

Socio-Political History of Nepal: A Case Study of Nepali Local Government System

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ABSTRACT

Nepal is one of the members of SAARC. Like most of other members, Nepal has also a long socio-political history. It has a particular culture that distinguishes it from the other members. The current study is mainly a descriptive study that is based on secondary data in which the researchers collected data from different articles, books and research reports. This article is an attempt to explore the social and political history of Nepal. Nepal has passed through different phases of political rules like the rule of Shah Dynasty and Rana's rule. During 1950s, Nepal for the first time in the history opened for international community. Nepal practiced Panchayat System as well. The Maoist Movement is also an important phase in the political history of Nepal. Furthermore, the local government system is also discussed in detail by the researchers. Like the different political eras, it also faced many changes. Currently, Nepal is experiencing two tiers Local Government System that is District Development Committee (DDC) and Village Development Committee (VDC).

Key Words: Nepal, Politics, Demography, Local Government System, DDC, VDC

Introduction

Nepal is a significant member state of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. It is located in the north-east side of South Asia. It is encircled by India from three sides and by China from one side. Nepal is a small landlocked state that is highly pressurized by India and China. Nepal has experienced different political dynasties since the last centuries like Shah Dynasty. Nepal became an open state in international scenario since 1960 (Cowen & Shenton, 1997).

There is not any authenticated political history of Nepal before the Shah Dynasty. An important figure of Nepal history, Prithvi Narayan Shah (1769-1775) as king from Gorkha initiated the expansion of Nepal. There were different states of this land that were not unified before. But later, with the advent of Narayan's rule, the Kathmandu valley was conquered by him in 1768 that made Nepal a unified state (Kohli, 1999).

Land of Nepal

The land of Nepal is not simple like most of the other countries. The Land Resource Mapping Project (LRMP) divided the land of Nepal into five physiographic zones. These zones are following.

- High Himal
- High Mountains
- Middle Mountains
- Siwaliks
- Tarai

Nepal is a country situated among the hilly areas. The highest peak of the world Mount Everest is also existed in this country. So, the ratio of agricultural land is lowest due to mountains. In the High Himal region, the proportion of agricultural land is 0.26% because much area is covered by snow and rangelands. In this region of Nepal there is about 26.0% is grazing area. The rest of the 2/3 area falls under the other categories. On the other hand, in the mountainous regions there is only 13% agricultural land. There is the only region Tarai that has 64% agricultural land. It is obvious that due to the hilly areas, Nepal has limited opportunities for agriculture fields (Pyakuryal & Suvedi, 2000).

Demography

Like the other South Asian states, Nepal has also distinctive features of population. The first ever census in Nepal was held in 1911 and after that it continued to repeat over time after every decade till 1942 (Mabuhang, 1999). During the years of 1952-54, the details of the population were counted scientifically. In 1911, Nepal had 5.6 million population that continued to grow with the passage of time. It grew up to 50% by 1954. The fertility and mortality rates were so high during this period of time. This period also witnessed the high rate of casualties of Gorakha troops in the First World War that round about 20,000 Nepali troops were martyred in this war (Basent, 2009).

The population of Nepal continued to grow that was recorded in censuses that were held after every decade. The population growth rate was 1.65% from 1952-54 to 1961. And between 1961-1971, it was recorded 1.07 percent. Later on, during the decade of 1971-81, this growth rate was 2.06% and 2.08% was during 1981-91. In the hilly areas, the growth rate was lesser that Tarai areas reached up to 4.2%. There are also many reasons of the high growth rate in Tarai region like migration that people moved to this area from the mountains in the search for employment and better facilities.

Due to the increasing population the land ratio decreased in Nepal. For example, in 1971, the arithmetic density of population in Nepal was 78.5% persons per square kilometer that increased to 125.6 person's square kilometer in 1991. In the Tarai and Kathmandu region, the density was so high. The Tarai region is still favorable for the inhabitants but the increasing number of people may create

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serious problems. There may be the shortage of agricultural land that will create unfavorable environment in this area of Nepal (UNESCO, 1975).

Ethnic entities in Nepal

Social stratification exists in every country in which different ethnic groups are ranked into different social categories. By the same token, Nepal also has a number of ethnic groups that are discussed in the table below in detail with percentage.

Table No: 01 Caste population division by Caste/Ethnicity

Sr#	Cast/Ethnicity	Total Population	Percentage
1	Brahaman	2896477	12.7%
2	Chhetri	4126743	18.1%
3	Newar	1245232	5.5%
4	Madhesi	7381647	32.5%
5	HSG	6855194	30.2%
6	Others	231641	1.0%
7	Total	22736934	100

Source: Population Census, 2001

Languages in Nepal

Language is a system of verbal and symbols that the people use to communicate with each other. The different ethnic groups have a varied inherited culture in which they speak different languages. In the same way, Nepal is enriched with different languages that are spoken by her inhabitants.

The following table discusses different languages in Nepal.

Table No: 02 Languages of Nepal

Sr #	Language	Percentage
1	Nepali	44%
2	Maithili	12%
3	Bhojpuri	6%
4	Tharu	6%
5	Tamang	5%
6	Newar	3%
7	Bajjika	3%
8	Magar	3%
9	Doteli	3%
10	Urdu	3%
11	Others 70 plus languages	12%

Source: Population census, 2011

Cultural festivals of Nepal

Culture is an important aspect of a society because it guides the behaviors of the people. Every society has a particular list of social and cultural festivals that entertain the inhabitants of a society. Like other countries, Nepal is also enriched with a variety of cultural festivals. The following are the major cultural festivals of Nepal.

Buddha purnima

It is the birth anniversary of Buddha. This festival of Nepal is celebrated on full moon night of Baisakh (April/May). On this occasion, the Buddhists across the country offer prayers as their cultural and religious ritual. This festival is also celebrated by the Hindus in Nepal.

Maha shivaratri

This festival is celebrated on moonless night in February. It is celebrated in the memory of Shiva. The followers of Shiva fast the whole day to memorize Shiva. On this occasion, hundreds of the Sadhus visit Kathmandu to make a pilgrimage. They organize bonfire in the whole night and do not sleep.

Holi or fagu

Holi is celebrated after the day of full moon every year. This festival is celebrated for good harvest and fertility of land. It is also linked with the immortal love of Krishna and Radha. It is celebrated on the arrival of spring season. The young and old people are drenched with different colors. The folk songs are sung and dance is also made by the youth. It provides a feeling of unity among the masses.

Teej

This festival of Nepal is celebrated in September (Bhadra). It is celebrated by fasting and to worship the Lord Shiva. All the married Hindu women observe fast on this day to have conjugal and prosper married life. The young unmarried girls also observe fast on this occasion.

Dashain

This festival is also known as Vijaydashmi. It is celebrated on the 10th of Durga Pooja (October). It is celebrated as a victorious day as King Rama of Ayoudha who killed King Ravana. On this day, the Hindu families have union in Nepal. The Government offices are closed for 10 days. The employees get one month salary as a bonus that shows the worth and importance of this festival.

Diwali/Tihar/Bhaitika

Diwali is celebrated fifteen days after Vijaya Dashami. It is celebrated in Ashwin/Kartik (October/November). It is celebrated in the memory of Lord Rama when he returned to his Kingdom after 14 years of exile. Its celebrations continue almost for five days. The followers worship and twinkle the oil lamps on this day.

Eid-Ul-Fitr

This event is related to the Muslims of Nepal. It is celebrated with the new moon after the end of Ramadan Month. It is also celebrated because Qur'an was revealed in this holly month. The Nepali Muslims observe fast the whole month of Ramadan.

Caste system in Nepal

Nepal is a small and land-locked country of South Asia that is surrounded by India and China. There exists a particular caste system in this country like India as it has influence of Indian culture and practices Hinduism as a major religion. Caste system is basically a hierarchal system in which different segments of a society are ranked into different categories. Some of these segments are considered superior to other while rests are viewed as inferior (Kroeber, 1930).

“Caste is defines certain groups in a hierarchy of ritual purity and pollution and prescribes intergroup behavior in certain spheres particularly marriage and commensality (Bennett, 1983)”.

The phenomenon of social stratification occurs almost in every nation and state because every society is divided among different cultural and ethnic groups that give birth to different identities. Caste system is one of those identities that divide the population of a country into different segments. The concept of social stratification is composed of different classes like the upper, middle and lower classes that are the proof of caste and class system (Klauss, 1980). But the caste and class systems are different from each other as well because the stratification on the basis of caste is based on birth. A particular individual is assigned a caste due to his/her family and parents. On the other hand, the class system is based on personal efforts and capabilities. For example, an individual born in a lower caste may be a member of upper class because he/she achieved high status due to job and economic attainment.

The membership to a particular caste is attached to an individual at the birth. In South Asia, the marriage system is almost alike in all over the member states that are usually endogamous in which the families marry their children in the same tribe and caste so the caste of the parents is transferred to their children. The

children are treated in the same manner as their parents were considered (Berreman, 1960).

Nepal is the land of heroic people Gorkhas. The inhabitants of Nepal are attached with two major religions Hinduism and Buddhism. The ethnic division of the Nepali population is also based on these religions. There are other religions as well like Christianity and Islam but the majority of population is the Hindus and Buddhists. These both religions are mixed due to the inter-marriages of the followers of Hinduism and Buddhism. Nepal has an ancient civilization so the traces of society and culture can be traced back to a long history. The religion has always been a central point of Nepal that produced the ethnic division in Nepal (Bista, 1994).

The roots of caste system are long lasting in Nepal that can be searched back to fourteenth century when the king Jayasthiti Malla introduced the basic principles of caste in the capital of Kathmandu (then Kathmandu valley). But later, the inhabitants of this valley continued to bring change in their lives and religious attachment. During the 15th century, the king Pratap Malla's, the land of this Kathmandu valley was known as Nepal and the inhabitants as Newars (Malla, 1981).

Table No: 03 distributions of different religions in Nepal

Sr #	Religion	Percentage
1	Hinduism	80.62%
2	Buddhism	10.74%
3	Muslim	4.20%
4	Kirant (indigenous religion)	3.60%
5	Christianity	0.45%
6	Others	0.4%
7	Total	100%

Source: Population Census, 2001

During the eighteenth century, the Land of Nepal expanded with the mergence of smaller states into it. The historic people of Nepal "Newars" were treated as a separate ethnic group. Jang Bahadur, the first king of Rana dynasty introduced the caste system with much degree. All the people who belonged to Newar language were placed into lower caste category known as "Matwali" that means "Liquor" drinkers.

The Nepali people that lived in the mid hills of Nepal were greatly influenced by the Brahmanic culture that is considered the sign of high social status in the society. Brahman is the upper caste of Hindu culture and the people are considered the most privileged. The most of the Khas people attained the title of Thakuri Chhetri (Sharma, 1971).

Although the roots of caste system in Nepal can be traced back to the long history but it got more attention in the recent centuries that it became the

prominent component of social life. Now the destinies of the children are decided according to their caste that which profession suits to a particular person. The members of lower castes are almost unable to achieve the prestigious jobs. So, the caste system gave more harm to Nepal than the good. Nepal has an identity of pluralism and its diversity has been recognized by every ruler as there are inhabitants who belong to different religions.

Political history of Nepal

Pyakuryal and Suvedi (2000) explained the political history of Nepal in detail. The researchers highlighted the major events of political history of this country and provided a chronological order of political history. Following are the some major points the authors explored.

- Nepal was divided into different states before 1768 as there was not any uniformed political system for the whole of Nepal. There were almost 12 political clusters and each of these clusters was under the supervision of a particular ethnic group.
- Prithbi Narayan Shaha, a Gorkha King for the first time conquered all of the above mentioned principalities and integrated them in a uniformed territory today known as Nepal. The King enjoyed the dominance over Nepal for 79 years (1768-1847).
- In 1847, the first Prime Minister Janga Bahadur Rana got whole political as well as military power and made the position of Prime Minister most powerful in Nepal.
- The oligarchic rule of Rana family continued for 104 years in Nepal (1847-1951). Until 1951, Nepal was isolated from the international community. The masses were not happy so they organized and overthrew the Rana's dynasty. Later, in 1952, Nepal was declared as a democratic country.
- There was not any constitution of Nepal. No elections were held before as the king was the sole power of this territory. The king used to issue orders according to the situation under the Rana's regime. But later, during the 1951-59, the king established various governments of different political parties that were active during that period.
- The first ever general elections were held in 1959 in Nepal. The Nepali Congress Party got 2/3 majority so they formed government in the country. This government could not flourish as the government was dismissed within 2-3 years.
- The parliamentary system that was created in the country after the general election was criticized by the king. All the working political parties were banned and stopped to work by the king in 1961. This party system was dismissed and a new Panchayati Political System was introduced in Nepal. This system confirmed to work for almost 30 years in Nepal till 1990 that introduced a sense of political stability in Nepal.

- Despite a stable political panchayati system, poverty prevailed in the society. No sincere efforts were made to control the poverty in Nepal. The majority of population was unhappy with this political system because lawlessness and unemployment prevailed everywhere. So, masses revolted against this political system in 1990-91. The Panchayati political system was replaced by parliamentary democratic system.
- After the dismissal of panchayati system, the general elections were again held in Nepal that gave simple majority to Nepali Congress Party. The Congress Party got 112 seats in parliament. The Nepalese had great expectations from this political party that were not fulfilled. The party had to face the internal difficulties that led the mid-term electorates. In this second term of elections, no political party got majority. The coalition government was formed. Later, in the third general elections, Congress Party again got majority while claiming the prominent political party of Nepal.

Modern political history of Nepal

Basnett (2009) tried to explore the modern political history of Nepal. The researcher worked closely to explain all of the major events and political happenings in Nepal. He discussed all of the political regimes in detail. In his study, the researcher pointed out the following outline while elaborating the political history of Nepal.

Formation of Nepal (1743-1846)

Before the formation of Nepal, there were different principalities. These principalities were ruled by the respective kings who held the charge of a particular constituency. But later, the political unification started under the efforts of Gorkhas in Nepal. The Gorkhas were primarily led by Prithvi Nayan Shah who for the first time tried to unify the different segments of Nepali society. This era is also known as Gorkha monopoly era that lasted from 1743-1846.

Rana oligarchy (1846-1950)

After Gorkha monopoly era, another political regime started in 1846 that lasted till 1950. This regime is known as Rana Oligarchy rule. In 1846, Jung Bahadur Rana assumed power that led to Rana feudalism. This rule established cordial relationship between Rana's oligarchy and British India. Like the Gorkha monopoly era, this is known as Rana monopoly era.

Democratic rule (1950-1960)

The Rana's oligarchy came to an end in 1950 after a long rule. The Rana's regime of 104 years in Nepal and it finally ended on 7th February, 1951. This rule came to

end after Delhi Compromise Agreement and all political parties agreed to draft a new constitution. A new democratic rule started in Nepal that abolished the monopolies of a few families. This democratic rule lasted for ten years.

Panchayat era (1960-1990)

The democratic rule could be run hardly for a decade that King Mahendra son of Tribhuvan maintained partyless political rule in Nepal in 1990. It was actually based on the assumption that country was not ready for a system of multiple party politics. In this era another political system started in country known as Panchayat System that was based on indirectly elected national legislature. It introduced another political trend during this period that grew national economy by 3.9% every year. This Panchayat System lasted for thirty years from 1960-1990.

Democratic movement (1990-to date)

Like the earlier ruling eras, the Panchayat System also lasted for a period of thirty years and people got irritated from this ruling system too. It also did not represent the popular will of democracy so it was need to establish a democratic system in the country. For this, the Congress' massive "Satyagrah" movement was initiated in 1985. There were 21 Indian trade routes in Nepal and out of all these, nineteen routes were blocked. Finally in 1990, the political cooperation of congress and communist parties to another political era of Democratic system is established in Nepal.

Constitution and administration

“According to the constitution of the kingdom of Nepal (1990), Nepal is a multiethnic, multilingual, democratic, independent, indivisible, sovereign, Hindu and constitutional monarchical kingdom” (Pyakuryal & Suvedi, 2000).

Legislature

There is a legislature in Nepal like the other countries that works for the legislation to run a country in a smooth way. The legislature of Nepal is called parliament that is consisted of two houses the House of Representatives and National Assembly. There are 205 members in House of Representatives which are elected for the term of five years by the adult franchise of the age 18 years and above. On the other hand, National Assembly of Nepal consists of sixty members.

Judiciary

There is three tier court system in Nepal. This three tier system is as follow.

- The Supreme Court

- The Appellate Courts
- The District Courts

Maoist movement

The “Maoist Movement” is one of the most important historical and political incidents that got fame in Nepal. The Maoist Movement started in 1996 that soon encircled the whole of the country in its influence. Within the period of almost a decade it reached to the stage of strategic offensive. It got the funding from its supporters and established its army known as “People’s Liberation Army” that consisted of three divisions, nine brigades and twenty nine battalions. Although there is variation about the strength of this army but this was one of the largest non-state armies of the world (Kumar, 2004).

There are different opinions about the funding of this Maoist Movement. Some scholars point out that they got funding through the forced donations, the looting of banks and taxations as well. It was also considered one of the richest “terrorist” organizations in the world that had accumulation between US\$ 64-124 million (Kumar, 2003). When the Maoist Movement was at its peak, it had started its own government at the level of village in around in the year of 2000. But later, its government expanded from single tier to four tiers i.e. central, regional, district and village level (Katel, 2004).

Hachhethu (2005) pointed out the following reasons for the establishment of Maoist movement in Nepal.

- The geographical situation of Nepal was very suitable for the guerrilla war.
- The existence different ethnic groups was another advantage that inspired the masses of different ethnic groups to come together.
- There was not any direct military collision among the different political parties, so the armed forces got advantage to occupy a particular territory.
- The possibility of peasant’s revolution was also backbone as the Maoist Movement that covered most of the rural areas that inspired the peasants.
- The Nepalese who were working in abroad especially in India, supported this movement that was another advantage of Maoist movement.

Social and political factors of movement

There were many social, political and economic motives behind the Maoist Movement as the original inhabitants were treated as marginalized ethnic groups. There was social injustice in the society that also fueled the movement. The high rate of unemployment also inspired the masses to join this movement that they predicted that it will get rid of all social evils. There were also other factors like underdevelopment, bad governance and problems exclusion that escalated the Maoist Movement (Karki & Seddon, 2003).

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As it has already mentioned above that there were different reasons of Maoist Movement so according to the political scientists, the major reason behind this movement was the failed governance. After the end of Panchayat Politics system, again there came democratic revival in the country. But the post 1990 political period was very critical for Nepal as there was shift of power. This period was characterized by the ambiguity of constitution. There was lack of sincere leadership that could strive for the betterment of the country. There was absence of institutionalization and political stability. All these factors contributed to Maoist Movement in Nepal (Baral, 2000).

Local government system in Nepal

“Governance is a neutral concept. It is not synonymous with the concept of government. There are many more actors involved in governance, and government is basically one of them. Governance means institutions and process for exercise of authority and control. Governance can be further defined as the political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens or inhabitants of communities, societies and states” (Random House Dictionary revised edition: 1984).

Local government may be explained as a sub-national government that works under the guidance of a central or national government. It has a particular defined territory, functions, jurisdiction and a neutral system of governance. The tasks of the local government are same like the national government but the main difference is that national government performs these tasks at larger level but on the other hand, the local government performs the similar functions at the local level (Cheema & Rondinelli, 2007).

The major aim of a local government system is to bring the administrative powers to the grass-root level in order to involve the civil community in it. In the absence of the civil community’s participation, the local government system cannot function well. It aims to develop a level of confidence between the local community and the government (Estrella Zatt, 2004).

The local government system has a particular amount of budget to work in a better way. By the same token, Nepal is having a vivid amount of budget for local government. In the fiscal year of 1998-1999, the total amount of expenditure in 32 DDCs was NRs 20 million. The major amount out this expenditure was for public works (28.2%) and human resources (20.4%). The local government in Nepal is highly dependent on the central government for budget (Gurung, 2002).

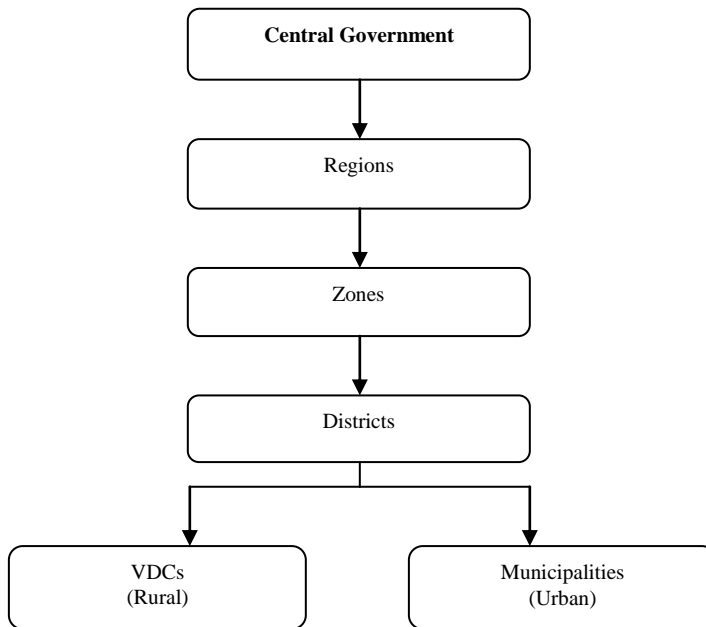
Local government is considered an important feature of administration in every country. The local administration is undertaken by local government that further works for the development at the grass-root level. In Nepal, the local

government is based on two tiers known District Development Committees (DDCs) and Village Development Committees (VDCs) in the rural areas and the municipalities in the urban localities. All of these organizations work for the developmental tasks assigned to them. The local government system is formed in order to transfer the power from a central control to the subordinate institutions. The local community is involved in this system to enhance the functioning of the local administration. But unfortunately, in Nepal DDCs, VDCs and municipalities are run by the government officials. This shows that government of Nepal has no confidence in the civil community (Rijal, 2013).

Structure of local governance in Nepal

The inclined local government system of Nepal is clearly discussed in the following figure.

Figure No: 01



Source: Sharma (2013)

History of Nepali local governance Rana period (1846-1950)

The history of Nepali government is so centralized as different dynasties like the Ranas and Shahs ruled over this country for a long period. During the Rana's period, the administrative system was controlled by single authority (the King). But the centralization was unable to deal with the local matters so they introduced a local level government in the form of Panchayats (a village court). They

introduced this panchayat system in two villages of Bhaktpur and six villages of Lalitpur. This panchayat system was consisted of a chief of the village court and the other members were chosen by the people of their respective community. The basic purpose of this panchayat was to resolve the local disputes.

Partyless panchayat era (1960-1990)

During 1960-1990, Nepal experienced a partyless panchayat system. During this period, King Mahendra introduced new constitution in 1962. It is known as panchayat system because during this era, there was set up a system of four tier panchayat entities system from a village to national level. The Rastriya Panchayat performed its functions at the national level while the village panchayat was considered the lowest tier of this panchayat system.

Post 1990 period

In 1990, the partyless panchayat system was abolished as a result of massive upsurge against the government. The new constitution of Nepal was enacted in 1990. The new government set up a new form of local government in Nepal in 1991. The Village Panchayat Act was replaced by Village Development Committee (VDC). The Nagar Panchayat was replaced by the Municipality Act and lastly, the Zilla Panchayat Act was replaced by District Development Act (DDC).

According to Kafle (2017), the Local Self-Governance Act (1999) has following aims of decentralization in Nepal.

- The participation of civil community at the grass-root level;
- To have a balanced system of development;
- To strengthen the service delivery system and governance;
- To coordinate among the different actors of development like NGOs, civil society and private sector;
- To enhance the functioning of governance;
- And to develop a local leadership.

Local election

The election of both Village Development Committees and District Development Committees is different. The VDC is elected directly by the adult franchise in which all of the citizens of above 18 years of age participate. The elected members of local government must have the age of at least 21 years. All of the mayors, deputy mayors and chairmen etc. are elected from their respective localities. On the other hand, DDC is indirectly elected because the members of DDC are not elected through the votes of masses. The members of different local councils participate in the election of DDC (Rijal, 2013).

Current local government system in Nepal

The current local government system in Nepal has two tiers that include the District Development Committee (DDC) and Village Development Committee (VDC). Each VDC has nine wards. There are almost 4000 VDCs across the country in 75 districts. These committees are given the responsibilities of basic health services, education and infrastructure development (Kafle, 2017).

Table No: 04 Administrative Division of Nepal

Sr #	Administrative Division	Earlier	Now
1	Development Region	5	0
2	Province	0	7
3	Zone	14	0
4	District	75	77
5	Metropolitan City	1	6
6	Sub-Metropolitan City	12	11
7	Municipality	217	276
8	Village Development Committees	3157	460

Source: Diagnostic Study of Local Governance in Federal Nepal (2017)

Issues of Nepali local governance

According to Khadka (2017) the local government system of Nepal is facing many issues. There are flaws in the policies and policy implementation that are further creating problems. Some of the major issues of local government in Nepal are following.

- The old central mindset of the Nepali people
- There is poor relationship between DDCs and municipalities.
- The role of ward member is limited in committees.
- The local institutions have limited capabilities.
- The planning is overlapped by local and national governments.
- The issue of budget as local government is dependent on national government.
- The laws are contradicting.

Conclusion

Nepal is predominantly a Hindu country as the Hindu population constitutes 80.62%. There are also other different ethnic groups like the Buddhists and, the Muslims etc. All of them have different socio-cultural and religious characteristics. Nepal has witnessed a long socio-political history in which she practiced distinctive political patterns that include the Rana's rule and Panchayat System etc. Currently, Nepal is practicing democratic system that is widely accepted political system across the globe. Now it is leading to betterment due to political consensus. The establishment of Local Government System shows a decentralized political

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system in which the civil community also takes part in the administrative matters at district and village levels. The local government system is also improving as in the history there was a monarchic rule but now it is no more. The current democratic local government system is better than then the LGS was introduced by the kings.

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Appendix: 01

Timeline of Nepali history

The final report of Political Transition Monitoring in Nepal, (2009-2014) provided a timeline of the major events occurred in Nepal. The detail of the findings of this report is following.

1768

- The foundation of modern Nepal was laid by King Prithvi Narayan Shah after conquering the Kathmandu valley.

1846

- The power was shifted from Shah Kings to Rana Family.

1950

- The Nepali political parties especially the Congress made an alliance based in India to overthrow the Ranas

1951

- Rana regime is overthrown; the coalition was arranged between Congress and Rana family

1959

- Promulgation of a new constitution and first general elections were held

1960

- King Mahendra dismissed the Nepali Congress Government and took over the whole power

1962

- A new constitution was formulized and the set up of Panchayat System

1990

- A massive Congress' movement against eh Panchayat System that dismantled it and a new democratic era drafted with new democratic constitution

1991

- Congress wins the general elections and Girija Parsad Koirala became the Prime Minister of Nepal

1996

- The Maoist Movement begins by the Communist Party of Nepal against the government

2001

- King Birendra and his family are killed by a Prince; Gyanendra (brother of Birendra) became king

2002

- Gyanendra dissolves the Parliament

February, 2005

- King Gyanendra set a coup and staged an emergency to crush the Maoists

November, 2005

- The Maoists and major political parties signed an agreement to diminish the direct rule of king Gyanendra

April, 2006

- The second people's movement by the political parties that ended the rule of king Gyanendra and Congress' Prime Minister is appointed

November, 2006

- The ending of People's War (the Maoist Movement)

January, 2007

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- An interim legislature is formed in which the Maoists participated and the Madhesis protest took place for regional autonomy

January, 2007

- An interim legislature is formed in which the Maoists participated and the Madhesis protest took place for regional autonomy

September, 2007

- The Maoists left the government and demanded the immediate abolition of monarchy and changes in law

December, 2007

- Compromise between government and the Maoists and rejoined the government

February, 2008

- Madhesi again started strike in Tarai and demanded the changes in the law of election

April, 2008

- First constituent assembly took place in which the Maoists got the highest percentage 38.2%

May, 2008

- Nepal became a federal democratic republic

July, 2008

- Ram Baran Yadav became the first president of Nepal both president and vice-president were Madhesi

August, 2008

- The Maoists formed a coalition government with Nepali Congress

May, 2009

- The Prime Minister Prachanda resigned

December, 2009

- Four people were killed in western region supported by Maoist party

June, 2010

- The Prime Minister Madhav Kumar resigned due to the pressure of the Maoists

January, 2011

- The United Nations' mission ends in Nepal

February, 2011

- Jhala Nath Khanal was elected the new prime minister

August, 2011

- Prime Minister Jhala Nath Khanal resigned as government failed to reach compromise about constitution. Maoist Baburam Bhattari was elected new prime minister

November, 2011

- The major political parties of Nepal signed a seven point agreement for peace

January, 2012

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- Set up The State Restructuring Commission that possessed 11-state identity based federal model

April, 2012

- The Nepali military took the charge of cantonments including the weapons handed over by the fighters after 2006

May, 2012

- Constitutional delay and political dispute sparked the strikes in 48 districts while shutting down the roads

March, 2013

- After the deadlock of eight months, the chief justice was appointed the head of interim unity government

April, 2013

- Supreme Court suspended the government and set up a Reconciliation Commission to investigate the culprits of civil war

November, 2013

- Election of new constituent assembly

January, 2014

- The sitting of new constituent assembly took place

February, 2014

- Sushil Koirala was elected the new Prime Minister of Nepal

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