

**NEPAL-INDIA OPEN BORDER AND ITS IMPACT
ON NATIONAL SECURITY**

A Dissertation

Submitted to the Department of Political Science
Prithvi Narayan Campus Tribhuvan University
(Pokhara) in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirement for the Master's Degree
in Political Science

Submitted by:

Kishor Adhikari

Exam Roll no: 480051

T. U. Registration No: 6-2-248-96-2006

July, 2019

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

I hereby certify that this thesis: **Nepal- India Open Border and Its Impact on National Security** is the work of, Kishor Adhikari, the student of Political Science of TU. Any contributors or sources have been either referenced in the prescribed manner or are listed in the acknowledgements together with the nature and the scope of their contribution, under my supervision the dissertation has been prepared. I would like to recommend this thesis to the research committee for the final evaluation.

.....

Thesis Supervisor

Associate Professor Uma Nath Baral Ph D

Head, Department of Political Science

P.N Campus-TU, Pokhara

Date: 2072/5/1

Tribhuvan University
Prithivi Narayan Campus
Department of Political Science

Letter of Approval

The evaluation committee has approved this thesis entitled topic "Nepal- India boarder and its impact on national security" submitted by Kishor Adhikari (Roll no: 480051) for the fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of master in political science.

Evaluation Committee

Uma Nath Baral Phd

Associate Professor, Supervisor and

Head of the Department of Political Science, PNC-TU.

Tara Nath Baral

Professor, Department of Political Science, PNC, - TU.

External Examiner

Than Bahadur Chhetri

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, PNC -TU

Research Coordinator

Date: 2072/05/05 B.S. (22 Aug. 2015)

ABSTRACT

The dissertation attempts to address the research questions: The case of open border and analyze the concern of Nepal India open border? What are the prospects and problem of open border? What are the security challenges posed by Nepal-India open border to Nepal? India and Nepal have shared close relations for a very long time. Geographical factors have been reinforced by religious, cultural and ethnic affinities between the inhabitants of the Terai region and their counterparts across the border. The objectives include an analysis on interrelationships of people beyond the geographical territory and the investigation of exceptional issues created by an open border following security threats. The testimonials made by the experts and leaders having a substantive knowledge on open border will be used as the primary source of information. As India and Nepal share many commonalities, the open border can always be harnessed as a springboard for opportunities, which are aplenty on both sides of the border. Talking on the boundry, Nepal is surrounded by India to the West, East and the South except the North. The dissertation reflects that a practice of an open border between the countries has been remaining since the old age.

The open border between India and Nepal not only have brought out the mutual security concerns but also fostered close socio-economic relations between the two countries. The unrestricted flow of people over the years has resulted in the dissemination of ideas, culture, and settlements of people in each other's territory thereby strengthening the bilateral social and cultural relations. The open border also has a favorable impact on two economies. An open border has also allowed many Nepalese citizens to find employment in India and Indians to open business ventures in Nepal. Despite the fact, the open border has been misused by terrorists and criminals. The extent of misuse of the open border by terrorists and criminals has led to a clamor in some quarters to rethink the rationale for keeping the border with Nepal open. While it is true that the open border has facilitated terrorist and criminal activities that are adversely impacting national security, it is equally important to recognize that an open border has also helped India and Nepal to develop and deepen socio-cultural and economic relations. The trafficking in girls and women, the mobility of fake Indian currency and explosive substances have challenged to the existing security system. The infiltration of illegal elements is really detrimental to the national security and integrity of the country. In present context, the borders cannot be sealed off but can be legalized through conjoint and shared accountabilities to bring fresh momentum on natural flow and entry of people from one country to another practically.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This thesis has been prepared to fulfill partial requirement for the degree of my MA of Tribhuvan University. For this, I would like to acknowledge Tribhuvan University for giving me such a valuable opportunity to use the theoretical knowledge in the practical field. First of all, I would like to express my heartiest gratitude to my respected teacher and supervisor of this research work, Head of Department and Associate Professor Dr. Uma Nath Baral for his valuable suggestion, important inputs and constant encouragements which helped me in designing this research and accomplishing it successfully. Words do not suffice to express my sincere gratitude to him. Likewise, I am highly obliged to the external and internal experts for providing worth full comments in viva voice in earlier draft of this thesis at the Department of Political Science, Prithivi Narayan Campus.

I gratefully acknowledge the cooperation and supports of those who have helped me in data collection. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all those individuals who helped me directly or indirectly throughout this research and helped me to complete this report.

Also, my special thanks goes to my wife Junu Gautam and daughter Saya Adhikari for their constant support and cooperation regarding planning and editing this report.

Date: June 2019

Kishor Adhikari

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ABBREVIATION

BOPs	Border Out Posts
CA	Constituent Assembly
CNCI	Comprehensive National Cyber security Initiative
CPN	Communist Party of Nepal
ICP	Integrated Check Post
INSEC	Informal Sector Service Center
MLAT	Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty
MP	Member of Parliament
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NGO	Nepal Government Organization
NRs	Nepalese Rupees
POTA	Prevention of Terrorist Act
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation
SAPLW	Small Arms & other Portable Lethal Weapons
SDOMD	SAARC Drug Offences Monitoring Desk
SPA	Seven Party Alliance
SSB	Sashastra Seema Bal
STOMD	SAARC Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk
TADA	Terrorist Disruptive Activities Act
UCPN	Unified Communist Party of Nepal
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund