

# Contribution of Nepal Telecom to Nepalese Revenue

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## Abstracts

*Public enterprise in Nepal plays vital role in generating revenue in Nepal. Nepal Telecom (NT) is the leading and high revenue contributing public enterprise in Nepal. The main aim of this study is to examine the contribution of different tax from NT to Nepalese revenue. Hence, descriptive research design was applied to complete this study. Under the descriptive research design case study of NT has carried out to attain the desired objective of this study. At present there are major five licensed mobile telecom are into operation in Nepal which was considered as population. Out of these, NT has coverage nationwide as well highest revenue generating company. So, NT is taken as sample by following the convenience sampling method. The study has based on secondary data. Revenue from NT includes income tax, and VAT, custom, service fees, local development fees, dividend tax, and share of profit etc. The income tax from NT to total revenue is the highest 1.66 percent and the least 1.19 percent and average 1.43 percent during the study period.*

**Keywords:** Contribution, national revenue, non-tax revenue, public enterprise, tax revenue

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## Introduction

Government revenue is money received by a government in certain time period especially in a year from various sources (Acharya, 2017). Especially government receives their income from tax and non-tax sources. Public enterprise in Nepal plays vital role in generating revenue in Nepal. Nepal Telecom (NT) is the leading and high revenue contributing public enterprise in Nepal. Government acquisition of goods and services intended to create future benefits, such

as resilient infrastructure investment or research spending in various sectors, is categorized as government investment (government gross capital formation). These two types of government spending, on final consumption and on gross capital formation, together constitute one of the major components of gross domestic product of a nation in the world (CBS, 2011a). Economic growth of the country has not improved substantially over time.

The government has to spend a lot of money to fulfil the responsibility towards its people like security, health, education or other activities for economic and social development. Every nation desires to improve its current status through proper utilization of resources. The expenditure of Government can be commercial and public expenditure. That's why, Government needs huge fund for it.

Government collects revenue from tax and non-tax sources. Tax is key source for revenue mobilization. Tax is a compulsory contribution, as prescribed by law, to the government for a common benefit upon the residents of the state. Taxes are major fiscal policy instrument and important government policy tools have an important role in increasing the rate of capital formation and thereby a high rate of economic growth can be achieved. Increase in taxes may be directed to increase in saving through the postponement of consumption. To increase in saving as available for making useful and productive investments. Taxation may also play a dual role. On the one hand, taxation may be used to make the maximum volume of resource available to the public sector. On the other hand, taxation may be used to promote useful investment in the private sector and to prevent the resource from being dissipated over speculative and unproductive investment as well as over lavish and luxuries consumption. Thus, taxes in developing countries are the severe means of raising revenue.

Tax-payers do not expect any return for their tax paying. They get the benefits from government indirectly as the government provides the facilities of securities, health, and education and so on. Income tax, service tax, value added tax (VAT), custom duty, excise duty and other direct and indirect taxes are major sources for government revenue (Bhagawati, 1999).

Non-tax revenue is another major source of government revenue. Government collects revenue from non-tax sources such as royalties, fees and penalty, income of government corporation, charges etc.

According to Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) latest data as of May 2018, the insight rate in Nepal was estimated at 109.6 percent over a population estimate of around 26.5 million. NTA is the regulatory body of telecommunications in the country. According

to the latest figures there are 6 telecom network operators in Nepal where NT being the first mobile network operator in Nepal.

The contribution of Nepal Telecom to Nepalese government's revenue is the main objective of this study. However, the other specific objectives are: to examine the contribution of income tax from Nepal Telecom to total revenue; to assess the contribution of value added tax (VAT) from Nepal Telecom to total revenue; to analyse the contribution of Nepal Telecom to total tax and royalty from NT to government's revenue and to analyse the contribution of total tax and royalty from NT to government of Nepal.

Registered taxpayers too were not effective instrumental to the tax generation. Around 21.25 percent taxpayers were not filling their returns that reflect higher filling risk in VAT administration. The major hinders was weak enforcement of the law by both custom and Inland Revenue administration at the time of under declaration at custom point, under billing and non-billing in the consumer markets. Customers were largely unaware of VAT system, taxpayer education, consumer awareness campaign, procedural simplification through application of e-based system, scaling up investment for ICT sophistication, restructuring and reengineering of the organization, decentralization of service delivery, centralization and specialization of audit and investigation guides to indicator for the improvement of IRD (Koirala, 2011).

A study concerned toward study to examine the collection of revenue from VAT in Nepal, found out that in Nepal the amount of tax revenue is higher than non-tax revenue, the contribution of direct tax revenue on total tax revenue is very low than the contribution of indirect tax, the trend of none filling the tax returns is fluctuating nature, the trend of credit return is higher than the debit returns and the share of VAT return from import is far higher than the VAT revenue from domestic product (Parajuli, 2011).

A study entitled Contribution of Income Tax in Revenue of Government of Nepal, with the objectives of the study were to analyse the contribution of income tax to national revenue of Nepal, to analyse volume of indirect tax and direct tax in total tax revenue and to examine the effectiveness of income tax revenue collection in Nepal. It was found that income tax is a suitable source for collection of government revenue. It may enhance the revenue of the government, promote distribute justice and encourage private sector investment, the Tax/GDP ratio of Nepal is very poor as it has not yet exceeded beyond 10 percent. This shows a disappointing picture of Nepalese economy (Devkota, 2012).

The Tax-GDP ratio of Nepal is not found satisfactory compare to other developing countries. Tax-GDP ratio in FY 1994/95 was only 9.0 percent and has gradually increased and

reached to 10.9 percent in FY 2009/10. Nepalese Government revenue is the composition of tax revenue and non-tax revenue. There is dominant share of tax revenue in Nepalese government revenue. But contribution of tax revenue shows the decreasing trend as it had contributed by 79.9 percent in FY 1994/95 on the total but it was decreased to 84.55 percent in FY 2009/10. Nepalese tax revenue is the composition of direct and indirect tax. There is dominant role of indirect tax revenue in Nepalese tax revenue. Average contribution of direct and indirect tax revenue to total tax revenue is 29.3 percent and 70.7 percent over the study period (Devkota, 2012).

An article overviewed and explained the different aspect to income tax administration in in Nepal. The study further mentioned that, tax policy, tax law, tax objective or administration, organization, capable manpower, transparency, self-assessment of income and its inspection, tax examination and research, up to date records of tax payers and the use of information technology, physical facilities etc are the different aspects of tax administration. Study has analysed all the above-mentioned aspects of modern tax administration detailed and he concludes that the modern tax administration is not functioning well because there is the lack of full implementation of tax law, lack of transparency in both tax payers and administrator, lack of adequate tax officers, frequent change in policy and laws, lack of adequate training to people working at tax offices etc. He further concludes that, although there exact some defects in modern tax administration, it is improving its way of functioning, and he is hopeful to see the well-functioning tax administration in near future (Tripathi, 2012).

A study has described about the self-assessment procedure of income tax provided by income tax Act-2002 (2058 B.S.). Under this law every assessment will be treated as self-assessment where person files return of income tax for an income year, an assessment is as made on the due date for filing the return of the tax payable by the person for the year and in the amount shown in the return of the tax payable by the person for the year and in the amount shown in the return and the amount of that tax still be paid for the year being the amount shown in the return. He has mentioned about the types of income tax return, due date of filing income tax return, structure of income tax return, financial auditing and tax auditing. And finally, he concludes that to get the targeted percentage of GDP as assumed by tenth five-year plan we sound improve the existing income tax system and it is necessary to modernize the tax administration to implement income tax law effectively (Rai, 2013).

A study highlighted an analysis of tax incentives and its effect on tax panning for industrial sector under income tax act, 2058 has highlighted some problems in implementation

of income tax act, 2002. The objectives for the research were to analyse and examine the tax incentives provided by ITA 2058 to industries, to analyse the tax planning practices and its problems in Industrial sector of Nepal, and to examine the effect of tax incentives on tax planning in industrial sector of Nepal. The study found where the tax incentives & facilities provided by ITA, 2058 seems to be sufficient, however, further incentives and scientific dealings are still required, tax incentives and tax planning are positively correlated. That means tax incentives encourage the tax planning, the main reasons that the tax planning is not widely used in Nepal are tax administration is not cooperative, tax planning is lengthy and costly, and people are not aware about tax planning. There is no clear provision in ITA 2058 regarding tax planning. Tax concession of 25, 30, and 50 percent granted to the industries established in the underdeveloped, undeveloped and remote areas respectively is not enough and it should be increased to 30 percent, 50 percent, and 100 percent respectively (Sharma, 2013).

About 86 percent of total revenue comes from tax revenue and rest 13.53 percent of total revenue comes from non-tax revenue in 2012/13. Among the heads of tax revenue, other indirect tax has contributed the highest tax amount and excise duty has contributed second highest amount of tax. Highest percentages of total revenues is collected from tax sources was 86.86 percent in the fiscal year 2012/13 and lowest percentage of amount collected from the same source was 75.74 percent in the fiscal year 2002/03. In the above stated fiscal years' non-tax revenue was collected lowest and highest percentage respectively. The ratio analysis of direct tax to total revenue and total tax revenue, it is found that direct taxes contribute a considerable amount total revenue and total tax revenue. The highest contribution made by direct tax to total revenue and total tax revenue is 24.35 percent and 29.32 percent in the fiscal year 2010/011 and 2008/009 respectively. The realization rate of direct tax was remained fluctuating over the study period. And income tax revenue consists of corporate income tax, individual income tax and interest tax. Among these sources, corporate income tax is a highly contributing source to total income tax, it has contributed average 39.23 percent amount to total income tax within the study period. Corporate tax has a fluctuating growth rate of the whole study period (Shrestha, 2014).

Weak performance in filling compliance of VAT policy might due to the multiple of problems including ambiguity, inconsistency and complexities in VAT policies and ineffective implementation. The major problem was VAT registration not complying with the policies for return filling. The institutional capability of the key ability of the tax administration was to enforce law, institutional capability (adequacy, competency, commitment of tax official,

sufficient financial resources, comprehensive and robust information about the personal and business transaction of the taxpayers and information communication and technological (ICT), infrastructure). The non e-filing of tax returns by the VAT registrations might prove to be weak compliance on the part of taxpayers and weak enforcement of tax administration. The researcher found that policy mandates affected filing compliance behaviour of taxpayers. Similarly, policy clarity enhances the filing compliance in VAT system, in the process of submission of tax returns, provision related to the penalties chargeable to the late fillers and non-fillers might affect the compliance behaviour of taxpayers. The result also depicted that policy consistency affected the filing compliance behaviour of taxpayers whereas ICT infrastructure of IRD in terms of automation, e-governance, e-services and e-based monitoring and evaluation system were found to be effective in influencing the filing behaviour of taxpayers. The IRD major problems in regards to VAT are unambiguous policies and procedures for easy registration and deregistration from the VAT system and effective enforcement of the tax law (Koirala, 2015).

Average total revenue and non-tax revenue is 254192.9 million and 29334.88 million respectively. The total revenue is in increasing trend. Likewise, non-tax revenue is also slightly increasing except the last fiscal year. Non-tax revenue varies from 10.07 percent in fiscal year 2009/10 to 11.42 percent in the fiscal year 2013/14. There is slightly increasing tax revenue to GDP from the fiscal year 2009/10 to 2013/14 respectively. Average tax revenue to GDP and Non-tax revenue to GDP is 14.38% and 1.88 percent respectively. The tax on profit and capital gains is slightly increasing during the studying period except fiscal year 2013/14. The total income tax and income tax from the commercial banks is in increasing trend. There is highly positive correlation between income tax from commercial banks and total revenue. This implies that when there is increase in income tax from commercial banks then income tax revenue is also increasing along with it. And by primary analysis, 41.66 percent respond as inadequate government policy impacts the inefficient tax act whereas this rate is 25 percent by inefficient income tax management (Sitaula, 2015).

Nepalese total revenue is composed of both tax revenue and non-tax revenue. Nepalese tax revenue is composed of both direct and indirect tax revenue. There is a dominant role of indirect tax revenue in Nepalese tax structure. And the average contribution of direct tax and indirect tax to total tax revenue was 27 percent and 73 percent respectively. Although the total amount of both taxes is increasing, there is not satisfactory growth in collection of both taxes (Pandey, 2016). Nepalese revenue structure is composed of tax and non-tax revenue is dominant in total tax revenue, so contribution of direct tax to GDP of Nepal is not

found satisfactory. The researcher suggests that resources mobilization from direct taxation should be focused. The members involved in formulating income tax policies must have detail knowledge about income tax. They should be updated according to the changing procedures (Marashani, 2018). The main aim of this study is to examine the contribution of different tax from NT to Nepalese revenue.

### Data and Methods

Descriptive research design was applied to complete this study. Under the descriptive research design case study of NT has carried out to attain the desired objective of this study. At present, there are major five licensed mobile telecom are into operation in Nepal which was considered as population. Out of these, NT has coverage nationwide as well highest revenue generating company. So, NT is taken as sample by following the convenience sampling method. The study has based on secondary data. Secondary data has used to analyse the simple ratios and trend values. Secondary data are collected from Ministry of Finance, annual reports of IRD, annual report of NT, through respective websites, bulletins and publications of concerned authorities, journals and economic survey conducted by Ministry of Finance (MOF). Data used in this study are quantitative in nature. Quantitative data has obtained through annual reports and financial statements published by concerned authorities.

The collected data has classified, tabulated and presented to make those data clear and more informative. After presenting, these data are analysed using simple descriptive statistical measures.

### Results and Discussion

NT is the highest revenue generating public enterprise in Nepal. It has been contributing significant amount of revenue to the national revenue. The contribution from income tax to total revenue of government of Nepal is shown in table 1.

**Table 1**

*Contribution of Income Tax from NTC to Total Revenue of GON*

Fiscal Year	Income tax by NT (in Rs billion)	Total revenue (in Rs. billion)	Percentage to total revenue
2012/13	4.91	296.02	1.66
2013/14	5.08	356.62	1.42

2014/15	4.85	405.85	1.20
2015/16	5.73	481.96	1.19
2016/17	6.15	353.91	1.74
2017/18	6.28	451.20	1.39
Average	5.50	390.93	1.43

Income tax from NT is in increasing trend except the year 2014/15. Income tax is the highest of Rs. 6.283 billion and the least of Rs. 4.85 billion with the corresponding year 2017/18 and 2014/15 respectively. The income tax to total revenue is the highest 1.66 percent and the least 1.19 percent with the corresponding year 2012/13 and 2015/16 respectively. The average of this ratio is 1.43 percent during the study period (table 1).

**Table 2**

*Contribution of Income Tax from NT to Total Income Tax*

Fiscal Year	Income tax from NT (in Rs. billion)	Total income tax revenue (in Rs. Billion)	Percentage to total income tax revenue
2012/13	4.91	66.06	7.43
2013/14	5.08	67.88	7.48
2014/15	4.85	88.46	5.48
2015/16	5.73	117.13	4.89
2016/17	6.15	148.43	4.14
2017/18	6.28	161.79	3.88
Mean	5.50	108.29	5.55

The result depicts the contribution of income tax from NT is increasing except the year 2014/15. From table 2 the total income tax is in increasing trend during the study period. Likewise, the average income tax and total income tax is Rs. 5.50 billion and Rs. 108.29 billion respectively. The contribution of income tax to total income tax ratio is decreasing during the study period. The highest is 7.48 percent in 2013/14 and the lowest is 3.88 percent in the last year respectively. The average of this ratio is 5.55 percent during the study period. The tax levied on the value added by the registered taxpayers to their purchase and import is called value added tax (VAT). It is crucial for collecting the tax revenue. The portion of value added tax to total tax revenue is presented in table 3.



**Table 3***Contribution of Value Added Tax (VAT) from NT to Total Tax Revenue*

Fiscal Year	VAT from NT (in Rs. billion)	Total tax revenue (in Rs. billion)	Percentage VAT from NT to total tax revenue
2012/13	2.05	259.22	0.79
2013/14	3.87	312.44	1.24
2014/15	4.15	355.94	1.17
2015/16	4.35	421.09	1.03
2016/17	4.75	329.75	4.23
2017/18	5.60	410.60	1.36
Average	4.13	348.17	1.64

Table 3 shows the value added tax from NT to total tax revenue of GON during the last six fiscal years. The VAT is in increasing trend whereas the total tax revenue is also rising except the 2016/017. The average value added tax and tax revenue is Rs. 4.13 billion and Rs. 348.17 billion during the study period respectively. Similarly, the percentage of VAT to total tax revenue is slightly fluctuating during the study period. This rate is the highest 4.23 percent in the last year 2016/17 and the least is 0.79 percent in the initial year 2012/13 respectively. The average VAT to total tax revenue is 1.64 percent during study period. VAT is the one of the prominent tax reforms in Nepal. Different goods and services found taxable under the VAT net. NT is also the medium of collection of VAT and it the significant portion of VAT collection within total VAT revenue and is presented in the following table.

**Table 4***Contribution of VAT from NT to Total VAT Revenue*

Fiscal Year	VAT from NT (in Rs. billion)	Total VAT revenue (in Rs. billion)	Percentage of VAT from NT to total VAT revenue
2012/13	2.05	83.39	2.46
2013/14	3.87	100.97	3.83
2014/15	4.15	118.4	3.50
2015/16	4.35	127.75	3.41
2016/17	4.75	166.46	2.85
2017/18	5.598	177.27	3.16
Average	4.13	129.04	3.20

Table 4 shows the value added tax from NT to total tax revenue during the last six fiscal

years. Both the VAT and total VAT are in increasing trend. The average value added tax and total VAT is Rs. 4.13 billion and Rs. 129.04 billion during the study period. Similarly, the percentage of VAT to total VAT is slightly fluctuating during the study period. The highest is 3.83 percent in the last year 2013/14 and the least is 2.46 percent in the initial year 2012/13 respectively. Similarly, the average VAT to total VAT is 3.20 percent during the study period.

The total tax and royalty from NT which includes income tax, VAT, communication service tax, ownership tax, customs fees, royalty and village communication development fund, dividend and vehicle tax etc. The contribution of these taxes to total revenue of government is as under.

**Table 5**

*Contribution of Total Tax and Royalty to Total Revenue*

Fiscal Year	Total tax and royalty from NT (in Rs. billion)	Total revenue (in Rs. billion)	Percentage of total tax and royalty from NT to total revenue
2012/13	18.84	296.02	6.36
2013/14	20.35	356.62	5.71
2014/15	20.76	405.85	5.12
2015/16	23.11	481.96	4.80
2016/17	24.55	353.91	6.94
2017/18	25.776	451.208	5.71
Average	22.23	390.93	5.77

The table 5 shows the total tax and royalty from NT is increasing during the study period. The highest of this total tax and royalty is Rs. 25.76 billion and the least is Rs. 18.84 billion with the corresponding year 2017/18 and 2012/13 respectively. Likewise, the total revenue is also rising except the 2016/2017. The contribution of total tax and royalty to total revenue is diminishing except 2016/17. This ratio is the highest of 6.94 percent and the least is 4.80 percent with the corresponding year 2016/17 and 2015/16 respectively. The average of this ratio is 5.77 percent during the study period.

The contribution of non-tax revenue (includes dividend, service fees and other charges) in total revenue is shown in table 6.

**Table 6***Contribution of Non-tax Revenue to Total Revenue (Rs Billion)*

Fiscal Year	Total revenue (in Rs. billion)	Non-tax revenue from NT (in Rs. billion)	Percentage of non-tax revenue from NT to total revenue
2012/13	296.02	36.78	12.42
2013/14	356.62	44.18	12.39
2014/15	405.85	49.91	12.30
2015/16	481.96	60.86	12.63
2016/17	353.91	24.15	6.82
2017/18	451.21	40.60	9.00
Average	390.93	42.75	10.93

Table 6 shows that the non-tax revenue is increasing trend except 2016/2017. The highest of Rs. 60.86 billion and the least of 24.15 billion with the corresponding year 2015/16 and 2016/17 respectively. The average non-tax revenue is 42.75 percent whereas the non-tax revenue to total revenue is 10.93 percent. This ratio is the highest 12.63 percent and the least is 6.82 percent with the corresponding year 2015/16 and 2016/17 respectively. Average contribution from non-tax revenue to total revenue of government during study period is 20.93 percent.

### Conclusion

The result shows the contribution of income tax from NT is increasing except the year 2014/15. The total income tax is in increasing trend during the study period. Likewise, the average income tax from NT and total income tax is Rs. 5.50 billion and Rs. 108.29 billion respectively. The contribution of income tax from NT to total income tax ratio is decreasing during the study period. VAT is rising whereas total revenue is also increasing except the 2016/017. The VAT is in increasing trend whereas the total tax revenue is also rising except the 2016/017. The average VAT from NT to tax revenue is Rs. 4.13 billion and Rs. 348.17 billion during the study period. Similarly, the percentage of VAT to total tax revenue is slightly fluctuating during the study period. Both the VAT and total VAT are in increasing trend. Similarly, the percentage of VAT to total VAT is slightly fluctuating during the study period. The contribution of total tax and royalty to total revenue is diminishing except 2016/17.

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