

**BIOLOGICAL THREAT: A NEW DIMENSION OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY  
STRATEGY**

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## **LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

I certify that this dissertation entitled “Biological Threat: A New Dimension of Defense and Security Strategy” was prepared by Abhaya Shekhar Adhikari under my supervision. I hereby recommend this dissertation for final examination by the Research Committee Master’s in International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University, in fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER’S IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY.

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Prof. Dr. Khadga K.C.

Supervisor

Date:

## **APPROVAL LETTER**

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this dissertation is my own work and that it contains no materials previously published. I have not used its materials for the award of any kind and any other degree. Where other authors' sources of information have been used, they have been acknowledged.

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Abhaya Shekhar Adhikari

## ABSTRACT

History highlights us the adverse effects of microorganisms on human lives. Epidemics and pandemics started since ages and the ability of these agents to cause disease in humans have been employed by states to fight their enemies. These weapons in the progress of time has been used by terrorist thus possessing a new sort of security threat to states. The biological threats to individuals and to states through any of these means is a security concern for the states and to the international community as a whole, the study of which is the scope of this research. Through an exploratory qualitative design and utilizing the data from previous literatures and other authentic sources the research tried to get insights of biological threats, biosecurity and biodefense and classify the biological threats under certain framework. Adding to this, the research also aimed to reveal initiatives taken by states collectively at international level and at national level, including that of Nepal. Biological threats are found to be emerging from three main means- natural occurrence, accidental release and deliberate use which can further be divided under epidemics and pandemics, bio-warfare programs and medical laboratories, and bio-warfare between states, bioterrorism and bio-crimes. International Health Regulations (2005), Biological Weapons Convention and WHO Biosafety Programs among others are some of the initiatives taken collectively whereas formulation and implementation of laws and other legal documents, and establishment of various institutions in the field of public health, defense and security, research, animal, plant, food and environment, and economy are some of the individual steps taken by states. Similar results are found to be aligning with that of Nepal as it faces biological security threats from similar sources in its own, political and geographical context.

**Key words:** *Biological Threats, Biosecurity, Biodefense, Bioterrorism, Epidemics, Pandemics.*

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