

**Netra Bahadur Karki**

# Refugees in Nepal. Impact on Refugee Lives and National Security

**Master's Thesis**

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**Refugees in Nepal: Impact on Refugee Lives and National Security**  
- Netra Bahadur Karki

# **REFUGEES IN NEPAL:**

## **IMPACT ON REFUGEE LIVES AND NATIONAL SECURITY**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Department of Strategic Studies, Army Command and Staff College**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the**

**Degree of Master of Arts in Strategic Studies**

**Submitted by**

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**January 2016**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Refugees from Tibet Autonomous Region of People's Republic of China commenced fleeing into Nepal crossing the Himalayas since 1959 till today. The Bhutanese refugees first entered Nepal in 1990 and the number reached 107,810 in 2008. Additionally, remarkable numbers of the asylum seekers from different countries are taking refuge in Nepal.

In this study, descriptive research design was used to find out the refugee influx in Nepal and its impact on refugee lives and national security of Nepal. Quantitative and qualitative data from primary and secondary both sources are utilized in this triangulation study. Semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data from 100 Tibetan and Bhutanese refugee respondents. Focused group discussion was carried out with 35 urban refugees and a semi-structured interview was conducted with a subject matter expert. The analysis was done using descriptive statistics: frequency and percentage.

The study shows that 90 percentage of the Tibetan and Bhutanese refugees are facing various problems: identity, unemployment, health, socio-cultural and religious, access to further education, food, shelter. Refugees are found involved in various frivolities: murder, rape, looting, fake citizenship, fake passport, smuggling and protest including self-immolation. Forty-six percentage of the Tibetan and 47 percentage of the Bhutanese refugees agreed that Nepal is facing different problems due to the refugee influx. The study shows that refugee influx has depressing impact on the internal security of Nepal.

The refugee issues have unconstructively affected Nepal's relation with her neighbours, other countries and agencies. Effort of GoN has not been enough for refugee management and solution finding; however, effort of UNHCR and IOM for 100,706 Bhutanese refugee resettlement highly appreciated. International efforts should be more intensified to manage approximately 33,118 refugees residing in Nepal with more economic assistance, providing educational opportunities, enhancing vocational skills, assistance for repatriation or resettlement in third countries.



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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

AMDA	Association of Medical Doctors of Asia
APA	American Psychological Association
APF	Armed Police Force, Nepal
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CIB	Central Investigation Bureau
CNN	Cable News Network
GoN	Government of Nepal
IBM	International Business Machines Corporation
IDPs	Internally Displaced People
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MJC	Ministerial Level Joint Committee
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal
MRP	Machine Readable Passport
NP	Nepal Police
NUCRA	National Unit for Coordination of Refugee Affairs
RC	Refugee Card
RCU	Refugee Coordination Unit
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
TNA	Tibetan New Arrival
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USA	United States of America
WFP	World Food Program

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background**

Human beings preferably enjoy their indigenous circumstances unless forced by the persecution and violations typically caused by the racial, ethnic, caste, religious, socio-economic or political tribulations. Numerous people have been observed being displaced internally or fled out of the state since the existence of the state. Article 1 of the 1951 Refugee Convention, as amended by the 1967 Protocol, defines a refugee as:

A person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it (“Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees,” 2010).

Millions of the world population is being witnessed becoming refugee or internally displaced and compelled to reside in pathetic conditions even in the 21st century, and Nepal is hosting a portion of those displaced for a long time. Nearly 100,000 Tibetan followed Dalai Lama in 1959 and spread out in many countries including Nepal. In March 1959, Tibet's young leader, the Dalai Lama, escaped from Lhasa under cover of night and sought asylum in India (Bernstorff & Welck, 2003). Approximately 20,000 of those Tibetan refugees, entered by and before 1989, are hosted by Nepal and another big mass of more than 100,000 Bhutanese refugees were hosted by Nepal from the year 1991. After Nepal opened up for the outside world in 1950, different literatures show that, apart from Tibetan and Bhutanese, Nepal has hosted Burmese refugees, Bangladeshi refugees, Kashmiri refugees and Punjabi refugees in varied span of time. Besides these all, urban refugees and/ or asylum seekers from different parts of the world, approximately 500 in number, are hosted by Nepal.

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Refugees forced by various internal and external reasons are compelled to flee out of own beloved country and face many problems abroad. Socio-economic problems, lack of health facilities, cultural and religious complications, food insecurity, problem of shelter, lack of access to education etc. are the potential areas of difficulties refugees have to live with. The children, elderly people and the female seem to be extremely vulnerable to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), looting, abuse and exploitation and so on. Security has been the paramount important for the wellbeing of the refugees. Security is feeling of assurance against any kind of threat. Limbu (2009) defines security as physical, mental, and psychological feelings, relative to time, space, environment, and consciousness levels of the people concerned. National security is a concept that government should protect its territorial integrity and its citizen from all types of internal and external threats. National security implies security, protection, maintenance and promotion of national interests from the internal and external threats and challenges. Our national security is a state or condition where our most cherished values and beliefs, our democratic way of life, our institutions of governance and our unity, welfare and well-being as a nation and people are permanently protected and continuously enhanced (“Threat to National Security,” 2009). The researcher, in this study, has tried to discuss the security threats caused by the refugees in Nepal.

The 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol has provided particular role for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the state parties are to co-operate UNHCR. By its Statute, UNHCR is tasked with, among others, promoting international instruments for the protection of refugees, and supervising their application as stated in the Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (2010):

States undertake to cooperate with UNHCR in the exercise of its functions, which are set out in its Statute of 1950 along with a range of other General Assembly resolutions, and, in particular, to facilitate this specific duty of supervising the application of these instruments.

Nepal, in spite of being non-signatory to any of the convention or protocol, has been cooperating UNHCR for humanitarian cause and is obviously prone to several

miserable effects. Four major issues-areas can be taken into account for a broad framework of refugee study: (a) civil society, (b) environment, (c) democratic stability, and (d) foreign policy and security problems (Baral & Muni, 1996). Nepal has been struggling for prosperous future with demographic, social, political and economic troubles and at the same time, hosting refugees has obviously burdened. 1951 Refugee Convention lays down basic minimum standards for the treatment of refugees, without prejudice to States granting treatment that is more favourable. Such rights include access to the courts, to primary education, to work, and the provision for documentation, including a refugee travel document in passport form. In spite of being non-signatory of the Refugee convention, Nepal's treatment to the refugees should be humanitarian to meet at least the basics. This superfluous population adds more liability to any state. Social security, food security, health security, physical security, personal security etc. are the possible additional internal security responsibilities of the Government of Nepal (GoN).

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The process of refugee generation continued as the conflicts of state formation spilled-over into inter-state conflicts and tensions and stabilization of territorial boundaries of ethnically, religiously and ideologically defined states (Baral & Muni, 1996). Thus, affected by the conflict, the vulnerability of these refugees increase after the transformation of the status and need of the security becomes more crucial. The refugee from different countries offers additional security threat while Nepal is fighting with the security threat shaped by the various internal problems for a long time. Recently, Migrants from Middle East have been perhaps one of the biggest headaches in the history for the European Union, the thriving portion of the globe.

Living far in the foreign country in a stateless status generates many problems to the refugees themselves forcing to survive in a pathetic condition. The refugees face the problems of essential necessity like food, shelter, health and education, which is beyond the management capability of the host countries in almost all cases. Refugees have been found experiencing terrible scanty of the minimum facilities in spite of international humanitarian responses. Circumstances formed by the refugee obviously

have produced some sorts of security irritants for Nepal. Being a host country, Nepal has to ensure the safety and security of the refugee. National effort should be focused on their settlement and resettlement. In this study, the researcher has attempted to find out the status of refugees in Nepal, impact of statelessness on refugee lives and impact of refugee influx on national security of Nepal.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The study was focused to answer the following research questions:

- 1.3.1 What is the present status of refugees in Nepal?
- 1.3.2 What is the impact of the statelessness on refugee lives?
- 1.3.3 What is the impact of refugee influx on national security of Nepal?
- 1.3.4 What are the refugee management and solution finding efforts in Nepal?

### **1.4 Objective of the Study**

The general objective of this research paper was to unearth the likely threats to national security caused by the refugee problem in Nepal. For this, the specific objectives of the thesis were:

- 1.4.1 To appraise the present status of refugees in Nepal.
- 1.4.2 To probe the impact of statelessness on refugee lives.
- 1.4.3 To find out the impact of refugee influx on national security of Nepal.
- 1.4.3 To study the refugee management and solution finding efforts in Nepal.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The mass flow of forced displaced people has been observed during world wars, in and after the cold war and even today. The displaced refugees are always in huge need of humanitarian assistance and face economical, political, identity and security problems, and at the same time, the host nation have to deal with and manage those



issues that definitely threatens not only the national but also the international peace and security. On this background, it is very important to study the overall security threat created by refugees in Nepal, even though; a few issues have been studied separately by some authors, some of those are reviewed during this research. The researcher deems that the study helps to understand the present status of the refugees in Nepal, impact of statelessness on refugee lives and impact of refugee influx on national security of Nepal.

### **1.6 Conceptual Framework**

The Conceptual framework has been developed in order to achieve clear and in depth understanding of the study being carried out. Extensive literature review has apparently contributed to form the following conceptual frameworks:

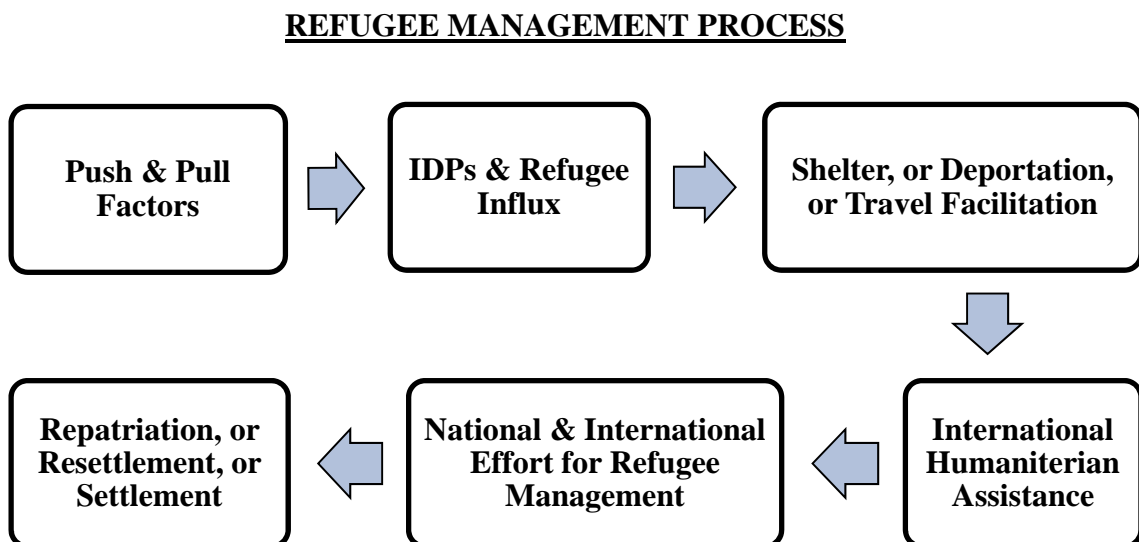


Figure 1: Refugee Management Process

Source: Author's own creation

Refugee management has been one of the toughest situations for the host countries and the international community as well. As shown in figure 1, push factors like unemployment, environmental degradation, drought, conflict, insecurity, injustice, inequality etc. and pull factors like opportunities, social security, justice, equality, access etc. have terribly forced the millions of world population to flee out of home.

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Some of the affected population becomes IDPs (Internally Displaced People) and some others flee out to others accessible countries. These people in many cases get refuge in the neighbouring countries and some are deported or facilitated to reach to other countries for the settlement. National and international humanitarian response is most in this situation for the immediate management of the refugees and for the solution finding process subsequently.

**NOTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY**

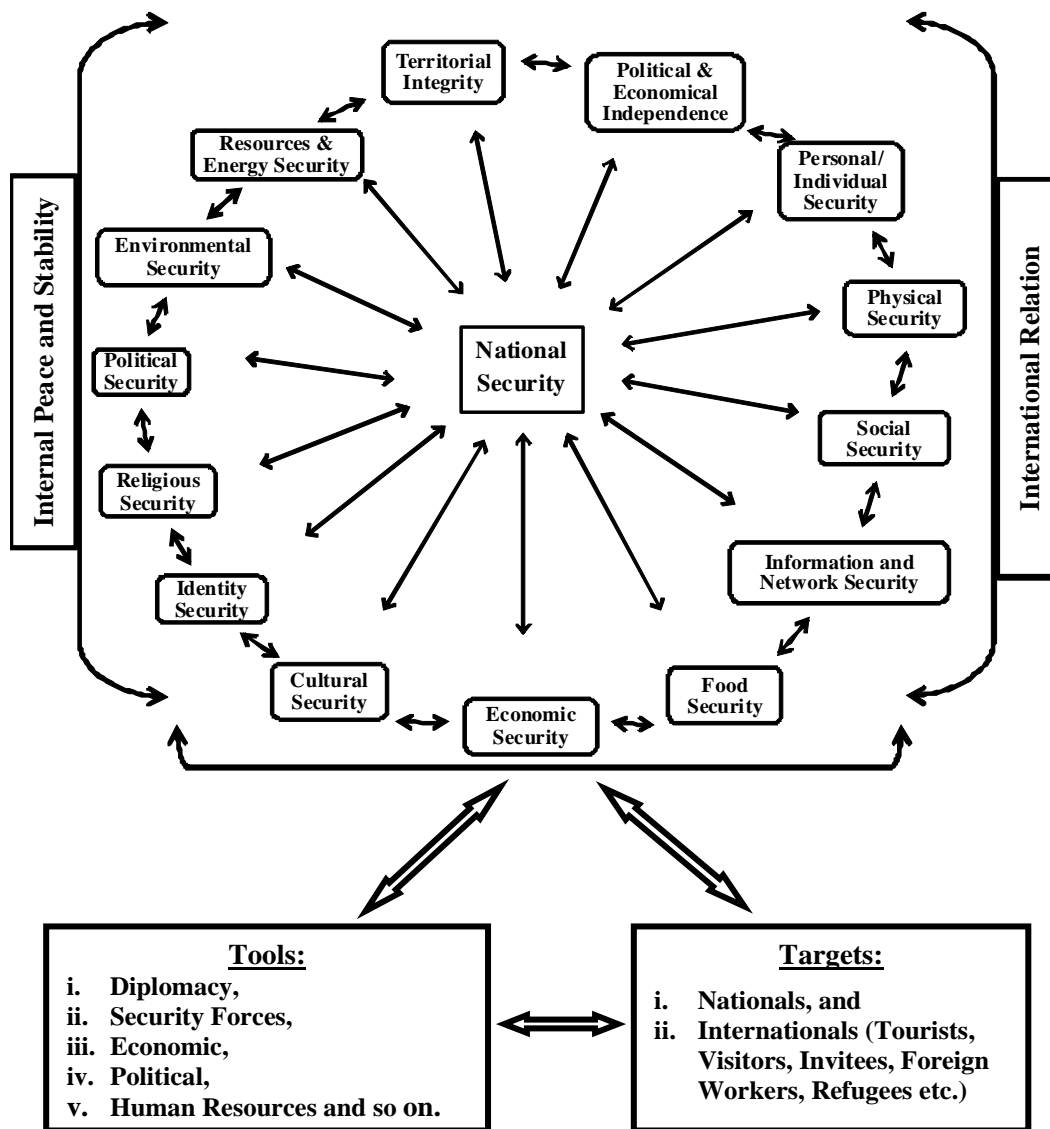


Figure 2: Notion of National Security

Source: Author's own creation

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As shown in figure 2, national security simply has twin aspects: concurrently enforcing of internal peace and stability, and maintenance of international relation. Security forces and diplomacy are two vital tools to national security where political, economical, social and cultural efforts cannot be disregarded. These all security endeavors, in fact, targeted to the beneficiaries: nationals and internationals.

**1.7 Limitation of the Study**

The study was based on the primary data collected through questionnaire from refugees being hosted by Nepal and the secondary data collected from National Unit for Coordination of Refugee Affairs (NUCRA) in Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), UNHCR Nepal, online literatures and various books are also utilized in this thesis. The sample size was smaller and the area of the study has covered only the Tibetan refugee, Bhutanese refugee and urban refugee in Nepal. It may not necessarily be generalized in different context.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 Becoming Refugees**

Various online literatures relating to the refugee and some books are reviewed to form the conceptual framework for this study. Nepal has received refugees in different periods. Political, ethnic, religious, nationality, race, social group etc. issues particularly in the neighbouring countries forced people becoming refugees in Nepal. Tibetans, who largely entered Nepal in 1959, are the first group (B. P. Subedi, 2001). "One nation, one people" policy of Bhutan in 1989 failed to mainstream the Nepali origin Bhutanese in the southern Bhutan that lead to the agitation. On this regard, Gautam (2013) stated:

The Nepali origin Bhutanese entered Nepal seeking asylum since 1990 after they were systematically evicted from their homeland by the royal Government of Bhutan on the ground of being illegal settlers and economic immigrants and regarded them as anti-nationals after the mass demonstrations of September 1990. They settled in Nepal under the status of refugees as screened and registered by the UNHCR.

In addition to Tibetan and Bhutanese refugees, Nepal has received some asylum seekers from different countries and they are named urban refugees. As stated by Jacobsen (2005), urban refugees face the same economic problems as the urban poor: shortages of jobs, housing, credit and banking services, higher prevalence of crime, and political marginalization.

Not only the urban refugees, all the stateless people are being noticed in pathetic living condition and many of them have even lost their lives. A three-year-old boy found lying facedown on a beach near Turkish resort of Bodrum was one of at least 12 Syrians who drowned attempting to reach Greece. Turkish media reported that his five-year-old brother had also met similar death (Smith, 2015).

## **2.2 Assorted Consequences of the Refugees to the State**

The refugee crisis has become a real problem for Nepal. The presence of refugees has given rise to economic, social, cultural, environmental and many more other problems in Nepal (Dahal, Pokharel, & Shakya, 2007). Researchers have shown that refugee's problem has created serious security threat to some hosting nations. In the mid 1990s, in a number of parliamentary debates in Kenya on the question of crime and security, several members including cabinet ministers blamed refugees for rising criminality in the country (Mogire, 2011). As a consequences of these events (conflicts) during the past decade and a half, there has been increasing recognition that massive refugee flow may threaten international peace and security (Loescher & Milner, 2005).

Nepal naturally faces several problems due to the refugee hosting and authors have exposed some illustrations in their literatures. Morang Police, on a press conference, made Ram Prasad Rai, a Bhutanese refugee from Sanischare camp, public who was arrested for looting Laxmi Bank Damak and murder of Man Bahadur Tamang from Sundarpur, Morang (Bhattarai, 2014). The questionable, restrictive and many criminal activities of the refugees have put themselves in suspicion. These activities vary from simple social disorder to serious crimes. In Tashi's case, he acquired Nepali citizenship, and along with it, the right to buy land, register a business, to travel outside the country, and to vote for people to represent his interests (Frechette, 2002). A Tibetan girl Dzechen Yangtai, 25, is arrested with fake Machine Readable Passport (MRP) who used citizenship card of Sita Tamang of Rasuwa district. Yangtai said she paid one lakh rupees to get that MRP and CIB has started investigation on the case ("Tibetan Girl Arrested with Fake MRP," 2014). Crippled with the destruction caused by the bloody Maoist insurgency which has taken 13,000 lives since 1996, Nepal has the additional burden of harbouring refugees from the neighbouring countries (Pandey, 2006). GoN has perceived the illegal and problematic activities of the refugees as serious security challenges and in fact challenge to national security. A Tibetan man who set himself on fire in Nepal's capital in the latest in a string of self-immolations protesting China's rule over Tibet has died at a hospital ("101st Tibetan to self-immolate in protest of Chinese rule since 2009 dies in Nepal," 2013). The refugee settlement have a wide range of impacts in diverse fields like economic,

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social, cultural, environmental and religious sectors since their arrival all over Nepal in general (Gautam, 2013). The influx of the refugees in Nepal has some types of negative impact in almost every aspect. The influx of the Bhutanese refugees has affected the natural, social and economic environment of the surrounding areas, because they are engaged in illegal cutting of trees in the government forests, are engaged in business and work as cheap labour thereby affecting the business and employment of the local community (Kansakar, 2006). As stated by NUCRA in “Refugees in Nepal : A Short Glimpse,” (2010):

Presence of a large number of refugees in heavily populated districts has created serious socio-ecological problems of diverse nature. Unemployment problem has further aggravated because the refugees have taken away scarce jobs of the local inhabitants. Heavy pressure of the refugees in the areas surrounding the forest resources has caused deforestation and environment degradation. Besides, problems like scarcity of foodstuffs, alcoholism, prostitution, social conflicts, epidemics and pollution have also been noticed. Similarly, maintenance of law and order has been threatened by the occurrence of frequent vandalism and violence in and outside the camp.

The refugee issues have been unproductive for the better international relation as well. Many problems in the border are observed during long span of time. A Romanian videotape that appears to show Chinese security forces shooting two Tibetan refugees in the Himalayas contradicts Beijing’s claim of shooting refugees in self-defense. China acknowledged that soldiers killed one refugee and wounded another on 30 September 2006 (Kahn, 2006). Nepal's immediate neighbours India and China sometimes seem to be suspicious.

In this chapter of literature review, these different works have provided the theoretical framework for this present study. These earlier precious discussions of various writers have assisted to form the outline for the study of the refugee problem in Nepal, impact of statelessness on refugee lives and impact of refugee influx on national security of Nepal.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

Descriptive research design was used in this triangulation study where qualitative and quantitative data were utilized from primary and secondary both sources.

#### **3.2 Study Area**

The area of this study has covered the Tibetan refugees, Bhutanese Refugees and Urban refugees in Nepal. Bhutanese Refugee Camp in Beldangi from Jhapa district, Tibetan Refugee Settlements in Chhorepatan Pokhara, Ekantakuna Lalitpur and Bouda/ Jorpati Kathmandu are specially focused during the research process.

#### **3.3 Source of Data and Data Collection Plan**

The data collection process was initiated with the formal official letter of the college. The primary data are collected from refugees through semi-structured questionnaire (Appendix A). The first hand empirical data collected via questionnaire were the invaluable and piteous experiences of the refugees themselves. The sample size of the Tibetan Refugee was 50, among them 23 individuals from Tashiling Tibetan Refugee Settlement, Chhorepatan, Pokhara, 12 individuals from Samdupling Tibetan Refugee Settlement, Ekantakuna, Jawalakhel, Lalitpur and 15 individuals from Choejor Tibetan Refugee Settlement, Bouda/ Jorpati, Kathmandu were involved.

For the questionnaire, 50 Bhutanese refugee individuals from Beldangi Bhutanese Refugee Camp, Jhapa were involved. Focused group discussion was conducted with 35 urban refugees from different countries outside of the UNHCR Kathmandu office on 18 December 2015 and the data was collected based on the same questionnaire. A semi-structured individual audio interview (Appendix B) was conducted on 22 December 2015 with Dr. Deepak Prakash Bhatta, an academia and a subject matter expert on international relations and security related field, to support the analytical

aspect. The questionnaire data collection in Pokhara and Jhapa was carried out by the enumerators. The secondary data were also utilized for the study, which were collected from various books, online publications, UNHCR Nepal and NUCRA.

### **3.4 Sampling Technique**

The data collection process was intricate due to the sensitivity of the refugee issues. The network-sampling technique was adopted for the data collection via questionnaire. The refugee individuals who could read and understand the questionnaire were the target sample and maximum diverse views were tried to be included.

### **3.5 Data Processing, Analysis and Presentation**

As this paper was designed to carry out descriptive and analytical study, the collected data are presented in the tables with the help of percentage and frequency. The data are rationally described and analyzed to come to the research conclusion where the opinion of the subject matter expert received in the interview is utilized to strengthen the analytical portion. Among the respondents of the questionnaire, a Masters Degree holder from Tashiling Tibetan Refugee Settlement, Chhorepatan, Pokhara and another Masters Degree holder from Bhutanese Refugee Camp, Beldangi, Jhapa were randomly selected for the follow up telephone interview to probe for more accurate and detail information.

All the questionnaire sets were coded and the qualitative data were labeled. The data were categorized based upon the labeled theme and the data entry process was done. The thematic analysis was based on the similar responses of the respondents. The responses received on the question number 5 i.e. the problems being faced by the refugees were categorized in these themes: a. No Refugee Card/ No citizenship/ No identity, b. Unemployment, c. Health problems, d. Socio-cultural & religious problems, e. No access to further education, f. Family and relatives split, g. Problem of food & shelter, h. Insecurity from wild animals, i. Difficult to get driving license, j. Problem to open bank account, k. Problem of travel documents, l. Restriction of



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refugee movements, m. Restriction on peaceful demonstration, n. No permission to apply for jobs, and o. No permission to own fixed property. The responses on the question number 7 i.e. problems being faced by Nepal because of the refugee influx are categorized under these themes: a. Economic problem and hike in market price, b. Criminal activities & Security related problems, c. Socio-cultural & religious problems, d. Political pressure from neighbouring countries, e. Deforestation, f. Over population, g. Environmental degradation & pollution, h. Shortage of resources, and i. Unemployment. Similarly, question number 9, 10 and 11 were also categorized under similar theme received by the respondents for the ease and accuracy of the statistical analysis. The data acquired by the questionnaire were analyzed with the help of Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) 20 software developed by International Business Machines Corporation (IBM). Zotero Standalone <https://www.zotero.org/> was utilized for the citation following American Psychological Association (APA) 6th edition of citation style.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **PRESENT STATUS OF REFUGEES IN NEPAL**

Nepal has extended her generosity to guests who abandoned their countries for noble causes since time immemorial. As of April 2015, 145 state parties are the signatories to the 1951 Refugee Convention, 146 signatory state parties to its 1967 Protocol, 142 signatory state parties to both of the instruments and 148 state parties signatory to one or both of the convention and protocol as of end of the year 2015. Nepal is a non-signatory to both, yet many people from Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, Bhutan, and other many countries have taken refuge and/ or asylum in Nepal on humanitarian ground. The refugees in Nepal, as per the UNHCR record, are categorized into three: Tibetan refugees, Refugees from Bhutan, and urban refugees. In addition to these, few people from different countries are migrated to Nepal and named as asylum seekers but GoN uses the term 'Illegal migrants'. Existing status of refugees in Nepal is presented in the following subheadings.

#### **4.1 Refugees from Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China in Nepal**

The flow of Tibetan refugees through the Himalayan border into Nepal commenced when the Dalai Lama XIV left Lhasa for asylum in India in 1959. The influx of the Tibetan refugees in Nepal continued for some more years and even at present. According to information received from different reliable sources, their total number is estimated to have reached 20,000 (“Refugees in Nepal : A Short Glimpse,” 2010). However, the 1993 record has confirmed only 12,540 Tibetan refugees in the country who got Refugee Card (RC) where second or perhaps third generations of them are already there. As shown in table 1, the only GoN data, these refugees were scattered over 21 different districts of the country.

**Table 1**

**Tibetan Refugees Population in Nepal by Districts, 1993**

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Districts</b>	<b>Population</b>
1.	Taplejung	219
2.	Ilam	50
3.	Sankhuwasabha	33
4.	Dolkha	82
5.	Sindhupalchok	57
6.	Bhaktapur	18
7.	Lalitpur	1307
8.	Kathmandu	4795
9.	Rasuwa	297
10.	Solukhumbu	890
11.	Gorkha	38
12.	Kaski	1924
13.	Tanahu	856
14.	Manang	419
15.	Mustang	297
16.	Baglung	263
17.	Nawalparasi	110
18.	Dolpa	698
19.	Jumla	110
20.	Humla	2
21.	Darchula	75
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,540</b>

Source: "Refugees in Nepal: A Short Glimpse" published in December 2010  
by NUCRA

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**Table 2**

**Tibetan Refugees Population in Nepal as of 12 April 2009**  
**(Demographic Survey of Planning Commission, Dharmashala)**

Name of the Settlement	RC Holders		Non-RC Holder				Total
			>16 Years of age		<16 Years of age		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Tashiling- Pokhara	129	152	157	158	113	108	817
Tashi Palkheil- Pokhara	171	209	142	141	87	78	828
Jampaling- Tanahu	192	200	55	70	62	55	834
Paljorling- Tashigang- Pokhara	156	110	56	33	81	80	516
Tserok Namgyaling- Mustang	32	43	62	54	31	41	263
Delekling- Solukhumbu	16	25	13	13	10	9	86
Thupten Choeling- Solukhumbu	27	148	53	173	1	2	404
Namche- Solukhumbu	26	23	38	43	8	8	146
Gegyeling- Rasuwa	24	19	33	51	23	32	162
Nubri- Manang	1	-	22	15	8	7	53
Samdupling- Jawalakhel	165	241	196	186	97	96	981
Phakshing- Swoyambhu	174	189	504	753	226	200	2,046
Kathmandu City Area	56	30	298	319	74	63	840
Norziling- Dhorpatan	43	38	49	33	32	7	202
Choejor- Boudha/ Jorpati	388	496	1,721	1,831	448	361	5,245
Samphelung Walung- Taplejung	14	8	79	83	17	21	222
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>1,931</b>	<b>3,478</b>	<b>3,956</b>	<b>1,318</b>	<b>1,168</b>	<b>13,465</b>
	<b>3,545</b>		<b>9,920</b>				<b>13,465</b>

Source: Tibetan Refugee Welfare Center, Lazimpat, Kathmandu

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Table 2 shows, different from the almost obsolete government data in table 1, the population of Tibetan Refugees in Nepal provided by Tibetan Refugee Welfare Center on 17 December 2015. The demographic survey was carried out by the planning commission, Dharmashala. The Tibetan refugees are scattered in different ten districts of Nepal, namely Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Taplejung, Solukhumbu, Tanahu, Manang, Mustang, Rasuwa, Baglung and Kaski, as shown in the table 2. This statistics keeps on changing due to the Tibetan New Arrivals (TNA) entry and exit movements in Nepal. Out of 13,465, only 3,545 Tibetan refugees are RC holders and 9,920 are Non-RC holders.

#### **4.2 Refugees from Bhutan in Nepal**

The Bhutanese refugees, mostly ethnic Nepalese from Southern Bhutan, first entered Nepal at the end of 1990 from the eastern bordering town Kankarbhitta through the Indian Territory. A group of 60 asylum seekers was provided shelter for the first time at Maidhar in Jhapa on 12 December 1990 on humanitarian ground. By September 1991, approximately 5,000 refugees entered into Nepal and the number was increasing day by day. GoN requested UNHCR to coordinate emergency assistance for these refugees. Refugee Coordination Unit (RCU) in Jhapa in coordination with UNHCR registered 107,810 Bhutanese refugees by October 2008. Most of them were accommodated in seven camps of Jhapa and Morang districts of eastern Nepal.

The record revealed that out of the total registered refugees, 84.65 percentage possess Bhutanese citizenship certificates, 10 percentage land ownership certificates, 2.95 percentage school certificates, marriage certificates, court and service certificates of Bhutanese Government, while 2.35 percentage do not seem to have any evidence. It is alleged that their documents were seized forcefully by the Bhutanese Government (“Refugees in Nepal: A Short Glimpse,” 2010).

Many sessions of Nepal-Bhutan meetings failed to find the solution to the refugee problem. Finally, third country resettlement was chosen as the solution plan of International Organization for Migration (IOM).

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**Table 3**

**Population of Refugees from Bhutan from 01 January 2008 - 30 November 2015**

Date	Names of the Camp						Total
	Beldangi	Goldhap	Khudunabari	Sanischare	Timai	Out-of-Camp	
<b>01 Jan 08</b>	52,901	9,678	13,229	21,462	10,430	110	<b>107,810</b>
<b>01 Jan 09</b>	50,350	8,315	13,254	20,128	9,935	105	<b>102,807</b>
<b>01 Jan 10</b>	42,122	6,356	12,054	16,745	8,553	78	<b>85,908</b>
<b>01 Jan 11</b>	36,341	4,691	10,704	13,525	6,909	72	<b>72,242</b>
<b>01 Jan 12</b>	33,313	0	8,671	10,051	2,910	51	<b>54,995</b>
<b>01 Jan 13</b>	31,741	0	0	9,167	0	63	<b>40,971</b>
<b>01 Jan 14</b>	24,377	0	0	6,564	0	36	<b>30,977</b>
<b>01 Jan 15</b>	18,379	0	0	4,645	0	35	<b>23,059</b>
<b>30 Nov 15</b>	14,070	0	0	3,470	0	33	<b>17,573</b>
<b>Total population resettled as of 30 November 2015: 100,706</b>							

Source: UNHCR, Kathmandu, Nepal

Table 3 shows the cumulative number of the refugees from Bhutan from 01 January 2008 to 30 November 2015. As of 30 November 2015, 100,706 refugees are already resettled in third countries and 17,573 refugees are still in Nepal looking forward to be resettled.

**Table 4**

**Age and Sex Wise Population of Refugees from Bhutan as of 30 November 2015**

Population of Refugee	Sex	Camp Names			Total
		Beldangi	Sanischare	Out-of-Camp	
Age Group 0-4	Female	659	191	0	<b>850</b>
	Male	677	206	1	<b>884</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,336</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,734</b>
Age Group 5-11	Female	948	238	0	<b>1,186</b>
	Male	1,025	213	1	<b>1,239</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,425</b>
Age Group 12-17	Female	796	184	1	<b>981</b>
	Male	854	198	0	<b>1,052</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,033</b>
Age Group 18-59	Female	3,827	949	7	<b>4,783</b>
	Male	4,169	1,027	17	<b>5,213</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,996</b>	<b>1,976</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>9,996</b>
Age Group 60 and above	Female	468	112	4	<b>584</b>
	Male	647	152	2	<b>801</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,385</b>
<b>Total</b>	Female	6,698	1,674	12	<b>8,384</b>
	Male	7,372	1,796	21	<b>9,189</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,070</b>	<b>3,470</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>17,573</b>

Source: UNHCR, Kathmandu, Nepal

Table 4 shows that the Bhutanese refugees are kept in two camps. Among 17,573 refugees, 14,070 are in Beldangi camp in Jhapa, 3,470 are in Sanischare camp and

thirty-three are out of camp. The table also reveals that number of the male of all age group population is higher in both the camps except the age group 5-11 in Sanischare camp. The table further reveals that the number of male population of all age group, except age group 5-11, is higher in both camps. In Sanischare camp, the number of female population of age group 5-11 is higher than male population.

### **4.3 Urban Refugees in Nepal**

Generally, refugee camps are established for the better administer and supervision of the refugees, but for some reasons, urban refugees are allowed to settle in urban areas of a country where they found asylum. Reports show that about half of the world refugee population under UNHCR mandate now lives in urban settings (Wikipedia, 2015). Unlike refugees living in established camps, who are provided with food, homes, medical services, training and education, urban refugees live in cities they have fled to, at once more integrated with their new homelands and more vulnerable to them. Though the UNHCR supports urban refugees through assistance and education, some are still vulnerable to detention or deportation (Adhikari, 2009). As of end of the year 2015, 545 urban refugees from different ten countries are taking refuge in Nepal under UNHCR protection effort.



**Table 5**

**Population of Urban Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Nepal**

S.N.	Country of Origin	31 August 2015		30 December 2015		Variation
		Individuals	Percentage	Individuals	Percentage	
1.	Pakistan	264	50.96	268	49.17	Increased
2.	Myanmar	125	24.13	160	29.35	Increased
3.	Afghanistan	70	13.51	69	12.66	Decreased
4.	Sri Lanka	26	5.01	22	4.03	Decreased
5.	Somalia	19	3.66	12	2.20	Decreased
6.	Iran	6	1.15	6	1.10	Same
7.	Iraq	-	-	3	<1	Additional
8.	People's Republic of China	3	<1	3	<1	Same
9.	Bangladesh	3	<1	2	<1	Decreased
10.	Democratic Republic of Congo	2	<1	3	<1	Increased
<b>Total</b>		<b>518</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Increased by 5.21%</b>

Source: UNHCR, Kathmandu, Nepal

Table 5 shows the comparative number of the population of the urban refugees in Nepal. The number of the urban refugee is increased by 5.21 percentage in the month of December 2015 reaching 545 from 518. The population of the refugees and the asylum seekers from Pakistan, Myanmar and Democratic Republic of Congo is in increasing trend whereas from Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Somalia and Bangladesh is decreased. The asylum seekers from Iraq are new arrivals and additional country to be listed.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **IMPACT OF STATELESSNESS ON REFUGEE LIVES**

The refugees are seen to be surviving in very pathetic condition around the globe. A three-year-old boy found lying facedown on a beach near Turkish resort of Bodrum was one of at least 12 Syrians who drowned attempting to reach Greece. Turkish media reported that his five-year-old brother had also met similar death (Smith, 2015). They fled out of Syria due to the fierce civil war. These types of sample cases tell us the terrible living condition of the refugees.

The empirical experiences of the Tibetan and Bhutanese refugees staying in Nepal for decades have contributed to reveal the impact of statelessness on their lives. Table 6 below shows that four percentage of the Tibetan refugees and 30 percentage of the Bhutanese refugees are staying in Nepal for less than 20 years who are born and brought up in Nepal. Here, others all are staying in Nepal for more than 20 years. Ninety-four percentage of the family members of the Tibetan refugees and 66% of Bhutanese refugees are staying together in Nepal. Other 34% family members of the Bhutanese refugees are split and resettled in third countries. Among the respondents, 90% of the Tibetan refugees and the Bhutanese refugees have the same opinion that they are having some kinds of problems in Nepal. Sixty-two percentage of the Tibetan refugees stated that they have the problem of Refugee Card (RC) and 66 % of the Bhutanese refugees stated that they do not have citizenship card of any country and they, in fact, lack the identity of themselves. Unemployment is the problem of almost half of the respondents. Only 4% of the Tibetan refugees and 38 percentage Bhutanese refugees are facing different kinds of health problems like lack of health facilities, depression, anxiety etc. Fourteen percentage Tibetan refugees said that they have socio-cultural, religious and linguistic problems. The GoN has been suspicious on their religious and cultural activities. On the other side, only 10% of the Bhutanese refugees are facing socio-cultural and religious problems. Eight percentage of the Tibetan refugee respondents said that they are facing problem for technical education in Nepal and they do not have access to further abroad education. Thirty-eight percentage of the Bhutanese refugee respondents said that they are facing problem to get further education because of the inaccessibility and economic inability.

**Table 6**

**Status of Refugees and Impact of Statelessness on Refugee Lives**

**N=50**

S.N.	Status of Refugees	Tibetan Refugees		Bhutanese Refugees	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Duration of stay in Nepal:				
	Less than 20 years	2	4	15	30
	More than 20 years	48	96	35	70
2.	Where are the family members?				
	Together	47	94	33	66
	Family split	3	6	17	34
3.	Facing problems:				
	Yes	45	90	45	90
	No	5	10	5	10
4.	The problems being faced by the refugees:				
	No RC/ No citizenship/ No identity	31	62	33	66
	Unemployment	22	44	25	50
	Health problems	2	4	19	38
	Socio-cultural & religious problems	7	14	5	10
	No access to further education	4	8	19	38
	Family and relatives split	-	-	12	24

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Food & shelter problem	-	-	33	66
Insecurity from wild animals	-	-	10	20
Difficult to get driving license	15	30	-	-
Problem to open bank account	6	12	-	-
Problem of travel documents	15	30	-	-
Restriction of movement	5	10	-	-
Restriction on peaceful demonstration	4	8	-	-
No permission to apply for jobs	10	20	-	-
No permission to own fixed property	4	8	-	-

Source: Questionnaire Data Collection, 2015

The refugees, globally, are the product of the conflict, complexities, problems, injustice, inequality and so on, that's why they are always deprived of even the essentials to be alive and fundamental human rights as well (Bhatta, 2015). The data in the table 6 above further shows that among the Bhutanese refugee respondents, 20 percentage said they are facing insecurity of wild animals, 24 percentage are living far from families & relatives and 66 percentage are facing difficulty with food & shelter, where none of the Tibetan refugees is facing these basic problems. But, the Tibetan refugee respondents said they are facing the following problems which none of the Bhutanese refugees is facing. Thirty percentage of the Tibetan refugee respondents said they are not getting driving license with the help of the RC that they used to get before. Twelve percentage of them are facing difficulty to open bank account and 30

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percentage of them are having problem of travel documents. Ten percentage of those Tibetan refugees stated that their movement is restricted, 8 percentage said that they are restricted even for peaceful demonstration, 8 percentage said they do not have right to own fixed property and 20 percentage of them said that they are not permitted to apply for public jobs. Comparatively, the data on the table 6 displays that the problems of the Bhutanese refugees are of basic category.

In the group discussion with the urban refugees, it is revealed that some are in Nepal for more than 10 years and some are new arrivals. Some of the urban refugees came with their family members where some are split from their family members. When the researcher conducted Focused Group Discussion, the urban refugees were demonstrating outside the UNHCR office from 3 October 2015 due to the denial of sustenance allowance they used to receive earlier. The demonstration was continued until 18 December 2015 with the demands: to provide settlement and work permit in Nepal, or to repatriate to their home country, or resettle them in third country.

Tibetan Refugee Welfare Center, Lazimpat, Kathmandu submitted a memorandum to honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs Bijaya Kumar Gachhadar on 18 November 2011 to solve the problems of the Tibetan refugees. This particular memorandum has also talked about the problems of the Tibetan refugees similar to those received with the help of the questionnaire as listed in the table 6.

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **IMPACT OF REFUGEE INFLUX ON NATIONAL SECURITY OF NEPAL**

#### **6.1 Frivolities of the Refugees and Consequences to Security**

The reasons of becoming refugees have immensely shaped the character of the frivolities and have wide-ranging consequences on the internal security of any state. The researcher presents some of the activities related to the refugees in Nepal which show a variety of consequences to security arena. Bhutanese refugee Tul Bahadur Rai alias Bijaya, 44, was arrested from Thankot on the outskirts of the Capital by Metropolitan Police's crime division for killing two people in Jhapa five years ago. ("Bhutanese Refugee Arrested on Murder Charge," 2014). Morang Police, on a press conference, made Ram Prasad Rai, a Bhutanese refugee from Sanischare camp, public who was arrested for looting Laxmi Bank Damak and murder of Man Bahadur Tamang from Sundarpur, Morang (Bhattarai, 2014). These are just the representative examples of in which the Bhutanese refugees are involved in the criminal activities; and these additionally burdened the security responsibility of the Nepal Police (NP), Armed Police Force (APF) and of course the local authority.

On the other hand, some serious unlawful activities of the Tibetan refugees, which has negative impact on national and even international field, are endlessly being noticed. NP Central Investigation Bureau (CIB), on 26 July 2011, arrested immigration officer Ghanashyam Gautam on a charge of misusing Nepali passport to send two Nepalese, Jyang Tenzin, 15 and Tenzin Lhamo, 12 from Kiul-2, Sindhupalchok together with an agent Chhiring Tasi Gurung, 34 from Kagbeni-9, Mustang to America ("Arrest of Fake Passport Holders," 2011). A Tibetan girl Dzechen Yangtai, 25, is arrested with fake Machine Readable Passport (MRP) who used citizenship card of Sita Tamang of Rasuwa district. Yangtai said she paid one lakh rupees to get that MRP and CIB has started investigation on the case ("Tibetan Girl Arrested with Fake MRP," 2014). On 15 September 2015, District Police Office Jhapa arrested a Tibetan refugee Tenzin Sirup, 19, with 10 kg illegal gold and unlawfully possessed Nepali citizenship card

from Chandragadi (Adhikari, 2015). Almost every year, Tibetans has been observed self-immolating on the protest against China rule in Tibet. A Tibetan man who set himself on fire in Nepal's capital in the latest in a string of self-immolations protesting China's rule over Tibet has died at a hospital ("101st Tibetan to self-immolate in protest of Chinese rule since 2009 dies in Nepal," 2013).

Above mentioned few replica illustrations shows that the questionable activities of the refugees has caused serious effect on the law enforcement aspect and compelled GoN to additionally deploy NP and APF for the crime control and security purpose, however, the decreased number of the Bhutanese refugees and their camps has slightly reduced the consequences. According to police spokesperson Keshav Adhikari, Nepalese authorities have stepped up patrols and surveillance in areas of Katmandu where Tibetan refugees live to try to stop such protests from taking place again ("101st Tibetan to self-immolate in protest of Chinese rule since 2009 dies in Nepal," 2013). Urban refugees add troubles on implementation of rules and regulations. Lahore resident Nawid Ahmad, 42, fled to Nepal for safety and a new life but the country's policy on refugees has left him among hundreds trapped, jobless and mired in debt. He has a fine of over \$100,000 hanging over him and his family because they overstayed their visas ("Visa fines: Pakistani refugees, others condemned to 'hilly prison' in Nepal," 2014). The refugees suffer during the enforcement of law and order as the GoN's intention seems to avoid from becoming a haven for the refugees.

## **6.2 Impact on Internal Security of Nepal**

As discussed in the previous paragraphs with some examples of the frivolities, the authority face difficulties to maintain law and order in the refugee camps and other affected areas. The influx of the Bhutanese refugees has affected the natural, social and economic environment of the surrounding areas, because they are engaged in illegal cutting of trees in the government forests, are engaged in business and work as cheap labour thereby affecting the business and employment of the local community (Kansakar, 2006).

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**Table 7**

**Refugee Influx in Nepal and Impact on National Security**

N=50

S.N.	Status of Refugees	Tibetan Refugees		Bhutanese Refugees	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Nepal is facing problems:				
	Yes	23	46	38	76
	No	27	54	12	24
2.	The problems being faced by Nepal:				
	Economic problem and hike in market price	8	16	13	26
	Criminal activities & Security related problems	6	12	14	28
	Socio-cultural & religious problems	6	12	5	10
	Political pressure of neighbouring countries	11	22	-	-
	Deforestation	-	-	24	48
	Over population	-	-	15	30
	Environmental degradation & pollution	-	-	10	20
	Shortage of resources	-	-	3	6
	Unemployment	-	-	17	34

Source: Questionnaire Data Collection, 2015



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Table 7 above shows the respondents view regarding the refugee influx and its impact on national security of Nepal. Forty-six percentage of the Tibetan refugee respondents and 76 percentage of the Bhutanese refugee respondents have accepted that Nepal is facing some sorts of problems due to the refugee influx though most of the Tibetan refugees did not particularly point out the problems to Nepal. Among the respondents, 16 percentage of the Tibetan refugees and 26 percentage of the Bhutanese refugees said that Nepal faces the economic problems and problem of market price hike due to the refugee arrival in Nepal. Twelve percentage of the Tibetan refugees and 28 percentage of the Bhutanese refugees agreed on the increase of the criminal activities and security related problems. Among them, 12 percentage Tibetan refugees and 10 percentage Bhutanese refugees said there are some kinds of socio-cultural and religious problem in the host society. Twenty-two percentage of the Tibetan refugee respondents pointed out the political pressure of the neighbouring countries regarding refugee issues is the crucial challenge to Nepal. Among the respondents, only the Bhutanese refugees pointed out the following problems to Nepal due to the refugee influx: 48 percentage of them said deforestation, 30 percentage of them said over population, 34 percentage of them said unemployment, 6 percentage of them said shortage of resources and 20 percentage of them pointed out the environmental degradation and pollution. But at the same time, all participants of the urban refugees in the Focused Group Discussion said that there is no problem to Nepal because of the urban refugee influx.

The refugee influx has direct and indirect impact on the traditional or conventional types of security and non-traditional i.e. human security as defined by Human Development Report, 1994 (Bhatta, 2015). Refugees are the product of conflict and insecurity situations, and their presence in a given country, in turn create, contribute to or exacerbate conflict, tension and insecurity situation (Baral & Muni, 1996). As stated by NUCRA in “Refugees in Nepal : A Short Glimpse,” (2010):

Presence of a large number of refugees in heavily populated districts has created serious socio-ecological problems of diverse nature. Unemployment problem has further aggravated because the refugees have taken away scarce jobs of the local inhabitants. Heavy pressure of the refugees in the areas surrounding the forest resources has caused deforestation and environment

degradation. Besides, problems like scarcity of foodstuffs, alcoholism, prostitution, social conflicts, epidemics and pollution have also been noticed. Similarly, maintenance of law and order has been threatened by the occurrence of frequent vandalism and violence in and outside the camp.

Based on the data received through questionnaire, refugee involved frivolities and literatures, impact of the refugee influx on the internal security of Nepal can be discussed in the following sub-headings:

### **6.2.1 Involvement in Crimes**

Pathetic living condition of the refugees and greed in some cases has compelled them to involve in various crimes ranging from minor to heinous. District Police Office Jhapa arrested a Tibetan refugee Tenzin Sirup, 19, with 10 kg illegal gold and unlawfully possessed Nepali citizenship card from Chandragadi (Adhikari, 2015). This is the latest literature included in the paper and various literature records show that refugees are arrested and charged for crimes like drug trafficking, smuggling, robbery, fake passport, fake citizenship card, murder etc.; and these have been the challenging and threatening for GoN.

### **6.2.2 Problems in Border**

The Tibetan refugee influx is not stopping even after 56 years of their first entry. The young people from Tibet risk their lives to cross Himalayas to be in Nepal. A Romanian videotape that appears to show Chinese security forces shooting two Tibetan refugees in the Himalayas contradicts Beijing's claim of shooting refugees in self-defense. China acknowledged that soldiers killed one refugee and wounded another on 30 September 2006 (Kahn, 2006).

**Table 8**

**Tibetan New Arrivals (TNAs) as of 30 December 2015**

Year	TNAs		Total	Ratio
	Male n (%)	Female n (%)		
2015	63	12	75	Decreased by 6.25% of the year 2014
2014	52	28	80	Decreased by 53.21% of the year 2013
2013	99	72	171	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>214 (66%)</b>	<b>112 (34%)</b>	<b>326</b>	-

Source: UNHCR, Kathmandu, Nepal

Table 8 shows the continuous flow of the Tibetan refugees in Nepal. The ratio in the table shows that the flow of the Tibetan Refugee is in the decreasing trend where in 2014 it was significantly decreased. One reason is that a booming Chinese economy has persuaded many Tibetans to remain at home. Some are even returning to Tibet after years of exile (Demick, 2015). In the first eight months of 2012, the number of Tibetan refugees crossing the Himalayas into Nepal was about 400. Tibetans blame tighter Chinese security in Tibet, as well as Nepal border guards, for the reduced migration (Wong, 2013). The table reveals that more than 34 percentage of those TNAs in these three years are female. Those all TNAs are putting their lives at risk to enter Nepal and specially female are more vulnerable.

The Bhutanese refugees entered into Nepalese territory through Indian land and the border was always open to come into but the same border was robustly blocked when the same people tried to go back to their home. International laws and moreover humanity does not allow any country to treat the refugees inhumanely and deport them across the border (Bhatta, 2015). Initially, these asylum seekers attempted to stay in India. Once their appeal for Indian protection was rejected, they were forced to travel hundreds of kilometers across Indian territory to the Kakarvitta frontier post in Nepal (Dhakal, 2007).

### **6.2.3 Protests and Problems in Law and Order**

Recently, Paris was under shocking terrorist attack. Evidences and investigations point out the involvement of the Syrian refugee in the attack. A photo released late Sunday by Greece's migration policy ministry shows a document issued to 25-year old Ahmad Almohammad, holder of a Syrian passport found near a dead assailant in the scene of a Paris attack Friday (Tharoor, 2015). Literatures show that the refugees are involved in various heinous criminal activities, which put the states in low law and order situation and Nepal has not been out of such conditions. Dhakal (2007), in the Brussels presentation on Bhutanese Refugee Problems, stated that Nepal could face a severe security problem if the refugee issue remains unsolved indefinitely. Many Tibetans stage demonstration in front of the Chinese Embassy for "Free Tibet" and protest against GoN's restrictions every year remembering the escape of the Dalai Lama to India on 17 March 1959. On 31 May 2009, Bhutanese refugees in Shanishchare physically assaulted officials of Refugee Health Project of AMDA (Association of Medical Doctors of Asia) Doctor Dipesh Shrestha and logistics officer Baburam Nepal and vandalized an AMDA vehicle ("Surrounding Refugees," 2009). Maintaining law and order situation has been challenging and very difficult to any state because of the refugee movements: be it in Nepal or in European countries (Bhatta, 2015). The varied forms of protest are peaceful sit in, picketing, rally and sometimes self-immolation by the Tibetan refugees, which has caused serious threat to peace and stability in Kathmandu and other places of Nepal.

### **6.2.4 Physical Security**

Bhutanese refugee camps in Jhapa and Morang of Nepal has caught fire four times in last four months (Giri, 2013). GoN is already engaged with its own security challenges because of the prolonged political instability and concern of the refugees additionally piled up (Bhatta, 2015). Rescue during the disaster and constant camp security has been additional responsibility of the local authority; and units of APF and NP with remarkable strength are deployed for this. Security of the various offices working for refugees and protection of the movement has been important.

## **6.2.5 Human Security**

### **6.2.5.1 Economic and Food Insecurity**

Huge refugee influx in a country, no matter rich or poor, is an extra burden to local authority. Nepal is one of the poorest countries in South Asia with its own social, economic and political problems (Dhakal, 2007). Nepal has employed its human and other resources to alleviate the living condition of the refugees despite the fact that UNHCR and other organizations have remarkably contributed for the basics like food security, shelter, health and education. Food is available at markets outside the camps, but the refugees lack resources to purchase. The frequency of food consumption, including meat and dairy products, appears to be highly variable and low among refugees (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2014). The refugees are always facing the problem of food insecurity. The refugee problem has direct impact on Nepalese economy because of being over dependent on foreign itself. Nepali production lacks to fulfill even the basic requirements of the refugee, and naturally import increases.

### **6.2.5.2 Political, Socio-cultural and Religious Complexities**

GoN had granted refugee cards to Tibetan refugees only once in 1989 to ensure their fundamental needs; i.e. health, education, employment, travel and other facilities but generations of the cardholders are unidentified and deprived of all those basics. Number of monastery is increasing in the country since GoN has facilitating policy toward the socio-cultural and religious matters but high possibility of sheltering can assist "Free Tibet" movement. This can obviously have negative impact on the internal peace and stability, and its effects can create complexities between refugees and host population. As Muslims (Somali and others) living in a Hindu-majority nation, they have to travel several miles to reach the nearest mosque for prayers. Kathmandu's syncretic Hindu-Buddhist culture is hard for them to fathom (Adhikari, 2009). Nepalese authorities have banned the traditional commemoration ceremonies held each March by Tibetans to mark the anniversary of the failed 1959 uprising in Lhasa that led to the flight of the Dalai Lama (Demick, 2015). Abusing the economic

vulnerability of the refugees by using them in elections and other criminal activities has definitely socio-political implications. Ensuring civil, political, cultural, ethnical and religious rights of the refugees and asylum seekers is exceedingly huge challenge of GoN.

### **6.2.5.3 Personal/ Individual Security**

Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in and around refugee settlements has been immense threat for the society. Women forced to flee their homes are often caught in a vicious cycle of abuse, exposed to sexual exploitation throughout the refugee experience. Sexual and gender-based violence ranges from harassment, domestic violence and rape to female genital mutilation and the withholding of food or other essentials unless paid for with sex (UNHCR, 2006). Bhutanese refugee young girl, on 6 September 2008, from Beldangi Camp is gang-raped by 5 unknowns in a auto-rickshaw on her way to camp (“Refugee Girl Gang-raped,” 2008). Table 4 above shows that among 17,573 Bhutanese refugees remaining in Nepal, 35 percentage are children of below 17, 8 percentage are above 60 and almost half that is 48 percentage are female. These sex and age group are especially vulnerable to a range of crimes. Nepal Bar Association started legal assistance to the refugees from 2003 because of increasing numbers of crimes like domestic violence, rape, divorce and so on (“Around the Refugees,” 2009). Prevalence of social crimes like suicide, prostitution, drug abuse and other heinous crimes like rape, human trafficking and murder has extensively challenged the human security aspect of the related communities.

**Table 9**

**Age Group of Urban Refugees & Asylum Seekers as of 30 December 2015**

S.N.	Age Group	Urban Refugees		Asylum Seekers		Total %
		Individuals	Percentage	Individuals	Percentage	
1.	Adult Male	186	37.35	12	25.53	<b>36.34</b>
2.	Adult Female	131	26.30	11	23.40	<b>26.05</b>
3.	Children	181	36.35	24	51.07	<b>37.61</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>498</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: UNHCR, Kathmandu, Nepal

Table 9 shows the age and sex of the urban refugees and asylum seekers from ten different countries of the world. Among 545 refugees, 26.05 percentage are female and 37.61 percentage are children under 17 years of age.

**Table 10**

**Age and Sex of the Refugees from Bhutan as of 30 November 2015**

Age	Male	Female
0-4	5%	5%
5-11	7%	7%
12-17	5%	6%
18-59	30%	27%
60+	5%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>(9,189) 52%</b>	<b>48% (8,384)</b>

Source: UNHCR, Kathmandu, Nepal

Table 10 shows the age and sex of the refugees from Bhutan, 48 percentage are female and 52 percentage are male out of 17,573 remaining refugees. Among them, 10 percentage are under five years, eight percentage are above 60 years and 35 percentage refugees are under 17 years.

Both the tables 9 and 10 indicate the vulnerability of the refugees, specially those female and children who are always under the risk of SGBV like abuse and exploitation, malnutrition, rape, looting etc.

#### **6.2.5.4 Health Security**

Due to the economic problem and mass settlement, managing health issues has become difficult in refugee camps in spite of significant health support from AMDA and other organizations. Pathetic living condition and low level of awareness of refugee has high risk of health hazards and epidemic outbreak like cholera, conjunctivitis, bird flu, swine flu etc. Priority health conditions of the Bhutanese refugees are Anemia, Vitamin deficiency and Mental health when caring for or assisting Bhutanese refugees which represent a unique health burden for the Bhutanese refugee population (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2014). There are indications that the refugees suffer higher rates of depression and anxiety than the local population and the rate of suicide is four times that of the local population (IOM, 2008). Sexual assault, rape, trafficking, polygamy, domestic violence, and child marriage have all been reported in the camps. Domestic violence is probably the most pervasive form of gender-based violence suffered by Bhutanese refugees (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2014). Drug abuse, prostitution and insecure sexual activities have increased the risk of HIV AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. The adjacent communities are subsequently vulnerable to the outbreak of these kinds of diseases.

#### **6.2.5.5 Community/ Social Security**

State is accountable to guarantee the social security of the people who are economically incapable, disable, helpless single women, children and people of endangered caste whether be they nationals or internationals. In spite of the provision



of article 43 of Constitution of Nepal 2072, Nepal is still to be economically sound to guarantee the social security of the Nepalese and refugees as well. Disharmony in the community around the refugee settlement may lead to the complexities. The refugee influx has posed threat to the integrity of cultural diversity due to the harsh treatment against women, social taboos and other discriminating practices against ethnic or indigenous groups of refugees themselves.

#### **6.2.5.6 Environmental Degradation and Resources Protection**

Environmental degradation and natural resources protection has been of crucial importance. The presence of bulky number of refugees in Nepal has impact on water, land and others natural resources. After the establishments of the camps, not only demand of forest resources (fuel-wood and fodder) have been increased but the forest cover area is also decreased by one-fifth, posing threats and reducing the sustainability of the forest (Subedi, 2012). The fire wood crisis and need of woods for settlement construction facilitated deforestation around the refugee camps in Jhapa, Morang, Solukhumbu, Tanahu, Kaski, Manang, Baglung etc. of Nepal, which has been of serious concern for forestry authority. Refugees' settlements with no boundary on the forest area are posing continuous threats to the forest resources (Subedi, 2012). Land degradation due to plastic and other human waste is being observed.

### **6.3 Impact on International Relation**

Tibetan refugee issue has repeatedly blurred the USA-Nepal relation in the history, India-Nepal relation has also fluctuated over the periods because of the Tibetan and Bhutanese refugees (Bhatta, 2015). Conflicting interests of the neighbouring and western countries including USA has been polishing and boosting up the refugee issue in Nepal, in fact, those interests has burdened Nepal with the numerous displaced population remarkably from Tibet and Bhutan. A heightening of international interest in this (Bhutanese refugee) issue appears to have prompted several important steps... (Hutt, 2005). India protested strongly when King Mahendra proposed to China the construction of a motorable road linking Kathmandu and Tibet. In the fall of 1962, New Delhi imposed a blockade on landlocked Nepal (Mage, 2007).

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Chinese utmost request to Nepal for controlling anti-Chinese activities in Nepal is widely criticized and Nepalese ethics and values are frequently questioned. The visiting Chief of China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Luo Sang Jiang Cun, in a meeting with Nepali government officials, asked to take strong measures to ensure that Nepal's soil is not used for anti-China activities (Gajurel, 2014). Former President Jimmy Carter told reporters in Katmandu on April 1 that Chinese pressure was making the journey of Tibetans to Nepal more difficult (Wong, 2013). A Human Rights Watch report released this month shows how far Nepal has gone in capitulating to Chinese pressure in cracking down on Tibetan residents and refugees ("Doing China's Bidding in Nepal," 2014). China did once have reason to be wary of Tibetan activity in Nepal. During the 1960s, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) secretly trained Tibetan refugees in Nepal to wage guerrilla war against China (Demick, 2015).

The valley (Mustang, Nepal), just south of Tibet, was once a famed transit point for the Tibetan yak caravans laden with salt. In the 1960s, it became a base for Tibetan guerrillas trained by CIA to attack Chinese troops (Wong, 2013). Due to the political, economical and social reasons, Nepal was unable to prevent the establishment on its territory of CIA-trained and -financed Tibetan anti-Chinese Khampa guerrillas. From the early 1960s until 1973 "Khampa" Tibetans occupied two districts in Nepal that bordered Tibet (Mage, 2007). According to a confidential U.S. embassy cable published by WikiLeaks in 2010, China "rewards by providing financial incentives to officers who hand over Tibetans attempting to exit China." Another cable stated, "Beijing has asked Kathmandu to step up patrols and make it more difficult for Tibetans to enter Nepal" (Krakauer, 2011). Christina Rocca, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia (2001-2004), worked for advocacy of Tibetan independence and hard liners towards China. Rocca period was to see the close co-ordination of U.S. intervention in Nepal with the then BJP Indian government (Mage, 2007). As CNN (Cable News Network), in its international report, highlighted the refugee problem in Nepal and its complexities on international relation:

The US Embassy in Nepal is further surrounded in controversy with the opening of the official sealed letter of US embassy of Nepal found with the fake Nepalese passport holders on 26 July 2011 at the Tribhuvan International

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Airport. The content of the letter addressed the immigration officer at the US entry point saying, “The carrier of the letter is a Tibetan Refugee” (“Confiscated Letter Questions US Embassy of Nepal’s Credibility,” 2011).

For decades, Nepal has been sanctuary for its guests; however, her international image depends on actions for wellbeing of her neighbours and other countries as well. Nepal was the main station on an underground railroad for Tibetans fleeing China, but now, the doors are slamming shut, as Nepal, country with a chaotic political system and recovering from natural disaster, falls under the sway of China’s power and money (Demick, 2015). Those and these controversial activities of the powerful nations have brought Nepal in a very fluid situation, which must carefully and wisely be dealt with so that Nepal can be avoided from becoming play-ground of international interests.

## CHAPTER VII

### REFUGEE MANAGEMENT AND SOLUTION FINDING EFFORTS IN NEPAL

The refugee management has been the most complex and very difficult task for the concerned parties because of the sensitivity of the issue and multifaceted implications. EU, being a sample problem-solving organization, is still struggling with the management of the refugee influx from different corners of the globe. Formal refugee management process began with the influx of the Bhutanese refugees in eastern Nepal. In September 1991, UNHCR assumed responsibility for the coordination of emergency relief assistance for Bhutanese refugees in Nepal (Hutt, 2005). The process of repatriation discussed in the MJC was failed. Bhutan refused to even countenance the presence of any third party on its soil to monitor the repatriation process (Hutt, 2005). This indicates the lack of Bhutanese integrity for problem solving. UNHCR, IOM, USA and other western countries has been involved to minimize the Nepalese sufferings and Nepal should thank them, but still sustainability of the Bhutanese refugee resettlement remains questioned and the Tibetan refugee is remains as it was.

**Table 11**

#### Refugees Management and Solution Finding Efforts in Nepal

**N=50**

S.N.	Status of Refugees	Tibetan Refugees		Bhutanese Refugees	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Enough refugee management & solution finding efforts:				
	Yes	12	24	21	42
	No	38	76	29	58

Source: Questionnaire Data Collection, 2015

Table 11 shows the responses of the Tibetan and Bhutanese refugees on the refugee management and solution finding effort in Nepal. Majority of both the Tibetan refugees (76%) and Bhutanese refugees (58%) stated that the refugee management and solution finding efforts in Nepal is not enough. The data in the table 11 and Focused Group Discussion with the urban refugees indicate that there is necessity of more result oriented and concrete effort for the sustainable solution of the refugee problem in Nepal.

### **7.1 Refugee Management and Solution Finding Efforts of GoN**

The refugee management and solution finding efforts in Nepal remained result less because of the various influencing factors. Tibetan refugees are residing in Nepal for more than 55 years and they still keep on coming. Tibetan refugee matter is not significantly discussed bilaterally and not even raised internationally. Diplomacy has changed its top-secret dimension to open. Nepalese national interest has been hindered by the refugee issues and Nepal never has to be afraid of any hidden or seen power to put the issue on the international forum (Bhatta, 2015).

Fifteen sessions of the Ministerial Level Joint Committee (MJC) meetings could not materialize the effort of the GoN to solve the Bhutanese refugee problem. The Bhutanese refugee problem remained unsolved and they could not return to their homeland. Willingness of the Indian government would have solved the Bhutanese refugee problem then and there (Bhatta, 2015). Nepal wanted safe and voluntary repatriation of all the Bhutanese refugees to their homeland with dignity and honour. Nepal's determination to find an amicable solution to this refugee problem together with Government of Bhutan could not finalize the path and compelled and frustrated refugees chose to resettle in third countries with the plan of UNHCR and International Organization for Migration (IOM). Dhakal (2007) expressed appreciation for the GoN efforts:

Quite early in the 1990s, the Parliament of Nepal mandated that the government find an amicable resolution to the refugee problem resorting to (1) bilateral negotiations with Bhutan; if that failed, (2) to request assistance from the Government of India in convincing Bhutan to work for an amicable

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resolution; and if that also failed, (3) to internationalize the issue by seeking Western assistance. Thus far Nepal has maintained its support for repatriation of the Bhutanese refugees with honor and dignity as the real option.

The then Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala himself had raised this issue with the Indian government in 2001. Nepal has raised the issue of the refugees with Indian dignitaries both in Kathmandu and in New Delhi. Nevertheless, the Government of India has always maintained that the problem must be solved bilaterally (Dhakal, 2007).

**Table 12**

**Refugees Management and Solution Finding Efforts of GoN**

**N=50**

S.N.	Status of Refugees	Tibetan Refugees		Bhutanese Refugees	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Nepal should:				
	Provide citizenship & integrate	-	-	12	24
	Diplomatic effort for repatriation	-	-	12	24
	Diplomatic effort for resettlement	10	20	18	36
	Manage donor for better food and shelter	-	-	11	22
	Provide RC/ Travel document/ Driving license	18	36	-	-
	Provide access to further education	5	10	-	-
	Permit to apply for jobs	9	18	-	-
	Allow peaceful demonstration and freedom of movement	6	12	-	-
	provide equal rights to all refugees	15	30	-	-
	Formulate refugee law & sign refugee convention	8	16	3	6

Source: Questionnaire Data Collection, 2015

Table 12 shows the responses of the Tibetan and Bhutanese refugees on the measures that Nepal should do to manage the refugees in Nepal. Twenty-four percentage of the

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Bhutanese refugees seem to be interested in the integration in Nepalese society and same percentage are interested in repatriation to their own homeland, where none of the Tibetan refugees is interested in both. The urban refugees, in the Focused Group Discussion, appealed GoN to manage settlement and provide work permit to them. Among the respondents, 20 percentage of the Tibetan refugees and 36 percentage of the Bhutanese refugees want Nepal to intensify diplomatic effort for third country resettlement of the refugees. Unlike the Tibetan refugees, 22 percentage of the Bhutanese refugee respondents want Nepal to manage donor for better food and shelter. Among the Tibetan refugee respondents, 36 percentage said that the GoN need to address the problem of RC, travel document and driving license, 10 percentage said that the GoN need to provide access to further education like medical, engineering etc., 18 percentage look for the permission to apply for all types of public job in Nepal, 12 percentage urged the GoN to allow peaceful demonstration and guarantee freedom of movement and 30 percentage urge GoN to provide equal rights to all refugees whereas Bhutanese refugees did not raised these issues. The Tibetan refugee students interested in further higher education in engineering, medical etc. are facing difficulty for admission and they are not allowed to sit in the exams of medical council. The refugee students face problem to go for abroad higher studies because of the lack of travel document. Ten percentage of the Tibetan refugee respondents requested GoN to solve this problem so that access of the refugee students to further education is guaranteed. Six percentage of the Bhutanese refugee respondents and 16 percentage of the Tibetan refugee respondents want GoN to formulate refugee laws and sign refugee conventions. Despite being non-signatory to the refugee convention and its protocol, Nepal has been hosting the refugees from different countries. Signing those international conventions and formulating law at home provides Nepal legal foundation to internationalize the issue (Bhatta, 2015). The Supreme Court of Nepal has directed GoN in 23 September 2006 to make necessary refugee laws and to sign 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and ratify its protocol. In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal has again ordered GoN to formulate new legislation to ensure, in keeping with international laws, the rights for refugees.



## **7.2 International Efforts for Refugee Management and Solution Finding**

Nepal and Bhutan are separated by a wide stretch of Indian territory. Bhutan and India have no open border. However, because of the open border between Nepal and India they could easily enter into Nepal via Indian land. In reality, the first place of asylum for the Bhutanese refugees is India (Kansakar, 2006). India's role as a good neighbour and a concerned party could never be appreciated by the international community. Ownership and credit of the solution would have been in Indian court, but it went in a different way. Under international convention, it is the responsibility of India to settle the Bhutanese refugees in India by establishing refugee camps, but India drove them into Nepal (Kansakar, 2006).

International effort to manage Bhutanese refugees in Nepal is widely appreciated but the refugees themselves do not accept this resettlement process as a long-lasting solution. Most of them, be they resettled in the third countries or remained in Nepal, have strong desire to be in their home in the future. GoN cannot stay without appreciating specially UNHCR, IOM and USA for the resettlement of the Bhutanese refugees, however, more than 17,000 of them are still eagerly looking forward to be managed and connected to their relatives and family. With neither repatriation nor local integration a realistic possibility for the great majority of refugees, resettlement to a third country, such as the United States, has emerged as the only durable solution to the 16-year-old problem (Ranard, 2007). From February 2009 to February 2012, the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the United States Department of Health and Human Services reported 16 suicides among Bhutanese refugees who resettled in the United States (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA, 2012). On the other hand, the refugees from Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China in Nepal are suffering for more than half century and wait for the international response to address their issue. Various international interests have doubtlessly added trauma, sufferings and complexities to the Tibetan sentiment.

**Table 13**

**International Effort for Refugees Management and Solution Finding in Nepal**

**N=50**

S.N.	Status of Refugees	Tibetan Refugees		Bhutanese Refugees	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Other countries should:				
	Talk to China/ Bhutan to solve the problem	4	8	6	12
	Assist refugees for economic development	11	22	16	32
	Provide opportunity to further study	4	8	-	-
	Assist for resettlement	13	26	20	40
	India should provide passage to Bhutanese refugees for repatriation	-	-	3	6
2.	Agencies (UN, IOM, WFP and so on) should:				
	Assist for resettlement in third countries	6	12	19	38
	Assist for economic development, food & shelter of the refugees	7	14	7	14
	Pressurize Bhutan for repatriation	-	-	5	10
	Assist for skill development of the refugees	-	-	5	10
	Assist GoN for formulation of refugee law	7	14	-	-

Source: Questionnaire Data Collection, 2015

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Table 13 shows the responses of the Tibetan and Bhutanese refugees on the international management and solution finding effort. Eight percentage of the Tibetan refugee respondents and 12% of the Bhutanese refugee respondents said that the international community should talk to the respective countries (China and Bhutan) to solve their problem. The international community can no longer turn a-blind-eye to this calamity. The United Nations must insist that Bhutan, a member state, honor its convention on refugees, including respecting our right to return (Mishra, 2013). Among the respondents, 22 percentage Tibetan and 32 percentage Bhutanese refugees stated that the international community should assist them for economic development. Eight percentage of the Tibetan refugees said that the developed countries should help them for further study. Six percentage of the Bhutanese refugee respondents said that India should provide passage to Bhutanese refugees for repatriation. India should use its influence to pressure Bhutan to do the right thing; it should then reopen the roads it created to accommodate the exodus of refugees but this time to allow our safe return (Mishra, 2013). Among the respondents, 26 percentage of the Tibetan refugees and 40 percentage of the Bhutanese refugees said that the developed countries should work on their third country resettlement. Most of the urban refugees wish for resettlement in the developed countries.

Table 13 further in serial number 2 shows the expectations of the Tibetan and Bhutanese refugees from various agencies like UNHCR, IOM, WFP and so on. Among the respondents, 12 percentage of the Tibetan refugees and 38 percentage of the Bhutanese refugees expect the agencies to assist for their third country resettlement. Fourteen percentage of both the Tibetan and Bhutanese refugees said that the agencies should assist them for economic development, food and shelter. Ten percentage of the Bhutanese refugee respondents expect agencies to assist for skill development and pressurize Bhutan for their repatriation. Fourteen percentage of the Tibetan refugee respondents want the agencies to assist GoN for the formulation of refugee laws. The urban refugees, in the Focused Group Discussion, urged UNHCR to provide them settlement and work permit in Nepal, or repatriate to their home country, or resettlement them in third countries.

**Table 14**

**Resettlement of Bhutanese Refugees as of 30 November 2015**

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Resettlement Country</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Total</b>
1.	Australia	2,784	2,823	5,607
2.	Canada	3,339	3,274	6,613
3.	Denmark	446	428	874
4.	Netherlands	163	164	327
5.	New Zealand	505	497	1,002
6.	Norway	338	228	566
7.	United Kingdom	184	174	358
8.	United States of America	42,213	43,146	85,359
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>49,972</b>	<b>50,734</b>	<b>100,706</b>

Source: UNHCR, Kathmandu, Nepal

Table 14 shows that 100,706 Bhutanese refugees are already resettled in different eight countries namely Australia, Canada Denmark, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom and of course United States of America with the highest contribution resettlement of 85,359 individuals as of end of November 2015.

UNHCR has been providing free health facility to the urban refugees in the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, free education up to grade ten to their children and sustenance allowance Nepalese Rupees 4,750/- per person, but the allowance is not continued since October 2015 due to the budgetary and other reasons. As of 31 March 2015, 73 urban refugees were resettled in USA and Canada, and the process is more or less ongoing which can be observed in the urban refugee table 5. Legal provision of GoN to fine overstay has monetarily affected the resettlement process. AMDA has been providing health facility to the Bhutanese refugees. The refugees are facing paucity of resources and the facilities even though WFP and others many INGOs/NGOs are involved in the Bhutanese refugee camps.

## **CHAPTER VIII**

### **FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **8.1 Findings**

8.1.1. Refugees from Tibet Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China in Nepal, entered since 1959 and even today, are more than 13,000 in ten different districts.

8.1.2. Refugees from Bhutan in Nepal, entered on and after 12 December 1990, reached 107,810 in number in the year 2008. The third country resettlement process is ongoing and 17,573 remain in Nepal as of 30 December 2015.

8.1.3. Total number of the urban refugees and asylum seekers from ten different countries in Nepal is 545 and the number is in increasing trend.

8.1.4. Most of the Tibetan and Bhutanese refugees in Nepal are staying for more than 20 years.

8.1.5. The refugees from Bhutan and Tibet are facing these common problems:

- 8.1.5.1. No RC/ No Citizenship/ No identity,
- 8.1.5.2. Unemployment,
- 8.1.5.3. Health problems,
- 8.1.5.4. Socio-cultural and religious problems, and
- 8.1.5.5. Lack of access to further education.

8.1.6. The Bhutanese refugees are facing these additional problems:

- 8.1.6.1. Problem of food and shelter,
- 8.1.6.2. Family and relatives split, and
- 8.1.6.3. Insecurity from wild animals.

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8.1.7. The Refugees from Tibet Autonomous Region of People's Republic of China are facing these different problems:

- 8.1.7.1. Difficulty to get driving license,
- 8.1.7.2. Problem to open bank account,
- 8.1.7.3. Problem of travel document,
- 8.1.7.4. Restriction of movement,
- 8.1.7.5. Restriction of peaceful demonstration,
- 8.1.7.6. No permission to apply for job, and
- 8.1.7.7. No permission to own fixed property.

8.1.8. Refugees are found involved in various frivolities, namely: murder, rape, looting, fake citizenship, fake passport, smuggling and protest including self-immolation.

8.1.9. Impact of refugee influx on internal security of Nepal are as listed:

- 8.1.9.1. Involvement in crimes: simple to heinous,
- 8.1.9.2. Problems in border,
- 8.1.9.3. Protests and problems in law and order,
- 8.1.9.4. Physical security burden, and
- 8.1.9.5. Human security burden: Economic and food insecurity; Political, socio-cultural and religious complexities; Personal/ Individual security; Health security; Community/ social security; and Environmental degradation and resources protection.

8.1.10. Tibetan refugee issue has repeatedly blurred the USA-Nepal relation and Indo-Nepal relation has fluctuated due to the Tibetan and Bhutanese refugee issues.

8.1.11. Activities of USA in Nepal like assisting "Khampa" in 1960s and recent "confiscated letter of US embassy" has made China suspicious and created rashes on USA-Nepal-China relation.

8.1.12. Europeans and other human rights organizations are continuously criticizing the restrictive behaviour of GoN toward Tibetan refugees and Nepalese fall under Chinese pressure is widely claimed.

8.1.13. Effort of GoN has not been enough for refugee management and solution finding. Refugees want GoN to provide them identity document, furtherance massive diplomatic effort, provide them access to further education, to formulate domestic refugee law and sign refugee convention and its protocol.

8.1.14. Effort of UNHCR and IOM for 100,706 Bhutanese refugee resettlement in USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, United Kingdom and Netherlands is highly appreciated.

8.1.15. Urban refugees are also passing through the similar kinds of difficulties. International efforts should be more intensified to manage the Tibetan, Bhutanese and urban refugees in Nepal with more economic assistance, providing educational opportunities, enhancing vocational skills, assistance for repatriation or resettlement in third countries.

## **8.2 Conclusion**

The finding of the study shows that by the end of the year 2015 a total number of 33,118 refugees are residing in Nepal. Dispersion of these refugees all over the country from capital city Kathmandu to the remote locations has multifaceted impact on diverse aspects of Nepal. Frivolities of the refugees have made GoN suspicious rather than sympathizer.

The presence of large number of refugees has facilitated environmental degradation and harmful effect on water, land and others natural resources. Peaceful protests, picketing, rally, violent demonstrations and sometimes self-immolation by the Tibetan refugees has serious threat to peace and stability in the country. Involvement of the refugees in crimes like drug trafficking, smuggling, robbery, fake passport, fake citizenship card, murder and prevalence of social crimes like suicide, prostitution, drug abuse and other heinous crimes like rape and SGBV in and around refugee

settlements have been the challenging and threatening internal peace and stability of Nepal. GoN has additionally deployed units of APF and NP with remarkable strength for the security of the camps, various offices working for refugees and their movements. On top of all, the refugee issues have negatively affected Nepal's relation with her neighbours, other countries and agencies.

### **8.3 Recommendation**

Supreme Court of Nepal has twice directed the GoN to formulate new legislation to ensure, in keeping with international laws, the rights for refugees. Sixteen percentage of the Tibetan refugee respondents, 6 percentage of the Bhutanese refugee respondents and most of the urban refugees participants strongly urged the GoN for formulating domestic refugee law and signing 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and the potential consequences of the law and ratification can be interesting research scope.

As of the end of the year 2015, 100,706 Bhutanese refugees are already resettled in third countries. Twenty-six percentage of the Tibetan refugee respondents, 40 percentage of the Bhutanese refugee respondents and all the urban refugee participants showed their strong willingness to be resettled in third countries. The reason for increasing number of the urban and Tibetan refugees might have hidden somewhere around. This will be another motivating area of research.

International community should be more focused to manage the Tibetan, Bhutanese and urban refugees in Nepal with more economic assistance, providing educational opportunities, enhancing vocational skills, assistance for repatriation or resettlement in third countries. GoN should work more proactively for refugee management and solution finding by providing refugee identity card, providing them access to further education and last but not the least, balanced diplomatic relation to all the concerned countries to solve the refugee problem for the sustainable internal peace and stability.



## APPENDICES

### Appendix A

(Referred to page 11)

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Researcher Student: **Netra Bahadur Karki**

**Namaste,**

Prevalence of various problems in a state forces a person to leave own country to be a refugee. Both the refugees and the host country Nepal are facing different problems. The aim of this questionnaire is to study the **impact of statelessness on refugee lives and the impact on national security of Nepal**. With due consent of the participants, the researcher assures the anonymity of this study data which are used only for pure study purpose. The refugee individuals who can read and understand this questionnaire are eligible and requested to participate in the study so that the researcher can probe the problems being faced by the refugees and Nepal as a host country in the thesis titled "**Refugees in Nepal: Impact on Refugee Lives and National Security**" for partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's Degree of Arts in Strategic Studies.

SN	DETAILS		
1.	Name:		
2.	Age:	3.	Sex:
4.	Education:	5.	Occupation:
6.	Address:		
7.	Contact no (Optional):	8.	Nationality:
9.	Signature:	10.	Date:
<b>Impact on Refugee Lives</b>			
1.	How long have you been in Nepal as a refugee? ..... years		
2.	Are you with your family members? (If answer is 'yes', skip question number 3.) a. Yes b. No		

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3.	Where are your family members? a. .....
4.	You are staying far from your country. Do you face any problem here? (If answer is 'No', skip question number 5.) a. Yes b. No
5.	List out the problems you are facing in Nepal: a. b. .....
<b>Impact on National Security of Nepal</b>	
6.	Do you think Nepal is facing problems as a host country for refugees? (If answer is 'No', skip question number 7.) a. Yes b. No
7.	List out the problems to Nepal because of the refugee influx: a. b. .....
<b>Management and Solution Finding Efforts</b>	
8.	Do you think refugee management and solution finding efforts in Nepal are enough? (If answer is 'Yes', skip question number 9, 10 and 11.) a. Yes b. No
9.	What should Nepal do as the management and solution finding effort? a. b. .....
10.	What should other countries do as the management and solution finding effort? a. b. .....
11.	What should various agencies do as the management and solution finding effort? a. b. .....

**Thank you.**

**Appendix B**

(Referred to page 11)

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

Researcher Student: **Netra Bahadur Karki**

**Namaste,**

Prevalence of various problems in a state forces a person to leave own country to be a refugee. Both the refugees and the host country Nepal are facing different problems. The aim of this questionnaire is to study the **impact of statelessness on refugee lives and the impact on national security of Nepal**. With your due consent, the researcher aims to probe the problems being faced by the refugees and Nepal as a host country with the help of this interview schedule in the thesis titled "**Refugees in Nepal: Impact on Refugee Lives and National Security**".

**Interviewee: Dr. Dipak Prakash Bhatta, an academia and Subject Matter Expert on International Relations and Security related field**

1. Do you think the refugees in Nepal facing problems? (If answer is 'no', skip question number 2.)

Response:

2. What are the problems being faced by the refugees in Nepal?

Response:

3. Do you think Nepal, as a host nation for refugees, is facing problems? (If answer is 'no', skip question number 4.)

Response:

4. What are the problems being faced by Nepal as a host country for refugees?

Response:

5. Do you think the refugee management and solution finding efforts in Nepal are enough? (If answer is 'yes', skip question number 6, 8 and 9.)

Response:

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6. What should Nepal do more as the refugee management and solution finding effort?

- Response:
- a. Policy formulation.....
  - b. Diplomatic efforts.....
  - c. International treaties.....
  - d. Others.....

7. Literatures indicate that Tibetan refugees in Nepal are highlighted more. Is it true? If so, what can be the reasons in your opinion?

- Response:
- a. Different countries' interest....
  - b. Others.....

8. What should other countries do as the refugee management and solution finding effort?

- Response:
- a. China.....
  - b. India.....
  - c. Others.....

9. What should various agencies do as the refugee management and solution finding effort?

- Response:
- a. UN/ UNHCR.....
  - b. IOM....
  - c. SAARC
  - d. Others....

10. How have the various refugee related activities impacted on the international relations of Nepal?

- Response:
- a. Relation with India....
  - b. Relation with China.....
  - c. Relation with USA and others.....

**Thank you.**

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