

# CHAPTER 14

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP IN NEPAL

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### 14.1 Introduction

Geographically and demographically, Nepal is landlocked between the two of the most populous countries of the World, China in the north and India in the south both of which rank the first and the second largest countries of the world respectively in the size of the population. Historically, Nepal has remained as a cultural transition zone between the two super cultural traditions of Asia, the Chinese Buddhist culture in the north and the Indian Hindu culture in the south. Despite being exposed to these two super cultural traditions, Nepal has been able to develop its own distinct culture and civilisation.

Nepal is a land of ethnic diversity. The proper understanding of Nepal's ethnic diversity is not possible without understanding the role of international migration. The population of Nepal represents waves of migration from the north and the south at different periods of history. As such, Nepal contains the Mongoloid and the Indo-Aryan races as well as their admixture. The existence of Nepal, like most of the countries of the world, had been recognised even before the international boundaries had been fully and finally established. Nepal's present boundary evolved after the Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1816 with India and completed in 1861 after the return to Nepal of the territory of the Far Western Terai which was ceded to the British East India Company in 1816; and border agreement with China was first signed in October 5, 1961 and ultimately in 1982 by conducting more scientific and accurate ground surveys as well as using latest satellite photographs. Nepal's international boundary with India and China almost remained open for the movement of the people from both of her neighbours. With China, it became closed one after 1950, while it has remained opened with India to date with no restriction on the movement of people of both countries. Though Nepal India boundary was opened for nationals of the both countries, it was restricted for the nationals of the other countries, for whom visa is required to enter into Nepal. Considering her world's most populous neighbour and particularly the large-scale influx of population from India, has remained a serious concern for Nepal. Since

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the early 1960s, Nepal has been showing concern over her high growth of population resulting from high birth rate and international migration. The result was the initiation of Family Planning programme since the mid-1960s and the formulation of Population Plan and Policy in the Fifth Plan (1975-80) for regulating and controlling international migration (National Planning Commission, 1975:42-43). As demographic data constitutes the important component for the formulation and implementation of population policy, it is important to review the strength and weakness of migration database to oversee Nepal's capabilities and constraints in formulating and implementing population plan and policies regarding international migration in particular.

### **14.1.1 Census of Nepal and Migration Data**

Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher established the precedence of population census in Nepal for the first time in 1911. The government notification on the census of 1911 is not available. The notification of the census of 1920 indicated the intention of the government to conduct census at an interval of ten years. However, the censuses since 1911 to 1952/54 were not conducted at an interval of 10 years. They were conducted in 1920, 1930, and 1942 and 1952/54. Since 1961, Nepal had a decennial census. The census of 2001 reckoned from 1911 represents the tenth census or in the other words the history of Nepal census is 9 decades old.

The result of the census from 1911 to 1942 was not published for public use. The census schedules of the 1911 census indicated no recording on migration. Migration data was collected for first time in the census of 1920 and 1930, and had recorded only male emigrants on the basis of employment outside the country in the form of a) army service and b) other services. The need of collecting the emigration data was necessitated by the large number of Nepalese hill people recruited in the Indian army during the World War I. During the World War I Nepal helped to raise large numbers of its people for recruitment. The numbers of men taken out of the country had exceeded 200,000, and of these 55,000 were enlisted in the regular Gurkha battalions of the Indian army. Nepal had suffered some 20,000 casualties and its men had fought in almost every theatre of War cheerfully enduring the tropical heat and the cold of the northern winters. The magnitude of the movement of the Gurkhas for recruitment in the British and the Nepalese armies was so great that able-bodied males from the village of the martial races (Magars and Gurungs) were difficult to get during the War (Northey and Morris, 1928:26). The drain of manpower led to the deterioration of agriculture and food supply in the hills as well as loses of government revenue from land. Moreover, there was difficulty of getting back the Gurkhas discharged from the army after the War. Large number of Gurkhas having been to India as also having seen a great deal of foreign countries, were loath to go back to their hardworking life in the mountains. When these

men found that they could earn several times more than what they would earn in the hills and also could lead life in great comfort, they stayed back in India to work either as watchman or even in the police under government or in many other positions available to them, for many Indian merchants had a good great belief in the Gurkha as an honest and loyal servant. (Bruce; 1934:267) Of the 10,932 Gurkhas discharged after the War, only 3,838 returned home in 1919. (Mojumdar; 1971:198). In recognition of the contribution of Nepal in the World War I, the Treaty of Friendship between Great Britain and Nepal signed at Kathmandu on 21 December 1923 recognised Nepal as a sovereign independent country, and this treaty erased from the mind the apprehension of invasion by the British. In order to meet the food grains need of the country and to resettle the landless, Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher initiated the development of the Tarai. The clearing of the forests in the Tarai provided agricultural lands on the one hand and on the other hand, the fell down sal tree provided much needed timber for the slippers in the expansion of the Indian railways. Due to the fear of malaria and unbearable heat of the Tarai, the hill people were reluctant to move to the Tarai and the programme rather benefited the immigrants from India. Moreover, the development programmes of the Tarai during the period of Chandra Shumsher like railways from Amlrkhanj to Raxaul and Janakpur to Jayanagar, Chandra canal etc attracted more immigrants from India.

The census of 1942 (conducted in the month of Falgun 1998 B.S.) had recorded emigrants by sex (Department of Statistics, 1952/54: Appendix pp.12-25). The involvement of the Gurkhas in the Second World War was even at a grander scale. The 20 Battalions were expanded to form a total of 51 Battalions comprising 44 Infantry and Parachute Battalions, 6 Training Battalions and one Garrison Battalion. (Mansergh and Moon 1979:885). The two hundred thousand men, each carrying his curved knife, went out from her mountains between 1939 to 1945 to wander at large over half of the world during the Second World War and the casualties of the Gurkhas was 24,000 men. (Bishop, 1952:83) During the World War II, recruitment for the army service had to be carried out in extensive areas of Nepal, because large numbers of Nepalese were already serving the Indian army, police, para-military force as well as in different services available for them. As a result enlistment in the army was also made from the communities like Newar, Tamang, Sunuwar, Dotiyal, Bahun, etc. This time also the deterioration of agriculture and shortage of able-bodied males was felt not only in the land of Gurungs and Magars, but also in the land of Rais and Limbus. (Joshi, 1957 II: 86).

The fifth census must be regarded as the benchmark of modern scientific census in Nepal. For the purpose of conducting census in 1951 in consonance with the objectives of the United Nations to

synchronise the population census methodology for comparative study, the government sent five officers of the department to participate in the International Training Centre on Census and Statistics for South-East Asia and Oceania held at New Delhi in 1950. After completing the training the officers prepared census plan, census schedules and even conducted pilot census survey. As a result of ensuing political instability in the country after the political change in 1951 on the one hand, and the lack of educated manpower in the country on the other, the census had to be conducted in the Eastern part of the country in 1952 and in the Western part in 1954. The result of the census of 1952/54 was published for general use along with analysis of the census data. However, the data on international migration is available only by total in the countries of destination. The data on international migration is therefore, confined to emigration only and there is no data on immigration as there was no question in the census schedule for immigrants. As regards the destination of emigrants, the countries mentioned were India, Malaya, Burma, Tibet, Pakistan, other countries, and countries unknown. The country of destination has been provided in the analysis on "Absentee (gone elsewhere from home) Population" (Joshi, 1957: II, 84).

#### **14.1.2 Census of 1961**

The census of 1961 for the first time collected data on migration both on internal and international migration within Nepal on the basis of citizenship and place of birth. The data on citizenship provided information on Nepalese citizen and foreign citizens. The data on foreign citizens is available for the countries like India, China, Pakistan, others and not stated. The data on citizenship of the population is available for total but not by sex.

The data on population by place of birth available by sex is categorised into native born and foreign born. As for native born the data is available by sex and by districts and regions. But the data on foreign-born population is available by sex only for the total, while the data on country specific is available for total only. The countries of birth of the foreign born population contain five countries (India, Pakistan, China, Burma and Malaya) as against the three countries under foreign citizens (India, China and Pakistan).

The census of 1961 also has data on absentee population (gone outside the country). The countries of destination of absentee population were India, Malaya, Burma, China and Pakistan as in the case of foreign-born population.

### **14.1.3 Census of 1971**

The census of 1971 was conducted after the political division of the country into 75 districts and the censuses of 1952/54 and 1961 had only 33 administrative districts divided into 54 census districts in 1952/54 and 55 in 1961. In the 1971 census, the administrative districts also became census districts. However, the census has to be carried out in the absence of the well-demarcated boundaries of the Panchayat of the districts. In the census of 1971, migration data was collected only for the population present (*de jure* population) not absentee population (*de facto* population).

Migration data has to be derived on the basis of citizenship and by place of birth. The data on place of birth is available by sex and by age groups. Place of birth has been categorised into two: native-born population and foreign-born population. As the place of birth of the native born population is concerned, it is available by geographic regions of the country. For the foreign born population, the country of birth is confined to India, Burma and China and the rest are lumped into three broad groups: 1) other Asian, 2) European, and 3) other countries. However, as for the data on foreign citizen is concerned, citizenship by country is available for India only, while the rest are lumped into two groups: a) other Asian and b) other countries.

### **14.1.4 Census of 1981**

The census of 1981 has also migration data by sex and by broad age groups (0-15 years, 15-59 years and 60 years and above). The birthplace data has these additional information, a) duration of stay in Nepal, b) duration of stay in present place of residence and b) reasons of stay in the present place of residence. Regarding the reasons of stay in the present place of residence of the foreign born population, they were a) trade and commerce, b) agriculture, c) service, d) study/training, e) marital relations, and f) others/ not stated. As for the birthplace, only two countries have been mentioned: a) India, and b) China, the rest have been, lumped into two-category a) other Asian and b) other countries/not stated.

As for the tables on citizenship of population is concerned, it has only four-category a) Nepalese, b) Indians, and c) Chinese and d) others/not stated. Others and not stated accounted for 2.39 percent of the total population.

Migration data has been made available by urban and by development and by geographic regions as well. One of the notable features of the 1981 census is the data on absentee population within and outside the country and the reasons for absent by geographic regions. The classified reasons

are a) Trade and Commerce, b) Agriculture, c) Service, (d) Study or training, e) Marital Relations, and f) other not stated. The category on others/ not stated accounted for 48.82 percent of the total absent. As for the destination of the absentees outside the country is concerned, they had been categorised into four a) India, b) China, c) other Asian countries, and d) others.

#### **14.1.5 Census of 1991**

The census of 1991 has several tables regarding migration. Migration data is available by birthplace, citizenship and by regions and countries of destination for absentee population. There are three separate parts or parts of volume on migration: a) Volume I. Part II regarding place of birth and residence one year ago, b) Volume I. Part II on native born population by education, marital status and activity, and c) Foreign born population by education, marital status and industry. Migration data is available by sex and age (five-year age) and destination. Countries of foreign-born population have been broadly categorised into five groups a) SAARC countries, b) other Asian countries, c) European countries, d) other countries, and e) countries not stated. Data on individual specific countries is available for the SAARC countries only and they are India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan, while Sri Lanka and Maldives are lumped together. No data is available for individual countries for the other groups.

Data on foreign-born population is also available by duration of residence, education and marital status. Period of the duration of residence of the foreign-born population has been categorised into 7 starting from a) below 6 months, b) 6 months to one year, c) 1-5 years, D) 5-10 years, e) 11-15 years, f) 15+ years, and g) not stated. Another table with duration of residence contain the major occupation of foreign born population by sex and it includes a) Professional/Technical, b) Administrative, c) Clerical, d) Sales, e) Service, f) Farming and fishing, g) Production and labour, h) other occupation and I) not stated. In the table under educational attainment, the levels of education of the foreign born population is available by different levels of education of the literate among the foreign born population. Table on marital status of foreign-born population provides data by sex and by five-year age groups.

In the 1991 census, migration data has not been published for urban areas.

Data on citizenship of the population is available by sex and by age. Age group under citizenship starts from below 5 and continues with the grouping under 10 years of age up to 64 years and ends after 65+ years along with category of not stated. As for the data on foreign national by

citizenship has been made available for countries like India and China only with rest grouped into other and the not stated categories.

In the 1991 census in the household tables, there are tables on absentee population and destination abroad by age, sex, and country of destination. The age grouping is available by five years group. The only one country specified in the destination category is India, while the other have been grouped into seven categories: a) South Asia, b) others (Asia), c) Arab countries, d) Europe, e) North America, f) others and g) Not stated. In the tables on reason for being absent, the reasons included are a) Agriculture, b) Trade, c) Employment, d) Education/Training, e) Dependency, f) Others, and g) Not stated. In the table on duration of absence, the periods have been grouped into 11 age group categories. Starting from below 1 year: to 40 years and above and also age not stated.

#### **14.1.6 Census of 2001**

In the census of 2001, data on international migration are of two types:

##### **1) Based on complete enumeration**

- a) Population absent from home by countries of destination and by sex. The foreign countries included are: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, China, Korea, Russia and others (former Soviet Republics), Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait. UAE, Bahrain, other Asian countries, United Kingdom, Germany, France, other European countries, USA, Canada and Mexico lumped together, and other countries.
- b) Citizenship of the population by countries, by sex and by age

Countries of the foreign citizens included are: India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, other countries of Asia, Europe, North America, South America, Africa and Australia/New Zealand.

##### **2) International migration based on sample questionnaire**

It is confined to the place of birth of the population. Countries incorporated of the foreign born population are India, China, Bangladesh, Bhutan, other Asians, other European countries and other countries.

The following table (Table 14.1) indicates the availability of data on foreign born and foreign citizen in different censuses since 1961.

**Table 14.1 : Countries included in the census of Nepal for the foreign born and the foreign citizens.**

Foreign Countries	1961		1971		1981		1991		2001	
	FB	FC	FB	FC	FB	FC	FB	FC	FB	FC
India	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
China	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•
Bhutan							•		•	•
Bangladesh							•		•	•
Pakistan	•	•					•			•
Sri Lanka							•			
Maldives							•			
Burma	•									
Malaya	•									
Other Asian countries										•
European countries							•		•	
North American countries							•		•	
South American countries							•		•	
African countries							•		•	
Australia/New Zealand							•		•	
Other countries	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Countries not stated	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

Source: Population Census of Nepal, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001

FB - Foreign Born Population

FC - Foreign Citizens

The lack of consistency in the migration data both internal and international has posed serious difficulty in the analysis of migration to find out the trend, magnitude, volume, destination and origin of the migrants in Nepal.

## 14.2 Immigration in Nepal

As already noted the population of Nepal and its ethnic diversity is the clear example of the role of international migration into Nepal in different periods of history. After the demarcation and delineation of Nepal India international border under the provision of the Sugauli Treaty in 1816 and the existence of the High Himalayas as natural boundary between Nepal and China, Nepal emerged as the politically established state. The British East India Company kept the Nepal India



border open with the objectives to easily get the Nepali hill people for the enlistment in the Indian army, and for the free flow of raw material from Nepal into India as well as the free flow of English and Indian goods into Nepal. The British East India Company had already started recruiting Nepalese from among the Gorkhali prisoners-of-war in 1815. Sikh King Ranjit Singh of Punjab also started recruiting Gorkhalis in the Khalsa (Sikh) army and Bal Bhadra Kuwar, the Gorkhali hero who fought against the British East India Company in the Malaun war and frustrated with the Sugauli Treaty joined the Khalsa army. The large-scale recruitment of Nepalese in the Sikh army had been the result of a special treaty between Nepal government and Khalsa (Sikh) government in 1839 regarding the recruitment of Nepalese hill people in Sikh army. (Nath and Basnyat, 1964:21-22). The Nepalese hill people went to Lahore, the Capital of Punjab, to join the army of Sikh King Ranjit Singh and since then the Nepalese hill people serving foreign armies are called “Lahure” (one who goes to Lahore).

The need of more Nepalese hill people in the Indian army was realised by the British Government after the Sepoy Mutiny in 1857 (the Indians call it the first war of Independence of India). However, up to the period of Prime Minister Ranodip Singh, it was very difficult to get Nepalese hill people in the Indian army as Nepal Government was strictly against the joining of the Nepalese hill people in the Indian army and those joining were punished and even executed and their property confiscated once it came to the notice of the Government. In order to make the recruitment of the Nepalese hill people easy, the British Government encouraged the Gorkhalis to migrate to India along with their families. For that purpose, the British Government established Gorkhali settlements all along the hill areas of north India extending from the border of Afghanistan eastward to Burma, such as Abbotabad, Murree, Bakloh, Simla, Bhaksu, Dharmashala, Darjeeling, Kalingpong, Shillong, Mandalay, etc. In 1861 in recognition of the assistance of Nepal by providing 12000 Nepalese army to quell the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, the British Government gave back to Nepal the territory of the Far Western Terai, which was ceded to India under the Sugauli treaty. In order to develop the newly got territory known as *Naya Muluk* (new territory) for appropriating income for his family members and relatives, Prime Minister Jung Bahadur made provision in the first Civil Code of Nepal in 1862 that foreigners residing in Nepal could purchase and sell land in Nepal. This resulted in large-scale migration of Indian businessmen and entrepreneur to purchase land in Nepal and was followed by migration of the tillers as well. In 1942 During the World War II when the Japanese overran Burma, a large numbers of Nepalese settled in Burma fled into India and Nepal, and in India special camps were established in Motihari, Bihar. After the war, some of them came into Nepal and lot of them

returned to Burma. The provision in the Nepal India Treaty of 1950 in the Article VII encouraged large-scale immigration of the Indians into Nepal. The article states, "The Government of India and Nepal agree to grant, on reciprocal basis, to the nationals of one country in the territory of the other the same privilege in the nature of residence, ownership of property, participation in trade and commerce, movement and other privileges of a similar nature." In 1951 after the installation of democracy, a large number of people politically exiled in India and apprehensive of the persecution by the Rana regime returned to Nepal. However, there exists no record of immigration from India. Even the censuses of Nepal from 1911 up to 1952/54 have not collected immigration data.

The data on migration in the censuses of Nepal were available since the census of 1961 both in the form of foreign-born population and foreign nationals or citizens. The trends of international migration in Nepal in relation to place of birth indicated that it increased from 337,620 persons in 1961 to 608,092 persons in 2001, an increase of 370,472 persons or 110 percent within 4 decades. The figure on foreign-born population is marked by uneven growth. It is marked by decrease from 337620 persons in 1961 to 337448 in 1971. But in 1981; it recorded 234039 persons, a drastic decrease of 103409 persons or 30.4 percent. There exists no reason to indicate this sudden decrease. There might be one plausible reason of the sensitivity regarding international migration in which migrants usually try to conceal the foreign place of birth and nationality and to report as citizen as well as country of birth in the place of work. Usually in data on international migration, the total number of persons with foreign place of birth exceeds the number of foreign citizens and this has been the usual trend also in Nepal from 1961 to 2001 except for 1981. In the census of 1981, the number of foreign citizens exceeded by 248980 persons or 206.4 percent. This anomaly will be discussed in the countries of birth and nationality or citizenship of the immigrants in Nepal.

The trend of immigration of the foreign citizens or nationals in Nepal is on increase since 1961 and drastically increased in 1981, but drastically decreased in 1991. It recorded 483019 persons in 1981 and drastically went down to 90427 persons in 1991, a drastic decrease of 392592 persons or 81.3 percent as compared to 1981. In 2001, the number of foreign citizens increased again as compared to 1991, but less than that of 1971 and far less than that of 1981 (Table.14.2) The sensitive issue of international migration and policy measures to control and regulate international migration particularly from Nepal India open border sparked diverse pro and anti sentiments resulting in the misreporting of the immigrants of their true identity.

**Table 14.2 : Trends of international migration in Nepal from 1961- 2001 (Based on foreign countries as birth place and citizenship).**

Census Year	Total Population	Foreign born Population	% of total Population	Foreign Citizens	% of Total Population	Foreign Citizens as % of Foreign born
1961	9412996	337620	3.57	110061	1.17	32.6
1971	11555983	337448	2.92	136477	1.18	40.4
1981	15022839	234039	1.56	483019	3.21	206.4
1991	18491097	439488	2.38	90427	0.49	20.6
2001	22736934	608092	2.67	116571	0.59	19.2

Source : Population Census of Nepal 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001

### **14.2.1 Countries of Birth and Citizenship of the International Migration in Nepal**

Though Nepal is sandwiched between the two most populous countries of the world: China with the largest population in the world lying in the north and India the second largest populous country of the world in the south, migration from these two countries had been governed by density of population in the States of India and Province of China adjoining Nepal. The Tibet Autonomous Region was very sparsely populated region of China and since early 1950s, the Nepal China border became restricted with the requirement of visa for the people of the two countries to travel. Moreover, the existence of very high Himalayas and the Trans Himalayan ranges, there existed very few high altitude passes and river gorges to make travel between Nepal and China difficult. As Nepal India border is bounded in the south by the plain area of the Terai in the south, hills and river in the east and river in the west, travel between the two countries can be made easily from all directions and from almost all locations in the Terai plain in the south. Historically Nepal India border had and has remained as open and free border for both the people of Nepal and India and further reinforced the free movement by the 1950 Treaty between the two countries. Moreover, among the five States of India bordering Nepal except Sikkim and Uttaranchal, the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal represent the most populous States of India and from these densely populated States migration into sparsely populated Nepal took place in different time and different forms (Kansakar, 1984:49). The resulting social, cultural and economic relations between Nepal and India have resulted in the large-scale migration of each other's population between the two countries. The data on immigration as revealed by the census clearly indicates main country of the largest number of foreign born and foreign citizens as

India and as Nepal in the case of India. However, before the partition of India, Nepal born population constituted the largest number of foreign-born population in India. After the Partition when India and Pakistan were created, the population born in undivided India were exchanged between the two newly created countries and in the 1951 census of India, they were termed as Pakistan born population in India and they outnumbered Nepal born population.

The countries of birth of the foreign population in 1961 were overwhelmingly dominated by India born population (Table 14.3). Of the total 337620 foreign-born persons, India born population constituted 324159 persons or 96 percent of the total foreign-born persons in Nepal, followed by 8061 China born persons (2.4 percent), 2302 Pakistan born persons (0.7 percent) and persons born in other individual countries constituting less than half percent. The China born persons in 1961 seems to be related with the Tibetan refugees who entered into Nepal after China established control over Tibet in 1959. China born population was marked by overwhelming concentration of 96 percent in the Hill region. 97 percent of the Pakistan born population was concentrated in the

**Table 14.3 : Regional distribution of foreign born population by countries of birth in Nepal 1961.**

Regions	Countries of Birth															
	Total		India		Pakistan		China		Burma		Malaya		Others		Not Stated	
<b>Total</b>	<b>337620</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>324159</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>2302</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>8061</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1052</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1531</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>0.1</b>
	100		100		100		100		100		100		100		100	
<b>Hills</b>	<b>21511</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11818</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>7756</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1336</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0.1</b>
	6.37		3.65		1.52		96.22		42.87		87.26		35.44		6.1	
Eastern	10092		2673		2		7021		33		331		25		7	
	2.99		0.082		0.09		87.1		3.14		21.62		8.77		3.0	
Western	8758		6921		32		408		362		958		72		5	
	2.59		2.14		1.39		5.06		34.41		62.57		25.26		2.2	
Far-Western	2661		2224		1		327		56		47		4		2	
	0.79		0.69		0.04		4.06		5.32		3.07		1.4		0.9	
<b>Inner Terai</b>	<b>2235</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2145</b>	<b>96.0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.1</b>
	0.66		0.66		0.7		0.05		3.04		2.29		0.35		0.9	
Eastern	95		70		-		-		4		19		-		2	
	0.03		0.02		-		-		0.38		1.24		-		0.9	
Central	728		672		11		3		28		13		1		-	
	0.22		0.21		0.48		0.04		2.66		0.85		0.35		-	
Western	1412		1403		5		1		-		3		-		-	
	0.42		0.43		0.22		0.01		-		0.19		-		-	

Regions	Countries of Birth															
	Total		India		Pakistan		China		Burma		Malaya		Others		Not Stated	
Terai	311791	100	308516	90.0	2242	0.7	7	0.0	505	0.2	152	0.1	155	0.1	214	0.1
	9235		98.17		97.39		0.09		48		9.93		54.39		99.0	
Eastern	216334		213230		2198		6		418		115		155		212	
	6408		65.78		95.48		0.07		39.73		7.51		54.39		92.2	
Western	78319		78162		33		-		85		37		-		2	
	23.2		24.11		1.43		-		8.08		2.42		-		0.9	
Far Western	17138		17124		11		1		2		-		-		-	
	5.08		5.28		0.48		0.01		0.19		-		-		-	
Kathmandu Valley	2083	100	1680	80.7	9	0.4	294	14.1	64	3.1	8	0.4	28	1.3	-	
	0.62		0.52		0.22		3.65		6.08		0.52		9.82		-	

Source: Population Census of Nepal 1961

Terai mostly in the eastern Terai District of Jhapa, which is at a distance of 14 kilometres from erstwhile East Pakistan or present Bangladesh border. It accounted for 1889 Pakistani born persons constituting 82 percent of the total Pakistan born population in Nepal. After the Partition of India and formation of Pakistan, the non Bengali Muslims and Hindus seemed to have migrated into Nepal from East Pakistan. Burma born population was mostly concentrated in Eastern Terai and Western Hill, while Malaya born population was mostly confined to the Western Hill indicating the stationing of the British Gurkha and their families in Malaya.

The total number of foreign-born population decreased from 337620 persons in 1961 to 337448 in 1971, an absolute decrease of 172 persons or 0.05 percent. There exist no plausible reason to indicate this decline.

The distribution of the foreign born population in Nepal was marked by overwhelming concentration in the Terai. Of the total 337448 foreign persons in the country, the Terai had 313564 persons or 92.9 percent of the total followed by 19948 persons or 5.9 percent in the Hill region and 3939 persons or 1.2 percent in the Mountain region (Table 14.4). Among the foreign born population, India born population accounted for 94.8 percent of the total followed by Burma (Myanmar) 1.9 percent and China 0.5 percent. There had been a drastic decrease in the number of China born population from 8061 in 1961 to 1534 in 1971, a decrease of 6527 persons. It appears that the Tibetan refugees might have reported themselves as Nepal born or they had not been enumerated. In the census of 2001, the Bhutanese refugees living in the refugee camps in Jhapa and Morang were not enumerated. Moreover, the non-existence of data on Chinese citizens in

1971 makes it further difficult to verify the drastic decrease in the number of China born population between 1961 and 1971.

In March 1971, Bangladesh emerged as an Independent country from erstwhile East Pakistan and a large number of non-Bengali speaking Muslims were driven out from Bangladesh and fled into Nepal via India in order to go to Pakistan. At that time only passage available to Pakistan was air flight from Kathmandu to Karachi. Those who were economically capable to afford to fly by air went to Pakistan and those who were poor stayed in Nepal. The migration of non-Bengali Muslims continued in Nepal for many months. In 1971 the annual growth of population was 2.07 whereas that of Muslim population was 2.27. The reflection of influx of Muslims in Nepal appeared in the census of 1981 and 1991.

**Table 14.4 : Regional distribution of foreign born population by countries of birth 1971.**

Countries	Nepal		Mountain		Hill		Terai	
	Person	%	Person	%	Person	%	Person	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>337448</b>		<b>3939</b>		<b>19945</b>		<b>313564</b>	
	<b>100.0</b>		<b>1.2</b>		<b>5.9</b>		<b>92.9</b>	
India	322718	95.6	2090	53.1	14811	74.3	305817	97.5
	100.0		0.7		4.6		94.8	
Burma	6364	1.9	276	7.0	467	2.3	5621	1.8
	100.0		4.3		7.3		88.3	
China	1534	0.5	281	7.1	1219	6.1	34	
	100.0		18.3		79.5		2.2	
Other Asian Countries	6131	1.8	1560	39.6	2573	12.9	1998	0.6
	100.0		25.4		42.0		32.6	
European Countries	207	0.1	-	-	197	1.0	10	
	100.0		-	-	95.2		4.8	
Other Countries	494	0.1	3	0.1	406	2.0	85	
	100.0		0.6		82.2		17.2	

Source: Population Census of Nepal 1971

The largest number of Burma born population was also confined to the Terai (88.3 percent). When Burma enforced the Citizenship Act in 1964, Nepalese living in Burma who opted for Burmese citizenship stayed in Burma and those who opted to retain Nepalese citizenship returned to Nepal. For the Nepalese returned from Burma, they were resettled in the first planned resettlement project launched in 1964 by Nepal Resettlement Company in Nawalpur of Nawalparasai district (Kansakar, 1979:65) and later on in other project areas of Jhapa, Banke, Bardia, Kailali and Kanchanpur. The China born population is concentrated mostly in the Hill region

In general, the sex composition of the foreign born population marked by preponderance of males over females, the characteristic of male selectivity in migration, does not hold true for Nepal. In Nepal, the foreign born females constituted nearly two-third of the total foreign-born population in 1971. Female preponderance existed in foreign-born population having countries of birth in India and China, while it is male dominance for Burma born.

**Table 14.5 : Regional distribution of foreign born population by countries of birth and by sex 1971.**

Countries	Nepal		Mountain		Hill		Terai	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	123480	213968	2075	1864	10452	9493	110953	202611
	36.6	63.4	52.7	47.3	54.4	47.6	35.4	64.6
India	115606	207112	894	1196	7744	7067	106968	198849
	35.8	64.2	42.8	57.2	52.3	47.7	35.0	65.0
Burma	3253	3111	155	121	237	230	2861	2760
	51.1	48.9	56.2	43.8	50.7	49.3	50.9	49.1
China	757	777	155	126	584	635	18	16
	49.3	50.7	55.2	44.8	47.9	52.1	52.9	47.1
Other Asian Countries	3503	2628	1019	541	1433	1140	1051	947
	57.1	42.9	65.3	34.7	55.7	44.3	52.6	47.4
European Countries	100	107	-	-	96	101	4	6
	48.3	51.7	-	-	48.7	51.3	40.0	60.0
Other Countries	261	233	1	2	209	197	51	34
	33.3	66.7	33.3	66.7	51.5	48.5	60.0	40.0

Source: Population Census of Nepal 1971

There existed no significant difference in the sex composition in the case of China and Burma born population. However, for India born population, females constituted 64.2 percent at the national level and 64.5 percent in the Terai. The overwhelming concentration of India born population in the Terai with the overwhelming preponderance of females over males is the clear indication of marriage migration across Nepal India border because of social and cultural relations.

The census of 1981 indicated a drastic decline in the foreign born population in Nepal. The total number of foreign-born population decreased from 337448 persons in 1971 to 234039 person in 1981, an absolute decline of 103409 persons or 30.6 percent.

The distribution of foreign-born population in Nepal in 1981 was marked by over whelming concentration in the Terai accounting for 93.8 percent of the total with 5.4 and 0.8 percent

respectively in the Hill and the Mountain regions. Foreign-born population in the country was also marked by overwhelming preponderance of India born population accounting for 95 percent with China born accounting for 1.1 percent. There is no data for foreign born on specific other countries. As for the India born population it is marked by overwhelming concentration of 95.2 percent in the Terai, while 51.9 percent of the China born population were concentrated in the Hill (Table: 14.6).

**Table 14.6 : Distribution of foreign born population in Nepal by country of birth 1981 .**

Region	Total Foreign Born	%	India Born	%	China Born	%	Other Asian Countries	%	Other Countries/ Not Stated	%
Total	234039	100.0	222278	95.0	2484	1.1	7827	3.3	1453	0.6
	100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0		100.0	
Mountain	1873	100.0	916	4.9	705	3.7	205	1.1	46	0.2
	0.8		0.4		28.4		2.6		3.2	
Hill	12581	100.0	9805	77.6	1288	10.2	1107	8.8	382	3.0
	5.4		4.4		51.9		14.1		26.3	
Terai	219585	100.0	211557	96.3	488	0.2	6515	3.0	1025	0.5
	93.8		95.2		19.6		83.2		70.5	

Source: Population Census of Nepal 1981

The sex composition of the foreign born population in Nepal is marked by overwhelming preponderance of females over males with females accounting for 69.4 percent of the total foreign born population in Nepal. This is basically related to marriage migration particularly from India to a greater extent and from China to a limited extent. Because of the open border between Nepal and India coupled with social and cultural relations, marriage migration between Nepal and India on either side of the border in the east, west and south is common with highest number of marriage migration taking place along the southern border. In the Mountain region as well as in the Hill region also female preponderance exists in the India born population. However, for the China born population, female preponderance is confined to the Mountain region. Formerly when Nepal China border was not strictly restricted for the movement of the people on both sides of the border marriage migration was common due to social, cultural and economic relation between the people on both sides. Despite the provision of movement for the people along the 30 kilometres on either sides of the border permitted by the Nepal China boundary treaty, the major settlement lies far ahead of the prescribed limit and as such movement of people is not significant to be noticed.



**Table 14.7 : Regional distribution of foreign born population by country of birth and by sex 1981.**

Countries	Geographic Regions							
	Total		Mountain		Hill		Terai	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	71555	162484	773	1100	6387	6194	64395	155190
	30.6	69.4	41.3	58.7	58.8	41.2	29.3	70.7
India	65285	156993	285	631	4813	4992	60187	151370
	29.4	70.6	31.1	68.9	49.1	50.9	28.4	71.6
China	1369	1112	343	362	780	508	246	242
	55.2	44.8	48.7	51.3	60.6	39.4	50.4	49.6
Other Asian Countries	4186	3641	118	87	583	524	3485	3030
	53.5	46.5	57.6	42.4	52.7	47.3	53.5	46.5
Other/Not Stated	715	738	27	19	209	173	479	546
	49.2	50.8	58.7	41.3	54.7	45.3	46.7	53.3

Source: Population Census of Nepal 1981

The distribution of foreign-born population by country of birth in 1991 is marked by the usual dominance of India born population accounting for 96 percent of the total foreign-born population in Nepal (Table: 14.8). In 1991 census, data on China born population is not available. Bhutan born population constituted the second largest foreign-born population in Nepal. Since 1991, Nepal is faced with the influx of Bhutanese refugees and they are put up in the refugee camps in Jhapa and Morang and they were not enumerated in the census of 1991 and 2001. Data Bhutan born population and Bhutanese citizens do not include refugees put up in the camps in Jhapa and Morang. Bangladesh born population constitutes the third largest group and the Pakistan born the fourth largest one. Among all the foreign born population with birthplace in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan, the overwhelming proportion is confined to the Terai region (Table: 14.8).

**Table 14.8 : Foreign born population in Nepal by countries of birth and by sex 1991.**

Foreign Countries	Person	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	439488	100.0	123560	28.1	315828.0	71.9
India	418982	95.33	113405	27.1	305577	72.9
Pakistan	279	0.06	123	44.1	156	55.9
Bangladesh	547	0.12	241	44.1	306	55.9
Bhutan	3159	0.72	1297	41.1	1862	58.9
Sri Lanka and Maldives	56	0.01	33	58.9	23	41.1
Other Asian Countries	14523	3.3	7599	52.3	6924	47.7
European Countries	989	0.23	497	50.3	492	49.7
Other Countries	953	0.22	465	48.8	488	51.2

Source: Population Census of Nepal 1991

The sex composition of the foreign born population in Nepal is marked by overwhelming proportion of females accounting for 71.9 percent of the total foreign born population, while India born population has 72.9 females at the national level and in the Terai 74 percent of the India born population is females. The main reason for overwhelming India born females is due to marriage migration. Female preponderance is also to be found among the population born in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan and the reason for it might be related with marriage migration.

**Table 14.9: Sex wise distribution of foreign born population by countries of birth and by geographic regions 1991.**

Foreign Countries	Nepal		Mountain Region		Hill Region		Terai Region	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total	123660	315828	1828	2660	28487	27821	93345	285347
	28.1	71.9	40.7	59.3	50.6	49.4	24.6	75.4
India	113405	305577	1253	2098	23821	23664	88331	279815
	27.1	72.9	37.4	62.6	50.2	49.8	24.0	76.0
Pakistan	123	156	3	4	45	33	75	119
	44.1	55.9	42.9	57.1	57.7	42.3	38.7	61.3
Bangladesh	241	306	3	0	20	29	218	277
	44.1	55.9	100.0		40.8	59.2	44.0	56.0
Bhutan	1297	1862	63	62	342	393	892	1407
	41.1	58.9	50.4	49.6	46.5	53.5	38.8	61.2
Sri Lanka & Maldives	33	23	0	0	21	11	12	12
	58.9	41.1			65.6	34.4	50.0	50.0
Other Asian Countries	7599	6924	470	470	3601	3048	3528	3406
	52.3	47.7	50.0	50.0	54.2	45.8	50.9	49.1
European Countries	497	492	15	20	386	360	96	112
	50.3	49.7	42.9	57.1	51.7	48.3	46.2	53.8
Other Countries	465	488	8	9	265	279	192	200
	48.8	51.2	47.1	52.9	48.7	51.3	49.0	51.0

Source: Population Census of Nepal 1991

The distribution of the foreign born population in Nepal by Development regions shows that the largest number is concentrated in the Central Development Region with 42.5 percent followed by Eastern Development Region (28.6 percent), Western development Region (18.8 percent), Mid Western Development Region (6.7 percent) and Far Western Development Region (3.4 percent). Largest number of India born population is concentrated in the Central Development Region, while largest number of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan born populations are concentrated in the Eastern Development Region and is related with the proximity of these countries from Eastern Development region and the Pakistan born population might be those born in erstwhile East Pakistan.

**Table 14.10 : Regional distribution of foreign born population by country of birth 1991.**

Country	NEPAL	EDR	CDR	WDR	MWDR	FWDR
	Person	Person	Person	Person	Person	Person
Total	439488	125520	186955	82584	29296	15135
	100.0	28.6	42.5	18.8	6.7	3.4
India	418982	117976	180977	76640	28730	14659
	100.0	28.2	43.2	18.3	6.9	3.5
Pakistan	279	123	95	27	16	18
	100.0	44.1	34.1	9.7	5.7	6.5
Bangladesh	547	330	87	50	20	60
	100.0	6.0	15.9	9.1	3.7	11.0
Bhutan	3159	1910	906	210	66	67
	100.0	60.5	28.7	6.6	2.1	2.1
Sri Lanka and Maldives	56	19	26	8	1	2
	100.0	33.9	44.6	14.3	1.8	3.6
Other Asian Countries	14523	4741	4180	4932	374	296
	100.0	32.6	28.8	34.0	2.6	2.0
European Countries	989	235	285	408	49	17
	100.0	23.8	28.8	41.3	5.0	1.7
Other Countries	953	186	397	309	40	21
	100.0	19.5	41.7	32.4	4.2	2.2

Source : Population Census of Nepal 1991.

The number of foreign citizens has drastically declined in Nepal not because of Nepal's strict policy on immigration, but because of the sensitivity of the issue of immigration. In 1991, foreign citizens in Nepal were 90427 persons only as against 4830190 persons in 1981. In 1981 foreign citizens constituted 3.21 percent of the total population of Nepal, while in 1991 it was just 0.49 percent only. Since mid 1975 Nepal indicated its concern on immigration particularly unrestricted inflow of Indian migrant and as such, policy to control international immigration was one of the policies of the Fifth Plan. Moreover, the statement made by the Indian External Affairs Minister in the Indian Parliament regarding the Indian in different parts of the world with the remark on Nepal sparked off considerable reactions in Nepal. According to the reply given by the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P.V. Narshingha Rao, in Indian Parliament on 24 July, 1980, there are 3.8 million people of Indian origin in Nepal out of which 23,87,973 persons have already acquired Nepalese citizenship (Dinman, 1980:42:38). In 1983, a Task Force on the Study of International Migration was formulated and carried surveys and the report of the Task Force (Better known as Harka Gurung report) sparked off reaction from India. Since then Migration

has become a very sensitive issue in Nepal and the result was the inability to get proper information regarding international migration in the census. It is not possible to find out the reasons behind the drastic increase in the foreign citizens as against foreign-born population in 1981. This seems to be basically related with mis-reporting relating to birthplace and citizenship. There is no doubt that there has been large-scale migration into Nepal from Nepal India border. It is substantiated by the religious composition of population between 1981 and 1991 particularly by the Muslim population in Nepal. In the recent period the conversion of Nepalese Hindu or Buddhist into Islam do not exist. The Muslims or the followers of Islam in Nepal increase from 399197 in 1981 to 653218 in 1991, 254021 persons or 63.6 percent indicating a growth rate of 5.05 as against 2.1 at the national level. This high growth of Muslim population might be basically related with migration of non-Bengali and Bihari Muslims from Bangladesh as well as from India. Migrant Muslim workers from India find Nepal as a more secured place to work than other places in India, which are marked by occasional communal riots. In the census of 2001, the total number of Pakistani citizens in Nepal was 2536 persons; most of them might be those that came into Nepal from Bangladesh after 1971 (Table 14.12).

**Table 14.11 : Regional distributions of foreign citizens in Nepal 1991.**

Foreign Citizens	Nepal			Mountain Region			Hill Region			Terai Region		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	90427	46205	44222	2016	958	1058	19392	11062	8330	69019	34185	34834
	100.0	51.1	48.9	100.0	47.5	52.5	100.0	57.0	42.0	100.0	49.5	50.5
Indian	68489	35363	3316	840	384	456	14085	8008	6077	53564	26971	26593
	75.7	51.6	48.4	1.2	45.7	54.3	20.6	56.9	43.6	78.2	50.4	49.6
Chinese	6395	2725	3670	699	318	381	1817	1012	805	3879	1395	2484
	7.1	42.6	57.4	10.9	45.5	54.5	28.4	55.7	44.3	60.7	36.0	64.0
Others	12210	6144	6066	394	215	179	1824	971	853	9992	4958	5034
	13.5	50.3	49.7	3.2	54.6	45.4	14.9	53.2	46.8	81.8	49.6	50.4
Not Stated	3333	1973	1360	83	41	42	1666	1071	595	1584	861	723
	3.7	59.2	40.8	2.5	49.4	50.6	50.0	64.3	35.7	47.5	54.4	45.6

Source: Population Census of Nepal 1991.

In the census of 1991, data on foreign citizens is available for individual countries like India and China only, while individual countries included for birthplace of the foreign born population are India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan (Table: 14.10 and 14.11). The data on Chinese citizens is available but not on China born population.

**Table 14.12 : Foreign born populations by country of birth and sex 2001.**

Country	Total	%	Male	%	Female	%
Total	608092	100	183037	100	425055	100
India	583599	95.97	171224	93.55	412375	97.02
China	1295	0.21	766	0.42	529	0.12
Bangladesh	556	0.09	180	0.1	376	0.09
Bhutan	2446	0.40	1142	0.62	1304	0.31
Other Asian Countries	17684	2.91	8611	4.7	9073	2.13
Other European Countries	1497	0.25	650	0.36	847	0.2
Other Countries	1015	0.17	464	0.25	551	0.13

Source : Population Census of Nepal 1981, 1991 and 2001

Foreign-born population by countries of birth indicates usual pattern of dominance of India born persons accounting for 96 percent of the total population (Table: 14.12) followed Bhutan born (0.40 percent), China born (0.21 percent) and Bangladesh born (0.09 percent).

The census of 2001 also indicated the preponderance of females over males indicating large-scale marriage migration. At the national level the proportion of females among the foreign born population is 70 percent, while it is highest in the Terai with 73.8 percent and lowest in the Mountain with 59.4 percent. However the Hill region is characterized by preponderance of males accounting for 51.5 percent.

The sex composition of the foreign born population by countries of birth indicates the 70.7 percent females in India born population, 75.6 percent in Bangladesh born and 53.3 percent in Bhutan born. In the case of China born population it is marked by dominance of males, 59.2 percent.

Foreign citizens in Nepal increased from 90427 persons in 1991 to 116571 persons in 2001, an increase of 26144 persons or 28.9 percent and representing 0.59 percent of the total population of Nepal. Of the total foreign citizens, more than 98 percent are from the Asian countries and the rest from the other continents of Europe, Africa, North America, South America and Australia/New Zealand accounted for 1.96 percent (Table: 14.13). The highest number of foreign citizens is naturally from India accounting for 87.95 percent followed by Bhutan (3.28 percent), Pakistan (2.26 percent) and China (1.15 percent). One interesting fact about foreign citizens is about the Pakistani citizens numbering 2628 persons and constituting the third largest foreign citizens in Nepal. There exists no reason to indicate the immigration of large number of Pakistani citizens in Nepal. It might be that large number of them represents those who fled into and strayed in Nepal after the emergence of Bangladesh. Regarding Chinese citizens, their number has gone down from

**Table 14.13 : Foreign citizens in Nepal by countries 2001.**

<b>Country of Foreign Citizens</b>	<b>Persons</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>116571</b>	<b>100.00</b>
India	102468	87.95
China	1344	1.15
Pakistan	2628	2.26
Bangladesh	79	0.07
Bhutan	3827	3.28
Sri Lanka	89	0.08
Maldives	77	0.07
Other Countries in Asia	3777	3.24
European Countries	708	0.61
North American Countries	626	0.54
South American Countries	348	0.30
African Countries	293	0.25
Australia/New Zealand	307	0.26

Source: Population Census 2001

6395 persons in 1991 to 1344 persons in 2001. Moreover, Chinese citizens outnumbered the China born persons in 2001 and the same case occurs with Bhutanese citizens and Bhutan born population. Among the continents, citizens from European countries represent the second largest followed by North American countries, South American countries, Australia/New Zealand and Africa.

### **14.2.2 Emigration**

Despite the collection of census data on migration started in 1920 as revealed by the census schedule of 1920 census and subsequent censuses, the data were not published even for the total population. The population data of Nepal published for the first time in Nepal was in the Appendix of the speech made by Prime Minister Chandra Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana in the booklet **Maharaja Chandra Shamsher Jung Bahadur Rana's Appeal to the People of Nepal for the Emancipation of Slave and Abolition of Slavery in the Country** in 1925. Some of the data and references appeared in the publication of Population Census data of 1952/54 (Department of Statistic: 1957 in Nepali). The report contains analysis of different characteristics of the population of Nepal. In the analysis on Population Absent, it has data of population absent abroad numbering 81,722 persons (Joshi, 1957:84).

**Table 14.14 : Population gone abroad for livelihood by regions 1942.**

Regions	Population Gone Abroad for Livelihood	Percent
<b>Nepal</b>	<b>81,722</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Eastern Hill*	9,227	11.2
Kathmandu Valley	315	0.4
Western Hill*	71,059	86.9
Inner Terai	543	0.7
Terai	678	0.8

Source : Joshi in Population Census of Nepal 1952/54, Part I, P. 84

\* Includes Mountain regions as well

The census of 1942 was conducted in February 1942 during the period of World War II Nepal also sent its own troops to assist the allied forces and they seemed to have not been recorded in the census. The largest number of population absent was from the Western hill with 71059 persons accounting for 2.79 percent of the total population and if the males are to be counted the figure must be double (Table: 14.14). The largest number of migrants from the Eastern hills was the Rais and the Limbus ethnic groups. The census seems to have not recorded the Nepali troops sent from Nepal in different fronts to assist the allied forces and might have been included only those who went abroad for service (livelihood).

**Table 14.15 : Source areas of emigrants from Nepal 1952/54 and 1961.**

Regions	1952/54			1961		
	Person	% of Total	% of TP	Person	% of Total	% of TP
<b>Nepal</b>	<b>198120</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>2.34</b>	<b>328470</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>3.35</b>
Eastern Hill	49553	25.01	2.8	80532	24.52	4.07
Western Hill	96639	48.78	5.2	150502	45.82	7.12
Far Western Hill	43725	22.07	2.8	74164	22.58	4.18
Eastern Terai	1544	0.78	0.09	7155	2.18	0.32
Western Terai	163	0.08	0.05	1899	0.58	0.47
Far Western Terai	123	0.06	0.05	475	0.14	0.17
Eastern Inner Terai	1928	0.97	1.01	3341	4.15	1.68
Central Inner Terai	1318	0.67	0.67	2825	0.86	1.11
Western Inner Terai	216	0.11	0.24	519	0.16	0.52
Kathmandu Valley	2911	1.47	0.7	7089	2.16	1.41

Source: Population Census of Nepal 1952/54 and 1961.

TP = Total Population

The regions are not comparable with the present ones, because there were 55 census districts in 1961.

The emigrants from Nepal were characterised by universal phenomenon of preponderance of males accounting for 87.8 percent of the total population. The total persons emigrated abroad as revealed by the census of 1952/54 and 1961 were 198120 and 328470 respectively. As for the major sources of emigrants from Nepal was the hill region accounting for 95.9 percent of the total emigrants in 1952/54 and 92.9 percent in 1961 and the percent decrease does not mean decrease in absolute number (Table: 14.15). The number of emigrants from western hill increased from 96639 persons in 196264 to 150502 persons in 1961 and increase of 53863 persons or 55.7 percent. Emigration from Nepal to the foreign countries continued to increase in all the regions (Kansakar, 1974:68-69).

In the census of 1961, data on total emigrants is available, but it is not available by countries of destination as well as by sex. The total number of persons absent was 328470, which accounted for 3.37 percent of the total population as against 2.34 percent in 1952/54. Between 1952/54 to 2001, the number of population absent abroad has increased almost four times. Though the trend of emigration is continuously increasing in absolute term, but as percentage to the total population has not increased as compared to the percent of 3.37 in 1961. The number of emigrants from Nepal increased from 328470 persons in 1961 to 402977 in 1981, an increase of 74507 persons or 22.7 percent between two decades. In 1991, the total number of emigrants from Nepal was 658290 persons, and increase of 255313 persons or 63.4 percent within a decade and accounting for 3.44 percent of the total population, the highest percent so far recorded (Table: 14.16). In 2001, the total number of emigrants from Nepal went up to 762181 persons, and increase of 103891 persons or 15.8 percent and accounting for 3.24 percent of the total population.

**Table 14.16 : Out-migration of population from Nepal (outside the country) (Based on population absent abroad).**

Year	Total Population*	Population Absent	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
1911	5638749	NA		NA		NA	
1920	5573788	NA		NA		NA	
1930	5532564	NA		NA		NA	
1942	6283649	87722**	1.4	NA		NA	
1952/54	8473478	198120	2.34	173619	87.6	24501	12.4
1961	9741466	328470	3.37	NA		NA	
1971	NA	NA		NA		NA	
1981	15425816	402977	2.61	328448	81.5	74529	18.5
1991	19149387	658290	3.44	548002	83.2	118288	16.8
2001	23499115	762181	3.24	679489	89.2	82712	10.8

Source: Population Census of Nepal 1952/54, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001

NA : not available

\* : Including absent population



Emigration from Nepal in 1952/54 was marked by overwhelming proportion of male accounting for 87.6 percent of the total. Data on population absent gone abroad or emigration is not available for the census of 1971. Census data on population absent abroad available since the census of 1981 by countries of destination by sex, age and occupation indicated females constituting 18.5 percent of the total emigrants and the percentage declined in 1981 but not in absolute term. The proportion of females among the emigrants indicated gradual increase. It increased from 24501 in 1952/54 to 118288 in 1991, but declined in 2001 to 82712 persons, an absolute decline of 35,576 or 30 percent.

The census of 1952/54 recorded for the first time the population absent from household by sex and by age and classified into migrated within and outside the country. The countries of destination of the population absent abroad were India, Malaya, Burma, China and Tibet, Pakistan, and others and not stated (Table: 14.18). As usual, because of the open border between Nepal and India, largest number of emigrants' destination was India accounting for 79.4 percent of the total emigrants. The second largest number of emigrants had their destination in Malaya. After the Independence of India and subsequent of sharing of Gurkha army in India between India and the United Kingdom, the British established main camp for the British Gurkha troops in Malaya. Moreover, during Communist insurgency in Malaya, the British recruited large number of Nepalese in British Gurkha army from 1948 to 1956 (Kansakar, 1982:96). Beside this since early period, Nepalese were working as plantation labourers in plantation areas in rubber, sugar, and palm cultivation in Malaya. These were the reasons of migration of Nepalese in Malaya. Burma represented the third largest destination of Nepalese emigrants, but it was the largest destination of Nepalese after India, because Burma is adjacent to India, while Thailand lies between Burma and Malaya. Thus when Malaya became the main station of the British Gurkhas and the accompanying recruitment of Nepalese during the period of emergency between 1948 to 1956, Malaya emerged as the second important destination of Nepalese emigrants. Emigrants to China and Tibet represents mainly the trades, while those in Pakistan might represent those that had gone to East Pakistan now Bangladesh. In Thailand also there are Nepalese in certain important market places in Bangkok and they are citizens of neither Thailand nor of Nepal. The Thai Government considers them as illegal migrants.

**Table 14.17 : Countries of destination of emigrants from Nepal 1952/54 .**

Countries	Person	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>198120</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>173919</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>24501</b>	<b>12.2</b>
India	157323	79.4	137942	87.7	13381	12.3
Malaya	6621	4.2	5657	85.4	964	14.6
Burma	1849	0.9	1584	86	258	14
China and Tibet	422	0.3	361	85.5	61	14.5
Pakistan	153	0.1	138	90.2	15	9.8
Others and not stated	31,759	20.2	27937	88.0	3822	12.0

Source : Population Census of Nepal 1952/54

Since the census of 1981 when population data on emigration were made available by source regions in Nepal by sex and destination by countries and by reasons of absence, the countries of destination of the emigrants from Nepal are marked by overwhelming number that migrated to India. In 1981, out of a total of 402977 emigrants from Nepal, 375106 persons or 93.1 percent of the total emigrants went to India, 265 persons or, 07 percent to China, 9054 persons or 2.3 percent to other countries of Asia and rest in other countries (Table: 14.18).

**Table 14.18 : Countries of destination of emigrants from Nepal 1981.**

Countries	Total	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>402977</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>328448</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>74529</b>	<b>18.5</b>
India	375196	93.11	307946	82.1	67290	17.9
China	265	0.07	225	84.9	40	15.1
Other Asian countries	9054	2.25	7068	78.1	1986	21.9
Other countries	18462	4.58	13209	71.5	5253	28.5

Source: Population Census of Nepal 1981

Similarly in 1991 also, the destination of overwhelming proportion of emigrants from Nepal was India with a total of 5872434 persons or an increase of 212047 persons or 56.5 percent and accounting for 89.21 percent of the total emigrants from Nepal. In the census of 1991, the data on China, Nepal's neighbouring country was not available.

**Table 14.19 : Countries of destination of emigrants from Nepal 1991.**

Countries	Total	Percent	Male	%	Female	%
<b>Nepal</b>	<b>658290</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>548002</b>	<b>83.2</b>	<b>110288</b>	<b>16.8</b>
India	587243	89.21	492079	83.8	95164	16.2
South Asian Countries	4977	0.76	3652	73.4	1325	26.6
Arab countries	6345	0.96	6345	93.8	394	6.2
Other Asian Countries	20024	3.04	16364	81.7	3660	18.3
European Countries	6404	0.97	4581	71.5	1823	28.5
North American Countries	2150	0.33	1484	69.0	666	31.0
Other Countries	581	0.09	445	76.6	136	23.4
Not stated	30566	4.64	23446	76.7	7120	23.3

Source : Population Census of Nepal 2001

Emigration of Nepalese to Asian countries including India accounted for 93.18 percent of the total in 1981 and went up to 935 percent in 1991. The total for the other Asian countries excluding India was 9319 persons, accounting for 2.25 percent of the total emigrants from Nepal in 1991, it went up to 31347 persons, an increase of 22028 persons or 236.4 percent. It clearly indicated changing trend of emigration of Nepalese to other countries of Asia, such as West Asia (Arab countries), East and South East Asia. The second largest number emigrated to European countries and was followed by North American countries.

In the census of 2001, emigration data were collected for a large number of countries of the world. Emigration data is available for 17 individual Asian countries, 3 European countries and Australia, whereas some of the countries were lumped together such as Russia and other; and USA including Canada and Mexico (Table 14.20).

**Table 14.20 : Populations absent from Nepal and destination of foreign countries by sex 2001.**

Countries	Total	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
<b>Nepal</b>	<b>762181</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>679469</b>	<b>89.15</b>	<b>82712</b>	<b>10.85</b>
India	589050	77.28	520500	88.4	68550	11.6
Pakistan	552	0.09	466	84.4	92	11.6
Bangladesh	952	0.12	784	82.4	168	11.6
Bhutan	610	0.10	511	83.8	99	16.2
Sri Lanka	201	0.03	176	87.6	25	12.4
Maldives	370	0.06	334	90.3	36	9.7
China	1354	0.18	1018	75.2	336	24.8
Korea	2679	0.45	2433	90.8	246	9.2
Russia and others	747	0.10	633	84.7	114	15.3

<b>Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Japan	3726	0.63	3087	82.9	639	17.1
Hong Kong	12001	1.57	8143	67.9	3858	32.1
Singapore	3363	0.44	2679	79.7	684	20.3
Malaysia	6813	0.89	6742	99.0	71	1.0
Australia	2491	0.42	1991	79.9	500	20.1
Saudi Arabia	67460	8.85	66629	98.8	831	1.2
Qatar	24397	4.14	24208	99.2	189	0.8
Kuwait	3688	0.48	3044	82.5	644	17.5
United Arab Emirates	12544	2.13	12298	98.0	246	2.0
Bahrain	2737	0.36	2616	95.6	121	4.4
Other Asian countries	3849	0.65	3130	81.3	719	18.7
United Kingdom	7221	0.95	5997	83.0	1274	17.0
Germany	1638	0.28	1420	86.7	218	13.3
France	250	0.03	197	78.8	53	21.2
Other European Countries	1998	0.34	1640	82.1	358	17.9
USA, Canada and Mexico	9557	1.25	7227	75.6	2330	24.4
Other Countries	1877	0.32	1566	83.4	311	16.6

Source: Population Census of Nepal 2001

In the census of 2001, the total number of emigrant from Nepal has slightly increased from 587243 persons in 1991 to 589050 in 2001, an increase of 1807 persons or 0.3 percent only, and the Nepalese emigrants to India as percent of the total emigrants has gone down from 89.21 percent in 1991 to 77.28 percent in 2001. This indicates the increasing trend of emigration of Nepalese beyond India to other countries. The second largest destination of the Nepalese emigrants was Saudi Arabia, which accounted for 8.85 percent of the total emigrants followed by Qatar and United Arab Emirates. The total number of Nepalese emigrants to Gulf countries including other countries like Kuwait, UAE and Bahrain accounted for 16 percent of the total. Hong Kong is the fourth largest destination of the Nepalese emigrants followed by Japan, Korea and China and the Nepalese emigrants to these East Asian countries together accounted for 2.83 percent of the total emigrants. Malaysia represents the sixth largest destination of Nepalese emigrants and the UK represents the fifth largest destination.

The major source regions of the Nepalese absent abroad indicates that Western Development Region is the largest sending region accounting for 43.5 percent of the total followed by Central Development Region (14.1 percent), Eastern Development Region (16.0 percent), Far Western Development Region (13.9 percent and Mid Western Development Region (12.4 percent). The Nepalese emigrants with highest proportion in the countries from the Eastern Development Region are Maldives, Singapore, Kuwait and Bahrain (Table: 14.22). The countries with highest

percentage of Nepalese emigrants from Eastern Development Regions are Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, China, Russia and its former republics, Australia, Germany, France, other European countries, USA including Canada as well as Mexico and other countries indicating significant number going for study and training. The countries with highest proportion from Western Development Regions are India, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, other Asian countries and UK. Both the Mid Western and Far Western Development Regions do not have any country having largest percentage of migrant from these regions. Both for the Eastern and Western Development Regions as well as Mid Western and Far Western Development Regions, most of the migrant seems to be engaged in services (Table: 14.22).

**Table 14.21 : Source regions of population absent in Nepal and countries of destination 2001**

Countries	NEPAL		EDR		CDR		WDR		MWDR		FWDR	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total	762181	100.0	121911	16.0	107631	14.1	331880	43.54	94724	12.43	106035	13.91
India	589050	100.0	67338	11.4	63508	10.9	263180	44.68	90006	15.28	105018	17.83
Pakistan	558	100.0	107	19.2	232	41.6	138	24.73	36	6.45	45	8.06
Bangladesh	952	100.0	133	14.0	410	43.1	239	25.11	69	7.25	101	10.61
Sri Lanka	201	100.0	44	22.0	82	40.8	62	30.85	8	3.98	5	2.49
Maldives	370	100.0	130	35.1	86	23.2	129	34.9	17	4.59	8	2.2
China	1354	100.0	225	16.6	706	52.1	305	22.5	58	4.28	60	4.4
Korea	2679	100.0	484	18.1	567	21.2	1541	57.5	67	2.50	20	0.8
Russia and others	747	100.0	126	16.9	358	47.9	183	24.5	41	5.49	39	5.2
Japan	3726	100.0	358	9.6	1569	42.1	1725	46.3	47	1.26	27	0.7
Hong Kong	12001	100.0	4111	34.3	1821	15.2	5952	49.6	87	0.72	30	0.3
Singapore	3363	100.0	1288	38.3	628	18.7	1221	36.3	213	6.33	13	0.4
Malaysia	6813	100.0	2562	37.6	1026	15.1	2983	43.8	183	2.69	59	0.9
Australia	2491	100.0	365	14.7	1476	59.3	556	22.3	53	2.13	41	1.7
Saudi Arabia	67460	100.0	23179	34.4	13873	20.6	27775	41.2	2475	3.67	158	0.2
Qatar	24397	100.0	9256	37.9	4547	18.6	10164	41.7	376	1.54	54	0.2
Kuwait	3688	100.0	1457	39.5	692	18.8	1450	39.3	69	1.87	20	0.5
United Arab Emirates	12544	100.0	4157	33.1	2590	20.7	5408	43.1	321	2.56	68	0.5
Bahrain	2737	100.0	1511	55.2	272	9.9	918	33.5	33	1.21	3	0.1
Other Asian Countries	3849	100.0	921	23.9	1334	34.7	1440	37.4	127	3.30	27	0.7
United Kingdom	7271	100.0	1646	22.6	2602	35.8	2811	38.7	160	2.20	52	0.7
Germany	1638	100.0	270	16.5	671	41.0	653	39.9	33	2.01	11	0.7
France	250	100.0	40	16.0	156	62.4	50	20.0	4	1.60	0	0.0
Other European Countries	1998	100.0	210	10.5	931	46.6	818	40.9	22	1.10	17	0.9
USA, Canada and Mexico	9557	100.0	1147	12.0	6661	69.7	1566	16.4	116	1.21	67	0.7
Other Countries	1877	100.0	534	28.5	617	32.9	568	30.3	86	4.58	72	3.8

Source: Population Census of Nepal

The census data on population absent from Nepal and gone abroad in 2001 and the reason for absence indicated 66.4 percent engaged in personal service followed by institutional service (12.4 percent), study/training (4.2 percent), marriage (1.9 percent Business (1.6 percent) and agriculture (1 percent). All the persons engaged in agriculture are confined to India only (Table: 14.22). Of the total Nepalese emigrants abroad engaged in different activities, all the total in agriculture, 89.9 percent of the total in business, 76.5 of the total in personal services, 73.3 percent in institutional services, 60.9 percent of the total in study/training, 90.6 percent of the total in marriage and 87.7 percent of the total in other activities have their destination in India (Table: 14.22). Among the individual countries, the largest number of Nepalese emigrants involve in study and/training are in Australia/New Zealand, USA, Russia and others, and Bangladesh. In most of the other countries, overwhelming proportion of the Nepalese emigrants is engaged in personal services and institutional services. Significant number of Nepalese emigrants to China, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Japan, Singapore, UK, Germany, and France are engaged in study/training.

**Table 14.22 : Distribution of the population absent from Nepal by countries of destination and by reasons for absence 2001.**

Country of Destination	Reasons for Absence							
	Total	Agriculture	Business	Personal Service	Institutional Service	Study/ Training	Marriage	Others
Total	762181	7763	12050	506221	94329	31747	14101	95970
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
India	589050	7763	10832	385062	69102	19337	12772	84182
	77.28	100.00	89.89	76.07	73.26	60.91	90.58	87.72
Pakistan	558	0	66	211	41	160	12	68
	0.07		0.54	0.04	0.04	0.50	0.08	0.07
Bangladesh	952	0	40	277	71	411	14	139
	0.12		0.33	0.05	0.08	1.29	0.10	0.14
Bhutan	610	0	28	328	71	33	15	135
	0.08		0.23	0.06	0.08	0.10	0.11	0.14
Sri Lanka	201	0	7	88	22	50	6	28
	0.03		0.01	0.02	0.01	0.16	0.04	0.03
Maldives	370	0	8	268	46	7	9	32
	0.05		0.01	0.05	0.05	0.02	0.06	0.03
China	1354	0	44	587	154	382	16	171
	018		0.37	0.12	0.16	1.20	0.11	0.18
Korea	2679	0	28	1990	462	83	16	100
	0.35		0.23	0.39	0.49	0.26	0.11	0.10
Russia and Others	747	0	12	142	53	330	11	199
	0.10		0.10	0.03	0.06	1.04	0.08	0.21

Country of Destination	Reasons for Absence							
	Total	Agriculture	Business	Personal Service	Institutional Service	Study/ Training	Marriage	Others
Japan	3726	0	88	2172	492	585	97	292
	0.49		0.73	0.43	0.52	1.84	0.69	0.30
Hong Kong	12001	0	111	8249	1902	331	224	1184
	1.57		0.92	1.63	2.02	1.04	1.59	1.23
Singapore	3363	0	30	1249	1044	347	145	548
	044		0.25	0.05	1.00	1.09	1.03	0.57
Malaysia	6813	0	18	5521	892	37	5	340
	0.89		0.15	1.09	0.95	0.12	0.03	0.35
Australia	2491	0	20	579	176	1487	62	167
	0.33		0.16	0.11	0.19	4.68	0.44	0.17
Saudi Arabia	67460	0	123	54902	8907	56	18	3454
	8.85		1.02	10.85	9.44	0.18	0.13	3.60
Qatar	24397	0	38	19728	3351	17	4	1259
	3.20		0.31	3.90	3.55	0.05	0.03	1.31
Kuwait	3688	0	4	2957	543	4	2	178
	0.48		0.03	0.58	0.58	0.01	0.01	0.19
United Arab Emirates	12544	0	28	9963	1932	50	10	561
	1.65		0.23	1.91	2.05	0.16	0.07	0.58
Bahrain	2737	0	6	2180	421	9	2	119
	0.36		0.05	0.43	0.45	0.03	0.01	0.12
Other Asian Countries	3849	0	70	1947	917	453	79	383
	0.50		0.58	0.38	0.97	1.43	0.56	0.40
United Kingdom	7271	0	101	2513	2088	1631	200	738
	0.95		0.84	0.50	2.21	5.14	1.42	0.77
Germany	1638	0	37	948	207	262	28	156
	0.21		0.31	0.19	0.22	0.83	0.20	0.16
France	250	0	9	86	26	75	9	45
	0.03		0.07	0.02	0.03	0.24	0.06	0.05
Other European Countries	1998	0	35	892	339	504	56	172
	0.26		0.29	0.18	0.36	1.59	0.40	0.18
USA, Canada and Mexico	9557	0	238	2482	770	4930	261	876
	1.25		1.98	0.49	0.82	15.53	1.42	0.91
Other Countries	444	0	1877	29	900	300	176	28
	0.06		15.58	0.0	0.95	0.94	1.25	0.03

Source : Population Census of Nepal 2001

### 14.2.3 Immigration versus Emigration

On the basis of the available census data on migration data of 2001 based on foreign citizens in Nepal and population absent abroad comparison between Nepal and foreign countries can be made. The comparison has been made between Nepal and visa required countries (excluding India) indicated emigration exceeding immigration at the national level by 159028 persons (Table: 14.20). The countries having more of their nationals in Nepal than Nepalese in their countries were China, Pakistan, and Bhutan, while in other countries and regions, there was more Nepalese than citizens of these countries in Nepal.

**Table 14.23 : International migration to and from Nepal 2001 (includes passport and visa required countries only).**

Countries	Foreigners in Nepal	%	Nepalese Abroad	%
Total	14103	100.00	173131	100.00
China	1344	9.53	1354	0.78
Pakistan	2628	18.63	558	0.32
Bangladesh	79	0.56	952	0.55
Bhutan	3827	27.14	610	0.35
Sri Lanka	89	0.63	201	0.12
Maldives	77	0.55	370	0.21
Other Countries in Asia	3777	26.78	143257	82.74
European Countries	708	5.02	11904	6.88
North American Countries	628	4.45	9557*	5.52
South American Countries	348	2.47		
African Countries	293	2.08		
Australia/New Zealand	307	2.18	2491**	1.44
Other Countries			1877	1.08

\*Includes USA, Canada and Mexico only

\*\*Includes Australia only

The census data since 1961 indicate that immigration into Nepal is on increase with immigrants from different countries of the world. The largest number of immigrants into Nepal is from India. Similarly, largest number of Nepalese has also their destination in India. However, the destination and magnitude of emigration from Nepal is increasing in the countries beyond India and has been



the result of the demand for labour in the oil rich West Asian countries, developed and developing countries of East and South East Asia as well as in developed countries of Europe, Australia and North America. Emigration from Nepal has been characterized by both brain and brawn drain and foreign labour migration has emerged as the major source of earning for the migrant households and the nation.

The population censuses of Nepal is characterized by lack of consistent plans and policies relating to quality and importance of population data and other data relating to international migration. The frequent changes in census schedules and definition on migration both internal and international has not only resulted in the poor quality and unreliability of migration data for qualitative analysis, and understanding the trend, magnitude and implication of migration particularly the international migration to formulate any pragmatic policy on international migration. The need of consistency, continuity, coordination and monitoring of the data collection has become very urgent in Nepal particularly in relation to international migration.

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