Original Article

Human Security-Informed Policing in Nepal: An Impetus to Building Sense of Security in the Community

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Abstract

Nepal police, being a primary security agency in protecting the safety and security of the people, has dabbled with different approaches to policing but the law and order model has been dominant. But it is equally important to have an evidence base for how policing should be in line with the requirements of the citizens, as supported by overall national development goals. Research findings show that the sense of security is sponge-like: an integrated phenomenon where crime as well as contrasting security behaviour like the sense of alienation, discrimination, low trust and confidence, and non-cooperative attitude, all absorb and influence how levels of the sense of security are constructed. The research highlighted the five basic security pillars, namely: level of income, level of understanding, conditions to daily life, police performance, and the partnership of security practice. The human security aspects directly related to security were identified as employment as it relates to the level of income; an education which relates to the level of understanding, and the condition of daily life as it relates to the availability of essential goods and access to basic services. Each condition differently has effects in contributing to how security is felt and experienced. Here, human security is explored both conceptually and in practical terms to enhance security from a policing perspective and Human Security informed Policing model offer recommendations to build a sense of security in the community.

Keywords: *Policing; Sense of Security; Human Security; Security Behaviour, Public Order*

Introduction

Nepal, being in a post-conflict situation where security issues remain of critical concern throughout the prolonged transition following a decade long armed conflict that ended in 2006. For more than a decade, Nepal was affected by complex conflict and as a result, thousands of lives have been lost, thousands have been displaced, the quality of life in the rural areas deteriorated and most importantly the

sufferings of the people have taken a tremendous toll on society. Nepal witnessed some major changes that have had an effect on peace and security in the country. Questions about security remain critical to both the security providers and to the lives of ordinary people across the country. Following the periods of conflict, people have made efforts to rebuild their livelihoods with the limited role of Security Provider in ensuring security.

Like in the case of most countries passing through the post-conflict situation, the period following the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) has not entirely been peaceful (Gupte & Bogati, 2014). During the period Nepal Police (NP), a principal Security Provider of the country, suffered a lot in terms of maintaining law and order and Local Community members did not show considerable trust towards the police and their work (Search for Common Ground, 2013). Despite significant progress in poverty reduction in the past two decades, poverty remains high in Nepal. The current Fourteenth Periodic Plan (2017–2022) focuses on infrastructure, social development, economic development, governance, and other cross-cutting issues (United Nations Development

Programme [UNDP], 2017). The role of Security Provider to deserve importance but it has to be considered in light of overall prosperity, which carries security implications.

One cannot observe the convincing level of safety and security of the people it has been universally accepted in most cases that the safety and security of the society always remain the prime responsibility of the police. The concept of security, however, is widely debated. The debate is focused on two questions in particular: 'Security for whom' and 'Security for what'. The first understanding resolves around attempts to deepen the notion of security from state to non-state actors and entities such as groups and individuals. The second concern demands to broaden the concept from military to non-military threats such as environmental degradation, human rights violations, and infectious diseases. The concept of Security also scales to many levels (Krahmann, 2005).

Over time, Nepal Police has dabbled with different approaches to policing but the law and order model has been dominant (Search for Common Ground, 2013). This is partly due to not having

stock of the evolving security situations from a policing perspective. The need to implement a specific plan to enhance the capacity of the Nepal Police to support the security of the citizens throughout the country is yet to be realized in the true sense. This aspect is the concern of not only the policymakers but also the active role of Nepal Police and the social pressure on the performance of Police.

The ability of a security provider such as Nepal Police to build a sense of security within their society is deeply connected with the security provider's institutional understanding of what "security" is. As Nepal undergoes rapid changes in terms of economic development in this post-conflict time so too must Nepal Police understand security beyond its traditional focus. Enhancing the capacity of NP has remained an important concern of the government of Nepal. But it is equally important to have an evidence base for how policing should be in line with the requirements of the citizens as supported by the overall national development goals with the initiation of changes in the effort of Nepal Police; that must be accepted by the actors of policymaking and the police decision-makers. An equally valid aspect is the

understanding from the part of all the stakeholders to the fundamental requirements for human security and the role of Nepal Police. The building of a sense of security among the citizens of Nepal is crucial. These are the needs of all concerned with human security in the present context. These are the concerns that one can observe and the experiences that indicate the need to have the changing prospect to ensure human security. However, to date, there has been no research that can guide the enhancement of policing to reflect the wider security needs for the post-conflict context of Nepal.

It is in this context that this paper seeks to explore the following research questions.

1. What constitutes the basic security elements in the community?

2. How we can define the sense of security? How Human security better explain the sense of security?

3. How Nepal Police can enhance the sense of security in the community by incorporating the Human Security dimension?

Concept of Policing and Contemporary Security Agenda

The Police as an organization was in existence from early human civilization. During the early history of policing, individual citizens were largely responsible for maintaining law and order among themselves. The loosely-based system of social control worked quite well for centuries. However, the late 1700s and early 1800s saw a population explosion in major cities in the United States and England. Riots and civil unrest were common, and it became increasingly clear that there was a need for a more permanent and professional form of law enforcement that would carry the official authority of the government (Roufa, 2017).

Through the centuries, those practices played a significant role in the history of policing around the world. Throughout the post-WWII era, several different strategies of policing have been introduced to replace or at least supplement 'conventional' policing strategies (European Police College, 2007). However, some core functions always have to be taken care of by the police – no matter what is the current fashion of policing, such as maintaining law and order, responding to unwanted events, and investigating crimes. In some cases, the new models were implemented more as new slogans than as new practices e.g.' Community Policing', 'problem-oriented policing'.

The intersectionality of policing and security is vague and does not necessarily mean the same things in the application or across different contexts. Security is defined as an understanding of the state's security external threats, state security, and security of its inhabitants is provided by the state itself (Paulauskas, 2006). This gives a traditional conception of security in tautological terms which seems weak in the analytical aspect. The concept of Security may be used to refer to a wide range of phenomena from war to structural violence and from cutting-edge technology to barbed wire fences. Today the concept of security is fashionable yet elusive, elastic, yet operational (Maguire et al., 2014).

Traditional explanations of security have focused more on the state-centric approach, which focuses more on external security threats. However, rethinking security based on the major system drivers of insecurity has been significant because they have more

convincing explanations of how security has to be defined. The questions of What security is? and What it does? has to be understood to build a sense of security. Police claim the policing bring about security but given the vagueness of the scope of security, the connection does not seem real. Therefore, what security is and what security does has to be understood when finding ways to enhance policing.

Human Security and Its Critical Perspective

Human Security has been the core of security discussion since the advent of the concept in a 1994 UNDP Report. This concept has brought the security-development intersectionality as a key policy area in peacebuilding.

The 1994 UNDP report on human security in the Cold War period, involved the security of territory from external aggression or as protection of national interests in foreign policy, or as global security from the threat of nuclear holocaust (Jolly & Ray, 2006). It has been related more to nation-states than to people. With this concept, the focus has shifted from the state to the security of persons, however, these are not mutually exclusive, security can be thought of as a 'public good' responding to the strategic need to support sustainable human development and also promoting state security concerns. The Human Security approach argues that threats and challenges to security transcend national defense and the law and order to encompass all political, economic, and social issues that guarantee a life free from risk and fear (Alkire, 2003).

The concept of Human Security suggests that security policy and security analysis must focus on the individual. So, in a broader sense, human security can be described as 'freedom from want' and 'freedom from fear'. Hence, two competing visions of human security emerged out of these various initiatives. The first, broad, vision was closely linked to the original UNDP formulation and could be summarized by the phrase "Freedom from want" – human security was about ensuring basic human needs in economic, health, food, social, and environmental terms. The second, more tightly focused vision was linked more closely to the activities of the human security network and its key slogan was "freedom from fear" – human security was about removing the use of or threat

of, force and violence from people's everyday lives (Bhattacharjee, 2008).

The Human Security perspective would argue that for many people in the world- perhaps even most- the greatest threats to "Security" itself come from internal conflicts, disease, hunger, environmental contamination, or criminal violence (Newmann, 2010). The concept of Human security has come as a critique of the more traditional state-centered concept of security. Therefore, there are several aspects of the human security debate that has been subject to critical scrutiny both conceptually and practically. Therefore, it is quite clear to see that the concept of Human Security denotes a large range of issues related to what security is and who it is for. Threats to citizen security do not appear in a vacuum, but in environments of social, economic, and institutional vulnerability, which constitute risk factors. It also appears that the human security concept is philosophically strong but relatively weak in implementation. So, efforts to implement to enhance security and ways to explore the clear understanding in policing have to be considered. It is therefore imperative to consider the critical perspective of human security while further elaborating on the concept.

Methodology

The research methodology used here is a qualitative inquiry. The phenomenon that is displayed by individuals in Nepal Police and the communities in Nepal is a reflection of transcendental experience and understanding of intersubjective meaning. This study seeks to better understand what security means in the contemporary context of Nepal, to understand what the implications are for enhancing policing. This study is founded on a qualitative approach to discovery that appropriately frames the effort within a philosophical position focused primarily on the experience and understandings within the people.

To properly address, the question of the relationship between human security and policing in the context of Nepal, this study is exploratory in its nature. The exploration of community and police ideas and opinions was gathered through interviews of the key people of the area and FGD with concerned participants of the respective area identified from the cluster of the district. The three districts from the diverse states namely State no.1, State

no. 4 (now Gandaki), State no. 6 (now Karnali) were selected and the six local bodies of the concerned States covering the Metropolitan (Biratnagar-Morang), Municipalities (Rangeli -Morang, Urlabari –Morang, Palungtar _Gorakha and Rural Municipalities (Kanepokhari-Morang and Kapurkot- Salyan) were chosen. The District Morang was selected as the base district due to the large population size and diverse in terms of geographical locations, therefore, Metropolitan, Municipality, and Rural Municipality was compared with Municipality of Palungtar of Gorakha and Rural Municipality Kapurkot of Salyan. The participants

were asked mainly focusing on what have you experienced in terms of Security and what context or situations have typically influenced your experience of this phenomenon?

The key informants were identified depending upon the nature of data and the expertise level of key informants representing the relevancy of the key informants. Responses were taken from both the senior and junior officers representing a different level of their attachments in duties. The focus group discussions (FGD) and in-depth interviews in the respective areas from both the public and police provided in-depth qualitative data.

Figure 1: Research Process
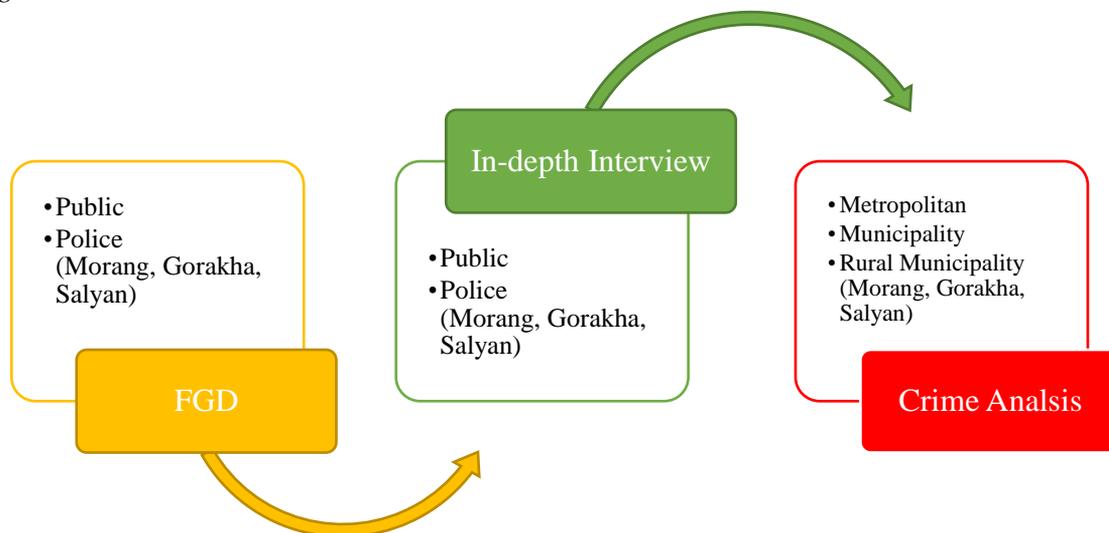
Findings and Discussion

The Focused group discussion and In-depth interview of the Public and Police revealed a common pattern of factors. The ultimate goal is a "level of sense of security in the community and direction of security enhancement". This goal has two implied measures: the "level of security" and the "direction of security enhancement ". These factors were derived from the findings of the study carried out both as quantitative and qualitative in this research.

Employment and Public Order Situations

One of the key indicators of public order was recognized as the Alcohol abuse in Rural Municipality and Drug abuse in Municipalities and Metropolitan. During the study, theft, and possession of weapons including firearms and Khukuris (native sharp knife) is largely due to unemployment situations especially youths.

A former ward chairman, aged 66, from Gorakha district, said during FGD:

Due to the economic condition, we are working hard. Some of our people are in foreign employment; some are migrated for menial work in the city.

Only a few of us are in the community and we are doing cash crops'. But, whatever we people are doing none of our sectors are free from problems. For those who travel to a foreign destination for work, their family life is damaged. Those migrated for wok, haven't earned much and we are also having many problems. Therefore, the government has to think of raising our economic level, so that we have secure living.

A Social Worker, aged 41, from Morang district stated:

In my neighbourhood, 5-7 young boys, they stay in the liquor shop late in the night. I have seen them having drugs. That is the place where most of the fighting happens and they are involved in most of them. If the family had close supervision of their kinds, their parents would know the whereabouts and activities of their children. But, in most of their cases, their father was out for the city for work'.

A woman Activist, aged 33, from Kanepokhari Rural Municipality, Morang, in an interview stated:

The security situation is better now than it was before. But due to increased unemployment in rural areas criminal activities are increasing in society. We have seen the insecurity during armed conflict.

The findings show the unemployment conditions relate to alcohol abuse, drug abuse, and illegal weapon possession. This situation further links to the public order situations of the particular community. The public order situations, particularly possession of weapons when coupled with non-intervention for a longer time lead to violent and organized crime. Violent and organized crime emerged as the one major reason for insecurity in the community.

An Assistant Sub-Inspector, aged 28, from Rangeli Municipality, Morang, said:

Economic transaction between to individual does not fall in the police jurisdiction. This case directly goes to the court as a civil case. But, still, this has lots of issues related to security. This kind of transaction is usually might have the fraud intention, the intimidation and coercion usually become case who is violating the terms. If the victim did not get justice, he along

with the other people in the society do not trust the state organ and this becomes the cause of disorder in the society.

The officer (Assistant Sub-Inspector, age 51) from Kapurkot Rural Municipality of Salyan said:

We found that some residents are lured to some sort of fraud scheme by people from outside. Due to their economic condition, they become easily convinced that there will be more benefits and involve in the game without telling anybody and not assessing the outcome. When they found that they are tricked and lost money, they sometimes commit suicides.

Police records show that regular crime related incidents lead to more violent crime in the area. The Public order situations when coupled with contrast Security behaviour as a sense of alienation even perceived, trigger violent and organized crime.

Based on the causes of crime, Violent and organized crime (VO) which is due to the criminal act and economic motive, Public and Consensual (PC) which is due to ineffective enforcement and socio-economic reason, Economic (E) for economic reason, Suicide (S)

due socio-economic orientation are categorized separately. This is termed here as VOPCES devised by the researcher. Comparing the VOPCES score, Metropolitan shows Critical PC (Public order-Consensual) and high E (economic Crime, Municipality have high PC (Public order-Consensual), E (Economic), and rising S (Suicide). In the rural municipalities Suicide (S) is high and in some very critical.

Figure 2: VOPCES Scale
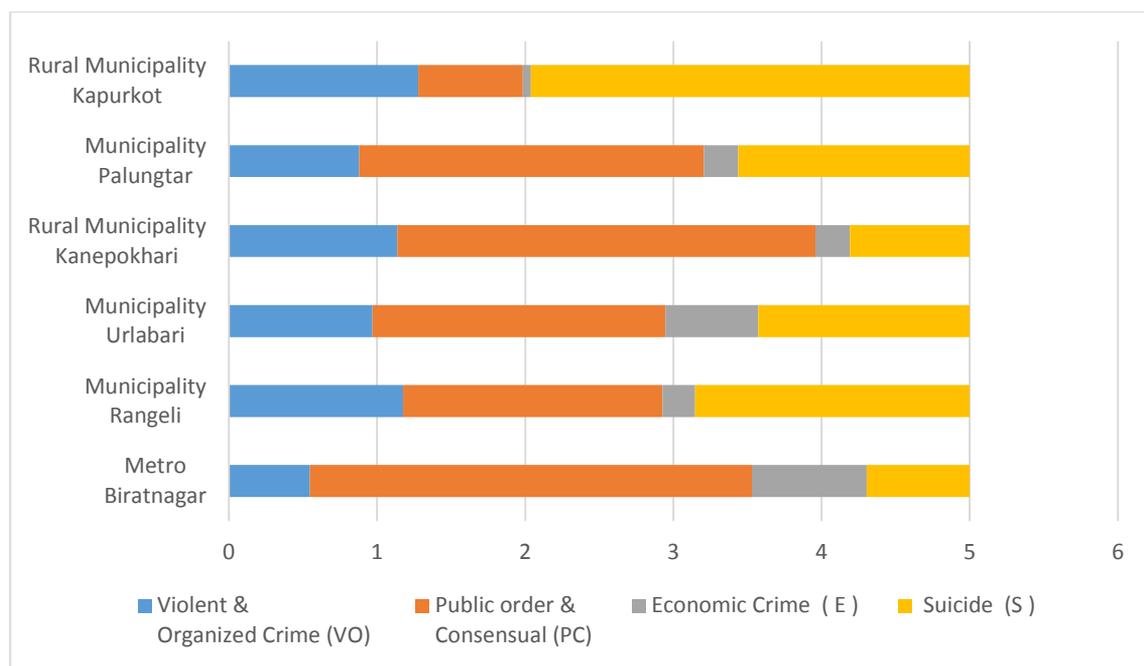
This indicates the economic conditions are the main causes of crime in all these areas. The sociological approach toward crime rests largely on two fundamental premises. One: crime is socially constructed; and the second: the social action is intersubjectively meaningful (Hester & Eglin, 1992). It is observed that a dynamic system exists between socio-economic factors and crimes. This explains that a lack of economic opportunities that persisted over a longer period gives rise to public disorder and crimes, which is evident in Metropolitan Biratnagar.

Suicide prevention would follow a socio-economic orientation rather than simply a crime–orientation. Suicide was also observed to be high in Municipalities and Rural Municipalities, which indicates economic as well as other reasons, including low self-esteem arising from the level of understanding and other security behaviour. As explained as the conditions of suicidal risk, the breakdown of typical defenses and consequent lack of control, inter-personal alienation or isolation, and cognitive constriction under the condition of situational stress, which leads the individual to attempt to change intolerable conditions if he lacks resources to make mature choices (Richman, 1986). This is the case as observed in Rural municipalities and municipalities.

Level of Understanding and Security Situation

In the study, the sense of security was found highly dependent on the level of understanding. Public and police in Metropolitan, Municipality, and Rural Municipality identified the level of understanding is key in building a sense of security. The overall percentage of Metropolitan, Municipalities, and Rural Municipalities is the highest, this factor stands out as the major contributor in security situations.

A Teacher, aged 46, from Palungtar Municipality, Gorakha in an in-depth interview expressed:

Our community is a community with low literacy rates. Therefore, the community seems less concerned about security. People build their opinion from what they understand and to which they are exposed. Particularly negative ideas generate and people believe in it. Besides, the security agencies seem to have failed to assure security. The community is insecure when there are criminal activities and social agitation.

In an interview with a businesswoman, aged 42, from Urlabari Municipality, Morang, said:

Some communities are still subjected to violent acts due to illiteracy and lack of awareness. Due to the lack of adequate resources, the task of providing peace and security is being hampered. When the community is insecure, fear becomes a panic. Thinking about an event that might happen is worrying. They consider security a necessity. They need police patrols.

A Sub-Inspector, aged 37, from Rangeli Municipality, Morang, stated:

Apart from the people who commit criminal activities in our society, the security of the people can be ensured even if the people in the society are aware. There are certain behaviour, community practices such as Unequal treatment in the community which is a serious security issue. The problem of caste discrimination, untouchability, etc. is unequal behaviour and causes the problem to maintain law and order. People's views about the police have changed. The role of the police has been effective.

A Social Worker, aged 61, Kapurkot Rural Municipality, Salyan in an in-depth interview said:

There has been an increase in the public consciousness; I have developed the notion that citizens are police without uniforms. It is very helpful as this is a simple cooperative, even the common man and the cooperative spirit of each other, makes the crime not concealed in the society. Therefore the understanding of the community is important.

One interesting finding in the research is the link to the level of understanding of the community with community security. The level of understanding was observed in Metropolitan and some Municipalities and Rural municipalities from both the public and police participants, and eventually developed the contrast security behaviour which, coupled with public order situations, reduced the sense of security. Therefore, there is a significant relationship observed between education and security behaviour.

Education is not the only factor that prompts people towards joining, engaging, and trusting, but it is a powerful predictor, at the individual level, even when controlling for other variables such as wealth, income, age, and gender. To Robert Putnam (Putnam, 1995) current doyen of social capital theorists, 'Human and social capital are related, for education has a very powerful effect on trust and associational membership, as well as many other forms of social and political participation' (Green et al., 2006).

The level of understanding due to the low level of education builds the perception mostly negative in various areas of social setting. Even in the case of some sort of public disorder, the perception impacts less or no participation in any state and security building activity. Non- participation makes less information and false information, which together builds a low sense of justice. This in some cases, coupled with low-income situations makes some areas more vulnerable to suicides due to low self-esteem as evidenced in many rural areas here in the study. Another behaviour remains as non- cooperative attitude towards police due to the sense of alienation as a result of a low sense of justice. In many cases, the perceived sense of alienation effect security situations. The level of understanding leading to the contrast Security behaviour evidenced in violent crime and suicide when coupled with the low-income situation and non-cooperative attitudes.

Condition of Daily Life, Trust and Confidence

The condition of daily life is very much connected to the trust and confidence of the state and the police. In the research, the availability of basic goods, particularly, food and water supply in rural municipality and fuel and electricity in the metropolitan and municipalities are linked to the security of the community. Equally, access to basic services including health care in Metropolitan and transport and communication in the municipalities and rural municipalities linked to security. It was evidenced that scarcity of basic goods impacts the smuggling of goods which builds public disorder situations.

One of the elderly respondent (Former ward chairman, aged 66) from Morang district, in an in-depth interview, said :

In society, the easy access and availability of the basic services are very important and interruption of this will lead to Critical situations. Police sometimes restrict the transportation of basic goods and that makes the poor people suffer.

The condition of the availability of basic goods and services is greatly linked to the trust and confidence of the state and police as well. This being the contrast Security behaviour of non – cooperation.

In an interview with Teacher, aged 37, from Kanepokhari Rural Municipality, he said:

Insecurity also has a connection to other factors. Inadequate or hindrances to basic services make daily activities difficult and equally make society insecure. Particularly Health care services, transportation, communication are essential basic services. Sometimes not only the crime, other social factors in different issues how it has been resolved. If any consensus among the communities is made in terms of negotiation, effective interaction, prompt monitoring, fairness, transparency, timely procedures, all these influences in some way to the security.

In an interview with the Principal, aged 36, from Rangeli Municipality, he said:

Basic services and supply are the inherent rights of community and responsibility of the state. Discontinuation of and blockade in such services makes everyone upset. Unsafe activity increased only through the level of criminal activity, only through the combined efforts and programs security assurance can be strengthened.

In the research, basic services, particularly access to basic commodities and access to basic services, are linked to the sense of security, as this is associated with trust and confidence towards the state and police. Both public and police consider fuel and electricity basic services. They expressed that unequal treatment based on gender, caste, and class by the state machinery including police service led to diminished trust towards police and a sense of insecurity prevails.

A Social Worker, aged 37, from Kapurkot Rural Municipality, Salyan said:

While such basic services are unavailable, security gets adversely affected, but in such instances, the concerned body and the government should resolute responsibly. The interruption of basic services makes an impact. People's lives are affected. The unequal treatment creates division in the society, which causes minor altercations in society.

A Sub- Inspector, aged 46, from Palungtar Municipality, Gorakha stated:

Unequal treatment of people based on caste, class, gender, and prosperity creates a feeling of insecurity in people,

rebellion from them, poses security threats, a feeling of revenge, and instincts of motivating events. Such uneven behaviour promotes security in a broader sense. In a developing country like Nepal, security is not completely dependent on crime, violence, and the required areas, so it must be monitored properly.

The Participants stated that education, health, housing, water, and communication constitute the basic services linked with security. In Rural Municipality, Kanepokhari, people indicated that basic services include food, water, health, and communication. In Palungtar Municipality, Gorkha District, employment, education, and health were basic services linked to security. Transportation and communication were key services that affect security. In Rural Municipality Kapurkot, economic conditions along with education and health influence being secure.

Police Performance

In all the cases, Police performance emerged as the dominant factor in building a sense of security. The study highlighted, three distinct areas emerged as the performance factors of police, the condition of visibility, police integrity, and investigative capability. In Metropolitan, the visibility is very much on the prompt response in the incidents wherein rural municipality and municipality, it comes as a regular patrol and security arrangement in social events like festivals and other gatherings.

The integrity is associated with political influence largely in rural municipalities and the corruption and influence of key persons of the community in the Municipality and Metropolitan. Some indecent behaviour like drinking during duty hours and rude dealing with the public. Another element is the investigative capability emerges as the key performance area of police.

The primary teacher of the community, age 48, from Salyan District shared in the FGD:

I had witnessed the two different treatments in similar incidents by the local police. In one incident, Police had arrested one on the charge of vandalizing one restaurant. In a similar circumstance, the police had let the person pay for the damage to the restaurant and let him go without arresting. These two different actions

for the almost similar incident will not build trust and confidence in police.

One of the group members (Sub Inspector, District Police Office, age 32, Metropolitan Biratnagar) adding in the same opinion said:

In the main roads in the Biratnagar, we have CCTV and now Application based response system in operation. When I was in the movie theatre 2/3 month back, there was security awareness information of District Police office Morang being played on the screen. I observed most of the audiences they had a very positive opinion about that. They were saying our police are also high tech and they are capable of arresting anybody when a crime is committed.

One middle-aged participant (Ethnic Tarai origin male, from Rangeli Municipality, Morang) shared his idea :

I think if police arrest the culprit within a few hours, people become convinced of the ability of the police. In my observation, if police nab some high profile fugitive and culprit of the incident, the deterrent effect will be huge and the crime rate drops thereafter.

Police performance in its simplest form means how well the police carry out and deliver the wide variety of things for which they have responsibility. The police have a key role within the society in tackling crime and ensuring community safety. Therefore, the findings here suggest preventing crimes through effective investigation, providing assurance, helping reduce the fear of crime through visibility, and building trust and confidence through their professional integrity, all collectively enhance the performance of the police. Therefore, low professionalism is linked to two contrast Security behaviour one exhibits as discrimination and another builds threats and intimidation particularly tie to political influence. Both these are the contrast Security behaviour and lead to a non-cooperative attitude towards police. This sometimes brings active resistance from the part of the public.

Partnership in Security Practice

Partnership in security practice in the study is linked to security situations. Different programs including the community-based slogan-oriented programs and partnership programs considered the means of building a

sense of security through building trust. One of the lady participant (women right activist engaged in community police forum, aged 41) from Salyan, during FGD, said:

Police makes program by the consultation of the only men in the community. They engage the male community members in almost all of their programs. This does not help to control the problem the society is facing.

A senior local politician, aged 64 during FGD from Morang stated:

Many police in-charge who come and go. Some they can make good relation with the public and some will be at the same level. I recall, one police inspector from before the last two, he hardly went to the public during his term in the office. He was not bad, very gentle, soft-spoken, I think. But even in the small incident, people protested and he had a tough time convincing people.

The context of threats and intimidation and contrast Security behaviour, community participation programs, and community information programs leads to a sense of recognition. The security behaviour triangle emerges which results in a sense of recognition /justice.

One of the officers said, the activities of the police it's all depending on how good the police in-charge is. He (Assistant Sub Inspector, age 37, Urlabari, Morang) stated:

If the police in-charge is very good with leaders, he can convince him and launch a program without any problems. If he is good at maintaining relations with the public, he can organize many partnership programs. He should equally be good in tasking jobs. Overall, Police commander should be the one good in public relations, good in doing policing and confront and convince whoever needs to be when keeping firm stand in his decisions.

The head constable of the Kapurkot police station, Salyan, said:

When police launch new community programs, the community becomes very positive. They want to be part of the program. If we carry out just normal duty, people think that police are not doing enough. They do not support us when we need them and also they express a negative idea about the police.

Therefore, from the Case stories, the visibility of police, the Crime-Drug-Alcohol situation, police response,

community interactions were the fundamental security issues identified in Metropolitan Biratnagar and Municipalities except in the Municipality Palungtar of Gorkha. The Municipality of Gorkha along with Rural municipality Kapurkot showed different dynamics as unequal behaviour, security awareness, and illegal activities as the major security issues.

The case stories depicted access to basic services relates to the sense of security of the community. Transportation, Electricity, communication along with the access to police information in Metropolitan and Municipalities, and participation in the security partnership and health agenda have explicitly emerged in Rural Municipality Kapurkot of Salyan.

The crimes like Kidnapping, Robbery, and Rape were identified as Signal Crimes largely depicted as the drivers of insecurity in the Metropolitan and Urban municipality. Mostly lack of economic opportunities in the rural and low level of income in the urban linked to the Public order situations Crime-Drug-Alcohol situation. The level of understanding due to the less access to information and misleading media reports and the condition of daily lives particularly the access to basic commodities and basic services in the rural were associated with the security of the community.

In all the areas, police effectiveness in controlling crime, non-interference from the political leaders and key people of the community, and community-focused security programs has been identified as the essential tools to build trust and confidence. Therefore, becoming tough in crime illustrated like the arrest of high profile offenders was viewed as the high performance of the police. The finding is consistent across most of the areas and community members including Police with some exception. The findings explicitly showed that the attitude of non-cooperation, lack of trust and confidence, and protest against police contributed to the sense of security in the community.

From the above discussion, the guiding questions of this research can be further explained as follows.

What Constitutes Basic Security Elements in the Community?

Based on the findings, security issues ranging from public order situations like alcohol-drug situations, police presence, level of understanding, from petty crimes to violent and organized crime. The conditions of basic services to the police effectiveness includes in the security list. The community security behaviour also emerged as security issues in the researched areas. The survey highlighted the level of understanding, crime, and violent crime, threats, and intimidation, a sense of justice rated high in building security. The level of income, health conditions constitutes the security elements.

Most of the research has focused on the effects of adverse economic conditions on crime rates (Rosenfeld et al., 2013). The human security concept applies to ground-level security-building practices. Irrespective of the traditional thinking on both policing and human security, incorporation of the specific social conditions in the building of security in the community is largely missing

How Can We Define Sense of Security?

Defining and measuring a sense of security is complex and challenging. However, the findings depicted crimes along with other social conditions that build a sense of security. This refers to the objective crime data to subjective feelings of being secure. Asking respondents about their sense of insecurity in a survey offers them to report the incidents they have encountered in the community and the feelings and emotions developed over time due to the various social conditions. The crimes in the respective researched areas are interpreted based on the causes of crime. The combination of community security behaviour emerged as a sense of discrimination, trust, and confidence, threats, and intimidation, a sense of justice, and resistance as the product of social interactions.

The finding of the research shows the conceptual and experiential connections of human security to many aspects of how the community experience sense of security. At the community level, people do not consider the development activities as security concerns but based on their opinion they directly or

indirectly link this to the idea of being secure. The conditions of daily life connected to ones being secure which connect to human security.

This can be further explained by the theory of Social Cohesion. A society is cohesive if it works towards the well-being of all the members, fights exclusion and marginalization, creates a way of belonging, promotes trust, and offers its members the opportunity of upward social mobility. "Socially cohesive or 'shared' societies are stable, safe and just, and are supported the promotion and protection of all human rights, also as on non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons" (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2012).

Therefore, social cohesion is a broad concept, covering several dimensions: the sense of belonging and active participation, trust, inequality, exclusion, and mobility. The behaviours identified here are dimensions of social cohesion. The findings further depicted that crime and public order situations have reduced levels of social cohesion.

Although the mechanism underlying the relationships is not empirically clear, the qualitative data gathered through FGD and in-depth interviews suggest that the mentioned behaviours are responsible for building a sense of security.

How Can Nepal Police Enhance the Sense of Security in the Community?

Nepal Police generally adopted the law enforcement model for building a sense of security. Traditional crime focused Community partnership program is being implemented across the country. Human Security aspects are not considered in building security from the policing perspective. Based on the findings, the level of income and level of understanding is directly linked to a sense of security. People commit a crime and adopt illegal practices linked to the level of income, level of understanding, and standard of living. Understanding the dynamics of sense of security and augmenting the police performance enhance the sense of security in the community.

The respondents both the police and the public recognized the performance of

police based on three specific factors. The visibility which the respondent described in various ways as a prompt response of police, the regular patrol in the community and surprise, odd- hour police mobility and effective security in special community occasions. Integrity was the area consisted of a high professional attitude as unbiased, non-corruptible, and free from personal vices. The integrity was most focused on the individual behaviour of drinking, association with people of a criminal background, and illicit relations with women.   The third element identified was the investigation capacity that includes the arrest of high profile offenders, rapid investigation capacity, and the number of fugitive arrested. This clearly illustrates the intervention areas for police to build a better sense of security.

Another major area of analysis has been the Crime Analysis of the researched communities. Crime Analysis of the six communities based on causes of crime using VOPCES (VO-PC-E-S)[i] the scale shows Metropolitan with the high Public order and Consensual (PC) and Economic (E), which indicates the high public order problem resulting from Alcohol- drug situation, law enforcement issues, and from economic

reasons. VOPCES of Municipalities shows the high PC and Suicide (S) indicates the public order problems from Alcohol- drug situation, low law enforcement issues, and suicide due to dire socio-economic conditions including the low esteem. VOPCES of Rural municipality shows high Public order and Consensual (PC) and Violent and organized crime (VO) which indicates Alcohol- drug situation, law enforcement issues, and violent crime indicate the repeated incidents and critical social conditions.

Relationships Between Sense of Security, Crime and Security Behaviour

When analysing the findings, conceptually, the sense of security depends on crime and security behaviour. High crime and high contrast security behaviour lead to the lowest sense of security. Low crime and high positive security behaviour lead to a high sense of security.   The contrast behaviour, as discussed in the findings, is identified as a perceived sense of alienation/discrimination, trust, and confidence, sense of discrimination, and a sense of recognition as the main behaviours. The moderate sense of security with high crime or with high

contrast security behaviour could lead to a low sense of security over time if no intervention is made. Sense of security Quadrant, devised by the researcher shows the relation of crime and security behaviour in determining the sense of security.

Figure 3: Sense of Security Quadrant (Based on the Data Collected)

This research identified several key factors and conditions linked to various phenomena in building a sense of security for the community. The findings of the study show that there are various types of crimes and different sets of Security behaviour associated with the socio-economic conditions particularly level of income, level of understanding, and the conditions of living.

The findings also highlighted the state of police performance and the pattern of security practices adopted for building security. Identifying the type of insecurity and the specific social conditions can be intervened by the context-specific plan. Based on the findings, recommendations are presented which is based on the cyclical relationship that exists between the sense of security and the socio-economic conditions along with the police performance both based on capacity and the pattern of partnership practices adopted. In essence, findings posit a dynamic system interacts in building the security and giving the practitioners a wider space for appropriate interventions to match the context. The findings of the research show the conceptual and experiential connections of human security to many

aspects of how communities experience a sense of security. At the community level, people do not consider the development activities as security concerns, but, based on their opinions, they directly or indirectly link this to the idea of being secure. The conditions of daily life connect to one's being secure, which connects to human security.

As explained in New dimension of human security (2003), economic security, political security, personal security, community security, food security, health security, and environmental security, the findings did not observe all these seven aspects; they were not equally connected to the sense of security in the community.

Traditionally, Human Security aspects are not considered in building security from the policing perspective. Human security as a concept is seen as a development concept, and the security providers do not necessarily incorporate it while enhancing security. The socio-economic conditions are identified in this research as the underlying cause of insecurity. Therefore, human security has to be considered as an important component. The nature of the specific insecurity determines the particular socio-economic conditions in the particular community as the basis of building security.

Therefore, based on the findings, human security has two major categories when understanding the concept in practical terms. First, the aspects of human security include the economic structural dimensions of employment and education leading to crime and illegal practices concerning the rule of law. Second, the aspects of daily life whose disruptions and unfair access raise some security concerns and develop contrast security behaviour[ii]. This is often linked to the credibility of the state and police in particular. Human security is explained by many security experts as a separate concept; however, it is part of the socio-economic conditions and security provider's capacity to deal with security threats. This research outlined these aspects of human security, particularly level of income, level of education, conditions of daily life as linked to the sense of security for the community.

Conclusion

The policing role has been evolving to build security and to meet the changing needs of society. Human security, a widely established security concept

incorporates a larger range of issues related to the societal needs of the community. Therefore, identifying the security issues, a better understanding of how the security builds in the community from both the community and the security provider perspective is critical. This research identified Human security informed Policing makes the human security approach work and build a better sense of security. Central to this approach has been the identification of security issues ranging from socio-economic conditions to the police capacity. This is even more crucial in the case of Nepal, which is emerging from long armed conflict and security -development agenda increasingly becoming the national agenda.

Disclosure Statement

The author declares that no potential conflict of interest exists.

Notes

i. A scale devised by the researcher to map the Causes of crime in the community.
ii. The term Contrast Security behaviour here is used to denote simply anti-social cohesion not as the deviant behaviour as being used in Crime.

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