

**PEOPLE TO PEOPLE CONNECTION: MERITS AND
DEMERITS OF OPEN BORDER RELATION BETWEEN
NEPAL AND INDIA**

A Dissertation

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Ambika Jha

MIRD

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

I certify that this dissertation entitled People to People Connection: Merits and Demerits of Open Border Relation between Nepal and India has been prepared by Ambika Jha under my supervision. I hereby recommend this dissertation for final examination by the research committee at the Department of International Relation and Diplomacy, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University in the fulfillment of the requirements for MIRD 525 Thesis for the Master's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy.

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Date: July, 2022

DECLARATION

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APPROVAL SHEET

ABSTRACT

The relationship between Nepal and India is unique and has got long history from the time when British were ruling India. It has 1800 square kilometers open border system was formally regulated after Nepal and India signed Peace and Friendship Treaty in 1950. People of both the nations got legal permission to carry out their business and trading activities smoothly as mentioned in the Article VII of Peace and Friendship Treaty which has helped Nepal and India to maintain their traditional socio-cultural and economic relation. People to people connection has played vital role in maintaining harmonious relation between Nepal and India. It has significant impact on the border relations between both the nation because of bread and daughter relation, employment opportunities, facilitated medical treatment, quality education and trainings and so on. Despite of many prospects of open border, it has also created threats for national security, illegal activities and terrorism have increased. The misuse of open border has been done and to control that both nations have deployed border security forces on each sides but despite of that no minimization of criminal activities has been seen. Local people also face many hurdles to carry out their daily chores through which they used to earn their livelihood. These kinds of problem has weakened the harmonious relationship between the nation, time and again.

Therefore, to maintain the friendly relation, the issues of open border system should be tackled diplomatically on the government level and for this government should employ special team which will work and do research on the grassroot level and come up with the solution which will create win-win situation for both Nepal and India.

Keywords: People to people connection, open border, closed or restricted border, Nepal and India open border relation, border policies and mechanism.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BPOL	German Federal Border Police
BSF	Border Security Forces
BWG	Border Working Group
CBP	Customs and Border Protection
IPC	Immigration Policy Center
JTLBC	Joint Technical Level Boundary Committee
MEA	Ministry of External Affairs
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
OBIRM	Outstanding Border Issue Resolution Mechanism
PM	Prime Minister
Sq km.	Square kilometer
SSB	Sashastra Seema Bal
UNICJ	United Nation International Court of Justice
US	United States
USBP	United States Border Patrol
WHO	World Health Organization
WPBS	West Pomeranian Business School

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Nepal and India have a special and unique relationship. Both nations are linked by traditions, history, geography, culture and economy. They share about 1800square kilometer (sq km) open and porous border (Kanshakar, 2001). Majority of the people have symbiotic interdependent on each other like they share same religion, culture, language (Maithali, Bhojpuri, etc.), economic relation is strong as people from border area go across border to buy goods, for employment and so on. In the formal manner, the 1950's Border Treaty or Peace and Friendship Treaty between Nepal and India allowed cross-border movements which set up the base for business activities in border area and it has been further expanded after the globalization and liberalization policies adopted by the government of Nepal in 1990s (Kanshakar, 2001).



Figure 1: open border between Nepal and India, source: Nepal Mountain News.

Despite of having socially and economically strong relation, Nepal and India are engaged into several disputes. And the most vibrant issue is open border dispute between the two nations. Border dispute arise from the encroachment, claim, counterclaim, geopolitical rivalry or improper demarcation of border line in between the two nations. For example, there are many notable boundary disputes ranging from Asia, Africa, America, Pacific and Europe. Some of the most prominent border dispute's examples are between Russia- Ukraine (Crimea), India- Pakistan (Kashmir), Israel-Palestine and US-Mexico (Upreti, 2020). Several border disputes are unsettled from decades whereas some are settled by mutual agreements, government to government level meeting, political level talk and negotiations, tackling through diplomatic means or by seeking support from the United Nation International Court of Justice (UNICJ).

Closed borders is not going to be beneficial for both Nepal and India, as it will put additional economic burden on India and for Nepal it will bring obstacles in the process of doing trade and business as well as this will also bring economic drain in Nepalese economy. Social connectivity between Nepal and India will be disturbed as people will not be able to cross border freely to do business, meet family across the border as a whole relation between the two state will be disturbed and Nepal has to suffer more compared to India because India is an emerging economy, have got greater geography and population than Nepal. So, it can survive but Nepal's economy, business, trade with other states will face obstacles and local people residing on the borderline will face difficulty to earn their livelihood.

This paper is based on open border system, so while defining borders in Cambridge English Dictionary it is stated that borders are the imaginary demarcated line or

delimiting geographical feature that separates one country, province or state from another. Likewise, open border is a situation in which movement of people and trading or transferring of goods can be done without any restriction across the jurisdiction. Whereas restricted border means it is a situation in which people need to show document of identity and follow strict rules and procedures to do business through the border of one country to another country.



Figure 2: Map of Nepal, Source: Ministry of Land

Now, borders between Nepal and India is open as the movement of people is free, they don't require any passport to cross the border despite of the border check posts at several locations. There are twenty two transit points but only six transit points are used to carry out bilateral trade (See Annex 1), (Naik, 2014). Except those six transit points, no other border check posts are patrolled by police or military because of which illegal activities get encouraged in those areas. India's Border Security Forces (BSF) deployed along Indo-Nepal border often misbehave with the people who try to cross border for their personal purpose like meeting relatives, for marketing, shopping, for daily wage jobs and so on. This unmanaged open border signifies the

security threat to the nation in maintaining peace and security as well as promoting human rights on both frontiers. Crimes such as human and animal trafficking, drugs and weapon trafficking, uses of fake currency notes of both Nepalese and Indian state, smuggling, robbery, terrorism and many other crimes takes place through open and unmanaged borders. India has deployed more than 45,000 cops from the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) along the India-Nepal border. Nepal has also deputed nearly 7,000 personnel from the Armed Police Force. But the people of both sides do not feel secure due to the continued misuse of the open border (Shrestha, 2002).

Although the security forces, armed forces are deployed on the border areas, anti-social activities and crimes have not minimized rather corruption, smuggling, theft, trafficking of human, drugs, weapons, harassment to local people residing nearby border areas has increased, girls and women are trafficked and sold in the brothels of India (Hans, 2009). The trading activities or business is done illegally as the government has no records of them in both the nations which ultimately leads to revenue loss for the government. Due to these unauthorized trading activities local human and natural resources are exploited existing in the border areas (Raghavan, 1995).

While talking about the misuse of the open border, let's see an example, as whole world is fighting against a deadly virus called COVID-19 which has taken a face of pandemic, to minimize the transmission of virus Nepal also adopted and regulated the measures given by World Health Organization (WHO). For that Nepal circulated a notice stating end of the country wide lockdown imposed from 24th March, 2020 to 21st July, 2020 but with some restrictions such as to close the borders unless there was emergency and got permission from the local government officials as well as maintain

social and physical distance, maintain hygiene by washing hands and wearing masks (Pradhan, 2020) but at the then time also local people living on the borderline of Bhattamode and Sursand used to cross the border and now also they continue to do the same as they visit border areas of India to purchase their household goods at a cheaper price than in Nepal which has resulted a spike in the people being infected by the virus. In the same way another most recent debate is going on land encroachment of Lipu-lake and Kalapani's surrounding areas by India. They are building roads and controlling nearby areas, as they say that land belongs to India but it is well known that when they were defeated by China in 1962, Indian Army Officials set-up some tents and some official started to live there in order to keep an eye on the activities of Chinese Army and that land belonged to Nepal (Shrestha, 2002). With no proper documentation and not implementing open border policies strictly the no-man's land is being misused and encroached. Thus, this subject matter is much relevant in this present scenario to be researched upon and studied deeply from the ground level.

In order to combat the border problems some strategic and diplomatic steps need to be taken and it was initiated by the Indian Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, who visited Nepal twice in 2014 that is on 03-04 August for a bilateral visit and on 25-27 November for the 18th SAARC Summit (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India). During his speech he touched the subject matter of Nepal and India open border system and how both nations are facing problem. There he proposed the formation of mechanisms named Border Working Group (BWG), Outstanding Border Issue Resolution Mechanism (OBIRM), through which all the issues related to border between the two nations will be heard and solved. And there is already an institution called Nepal-India Joint Technical Level Boundary Committee(JTLBC), working for the last 21 years since 15 November 1981 but the boundary dispute is not yet resolved

(Shrestha, 2002). However, neither the OBIRM has held a single meeting till date nor other agencies are being able to solve the border problems.

According to Jha (2021), interdependence between Nepal and India is the secret to maintain relation between them. The open border relation and people to people connections are the two pillars on which the Nepal and India relationship is sustaining and will always sustain. As Nepal also believes in keeping close and diplomatic relation with its nearest neighbors that is India and China. India also keeps Nepal-India relation (neighborhood first policy) in its priority. He also says that time and again some misunderstandings occur on the government to government level but despite of that the Nepal-India relation is governed by people to people connection. So, in order to take more benefits of Nepal-India open border relation, Nepal need to enhance cultural ties and people to people contact with India, so that Nepal could attract more Indian investment in Nepal and improve its economic or industrial market. However, Nepal is more dependent on India then India is dependent on Nepal, so it is most important to balance and maintain friendly and diplomatic relation between each other. Both countries could use open border as a boon as use it as an international corridor where movement of commercial vehicles can be increased and serve their common interest.

In analyzing the Nepal and India open border relation, state level analysis should be done and seen through liberalist perspective, as liberal school of thought gives more emphasis on cooperation and interdependence, this is because Nepal-India trade relation is very important for each other and especially for Nepal, as Nepal is land-lock country and depends on India for trade transit. If Nepal-India open border relation is seen through people to people connection or through state level or

government level and analyzed being based on liberalist school of thought then only the subject matter will be enlightened and can give a clear picture that what exactly the problem is and what can be done to solve it or if everything is right then what else can be done to make relation more progressive. But if it is talked about solving issues through technical level then the problem will remain as it is because policy makers or head of the government will not know the grassroots' level problem which will bring coldness in the relation internally. In this regard this research will shed light on the impact of open border on the relation between Nepal and India. This research paper will shed light on how open border has benefited the citizens of Nepal as well as India residing in the border areas, will also address, how it has created problem for the Nepal's sovereignty due to encroachment as well as find out the best way to dissolve border issues and maintain a friendly relation between the nations creating win-win situation.

1.2 Statement of the problem

While talking about the Nepal-India's open border relation, there are many common qualitative attributes like culture, religion, norms and values, people to people connection, they are interconnected and interdependent on each other whereas India's quantitative attributes is much bigger than Nepal and they are economically stronger than Nepal. Their military or defense capacity is much bigger and stronger than Nepal. India has deployed more than 45,000 cops from the Sashastra Sena Bal along the India-Nepal border whereas Nepal has deputed nearly 7,000 personnel from the Armed Police Force (Shrestha, 2002). So, Nepal cannot fight or compete with India.

Saying that, Nepal's 1800 square kilometer open border with India (Subedi and Timilsina, 2020) has been boon as well as curse for Nepal. People get goods at

cheaper price in Indian market, people get employment, students' get quality education, effective and efficient health facilities and so on but along with that many people get kidnapped, robber, murdered, other many criminal activities often occurs at the border areas. Along with that, India's Border Security Forces harass the local people residing in bordering areas of Nepal, encroachment , demolishing the border pillars are becoming major problem for Nepal's sovereignty and security concerns.

So, this research paper highlights how can national security threat and the question raised on the sovereignty of Nepal be addressed. This study will also try to create a track on which all the issues related to open border is dissolved and friendly environment be created to use that no-man's land as a boon to both the nations as well as how people to people connection has helped to maintain the harmonious relation between the nation and what strategies, policies can be adopted to tackle the border issues without harming the people to people connection notion in order to maintain healthy open border relation.

1.3 Research Question

As the study revolves around the Nepal-India's open border relation, the research question includes:

- i. What could be the strategic approaches to address the open border issue?
- ii. Will people to people connection play a vital role in maintaining open-border relation between Nepal and India?
- iii. What could be the strategic policies adopted to obtain maximum benefit from open border in between Nepal and India without harming the territorial integrity or sovereignty of both the nations?

1.4 Research Objective

The main objectives of this research paper to address the above research questions are as follows:

- i. To identify the most pertinent strategic approach to solve the open border issues in between Nepal and India.
- ii. To analyze the importance of people to people connection in maintain the harmonious relation between the nation state.
- iii. To determine which policies were able to solve the issues erupted and serve the territorial sovereignty of both the nations.
- iv. To analyze the impact of implementation of the strategies and policies adopted by both the nations, in maintaining the friendly relation and making the open border a boon for Nepal and India.

1.5 Significance of the study

Open border relation has long history since then the connection between the local people of Nepal and India residing on the borderline share similar culture, language, tradition, bread and daughter relation which has helped both the nation to maintain friendly relation on the ground level and has adverse effect on the policy making process of the open border issues. That is why it is significant area to be researched upon under the Master's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy as it researches on the merits and demerits of open border relation between Nepal and India and the role of people to people connection in flourishing the neighborhood relationship. The effectiveness of the Nepal-India's open border relation was due to the insertion of new strategic and diplomatic approaches and the role of local people residing nearby border areas, researchers on the subject of open border relation,

scholars, academicians and the role of Ministries of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Nepal.

Open border policy is very delicate and sensitive matter for state. Border policies are often made on the concerns and demand of the situation like security concerns, movement of people from one place to another, political relation, trade, criminal activities like terrorism, trafficking. These are the activities which yields countries to adopt strict border policies and many state opt restricted border policy but then also they face same kind of security threats, organized and unorganized criminal encounters, terrorism, smugglings and so on. Thus, open border system in between Nepal and India is non problematic only if the policies and strategies adopted are implemented and executed properly through the security forces deployed on the border area and keeping records by the custom officers on the checkpoints of open border.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The organization of the study consists of five chapters where chapter one summarizes about the background of the study which gives brief information about the topic researched. This chapter also consists of statement of the problem, research questions of the study, research objectives, significance of the study and delimitation of the study. The second chapter is literature review which critically examine the literatures of the researchers and academicians. It reviews articles, books, dissertations, conference proceedings, journals and other sources on the topic of open border between Nepal and India and how people to people connection has helped Nepal and India to maintain close friendly relation. The third chapter is research methodology where the design of the research, study area, data collection methods, data analysis

methods, ethical issues limitations or delimitations are discussed. The fourth chapter gives a clear sense whether to have restricted border or open border in order to gain nation's national interest, territorial integrity, economic prosperity, sovereignty as well as maintain international relation. This will be depicted through the example of German-Poland open border relation and US-Mexican restricted border relation. This chapter also give a brief view on the role of police, military and paramilitary in order to combat terrorist attack, ensure border security and establish peace in the border areas so that healthy relation is maintain in between Nepal and India without disturbing the people's day to day life living in the borderline of both the countries.

The fifth chapter is about findings, analysis and recommendation. This chapter gives comprehensive information about the importance of open border and the role of people to people connection in maintaining the friendly relation with India. It also shows how the diplomats from Ministry of Foreign Affairs can play vital role in table talk to come up with the solution to minimize the misuse of open border. The strategies or steps taken before should be overviewed again and border policies should be implemented strictly without harming the sentiments of local people living on the borderline. The last chapter is conclusion which summarizes the whole research paper and concludes as people to people connection has played vital role to maintain friendly relation between the nation state as well as open border is boon for both the nation as they are interrelated and interdependent for decades. People to people connection has helped the nation's economy as well because maximum business of Nepal is based on the Indian products and Nepal is big market for India's finished products.

CHAPTER 2: REVIEW OF LITERATURES AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Literature Review

Nepal and India has a long and deep rooted relationship, both at the level of people to people connection and at government's level, being secular states, both have majority of Hindu population as well as there is an open border of 1,800 sq. km. between the two countries (Kavitha, 2016). As a close neighbor, they both share a unique and special friendship and cooperation characterized by open border, people contact kinship and culture. There has been long history of free movement of people across the border and trade being carried out with India, as India is still Nepal's largest trading partner, source of foreign investment and tourist source (Kavitha, 2016). Nepal and India's open border is strategically and economically important for both the nations. However, it is trivialized in many researches but if it is managed properly by the state level or government level then people residing in the terai region and across the border, Indian nationals can also get much more benefit from the open border relationship which is from very long time that is before 1950's treaty. With the similar thought in it, Kumar (2016), in states in his article said that open border can always be harnessed as a springboard for opportunities which are aplenty on both sides of the border. People residing in border areas make their livelihood through the business they do across the borders, people from India come to Nepal to sell their goods and services whereas people from Nepal goes to India to earn some money by selling their goods and services. So the connection between the people, rules and regulations and guidelines of both the government to continue the healthy relationship has made the border area a lifeline for the inhabitants of the border region.

John (2005), has highlighted the significance of geo-strategic location of Nepal because of which British raj was expanding its territory and wanted to annex Butwal and Syuraj areas situated in Rupandehi district but Nepal refused the demand of the Company then the war was declared on November 1, 1814 A.D (John, 2005). Nepal-Company war is also known as Anglo-Nepal war. This war continued for one year, eight months and three days (1814-16) (John, 2005). Nepal fought bravely and thought it had to yield (give) away certain part of its territory but never compromised its independence. After signing the Sugauli Treaty on March 4, 1816A.D. the war came to an end. The treaty limited the territorial extension of Nepal from Sutlej to Tista to Mechi to Mahakali (John, 2005), See Figure 3.



Figure 3: Nepal and Bordering Countries

Source: Central Intelligence Agency, Map of Nepal

According to John (2005), Sugauli treaty with East India Company narrowed the map of Nepal by one-third size that is by 64000 square kilometer. Before the Sugauli Treaty, the boundary of Nepal had been expanded to the Tista River in the east, Satlaj River to the west and Patna (confluence of Ganga and Jamuna) to the South (Pathak, 2009). Nepal was building up its prestige, name and fame in international arena by sending its troops in conflicting area, India was concerned about its territorial security

because India had gained its independence in 1947 (John, 2005) from Britain and was partitioned into two countries that is India and Pakistan. He further says, in the communal violence of the two nations Nepal had sent its troops to India to bring conflict under control as India sought military support from Nepal. Nepal's pro-democracy forces mostly based in India had begun to threaten the continuity of the Rana oligarchy. Through the 1950 treaty, both countries sought to ensure continuity and certainty at home and to face any potential threat from abroad together. As the 1950 treaty covers the strategic, security, social and economic dimensions in Nepal-India relation (Bhasin, 2005). It was signed by Nepal's Prime Minister Mohan Shumsher Rana and India's ambassador to Nepal Chandreshwar Narayan Singh (Bhasin,2005). The relevance of the 1950 treaty is important because this treaty provides the basis for mutual understanding in security issues or concern and cooperation in social and economic sector. The treaty provides free movement of people and goods between the two nations and close cooperation as well as collaboration on areas relating to defense and foreign affairs (Bhasin,2005). Jha (1986), has argued in his article that 1950 Peace and Friendship treaty was basically important from the strategic and economic point of view also because India was tensed smelling the threat from across the Himalayas as China was embracing communism in 1948 and later claiming Tibet as an integral part of China. India had hoped that the 1950 treaty would place Nepal decisively in its orbit and was the basis for framing its policy towards Nepal.

However, this treaty encouraged openness of border between two countries, after Nepal stored democracy in February, 1951 (Jha, 1986). It became major turning point in reinforcing the Nepal-India open border with the accelerated movement of Nepalese citizens and vice-versa. They don't require any passport and can cross

border at any point at time. It is difficult for officials also to keep the record because thousand or may be around lakhs of people cross border in a single day and a single person crosses borderline for several times a day. As many Indians come as whole seller businessman, people also comes to visit holy places in Nepal, for the jobs in construction site, etc. Similarly, Nepalese also go to India in search of job, education, do business, for vacations, for trainings, etc. Hence, it has established a special strategic and economic relationship between the two nations.

To justify above statements, the article of Poudel (2014), clearly states that Nepal-India open border is the lifeline of millions of people who crosses it every single day. He highlights that even herds of cattle and wild animals walk past this over 1,800 kilometers border. According to Nepalese Police Post in Kakarvitta, nearly 20,000 people cross the border everyday (Poudel, 2014). He also adds, Nepalese police said that local people crossing the border is much higher than the visitors as they have marriage relation across the border so misuse of open border is often done by outsiders or tourists.

The unique arrangement of an open border between Nepal and India has facilitated people's movement across the state's border for decades, people living on either side of the boundary have always maintained economic, cultural, and familial links (Sharma, 2021). He also says that following the typology constructed, Nepal-India border can be quoted as interdependent borderlands, in which the societies on both sides of the border are linked symbolically, leading to a considerable flow of economic and human resources across the border. On the daily basis huge numbers of people cross the border from both directions, here Nepali migrants traveling from Nepal to India, see figure 4.



Figure 4: Indian gate marking the border at Biratnagar, viewed from Nepal, 2009. The inscription on the gate, dedicated to the memory of Jayaprakash Narayan, records that it was built by the mp Sukhdev Paswan. Photograph courtesy of D. N. Gellner (Hausner, 2021).

According to Kavitha (2016), demarcation of Nepal-India border is not yet clear, a committee called Nepal-India Joint Technical Level Boundary Committee (JTLBC) is working for last 21 years, since 15 November, 1981. The main reason was India's border encroachment, disputes on certain issues, different ideologies or thoughts on old maps, documents which are important papers for demarcation. For example, Kalapani dispute, Nepal claimed that it belonged to its territory but Indian presence in that area said that that land belonged to India. In order to dissolve this dispute mainstream political leaders said that Kalapani issue will be solved through diplomatic channel based on the historical facts and evidences.

The open border system has brought many hurdles and problems for both the nation state, it has raised questions on the social and national security system. For Nepal it

has raised the question on the sovereignty because the problem of encroachment on the border side is increasing, people living on the borderline are harassed by the security forces of India on issue of land encroachment (Raghavan, 1995). Girls and women are trafficked and sold in the brothels of India (Hans, 2009). He also says local people who cross the border to buy goods, pull rickshaw cycle are harassed by the custom officials deployed on the border area.

The people living nearby borderline areas are facing a lot of threats and obstacles from the security forces deployed on the border by India (Poudel, 2014). The debates related to open-border issues and security remain in the dialogues and documents only no proper or strong step is taken to solve the issues coming from open border system. He also says that security obstructions created on both sides of the border are causing a havoc in the routine livelihood of thousands of local people like one who depends on the income from transporting Nepalese crossing the border for earning a living, one who goes across the border to buy household necessities from the Indian town as it is much easier to buy goods in the Indian side as they are cheaper as well as the people living in eastern border point Joghani have closer relation than any other parts of Nepal-India open border. Their survival and prosperity depends on the development of the border areas which is free from disturbance. Therefore, security personnel from both sides tries to maintain a close cooperation between them to maintain the order (Poudel, 2014). They work to contain unwanted activities that can disrupt the lives of people and wild animals living across the border.

Hence, Kansakar (2001) writes, before signing the Sugauli Treaty between both nations and subsequent demarcation of the Nepal-India boundary, there existed free and unrestricted movement of people of Nepal and India across the border. It was

almost impossible to control and regulate the movement of people along with hundreds of kilometers of open border. So, for that Nepal and India came together with a mechanism to dissolve open border issues to some extent, according to Shrestha (2002), firstly they formed a a Border Working Group (BWG) was formed under the Surveyor Generals of both the countries to establish the remaining border pillars, reconstruct the missing pillars, repair and maintain existing pillars, clear the no man's land (Das Gaja) area and above all provide necessary technical inputs to the foreign secretaries. Secondly, the Survey Officials Committee (SOC) under the Deputy Surveyor Generals from both sides was constituted to fix the technical design, supervise and provide technical guidance to the field teams. Thirdly, Field Survey Teams (FST) were formulated under the Chief District Officer of Nepal and District Magistrate of India to conduct a joint field survey, repair and maintain the existing border pillars, relocate the missing pillars with GPS (Global Positioning System) technology and prepare a strip-map. Fourthly, an Outstanding Border Issue Resolution Mechanism (OBIRM) was formed at the Foreign Secretary level to suggest to the respective governments on the issues of Kalapani and Susta based on the technical inputs from the BWG. Joint field teams are working to repair and maintain the boundary pillars (Shrestha, 2002).

There are exit and entry points for the travelers through which they ought to cross the border from these crossings-point. But there should never be the closed border system between Nepal and India, as there is an age old relationship not only in the government level but also in the people to people level. In the same way Das (2008), writes in her article that there is the need to effectively regulate the Nepal-India open border system because on one hand it is true that open border system has encouraged terrorism and illegal activities to carry out which has direct effect on the national

security whereas on the other hand it is also important to keep in consideration that open border system has helped Nepal-India to deepen socio-cultural-economic relations. For instance, let's see the revenue's data collection after the border blockade which started from third week of September 2016, which is stated in the article of Acharya (2016), he writes that before the border blockade, the total revenue collection from all customs points of Birgunj averaged around Rupees 600 million a day and after the border blockade since mid-December per day revenue collection had exceeded Rupees 500 million even though Birgunj, the major border point remained closed. He further added, around 1545 number of vehicles entered Nepal from India via various checkpoints after the border blockade. He also highlights that Department of Customs of Birgunj contributes 50 percent to the total tax revenue so the departments target in 2015 was Rupees 78.23 million but due to border blockade they were able to collect only 46.47 billion in the first five months in 2015 (Acharya, 2016). See Figure 5.



Figure 5: Border of Birjung. Source: Spotlight Magazine.

When it comes to the matter of remittance, Upadhyaya (2020) writes that thousands of Nepalese work in India which helps to bring considerable amount of remittance to Nepal. However, India takes back threefold times more remittances from Nepal which is the eighth biggest source for India's foreign remittance as most of the construction work in Nepal is handled by Indian labour force. On the other hand, unskilled work force are exploited when they enter India for in search of employment opportunity. They are harassed by security personnel on the border, they are not treated equally as their Indian colleagues, they are below low wages in compared to Indian employee, they are misbehaved and kept in inhuman living condition at the workplace, same thing applies to Gurkha soldiers as they also face harassment from Indian officers and get lower retirement benefits in compared to Indian soldiers (Kavitha, 2016).

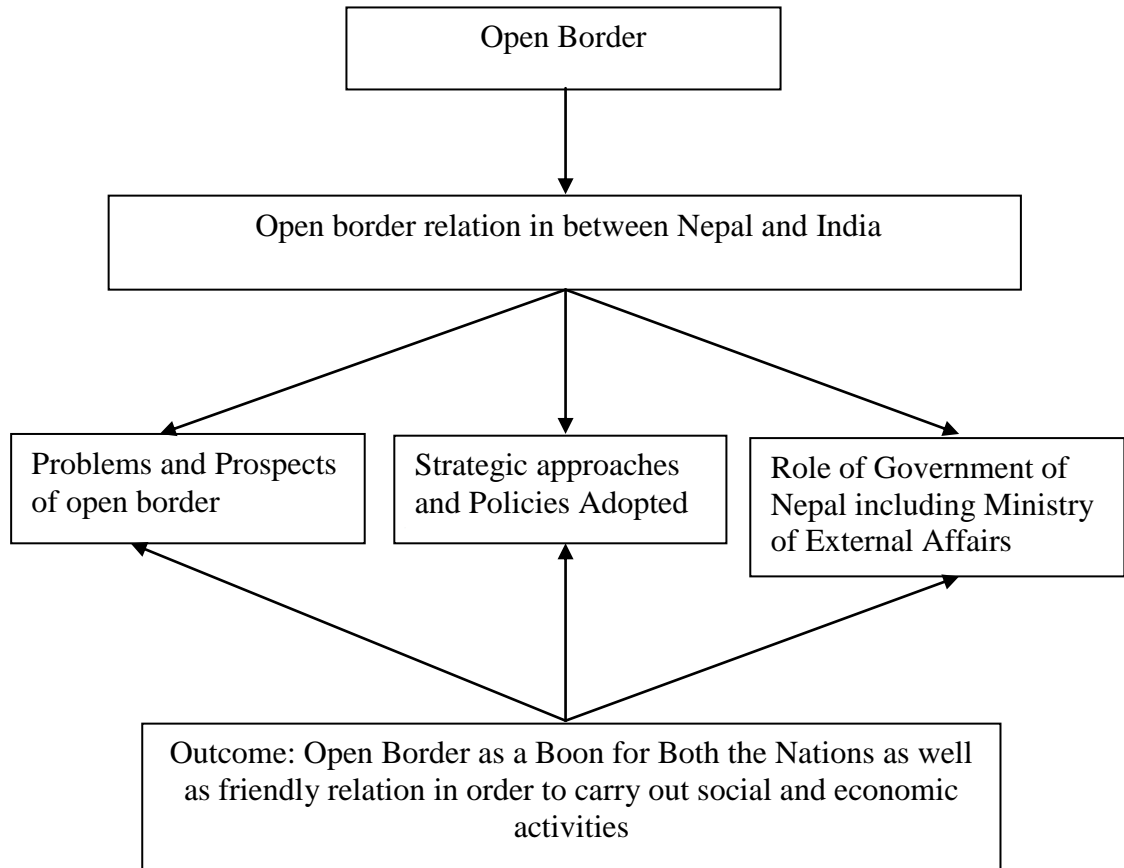
Likewise, discussing about trade and its prospect in the eye of Nepal and India, it can be critically analyzed keeping both the nation on the same table. Nepal is the biggest market for India to sell its goods and services whereas Nepal being landlock country it depends on India and China for the transit points. China is located on the Northern part of Nepal so there are obstacles for bypass due to weather but India is located in Southern, Eastern and Western part of Nepal where there are plain lands mainly and weather is also favorable in all four seasons for bypassing the goods filled vehicles. Due to politicized trade relation between the nation, when India possessed economic blockade like in 2015, Nepal faced a lot of hurdles in fulfilling the medical need and basic need of the citizens living in urban areas like Kathmandu, Pokhara and so on. In order to overcome such incidents, Nepal has now started to diversify its trade relation with western countries as well as with China as it is it's another closest neighbor.

The open border between India and Nepal has been standpoint of the two countries' trust-based relationship as well as visit of India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on 3-4 August, 2014, marked a new beginning of bilateral relation as that visit improved trust-based relationship and gave emphasis on implementing developmental projects, ensured that no interference will be done in internal affairs of Nepal, sovereignty, territorial integrity will be respected the most (Kavitha, 2016). India has also helped Nepal by making Nepal Army more competitive by giving them modern advanced technologies, weapons and trainings. But due to lack of stimulus in transforming this age long unique relationship into the prosperous relation, Nepal and India should meet and talk at the governmental level to dissolve the border issues like terrorism, encroachment of Nepalis land by the Indian side in Lipulekh, Susta, Kalapani and Limpiadhura. As each time Nepal government asked for the bilateral dialogue on encroachment but only assurance was heard from the Indian side that a joint survey team would look upon the issue, later no result was seen. So, without being influenced by any other factors or third party India and Nepal should come together to make strict border rules and regulations which do not harm the livelihood of people residing in the borderline areas and is beneficial for both the nation state.

Nepal and India are important to each other where Nepal looks India as an emerging opportunity for economic growth, technological development, investment and market for trade and business, in this way both look at each other for greater cooperation and opportunity (Kavitha, 2016). The unknown spheres of the research is the connection of the diplomacy, policies and actors that impact the bilateral discourses and open border between Nepal and India, that what strategic approaches should be taken to create win-win situation for both the nation. Hence, the review of the literature gives a

connection and essence to the research related to the Nepal and India's open border relation.

2.2 Conceptual Framework



Simply, defining open borders according to Longley (2021), he coats the term open border as the government policies which allows immigrants or visitors to enter the state's territory either with little or no restrictions. According to him borders may be open due to absence of border control laws or due to lack of resources needed to enforce such laws. Open borders areonyms of closed borders which bars the entry of foreign visitors or immigrants except under extraordinary circumstances (Longley, 2021).

Likewise, Kukathas (2010), has said in this paper that in today's era every day, many people crosses border legally or illegally that separates one political jurisdiction from another. So, borders are geographical boundaries demarcating or defining political entities or legal jurisdiction. He further adds, borders are no more imaginary line, they are clearly defined boundaries. Borders can be delineated using physical objects or structures like The Great Wall of China, The Berlin Wall, Iron Curtain and so on but nowadays political boundaries are established by rules, laws, treaty, agreement and so on. Ultimately, opening or closing of borders is not a matter of adding or removing physical objects but of changing rules. When a state's boundary is demarcated, it is the state's right that under what condition person may leave or enter its territory by showing identity documents like passports, visa, citizenship or other entry permits. In his article he also says that openness of a border is a matter of degree. Borders are crossed every day in order to go for study, for job, to perform research, to migrate and reside in particular country. He advocates that there are three dimensions for which people urge for open border like first dimension is entry, which provides freedom to the citizens to visit or reside in a community. Second dimension is participation in which citizen of any country can move to other country for employment opportunity, trade and do business. The third dimension is membership which allows the citizen to acquire citizenship and participate in political activities. Therefore, according to the author there are some arguments for open border like,

1. Argument for freedom and global prosperity: Kukathas says that closing borders means restricting freedom of the people. Openness of border helps to do business and trade: mobility of goods increases which helps to increase production and enhance economic activity. Go

another country to study, in short open border helps to increase international relation.

2. Argument for justice and humanity: openness of border helps the poor people move from one place to another in search of job, health facility, education and if the borders are closed then they cannot afford expensive travel tickets which will be unjust for them. And as developed and wealthy nation provides aid to poor country through which poor people can get a share and enrich themselves. And humanity also suggests to help poor people which cannot be possible if borders are closed as many people migrates as refugee when war takes place, when they don't get food, shelter, job in their native country then they migrate to host country and that they can afford only if the borders are open.
3. Arguments for social advantage: open border helps to increase opportunity for laborers to go across the border and earn their livelihood. Also helps to enhance public relation, business and so on.

On the other hand, there are arguments for closed borders as well like,

1. Arguments for homogeneity: it is argued that if too many people from other culture, religion, language enters then the peace, homogeneity of the existing society will be disturbed and clash may occur in between the people living in a society. So many argue for restricted border because of which existing harmony of society will not be hampered.
2. Arguments for protection and social control: restricted borders protects the people of a society from being influenced by outsiders and engage in illegal work. If outsiders come in huge number then the employment

opportunity will also be limited and the number of poor people will increase which will create unrest in society, illegal activity will increase. So in order to protect existing society's culture and norms borders should be restricted.

3. Arguments for safeguarding ecology: when too many outsiders come to particular place then they require food, shelter and they follow their own native culture which will disturb the existing society's natural beauty, cultural places. Ultimately increase in population will harm in the ecology of the society like pollution will increase, peer pressure on public services like drinking water, transport, electricity and so on.
4. Arguments for social justice: closed borders ensures proper social justice for all civilians living in a particular place but open border disturbs the existing management. State's legitimate or social justice institution can only function if the population accepts them and is obliged to follow rules and regulation but the people who migrates from one place to another will only create disturbance in the existing managerial settings of the society.

After knowing about the different arguments of open and closed borders given by Kukathas (2010), it is clear that for developing country open border policy works as a miracle to enhance their international relation, boom trade and business, increase economic activity which will ultimately enhance the economic condition of the developing nation like Nepal. This can also be seen through the lens of liberalist school of thought, according to liberalist interdependence, cooperation can only bring harmony, global peace and maintain international relation. So if Nepal-India cooperate with each other, do help each other to dissolve border issues then with the

help of their existing resources like security forces, technology, intelligence, they can easily solve the border issues and make border areas peace and safe place to live and do business or carry out trading activities.

Now, Nepal and India has 1800 square kilometers (Kanshakar, 2001) of open border which is also called Das Gajja (ten-yard no man's land). After signing the Treaty of Peace and Friendship in 1950, open border was formally regulated for the local people and the people who were engaged in business, trade and other socio-cultural activities. Nepal being a landlock country, it is a huge market for India for finished goods where open border has played vital role in flourishing economic activities in Nepal. For Nepalese citizens also it has benefited as businessman goes to Indian territory to buy goods in cheaper price so that they can sell it in the market of Nepal to earn profit, people go to India in search of jobs to earn their livelihood, people also go to India for getting quality education and standard training to secure their future career. Both Nepal and India are benefited from the open border system. Despite of all the merits there are some demerits of open border system like it has facilitated the criminals to carry out their illegal activities because even-though border security forces are deployed on the borders by both nations it is impossible to keep an eye on the ten-yard no man's land. Criminal activities like smuggling, drugs and human trafficking, weapon trafficking, illegally buying and selling goods on the borders and so on. Not only criminal activities but terrorism has also spiked on the border areas.

Here, going through the writing of Longley (2021), he has shed light on some of the merits and demerits of open borders, which are as follows;

Firstly, lets discuss about merits of open border. They are :

- It reduces the governmental expenditure as governments need not to spend on controlling borders. For example, US brought budget of dollar 1.6 billion for a new border wall along the Gulf of Mexico and spent dollar 210.5 million to deploy Border Patrol Agents in 2019 (US Budget, 2019).
- It stimulates the global economy by increasing the number of workforce which ultimately raises the human capital as the result it helps in fueling the national economy. For example, immigrants helped to increase the Gross Domestic Product from dollar 36 billion to dollar 72 billion per year (Longley, 2021).
- It helps to create greater cultural diversity. Due to help to immigrants the new ideas, skills, cultural practices comes in the society which helps to grow and contribute in greater creativity.

Now, let's talk about the demerits of open border. They are:

- It creates security threats by increasing the scope of crime and illegal activities. According to Philip (2019), data taken out from US Department of Justice, undocumented immigrants made up 37 percent total population of federal prisoners as of 2019 and in 2018 they seized nearly 4.5 million pounds of illegal narcotics at the border crossings and ports.
- It helps to drain the national's economy. The opponents of open border argue that immigrants receive below average incomes creating a net drain on the economy.

To overcome such problems and make maximum benefit from the open border system both nations should take strategic policies and plans to minimize the misuse of the border. Nepal and India should have diplomatic dialogues at the government level and set mutually benefitting rules and regulations so that the lives of people residing on the borderline is also not disturbed and open border system is peacefully regulated. Government should take prompt action to find the problem and solve it from the grassroot level by taking help of the researches and experts who are working on the border management projects. When the rules and regulations are strictly followed by both the nation, security personals deployed on the border area and the local people then it can be a boon for both the nation states and the harmonious relation between the two will remain forever and socio-cultural economic activities will take place smoothly without any obstacles further.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research will strive to analyze and examine how the open border relation is beneficial for both the nation that is India and Nepal. As well as how it has helped to gain economic, social and cultural benefit till today even in this pandemic period. Open border has helped to maintain cordial relation in between the nations. In this regard, the research will employ a comparative case-based approach focusing on two cases, that of benefit of open border to Nepal and India respectively. These two cases have been chosen to draw attention to the influence of disputes or conflicts occurred on the policy making behaviour of Nepal and India and how it has affected the relationship between them as this will also form the basis of analysis of the proposed research.

3.1 Research Design

The research design of the proposed research will be qualitative in nature. The study will be based on the comparative, subjective and holistic approach.

3.2 Research Site

The research will be conducted keeping the border area of Bhattamod, Jaleswor and Birgunj- Trade and Transit point as the focal point of research. People to people connection living on the borderline or nearby border area will be considered as well as the activities carried out on the border will be observed.

3.3 Data Collection Methods

Both primary and secondary data will be taken into consideration. The primary sources of data will be government and semi-government publications from the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of both India and Nepal. Similarly, the interviews given by experts of international relations, diplomacy, culture and economics will also be taken into consideration to fulfill the requirement of the research. Along with those secondary sources data will be books, academic journals, magazines, reports, research papers, official documents and official statements pertaining to Nepal and India's open border relation will be the dominant source of analysis.

3.4 Data Analysis Methods

In the research, descriptive, comparative, analytical methods will be employed so that I can meet the objective of the research paper.

3.5 Delimitations of the study

The boundaries or limitations of this research paper is that it is prepared by taking reference of secondary data available through online portal, books available in the market, journals available online as well as news and interviews published in newspaper and on respective websites online. The study will be mainly based on the published and unpublished secondary data and information available. The study will mainly shed light on the diplomatic and strategic approaches as well as policies adopted to solve the problems of open border relation. The focus of the study will be limited to the researcher's access to works of literature available and interviews of the scholars and experts, in which the variables of the study, strategic approaches of Nepal-India's open border relation, is the subject to change under the explanation by different scholars and political environment. The study will mostly rely on the literary works published by the scholars, researchers and expects on the open border relation in between Nepal and India. The explanation and analysis of the objectives of the

study will be limited to the time frame of the completion of the study. The study will also rely on the information broadcasted on the website of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of both India and Nepal.

3.6 Ethical Concerns

The ethical issues like plagiarism, lack of informed consent with the government officials of both India and Nepal will not occur.

CHAPTER 4

4.1 Example of Germany- Poland and United State- Mexico in relation to Nepal and India's open border relation

This chapter shows the importance and drawbacks of open border and restricted border through the example of Germany-Poland who focuses on open border policy and another is United States-Mexico which gives emphasis to restricted border policy. It does not matter whether the border is open or closed unless the nation-states are clear about their border policy's objective and importance. The main concern for every nation is to secure national sovereignty, territorial integrity, name and fame in international arena, border security and trading with other countries in global community. These two examples will show us clear picture of Nepal and India's open border policy as here people to people connection or social progress, their mobility and its advantages will be discussed as well as how the effective and efficient strategies will help to combat cross national terrorism, organized and unorganized crimes, trafficking. As well as how the connection of citizen's or people to people connection influences state's relation with international countries which helps to gain economic diversification. In other hand for Nepal the restricted border policy will not help but the case study of German and Poland will help to gain national security strategies, preventive measures in order to overcome open border misuse and recommendations to formulate effective and efficient border practices.

1. Germany – Poland: Open Border Policy's Merit and Demerit

According to Nelson and Conley (2010) Poland and Germany opted open border system in 2004 with other European Nations. Poland and Germany both has border

security forces called Border Guard and German Federal Border Police (BPOL) respectively. Till 1995 Europe had restricted border after the enforcement of Schengen Agreement all the borders of 26 countries of Europe had open border (Schengen Agreement). They opted this system to ensure smooth trade runs throughout the Europe, consists sustainable community, social progress and promote well balanced marketplace for European countries (Schengen Agreement). This agreement has helped Europe to gain name, fame, economic and social sustainability in the international arena. The objective to adopt Schengen Agreement of Europe is similar with the objective of Nepal and India's open border system. This shows that unrestricted border helps in free trade which helps to create stronger economic and free movement of people helps to gain more socially sustained communities. As well as the main objective of both the countries security forces is to ensure state's safety, preventing from illegal trafficking of drugs, weapons, human and goods. Their main focus prior to open border was to prevent state from criminals and criminal activities and after the agreement also their main priority is to ensure state's security and respond to criminal activities (Morag, 2011). They used their existing security forces by dividing them into four categories: first is municipal police, they are the first respondents and basic aspect of law enforcement, second is criminal police who looks after the criminal investigations and surveillance, third is standby police who looks after civil disturbances and disasters and fourth is community police which looks after and responds to rising criminal activities (Morag, 2011). From this mechanism Nepal and India can take reference and formulate its format in deploying border security forces. They can execute and deploy special border security forces which only seeks to preserve and secure nation's territorial integrity, sovereignty and border security.

According to Freudenstein (2002), Germany wanted Poland to become member because it wanted to do eastern expansion which would help in dealing with the threats of economic globalization, for political and geopolitical reasons and mitigate border security risk associated with the open border policy throughout the Europe. In the other hand Poland also wanted to join the open border policy in order to get the economic benefits, get participation in modern security mechanism, strategies and improve security infrastructure of both the countries. The open border policy brought many challenges along with the opportunities like modernization, restructuring, transformation and institutional reform. The challenges they have to face are like same before, prior to opting open border like criminal activities like smugglings, trafficking, robbery, theft but after transition, free movement allowed illegal laborers, illegal immigrants and criminal organization to expand their illegal or criminal activities with very little effort. These criminal organization uses Poland as their transit country to reach another state's illegal networks (Nelson and Conley, 2010). In order to mitigate these crimes, Germany and Poland came together to solve the problem. They did not go for closing the border but they showed cooperation towards each other by doing coordination in between German and Poland's police or security forces as well as German ministry also cooperated in enacting the border control measures. Schengen Agreement also helped the countries to create an European Union's coordination and collaboration among the police, customs and judiciary to combat organized and unorganized crimes, trafficking and terrorism (Nelson and Conley, 2010). Similar to Germany and Poland, Nepal and India has to see upon the positive impact in the economic activities and not go for restricted border policy.

Now, in economic sector, Poland and Germany came together for their economic growth, Poland saw the prospect of economic globalization and modernization of the

nation where as Germany saw the large market for trade and eastern expansion and the same objective is of Nepal and India so they have to maintain open border policy. According to West Pomeranian Business School Report (WPBS) (2012), approximately, two-third of Poland's college graduates got job in European countries who were unable to find a job in their own nation. Many people migrates from Poland to other parts of the Europe in search of job, study as well as financial institutions like insurance companies, banks, investment firms have shown significant intertest in pursuing business with Poland seeing its active participation and efforts to improve economic relation with other European Nations and boosting its cross border trade. This has also helped to increase the availability of goods and services to citizens in cheaper price and also cheap travel fare and tourism has also helped to bring positive impact on the Poland's economy. Likewise, in Nepal also tourism, trade, services and goods exported from India has largely supported Nepalese economy to sustain. Similarly, Germany has also gained economic stability through eastern expansion as it is the strongest and largest country to trade with other European nations. According to WPBS report in Germany more skilled and qualified workers comes to get jobs which has helped Germany in flourishing its industrial sector and economic market and same case is with India as Nepal is able to gain economic benefit due to trading activities and people to people connection with India.

Thus, from above discussed paragraphs, it is clear that although Germany and Poland has to face criminal activities across the border, illegal drugs, human, weapon trafficking happens, criminals use Poland as a transit but still they have taken the policy of open border which has helped to gain strong people to people connection as well as economic stability. This is similar case like Nepal and India as they are also interlinked and interdependent on each other so above discussed security

collaboration, mechanism or security infrastructure can be adopted by Nepal and India rather than doing the debate to close the border.

2. United States – Mexico’s Restricted Border Policy’s Merit and Demerit

According to Payan (2006), the wave of anti-immigration sentiment flowed through US politics in 1924 which forces government to opt restricted border policy which prevented Mexicans to cross the border freely like before. This caused tension between the two states marking a major division in opinions of American public regarding immigration policy. The concern for securing US-Mexico border was to mitigate illegal immigration, human, weapon and drugs trafficking but post 9/11 the major focus shifted to domestic terrorism, search for new mechanism and strategies to strengthen the border (Payan, 2006). The United States was under peer pressure to stop illegal immigration in order to prevent the entry of any potential terrorists. US government had invested huge amount of money and manpowers to secure borders. Despite of that many crimes, illegal migration and political tensions were emerging which can be relatable to Nepal – India open border issues. Due to constant political instability in Nepal, the relation between Nepal and India becomes impacted which results to unsolved border issues. The constant political tension, economic issues, security concerns and deep rooted people to people connection will not allow Nepal and India to afford restricted or closed borders.

US gave more priority to restricted border policy as their concern was transnational crime rather than terrorist threat, border patrol costs, overcoming criminal activities, economic concern and immigration control issue. They established a new institution named Customs and Border Protection(CBP) Bureau which is most important agency to protect border and look after its security, travel and trade (CBP). According to

Koslowski (2011), under CBP, first line defense officials were deployed in 1,989 miles of US-Mexico border named United States Border Patrol (USBP). Its main duty was to detect illegal entry, identify and classify entry and determine the level of risk or threat involved, respond the entry and bring to satisfactory law enforcement resolution. He also adds that over the changing of time and need the deployed agents have tripled and the technologies they use changes according to the time and importance like they use ground sensors, unmanned aerial vehicles, cameras, helicopters and all-terrain vehicles in monitoring moving targets. Payan (2006) says that these type of advanced technologies have somehow helped to contain external and internal threats but they have also increased feeling of fear and tension in the common people living in the borderline of US and Mexico.

On the other hand, for Mexico its major security threat occurs at its federal, state and municipal level. So government has not established any border security mechanism to deal with security issues of border. Reichel (2008) argues that the functionality of security forces is divided into two types that is preventive and judicial function. Approximately half of the military forces are linked with preventive police force. They are not given clear parameters on how they differ from general police force or the intelligence police force or agency. Mexico's border runs without formalized border security forces which keeps them behind and are not being able to tackle the shortcomings of border issues and take adequate steps to solve the border issues. According to Stratfor, improper border management and misuse of border is seen in Mexico not only because of lack of proper guidelines and mechanism but also due to poor security infrastructure, lack of advanced military training, technologies equipment that is needed to control the border, criminal activities on the border line and misuse of border.

Exploring more on crime topic, according to Immigration Policy Center, US politicians and some civilians supports to the law enforcement of restricted border which can check the rising immigrants along will rising crimes tendency. The report adds that the authorities arrests illegal immigrants often to whom they deports to their native country after keeping them in deportation center from there also they try to enter illegally again and again. Officials have not been able to minimize the rates of criminal activities despite putting lots of effort to arrest undocumented immigrants. The report further adds that the policy makers focuses on the restricted border policy on preventing security risks, like crime, misuse of border, which seems not working for the border restrictions, the fact is that those illegal immigrants cause small number of crimes and those are imprisoned and many doesnot commit crime because of fear of being deported. As a result the immigrants from Mexico is not a threat to US whereas organized criminal organization like cartels are major threat to border security (IPC). Thus, these criminal organization forces to go for restricted borders. Along with this there should be deep study on the topic of immigrants and criminal organizations and proper mechanism to distinguish between them. This should be the lesson for Nepal and India as immigrants doesnot create threat for the nation most of the time but due to criminal organizations which operates secretly is to be blamed for the adaptation of restricted border as it is proved in case of US-Mexico border relation.

On the other side of coin it is seen that the Mexican cartels are involved in the criminal activities like human and drug trafficking (Morris, 2013) because of which the government of both countries decided to go for restricted border but this also did not work effectively to stop or check these trafficking increasing day by day. According to McDonald (1997), trafficking of drugs and human across the border is

due to increase in organized crime. He adds in such scams illegal immigrants often becomes victim because of their unlawful stay in the state. These cartels helps the illegal immigrants cross the border illegally and in return cartels forcefully rob them, rape, kill them if not able to pay for their work, force illegal immigrants to work in prostitution rings to pay off the cost of their help or trip. This has made US politician more tensed because those cartels can do further harm to US if not controlled in time. According to Seelke (2014), the US officials are mostly emphasizing on the restricted border whereas Mexican government are focused to mitigate violent crimes through national prevention programs like education, socioeconomic, infrastructure and drug treatment programs. The scholar further adds that the approach to mitigate criminal activities is different from US government as US spends more on technology, military and so on but Mexican government emphasizes on improving domestic programs through which they are able to somehow reduce border organized crimes to some extent, which has also helped in the improvement of US-Mexican relation. The way Mexico is dealing with organized crime by not spending more like US, Nepal need to take reference and formulate its policies accordingly to combat border crimes efficiently without closing the border and controlling border crime improves the relation with the neighboring country.

Economic activity is another strategic step which helps to gain the nation's national interest and improve international relation with neighboring and outside countries. Restricted border in between US and Mexico has effected the economy of both the nations as laborers and trading of finished or manufactured goods were the main source to earn revenue for both the nation. According to Seelke (2014), US and Mexico's economic prosperity is related to the border relation as trade is done through the border and restricted border creates uneasy in trade relation. As Mexico is the

major crude oil supplier to US as well as provides many trade which includes automobiles, auto parts, televisions and other manufactured goods or finished goods. So Mexico and US has mutually economic relation as in Mexico they get cheap labors who are not well educated and skilled, which reduces the production cost of the goods and services. The researcher further adds that the Mexican economy has high potential in terms of tourism and Mexican product's market but due to restricted border policy economic prospect is impacted. The closed border policy has caused severe impact on the economic opportunities to both the nation state. The same problem will be faced by Nepal and India if the restricted border policy is opted. As already discussed in the example of Germany and Poland, many Nepalese go to India seeking jobs and vice versa, where if the borders are closed then there will be dramatic shift in work force or labors which will create poverty as if people will not job then they will strive to fulfill their basic needs. Along with this trade opportunities will be limited for Nepal as they are very much dependent on India's market. From the example of US-Mexico restricted border policy, it is seen that illegal immigrants does not seem to be prominent threat on the US economic sector.

From this chapter, I can access the impact of people to people connection and it impact on the Nepal-India open border relation. The above examples provided insight on the criminal organization and economic factor (trade, tourism, migration may be temporary or permanent in search of their desires and dreams like abroad studies, job opportunity, health facilities and so on) in relation to people to people connection. Despite of positive impact of open border it also brings drawback like criminal activities, economic disparities like in trade and tourism. Above discussion will help Nepal and India to adopt better effective border policies in order to again their national interest respectively.

There are many similarities when the scenario of German-Poland relation And US-Mexico border relation. Nepal and India is also facing similar border problems like rising criminal activities through across border areas, economic prosperity in relation to social connection, trade, tourism and connectivity, internal political disputes which ultimately shapes the relation with then neighboring nations and promoting border security by deploying security police, military, modern technology in border area's surveillance and so on.

People to people connection is a prominent factor in maintaining relation with the close neighboring countries like for Nepal it has to maintain with India and China for maintaining international relation, run trade consistently, attract tourist and provide safe place to citizen for migration. But in in case of criminal organization it exists whether there is open or closed border policy. They change their operating mechanism according to the country's border policy and be updated with modern technologies and means as depicted in the example of US-Mexico and German-Poland border relation. So this has always been a challenge for India and Nepal to combat terrorism and illegal activities on the border areas. Open border provides easy access for criminal network to enter another country easily and do their work as there is no restricted border policy. However, Poland -Germany have become success to mitigate such illegal activities by deploying their existing security forces in systematic and effective manner without closing the borders.

People to People connection is the main factor of economic structure in Nepal and India as laborers, tourists, traders are main agents for revenue generation in Nepal and vise-versa and because of this Nepal-India border is open. Same case was seen in US-Mexico and Poland Germany relation, having restricted and open border respectively,

their main driving force in growing economy was access to business, job opportunity, working human capital across the border which provided a source of income for many people, ultimately helped in nation's revenue generation and reduce poverty. In Germany many people migrated in search of job and cheaper housing which helped directly in maintaining relation between the countries.

Another similar concept is implementation of border security forces whether it is open or closed. US-Mexico made enormous effort to secure border by using scientific technologies and investing more in security forces training and equipment. Whereas German-Poland removed security check posts, security forces as they entered Schengen Agreement, however they reinstated border check posts in order to contain illegal activities in border areas. Maintaining peace and security at the border areas helps to maintain friendly relation with the countries. In the light of this similarity Nepal and India should opt the strategies and border policies which will help in establishment of friendly relation and create peaceful place to live in border areas.

With the help of above similarities found in between Nepal-India border relation and US-Mexico and German-Poland border relation. Lets discuss about crime and economy's status of Nepal and India in light of the above discussed references.

a. Crime

According to Shrestha (2002), illegal activities like murder, theft, robbery, smugglings, trafficking of drugs and human is seen on both sides of the Nepal and India's border which is increasing due to unstrict open border. Bhutia and Rai (2014), has found in their studies that trafficking of drugs and human, using Nepal as a transit for doing criminal offences, have exploited the underprivileged group of people in India and Nepal as well. They also claim that lack of security reinforcement and open

border policy has helped to raise the ratio of illegal activities across the border areas and because of not having proper screening facility to check identification documents, criminals like terrorist feel easy to carry out criminal activities in between Nepal and India as well as similar to US-Mexico case study, immigrants who crosses India are often threaten to involve or support in criminal activities. Shrestha (2002), also claims that many Nepalese girls are sold to Indian brothels each year and there is no chance to escape from the trafficking network. Fortunately, safety measures are taken by both Nepalese and Indian government to tackle the problem like Nepalese government has lunched programs such as Maiti Nepal. It is an organization which helps to protect girls, children and women from social crimes like trafficking, child abuse, child marriage, they even rescue girls from brothels and provides them education and vocational trainings to earn for their living (Maiti Nepal). The smugglers who smuggles drugs, arms, weapons are creating concern about the national security as well as terrorism also is a growing issue for Nepal and India as terrorist attacks can be heard time and again in India and Nepal. Similarly, smuggled weapons were found in the western hill districts of Nepal which is a serious matter of concern in terms of national territorial security (Shrestha, 2002). This has given the Nepalese government and Indian government a sense of threat which occurred because of unrestricted border policy. This cannot be denied that many terrorist, criminals enters Nepal and India to escape from arrest through open border areas. From this research it is seen that because of free movement, people's connection across border area has encouraged rise in the criminal activities in borderline of Nepal and India. Due to communication gap between Nepalese and Indian officials, the border policies becomes weak to tackle criminal attacks or activities. Also there is no proper system

of record keeping of people who crosses the border which has played important role in rising the criminal activities.

b. Economy

According to Rose (1971), Nepalese and Indian economies are based on agriculture, trade, tourism and industry. Agricultural employment in India is very high likewise in Nepal also many people rely on agriculture as their main occupation. Due to globalization and modernization people's interest has shifted from agriculture to industrial reliance. Now, many agricultural products are imported to Nepal from India. The openness of Nepal-India border has helped to attract more tourist and enhance tourism sector in Nepal which ultimately helps to generate employment opportunity and source of income. Likewise, the same idea applies for India also. According to Zurick, adventure travel has become much popular nowadays among the Westerners as well as Easterners, they prefer to travel where there are mountains, natural beauties, cultural diversity, unknown places, temples, know about different languages, religion and enjoy the exotic beauties of the cities of different countries. He says that these type of tourist has added productivity of Nepalese economy. Due to tourism sector local business has also flourished, it has given an international market for the local and organic products of Nepal. For now ninety eight percent of Nepal's trade is with India, Nepal has become very dependent on India for trade as Nepal has to rely on the transportation service via borders of India as many industries are set up in terai region thus they use Indian railway system and market (Bajracharya, 2007). He also states the more independent a state is, it can generate adequate domestic revenue. The Indian market is much larger than Nepal as well as they have skilled manpower who emigrate to Nepal and work in industrial and service sector which

helps them to take ample amount of remittance to India. If the borders are closed then Nepal has to suffer from unproductive economy and cannot generate sufficient domestic revenue (Bajracharya, 2007).

4.2 Legal Structures and their Role in Maintaining Nepal-India's Open Border Relation

A proficient legal structure and their efficient and effective role can help any country to achieve desired national interest, territorial integrity, sovereignty, international name and fame in global space. In this globalized and modernized phase of time it is really important for every nation state to be legally secured as to counter terrorism, intelligence and border security. In this era many nation states spend lots of money in order to secure border security, make military power, its structure more competitive and strong, make state's rules, regulations and policies more efficient and productive. In case of Nepal it is very challenging job because of political instability due to which the policies, rules, regulations made are not efficient and effective. Nepal and India need to improve their respective security response and adopt preventive measures. Shrestha (2002), says that Nepal and India has friendly open border system as well as they have same type of border security forces as both of them uses paramilitary forces to cope up with border security issues or concerns. Similarly, in case of border securities the local police, military and paramilitary should works together with proper guidance, rules and laws which are to be based on the constitutional framework.

A. Role of police, military and paramilitary to mitigate border issues and ensure security in Nepal.

According to Nepalese Police Force's website, Nepalese police force is the main administrative means to safeguard the people's constitutional rights, Armed Police Force helps to maintain law and order in the state. They help to secure security of civilians in the nation, disaster management, security awareness, rehabilitation and does control distress in the society. Their main aim and focus is to control crime and do criminal investigation. The Nepalese police does not get sophisticated trainings, infrastructure, intelligence weapons and technologies as given to Nepal army. The Nepalese Police is independent of Nepalese Army (Nepal Police Force). When protests occur Nepalese police force's work is to maintain peace and security of civilians in the society. They are unable to detect the organized crime that happens through the open border. Now, military gets advance training, intelligence gathering, advance technology and enhance skills to tackle criminal's tactics, strategies and attack. Many Nepalese armies are given work to secure open border, carry out developmental work and disaster management (Nepalese army website). Similarly, if discussed about paramilitary, according to Armed police force's website, their objective is to maintain law, order and insurgency to break down terrorist attack. They have always been active in peace keeping force from Nepal's side to support United Nation's mission. The Armed police force's main responsibility is to combat terrorism, border security, control transborder crimes and safeguard sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nepal. According to Armed police force website they are also given tasks to control internal threats like religious protests, illegal activities like smugglings, theft, robbery, murder, rape, kidnappings and so on. Hence, if Nepal's Armed police force, military and police is made strong technically, technologically,

given advance trainings, well- equipped arms then they can work and fulfill their duties more efficiently with desired outcomes.

B. Role of Police, Military and Paramilitary to mitigate border issues and ensure security in India.

India is well established and developed country than Nepal. It is much forward in economy sector, industrial sector, technological sector as well as in security sector especially in securing the borders of India. Nepal cannot meet the security structures and mechanisms of India. India's border which is restricted, is attached to six different countries that are: Bhutan, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan and Burma but with Nepal it has 1800 sq km open border with six main entry points that are run by paramilitary and civilians jointly (Nelson, 2010). In India, Indian Police Security force's main duty is to ensure public safety and security. They ensures the state's security through the maintenance of law and order, crime prevention, traffic control, accident prevention and management (Civil service India's website). They are also given the duties to counter terrorism, tackling smugglings, drug and human trafficking matters, border policing in order to mitigate internal threats and illegal activities. On the other hand, Indian military are strongest assets for the Indian government in securing the internal and external threats. They are well equipped, have got modern technology, intelligence and got advanced trainings with advance skills to tackle any intellectual threats or modern threats. They have modern technologies like weapon, nuclear weapons which can tackle any external threats like terrorism, smugglings and trafficking. According to Poudel (2013), Indian army has got advanced training so they must be aware that what is happening on India-Nepal border and detect criminal organization to deal with terrorist attacks as terrorist use Nepal as their transit point

and execute their illegal activities which creates internal, external threat to Nepal and India. India has appointed Border Security Forces (BSF), whose main task and objective is to secure border and ensure its security (Border security force's website). Their main task is safeguarding India's border areas during peacetime and preventing transnational crime. According their website, they also help to Armed Forces to counter domestic threats that is connected with the intelligence including raids, they act as guide in unknown routes. Through the monitoring of paramilitary of Indian Nepalese-Indian Border criminal activities can be controlled. India has also deployed Sahastra Seema Bal (SSB) in order to ensure India-Nepal Border and check terrorist as well as criminal activities. Through these types of mechanism and legal structures, if worked together with the positive intention the Nepal-India border issues can be countered and establish peace, harmony in border areas as people living on the border areas have to suffer from the border disputes or criminal acts carried by the criminals. Thus, keeping the people to people connection at the first priority level ministry of external affairs need to talk with India's Minister and come out with the policies through which border security can be ensure without harming the people to people relation's harmony or their connection because of which Nepalese and Indian trading relation is sustained and are getting economic benefits.

CHAPTER 5: FINDINGS, ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Open border is boon for both the countries that is Nepal and India. It is a lifeline for the people residing on the borderline of both the nations. Local people goes across the border to earn their livelihood like small businessman from India goes to sell their goods to Nepal and vice-versa, students from Nepal goes to India via roadway that is by crossing the border to get quality education so that they can earn name, fame and money in future, same way local people goes to hospitals of India across border to get quality health facility in cheaper price, local residents go for jobs across the border to earn money so that they can feed and fulfill the needs of the family, last but not the least local people have marital relationship across the border since decades that is why many scholars say Nepal and India has “Roti-Beti relationship”. Nepal and India’s relation is based on social norms, values, emotional sentiments as they share similar type of culture, religion, people understand each other’s language, so they have strong connection and bound between each other which can be felt by emotion cannot be measured in numerical numbers.

In trade and transit point of view, Nepal is land lock country, in order to do business with other countries in the world it has to depend on India. There are many discussions about the trade and transit with India and they both have signed the treaty called Trade and Transit Treaty, which helped Nepal to do trade with other countries smoothly. When trust issues occurs with India, it blocks the borders often for example in 2015 India imposed economic blocked due to some disputes on the political level. At that time Nepal had to face a lot and it decided to do brainstorming on the alternative method for trading with the world so it signed some treaty and asked for

help with China as China is another second closest neighbor to Nepal. Nepal is a big hub or market of finished goods for both India and China. India knows this very well and it always tries to Nepal under its influence. As Nepal is exporting less and importing more from India, so India's big market is Nepal for their finished products. In this way they earn much from Nepal's market.

Same thing comes when talked about labor market with India, many workers in constructions site there can be seen Indian citizen, in local market like people selling vegetables and fruits are Indian citizen, so India takes back threefold more remittance from Nepal. This is biggest source for India's foreign remittance. Nepal also brings sizable amount of remittance from India but not as India takes back. Nepalese also goes to India to get job like in corporate companies, Indian army, information technology companies, being labors in construction companies and so on. Hence this is only possible because of open border because they don't require and passport to cross the border, they can go and come across the border by only showing the citizenship to the border securities forces and customs officials.

Shrestha (2002), also motivates open border on the notion that open border is beneficial for developing countries like Nepal. He says by having open border there will be positive implications like people can travel, migrate or movement can be more convenient, mutual ties will be more strong, there will be quick emergency response and assistance, medical facilities, competitive market for goods and services, flexible supply chain of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled work force, economic benefits for the state along with civilians. Likewise, Jha (2021), has also pinned in this article that bilateral relation with India help Nepal to get one million doses (Oxford AstraZeneca's Covishield) Covid-19's vaccine as a grant assistance which generated

goodwill among Nepalese people and in first phase health workers, security personnel and frontline workers got the first dose of vaccine immediately as they sent.

Above discussed statements shows the merits or good aspects of open border in between Nepal and India, along with this demerits or drawbacks of open border also comes like animals trafficking in border areas, terrorism (terrorists easily crosses the border and create problems across the nation) , drugs and weapons smuggling, children and girls are sold across the border area like from Nepal many girls are kidnapped and sold in India. Encroachment is also a big issue in the border areas security forces establishes their camps in territory of Nepal and claims that that area belongs to India and slowly they encroach the land of Nepal. For example in Lipulekh, Jhapa, Sikkim etc.

So, to address these problems of open border one of the profound researcher of Nepal named Buddhi Shrestha has rightly said in his book (Borders of Nepal) that on the borders of Nepal metal bars should be installed and border's demarcation should be done scientifically, which is a must needed step to be done in order to minimize the misuse of open border. He has also said that this should not only be in the research paper or in academic talks, it should be raised on the political level and come to the negotiation table to overcome the problems of open border in between both the nations.

Likewise, many other scholars like Jha, Kansakar and so on has also pinned that the security personals appointed on the borderline should be made strict and check posts should also be regulated strictly so that the person who try to go across the border illegally can be caught by the security personal and criminal activities can be minimized. Similarly, they have also pointed that borderline is life line of the local

people living in the borders of both the nation so the rule and regulations should be made in such a way that their day to day life and the means to earn their livelihood is not disturbed.

In this thesis it is found that the open border system is boon for both the countries but due to misuse of open border it has turned out to be curse for both the nation. State development is always based on the policies made by the state government and by coordinating with the border securities and formulating the plans and policies according can lead to the better result that can be helpful for the security forces in tackling border crimes or issues. They have long historic relation sharing similar religion, culture, tradition, language, emotions also as they have bread and daughter relation, many youngsters goes to India for job and to study, so this cannot can not be denied that they have deep rooted relation with each other. Therefor the problem of open border system should be solved on political level. The ministers or political leaders should take action on the given advice by the academicians and by maintaining the people to people connection and not harming the notions of it, the border security measures should be taken and should be strictly implemented. As India is Nepal's closest neighbor, it cannot run its foreign trade smoothly because Nepal is a land lock country as well as to make name and fame, to establish the identity and trust in international forum, Nepal has to maintain friendly and diplomatic relation with both is closest neighbor that is India and China.

After going through many books, literatures written by different profound researchers, this paper has come out with a lesson that only talking in seminars, conferences, giving academic speeches, doing meetings on political level and not implementing the decisions brought as well as not implementing existing laws, rules, regulations strictly

is not going to work for the border security and mitigate border misuse. So, in order to ensure border security and not harming the harmony of people to people connection, Nepal and India should come together with their existing tools, techniques, strategies, policies through which both can achieve desired result. Both Nepal and India can secure border while keeping the borders open by sharing the information in between the paramilitary forces about the border issues and be updated about day to day activity on the borderline so that they can check what happens daily on the border areas which will help in coordination and cooperation. They should strictly follow border security rules and regulation which are given by their respective state. By not disturbing the day to day life of local people residing on the border areas paramilitary should ensure safe open border relation across the borderline. With the efforts, collaboration, coordination and cooperation from both nation's side can help to counter terrorism, criminal activities and maintain healthy relation which ultimately help in social and economic progress of both the countries that is Nepal and India. Like Germany-Poland, Nepal and India need to focus on public awareness programs, develop national programs which would ultimately help in reducing public involvement in criminal activities knowingly or unknowingly which will help to minimize border issues. Providing education, job opportunity would also discourage people to support illegal activities. Coordination and collaboration between the government and military on the borders will also help in implementing the border policies strictly and continuously because political instability changes the Nepal-India relation perspective which leads to the weak policy implementation strategies as a result border crimes raise or increases day by day. So in order to maintain border security the policies and strategies or mechanism should not change with the change in the government of one state which will ensure consistence and persistence as well

as border security forces will have proper plans, policies, strategies to tackle terrorism, border crimes, maintain people to people connection, maintain trading relation smoothly and make border areas safe place for the local residents.

Restricted border policy is not going to help Nepal and India to mitigate border crimes. For example it is seen in US-Mexico relation, criminal organization will opt other means and ways to carry out their plan and objective. Restricted border cannot stop transborder crime, it reduces to some extent which in case of Nepal and India can be done with the help of existing resources and means, for that they need not to close the border. If the policies, strategies and paramilitary is made strong and if coordination is done in between border security forces daily then it is sure that it will be easy to protect and preserve the open border without harming the social connection in between the countries. Social connection has helped both Nepal and India to gain economic benefits by maintaining trading relation, tourism relation, cultural and religious relation as well as bread and daughter relation.

And with the example of Germany-Poland and US-Mexico it is clear that border disputes are solved by mutual negotiation based on evidences. Hence, Nepal and India should also dissolve their issues by respecting sovereignty and jurisdiction of each other, by agreeing to make negotiation based on international law, having mutual confidence and commitment to dissolve border issues with mutual respect, being focused on major and main issues and not being diverted from the issue due to external influences, creating win-win situation for both the states that is Nepal and India, while formulating plans, policies, rules, laws and regulations, citizen's sentiments, emotions, historic relation and interdependence should be kept in consideration as well as by creating healthy environment to do trade and business.

Along with this border disputes can be dissolved by following neighborhood first policy honestly, by using historic evidences like treaty, documents, maps, letters and so on. As well as the vision and determination of highest level political leadership to settle dispute through negotiation and bilateral discussion on the Ministry level or government to government level. With all these efforts if put efficiently and effectively then the relationship of India and Nepal will be more stronger and they can mutually take the benefit of open border in terms of economic relation and people to people connection.

CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION

From the above study it is clear that Nepal and India's relationship is unique and managing open border system is a difficult and challenging work to do. Open border can only be managed by implementing strict border rules and regulations with the help of border security forces (local police force and army employed on the border areas). They need to keep record of every individual who crosses the border and let the public only go across the border by showing their citizenship or any other identity card from which the custom official can track and trace the civilians. This will not only help to minimize the criminal activities but also not disturb the day to day life and activity of local people residing on the borderline.

In case of Nepal restricted border system does not work as Nepal and India has strong people to people connection. There are many temporary migrants from across the both countries may be temporary or permanent. People visit Nepal from India for recreational purpose like visiting holy places, temples, historical places, to enjoy at natural heritage's places like mountains, lakes national parks and so on. Likewise people from Nepal goes to India for jobs, studies, health checkups, to enjoy and visit holy places like ganga river, temples, beaches in Goa, to visit local markets as well as historical places and so on. In the border areas many families have marital relation across the border. And for business or trading purpose many businessman cross the border bring goods to trade in Nepal and vise-versa. Thus, the relation between the people of Nepal and India is deep rooted which cannot be denied by the policy makers of Nepal and India.

Nepal is a landlocked country surrounded by India from three directions that is east, south and west whereas China has surrounded it from north direction. Nepal must

maintain a sharp focus on serving her national interests, promoting stability and prosperity, and preserving her sovereignty and independence while taking into consideration the interests of her two powerful next-door neighbors, China and India (John, 2005). The economy of India and Nepal depend on each other, one cannot survive without the other. Nepal is big market for India for their finished goods and Nepal depends on India for the products, goods they consume on daily basis, as Nepal is lacking far behind in production sector. So if the open border system is disturbed or restricted then the direct impact will be on the economy of both the nation states. Along with that more political unrest, interference will be seen. People on the borderline has to suffer as they will not be able to earn their livelihood to run their families. Likewise criminal activities still will go on as they will carry out their criminal activities through other means.

Along with this, this is also to be kept in mind of policy makers that if they advocate for closed or restricted border then India will face much problem as compared to Nepal because they have better geography, as they have coastline with great sea ports, large areas of flat plains which are suitable for establishment of agriculture, industry and human settlement. They have huge population with great number of active population which helps in larger diversity of activity and an economy with a great level of specialization. They have economic freedom because of globalization and modernization in technology they use for production of goods and services. Thus, it is Nepal who has to suffer from restricted border at large, so it is good if Nepal and India keep borders open while by implementing some strict policies in order to control criminal activities and counter terrorism. They ought to maintain diplomatic relation and get benefits from open border on both sides of the boundary.

The strategies or steps taken prior was not effective and efficient. The mechanisms or committee formed like Border Working Groups (BWG), Outstanding Border Issues Resolution Mechanism (OBIRM) Joint Technical Level Boundary Committee (JTLBC) to operate and manage open border system did not do the research properly or come out with any effective policy to regulate open border effectively. So this paper urges to maintain relation on the ground level as Nepal and India's open border system is functioning through people to people connection and if their emotions, values, thoughts, norms are not considered the open border policy will not give its best result.

This paper presents that having strong people to people connection both countries have economic dependency on each other. Due to social connection and open border it is easy to transport goods and make people's movement easy. If borders are closed in between Nepal and India then they will have huge economic burden as to change the border policies they will require new law, treaty and more security forces with advance technology which cannot be affordable by both the nation. They will have to face more damage in nation's economy and international relations.

Therefore, the issues and concerns of open border relation between Nepal and India can be observed through liberalist perspective rather than realistic approach because for developing countries like Nepal, they can only sustain in international space if their policies are liberal which gives more emphasis to cooperation, mutual understanding, stands for global peace and harmony, respects other nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity and advocate for humanitarian works which helps all the nation state to attain global peace and cooperation, along with this as Nepal is land lock country, its foreign policy should behave according to the state's characteristics

like it should not fight with other democracies. So in order to maintain international relation Nepal foreign policy gives more emphasis on neighborhood cooperation, advocates for global peace and cooperation, motivates humanitarian works that helps to advocate for human right. Here, for the prosperity of Nepal and Nepalese people, state level analysis should be done and formulate plans and policies in regard to open border relation with India, as Nepal cannot compete with India but can take the benefit from India's emerging economic power or from trade and for that it is important to regulate open border between Nepal and India safely and legally. Whereas, developed countries like US, China go for restricted border because they are economically strong they can compete in global pace let it be in terms of trading market or business market, nuclear power, strong people to people connection or relation, military power as well as they have got strong foreign policy to operate or manage their international relations. But Nepal cannot afford war or economic blockade or be separate from globalized and modernized world, so it has to follow the path of mutual understanding, cooperation in global world order.

Hence, the open border system should not be closed or converted into restricted border but the open border policy should be made strict, followed and implemented strictly by the security forces deployed on the border areas. Governments must go for check and balance strategy and take action accordingly to safeguard the open borders. The coordination and collaboration between the security officials will help in developing border security policies and take corrective steps to execute that strategies made to control criminal activities on the borderline. Security officials must also prepare reports on how the policies implemented are impacting on the border crimes and social issues. This can only happen if the diplomatic head of Ministry of External Affairs of both the nation will come together on the table talk and carry diplomatic

talks to control the misuse open border system. Because open border is boon for Nepal and India if managed and controlled efficiently and effectively without harming the sentiments, values, norms of local people living on the border areas of both the nations.

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Annex 1

S.No.	Nepal Border Check Posts	Indian Border Check Posts
1	Pashupatinagar	Sukhia Pokhari
2	Kakarbhitta	Naxalbari/ Panitanki
3	Bhadrapur	Galgalia
4	Biratnagar	Jogbani
5	Setobadh	Bhimnagar
6	Rajbiraj	Kunauli
7	Jatahi	Pipraun/ Jaynagar
8	Jaleswor	Bhitamode (Sursand)
9	Malangawa	Sonbarsa
10	Gaur	Bairgania
11	Birjung	Raxaul
12	Bhairahawa	Nautanwa/ Sunauli
13	Taulihawa	Khunwa
14	Krishnanagar	Barhni
15	Koilabas	Jarwa
16	Nepalgunj	Nepalgunj road
17	Rajapur	Katerniyaghat
18	Prithivipur/Sati (Kailali)	Tikonia
19	Dhangadi	Gauriphanta
20	Mahendranagar	Banbasa
21	Mahakali	Jhulaghat
22	Darchula	Darchula
23	Vishuwa	Sikta
24	Matiarwa	Adapur