equity and impartiality in citizenship applications. The lack of statistically significant differences further implies that other variables, such as individual socioeconomic position and the effectiveness of local government, may be more important in determining cost variations than citizenship type (Karki, 2020).

The survey findings reveal that a sizeable percentage of participants (17.9%) had monetary challenges as a result of the costs associated with becoming a citizen. While the majority of respondents did not suffer additional costs, 3.1% of them did, suggesting that though they are relatively infrequent, additional charges like bribes or agent fees are nonetheless present. Most respondents (42.3%) and (32.2%) said the costs were either very low or cheap, indicating that they were widely thought well of. Only 9.4% of respondents, a sizable minority, thought the costs were excessive. Adhikari (2021) emphasizes that in order to make citizenship acquisition more accessible and inexpensive, cost-saving measures including ward-level interventions, local level support, and e-application processes are necessary.

The respondents cited higher education (41.8%), passport-making (26%), civic duty (19.2%), and job applications (13%), as their main motivations for becoming citizens. This suggests that in order to fulfil civic obligations and gain access to professional and educational possibilities, citizenship is necessary. The significant proportion of participants who expressed a desire to get citizenship in order to pursue higher education highlights the significance of citizenship paperwork in facilitating admission to educational establishments and associated advantages. This result is in line with recent research emphasizing the vital role that citizenship plays in enabling access to opportunities and public services (Pandey,2022).

The socioeconomic diversity of the respondents, which includes a sizable percentage in both business (19.2%) and agriculture (61.8%), is indicative of Sindhupalchok's economy's agrarian and rural character. The enormous variation in monthly earnings, ranging from 1000 to 50,000 NPR, emphasizes the district's economic inequality even more. These socioeconomic considerations impact the cost and accessibility of getting citizenship, with more financial and logistical obstacles facing those from lower-income groups and those residing in distant places. Research points to the possibility of lowering these obstacles and fostering fair access to citizenship through focused interventions and financial aid for underprivileged populations (Bhandari, 2019).

There is a large variation between the respondents' mean distance travelled to reach the DAO (50.08 kilometres) and highest distance travelled (196 km). This distance adds to the overall cost and difficulty of getting citizenship, along with the time needed for the application process and other bureaucratic procedures. The results show that respondents who live in more remote locations have greater opportunity and transportation costs, which emphasizes the need for decentralized services and digital apps to lessen the strain of travel. Analogous research has emphasized the significance of being close to administrative hubs in lowering the expense and difficulty of obtaining public services (Lama, 2021).

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary

The study investigates the costs and administrative challenges related to obtaining citizenship in Sindhupalchok, Nepal. It draws attention to how important citizenship is as a basic right that is required to use social services and engage in politics. By comparing these expenses based on how close various local levels are to the District Administration Office (DAO), the study seeks to evaluate the direct financial expenditures as well as opportunity costs related to gaining citizenship.

Both foreign and domestic contexts are covered in the literature review. It covers several research on the expenses and obstacles associated with becoming a citizen, emphasizing socioeconomic, legal, and administrative aspects. The analysis points out gaps in the literature, most notably the dearth of empirical data on the precise expenses associated with becoming a citizen in Sindhupalchok, Nepal. The study makes use of t-tests, direct and opportunity cost estimating techniques, and descriptive statistics. In Sindhupalchok, information was gathered via questionnaires from 385 participants at seven different local levels. The respondents shared details on socioeconomic circumstances, the procedure of getting citizenship, challenges encountered, and related expenses.

According to the data, Chautarasangachokgadhi municipality has the lowest average cost of getting citizenship, whereas Bhotekoshi municipality (NRs 4353) has the highest average cost. Based on the kind of citizenship, gender, and economic standing, the study reveals no appreciable variations in the direct, indirect, and opportunity costs. Nonetheless, there are notable variations between male and female responders as well as based on the respondents' distance from DAO. The report identifies structural barriers and inadequacies in the citizenship procedure and offers decentralization to regional centers as a possible remedy.

The study indicates that, especially for marginalized people, getting citizenship in Sindhupalchok entails major procedural and financial hurdles. The report stresses the need for decentralization and improved administrative procedures in its

recommendations for policy changes aimed at improving the accessibility and equity of the citizenship process.

5.2 Conclusion

The study concludes that a number of administrative and socioeconomic factors have a significant impact on the citizenship obtaining procedure in Sindhupalchok District. Significant differences in direct and indirect expenses between various local entities indicate systemic problems and inefficiencies. In order to lessen the financial and procedural constraints on marginalized people, the study emphasizes the necessity to reduce administrative procedures and need of specific interventions in this process. It highlights how important it is for everyone to have equal access to citizenship, since this is essential for both socioeconomic well-being and engaged civic engagement.

5.3 Recommendations

The application process for citizenship need to be simplified in order to reduce expenses both directly and indirectly. Individuals' financial burdens can be reduced by streamlining the process, especially for those who live in rural places. The citizens should be instructed about the requirements for obtaining citizenship and the procedures involved, by implementing educational and awareness campaigns. In addition to lowering intermediary expenses, this can guard prevent the exploitation of service recipients. The provision to provide citizenship from Illakas office at Barabishey, and Melamchi should be made in addition to the provision for e-application which can significantly reduce the opportunity cost, indirect cost as well as makes the service accessible. There is a room for conduction of further study to explore the long-term socio-economic impacts of citizenship acquisition on marginalized populations. This can provide deeper insights into the benefits of streamlined processes and targeted interventions. Since, Sindhupalchok district in geographically larger and also has diverse and complex topography, it would be easier to provide important public services such as citizenship form different regional center such as Melamchi and Barahbishe. A piloting of this decentralization is highly recommended. The major recommendations of the study are:

- Launching the online application procedure through CCIMS at all ward offices
- Establishment of service center in Barhabishey and Melamchi

- Provision for waiving all direct costs to the poor people
- Establishment of Help Desk at DAO
- Mobile Services in remotely located local levels
- Policy Reform
- Conduction of further study to explore the long-term socio-economic impacts of citizenship acquisition on marginalized populations

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APPENDIX I: Questionnaire

ASSESSMENT OF THE COST IN OBTAINING CITIZENSHIP IN SINDHUPALCHOK DISTRICT, NEPAL

Dear Madam/ Sir

I am student of Patan Campus MA in Economics. I would be to a great extent appreciating your participation in this survey. Participation in this survey is voluntary and you can choose not to answer any individual questions or all the questions. However, I hope that you will participate in this survey since your views are important for reform measures.

This questionnaire is prepared in order to collect data of study work to undertake in the partial fulfillment of MA in Economics program, Tribhuvan University. Please take a moment of your time to fill out this simple form. All information enter will remain confidential.

GROUP A: Demographic Information

Particular	
Name of the respondent	
Address	
Gender	
Age	
Educational level	
Father's education	
Mother's education	
Caste	
Religion	
Family Member's	
Type of Family	

1. In Which institutions did you get your education?

- I. Public school
- II. Private school
- III. Boarding school
- IV. Others.....

2. Family income.....

3. What is your family income source?
- I. Business
 - II. Agriculture
 - III. Job
 - IV. foreign employment
 - V. social security
 - VI. Others

GROUP B: Information with citizenship Obtaining

4. Did you get citizenship from District Administration office Sindhupalchok?

Yes	1
No	2

5. If yes, please specify the type of citizenship did you get:

Types	code
Citizenship by descent	1
Naturalization	2
Non-residence	3
Others	4

6. What is the purpose to obtained citizenship?
- I. apply passport
 - II. join higher education
 - III. job application
 - IV. others...

7. How satisfied are you with the overall process of obtaining citizenship at the District Administration Office?

Very satisfied	1
Satisfied	2
Neutral	3
Dissatisfied	4
Very dissatisfied	5

If satisfied, what were the reasons?

Convenient service	
Service as expected	
good behavior of staff	
systematic service process	
Low cost	
Service in less time	
Others	

If dissatisfied, what were the reasons?

Inconvenient service	
Service as not expected	
Not good behavior of staff	
systematic service process	
Expensive service	
Lengthy process	
Others	

8. For whom are your assessing or this service?

- I. For my self
- II. for family member
- III. For others

9. Are you alone or accompanied with someone else to receive this service?

- I. Alone
- II. Someone else

If accompanied with someone else, with whom?

- i. Family member
- ii. Neighbor
- iii. Friend
- iv. Members of political parties
- v. Members of social organization
- vi. Intermediary
- vii. Others.....

10. Why did you accompany someone else for accessing the service?

- i. Necessary for receiving service
- ii. No information about services
- iii. For convenience of receiving services

- iv. Foe convenience to interact with service provides
- v. Others.....

11. Who pays the cost including transportation for person accompanying you?

- i. I paid
- ii. Individual

12. How many attempts did you make to access this service?

.....

13. If made multiple attempts, what was the reasons for making multiple attempts?

- i. Lack of information about service
- ii. Inadequate documents
- iii. Absence of staff
- iv. Insufficient money for service fee
- v. No electricity and other utilities
- vi. Crowding of service recipients
- vii. Work not completed on time
- viii. Reluctance of staff
- ix. Missing records
- x. Others (Specify)

14. How did you feel about while accessing the service?

- i. It was convenient
- ii. It was inconvenient/complicated

If you felt inconvenient while accessing services, Why?

- i. Lack of knowledge about service process
- ii. No idea whom to ask about
- iii. Lengthy process
- iv. Inability to furnish required documents
- v. No cooperation from staff
- vi. Unsystematic service process
- vii. Crowd of clients

viii. Others (Specify)

15. How did you know about the service process?

- i. Own experience
- ii. Citizen charter
- iii. From person who have received previously
- iv. From staff
- v. Intermediary or professional
- vi. Others.....

16. Whose support did you take to receive service?

- i. Self
- ii. Relatives or known person Staff
- iii. Intermediary
- iv. Political parties
- v. Social organization
- vi. Others.....

17. Do you have any personal introduction (relationship) with any staff in this organization?

- i. Yes
- ii. No

18. Do you have any advantage of that relationship in accessing service?

- i. Yes
- ii. No

19. How many days did you spend to access this service?

Number of days.....

20. Did you face any unexpected delays or obstacles during the citizenship application process that incurred additional cost?

- I. yes
- II. No

If yes, please briefly describe the nature of the delays of obstacles encountered:

- II.
- III.
- IV.

V.

VI.

21. Family monthly income

In NRS.

GROUP C: Cost Assessment

22. Did you any incur during the citizenship application process?

Yes	1
No	2

23. What types of cost did you encountered during the time of obtaining citizenship?

Application fee	
Citizenship cost	
Transportation cost	
Ticket fee	
Speed money	
Middle man expenses	
Lodging	
Lunch and refreshment	
Staying cost in hotel	
Others 2 (.....)	
Others 3 (.....)	

24. How do you rate the affordability of the citizenship obtaining process in terms of expenses?

- I. Very affordable
- II. Affordable
- III. Neutral
- IV. Expensive
- V. Very expensive

25. Did the expenses related to obtaining citizenship cause any financial strain on you or family?

- I. Yes
- II. No

26. What measures do you think could be implemented to reduce the financial burden associated with obtaining citizenship?

I.

- II.
- III.

27. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding the cost of obtaining citizenship in Sindhupalchok?

- I. Yes, if yes what are they.....
- II. No

28. Did you pay any other charges to get the information regarding the requirement and procedures for obtaining citizenship from DAO?

- I. Yes, if yes what are they.....
- II. No

29. Did you seek assistance from legal or advisory services to understand the citizenship application process?

- I. Yes, if yes what are they.....
- II. No

If yes, please specify the sources of assistance

- I. Ward chain or secretary
- II. Private layers
- III. NGOs
- IV. Family and friends
- V. Others.....

GROUP D: Time and Effort

30. How would you rate the time and effort required to complete the citizenship application process?

- I. Very low
- II. Low
- III. Neutral
- IV. High
- V. Very High

GROUP E: Socio -Economic factors

31. Do you believe that allocating additional resources to the DAO would improve the efficiency and affordability of the citizenship application process?

- I.
- II.
- III.

32. How did you come here to get the citizenship?

- I. Own vehicle
- II. Public bus
- III. Hiring vehicle
- IV. Lifting my relatives
- v. Other.....

If you came by public vehicle or hiring private vehicle, how much money did you pay?

NRS.....

33. How far is your residence from DAO?

Km.....

34. How much money did you pay to come DAO by public vehicle?

NPR.....

35. How many hours does it take to reach here from your current residence?

Time.....

36. How did you manage the money to come DAO?

- I. Savings
- II. family
- III. Loan
- IV. others...

APPENDIX II: Statistical Analysis

Report

Distance	Direct cost			Indirect cost			Opportunity Cost		
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Proximity	94	226.6383	30.99804	94	1495.9574	669.95758	94	1208.5106	521.30101
Remote	291	279.4021	75.94762	291	2248.3608	975.35346	291	1278.3505	531.40545
Total	385	266.5195	71.44156	385	2064.6571	965.34400	385	1261.2987	529.13390

Report

Gender	Direct cost			Indirect cost			Opportunity Cost		
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Male	186	268.4194	73.38942	186	2146.91	1099.95883	186	1260.2151	550.01519
Female	199	264.7437	69.71029	199	1987.77	815.18833	199	1262.3116	510.23532
Total	385	266.5195	71.44156	385	2064.65	965.34400	385	1261.2987	529.13390

Report

Address	Direct cost			Indirect cost			Opportunity Cost		
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD
Chautara Mun	84	216.0000	.00000	84	1387.8571	424.65456	84	1171.4286	503.61858
Lisankhupokhari RM	48	216.0000	.00000	48	2377.5000	1091.14765	48	1300.0000	537.92351
Tripura Sundari	63	216.0000	.00000	63	2122.3810	657.17863	63	1257.1429	551.16132
Helambu	81	251.1852	22.97341	81	2032.9259	984.91543	81	1353.0864	531.29239
Panchpokahri	57	416.0000	.00000	57	2380.0175	920.57078	57	1164.9123	525.25206
Bhotekoshi	42	316.0000	.00000	42	2526.5476	1192.31354	42	1295.2381	498.26645
Melamchi	10	316.0000	.00000	10	2404.0000	1396.34006	10	1520.0000	590.29183
Total	385	266.5195	71.44156	385	2064.6571	965.34400	385	1261.2987	529.13390

Report

Education	Direct cost			Indirect cost			Opportunity Cost		
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD
Illiterate	5	226.0000	22.36068	5	1839.0000	747.13955	5	1760.0000	669.32802
Primary	28	264.2143	65.94350	28	1927.5000	994.64725	28	1342.8571	617.89881
Secondary	169	267.7751	74.97886	169	2102.8994	1166.31423	169	1159.7633	461.14758
HSEB	179	267.9553	70.18497	179	2066.6089	739.42230	179	1331.8436	555.70833
Bachelors	4	216.0000	.00000	4	1603.7500	625.21163	4	1200.0000	461.88022
Total	385	266.5195	71.44156	385	2064.6571	965.34400	385	1261.2987	529.13390

Report

Citizenship type	Direct cost			Indirect cost			Opportunity Cost		
	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Descent	356	267.1236	71.39556	356	2050.3596	954.50633	356	1247.1910	526.50105
Naturalization	23	261.6522	78.20870	23	2105.0000	1042.69428	23	1460.8696	520.26141
Others	6	249.3333	51.63978	6	2758.3333	1224.35153	6	1333.3333	653.19726
Total	385	266.5195	71.44156	385	2064.6571	965.34400	385	1261.2987	529.13390

Report

Poverty	Direct cost			Indirect cost			Opportunity Cost		
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Poor	145	254.9655	64.94361	145	1844.3724	724.95880	145	1202.7586	508.80372
Non poor	240	273.5000	74.35919	240	2197.7458	1064.60119	240	1296.6667	539.01092
Total	385	266.5195	71.44156	385	2064.6571	965.34400	385	1261.2987	529.13390

Group Statistics

Cost Type	Distance	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Direct cost	Proximity	94	226.6383	30.99804	3.19720
	Remote	291	279.4021	75.94762	4.45213
Indirect cost	Proximity	94	1495.9574	669.95758	69.10085
	Remote	291	2248.3608	975.35346	57.17623
Opportunity Cost	Proximity	94	1208.5106	521.30101	53.76809
	Remote	291	1278.3505	531.40545	31.15154

Independent Samples Test

Particulars		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig.(2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95 % Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Direct cost	Equal variances assumed	.895	.345	.504	383	.615	3.67564	7.29324	-10.66417	18.01544
	Equal variances not assumed			.503	377.651	.615	3.67564	7.30594	-10.68978	18.04105
Indirect cost	Equal variances assumed	5.162	.024	1.620	383	.106	159.14011	98.24561	-34.02816	352.30838
	Equal variances not assumed			1.604	339.982	.110	159.14011	99.21818	-36.01868	354.29890
Opportunity Cost	Equal variances assumed	1.770	.184	-.039	383	.969	-2.09650	54.03539	-108.33966	104.14665
	Equal variances not assumed			-.039	375.383	.969	-2.09650	54.17265	-108.61638	104.42337

Descriptives

Particulars	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error	95 % Confidence Interval for Mean		Minimum	Maximum	
					Lower Bound	Upper Bound			
Direct cost	Illiterate	5	226.0000	22.36068	10.00000	198.2355	253.7645	216.00	266.00
	Primary	28	264.2143	65.94350	12.46215	238.6441	289.7845	216.00	416.00
	Secondary	169	267.7751	74.97886	5.76760	256.3888	279.1615	216.00	416.00
	HSEB	179	267.9553	70.18497	5.24587	257.6032	278.3074	216.00	416.00
	Bachelors	4	216.0000	.00000	.00000	216.0000	216.0000	216.00	216.00
	Total	385	266.5195	71.44156	3.64100	259.3607	273.6783	216.00	416.00
Indirect cost	Illiterate	5	1839.0000	747.13955	334.13096	911.3037	2766.6963	1055.00	3080.00
	Primary	28	1927.5000	994.64725	187.97066	1541.8161	2313.1839	1020.00	6275.00
	Secondary	169	2102.8994	1166.31423	89.71648	1925.7825	2280.0164	620.00	7120.00
	HSEB	179	2066.6089	739.42230	55.26702	1957.5461	2175.6718	985.00	5560.00
	Bachelors	4	1603.7500	625.21163	312.60582	608.8988	2598.6012	740.00	2100.00
	Total	385	2064.6571	965.34400	49.19849	1967.9250	2161.3893	620.00	7120.00
Opportunity Cost	Illiterate	5	1760.0000	669.32802	299.33259	928.9195	2591.0805	800.00	2400.00
	Primary	28	1342.8571	617.89881	116.77190	1103.2610	1582.4533	800.00	2400.00
	Secondary	169	1159.7633	461.14758	35.47289	1089.7333	1229.7934	800.00	2400.00
	HSEB	179	1331.8436	555.70833	41.53559	1249.8780	1413.8091	800.00	2400.00
	Bachelors	4	1200.0000	461.88022	230.94011	465.0455	1934.9545	800.00	1600.00
	Total	385	1261.2987	529.13390	26.96716	1208.2769	1314.3205	800.00	2400.00

APPENDIX III: Methodological Matrix

The methodological matrix serves as a systematic framework for organizing and summarizing the key components of the study methodology, including study design, data collection methods, analysis techniques, and theoretical underpinnings. The following matrix provides an overview of the methodological framework employed in this study (Table 3)

Table 43: Methodological Matrix

Component	Description
Study Design	The study adopted a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews, and document analysis to investigate the costs and barriers of obtaining citizenship in Sindhupalchok District, Nepal.
Data Collection	<p>Surveys: Structured surveys were administered to gather quantitative data on citizenship obtaining costs.</p> <p>Interviews: In-depth interviews have been conducted with key stakeholders to explore administrative procedures and socio-economic implications.</p> <p>Document Analysis: Official documents and policy documents have been analyzed to provide contextual background.</p>
Sampling Strategy	<p>Purposive Sampling: Seven local levels that are at remote and one near to DAO were chosen for study.</p> <p>Random Sampling: The individuals were chosen following the principle of random sampling.</p>
Data Analysis	<p>Quantitative: Descriptive and inferential statistics has been used to analyze survey data.</p> <p>Qualitative: Thematic, narrative and content analysis applied to interview transcripts and document analysis findings.</p> <p>Triangulation: Data triangulation used to compare findings from different sources and enhance validity.</p>
Conceptual	Directs + Indirect cost = Total economic cost

Framework	
Direct costs	Application fees, administrative charges, costs associated with obtaining necessary documents (e.g., birth certificates, identity proofs), legal fees.
Indirect costs	Food, Transportation fee, Accommodation, Intermediary charges
Opportunity cost	Time and effort required to gather required documentation, travel to government offices or legal counsel, waiting periods for administrative processing.

APPENDIX IV: Map of the Study Area

