

Foreign Policy of Nepal: Knowledge of Member of House of Representatives 2023 – 2025 AD

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Abstract: *The research article focused on the critical intersection of legislative awareness based on knowledge of Nepal's foreign policy. Nepal navigates a complex geopolitical milieu; the comprehension and involvement of its representatives in foreign policy are essential. This research explores and analyzes the knowledge of the international relations committee members within the House of Representatives, Government of Nepal, aiming to enhance their contributions to the formulation and implementation of Nepal's foreign policy during this crucial period. By analyzing the influence of elected political party's representatives on foreign policy of Nepal and its strategies, the research study underscores the importance of informed decision-making that aligns with both national interests and global trends. Utilizing quantitative research method, the researcher gathers primary data through purposive sampling, which is then, analyzed using SPSS software. The objective is to gain insights into Nepal's foreign policy standing in the international arena guided by pragmatic research philosophy and employs an inductive approach. It utilizes a quantitative method, specifically through a survey research strategy. The primary data serves as the key source for data collection, with the analysis of quantitative data conducted using SPSS. Finally, the relevance and outcome of the research seems to be a deficiency in political insight among some respondents, as they do not fully grasp the complexities involved in the implementation and political aspects of foreign policy of Nepal in international politics.*

Keywords: Foreign policy, International relations, Knowledge, National interest, Member of House of Representatives.

1. Introduction

Ancient scripts like 'Himavat Khanda, Manasa Khanda, and Kedar Khanda of Skanda Purana which were written at least circa 5000 years B.C.E describe Nepal to be extended from Sikkim (Shatha Desh) to Mallapuri (bordering Kashmir) in the west. Mahabharata states the glory of Nepal and The Kirata King Yalambar or Barbarika witnessed the war of Mahabharata at Kurukshetra' (Swami, 2001, p. 155; Subedi, 2024, p. 91-92).

The Treaty of Sugauli 1816 basically anchors the foreign Policy of Nepal in the prudence of a guiding principle for action, serving as a fundamental historical and legal basis for its borders while emphasizing its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Thus, ‘Nepal’s contemporary foreign policy is officially guided by principles such as sovereign equality, non alignment and peaceful coexistence’ (Constitution of Nepal, 2015, Article 5, p.4) which are vital for preserving its independence in the face of influences from the neighboring nations. The core aims of this policy revolve around ‘safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, promoting economic wellbeing and contributing to global peace and security’ (Article 5(2), p.4). For international relations committee members of the House of Representatives, leveraging parliamentary diplomacy is essential to foster international collaboration, influence policy making and enhance global presence. The historical background of foreign policy of Nepal illustrates its allegiance to ‘the Non-aligned Movement and the UN Charter’ (Article 51(m) (1), p.42), which collectively reinforces its stance of neutrality in a complex geopolitical landscape. Given the geographically strategic position of Nepal, it must carefully navigate its relationships to prevent conflicts and maintain stability. The present Constitution of Nepal underscores the importance of adhering to international law and global peace standards, thereby establishing a strong constitutional foundation for the nation's foreign policy.

The House of Representatives were the lawmakers and the thematic committee of the international relations committee member is the concerned authority to evaluate and execute the foreign policy of Nepal in international political arena. Thus, their knowledge on the foreign policy on Nepal is fundamental to understanding international relations and the international political sphere. Till date, no specific research literature has been found on the concerned issues. Even so, the scholarly literatures were reviewed on the foreign policy of Nepal.

According to Hudson, foreign policy is “a strategy or approach chosen by the national government to achieve its goal in its relations with external entities” (Tat, 2019, chapter 7, P.2). The fundamental objective of foreign policy of Nepal is to enhance the dignity of the nation by safeguarding the territorial integrity and independence and promoting economic wellbeing and prosperity of Himalayan Nation (MoFA 2077 B.S; Bastola, 2025, p. 236). The intention is to promote global peace, harmony and security.

Since the unification of present Nepal in 1768, Nepal found itself geographically situated between two powerful neighbors. In Diba Upadesh 1775 (Stiller, 1968; Narharinath, 1959), Prithvi Narayan Shah calls Nepal “a gourd between two rocks” (Stiller 1968, p. 47; Jayshwal & Shah, 2022, p.115). The foreign policy of Nepal had been developed at the time of Prithvi Narayan Shah is still somewhat relevant. He described Nepal as “a yam between two Boulders” (GoN, Diba Upadesh, Para 5. p. 5). The enduring metaphors used by Prithvi Narayan Shah and British imperialistic Curzon, describing Nepal as a “yam between two rocks” and a “buffer zone” for British India respectively, continues to reflect Nepal’s strategic balancing act between the competing influences (Ghimire, 2025, p. 1509) of its neighbors. He highlighted the importance of maintaining strong and balanced relationships with both the nations. “This ideology has guided foreign policy of Nepal, reflecting a

cautious balance between her relationships with the two regional giants. Not engaging in offensive acts while conducting war only a defensive basis was suggested (Atique, 1963). The foreign policy during Prithvi Narayan Shah's time had five major components: unification of the nation, military build-up, cautious friendship with British India and China, balance between offensive and defensive approaches, and strengthening the national economy (Acharya (2014). The isolationist foreign policy during the Rana regime was a hindrance to Nepal for being the founding member of the United Nations (Pande, 1982). The motivating force behind foreign policy of Nepal is the desire to defend the nation's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity while enhancing its economic prosperity. By nurturing international partnerships and implementation of multilateralism, Nepal aims to stimulate sustainable development committed to promoting global peace and security actively participating in UN peacekeeping missions and advocating for the peaceful resolution of conflicts. The House of Representatives holds a fundamental position in determining foreign policy of Nepal through various forms of diplomatic dialogues, which serves as a significant platform for legislative engagement on international relations and international political issues. Respondents can significantly influence foreign policy decisions by participating in international forums and collaborating with other friendly diplomatic nations. For representatives, a comprehensive understanding of foreign policy is essential to effectively advocate for national interests in international settings, enhance Nepal's global image and ensure that foreign policy aligns with the nation's security objectives.

Finally, the main aim of the research article is to explore and analyze the understanding and knowledge of the international relations committee members of the House of Representatives of 2023- 2025 on the foreign policy of Nepal. The declining status of Nepal and its implications for both domestic and international politics prompted the researcher to undertake a quantitative study. This research focused on various variables to assess the effectiveness of the international relations committee members within the House of Representatives GoN. Therefore, Nepal is forced to implement its diplomatic tools of foreign policy as soft and smart power. In the current political juncture, Nepal's foreign policy can be better understood by reflecting on its past international relations strategies (Kunwar, 2024, p.8). In addressing knowledge-related challenges, it is necessary to comprehend the perspectives of the respondents, 'as this reflects a philosophical inquiry into what constitutes accepted knowledge within the field' (Bryman, 2012). The extensive involvement of India in both domestic and foreign affairs, joined with attentive security, makes it impractical for any nation to remain entirely detached from the dynamics of contemporary geopolitics. Consequently, Nepal has pursued a strategy of further developing new relationships worldwide, resulting in the establishment of diplomatic ties with 183 countries till July 2024 (MoFA, Nov, 2025).

2. Methods and Procedures

The research article adopts the pragmatic research philosophy, employing an inductive approach alongside purposive sampling to collect data. The total population size (N) 27 members of international relations committee member of the House of Representatives. Researcher collected questionnaires from each respondent, ensuring a comprehensive dataset. This raw data was analyzed using SPSS to generate quantitative insights. The analysis included descriptive statistics based on frequency, central tendency and dispersion along with cross tabulations to conduct the Chi-Square Test.

The objective of the research article is to explore and analyze the respondents' knowledge on foreign policy of Nepal and its execution in the arena of international relations understanding. Thus, the research question is typically a concise, focused and debatable question that shall provide a clear path for research. Hence, the research questions aim to assess the understanding of the international relations committee members of the House of Representatives regarding foreign policy of Nepal and its execution within the context of international relations. How the respondent evaluates and rates the foreign policy of Nepal on the various variables and parameters of international relations. The quantitative research survey seeks to evaluate the in-depth knowledge possessed by these legislators, which is crucial for informed decision-making and effective engagement.

3. Result and Discussion

The foreign policy of Nepal is undertaken as the foreign affairs of the outer peripheral policy of the state. The foreign policy is influenced by various factors such as domestic considerations, the behavior of other States, geopolitical strategies, geo-economic strategies, geo-cultural status of the nation and the understanding and knowledge of the respondents.

A foreign policy is a set of pre-established strategies designed and implemented systematically to manage a country's relationships with other nations. Thus, foreign policy is the mechanism through which a national government guides its diplomatic interactions and relationships with other countries. A State's foreign policy reflects its values and goals and helps drive its political and economic aims in the global arena. In other words, it encompasses the aspirations, strategies and proceedings of the State actor or a non-State actor in its relations with other actors in the international system. Foreign policy reflects the interests, values and preferences of the actor, and it guides its decisions and behaviors in the global arena.

According to Derek Beach, 'The analysis of foreign policy specifically deals with various questions, beginning with general policy tendencies of States to the decision-making of a single event'. He presents a theoretical toolbox to analyze foreign policy, including international relations and foreign policy in the

international system. Broadly speaking, “Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) helps to explain what States want when it comes to their foreign policy, how they make decisions, how their behavior differs in areas like economy, security, bilateral, regional, multilateral relations, and how the behavior might change over time” (Beach, 2012,p.1). ‘His toolbox includes the theories of Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism and Foreign Policy Analysis theories’ (p.27). But what is foreign policy in the first place? Beach (2012), “foreign policy is the external behavior of States, or more specifically, policies that are explicitly directed towards other actors” (p.2). Beach does not include private collective actors or international companies among the actors who possess a foreign policy. He further defines,

“Foreign policy is both the broad trends of behavior and the particular actions taken by a State or other collective actor as directed toward other collective actors within the international system. Foreign policy actions can be undertaken using a variety of different instruments, ranging from adopting declarations, making speeches, negotiating treaties, giving other States economic aid, engaging in diplomatic activity such as summits, and the use of military force” (Beach, 2012,p.3).

Whereas FPA is a field of inquiry that aims to understand and explain how foreign policy is formulated and who shapes it is also concerned with the outcomes, the impact and the assessment of performance. FPA focuses on the practice and conduct of relations with other countries, with emphasis on decision making, the decision is making process, the decision makers, the sources of decision and the consequences of those decisions. Thus, FPA is the study of the conduct and practice of relations between different actors, primarily States, in the international system.

There are various models for FPA, such as the rational actor model, bureaucratic political model, organizational process model, inter-branch political model and political process model. Hence, for this research article, the researcher examines the entire data under the political process model. The political process model of FPA was developed by Roger Hilsman, ‘the politics of policymaking in defense and foreign affairs’. Hilsman (1971), states ‘there are large numbers of actors involved in the foreign policy decision-making process, mainly concentrated in the respective authority’(p.20). The political process model emphasizes bargaining and the presence of various power centers each seeking to achieve their respective goals. These goals can either conflict or align with those of others States. It focuses more on the individual participants, their personal goals and perspectives about international politics rather than on organizations and groups as a whole. According to him, the individual ideology i.e. the respondents of each political representative is one of the most important factors in determining and explaining decision making. FPA is necessary to improve Nepal’s overall understanding of the government and the political decision-making processes that unfold on the global stage. Each approach to diplomacy offers a unique set of potential drawbacks and benefits and emphasizes the importance of the political actors and structures involved and how

the international relations committee member of the House of Representatives work to attain their foreign policy goals ((Poul, 2020, p.2-3; Kunwar, 2024, p.45).

The interplay between knowledge and politics in foreign policy of Nepal is a major subject within international relations dialogue. Researchers' investigate the influence of expert knowledge, particularly in areas like foreign affairs, international law, on political decision-making, using FPA to examine how Nepal's political context shapes the expertise of respondents. In practice, a significant contest persists concerning the degree to which such expertise serves as an objective constraint on politically driven perspectives. Additionally, the process of knowledge production itself is scrutinized, researcher has examined how power dynamics can determine which forms of knowledge are prioritized or marginalized in the foreign policy of Nepal. The concept of knowledge diplomacy has emerged, highlighting the role of various political party doctrines in the international relations committee members of the respective representatives of the political parties. Consequently, the study of knowledge and politics underscores the importance of education and expertise in shaping Nepal's approach to foreign policy as tools of soft power. Furthermore, the relationship between domestic political factors, public sentiment and foreign policy formulation remains a critical focus, as evidenced by ongoing research into the knowledge base on the international relations committee members of the House of Representatives 2023-2025.

A country's foreign policy is determined by a number of elements, including its geographical position, history, language, religion, culture, economy, forces, business, commerce and political leadership (Acharya 2065 B.S, p. 251; Gautam, 2025, p. 48). Paudel (2024) suggests that as Nepal actively engages with the international community, it encounters various challenges and opportunities in formulating its foreign policy. Therefore, incorporating theoretical perspectives such as realism is essential to gain a deeper understanding of and effectively addressing these dynamics (p.50).

3.1 Demographic Traits of International Relations Committee Members of the House of Representatives

The governance structure in Nepal, as outlined in the Constitution of Nepal 2015, emphasizes that State power originates from the people, with sovereignty exercised through their elected representatives. In a parliamentary system, the government is accountable to parliament, where its operations and methodologies are subject to regular scrutiny. To manage the parliamentary workload, including limited session time and the need for systematic examination of various issues, the parliament establishes committees composed of its members. This approach ensures that parliamentary functions continue effectively without compromising its fundamental role. The Constitution grants parliament the authority to form committees for significant matters, facilitating smooth operations and addressing recurring challenges. Article 83 of the Constitution establishes a federal legislature,

comprising the House of Representatives and the National Assembly, collectively referred to as the “Federal Parliament.” Furthermore, Article 97(1) allows both houses to create committees in accordance with federal law.

According to the provisions outlined in the House of Representatives Rules, 2018, parliamentary committees are established to support the ongoing functions of the House, ensuring that the Government of Nepal remains accountable and responsive. These committees, which serve as a micro management of the parliament, are tasked with providing guidance, opinions and evaluations of government actions in alignment with Article 97 of the Constitution. Among the ten thematic committees, the International Relations Committee holds significant role to execute the foreign policy of Nepal.

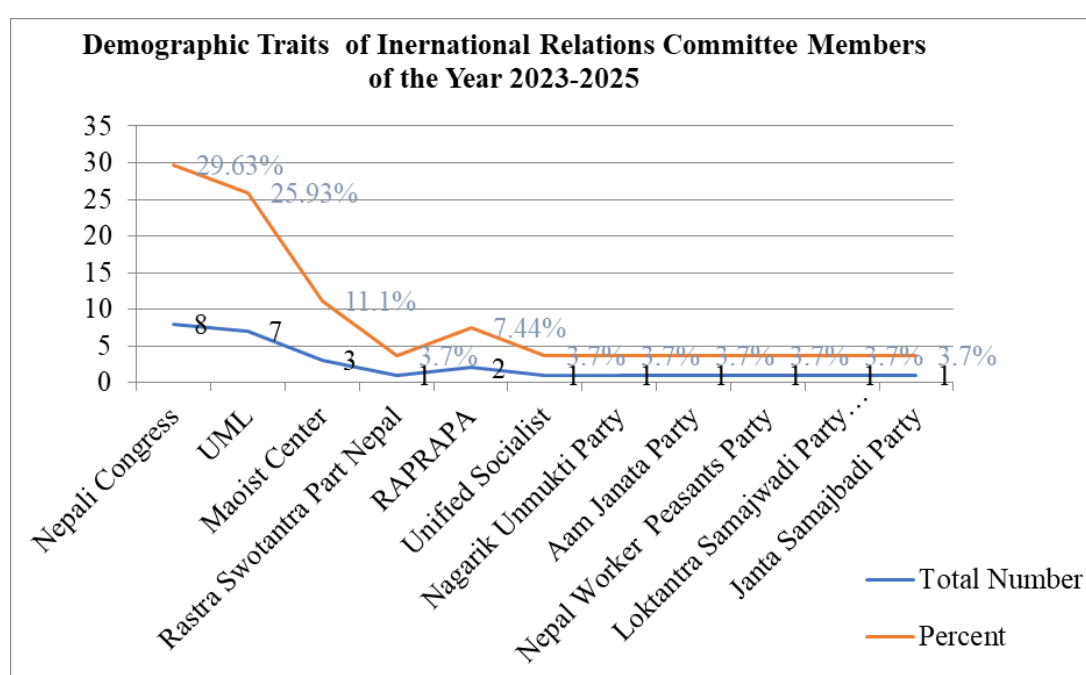


Figure 1. Demographic Trait of International Relations Committee Members

Note. Field Survey 2024 on International Relations Committee Members of House of Representatives.

The observed demographic characteristic of the respondent's shows that, the Nepali Congress holds eight members, which occupies 29.63%; Communist Party of Nepal United Marxist-Leninist (UML) with seven members occupies 25.93%; the Maoist Center with three members occupies 11.1%; the Rastra Swotantra Party with one member occupies 3.7%; the Raprapa with two members occupies 7.44%; likewise, the Unified Socialist, Nagarik Unmukti Party, Aam Janata Party, Nepal Worker Peasant Party, Loktantra Samajwadi Party Nepal and Janta Samajbadi Party Nepal occupy 3.7% respectively.

3.2 Knowledge of International Relations Committee Members of the House of Representatives: on Foreign Policy of Nepal

Understanding the knowledge of foreign policy typically encompasses several key aspects of international relations and its various variables raised by the researcher in the research article. A primary focus is on the geopolitical awareness of respondents, given Nepal's strategic position. The unique location necessitates a careful balancing act in foreign policy decisions, influenced by historical ties with Indo-British and contemporary relationships with China. Members often reflect on how historical events shape current diplomatic strategies while emphasizing the importance of maintaining national sovereignty. Acquaintance with Nepal's core foreign policy principles, such as non-alignment, mutual respect for sovereignty, and peaceful coexistence, is also prevalent as these principles guide responses to complex regional dynamics. Additionally, there is a strong awareness of Nepal's involvement in regional and global institutions, with deliberations often highlighting how these engagements can enhance Nepal's diplomatic influence. Respondents are well informed about contemporary challenges, including geopolitical tensions and domestic political instability, and they frequently hold discussions on how these issues affect foreign policy formulation and implementation. Ultimately, there is a shared understanding among respondents regarding the alignment of public sentiment and national interest with foreign policy decision, underscoring the consequences of these factors in determining Nepal's international relations.

Respondents frequently aim to respond to the perspectives of their constituents while fulfilling international commitments. Thus, the members of the House of Representatives' international relations committee are central to understanding Nepal's foreign policy framework, which includes its historical background, guiding principle and the contemporary challenges it encounters in the global arena. Their knowledge in foreign policy significantly shapes the decisions adjoining Nepal's international relations. Insights gathered from the questionnaire further explicate the knowledge possessed by these committee members regarding the foreign policy of Nepal.

3.3 Analysis and Interpretation of Knowledge of International Relations Committee Members of the House of Representatives on Foreign Policy of Nepal

3.3.1. What type of political practice do you enjoy in your political involvement in the Parliament?

Table 1
Political Involvement

		Frequency	Percent
Domestic		11	40.7
Regional		1	3.7
Global		8	29.6
Total		20	74.1
Missing	System	7	25.9
Total		27	100.0

Note. Field Survey 2024 on International Relations Committee Members of House of Representatives.

The observed demographic characteristics of the respondents' political practice and their political involvement findings shows, that 40.7% are involved in domestic politics, 3.7% are involved in regional politics, and 29.6% are involved in global politics; likewise, 25.9% of the data is missing due to respondents failing to respond to the questionnaire, respectively.

The international relations committee members of the House of Representatives engage in various activities that bridge domestic politics with international concerns. Their efforts are focused on ensuring that foreign policy reflects the nation's priorities and needs. This involves a combination of legislative initiatives, advocacy, constituent outreach and collaboration with political entities and civil society, all of which play a crucial role in shaping domestic political landscapes while addressing public interests. In terms of regional engagement, the committee emphasizes enhancing Nepal's political presence through diplomatic initiatives, policy rendezvous, security partnerships and public diplomacy. These endeavors aim to reinforce Nepal's standing in the region and tackle shared challenges collaboratively. On a global scale, Nepal's political engagement is characterized by advocacy, diplomacy, policy formulation and active participation with international organizations and communities positioning the country as a proactive player in addressing both national and international issues. Statistical analysis using the chi-square test via SPSS indicates that all 33 cells (100%) have an expected count below 5, with a minimum count of 0.5 and a standardized statistic of 0.869. This suggests that the expected count is less than the standardized statistic, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis in favor of the alternative. Consequently, the findings reveal that respondents are more inclined to engage in domestic politics rather than global or regional matters which are essential for the effective implementation of foreign policy of Nepal.

3.3.2. How would you rate international politics and its actors' behavior on Nepal?

Table 2

International Politics and its Actor's Behavior on Nepal

	Frequency	Percent
Worse	1	3.7
Poor	5	18.5
Fair	8	29.6
Good	4	14.8
Excellent	2	7.4
Total	20	74.1
Missing System	7	25.9
Total	27	100.0

Note. Field Survey 2024 on International Relations Committee Members of House of Representatives.

The observed demographic characteristic of the respondents' rate on international politics and its actor's behavior on Nepal, the finding shows that 7.4% excellent, 14.8% good, 29.6% fair, 18.5% poor, and 3.7% worse, respectively.

Evaluating the dynamics of international politics and the behavior of its key players in relation to Nepal requires an examination of several critical elements, particularly the geopolitical pressures exerted by major powers such as UK, USA, India, China and EU. These influences can complicate Nepal's efforts to maintain an independent foreign policy, thereby impacting its sovereignty. The regional landscape, characterized by India's longstanding influence and China's growing presence, significantly shapes Nepal's international relations, presenting both opportunities and potential conflicts. Nepal's proactive diplomatic engagement with various international organizations and forums, including SAARC, BIMSTEC, BBIN, SCO and the UN underscores its commitment to asserting its role on the global stage. However, internal political stability and public sentiment also play a crucial role in determining how Nepal interacts with international stakeholders; a cohesive national stance can bolster its diplomatic position while political fragmentation may result in an inconsistent foreign policy. Furthermore, Nepal's participation in addressing global challenges demonstrates its readiness to align with international norms and contribute to broader discussions. UK offers considerable development assistance through Department for International Development (DFID), which addresses issues of inequality and marginalization. The US contributes to Nepal's development through economic and strategic partnerships, with Indo-Pacific Partnership and MCC enhancing its support by financing infrastructure and energy initiatives. Nepal's immediate neighbor has a pivotal role in shaping Nepal's political dynamics. China, as a significant neighbor exerts substantial influence over the country's development, maintaining a policy of noninterference, by engaging in economic and strategic discussions. Moreover, geographical strategic location compels it to navigate

intricate geopolitical pressure, as it seeks to balance the interest of both the nations. Overall, the behavior of international actors towards Nepal presents a complex interplay of opportunities and challenges.

Statistical analysis using the chi-square test in SPSS indicates that all 55 cells (100%) have expected counts below 5, with a minimum expected count of 0.05 and a standardized statistic of 0.708. This suggests that the expected count is less than the standardized statistic, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis in favor of the alternative, indicating that respondents perceive the behavior of international actors towards Nepal as moderately fair, albeit significantly less impactful.

3.3.3 The intervention of neighbors (i.e., blocs) is accepted because of the poor Nepalese political strategy and foreign policy of Nepal.

Table 3

The Intervention of Neighbors (i.e. Blocs) is Accepted because of the Poor Nepalese Political Strategy and Foreign Policy

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	2	7.4
Disagree	1	3.7
Nor or Neither	6	22.2
Agree	8	29.6
Strongly Agree	3	11.1
Total	20	74.1
Missing System	7	25.9
Total	27	100.0

Note. Field Survey 2024 on International Relations Committee Members of House of Representatives.

The observed demographic characteristic of the respondent's response on the intervention of neighbors (i.e., Blocs) is acceptance because of poor Nepalese political strategy and foreign policy; the finding shows that 11.1% strongly agree, 29.6% agree, 22.2% neither agree nor disagree, 3.7% disagree and 7.4% strongly disagree, respectively.

The involvement of neighboring countries in Nepal's internal matters can largely be traced back to the complexities of its political strategy and foreign policy. Nepal's historical interactions with its primary neighbors India and China have been shaped by its unique geopolitical position between these two powers, making it a significant area of interest for both. This strategic location often results in interventions that align with the geopolitical objectives of these nations. Nepal's ongoing political instability, characterized by civil unrest and frequent government shifts creates power vacuums that invite neighboring countries to exert influence to safeguard their interests. Furthermore, Nepal's foreign policy has frequently struggled to maintain a delicate balance between its powerful neighbors, where inconsistencies or perceived

biases can escalate tensions and increase the likelihood of intervention. The country's economic reliance on India for trade and essential services can sometimes render Indian involvement necessary for stability, yet it may also be perceived as overreach. Additionally, shared cultural and historical connections with India complicate Nepal's political dynamics, leading to expectations of Indian engagement in domestic issues, such as the southern belt's roti-beti concerns and the involvement in the Indian Gorkha army. Consequently, the interplay of political challenges, economic dependencies, and intricate relationships with neighboring countries has rendered Nepal vulnerable to external interventions, underscoring the need for a more coherent and independent foreign policy that prioritizes national interests while fostering amicable relations with its neighbors.

The Chi-square test was conducted using the statistical software SPSS, revealing that all 33 cells (100%) has expected counts below 5, with the minimum expected count being 10 and a standardized statistic of -909. This indicates that the expected count exceeds the standardized statistic, leading to the acceptance of the null hypothesis and the rejection of the alternative hypothesis. Consequently, the survey conducted among members of the international relations committee suggests that the intervention of neighboring blocs is deemed acceptable, primarily due to the inadequacies in Nepal's political strategy and foreign policy.

3.3.4. Neighbor's doctrine/philosophy highly guided and influenced Nepalese domestic politics and its international relations: foreign policy.

Table 4

The Neighbor's Doctrine/Philosophy Influenced Nepalese Domestic Politics and International Relations: Foreign Policy

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	1	3.7
Nor or Neither	6	22.2
Agree	12	44.4
Strongly agree	1	3.7
Total	20	74.1
Missing System	7	25.9
Total	27	100.0

Note. Field Survey 2024 on International Relations Committee Members of House of Representatives.

The observed demographic characteristic of the respondent's response on neighbor's doctrine/philosophy highly guided and influenced Nepalese domestic politics and her international relations: foreign policy; finding shows that 3.7% strongly agree, 44.4% agree, 22.2% neither agree nor disagree, and 3.7% strongly disagree, respectively. The impact of the doctrines and philosophies of neighboring countries on Nepal's domestic politics and foreign policy is profound. Positioned strategically between India and China, Nepal's political landscape often mirrors the ideological

and strategic interests of these two nations. India's democratic values and cultural connection frequently influence political discussions in Nepal, while China's socialist principles and development strategies have gained traction, particularly in recent years. The economic dependency on India often results in policies that align with Indian interests, which can be reflected in the positions taken by members of the House of Representatives. Simultaneously, Nepal's foreign policy strives to maintain a careful equilibrium between India and China, affecting domestic political narratives as parties adjust their stances based on perceived benefits from either neighbor. Additionally, the shared cultural heritage with India shapes public sentiment and political affiliations, while the growing Chinese investment in infrastructure prompts shifts in political strategies among parties seeking to capitalize on this support. Ultimately, the philosophies of neighboring countries significantly shape both Nepal's internal political dynamics and its approach to international relations. Doctrines of neighbors have significantly shaped domestic politics and its approach to international relations in the sphere of foreign policy of Nepal. The field observation of the political landscape, emphasizes the importance of maintaining balanced relationships with neighbors, which is crucial for stability and development. The political parties in power are expected to manage these affairs cautiously, ensuring that Nepal's foreign policy reflects both its national interests and the geopolitical dynamics of the region.

The chi-square test was conducted using the statistical software SPSS. All 33 cells (100%) exhibited expected counts below 5, with the minimum expected count being 10 and a standardized statistic value of 0.94. This indicates that the expected count surpasses the standardized statistic, leading to the acceptance of the null hypothesis and the rejection of the alternative hypothesis. Consequently, the findings from the researcher's survey suggest that the philosophical beliefs of neighbors significantly shape and influence both Nepalese domestic politics and its foreign policy.

3.3.5. Nepal's political system changes in the interest of the Southern Bloc.

Table 5

Nepal's Political System Changes on the Interest of the Southern Bloc

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly Disagree	1	3.7
Disagree	4	14.8
Nor or Neither	8	29.6
Agree	5	18.5
Strongly agree	2	7.4
Total	20	74.1
Missing System	7	25.9
Total	27	100.0

Note. Field Survey 2024 on International Relations Committee Members of House of Representative.

The observed demographic characteristic of the respondent's response on Nepal's political system changes on the interest of the southern Bloc shows that 7.4% strongly agree, 18.5% agree, 29.6% neither agree nor disagree, 14.8% disagree, and 3.74% strongly disagree, respectively.

The political landscape of Nepal has been significantly shaped by its relationship with southern bloc, reflecting a historical context where Indian interests often play a pivotal role. Key events, such as the Rana regime and the democratic movements of the 1950s and 1990s, the Maoist insurgency and twelve-points Delhi Agreement of seven political alliance illustrate how Nepal's political evolution has frequently aligned with Indian priorities, particularly concerning political stability and economic collaboration. Major political parties, including the Nepali congress and the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), have often tailored their policies to resonate with Indian interests, especially during crucial elections or a transition, which in turn influences legislative agendas and governance. Additionally, Nepal's security strategies are closely linked to India's strategic objectives, fostering cooperation in defense and intelligence that can alter political dynamics, particularly during the regional tension. During periods of political crisis, Nepal has often turned to India for support, which can lead to shifts in political direction that align with Indian preferences, highlighting the intricate power dynamics at play. Consequently, the political system in Nepal has consistently adapted to the influences of India, affecting its domestic governance, constitutional development and international relations, thereby emphasizing the need for careful navigation of these relationships to uphold Nepal's sovereignty and advance its national interests.

The test reveals that all 55 cells (100%) have an expected count of less than 5, with the minimum expected count of 0.05 and a standardized statistic value of 0.254. This indicates that the expected count surpasses the standardized statistic, leading to the acceptance of the null hypothesis and the rejection of the alternative hypothesis. Consequently, the survey conducted among the international relations committee members of the House of Representatives, suggests that, their perspectives are randomly distributed. Despite the statistical findings, it appears that the political dynamics in Nepal are influenced by the interests of the Southern bloc. This situation underscores the complexities surrounding Nepal's strategic mechanisms in international relations and foreign policy, which hold significant importance in the global political landscape and practice.

4. Conclusion

Foreign policy plays a crucial role in determining how States interact within the international arena. The research article on this subject explores the intricate factors that influence State behavior and decision-making processes. By examining various conceptual and theoretical perspectives, the research study offers valuable insights into the understanding of international relations, particularly among international relations committee members of the House of Representatives in Nepal regarding the

country's foreign policy. The researcher aims to assess the respondents' grasp foreign policy of Nepal, raising critical questions about what constitutes acceptable knowledge in this field to facilitate its effective development. Utilizing primary data, the research reflects the respondents' political awareness and attitudes toward foreign policy, addressing moral and ethical considerations while exploring the neutrality of research questions in relation to the objectives of the study.

The insights of the international relations committee members of the House of Representatives regarding the foreign policy of Nepal reflect a sophisticated grasp of the intricate dynamics within the country's geopolitical context. These representatives recognize the critical importance of maintaining a delicate balance in relationships with neighboring powers, particularly those to the north and south, simultaneously upholding national sovereignty and advancing national interests. This indicates that political leaders are not only responsible for legislation but also for the effective implementation of policies that strengthen the national interests. However, there appears to be a gap in political reflection, as some members lack a comprehensive understanding of the execution and political dimensions of foreign policy. The evolving landscape of global politics underscores the necessity of a foreign policy that forges a cohesive link between diplomatic efforts and national development. This approach integrates national priorities into foreign policy objectives and utilizes various diplomatic tools available to the Government of Nepal, aiming to enhance bilateral cooperation and transform challenges into opportunities for the nations' benefit despite the respondents tending to be more engaged in domestic politics than in regional or international affairs.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this research article.

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