

Conflict Induced Migration in Nepal (A Social Inclusion Perspective)

A Dissertation

**Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social
Sciences of Tribhuvan University in Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

in

POPULATION STUDIES

By

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

We certify that this dissertation entitled "**CONFLICT INDUCED MIGRATION IN NEPAL (A SOCIAL INCLUSION PERSPECTIVE)**" was prepared by Mr. Padma P. Khatiwada under our guidance. We hereby recommend this dissertation for final examination by the Research Committee of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY in POPULATION STUDIES.

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21 June 2009

APPROVAL LETTER

This dissertation entitled "CONFLICT INDUCED MIGRATION IN NEPAL (A SOCIAL INCLUSION PERSPECTIVE)" was submitted by Mr. Padma Prasad Khatiwada for final examination by the Research Committee of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY in POPULATION STUDIES. I hereby certify that the Research Committee of the Faculty has found this dissertation satisfactory in scope and quality and has therefore accepted it for the degree.

Prof. Nav Raj Kanel, PhD
Dean, and
Chairman, Research Committee
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ABSTRACT

Conflict induced internal displacement has been a burning problem worldwide as a result of increasing in-fights (within the country) among the political stakeholders. There are more than 25 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), almost double than the refugees. A common belief is that displacement due to conflict is a political problem and the issues of displacement get resolved with respect to political solution. However, generally the tendency is different. Conflict induced displacement has many characteristics similar to migration and thus the issue of displacement needs to be addressed by observing closely with the characteristics of migration. With respect to the growing conflicts, migration in the 21st century has been an issue of dichotomy between voluntary and forced.

Study on migration as a dichotomy between voluntary and forced is rarely found globally despite its increasing scope. Due to conflict, disaster, government projects and other deceptive and undocumented movements of people worldwide, number of IDPs, refugees, persons in trafficking and the smuggled people are growing globally.

This research on Conflict Induced Migration in Nepal: A Social Inclusion Perspective is conducted with a major aim of analysing the current situation of the armed conflict induced migrants/displaced persons in Nepal.

In Nepal many people turned displaced due to the 10 year long armed conflict between the government and the CPN Maoist. As an aftermath of the peace process initiated in 2006, there was a belief that all the IDPs would easily return to their respective places of origin. Some of the agencies/organisations also initiated their attempts to help return the displaced people. A national policy was made and some relief packages were brought into effect by the government. Some progresses have also been seen, a positive response to the policy. However, all the problems regarding IDPs have not been solved. Those returned have not been rehabilitated properly and those still in the destination areas have to suffer with scarce resources lacking mainly human dignity. These displaced people have been excluded from various policies and programmes of both government and non-government sectors. Lack of coordination among the stakeholders is another problem observed even after the formulation of the IDP policy in 2007. Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction is the main authority on behalf of the government to address the issues of IDPs. The Ministry is overloaded mainly with the political peace process. The issue of IDPs has been a very small part of the activity for the Ministry. The policy gives responsibility of overall coordination to the CDOs in the respective districts who are too overloaded with their other dozens of similar coordinating roles.

There is no apex body yet formulated to bring all the stakeholders together and have discourse on the issues of IDPs, which could at least identify the issues of IDPs, and contribute to formulation/amendments in the existing policies and action plans. Such a body needs to be formed involving all the stakeholders, mainly the line ministries, respective departments, UN agencies, bilateral agencies, INGOs, NGOs and also academics who can contribute to the research based issues and discourses. Furthermore, such a body would have documentation on who is doing what; identify the resources, and gaps in them and ways to tackle the challenges. Such an authority would give some visionary inputs with some academic foundation and outcomes of the activism so as to give directives for effective resettlement, rehabilitation and reintegration of IDPs in the days to come.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

| | |
|--------|--|
| AGHP | Age Group of the Household Population |
| ALDP | Access to Land among Displaced and Non-displaced Population |
| CA | Constituent Assembly |
| CASTE | Caste/Ethnicity |
| CAT | Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment |
| CBR | Crude Birth Rate |
| CBS | Central Bureau of Statistics |
| CDPS | Central Department of Population Studies |
| CDR | Central Development Region |
| CDR | Crude Death Rate |
| CEDA | Centre for Economic Development and Administration |
| CEDAW | Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| CERD | Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination |
| CRMW | Convention on the Protection of the Rights of the All Migrant Workers and Their Families |
| CPN | Communist Party of Nepal |
| CPRT | Centre for Population Research and Training |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| CWIN | Child Workers in Nepal Concern Centre |
| DOANI | Domestic Animals |
| DoL | Department of Labour |
| EDR | Eastern Development Region |
| ELEC | Electricity |
| ESCAP | Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| FASWG | Food and Agriculture Sector Working Group |
| FGD | Focus Group Discussion |
| FoHSS | Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences |
| FOPHUR | Forum for Protection of Human Rights |
| FWDR | Far-western Development Region |
| GAD | Gender and Development |

| | |
|---------|---|
| GBV | Gender Based Violence |
| GNP | Gross Net Product |
| GO | Government Organisation |
| HDI | Human Development Index |
| HURON | Human Rights Organisation of Nepal |
| ICCPR | International Convention on Civil and Political Rights |
| ICERD | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination |
| ICESCR | International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights |
| ICPD | International Conference on Population and Development |
| IDI | In-depth Interview |
| IDMC | International Displacement Monitoring Centre |
| IDPs | Internally Displaced Persons |
| INGO | International Non-government Organisation |
| INSEC | Informal Sector Service Centre |
| LANG | Language |
| LEDU | Level of Education |
| MEBDC | Migration, Employment and Birth, Death and Contraception |
| MoPE | Ministry of Population and Environment |
| MSTATUS | Marital Status |
| MWDR | Mid-western Development Region |
| NGO | Non-government Organisation |
| NHRC | National Human Rights Commission |
| NPC | Nepal Planning Commission |
| NRC | Norwegian Refugees Council |
| OHCHR | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| PLA | People's Liberation Army |
| PSU | Population Sampling Unit |
| RNA | Royal Nepalese Army |
| SIRF | Social Inclusion Research Fund |
| SNV | [Netherlands Development Agency] |
| SoE | State of Emergency |
| SPA | Seven Parties' Alliance |

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|---------|--|
| SPSS | Statistical Package for Social Sciences Research |
| TADA | Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Control and Punishment) Act |
| TADO | Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Control and Punishment) Ordinance |
| TFR | Total Fertility Rate |
| TOFAC | Toilet Facility |
| TOOC | Type of Occupation |
| UDHR | Universal Declaration of Human Rights |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNESCAP | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNIFEM | United Nations Fund for Women |
| VDC | Village Development Committee |
| WDR | Western Development Region |
| WID | Women in Development |