

National Security of Nepal: Threats, Challenges and Solutions

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyzes the internal and external types of threats, focusing on the national interests in accordance with the world order and making an intensive study of the security systems prevalent in the country. The study applies the existing security systems in Nepal to determine viable security options in future. The impact of foreign powers as well as domestic factors that have caused the emergence of several external as well as internal threats to the national security of Nepal. It becomes essential for us to understand and realize the threats and their effects that have emerged recently due to Nepal's geopolitical location between two nuclear powers and the changing political scenario in the country. Therefore, Nepal has distinct security crises along including other less-developed small countries. The present study about the issues related to national security and security challenges can be useful in making national policies of security related challenges not only to Nepal but also to other small less-developed and developing countries. Thus, the paper aims to explore and address the challenges of the national security of Nepal. The study is based the outcome of the review of the secondary sources of information, and is qualitative in nature.

KEYWORDS: Challenges, external threat, internal threat, national security

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INTRODUCTION

The traditional sense of national security implies the relationship between population and the territory. It is viewed as a nation, its government and state institutions as legitimate bodies and the ability of the nation to protect its internal values and national interests against both internal and external threats. Security in its comprehensive sense is the degree of resistance and protection from harm or danger. National security is concerned with protection, preservation, and furtherance of the core values of the nation or the preservation of the interest of the nation against any external or internal threat. Every state gives the highest priority of making itself secure. However, all states still feel insecure because of various internal and external threats. Absolute security involving the complete eradication of threats as detrimental is generally neither unobtainable nor will the states attain a stage of perfection in the future (Uberoy, 2004).

Since its unification in the 18th century, Nepal confronted with internal as well as external military threats. What the king Prithvi Narayan Shah propounded can somewhat be perceived as national security policy. Thereby, there have been negligible efforts made to formulate national security policy or doctrine. The Anglo-Nepali War between 1814 to 1816 culminated into treaty, which established Nepal's current boundaries. Following this, Nepal fell under the dominance of the Ranas, who self-proclaimed themselves the chief ministers,

oppressing the monarchy and cutting the country off from the outside world. Multiparty democracy established in 1951 ended the Rana oligarchy by the revolution. In 1960, King Mahendra seized state power, and suspended the parliament, constitution and party politics. His assertive regime as so-called party-less Panchyat democracy went on for thirty years. However, with the initiation of the political parties and supported by the urban people, multiparty democracy reestablished in 1990. Due to intra-and-extra-conflict of political parties, political system became transitional in nascent democracy. Moreover, traditional power and Maoist insurgency (1995-2006) contributed to widen the sphere of the political anarchism against the democratic consolidation. Once again, in April 2006, Nepali people came on the street, which is called the Mass Movement II, it established federal republic democracy along with displaced the monarchial system as the apex of traditional power. Likewise, with this change, the Maoists involved in the mainstream peaceful politics and left the insurgency through comprehensive peace agreement between the Maoists and the state.

The impact of a decade-long Maoist insurgency paved the way to public discourse between demand for human security and the role of society and the state. The challenge posed the medium and modality of reconciliation with the insurgents and its rehabilitation into mainstream society and politics. It was evident that Nepal truly failed to nurture the foundation laid by its founding fathers in unifying the geographically scattered regions into one state. Thus, falling short in inculcating the values of inclusiveness and cohesiveness amongst its citizens. Although our founding fathers united this country geographically, but it is now evidently clear that rulers failed to make this country truly united in terms of inclusiveness and cohesiveness among all Nepalis. In the Nepali context, the objective of national security is to sustain freedom from foreign dictation and to improve living standard of the people (Silwal, 2064).

Thinking of geopolitical sensitivity and geo-strategic balance of Nepal, the issue of national security is regarded as a very sensitive issue. But there arises a question: what are the challenges to national security? It has been found that the situation is getting more and more vulnerable each day. Nepal has not fought any war against any outside force since the 1816 Sugauli Agreement. Nepal is not that experienced of war with the external force for a long time. Due to more dependency on foreign powers for existence, Nepal is not free from external threats (Singh, 1996).

Considering the internal dynamics of security, the genesis of the decade-long Maoist armed conflict, and the culture of violence that has prevailed indicates that internal ethnic and regional conflicts will have a long-term effect in future. Another conflict waged by the Medhesi people in the Terai region, the loss of lives and property will also take a long time for its recovery. These movements were political in nature as tried to establish the power centers in democracy, and have now seemed passive from their extremists form to the democratic forces as taken part in election to seek a political position in the country through a peaceful means. However, promulgating the new constitution by the constituent assembly and in order to implement its provisions, Nepal has now received federalism of three types of government as local, provincial and federal. With practicing different political forces in this federal structure, it may help to reduce the traditional internal threat with breaking the political deadlock along with bringing the democratic transformation and consolidation. If the political leadership of newly structured federal government could generate the vision with seeking cooperation from stakeholders of political forces, the security crises on the ground of traditional threats along with other newly emerging security crises may reduce the national security interests in future.

METHODOLOGY

Poverty, political instability, and natural and human disasters are such common factors to prevail the crises and threats in any state of its national security. With this, Nepali

borders are left open, our dependency on India is increasing day by day, and our national resources are under-utilized, mis-managed or bargained to foreign exploitation. Nepali leaders pose the greatest threat to the internal security of our nation while they negligently have open passage to external security threats. A question may arise here: How long would it be, when Nepal would be facing not just internal security threat to its sovereignty but external as well? The very fact that Nepal has always withstood all attempts to foreign invasion in the past, yet having maintained its sovereignty so far. After its unification that reveals how strong our security policy was in the past and that it is deteriorating, leaving the Nepal to threat in all forms. Hence, it is time for serious attention to be drawn to fortify and safeguard our national security, if we are to continue thriving as an independent sovereign nation along with the proper management of the internal and external threats. From this perspective, to explore the threats and its possible solutions of the national security of Nepal is the main objective of this article.

This article describes the crises and threats to national security of Nepal and why it has encountered external and internal obstacles to promote its national interest. Therefore, descriptive and explanatory research designs are used to construct this study. The information is quilled from secondary source as books, reports, and articles. The available literature and documents are the main source of this study, and those are in qualitative in nature. Required qualitative information are presented and interpreted by using note transcribe and contextual analysis methods.

NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES

Nepal is a soft, land-locked and small country. It has its own specialty and security concerns. There have been tremendous security issues seen in the current security environment; they are terrorism, organized crime, insurgencies, religious indifference, factional conflicts between various ethnic, Madhesi issue, religious groups, and its potentiality to full terrorism on a long-term basis. In addition, non-military security issues like population explosion, economic disparities, unemployment, raising illegal migration, and environmental degradation are the main problems threatening the well being of the nation (Thapa, 2002; Pandey, 2009).

The small and poor countries seem to be deprived of many things because they lack resources, economy, and the proper mechanism to settle the crisis and depend on the neighbouring and other countries. In place of their cooperation, the donor countries try to intervene them taking advantages of their vulnerable situation. Along with the traditional threats, the trend of separatism and national identity of ethnic groups is increasingly affecting the very nature of state system and will be a major security concern (Thapa, 1997). However, Nepal's major concerns are size, location, regional conflicts, and poverty and ethnic diversity. Being land-locked between two giant Asian powers has a bearing not only on Nepal's security concerns, but also on Nepal's economic development (Thapa, 2002).

Some major issues of national security of Nepal are the lack of national security policy, landlocked status and sandwiched between the two superpowers, and lack of commitments of political parties. Political parties are lacking the sense of responsibilities. They seem to be more interested in their own benefits and interpreting the issues to suit their own interests. Nepali people have entrusted the future of their country to their leaders. If leaders are not being loyal and sincere adequately to safeguard the core values of the country, then the greatest threat comes to our national security (Lal, 2008).

As it is the core of any policy, a sound security policy can best ensure national security (Dahal, 2009). The National Security Council, after its establishment in 2002, began its homework for drafting a national security policy. But the process did not gain momentum. Similarly, in 2010, Nepal Army also submitted a document titled 'Central National Policy and National Security Policy 2010' as envisioned by the Nepal Army to the government.

Every country prepares its national security policy according to its own concerns and priorities. A sound national security policy document should address dimensions of politics, economy, social security, natural resources, diplomacy, environment, energy, culture, information technology, public and private value systems, climate change, natural disasters, property, national pride, and human rights. However, the main objective of a national security policy is to protect the sovereignty of the nation and to free the public from fear and want.

CHALLENGES OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The security lies in a two dimensional matrix of national sovereignty such as the maintenance of independence and preservation of territorial integrity. Any external threats to national security from external sources are dealt with military or diplomatic options. However, internal threats that emerge from the inadequacy of national integration, political and social disorder, economic vulnerability, and environmental degradation are the serious issues that are to be dealt with the combined efforts of elements of national power. At national level, we must establish national resilience. National resilience is a condition, which makes a nation politically, economically and militarily strong enough to withstand threats and challenges to its survival coming from other nations as well as from inside. National resilience is based on an integrated effort on the part of all the people to defend and to maintain the security of their country (Sharma, 2009).

Internationally, one country's effort to achieve full security becomes an issue of insecurity to the other. It is also true that a state poses threats to its own citizenry insofar as it may curtail individual liberty, freedom, security, and human rights. There is no assurance of full security in international and national security domain. Threats emanate from domestic as well as regional and global levels owing to various factors. Hence, the argument surrounding threats and vulnerabilities can at best be on relative line. Much like what it is in the case of most countries, Nepal's own supply of threats to a large extent emanate from history going back to the Rana regime or beyond. There is no direct threat to the national identity and physical continuity. Nepal did not have to wage freedom struggle or an independence movement against the colonial masters. Invariably, a conscious class always emerged out in the open to fight for the power in one form or the other. This, incidentally, ruled out any prospects of the concept of "we" prevailing over the concept of "I". This, in turn, further ruled out any prospects of socio-economic development materializing at all (Sharma, 2009). Although geography and socio-economic statues of any nation produce the internal traditional treats, cultural politics and identity and the role of external powers over this agenda that seemed newly emerging threats to the national security interests. Developing nations are sensitive to any real or perceived threats to their fragile identities (Baral, 2006).

Nepal being a small, under-developed and land-locked country, threats may come in any form. For a country like Nepal, geo-politically situated between two giant nations like India and China, external challenges to Nepal's vital interests from any of these two countries cannot be ruled out. Similarly, the current internal political, economic and social situation indicates that various threats posed to its society have also gained a matter of grave concerns. The external and internal threats to national security of Nepal in various forms are dealt separately in subsequent paragraphs.

External Threat

It is widely accepted that "the potential enemy of any country is its neighbors and there are no permanent friends of foes". Considering the present international and regional strategic environment, we do not see any immediate military threats to Nepal from either of our neighbors. We can presume that direct aggression is likely to be the last resort that either China or India will resort against Nepal in order to further their own national interest. Ever since the birth of South Asia as an independent political entity, there began to appear

fundamental cleavages in political and security perceptions of India and its neighbours, reflecting a deep sense of insecurity. This situation has persisted with remarkable continuity up to the present; India's strategic doctrine has tended to render the small states of the region into virtual buffer states.

South Asian countries have no common threat perception regarding the outside enemy. If at all, it is India that they perceive as a threat to their security and thus no wish to live under a security umbrella provided by it (Jayasekera, 1992). Nepal not only has to face, if it is so, military threat but also the threat arising from open borders, religious and cultural similarity of the people of Nepal with peoples near its bordering with India and China. Even more other aspects like terrorism, and internal disturbances that have happened in Tibet and many parts of India like UP, Bihar and Northern states. Other important aspect is slowly rising, is the ethnic problem, which seems to be very harmful to the Nepal's national security perspective.

Military Threats: A nation's security can be threatened in various ways. Though armed aggression is the most direct and visible of these, it can also be endangered by means other than a full-fledged war (Uberoy, 2004). Prithvi Narayan Shah has covered three points that have been grouped under heading military and defense: the treatment of the soldier, organization of the army, and suggested measures for defense. In treating of defense of Nepal, Prithvi Narayan Shah discussed three points: forts, fortification, and strategy. "Do not go down to the plains to fight, Withdraw to hills to fight" (Stiller, 1989). It shows the vision and awareness of Prithvi Narayan Shah regarding military and defense. It has been said that there is no permanent friend or foe but there are only common interests or clash of interests. Hence, all the neighbouring countries should be regarded as potential enemies (Lal, 2008).

Geo-Strategic Factors: Nepal, a land-locked country, has a total area of just 147,181 square kilometres. However, within that small area there is a great variation in altitude and very difficult terrain. This has made our country vulnerable from both sides. After the Chinese occupation of Tibet, Nepal's strategic position has been further enhanced. Hence, looking at it from a broader perspective we find that our country is acting as a buffer zone or cushion between two giants (Lal, 2008).

Invasion: Wide stretch of open border towards north and south, which are thinly manned, gives opportunity for both the neighbors to carry out military actions effectively. The southern neighbor India keeps concerns that it has challenges from the open border because extremists can manipulate and unwanted activities can be carried out which may cause the serious threats. To keep the things under control the Indian security personnel enter into Nepal violating the sovereignty. On the other hand, Nepalis regard this as an intervention and are displeased with such activities. We still doubt that India is a threat to Nepal's sovereignty as it is assimilated to small neighbouring country such as Sikkim, some decades ago. Though, Nepal has experienced invasion from India in economic and political affairs, due to its geo-political position and national identity it seems impossible to control the national sovereignty. Jawaharlal Nehru, the then prime minister of India, wished to keep Nepal under the umbrella of India thinking of the security threat and asserted that the Himalaya as its border and stated that any Chinese attack on Nepal would be regarded as an aggression against India. As the Nehru doctrine, still his successors have been subsequently adopting this principle (Thapa, 2002).

Globalization: Globalization is the emerging trend of international relations. Free flows of idea information, technology, investment, trade, tourism, goods, and services have crossed the state boundary. It is mainly because of the tremendous progress in the field of transportation and communication. Such a boundary-less situation has become a threat to small nations and they are not able to catch the opportunities brought by globalization. Though several agents of globalization like World Bank, IMF and others are working to boost up the condition of developing nations, these agencies are often being criticized as the

agents of new colonialism (Baral, 2017).

Socio-Cultural Threats: Nepal is a country with diverse socio-cultural structure. Its socio-cultural structure towards the international boundary matches with neighboring countries, especially India. Socio-cultural penetration and flow of information along with migration and immigration are also the main threats to Nepal. Also, the Indians crossing our border by hundreds every day without being recorded has certainly become a serious security hazard. Nepal's acceptance to grant citizenship to migrated people will have serious implications to its security in the future. The trend of ethnic based politics in Nepal can be considered as a part of these socio-cultural threats (Thapa, 2002).

Geo-Political Threats: Geopolitical issues arising from poorly demarcated borders remain a key threat in many developing countries. Unchecked migration and flow of people is another burden arising from neighboring countries. Of course, larger and stronger neighbors remain less caring in geo-political issue of other states. Nepal should be aware of whether external situation threatens its survival. There is also a need to check the behavior demonstrated by neighbors. None of the countries show concerns over border issues until their own security is under threat. Nepal's geographical vulnerabilities cover a wide area of national security (Khand, 2005).

Economic Threats: Economical and technical domination along with blockades, embargo, sanction and economic discrimination are the main economic threats to our country. Being land-locked and hence virtually being dependent to her neighbours and other nations for basic commodities, Nepal has been forced to face these economic threats. We have experienced economic blockade time to time particularly in southern border as well as the imbalance of trade, which is also the major economic threat to Nepal. Poverty, unemployment, trade deficit, and poor technology are some of the common characteristics of small states. Dependency is high and most of their policies are guided by other's interest. Weak infrastructures, less unset of resources and regional imbalance in terms of development are the major sources of conflict that may pose serious security threat to the small countries (Khanal, 2010).

Forced Migration: Nepal is facing a serious problem of migration. On the one hand, there is the flow of migrating people from rural areas to urban areas due to insecurity, unemployment, extreme climate and so on. The trend was more during the period of armed revolution (Baral, 2017). On the other hand, there is the continuous outflow of trained and skilled human power in different parts of the world in search of job and quality education. Those who are working in other countries as 'Bahadur' and 'Kancha' are shedding their sweat for security and development for others.

Subversion: An economically poor and illiterate population like that of Nepal is most susceptible to foreign subversive activities, even against national interests. Protection of its citizens from such external subversive act can be considered as one of the challenges to national security. There is a possibility that subversive activities could be carried out by other nations just to create chaos with our friendly neighboring countries. Any activities, which could bring impact on, our national security has to be monitored and assessed on a regular basis (Islam, 1995).

Cross-Border Activities: Due to the stretch of wide and long border, which Nepal shares with India and China, there have been many incidents of cross-border activities like smuggling of arms, ammunitions, drugs, and human trafficking (including sex trafficking). Security officials of Nepal and India have agreed to remain more vigilant to prevent possible cross-border crimes. Time and again, joint security meetings are held with India in the decision of taking collective measures to control the possible smuggling of goods and wildlife hide and organs, human trafficking, drug peddling and transaction of counterfeit currency notes across the Nepal-India border. These sensitive issues have huge impact on the national security of Nepal (Islam, 1995).

Cyber Threats: With the development of modern technology, the world has changed greatly. Internet service has brought the world closer and it has become an inseparable part of life at present. Therefore, the development of the computer has made the people's lives much more convenient and, on the other hand, it is also causing serious problems in the present world. It seems as a growing global threat, i.e. computer viruses, which attacks isolated or network information systems through the Internet or software carriers and devices. Many vital decision-making processes of our government are now electronically based and, therefore, vulnerable to this threat. Like other countries, Nepal is also extremely vulnerable to cyber-attacks and is facing a greater number of malware attacks.

Internal Threats

A small and less developed country like Nepal may have more internal threats in comparison to external threats. The elements, which pose a threat to the national security of a nation, do not remain constant and keep on changing with time and situations. The identification and security of our cultural, social, political, psychological, economical and physical existence and value system and pressures and challenges by various elements becomes the prime responsibility of national security (Khanal, 2010; Pandey, 2009; Khand, 2005). All measures of national power should be integrated and employed to combat such threats based on national policy adopted by the state. Since, Nepal being a land-locked multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-linguistic state, the threats to its internal value, and social cohesion are many. Some of these threats are mentioned as in the following way.

Political Instability: Due to control and guide to every aspect of life, politics is always on the apex of the country. Political instability is one of the major problems causing threat to national security of Nepal. Most of the small states have an experience of long-run political instability. Many of the small states were under the colony of big powers during their early days of political development. Even after the independence, only a very few of them could catch the right track of political development and institutionalized their political system. The developing world is usually insufficient and ineffective in political matters. Dominating role of few political elites, bad governance, lack of rule of law, unable to maintain law and order, failed to maintain peace and security are the main reasons of political challenges (Khanal, 2010; Khand, 2005).

Economic Crisis: "We should no longer consider the problem of national security simply from military view point and must view the economic interests as its important component" (Zemin, 1995). Problem of national security of particular state is closely associated with economy and cannot be separated. Economy is the basis to build up and a means to safeguard the nation and should be considered as the main servant of national security. The international effect of economic crisis is affecting Nepali economy, too. The crisis related to economy has increased in many forms in the recent years. This is negatively contributing to national security of Nepal.

Underdeveloped Status of the Country: In the present context, security means development and anything detrimental towards attaining these objectives is a threat to security and security is considered a "Culmination of presence values satisfaction of needs, feeling secure and striving for unhindered growth and development" (Islam, 1995). So development is another major aspect without which government can't ensure national security. Underdeveloped countries have to rely on a foreign support and needs to accept their interference as well as conflict among the several groups of the people may rise within the country; ultimately escalating the internal threat. In this case, Islam (1995) states, "Security means development. Security is not a military hardware though it may involve in it. Security is not military activity though it may encompass it. Security means development and without development there can be no security".

Ethnic Problem: People of different castes, ethnicity and culture dwell in Nepal.

Nepal is a multi-lingual, multi-ethnic, multi-racial, multi-cultural country. These people never had any problems in terms of their coexistence and their nationality. They had a harmonious relation. But in recent days, things have changed radically. The security threat to Nepal seems to have emerged from internal cultural conflicts including inter-religious i.e. Hindus versus others like Buddhists, Muslims, inter-ethnic/racial i.e. Khas, Madhesi, Janjatis, Dalits. Likewise, inter-regional i.e. Pahadis versus Madhesis, such cultural conflicts are most likely to trigger chain reaction across the nation. These activities invite regional and international interference (Adhikari, 2014). The consequence of the above matters cause to have unrest in the nation.

The unjustified ultimatums, gruesome murders, abductions, and forceful displacements, which are raised in the name of autonomy, are causing lots of troubles in the country. Burning Nepali flags, planned attacks against marginal and minority groups, waging armed separatist movement, forceful demands for advantageous rights; are simply unpatriotic proceeds (Banerjee, 1999). Are these voices against national integrity coming from Nepali people? This is a serious issue and seeks another comprehensive research. However, in the case of Nepal, it shows that the ethnic and racial subjects are become major issues when the mainstream political parties are weaker, but these issues seem passive if the major political forces are become strong. Nevertheless, ethnic and cultural diversity should be incorporated within every sphere of the nation through making in practice of the present constitutional provision, which is mentioned as an inclusive and consociational democracy.

Religious Problem: Religious extremism is a phenomenon, which has existed right from the origin of various religions and has been one of the root causes of conflicts in the past. Few past incidents like Nepalgunj and Kapilvastu has shown the volatile nature of the issue and requires proper attention to solve it.

Refugee Problem: The displaced people from different countries who have come to Nepal for temporarily settlement as refugees. Among the various refugees, Bhutanese refugee problem is creating various negative effects in Nepal. "There are evidences to prove India's consistent apathy towards the refugee problems as demonstrated by literal driving away of refugees to the Nepali border in the most crucial phase of refugee exodus" (Banerjee, 1999). So, till India does not cooperate, this status quo will remain as it is. Occasionally, Tibetan refugees also attract the media attention putting Nepal in a difficult situation. It is quite difficult for Nepal to balance china and other international community regarding this issue.

Population Growth, Unemployment and Food Shortage: It is believed that two most crucial issues in the world today are food and people, which are interrelated in many aspects. Population growth of the country is rising higher and higher as compared to the production of food. Large population without having enough food and other basic needs may be vulnerable to propaganda and subversive acts. A country like Nepal, where the majority of the people are still not adequately acquainted with the national norms and values, and sense of responsibilities and duties attached with the democratic system are likely to be exploited by various armed and other groups to solve their own vested interests.

Armed Groups: After being solved a decade long Maoist armed insurgency; there are still dissatisfied groups who have gone underground. Time and again they have carried out sabotage for their political gain. At a time when Nepal has been passing through a severe security crisis appearing, Armed forces of Nepal have expressed their concerns in mature wordings. We all know that security actions are just means to create conducive environment for political negotiations. The sustainable solution of security challenges should only be achieved politically. By negotiating with the government, the mainstream Madhesi parties have participated in the state affairs through the peaceful means. But still several other armed groups based on this region with separatist outlook are launching violent activities for seeking secession. Therefore, internal security of Nepal is in severe strains. After continual deployment to quell the agitation, Nepal Armed Police and Nepal Police are oversaturated

(Joshi, 2000).

Organized Crimes: Nepal is experiencing tremendous challenges to security i.e. the violation of the rule of law, hooliganism, drug and gold smuggling, girls' trafficking, abduction, etc. Such organized criminal groups have a negative impact on public confidence and perception on towards nation is largely based on how effectively the security institutions with crime in any given area. Actually, the weakening of state capacities in the post-conflict period facilitated the emergence of new forms of crime and consequently systems of violence. In this context, it is important to prioritize security and the rule of law to reduce serious crimes that could further destabilize society and undermine the reconstruction effort for lasting peace. However, increased criminalization in Nepal has become a huge challenge to national security. This situation clearly warrants the need for appropriate mechanisms to deal with the rising levels of organized crime in Nepal.

Corruption: Corruption can be broadly defined as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. Corruption can range from a broad misuse of power and authority to moral decay. In simple terms, corruption is an act of bribery or the use of public power for private profit that constitutes a serious breach of the rule of law. A broad and comprehensive concept of national security encompasses various security concerns, including human security (Joshi, 2000). In this vein, corruption and poverty can be detrimental to human security and national development. When corruption becomes endemic, it can derail political and economic transitions, undermine state capacity and legitimacy, exacerbate poverty and inflame grievances linked to many forms of conflicts. Governments across the world, particularly those in developing countries, have come to realize that threats to national security are more likely to emanate from internal rather than external sources; and Nepal is no exception. Corruption has taken firm hold in Nepali society, causing significant negative impact to economic and developmental activities and to the socio-cultural value system at large.

Environmental Threats: One of the issues that have greatly been affecting the security is the growing environmental challenge that the country is facing (Bhattarai, 2010). There are many other threats that are natural and imminent from our natural surroundings. Sometimes, it may be because of human action or behavior towards nature. Because of the geographical setting of the country, we are also viable target of various kinds of natural/ecological/ environmental threats.

Flood: The overflow of the water in the rivers and rivulets causes the flood. Large part of the Nepal is covered with the steep mountains and hills. The incessant and heavy rain in the high hills rises the level of the rivers, and the swelling rivers cause flood in the flat region of Nepal. The felling of the trees in the hills and mountain areas are the key factors of flood. There is a huge loss of human lives and property. Moreover, it washes away the cultivated land and leaves the land barren.

Deforestation, Landslide and Soil Erosion: The human activities like cutting down the trees and making homes for shelter in the hills are causing great natural disasters. Landslides and soil erosion in the hilly and mountainous areas are causing a great loss. The lower hills have become bare because of deforestation and the soil erosion is causing a great havoc in the nation. Plants provide oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide. Moreover, the trees help to maintain the ecosystem and make the environment clean, provides fresh air, etc. Due to human errors, the nation is having a great loss of lives and property every year. For its remedy, people's awareness level should be made higher and afforestation is greatly needed.

Earthquake: This is one of the natural disasters. Though it is beyond the control of human power, earthquake does not cause harm itself; it is because of the structure that is wrongly built by human beings. Nepal is on the earthquake zone and people should be aware while constructing their houses. The massive earthquakes that occurred in Nepal in the past have caused a tremendous damage. Necessary measures should be taken from the government and people's sides so that there will not be a great harm.

Global Warming: Global warming has turned to be a serious issue in the modern world. Due to rapid growth in population and industrialization, trees are being badly cut down; there is the excessive use of petroleum products. The environment is badly being degraded and the global temperature is rising high. These activities are causing to melt the snow in the mountains and in the polar-regions. It is polluting the air as well. There is the serious effect in the whole environment or ecosystem. Nepal is a party to the UNFCCC, a treaty, which aims to ‘stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system’ (Sharma, 2009).

CONCLUSION

Every state faces external and internal challenges. The external forces, like global diplomacy and regional burden-sharing influence affairs of every state, Nepal is no exception. Identifying own national security need is one of the primary national security tasks of a state. Maintaining a proper balance between own interests and the interests of external forces is an art of statecraft. It needs the stable government and visionary leadership to lead the nation and to manage the external and internal crises and threats of national security. In a complex security situation, internal cohesion is the strongest weapon to resist external pressures. Strengthening the security forces, economic, environmental, geo-political relation and socio-cultural diversity is an essential component to reduce the external and internal treats and challenges of Nepal national security.

Since Nepal is situation between two giant nations, it is necessary to manage the vital relations with both the powerful neighbors without being inclined to any country. To overcome this issue, we have to be self reliant, we should keep balanced relations with both the countries. Our land should not be used for the unwanted activities that cause harm to our neighbours. Nepal should emphasize on managing good relations with India and China based on trust, confidence and credibility are the topmost priority of our foreign and national security policy.

Promoting democracy, the rule of law and human rights, ensuring plural and inclusive state and establishing political stability should be the basic principles that can manage the threats and challenges of national security. The people are the main guarantors and benefactors of national security. It is a “shared vision,” a “collective will,” and an “enduring effort” that should constitute the foundation of Nepal’s National Security Policy. Security at military, social, political, economic, environmental, information and other areas have to be protected in order to mänge and resolve the threats and challenges of national security. The causes that have arisen theunstable circumstances due to discrimination and poverty must be duly addressed to meet the public aspirations. Adaptable and comprehensive security architecture that may balance the domestic interests, are required to overcome the growing threats and challenges to the national security of Nepal.

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