

Foreign Policy of Nepal: Perception of International Relations Committee Members, GoN (2023 to 2025)

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Abstract

The research study analyzed the understanding of the international relations committee members, to measure the perception on Nepalese foreign policy in contemporary political development of Nepal. Thus, the research issue concerns the question of what is or should be regarded as acceptable perception in a discipline for the smooth growth and development of foreign policy of Nepal. The research is dais on quantitative research methods that reflect the understanding of the perception of the international relations committee members regarding political awareness in respect to international relations, Government of Nepal (GoN) based on foreign policy and its execution. In this regard, primary data has been collected, analyzed and interpreted using SPSS. The purpose of this research is to explore and analyze Nepal's diplomatic positing within the geopolitical and international political environment, particularly in relation to its foreign policy. Understanding these dynamics is fundamental for acquisitive how Nepal navigates its relationships and influences in a complex global milieu. The research relies on six variables of international relations and foreign policy such as Nepal's position in IR based on foreign policy, national interests, international political economy, socio-cultural relations and international organizations. The research philosophy is under pragmatism followed by the inductive research approach. The methodological choice is based on quantitative and the survey research strategy is applied. Thus, the entire research as based on the low politics or soft power of IR and foreign policy mechanism.

Keywords: foreign policy, international relations, international relations committee members, national interest, perception

Introduction

Perception plays a momentous function in international relations (IR) and foreign policy. Foreign policy is a key area of research study in IR and involves a State's strategy for

interacting with other States and non-state actors. IR typically uses a theoretical and analytical approach, while foreign policy involves practical application. Thus, perception is how the international relations committee members interpret and understand in sequence about international politics and geopolitical game play. Foreign policy procedure is a set of strategies measures a nation pursues its relationships with further actors in the global system. Perception is a critical factor in foreign policy because it influences how law-makers of the international relations committee, interpret, understand and reevaluate the international political events and the actions of other States in relevancy to the foreign policy of Nepal. Thus, perception of members of international relations committee, is influenced by personal experiences in their beliefs and political cultural background based on their respective political ideology and the understanding level of international politics in contemporary new world order. It can be understood as mental pictures formed based on respondent's knowledge on the international politics and IR and beliefs about desirable behavior based on various variables of the research study.

The researcher states, 'the perception on foreign policy is how States perceive foreign States and how these perceptions can affect decision-making. Foreign policy is the exercise of how a State interacts with other states and non-state actors in the global political arena for the effective execution of interconnectivity and diplomatic friendly in international political understanding based on the IR. It involves formulating, implementing and evaluating a State's strategy to achieve its national interests'.

Hence, the perception of the respondents of the House of Representatives, GoN, or the leader toward other states is never set in diplomatic stoned. Instead, there is still the possibility of changes when leaders absorb new information regarding the political dynamics and other state partners' and this perception is influenced by several major factors, notably external factors, such as the development in the international political system and domestic politics, as happened in the international world order.

Statement of Problems

The research centers on the perception of international relations community, GoN, 2023-2025 AD emphasizing its impact on the nation's global reputation. The analysis explores how Nepal's foreign policy, national interests and involvement in global practice influence its diplomatic relations and role in International Organizations (IOs). Nepal's noteworthy concern is the limited global influence stems from the inadequate execution of its foreign policy strategies, hindering its capacity to navigate complex IR. The objective of the research is to explore and analyze the perception of the international relations committee members, GoN 2023-2025 AD on the foreign policy of Nepal in the contemporary political understanding in international political milieu.

In the contemporary political development of Nepal it was observed the foreign relations of Nepal lacks potential gravity to reflect the IR and foreign policy to sustain its diplomatic status in the international political arena. The foreign policy of Nepal 2020 fundamentally designed to safeguard the nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity and economic independence amid shifting geopolitical dynamics. Nepal's maintains a steadfast commitment to non-alignment, fostering balanced relations with her neighbors. This approach is guided by the principles of *Panchsheel* and adherence to the UN Charter, international law and global peace initiatives. Despite article 50 (4) (Constitution of Nepal, p.20), article 51(m) (1) (2) (Constitution of Nepal, p.29), researcher of the research study tries to measure the perception of the respondents on various variables of foreign policy of Nepal. Though, Nepal has been trying to maintain foreign relations with its neighbors and effectively executing its tools in international platforms to foster its diplomatic ties and develop bilateral, regional and multilateral relations.

Literature Review

IR and foreign policy is regarded as a fundamental discipline in international political milieu. It is the result of the State in the global world order. It is the course of action undertaken by a sovereign State beyond its domestic political affair in quest of national objectives. The political and IR experts of different juncture have analyses the concept from their perspectives. Even though their views and definitions vary, they have a common view that 'foreign policy is meant primarily for the preservation and promotion of the national interest of a State' (Baral, 2022, p. 52). 'Foreign policies are the strategies governments use to guide their actions in the international arena. The policies enchantment out the objectives state leaders have decided to pursue in a given relationship or situation' (Goldstein & Pevehouse, 2009, p. 123). 'Foreign policy is the strategy or approach chosen by the national government to achieve its goal in its relations with external entities' (Hudson, 2012, p.14). It refers to how 'the functioning governments of sovereign States resemble each other in the international political system to attain targeted goals' (Jaiswal, 2016, p. 2). A foreign policy is generally prepared for protecting and promoting a State's national interests, security, economic prosperity and independent image in the international forums. Foreign policy is the management of external relations and activities of nation states, as distinguished from their domestic policies. It involves goals, strategies, measures, methods, guidelines, directives understandings agreement etc., by which national governments conduct IR with each other and with IOs, state actors and non-state actors (Robert & Georg, 2013, p.252). In the words of Schleicher, "refers to the actions (including the words) of government officials to influence human behavior beyond the jurisdiction of their own State. In the border sense, foreign policy includes the objective, plans and actions taken by a State related to its external relationship" (Malhotra, 2014, p. 256; Baral, 2022.p.52). Modelski

states, foreign policy is ‘the system of activities evolved by communities for changing the behavior of other States and for adjusting their own activities to the international political environment’ (Modelski, 1962, p. 67). Similarly, Rodee opines, ‘Foreign policy involves the formulation and implementation of a group of principles which shapes the behavior pattern of a State while negotiating with other States to protect or further its vital interests’ (Dahal, 2009, p. 21; Baral, 2022, p. 52).

On the other hand, in political theory of IR, ‘the theory of political perception’ isn’t a single concept but a broad inquiry into how individuals of the respondents perceive, understand, and shaped by political realities, including the influence of ideologies, social institutions, and their own cognitive frameworks. This involves exploring how subjective interpretations of ‘facts’ versus ‘value’ structure the contemporary Nepalese politics. Their understanding, a concept linked to epistemology, and how ‘mind shaping institutions’ cultivate specific political attitudes and actions. Contemporary approaches increasingly use interdisciplinary methods, combining cognitive science with philosophy, to analyze how group dynamics, individual biases, and affective framing influence state actors’ engagement with political norms and governance in accordance with the respondents of the House of Representative, GoN, perception on IR and foreign policy of Nepal.

According to constructivist theory, the perceptions are built from respondent’s experiences and knowledge. State actors actively construct their understanding of the international politics and IR based on past interactions. This theory suggests that perception is a top-down process where the respondent’s concise interprets sensory information through a lens of prior knowledge.

The domestic political influences exerted by different political parties in research site, the research article explores with a focus on the perception on foreign policy of Nepal. The respondents have been taken from the purposive sampling, those who are in the committee member of international relations, GoN. Thus, the result of the research is based on the perception on foreign policy of Nepal by the nomination of the representatives of the eleven political parties in the House of Representatives. As per the provision referred in the house of representatives rules, 2075 B.S. (2018 AD), ‘the parliamentary committees to be formed, in order to render assistance to the regular work of the House of Representatives, to make the GoN accountable and responsible, to give necessary direction, provide opinion, advice after monitoring and evaluating the act and activities carried out by the government behalf and to achieve the objective under article 97 of the existing constitution of Nepal 2015, do stand as a mini-parliament. Out of ten thematic committees of the House of Representatives, the international relations committee is one of the important committee. Its jurisdiction aligns closely with MoFA (Kunwar, 2024, p. 107).

In political theory, perception refers to an individual's subjective interpretation of political information, actors, and issues, which shaped their attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors, such as voting in international and foreign affairs direct or indirect application on various variables of concerned subject. The exploration of the IR theories, how individuals construct their perceptions through variables like political viewpoints, perceived social integration, and the influence of party cues, leading to phenomena like political participation, populism and collective misperception.

Thus, perception in politics is a key focus of constructive theory, which posits that political realities, including perceptions are socially constructed through interactions, norms, beliefs and values rather than being fixed objectives facts. Constructivism in political theory explains how perceptions shape political issues like low politics and soft power instruments influencing State's behavior, institutional development and the definition of what is considered politically important on the behalf of national interest. Hence, constructive perception is the theory of perception in which the perceiver i.e. the respondents uses sensory information and other sources of information to construct cognitive understanding of a stimulus.

Theoretical Review

Realism, liberalism and constructivism are the dominating theories of IR and foreign policy in contemporary international politics. Political realism is considered the leading theory in understanding IR and foreign policy. IR is concerned with the study of power relations from the perspective of political realism (Goldstin & Pevehouse, 2009, p. 43; Baral, 2022. p.53). Political realism includes major propositions like anarchism, egoism and power politics (Donnelly, 2008, pp. 150-182). The relations are based on a conflict mode that creates a struggle to be guided by the value of state survival and national security (Wohlforth, 2008, pp. 131- 149). It has a less optimistic view of human relations. Furthermore, (Mingst, 2004, p. 66) opines that human nature is selfish and power-oriented and people are organized in States where the activities of each individual are guided by the value of national interest. The values are motivated by power relations. Hence, the realists believe that the desire for more power is rooted in the imperfect nature of humanity. Therefore, states are continuously involved in a struggle to increase their influence.

In the foreign policy analysis constructivist approach focuses on identity such as collective identity political identity, national identity and State identity. Constructivism focuses especially on the relationship between interests and identities encompass several competing approaches (Scott, 2005, p.26). Thus, collective identity is one of the most important identities in the foreign policy analysis. Constructivists put much more stress on the significance of collective identity. Bozdaglioglu, describes collective identity as a 'systemic process which is another factor that plays a significant role in the emergence'. He further added, 'strategic

practice is the last factor that affects the emergence of collective identity' (Bozdaglioglu, 2003, p.21). In the process of reproducing collective identity lies the key to the production and reproduction of security and security policy (Mcsweeney, 2004, p.12). Collective identity involves shared features; it is argued that not all type of identities is collective because not all involve identification (Wendt, 1999, p.229). Political identity is another type of identity in the foreign policy analysis. Political identity is also very important in foreign policy. For Example, 'construction of identity suggests an engineering view of politics, one that focuses on purposeful actors and their political choices' (Katzenstein, 2009, p.3). National identity is another factor in the foreign policy analysis; Katzenstein describes national identity "as one form of collective identity. National identity could be a source of conflict for groups in a society who did not think of themselves as belonging to the nation and if the patterns of interaction became conflict, could result in some groups deciding to form a new or alternative nation" (Katzenstein, 2009, pp. 135-136), State identity is another identity in the foreign policy analysis. Coskum argues that 'one of the essential ways for States is to get a new identity or protect the previous one through foreign policy. Interactions with other States help a way for States get them accepted as a part of a certain international community and gain respect. Particularly during the process of identity formulation or reformulation, foreign policy is a key instrument decision makers use in order to realize their goals' (Coskum, 2008, pp. 31-54). Thus, state identity affects domestic political developments and foreign policy identify.

Actors' behavior is also considered a framework that highlights the role of ideas and identities in shaping systems and individual behavior. Identities, interests and inter-subjective beliefs are more responsible for shifting the behavior of states (Jesse & Dreyer, 2016, p. 49). Condense that a change in foreign policy is common when the changes occur in norms and identity.

Conceptual Theory

Conceptual theories on the perception of IR and foreign policy include "Image Theory", which focuses on how actors create and use images of relationships and stereotypes to guide actions; Constructivism, which emphasizes that identities and interests are socially constructed through interactions, shaping policy; and approaches that integrate decision maker psychology with international structures, using factors like personality, authority, and bureaucracy to understand foreign policy behavior of the respondents perception on the foreign policy of Nepal.

Constructivism and Nepal's National Interests

Nepal was only one Hindu kingdom located in the Himalayas after the enactment of new constitution 2015 Nepal was recognized as an, 'independent, indivisible, sovereign, secular, inclusive, democratic, socialism oriented federal democratic republican State'. Nepal

shares its border with China and India. Nepal's location is geographically sensitive and strategically important, which perceive each other as rivals rather than politically diplomatic friends beside huge trade facilitation. A constructivist view, argue that, these structural conditions do not necessarily constrain Nepal's ability to pursue its national interests since they are not the only conditions that influence state behavior.

Research Methods and Materials

The research article adopted the quantitative research approach to explore and analyze the relationship between the perception of the international relations committee members and the various variable of foreign policy of Nepal such as, Nepal's position in international relations based on foreign policy, National Interests, International Political Economy, Socio-Cultural Relations, International Organizations. The quantitative method was chosen because it enables the numerical measurement of variables, allowing for objective analysis, generalization and hypothesis testing through statistical tools (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). This research approach is useful in identifying patterns, correlations and statistical significance between independent and dependent variables in psychological behaviors of the international relations committee members of the respective political parties and foreign policy behaviors of Nepal.

The population for this study comprised the individuals of respective political parties in international relations committee member of the House of Representatives, GoN. 2023-2025 AD. The total population (N) 27, (n) 26 sample sizes has been taken as purposive sampling. This sampling is 'used to select the respondent's identification and selection of information rich cases related to the phenomenon of interest of research that are mostly to yield appropriate and useful information' and is a way of identifying and selecting issues based on the research topic conducted by the researcher, that will use limited research resources effectively. Finally, the findings from these respondents are analyzed and discuss below the results and discussion section.

Hence, the research is grounded in a pragmatist philosophy and employs an inductive approach. It utilizes the closed ended questionnaire based on likert scale. The research is based on quantitative research method, specifically through a survey research strategy. The finding indicates a substantial perception among the respondents, which is essential for shaping foreign policy of Nepal's diplomatic strategies by the variables measures by the researcher.

Results and Discussion

Analysis and Interpretation of Perception of International Relations Committee Members

Perceptions of foreign policy among the respondents often include the following elements: Respect for sovereignty and independence. The House of Representatives general

perceives the preservation of Nepal's sovereignty as paramount. Respondents advocate for a foreign policy that protects national interests and avoids dependence on any single country, particularly India, China, or any other diplomatic states. Nepal's shares strategically significant geographical position. It is essential for her to adopt a balanced approach in diplomatic relations with diplomatic friendly States in global politics.

Respondents' frequently underscore the prerequisite of engaging with the neighboring States to safeguard Nepal's strategic interests while preserving its autonomy. Bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation are the key concern of the respondents, which often express a positive perception on regional cooperation through organizations like SAARC, BIMSTEC, BBIN, SCO, WTO, UN etc. Researcher believes that active participation in such bodies can help to address the common challenges, promote economic collaboration and enhance regional and multilateral stability. Similarly, respondents might perceive participation in international treaties as opportunities to project Nepal's commitment to global peace and cooperation along with mutual development in international political arena. Thus, the House of Representatives, GoN advocates for policies that not only focus on economic growth but also prioritize social justice, equality, and political sustainability. Geopolitical challenges are the major concern of the international relations committee members of the House of Representatives about the geopolitical tensions between the China and India and how these dynamics affect Nepal. The respondents admit the complexities and tensions involved in crafting a coherent foreign policy that effectively protects national interests. As a result, they view foreign policy as a nuanced balance of sovereignty, regional cooperation and global involvement. Their perspectives demonstrate a dedication to harmonizing national priorities with the complexities of geopolitical realities and public opinion. On the basis of the questionnaire, the perception is further illustrated below:

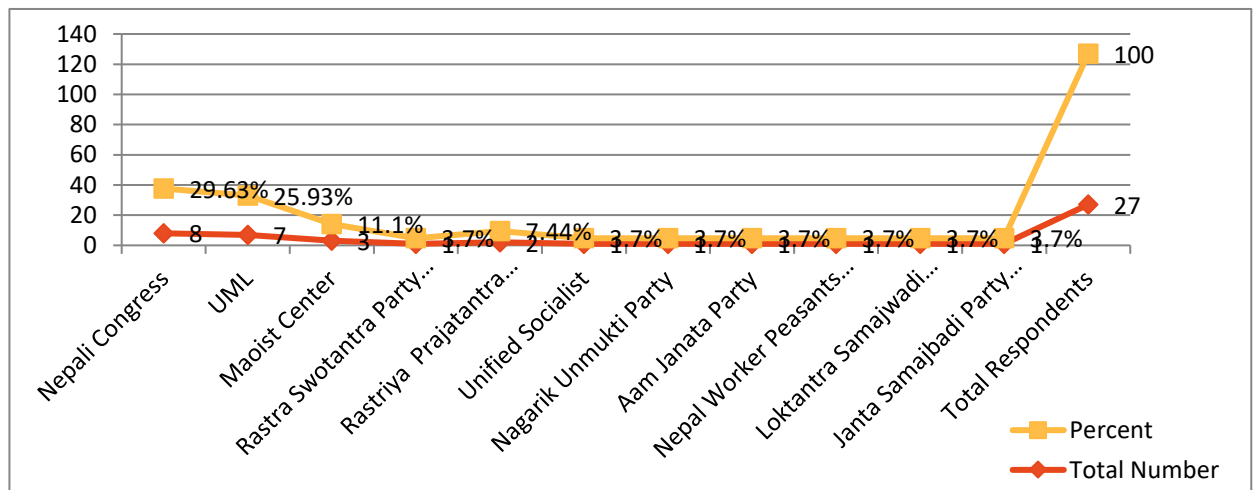
Demographic Traits of International Relations Committee Members 2023 to 2025 AD

The foundation of State power in contemporary political governance is derived from the will of the people, with the essence existing constitution, emphasizing that sovereignty is exercised through elected representatives. In a parliamentary system, in contest of Nepal the government is directly accountable to parliament, leading to regular discussion about its operations and activities. The constitution 2015, grants Parliament to establish the thematic committees for significant and essential matters, ensuring the effective and efficient functioning of parliamentary task while facilitating the resolution of recurring issues. Thus, the Article 83 states, 'the federal legislature is composed of two Houses that is the House of Representatives and the National Assembly, collectively referred to as the "Federal Parliament." Additionally, Article 97, clause (1) stipulates that both the Houses have the power to form committees in accordance with federal law (GoN, MLJPA. 2015, p. 68).

The 2018 Rules of the House of Representatives outline the formation of parliamentary committees aimed at supporting the regular functions of the House and ensuring accountability from the GoN. These committees serve as a mini parliament, tasked with providing guidance, opinions and advice based on their monitoring and evaluation of the respective ministries activities and actions in accordance with Article 97 of the Constitution. Among the ten thematic committees, the international relations committee holds significant importance. The committee chairperson is responsible for convening meeting as needed; however, if one-fourth of the members submit a written request with a specific agenda, the chairperson must schedule a meeting within five days. The chairperson leads the meeting and in his absence, a member elected from within the committee will take over. A quorum is established with fifty-one percent of the total members and if a meeting lacks quorum, the chairperson may postpone it until quorum is achieved or reschedule it. Should a meeting be adjourned twice consecutively due to lack of quorum, a third meeting can proceed with the presence of at least one-fourth of the members.

Table 1

Demographic traits of International Relations Committee Members (2023 to 2025AD)



Note. Figure 1. (Kunwar, 2025, p.112).

The observed demographic traits of international relations committee members 2023 to 2025AD shows that the Nepali Congress holds eight members, which occupies 29.63%; 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 Rastriya Prajatantra Party with two members occupies 7.44%; likewise, the Unified Socialist, NagarikUnmukti Party, Aam

Janata Party, Nepal Worker Peasant Party, Loktantra Samajwadi Party Nepal and Janta Samajbadi Party Nepal occupy 3.7% respectively (Kunwar, 2025, p.12).

Perception of International Relations Committee Members on Foreign Policy of Nepal

How do you rate the Nepal position in international relations based on foreign policy?

Table 2

Nepal's position in international relations based on foreign policy

		Frequency	Percent
	Poor	5	18.5
	Fair	7	25.9
	Good	6	22.2
	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, GoN

The respondent's rate the position of Nepal in IR based on foreign policy; findings shows that 7.4% excellent, 22.2% good, 25.9% fair, and 18.5% poor, respectively.

Nepal's position in IR, shaped by its foreign policy, can be rated as complex and multifaceted. Hence, Nepal's position in IR is characterized by a careful balancing act between two immediate neighbors, a commitment to non-alignment and an active role in regional cooperation. While challenges exist, particularly regarding dependency, Nepal's strategic location and emerging diplomatic initiatives position it as a key player in South Asian geopolitics.

Hypothesis (H₁): International relations committee members' perception on Nepal's position in international relations based on foreign policy

The SPSS software is used to measure the chi square test. The 44 cells (100%) have expected counts less than 5. The minimum expected count is 0.10, and the standardized statistic count value is 0.471. Hence, the expected count value is greater than the standardized statistic value. Which means the null hypothesis is accepted and the alternative hypothesis is rejected. Which means the researcher's research study shows that the respondent rates that the Nepal position in IR based on foreign policy is fairly good in IR and foreign policy points of view.

International Relations Committee Members of the House of Representatives 2023 to 2025, Rates on Variables of Foreign Policy of Nepal

How would you rate the following variables in terms of the foreign policy of Nepal?

Table 3

National Interests

	Frequency	Percent
Poor	4	14.8
Fair	5	18.5
Good	9	33.3
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, GoN

The respondent's rate the national interests of Nepal in terms of foreign policy; the finding shows that 7.4% excellent, 33.3% good, 18.5% fair, and 14.8% poor, respectively.

National interest is a fundamental factor in shaping Nepal's foreign policy. At the core of Nepal's national interest is the desire to maintain sovereignty and independence from external influences, particularly from China and India as well as other nations of the World. This commitment drives its non-aligned foreign policy stance but contrary Indian and British military based camps are operating in Pokhara, Dharan and Kathmandu officially. In regard to the security concerns, national security is the significant factor influencing foreign policy.

Nepal seeks to ensure stability within its borders, which involves cooperation with India on security matters while also navigating the potential threat of Chinese influence through the means of "Zone of Peace" as the measurable tools of foreign policy of Nepal. 'Despite gaining international support, India's opposition constrained the "Zone of Peace" progress, reflecting the complexities and challenges of regional politics' (Dahal, 2008, p.45; Shah, 2013, p.78). Sustaining well-built cultural ties with both reflects Nepal's interest in nurturing unity and social stability. These ties influence diplomatic strategies and bilateral engagements of Nepalese foreign policy.

Hypothesis (H₂): International relations committee members' perception on National interests based on foreign policy of Nepal.

The SPSS software statistical tool is used to measure the chi-square test. The 44 cells (100%) have expected counts less than 5. The minimum expected count value is 0.10; likewise,

the standardized statistic count value is -138. Hence, the expected count value is greater than the standardized statistic value. Which means the null hypothesis is accepted and the alternative hypothesis is rejected. The researcher's research study found that respondents' perception on the national interest in terms of foreign policy is good.

Thus, in tittle-tattle, national interest plays a fundamental role in shaping the foreign policy of Nepal, driving its focal point on sovereignty, economic development, security, cultural ties, regional cooperation and multilateral relations. Balancing these interests in the middle of external pressures is a continual challenge for Nepal's diplomatic strategy.

International Political Economy

Table 4

International Political Economy

		Frequency	Percent
	Poor	4	14.8
	Fair	11	40.7
	Good	5	18.5
	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, GoN.

The respondent's rate on the international political economy (IPE) in Nepal in terms of foreign policy shows 28.5% good, 40.7% fair, and 14.8% poor, respectively.

The IPE extensively influences Nepal's foreign policy. The economy of Nepal is heavily reliant on remittances, foreign aid and trade, particularly with Elephant and Dragon. Economically craving nature of Nepal shapes its foreign policy decisions, pushing the government to maintain favorable relations with the major global supremacy. On the other hand, Nepal seeks to boost its economic positioning through trade agreements and partnerships. Engaging in regional and global schemes like SAFTA, BIMSTEC, BBIN and WTO allows Nepal to endorse economic collaboration and access larger markets. Likewise, FDI, WB, ADB, IMF are the key component of Nepal's economic strategic funding partners. Thus, GoN's efforts to create a conducive environment for investment, especially from China (BRI Initiatives) and around the global market, reflect its need to diversify economic relationships and reduce sole dependency on India. IPE consideration drives Nepal's focus on infrastructure development. Partnerships with China under BRI and MCC with the US are aimed at boosting economic growth and develop. There are many infrastructure development project proposed by Russia to construct electric railway track in Tarai region from east to west and many more

which are still undefiled by the GoN. The narrative of connectivity morphologically, showcasing how foreign policy aligns with economic goals rather than the hidden political interest of such partner States.

Thus, the foreign policy of Nepal is prejudiced by enlargement of contemporary global economics, including shifts in trade patterns and international market fluctuations. It has been necessitate to acclimatize to these changes is vital for sustaining economic growth and stability of the Nepal.

Foreign aids in terms of development assistance plays a substantial role in Nepalese economic intensification. It's slot in with IOs and donor countries to secure financial assistance for development projects, impacting its diplomatic relations and foreign policy priorities. Therefore, IPE is a fundamental factor in the foreign policy of Nepal, driving pronouncement related to trade, investment and infrastructure improvement assistance. By navigating these economic relationships, Nepal aims to boost its economic resilience and promote sustainable growth while maintaining its sovereignty.

Hypothesis (H₃): International relations committee members' perception on International Political Economy (IPE) based on foreign policy of Nepal.

The SPSS software is used as statistical tool to measure the chi-square test. The 33 cells (100%) have expected counts less than 5. The minimum expected count value is 0.20; likewise, the standardized statistic count value is -241. Hence, the expected count value is greater than the standardized statistic count value. Which means the null hypothesis is accepted and the alternative hypothesis is rejected. In which the researcher's research study found that respondents' perception on the IPE in terms of foreign policy is good. Hence, IPE plays a fundamental role in shaping the foreign policy of Nepal, driving its focus on economic development, security and regional and multilateral cooperation fostering economic diplomacy.

Table 5

Socio-Cultural Relations

		Frequency	Percent
	Poor	1	3.7
	Fair	2	7.4
	Good	14	51.9
	Excellent	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, GoN

The respondent's rate on the socio-cultural relations in Nepal in terms of foreign policy shows that 11.1% excellent, 51.9% good, 7.4% fair and 3.7% poor, respectively.

Socio-cultural relations are considerable factors in shaping the foreign policy. Nepal shares deep cultural and historical connections with both China and India. Thus, socio-culture is the involvement in social interactions and activities structured according to cultural norms that influences psychological development. Similar to socio-cultural theory, constructivism emerged as a theory of knowledge in response to behaviorism. Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) and Jean Piaget (1896- 1980) are two theorist whose thinking and research significantly shaped constructivist theory. Kant (1951) significantly influenced Piaget's thinking when he proposed that it is the mind that provides the categories of knowing, while experience yields the content (Scott & Palincsar, 2013, p.4).

These ties inform diplomatic interactions and foster goodwill, making cultural relations a cornerstone of bilateral engagement. In terms of soft power, Nepal utilizes its cultural heritage, including festivals, art and the tradition. By promoting cultural exchanges and tourism, Nepal enhances its international image and builds positive relationships with international community. On the other hand, the Nepalese Diaspora plays a crucial role in strengthening social and cultural ties abroad.

Diplomatic efforts often spotlights on appealing with Nepalese Diaspora in countries of Australia, India, Japan, Middle East, UK, South Korea and USA leveraging their influence for cultural diplomacy. Such Diaspora enables to promote regional and cultural initiatives. The festivals and collaborative projects can improve cooperation and solidarity among diplomatic friendly nations. It is reinforcing diplomatic ties. Cultural diplomacy and Buddha diplomacy plays an elementary role in conflict resolution and peace building. By accentuate shared cultural values and promoting dialogue, Nepal facilitates better understanding and cooperation among diverse international communities. Specially spread of Hinduism and Buddhism in the southern bloc and Buddhism in the northern bloc and East-Asian region.

Thus, the respondent's perception rate on socio-cultural relations is comparatively good. Therefore, socio-cultural relations are vital to the foreign policy of Nepal, influencing its diplomatic strategies, enhancing soft power and fostering regional and global cooperation. By leveraging its rich cultural heritage and promoting positive social ties, Nepal has been efficiently piloting its relationships with the global communities while reinforcing its national identity.

Hypothesis (H₄): International relations committee members' perception on Socio-Cultural Relations based on foreign policy of Nepal.

The SPSS software is used to test chi-square test. The 55 cells (100%) have an expected count less than 5. In which the minimum expected count is 0.05, likewise, the standardized statistic count value is 2.63. Hence, the expected count is less than the standardized statistic value, which means the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted. This means the respondent's perceptions rate on socio-cultural relations is comparatively good in terms of IR and foreign policy of Nepal.

International Organization

Table 6

International Organizations

	Frequency	Percent
Poor	1	3.7
Fair	5	18.5
Good	13	48.1
Excellent	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, GoN

The respondent's rate on IOs in Nepal in terms of foreign policy shows that 3.7% excellent, 48.1% good, 18.5% fair, and 3.7% poor, respectively.

IOs play a significant role in shaping the foreign policy of Nepal. First of all, IOs such as the UN provide Nepal with a platform to voice its concerns and advocate for issues like peace and security, *panchasheel*, sovereignty and independent nation States identity. This engagement enhances Nepal's global visibility and influence. Thus, Nepal benefits from aid and technical support through various IOs, including the World Bank, IMF and the Asian Development Bank. This backing is fundamental for development projects and economic stability, impacting foreign policy decisions. The platform in regional cooperation facilitates Nepal to engage with neighbors, promoting mutual interests and regional stability. From the initial period Nepal has a longstanding commitment to UN peacekeeping missions, which enhances its international reputation and strengthens diplomatic ties with diplomatic friendly nations. Such involvements reflect Nepal's commitment to global peace and security. Likewise, engaging in multilateral diplomacy through IOs allows Nepal to navigate complex geopolitical

dynamics and build alliances on various global issues, from environmental concerns to social development and defense security. Similarly, IOs help Nepal to address global challenges such as climate change, pandemics, starvation and terrorism. Collaborative efforts through these organizations support Nepal in formulating policies that align with global standards and initiatives.

Hypothesis (H₅): International relations committee members' perception on International Organizations (IOs) based on foreign policy of Nepal.

The SPSS software is used as statistical tool to measure the chi-square test. The 55 cells (100%) have an expected count less than 5. In which the minimum expected count is 0.05. Likewise, the standardized statistic count value is 2.163. Hence, the expected count is less than the standardized statistic value, which means the null hypothesis is accepted and the alternative hypothesis is rejected. Thus, the respondent's perception rate on IOs is comparatively good in terms of IR and foreign policy of Nepal. Therefore, IOs are a crucial factor in the foreign policy of Nepal, providing platforms for advocacy, development assistance, regional cooperation and multilateral diplomacy. By actively engaging, Nepal has been enhancing its international standing and effectively addresses its national interests and global challenges in international political landscape.

Conclusion

Foreign policy is an influential component of State behavior in the international political dynamics. The research article on foreign policy provides insights into the complex factors and considerations that shape State behavior and decision-making process. Theoretical perspectives, such as realism, liberalism and constructivism offer different insights into state behavior and provide a framework for understanding the perception of international relations committee members of the GoN, 2023-2025 on the foreign policy of Nepal.

There are signs of a substantial change in the world's political scenarios. To achieve the fundamental objectives of national interest, Nepal has been placing special emphasis on foreign policy as fundamentally focused on mobilizing IR for Nepal's prosperity and development and realizing the national vision while remaining within the framework of IR as guided by the constitutional provision of Nepal by the Article 51(d), (m).

The researcher conducted the research study on the perception of international relations committee members of the House of Representatives, GoN, 202 to 2025, regarding the foreign policy of Nepal revealing a generally favorable view of Nepal's position in IR and international political milieu. The key variables assessed included national interests, IPE, socio-cultural relations and IOs with respondents rating these aspects positively in relations to foreign policy of Nepal. The finding highlights the importance international relations and foreign policy of

Nepal in the international political milieu as they offer essential platforms for advocacy, development assistance and multilateral diplomacy, thereby enhancing Nepal's global standing and addressing national interests.

The constitution approved parliament to establish thematic committees to address key issues, enhancing legislative efficiency and tackling ongoing challenges, Article 83 defines the federal legislature. Article 97 (1) allows both Houses to form committee under federal law, while the 2018 Rules of the House of Representatives deals the procedures for their creation, promoting, accountability and effective governance.

Implementation

Nepal's strategic location between China and India, occupies a central gravity on geopolitical and geographical position. This furnishes its leverage but also complicates its foreign policy, as it must balance the interests of both neighbors. Historically, from the moment in time of unification, Nepal has pursued the non-aligned foreign policy, seeking to maintain self-determining, independent and sovereign nation. It is aware of influences of such larger powers of the south sea and the dragon. This approach allows Nepal to engage with various countries without being overly dependent on any single nation. On the other hand, Nepal maintains strong bilateral ties with India, focusing on trade, security and cultural connections. However, growing relations with China, especially in infrastructure development and investment, indicate a shift toward diversifying its partnerships. Likewise, Nepal is an active participant in regional organizations like the SAARC, BIMSTEC, BBIN, SCO, Boao forum of Asia (BFA) and many multilateral forums like UN. Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), G-77, LDCs and LLDCs. Beside these, Nepal remains firmly committed to the protection and promotion of human rights and its party to twenty four human rights instruments, including seven core human rights conventions (ICCPR, ICESCR, ICERD, CEDAW, CAT, CRC and CRPD, eleven ILO conventions, four Geneva Conventions on International Humanitarian Law (IHL). These engagement demonstrates its commitment to regional stability and economic and development collaboration. In the contemporary political development of the international milieu with increasing global attention on South Asia, Nepal has an opportunity to play the prominent role in international forums, advocating for issues like development and regional cooperation for the peace and prosperity of the international community due to its 'Zone of Peace' policy and further by launching the "Buddha diplomacy"

Authors' Contribution

I declare, the primary data of the manuscript is originally collected and produce by me.

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Conflict of Interest

Author declared no conflicts of interest regarding publication of this research article.

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