

**SECURITY MANAGEMENT OF NEPAL-INDIA OPEN
BORDER**

A Dissertation

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PRITHIVI BAHADUR BOGATI

TU Reg. No.: 6-1-325-96-2001

Ph.D. Reg. No.: 02/2016 (2073 Shrawan)

Tribhuvan University

Kathmandu, Nepal

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

We certify that this dissertation entitled “**Security Management of Nepal-India Open Border**” was prepared by Prithivi Bahadur Bogati under our guidance. We hereby recommend this dissertation for final examinations by the Research Committee of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY in SUBJECT.

Dissertation Committee

.....
Professor Dr. Khadga K. C.
Supervisor

.....
Dr. Pramod Jaiswal
Co- Supervisor

Date: 11/27/2023

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation entitled “**Security Management of Nepal- India Open Border**”, submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, and is my own work and that it contains no material previously published. I have not used its materials for the award of any kind and any other degree. Where other author’s sources of information have been used, they have been acknowledged.

Signature

.....

Name: Prithivi Bahadur Bogati

Date: 11/26/2023

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ABSTRACT

As the world today has encountered new security challenges, it has impelled national, regional and global security actors and apparatus to think, prepare and plan accordingly. Unconventional security challenges have surged up along with resource scarcity, unprecedented impacts of climate change, environmental insecurities and its impact on the work and livelihood, natural disasters, pandemic, among others, which, however call for going beyond conventional security approaches while protecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of a country. In the context of Nepal, it is more appropriate, as the Himalayan country is facing specific geopolitical and geo-strategic challenges that have emerged in the wake of the changing dynamics of Sino-Indian dynamics.

While the global power dynamics has shifted from Atlantic to Pacific, or in simple words, from West to the East, the rise of China cannot be ignored, which has once again highlighted Nepal's geostrategic posture. Concurrently, while Nepal's southern neighbor India is also rapidly expanding its influence in global and regional spheres, small powers located between India and China may face both negative and potentially positive efforts in dealing with the changing global order in the context of China-India rivalry. Most importantly, Nepal's open and unregulated borderlands with India, may be impacted. Apprehending the same, this study aims to highlight the same aspect of Nepal-India relations, and owing to the new and non-conventional security threats, this study calls for strengthening the border security along the Nepal-India borders for the protection of its national security, to maintain its territorial integrity and upholds its sovereignty, and above all to proliferate trust between two countries.

Methodologically, this study is done qualitative research design. The data and information for the study has been drawn from the primary and secondary sources. Altogether researcher selected 40 people as Key Informants (KIs) for interview including border security personnel, border experts, administrators, journalists and local level government representatives specially from the adjoining districts with Nepal and India. Researcher has analyzed the situation from the perspective of Armed Police Force. However, the research was affected and delayed owing to the restrictions imposed during the lockdown to contain COVID-19 global pandemic. Researcher physically visited the aforementioned districts for data collection. Normally, the venue for Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and interview was arranged at the APF, Nepal and Nepal Police offices located at the border region.

The open and unregulated borderlands have created both opportunities and threats to the two neighboring countries. Border security challenges have significantly increased along the Nepal-India open border. Thus, this research has identified a need to go beyond the conventional understanding of security as a domain of military or government's security apparatus and adopt for a holistic security framework to deal with the security challenges of the 21st century. Economic interdependency, trade, socio-cultural relations are opportunities while the border disputes, open borderlands between the two immediate neighbors have equally created security threats to the both countries. The open border management system is largely responsible for the illegal and criminal activities such as robbery, murder, kidnapping, smuggling of goods, arms, ammunition, human trafficking, trafficking of narcotic drugs, and smuggling of counterfeit currency as well as illegal migration on both sides of the border. While it is true that the open border has facilitated terrorist and criminal activities that are adversely impacting national security, it is equally important to recognize that an open

border has also helped India and Nepal to develop and deepen socio-cultural and economic relations. The most sensitive issues these days are the free movement of the terrorists and transportation of illegal arms and ammunitions across the open border. This is quite harmful for both the countries. An uncontrolled, unrestricted and opened border constitutes the breeding ground for terrorism, criminal, illegal and anti-social activities. Open border of Nepal can also be a playground for terrorism. There is no enough security deployment at the border region. Border control mechanism like monitoring and surveillance devices are not enough, eventually posing threat to the national security. The border issues arise occasionally but are not given serious attention from both sides. As Nepal- India border is unmanaged since the centuries, there are no records of people crossing the border every day. Equally, there are inadequate vigilances at the border crossing points. Nepal- India border is growing more and more sensitive day by day from the security perspective. There are assorted security challenges that have been rising day-by-day. Hence, this study has highlighted that it is necessary to figure out the Security Sensitive Area, equip the Border Guarding Forces with Modern Weapons and Gadgets, form a separate Border Intelligence Wing, apply Identification Card and prepare and implement Proper Border Guidelines which are some of the ways that can well manage/handle the Nepal- India open border.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION	i
DECLARATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
ABSTRACT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
LIST OF TABLES	xi
LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS	xiv
CHAPTER - ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-12
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of Problem	5
1.3 Research Questions	7
1.4 Objectives of the Study	7
1.5 Delimitation of the Study	7
1.6 Researcher's Participation in Research Methodology	8
1.7 Significance of the Study	9
1.8 Operational Definitions	9
1.9 Organization of the Study	11
CHAPTER- TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	13-50
2.1 Theoretical Review	13
2.2 Thematic Review	16
2.3 Review Summary	46
2.4 Research Gaps	49

CHAPTER- THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES	51- 54
3.1 Research Design	51
3.2 Nature, Tools and Sources of Data	51
3.3 Philosophical Paradigm	51
3.4 Sampling Technique	52
3.5 Universe of The Study	52
3.6 Research Method and Data Analysis	52
3.7 Ethical Consideration	52
3.8 Conceptual Framework	53
CHAPTER - FOUR: NEPAL INDIA BORDER SECURITY STATUS	55-111
4.1 Nepal India Relation	55
4.1.1 Geographical Context of Nepal India Relation	55
4.1.2 Socio-Cultural Relation	60
4.1.3 Economic Relations	62
4.1.4 Political Relation	68
4.2 Security Management	75
4.2.1 Deployment and role of Security Forces along the Nepal India Border	76
4.2.2 Use of Monitoring/ Surveillance Technologies	91
4.3 Role of Revenue and Custom Department of Nepal	92
4.4 Border Security Policies; Strategy, Action Plan and Guidelines of Nepal	99
4.5 Opportunities	103
CHAPTER - FIVE: SECURITY CHALLENGES OF NEPAL INDIA OPEN BORDER	112-180
5.1 Prevailing Security Challenges	113
5.1.1 Human Trafficking	113
5.1.2 Illegal Smuggling of Goods, wildlife, Small Arms, Gold, Narcotic Drugs, Fake Currency etc.	130

5.1.3	Murder, Kidnapping, Theft, Robbery and Extortion	140
5.1.4	Illegal Migration	144
5.1.5	Border Disputes / Encroachment	153
5.2	Emerging Security Challenges	160
5.2.1	Terrorism	161
5.2.2	Hundi	166
5.2.3	Islamic Fundamentalism	168
5.2.4	Pandemic	173
5.2.5	Biological Warfare	177
CHAPTER - SIX: BORDER SECURITY MEASURES TO COPE UP SECURITY CHALLENGES		181-228
6.1	Border Management Modalities	181
6.1.1	Boundary, Frontier and Borderland	181
6.1.2	Classification of Borderlands	181
6.2	Strengthening and Increasing Number of Security Personnel	195
6.3	Establishment of Fix Entry and Exit Points	200
6.4	Fencing the Frontier, Using Surveillance Technologies and Building the Border Wall	202
6.5	Development of Border Area	210
6.6	Discouragement of Corruption	217
6.7	Development of Effective Monitoring Mechanism	221
6.8	Border Intelligence Wing/ Bureau	224
6.9	Need of Border Protocol	228
CHAPTER - SEVEN: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION		229-252
7.1	Summary	229
7.2	Conclusion	234
APPENDICES		253-263
REFERENCES		264-269

LIST OF TABLES

		Page No.
Table 4.1	Deployment of APF, Nepal and SSB along the Nepal- India Border Region Koshi Province-2020	85
Table 4.2	Deployment of APF, Nepal and SSB along the Nepal- India Border Region Madhesh Province-2020	86
Table 4.3	Deployment of APF, Nepal and SSB along the Nepal- India Border Region Bagmati Province-2020	86
Table 4.4	Deployment of APF, Nepal and SSB along the Nepal- India Border Region Gandaki –Province-2020	87
Table 4.5	Deployment of APF, Nepal and SSB along the Nepal- India Border Region Lumbini- Province-2020	88
Table 4.6	Deployment of APF, Nepal and SSB along the Nepal- India Border Region Sudurpaschim – Province-2020	89
Table 4.7	Purposed Integrated Check Post (ICP) in 2005	94
Table 4.8	Custom Offices-2018	96
Table 5.1	The Number of Trafficking Cases Registered in Nepal Police by Provinces, FY 2016/17 and FY 2017/18	119
Table 5.2	Number of Trafficking Cases, Traffickers Arrested and Victims Rescued in between Nepal- India Border, 2012-2017	119
Table 5.3	Annual Statistics of Maiti Nepal- 2018	126
Table 5.4	Statistical Data of Trafficking Survivors-2018	127
Table 5.5	Filed Cases of Organized and Economic Crimes in Nepal Police	130
Table 5.6	Seized Smuggled Gold in Nepal- 2018	131
Table 5.7	Seized Illegal Goods, Forest Products, Gold and Fake Currency by APF, Nepal (Fiscal Year- 2019/20)	137

Table 5.8	Comparative Details of Collected Revenue on FY 2016/17 to 2018/19	139
Table 5.9	Details of Seized Smuggling Goods on FY 2016/17 to 2018/19	139
Table 6.1	Way to Minimize the Border Security Challenges-2020	200

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page No.
Figure 3.1 Conceptual Framework	53
Figure 5.1 Human Trafficking in FY 2016/17 Modus Operandi	120
Figure 5.2 Age of Victims- 2017	121

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

AHTU	-	Anti- Human Trafficking Units
APF	-	Armed Police Force
AR	-	Assam Rifle
BADP	-	Border Area Development Plan
BBIN	-	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal
BDCCS	-	Border District Coordination Committee
Bgd	-	Brigade
BIIP	-	Border Infrastructure Investment Plan
BIMISTEC	-	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation
BOP	-	Border out Post
BRI	-	Belt and Road Initiative
BRICS	-	Brazil, Russia, India and China and South Africa
BSD	-	Border Security Department
BSF	-	Border Security Force
Bttn	-	Battalion
BWG	-	Boundary Working Group
CBI	-	Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program
CBT	-	Cross Border Trade
CCWB	-	Center Child Welfare Board
Coy	-	Company
CRMSAP	-	Custom Reform and modernization Strategies and Action Plan

CRMSAP	-	Customs Reform and Modernization Strategies and Action Plan
DAO	-	District Administrative Office
DCWB	-	District Child Welfare Board
EPG	-	Eminent Persons' Group
EPG	-	Eminent Persons' Group
FDI	-	Foreign Direct Investment
GPS	-	Global Positioning System
Hq	-	Headquarters
IB	-	Intelligence Bureau
ICP	-	Integrated Check Post
IED	-	Improvised Explosive Devices
ILO	-	International Labor Organization
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund
INSEC	-	Informal Sector Service Center's
ITBP	-	Indo-Tibetan Border Police
JCIFM	-	Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management
JCWR	-	Joint Committee on Water Resources
JMCWR	-	Joint Ministerial Commission for Water Resources
JSTC	-	Joint Standing Technical Committee
KI	-	Key Informants
MoD	-	Ministry of Defense
MoHA	-	Ministry of Home Affairs
MWCD	-	Ministry of Women and Child Development

NCW	-	National Commission for Women
NHRM	-	Natural Human Right Commission
NID	-	National Investigation Department
NRB	-	Nepal Rastra Bank
POCSO	-	Protection of Children from Sexual offences
RAW	-	Research and Analysis Wing
RTIS	-	Revenue Target and Information System
SAARC	-	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAPLW	-	Small Arms and other Potable Lethal Weapons
SEATO	-	Southeast Asia Treaty Organization
SSB	-	Sashastra Seema Bal
TAR	-	Tibetan Autonomous Region
TIP	-	Trafficking in Persons
UNDP	-	United Nation Development Program
UNESCO	-	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WTO	-	World Trade Organization