

SCENARIO OF POVERTY IN FEDERAL NEPAL

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ABSTRACT

The study titled "Scenario of Poverty in Federal Nepal" has been conducted with the aim of making a general descriptive review of efforts or initiatives to find out scenario of poverty in federal Nepal. Secondary sources of data have been used to understand the current situation of poverty in Nepal. Descriptive method is used in this research study. Systematic planned development is adopted in Nepal. After the Eighth Plan, poverty alleviation has been consistently taken into account in periodic plans. Five -year periodic plans are developed in Nepal. However, according to the plan's stated target for reducing poverty, it was not fully implemented. The federal system has been implemented in Nepal as of the constitution of 2015. Three levels of government have been created in Nepal as a result of the country's adoption of the federal system. Initiatives to lessen poverty are being taken at all three levels of government. The list of common rights for all three levels of government in the constitution includes rights related to reducing poverty. In this way, reducing poverty is the primary duty of all three tiers of government. According to information gleaned from the periodic plans of the federal and provincial governments, the study's analysis of the state of poverty in Nepal is brief. This study showed that poverty is vicious in Nepal, including all seven provinces. Regionally, Bagmati province is in good shape among Nepal's seven provinces, but Karnali, Sudurpashchim, and Madhesh provinces are found to have higher poverty rates Absolute poverty is found to be more prevalent in Sudurpashchim and Karnali provinces.

Keywords: - Dawn, Salvation, Miserable, Crippled, Scriptures, Combat, Accelerate, Bulk, Descriptive, Bivariate, Impoverished, Promulgation, Susceptibility, Immune, Gleaned

1.0 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Since the dawn of civilization, poverty has existed in the society and escaping it has long been regarded as difficult. The individual realized that his or her weakness or poverty was due to a past sin. Begging was regarded as an essential aspect of life in many religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. People who admire saints also admire the underprivileged (Kunwar, K.B. 2002). The goal of a king, sage, or political figure in ancient times was to free the people from poverty. That is why King Rantidev had declared that he did not require the joy and fame of the kingdom, heaven, or salvation. I want to lessen the suffering of the world's miserable poor, crippled, and miserable people (Bhagawat).As a result, since the founding of the state, the term "poor" has existed. The service of the miserable poor is also mentioned in numerous ancient scriptures as being both religious and virtue. Sudama, a friend of Lord Krishna, was extremely poor, but this could not separate them. A new level of poverty emerged as a result of the opening up of industries and the migration of villagers in search of

employment from the countryside to the cities. As a result, as time has progressed, so has the pattern of poverty.

In general, poverty is defined as the absence of essentials like food, clothing, cotton, and other items, as well as the inability to pay for healthcare and educate children who are ill. Poverty emerged and grew alongside human civilization throughout the world (Hada, 2007) as well. All people in the prehistoric era suffered from poverty. Man was totally reliant on nature at that time because there had been no positive change. It can be assumed that the lack of technological advancement in areas like industry and factories contributed to the people's miserable and challenging way of life at the time. Nevertheless, poverty has crept into underdeveloped nations like Nepal and is now a way of life.

Planned development has started in Nepal as well since democracy was established there in 2007 B.S. In Nepal, the sixth plan (1980-1985) was the first to include a program to combat poverty focusing on basic necessities. In the seventh plan (1985-1990), the nation's challenge is to increase production and purchasing power. As a result, despite efforts to reduce poverty being made in the seventh plan and earlier, poverty alleviation has not been specifically mentioned.

For the first time, specific policies, goals, and programs relating to poverty alleviation were established and put into action in the Eighth Plan (1992-1997). The elimination of poverty was the main goal of this plan. As a result, after the Eighth Plan, poverty alleviation has been consistently included in the periodic plans. Two fundamental strategies were adopted as part of the poverty alleviation program for the ninth plan (1997-2002): (1) To increase the programs that can assist the general poor who live below the poverty line in the nation's economic development and market operations. (2) For the extremely poor families who cannot be served by the market system, targeted programs should be implemented. The primary challenge in reducing poverty is lifting up the extremely low-income families. The goal for the tenth plan, which ran from 2059 to 2064, was to reduce the percentage of people living in poverty to 30 percent.

In Nepal, poverty has thus led to a wide range of issues. When someone falls into the poverty cycle and starts living like a person, it is challenging to break free. No matter how excellent the plan, it cannot be put into action. Low capital, low exchange, low productivity, low income, low savings, low profit, and low employment are all aspects of poverty in developing nations. To carry out the work pertaining to poverty alleviation, the ministry of land management, cooperatives, and alleviation of poverty has been established. It is discovered that numerous policies have been developed to reduce poverty. Nepal have tried various ways to reduce poverty. After, federalization this study wants to find out the situation of poverty in seven provinces of Nepal.

2.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

One of the main causes of the absence of economic development and growth is poverty. There have been significant global economic, social, and political movements as a result of poverty. The issue of poverty is thus qualitative and consequential in both developed and developing nations. Absolute poverty makes it difficult to provide for basic needs because the income is below the recommended amount. Lack of capital, increasing unemployment, illiteracy, rapid

population growth, unequal rural settlement, political unrest, traditional agricultural systems, improper industrial policy, low industrialization, religious beliefs, talent flight, a lack of self-employment skills, an unequal distribution of resources and opportunities, poor educational conditions, low human development, and weak infrastructure are the main causes of poverty. If these causes are addressed and put into practice, or if these issues can be resolved, poverty can be decreased.

The government has established a number of beneficial programs aimed at the poor, but their implementation has not been successful. The practice of identifying the poor and delivering targeted programs to the actual poor is fought with difficulty. Due to improper use of the remittances sent by those who left for foreign employment, there has been no improvement in the standard of living for the populace. The economy of the nation has not been doing well, and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has increased prices and made it more difficult to reduce poverty. Because Nepal's exports are significantly lower than its imports, the trade deficit has grown faster than the country's foreign exchange reserves this year.

There are numerous issues where there is poverty. Poverty causes a number of weaknesses to emerge in a person or a state's capacity. Because of their extreme poverty, many Nepalese seek work abroad every year. They are compelled to labor arduously for meager pay abroad. Given that poverty is a significant barrier to the country's development, that development cannot accelerate unless poverty is eradicated. In this concern this study wants to find out situation of poverty in federal Nepal. The specific research questions of the study are as follows:-

- What is the status of poverty in Koshi province?
- What is the status of poverty in Madesh province?
- What is the status of poverty in Bagmati province?
- What is the status of poverty in Gandaki province?
- What is the status of poverty in Lumbini province?
- What is the status of poverty in Karnali province?
- What is the status of poverty in Sudurpachhim province?

3.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

In recent years, poverty in Nepal has been gradually declining. In Nepal, poverty is a serious issue. Various initiatives have recently been made to reduce poverty in Nepal. By the year 2100 B.S., the Nepali government hopes to eradicate absolute poverty and reduce multidimensional poverty to 3% (Fifteenth Plan, 2019–2024). We are aware that a number of factors affect poverty. Which includes the political system, the governance system, the social and economic conditions, as well as the geographical and environmental conditions. The commitment to reducing poverty has been made in the policies and programs that the government of Nepal publishes each year. In order to fulfill this commitment, the government has made reducing poverty a top priority in all of its development plans, government policies, and periodic plans. Several initiatives to combat poverty are currently being carried out by the Nepali government. But, what is the status of poverty? Is still questionable, therefore, this study focus on to find status of poverty in federal Nepal. The specific objectives of the study are as follows: -

- To find out the status of poverty in Koshi province

- To find out the status of poverty in Madesh province
- To find out the status of poverty in Bagmati province
- To find out the status of poverty in Gandaki province
- To find out the status of poverty in Lumbini province
- To find out the status of poverty in Karnali province
- To find out the status of poverty in Sudurpachhim province

4.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature review is the guideline of this study. Mainly literature review concern on research book, census of Nepal 2021, economic survey, journal of national planning commission, journal of poverty, and plan of seven province and so on.

5.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A descriptive research methodology was used in this study, "Scenario of Poverty in Federal Nepal," to fully comprehend the current state of poverty in the country's federal regions. In order to ensure a methodical and organized approach to analyzing the poverty scenario, the research concentrated on using secondary data sources to gather pertinent information. Secondary data were carefully examined and analyzed, coming from reliable sources like official government reports, scholarly journals, and pertinent databases. To provide a thorough overview of the state of poverty in the seven provinces of Nepal, descriptive statistics were used, allowing for a nuanced understanding of the socioeconomic factors causing poverty. This method allowed for a comprehensive examination of the secondary sample, enabling the research to draw meaningful insights and conclusions about the poverty landscape in federal Nepal.

a) Research Design

A thorough research plan is known as a research framework or research design. This is the overall research's action plan and structure. A fixed theory should not be used to build a research framework. Research is dependent on a particular kind and style of design construction (Shiwakoti, 2075). A framework for determining the answers to research questions is known as a research design. The descriptive and content analysis have been considered for the current status of poverty in Nepal.

According to Kerlinger, (2016) "Research design is the plan, structure, and strategy of investigation conceived so as to obtain answers to research questions and to control variance." Research design is the plan or strategies to use to achieve the expected results. The selection of appropriate research design is the most important step for the success of every study. According to P.V. Young, (1992) "Research design is a guide to the logical and systematic planning of research". In fact, the research design presents the program, prepares the hypothesis and constructs the structure of the research, which is an important guide for the research work. The research design is based on an experimental method and a certain methodology in which the problem is defined, objectives are formulated, concepts and hypotheses are formulated. Thus, the research design explains in detail what the research is, where, when, why and how to do it.

The systematic framework that the researcher creates in relation to the overall research work before beginning any research work is the research framework that clarifies the various aspects of the study subject in relation to some specific objectives. A research framework is essentially a detailed plan created before beginning a research project. Which makes clear the various aspects of the planning, organization, and research system for the study subject with reference to a few particular goals (Bhandari, 2018, p. 63).

The primary goal of this study is to analyze data about the level of poverty in Nepal that were obtained from various secondary data sources using in-depth knowledge and perceptions. This research framework is based on a study of the extent of poverty in Nepal and its alleviation. This research design is appropriate because the goal of the study is to determine how different Nepalese statistics depict the country's poverty situation. In this study descriptive statistics tools are used. According to Hari Bhakta Shahi (2023), "descriptive research design requires descriptive statistics such as; frequency, percentage, mean, median, mode, standard deviation and variance". Therefore, in this research percentage is used as a statistical tools.

b) Population of Study

The term "universe of objects," "population of objects," or "aggregate population" refers to the totality of all objects, not just the human population. The components of the whole are either infinite or finite in number, and either real or hypothetical in terms of quality. A finite population is a collection of specific items. Examples of a finite population include books in a library and university students enrolled in classes. Similar to this, an infinite population is a collection of objects 50 times so big that they cannot be counted or tested. The sea's water supply is limitless or infinite, as is humankind's impact on the planet (Joshi, 2016, p. 159). The word "population" has a special meaning when used in the sampling methodology. The areas of comprehensive research represent the population in this method's particular sense. A population, also referred to as the universe, is a collection of people with similar traits. Population refers to all units with similar properties in the non-physical world. But in order to constitute a population, something must share that quality or characteristic (Shiwakoti, 2018). The research population in this study is the people of Nepal. Therefore, the population can be considered to be all or all of those involved in the study subject or field. The research population is the entire population of Nepal. Nepal has a population of 291, 92,480 as of the year 2078 (CBS, 2021).

c) Source of Information

The means, methods, tools, etc. used to gather the facts, data, information, figures, etc. materials required by the research or the user are referred to as sources of data or sources of information. The topic, goal, and field of the research heavily influence the resources and methods used. The process of gathering, analyzing, and generalizing data is a significant component of research. By gathering data information, it is possible to acquire both numerical and quantitative types of information (Shiwakoti, 2018). The place where data and information are gathered during research is the source of data. In social research, different types of data are used depending on the subject matter, so different sources and methods are also used to collect them. Data's sources differ because it is used in social research as both primary and secondary data.

The research proposal's next section includes the sources of information. Primary and secondary sources are covered under this heading because there are two main sources of information. The records created based on the information gathered by other people, groups, or organizations are regarded as secondary sources, whereas the sources of information gathered by the researcher for the first time for his people are considered primary sources (Niure, D.P. 2069).

There are numerous sources of data or information. Secondary sources made up the bulk of the study's data collection. Secondary sources are those that have already been gathered by someone else or that have had information from earlier sources interpreted. Internal and external written materials such as reports, books, newspapers, manuscripts, diaries, letters, and research papers are considered secondary data.

Various economic surveys, periodic plans, government reports, the ministry of land management, cooperatives, and poverty alleviation, newspapers, news, libraries, websites, various articles, research papers, reports from various organizations, and other pertinent information are used as secondary data in this study to learn more about the state of poverty in Nepal. Used as a resource for knowledge. Data on various forms of poverty in Nepal have been incorporated into this study as a source of information.

d) Data Collection Methods

In social research, data are gathered from both primary and secondary sources. Such primary and secondary sources are gathered using various techniques. Similar to primary data, secondary data comes from literary description. Since secondary data is gathered from a variety of published and unpublished sources, different methods are employed (Shiwakoti, 2018), including libraries, documents, articles, historical biographies, and so forth.

The methods used to collect data vary. Which approach, type of research, and data collection technique should be used among these? Within the constraints of the available resources, tools, and time, the researcher should choose the type of data collection technique that can be used. What technique can be used to gather the necessary and pertinent data? This demonstrates the effectiveness of data gathering as well. Unneeded data collection can increase the amount of time, labor, money, and confusion involved in conducting research. The library method and the document study method of data collection have both been used in this study among other data collection techniques. The library method, by which the sources of the information kept in the library are obtained, entails going to the library and studying the books. Similar to that, the documents continue to be a crucial and recognized source for gathering information for research. Documents are written records of information, facts, ideas, and programs compiled by government agencies. Data for this study was gathered from the government of Nepal's various periodic plans, economic reports, surveys, etc.

e) Data Presentation

The data gathered must be presented accurately at all times. Only if the presentation is in a format that is widely accepted will it be simple to understand. Different methods can be used to present data. However, it needs to be presented in a way that encourages and makes it more appealing to study. This clarifies the point the researcher is making. Descriptive data

presentation is also used. Language is used (Shiwakoti, 2018). Data presented in a straightforward manner can be easily understood. Additionally, the data is presented using a variety of mathematical techniques. Different methods of data presentation are used in research. In this study, various tables, graphs, percentages, charts, and pictures have been used to present the data that was gathered using various methods.

A variety of descriptive and statistical techniques have been employed depending on the type of data that was gathered for this study. It seems appropriate to use descriptive, table, and chart methods when researching Nepal's poverty situation. The information and data gathered from various sources are organized and given different forms for presentation after being processed and classified. Rewriting tables and various types of diagrams are used in these processes to organize and present the data. This allows for the analysis and interpretation of the data to arrive at the conclusion.

f) Method of Data Analysis

The statistical analysis method can be used in research to conduct scientific analysis and research. Mathematical methods include statistical methods. It enables the analysis and interpretation of data gathered by various methods using a unified system. In this way, a thorough explanation can be separated from the facts, and the tabulated data can be objectively analyzed. In research, statistical methods are used to analyze linguistic and symbolic issues by turning them into numbers (Shiwakoti, 2018). As a result, data from secondary data sources were collected in this study using both appropriate qualitative and quantitative statistical analysis methods.

Different types of statistical analysis techniques exist as well. In this study, descriptive statistical analysis is still crucial. Here, data analysis is based on mathematical analysis, but it is still a statistical analysis. It describes the subjects, incidents, and research's overall nature. In this study, the related variables are analyzed on a univariate, bivariate, and multivariate basis depending on the nature of the event, situation, or data.

Univariate analysis is the study of a single variable in data analysis. Bivariate analysis is the process of examining two independent and dependent variables to determine their relationship. Multivariate analysis is the study of more than two variables in the data and the analysis of their multiple relationships.

The information contained in the data was gathered from secondary sources. Thusly gathered information from economic surveys, periodic plans, books, websites, journals, news, and related fields is shown in a table and is provided in both numbers and percentages.

5) Finding of the Study

Developing countries are suffering from poverty. Poverty affect development, economic growth, employment, education of the children, health of the people and so on. The finding of the study is summarized in the following table.

a Situation of Poverty in Nepal

Nepal takes up 0.3% of Asia and 0.03% of the world. Himal, Pahad, and Terai are the three geographical regions that Nepal is divided into from north to south. According to Dr. Subedi (2076/77), Nepal can be found between 26 degrees 22 minutes north latitude and 30 degrees 27 minutes north latitude, and between 80 degrees 4 minutes east longitude and 88 degrees 12 minutes longitude. Nepal has a total area of 147516 square kilometers. In Asia's South Asia region is where you'll find Nepal. China and India are Nepal's neighbors to the north, east, west, and south, respectively. Nepal is about 885 km long and 193 km wide from east to west. Nepal is an landlocked country. Nepal has 77 districts and 7 provinces. In total, Nepal has 753 local levels, including 6 major cities, 11 smaller cities, 276 municipalities, and 460 rural municipalities. According to the 12th National Census's preliminary findings, Nepal has a total population of 291 92 480. With a population growth rate of 0.93%, the population has grown by 10.18% in the past ten years. In this census, there are 51.04 percent females and 49.95 percent males. Nepal has a 198 density of population. According to the data, 6.09% of people live in the Himalayas, 40.25% live in the hills, and 53.66% live in the Terai (CBS, 2078). As a result, the Terai has the highest population density and the Himalaya the lowest. The table below shows Nepal's level of poverty in the base year 2075–2076 and the target for the 15th plan period.

Table No. 4.1: The Situation of Poverty in Nepal

Results indicator	Unit	Situation upto FY. 2075/76	Target of FY 2080/81
Population below the poverty line (Absolute poverty)	Percent	18.7	9.5
Population in multi-dimensional poverty (Relative Poverty)	Percent	28.6	11.5
Human Development Index	Index	0.579	0.624
National Income Per Capita	US dollar	1047	1595

–2076. Source: NPC, 2076. Fifteenth Plan (2076/77-2080/081).

According to the above table, 18.7% of Nepal's population is living in absolute poverty in the base year 2075–2076. The base year 2075–2076 also serves as the fourteenth plan's final year. Human development index is 0.579, per capita national income is 1047 US dollars, and multidimensional poverty (relative poverty) is experienced by 28.6% of Nepal's population in base year 2075/76. Up until now, the state of poverty in Nepal has been defined as the population living below the poverty line in the base year 2075–2076 and the population experiencing multidimensional poverty. The fifteenth five-year plan's outcome year is the fiscal year 2080/81. In the table above, the human development index is 0.624, absolute poverty is 9.5%, relative poverty is 11.5%, and the fifteenth plan's target per capita national income is 1595 US dollars. The fifteenth periodic plan, which is currently being implemented in Nepal, appears to have as its goal a 5% reduction in both absolute and relative poverty from the base year 2075

Province Currently, Nepal is divided into 7 provinces on an administrative and political level. This led to the formation of provincial governments in seven provinces in accordance with their

respective jurisdictions. Plans and programs are being developed by provincial governments as well. Each province is putting together and carrying out its initial periodic plan.

b Status of Poverty in Province One

Three different types of geographically covered mountain hills, known as Terai, make up Province 1. The eastern region of Nepal is where this province is situated. 25905 square kilometers, or 17.6% of the country's total area, make up this province. 14 districts in eastern Nepal make up the federal democratic republic of Nepal. which includes 46 municipalities, 88 rural municipalities, 1 metropolitan city, 2 sub-metropolitan cities, and 137 local levels. According to the 12th National Census's preliminary findings, one province has a population of 4972021. Population density is 192 and the population growth rate is 0.88%. The table below shows the population in province one that is below the current poverty line, the population that is multidimensionality poor, the human development index (HDI), and the per capita income:

Table No. 4.2: The State of Poverty in One

Results indicator	Unit	The reality of the FY 2075/76	Average target of the plan period (2080/81)
Population below the poverty line (Absolute poverty)	Percent	12.4	11
Population in multi-dimensional poverty (Relative poverty)	Percent	19.7	14
Human Development Index (HDI)	Index	0.504	0.600
Per Capita Income (PCI)	US dollar	934	1620

Source: PPC, 2076, First Periodic Plan (2076/77-2080/081).

According to the table above, 12.4% of province 1's population was below the poverty line in FY 2075/76, and 19.7% of people experienced multidimensional poverty. The HDI is 0.504 and the PCI is \$934 USD. The province's first periodic plan (FPP), which covers the final year of the FPP 2080–1981, sets out to reduce the percentage of people living in poverty to 11% in absolute terms, 14% in relative terms, 0.600 in terms of HDI, and 1620 in terms of PCI.

c) Status of Poverty in Madhesh Province (Province Two)

There are 8 districts in Nepal's eastern plains, according to its constitution. The native languages spoken in this province, which makes up 5.74% of the total area of Nepal, are

Maithili (45.29%) and Bhojpuri (18.57%). This province has 20.98% of Nepal's total population. This province is the most populous in Nepal, with a population growth rate of 1.20% (CBS, 2078). According to the First Periodic Plan 2076–2081, this province has 12.7% of all industrial establishments in Nepal and generates 16.2% of the nation's GDP. The table below lists PCI, HDI, multidimensional poverty, and absolute poverty in this province:

Table No. 4.3: The Situation of Poverty in Madhesh Province

Results indicator	Unit	FY. 2075/76	Targets of FY 2080/081
Population below the poverty line (Absolute poverty)	Percent	27.7	21
Population in multi-dimensional poverty (Relative poverty)	Percent	47.9	29.74
Human development index	Index	0.421	0.49
Per capita income	US dollar	799	1000

Source: PPPC, 2076. Fifteenth Plan (2076/77-2080/081).

According to the above table, Madhesh province (province 2) had a population below the poverty line of 27.7%, a population experiencing multidimensional poverty of 47.9%, an HDI of 0.421%, and a per capita income of 799 US dollars in FY 2075/76. Similar to the previous table, this one shows that in the province's final year of planning, 2080–1981, it is intended to reduce the percentage of people living in poverty to 21% and the percentage of people experiencing multidimensional poverty to 29.74%. The province's human development index (HDI) is 0.49 in the final year of the plan, and the PCI is \$1000 USD. Therefore, it is evident from the above table that a sizeable portion of the province's population lives below the poverty line, and roughly half of the population lives in multidimensional poverty.

d) Status of Poverty in Bagmati Province (Province 3)

The province of Bagmati covers a total area of 20300 square kilometers, or 13.79% of Nepal. According to the First Periodic Plan, 2076/77-2080/81, the province is divided administratively into 13 districts and 119 local levels under 3 metropolitan cities, 1 submetropolitan city, 41 municipalities, and 74 rural municipalities. This province includes Kathmandu, the nation of Nepal's capital. According to the 12th National Census' preliminary findings, this province has a total population of 60, 84,042 and a 0.92 population growth rate (CBS, 2078). The table below shows the levels of absolute and relative poverty, HDI, and PCI that were mentioned in the Bagmati province's first periodic plan (2076/77-2080/81) as well as the overall state of poverty in this province:

Table No. 4.4: The State of Poverty in Bagmati Province 3

Results indicator	Unit	FY 2075/76	Targets of FY 2080/81
Population below the poverty line (absolute poverty)	Percent	15.3	8
Population in multidimensional poverty	Percent	12.2	9
Human Development Index	Index	0.641	0.671
Per Capita Income (PCI)	US dollar	1917	3087

Source: PPPC, 2076, First Periodic Plan (FY 2076/77-2080/81).

According to the above table, the absolute poverty rate in the Bagmati province for the fiscal year 2075–1976 was 15.3%, while the relative poverty rate was 12.2%. The province's HDI in FY 2075/76 is 0.641, and the per capita income (PCI) is 1917 US dollars. The province's first periodic plan appears to have as its goal a reduction of the population living below the poverty line to 8% and the population experiencing multidimensional poverty to 9%. The per capita income (PCI) is 3087 US dollars, and the HDI is 0.671. In comparison to Nepal, Bagmati province's HDI and PCI scores are a little higher.

e) Status of Poverty in Gandaki Province (Pr. 4)

The Gandaki province covers 21974 square kilometers, or 14.67% of all the land in Nepal. (First FY 2076/77-2080/81) The Gandaki province is divided administratively into 85 local levels, including 11 districts, 1 metropolitan city, 26 municipalities, and 58 rural municipalities. According to the 12th National Census's preliminary findings, Gandaki province has a total population of 2779745 people and a 0.30% annual population growth rate. This province is home to 8.49% of Nepal's population (CBS, 2078). The following table displays the HDI, PCI, and poverty rates in this province:

Table No. 4.5: The State of Poverty in Gandaki Province

Results indicator	Unit	FY 2075/76	Targets of FY 2080/81
Population below the poverty line (absolute poverty)	Percent	14.91	7.4
Population in multidimensional poverty	Percent	14.2	7.2
Human Development Index	Index	0.59	0.65
Per Capita Income (PCI)	US dollar	1043	1956

Source: PPPC, 2076, First Five Year Plan (FY 2076/77-2080/81).

According to the above table, 14.2% of Gandaki province's population experienced multidimensional poverty in FY 2075–76, while the absolute poverty rate was 14.91%. In this way, it appears that the province's population in relative poverty and absolute poverty are nearly equal. The HDI and PCI in the table are both 0.59 and 1043 US dollars, respectively. The province's FYC (2076/77-2080/81) targets a reduction in absolute and relative poverty to 7.4% and 7.2%, respectively. The HDI is anticipated to rise to 0.65 and the PCI to 1956 US dollars in FY 2080/81. According to estimates, fewer people live in multidimensional poverty than those who are truly impoverished.

f) Status of Poverty in Lumbini Province (Prov. 5)

Lumbini Province (Province 5), which is located in the west-south region of Nepal, is comprised of 12 districts of Nepal, according to the country's constitution. In this province, there are 109 local levels, including 4 submetropolitan cities, 32 municipalities, and 73 rural municipalities. This province covers 22288 square kilometers in total, or 15.1% of Nepal's total area. According to the 12th National Census's preliminary findings, this province has a total population of 5124,225 and a population growth rate of 1.25% (CBS, 2078). The following table displays HDI, PCI, absolute and relative poverty in Lumbini Province.

Table No. 4.6: Poverty Situation in Lumbini Province

Results indicator	Unit	Reality of FY 2075/76	Targets of FY 2080/81
Population below the poverty line (absolute poverty)	Percent	18.2	10.0
Population in multidimensional poverty	Percent	29.9	15
Human Development Index	Index	0.51	0.63
Per Capita Income (PCI)	US dollar	803	1600

Source: PPC, 2076, First Periodic Plan (FY 2076/77-2080/81).

According to the above table, 18.20% of Lumbini Province's population was living below the poverty line in FY 2075–76, and 10.0% was the province's goal for the plan period (2080–81). Throughout the plan period (2080–1981), the goal is to achieve 10.0%. The goal is to bring down the multidimensional poverty rate to 29.9% in FY 2075/76 and to 15% in 2080/81, the final year of the plan. The HDI is 0.51 and the PCI is 803 US dollars in FY 2075–2076. It appears to be shooting for US\$ 1600 in the fiscal year 2080–2081.

g) Status of Poverty in Karnali Province (Prov. 6)

Karnali province (province 6) has a total area of 30211 square kilometers. In terms of area, this province is the biggest of Nepal's seven provinces. This province takes up 21.6% of Nepal's

total land area. In this province, there are 79 local levels in 25 municipalities, 54 rural municipalities, and 10 Nepalese districts (First FY 2076-2081, KPPC). According to the 12th National Census's preliminary findings, this province has a total population of 1694889, with a 0.73% annual growth rate. Karnali is the least populous province in all of Nepal. This province is home to 5.80% of Nepal's total population (CBS, 2078). The table below shows the HDI, PCI, multidimensional poverty index, and absolute poverty index for Karnali Province.

Table No. 4.7: Poverty Situation in Karnali Province

Results indicator	Unit	Reality of FY 2075/76	Targets of FY 2080/81
Population below the poverty line (absolute poverty)	Percent	28.9	12
Population in multidimensional poverty	Percent	51.2	25
Human Development Index (HDI)	Index	0.427	0.588
Per Capita Income (PCI)	US dollar	606	1147

Source: KPPC, 2076, First Five Years Plan (FY 2076/77-2080/81).

The aforementioned table shows that in the Karnali province during the fiscal year 2075–76, 51.2% of the population was living in multidimensional poverty and 28.9% of the population was below the absolute poverty line. In the table, the HDI for the FY 2075–76 is 0.427, and the PCI is 606 US dollars. In the FY 2080/81, the first FYP aims to reduce multidimensional poverty to 25% and the population below the absolute poverty line to 18%. Similar to the HDI, which stands at 0.588, the PCI is intended to reach 1147 US dollars.

h) Status of Poverty in Sudurpaschim Province (Prov. 7)

The Sudurpashchim Province (Province 7) is situated in Nepal's far western region. This province makes up 19539 square kilometers, or 13.27%, of the total area of Nepal. According to the provincial chief's office, which Sudurpaschchim.gov.np visited, there are 88 local levels in this province, including 9 districts, 1 submetropolitan city, 33 municipalities, and 54 rural municipalities. According to the 12th National Census's preliminary findings from 2078, this province has a total population of 27,11270 people and a 0.58% annual population growth rate (CBS, 2078).The table below shows the PCI, HDI, and absolute and relative poverty in Sudurpashchim (Province 7):

Table No. 4.8: Poverty Situation in Sudurpashchim Province

Results indicator	Unit	Reality of FY 2075/76	Targets of FY 2080/81
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Population below the poverty line (absolute poverty)	Percent	33.9	
Population in multidimensional poverty	Percent	33.6	14
Human Development Index	Index	0.509	0.621
Per Capita Income (PCI)	US dollar	683	1269

Source: NPC, 2076, Fifteenth Five Years Plan (FY 2076/77-2080/81), Prasashan.com, 2019.

According to the table above, in FY 2075/76, multidimensional poverty in Sudurpashchim Province (Province 7) was 33.6% and absolute poverty was 33.9%. In this province, it appears that both absolute and relative poverty are almost equal. According to Nepal's fifteenth plan, this province's HDI is 0.509 and PCI is 683 US dollars, with a goal of 0.621 and 1269 US dollars, respectively, in the FY 2080/81.

Looking at the situation in each of the seven provinces of Nepal, Sudurpashchim province has the highest absolute poverty rate at 33.9%, followed by Karnali province at 28.9%, while province 1 has the lowest absolute poverty rate at 12.4%, followed by Gandaki province at 14.91%. Comparatively, the population living in multidimensional poverty is found to be highest in Karnali province (51.2%), second in Madhesh province (47.9%), and lowest in Bagmati province (12.2%) when the situation for FY 2075/76 is examined. In the province of Bagmati, more people live in poverty on an absolute basis than on a multidimensional basis. In terms of HDI and PCI, Bagmati province holds the top spot as of the financial year (FY) 2075/76, while Karnali province holds the bottom spot.

i) Issue due to poverty in federal Nepal

Poverty in Nepal is a complex issue with far-reaching consequences that affect various aspects of society. Some of the main issues brought on by poverty in Nepal include:

- **Limited Access to Education:** Access to high-quality education is frequently hampered by poverty. Children who live in poor families may not be able to afford school supplies like books and uniforms, which contributes to high dropout rates. Future generations who receive inadequate education continue the cycle of poverty.
- **Poor Healthcare:** Access to healthcare services is hampered by poverty. Many people who are poor cannot afford the necessary medical care, which increases the prevalence of diseases and reduces life expectancy.
- **Unemployment and underemployment:** Poverty increases the likelihood of both of these conditions. Many people are forced to work in low-paying, exploitative conditions due to a lack of job opportunities, which further exacerbates poverty.
- **Malnutrition:** Inadequate nutrition is frequently a result of poverty. Malnutrition impairs immune systems, increases disease susceptibility, and stunts growth and development, especially in children.
- **Lack of Access to Clean Water and Sanitation:** Communities in poverty frequently do not have access to safe drinking water or adequate sanitary facilities. The risk of

waterborne diseases and general poor hygiene is increased by this lack of basic amenities.

- **Vulnerable Housing:** Homes that are substandard or unsafe are frequently associated with poverty. Natural disasters like earthquakes and floods can cause significant loss of life and property in homes that are not built properly.
- **Social Discrimination:** Because of social discrimination, marginalized communities frequently have higher rates of poverty. Indigenous people and members of ethnic minorities are particularly at risk from poverty and its complications.
- **Limited Access to Financial Services:** Financial services like banking and insurance are more difficult to obtain when one is in poverty. People who don't have access to credit are unable to start their own businesses or invest in their education, which keeps them in a cycle of poverty.
- **Environmental Degradation:** Because poor people frequently rely on activities like logging and farming without proper environmental safeguards, poverty can result in the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources. Everyone in the community could be impacted by long-term environmental degradation as a result of this.
- **Increased Vulnerability to Disasters:** Because of their scarcity of resources and inability to handle the aftermath, impoverished communities are frequently more susceptible to natural disasters. Floods, landslides, and earthquakes can completely destroy impoverished areas, especially in Nepal.
- The fight against poverty in Nepal must be multifaceted and include expenditures on infrastructure, healthcare, education, and social welfare programs. Comprehensively addressing these problems can help Nepal's citizens live better lives overall and end the cycle of poverty.

6.0 SUMMARY

The study titled "scenario of poverty in federal Nepal" has been conducted with the aim of making a general descriptive review of efforts or initiatives to find out scenario of poverty in federal Nepal. Secondary sources of data have been used to understand the current situation of poverty in Nepal. The data for this study was gathered through the periodic planning and economic survey of the government of Nepal and the provincial government in order to address the primary issue and research objective. Data analysis is important because it uses the collected data to help answer the study's essential questions. In this study, an effort has been made to clearly analyze the data gathered through literature reviews.

Planned development has begun in Nepal since in 1956. The sixth plan (2037-2042) for Nepal included a program to combat poverty by addressing basic needs. For the first time, detailed policies, goals, and programs relating to reducing poverty were established and put into action in the Eighth Plan (2049–2054). This program's primary goal is to lessen poverty. In this way, after the Eighth Plan, poverty alleviation has been consistently taken into account in periodic plans. Despite the fact that policies and initiatives aimed at significantly reducing poverty have been put into place, those goals have not been met. Five three-year plans and nine five-year periodic plans have both been fully carried out in Nepal so far. However, according to the plan's stated target for reducing poverty, it was not accomplished. Currently being implemented is the fifteenth five-year plan, which covers the fiscal years 2076–2077 through 2080–1981. During the plan period, this plan seeks to reduce absolute poverty to 9.5%. 18.7% absolute was

discovered in this study's analysis of the situation up until the financial year 2075–1976. In Nepal, there is poverty and 28.6% of the population lives in multidimensional poverty. There are many people in Nepal. When the data from various sources and the information from the literature review are analyzed, it is discovered that rural areas of Nepal, like the backward region of Karnali, have higher rates of poverty. Thus, being unable to provide for basic needs is the condition of poverty. The Nepali government is running a number of significant programs to combat poverty.

The federal system has been implemented in Nepal as of the constitution 2015. Three levels of government have been created in Nepal as a result of the country's adoption of the federal system. Initiatives to lessen poverty are being taken at all three levels of government. The list of common rights for all three levels of government in the constitution includes rights related to reducing poverty. In this way, reducing poverty is the primary duty of all three tiers of government. According to information gleaned from the periodic plans of the federal and provincial governments, the study's analysis of the state of poverty in Nepal is brief. Regionally, Bagmati province is in good shape among Nepal's seven provinces, but Karnali, Sudurpashchim, and Madhesh provinces are found to have higher poverty rates. Absolute poverty is found to be more prevalent in Sudurpashchim and Karnali provinces. According to this study's findings, all other provinces—aside from Sudurpashchim—are putting the first five-year periodic plan for the FY 2076/77–2080/81 into preparation and implementation. According to the findings of this study, reducing poverty is the top priority in the regional periodic plans, and programs are being put in place to target poverty.

All three levels of government in Nepal are working to break the cycle of poverty in order to realize the long-term vision of inclusive, sustainable economic growth and the sustainability of the nation. The fifteenth plan, which is currently being implemented in accordance with the long-term thinking of creating an equitable society by alleviating poverty, has adopted the idea of a society free from all kinds of poor, it was discovered through this study. The main goals of this plan are to identify the poor, run programs specifically for the poor, build skills and jobs for the poor, and make it simple for the poor to access state resources. More than 50 different poor-targeted programs are being run by the government of Nepal to combat poverty. The prime minister's employment program, the poor identification and identity card distribution program, and the health insurance program are the main initiatives aimed at the poor. According to some, remittances from foreign employment are the primary factor in the recent decline in poverty. Remittance-based poverty reduction will not be sustainable, according to experts. The Nepali government must take the necessary actions in this regard. Remittances from overseas employment and various government initiatives have thus contributed to the reduction of poverty in Nepal. But poverty is vicious in federal Nepal.

7.0 CONCLUSION

Poverty reduction initiatives and efforts have been launched in Nepal with the implementation of the planned development system. Poverty reduction has been given a prominent place in the subsequent plans since it was included in the eighth plan. The plans that came after the Eighth Plan sought to bring the poverty rate in Nepal down to a particular level. Looking at the most recent plans, it is clear that, despite the ongoing decline in poverty, the plans' goals and expectations have not been met. Despite the fact that the target for the 12th plan was to reduce

absolute poverty to 10%, even after the fifteenth plan is implemented, the rate of 18.7% often remains above the target for poverty reduction.

In Nepal, poverty is a serious issue and eradicating it is a difficult task. Although there have been some encouraging results from the government of Nepal's various programs aimed at the poor, overall success has not been attained in reducing poverty. The inability to conduct programs that target the true poor, the agriculture sector's focus on subsistence, the inability to give the poor easy access to state resources, and the inability to use remittances received from foreign employment opportunities are all factors that contribute to programs for the poor being distribution-oriented rather than capacity-building. According to skills and abilities, expected results could not be reached for a variety of reasons, including inability to utilize the potential of the country's domestic labor force that leaves for foreign employment. Therefore, poverty is vicious in Nepali society and province as well as in the whole country.

According to the sustainable development goals, the nation's aspiration is to eradicate all forms of poverty worldwide. It is necessary to make a transformative effort in order to prevent and reduce poverty by addressing the multiple dimensions of poverty, raising the per capita income of the poor, and reducing the economic inequality that exists between social groups, genders, and geographic regions. Similarly, since reducing poverty is a related issue, it is essential for this that the government, cooperative, community, private, and non-governmental sectors, as well as development partners, play an integrated and coordinated role. The government at all three levels of the state must identify the true poor, carry out targeted programs for the poor, provide job creation and skill development training for the poor, and create simple access to the state's resources in order to reduce poverty.

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