

Urbanization Transition in Nepal: A Case Study of Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality, Doti, Nepal

Tilak Raj Panday
pandaytilak2015@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper deals with the urbanization transition in Nepal: A Case Study of Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality analyzing the social and economic status of the residents of Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality, especially in new adjoining areas. This study is based on primary data which are derived from field surveys through household surveys, field observations, and in-depth interviews. For the household survey, 45 households were taken from ward no. 9, Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality with the help of convenience non-probability sampling. Dipayal Silgadhi municipality has rural characteristics. Most of the part is occupied by rural areas. Similarly, people do not feel like living in a municipal area in the new adjoining area. There is a lack of occupational diversification. Most people engage in primitive agriculture and another main livelihood strategy is foreign labor migration. There is also a lack of trade specialization and diversification which is the main criteria of urban development. This study is helpful to make plans and policies for the development of the municipality. The study concentrates on overviews of the municipality's existing condition and cannot include all aspects in-depth; therefore to fulfill the gap of this study; the researcher recommends that research should be done one by one in every sector in detail.

Key Word: Urbanization, transition, socio-economic aspect, Dipayal Silgadhi

INTRODUCTION

Urbanization is the process of increase in area, population, and infrastructure. It is the process of social transformation from traditional rural societies to modern urban communities. The people of urban areas are especially engaged in non-agricultural activities. It has diversity in economic activities which depends on the development of industrialization, and infrastructure within cities, towns, and their neighborhoods. It is considered an index of modernization (Roy1986:17; Singh1987:49; Sharma and Maithani, 1998:1).

Urbanization can be understood from different perspectives. In the study of urban phenomena, sociologists are particularly interested in changes in human behavior and ties in family, kin groups, and community. From this perspective, urbanization can be understood as the erosion of communitarian values. Early sociologists like Wirth (1938) saw urbanization as a process of erosion of moral order because of the concomitant decline of community, in the sense that the firm ties of families, kin, and community, as seen in rural areas, give way to individualistic behavior. Therefore, the city was seen in earlier times as a separate human environment with its own influence on the individual.

However, this view has changed in recent times, as it is seen that there are 'rural-like' communities within the city usually called 'urban villages'. This is particularly noticeable among recent immigrants into a metropolis, where people addressing from the same region settle down in separate areas. This is also the case for cities in Nepal, including Kathmandu and Pokhara. In the latter, this phenomenon is seen among both the wealthier as well as poorer immigrants in Nepal.

Urbanization replaces the characteristics by common bloodlines, intimate relationships, and communal behavior with distant bloodlines, unfamiliar relations, and competitive behavior.

In recent decades, the world has been urbanizing rapidly. In 1950, only 30 percent of the world's population lived in urban areas, a proportion that grew to 55 percent by 2018. The global urbanization rate masks important differences in urbanization levels across geographic regions. Northern America is the most urbanized region, with 82 percent of its population residing in urban areas, whereas Asia is approximately 50 percent urban, and Africa remains mostly rural with 43 percent of its population living in urban areas in 2018 (United Nations, 2018).

Due to increasing urbanization rapidly, it makes unmanaged urban area where many people live in a slum area or creates squatter settlements (Angel et al., 2011b; UN-Habitat 2010b; UN-Habitat, 2014b),

Urbanization in Nepal in terms of the rise in the proportion of the total population living in designated urban areas (i.e., Municipalities, *Nagerpanchayat*, *Nagerpalikas*, etc) is taking place due to the migration of people from rural to urban areas in search of employment-seeking opportunities and helping to reduce the pressure on land in rural areas (Sharma, 1992:29). According to Todaro (1969), people of rural areas migrate from rural to urban, especially due to wage difference between rural and urban areas.

Though urbanization has positive implications if urban areas are managed properly. But the haphazard growth of urban areas creates many problems. In Nepal, the urbanization growth rate is high and urban areas are without urban characteristics.

Nepal is one of the rapidly urbanizing countries in south Asia. This trend and ongoing political change have created several challenges to Nepal's planned urban development, such as economic, demographic, political and social, and Cultural. Urbanization has been viewed as an important factor in the areas of economic transformation.

The reclassification of settlements as towns is the main cause of the increasing urban areas in Nepal. There were only 10 urban areas in the 1952/54 A.D. which reached 293 in 2017 A.D. In the seven decades since the 1952s urban population increased from 0.238 million to 16.55 million while the number of designated urban places increased from 10 to 293. The percentage of the urban population in the country has grown from 2.9 percent to 62.50 percent.

Most of the studies are focused on the macro level and provide the theoretical concept of urbanization. This is a micro-level study. Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality was declared a municipality after restoration of democracy in Nepal. Now, it has also been reclassified according to the state-restructured policy of the government especially among the changes after mass movement 2062/2063 B.S. However, the municipality is still rural in characteristics. In the context of Nepal, most of the studies were held before the implementation of state restructured policy. There is a lack of urban study after the implementation of state-restructured policy. It fulfills the gap in these conditions. This study focuses on analyzing urbanization's social and economic situation of the residents of Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality, especially in new adjoining areas. This study helps to provide information about the situation of new adjoining urban areas and shows the gap between what is and what should be. This paper can be helpful to formulate policies, strategies, programs, and projects for the upliftment of Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality.

Materials and Methods

Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality lies in Doti district of the Far-west province of Nepal. It is bordered by Purbichauki Rural municipality and Acham district east, Adarsh Rural municipality in the north, and Shikhar municipality in the west, K.I Singh Rural municipality in the south. This area is selected for study to identify the conditions of the municipality and the characteristics of this area as a municipality. There is a lack of study after the reclassification of areas on the state-restructured committees, this study fulfills these gaps. Descriptive research designs have been used in this study. According to the purpose of the study, 45 households were taken from a new adjoining area with help of convenience nonprobability sampling. Before selection, the researcher took information about the households from ward and municipal office. In this study, researchers took in-depth interviews to collect information related to the socio-economic situation of people living in the municipality and infrastructural conditions from authorized informants- the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and other officers about 1 hour.

Results

Socio-economic conditions of new adjoining areas

In the concept of an urban area or municipal area, almost all of the citizens of the municipality live in and enjoy various facilities viz. modern transport, trade and commerce, pure water, qualified sanitation, education and entertainment, medical services, and health centers, technical and technological and industrial opportunities, Gas and electricity supply, modern networking systems, banking and financial utilities, residential service, etc. Due to the unplanned urbanization, human lifestyle and environment are severely neglected in implementing the unequal distribution of civic facilities and lack of infrastructure-oriented development planning resulting in the current socio-economic and environmental conditions of Dipayal Silgadhi municipality being affected seriously. In this section, the researcher describes the socio-economic condition of Dipayal Silgadhi municipality ward no. 9, Kalena remaining as the most backward or new adjoining area of this municipality.

Social Characteristics

Age and sex structure

Age and sex structure provide information about persons in different groups at a particular period. Age and sex structures have several implications for society and for the institutions responsible for providing services of social provisions such as education, public health, employment, and so on. Age and sex structure of the population is the most important variable in the study area of mortality, fertility, nuptiality, migration, economic investment, and other demographic and social phenomena.

The population problem is a genuine problem and there is a very high rate of population growth in Nepal. The annual growth rate is 1.35 percent (Census: 2011). The total population of Dipayal Silgadhi municipality ward no. 9, Kalen 4198, was 2070 (49.31%) male and 2128(50.69%) female (Ward report 2078). In this study, there were 45 households selected with a population of 265. The males were 128 (48.30%) and females 137 (51.7%). The average household size was 5.89.

Table 1: Distribution of Sample Household Population by Age and Sex.

Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage

0 – 14	35	13.21	37	13.96	72	27.16
15 -59	82	30.94	86	32.45	168	63.40
60 +	11	4.15	14	5.28	25	9.44
Total	128	48.30	137	51.70	265	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

The Age and sex structure provide the composition of the total population. Table 1 shows the age and sex structure of the population of Kalena. It shows the young population (the age group 0-14 years) comprises 27.16 percent. The economically active population (age group 15-59 years) is 63.40 percentage and 9.44 percent of the population are 60 years and above. The age group shows that there is a possibility of development if the manpower is used properly. The females' number is greater than the males' number which is just the opposite of the urban population structure.

Family Structure

Family means a group of people where the relationship with one another is based upon consanguinity and who are therefore kin to each other (Davis, 1948:397). During the field visit, two types of families were found nuclear and joint. The study area belongs to the patrilineage family because the lineage of children is drawn from the male sides of parents. Males and females haven't equal power in taking decisions. The female status is low in this society. Table 2 gives the scenario of the family structure of the respondents.

Table 2: Family Structures of the Respondents

S.N.	Family Structure	No. of families	Percent
1	Nuclear	16	35.56
2	Joint	29	64.44
Total		45	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 2 indicates that the majority of sampled families live in a family system. Out of the total 45 sampled families. 16 (35.56%) were from nuclear families whereas there were only 29 (64.44%) respondents from joint families. The data above shows that the Joint family system is common which means there are rural characteristics. From the study of family size, we can analyze social structure, norms, and values in particular areas. In the urban area, the traditional types of family structure are changed, due to modernization and urbanization. But this ward is not affected by urbanization and modernization in terms of family structure.

Educational Status

Education is one of the most important variables which help to know the level of consciousness of a population. It determines every aspect of social life. Education is not only essential for economic development but it is essential to reform society and operating daily activities. In fact, education develops

the personality of a person. It is needed to get a good job and an attractive salary. The education status is shown in table 3 which helps to generalize what type of society existed in the study area.

Table 3: Educational Status

Descriptions	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Illiterate	35	30.97	58	46.03	93	38.91
Literates with no schooling	22	19.47	26	20.63	48	20.08
Primary (1-5)	27	23.89	18	14.29	45	18.83
Secondary (6-10)	14	12.39	13	10.32	27	11.30
S.L.C.	10	8.85	8	6.35	18	7.53
Intermediate	2	1.77	2	1.59	4	1.67
Higher Education	3	2.65	1	0.79	4	1.67
Total	113	100.00	126	100.00	239	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 3 shows that the proportion of the illiterate population is 38.91 percent in Dipayal Silgadhi municipality ward no, 9 which is higher than the national level of 34% (CBS, 2011) Where the total literacy proportion is 61.09 percent. The proportion of Primary Education is 18.83 percent. Among the literate population, the proportion gradually decreases, when their level of education is upgraded.

Similarly, if we look literacy rate by sex we can see that the portion of females(46.03%) is greater than males (30.97%) in illiterate people and the number of males is greater than females in literate people. In the context of level education except the no schooling male number is higher at every level.

In the household survey, it is found that among the literate people, most of them are of lower education level. It is because the people of this area take part in school education in their local schools at an early age but when they are grown into teenagers or adults they drop out the school and engage in other several economical activities such as trade, job in foreign countries. Generally, it seems that people give higher priority to earning money because of poverty.

The local government increased investment in the education sector after the state was restructured. Before the declaration of the municipality, there was a basic level education facility available. On initiation of the municipality, there is a secondary-level education facility available. According to the ward chairperson, about 60 percent of the budget allocated from the municipality they invest in the education sector, which helps to improve the educational status of people in this area and it is easy and increases to access education of people. From the field observation, the researcher found that improvement was seen in school buildings and the upgrade level of the school. Ward offices are trying to fulfill the demand for teachers and other furniture in the school.

Role of Women in Decision-Making at Home and in Society

The role of women is one of the essential factors for analyzing the socio-economic structure of a household. Urbanization has brought several changes inside and outside the home regarding the role of women. In the past, females were limited within the surroundings of household work but after the declaration of the municipality, women have to involve in social, political, and income-generating activities as well.

In community-level work, women participate in social work such as they go to involve in common social work, attending meetings, and so on. During the study, the researcher found there is a lack of entrepreneurship in that society. Only 20 percent of women are connected to financial institutions. Many women haven't been involved in any kind of business except agriculture due to the fear of being morally down and hesitant about what other people said. So, these women are totally dependent on their husbands. According to the provisions of the constitution, women's participation increases in politics. They are involved in elections as party candidates and voters.

Health and Treatment Pattern

Nepal is a developing country as well as mountainous and full of remote areas. Nepalese people have been deprived of different facilities. Among them, health service is one. People living in remote areas have less access to health facilities due to a lack of awareness and lack of service. Even in the case of an emergency, they do not get proper treatment.

The health status of the people is greatly determined by many features such as the way of living, supply of safe drinking water, health knowledge, sanitation, etc. Most of the people in the study area prefer to get treatment from Dhami/Jhakri (traditional healer).

Table 4: Treatment Pattern

Service provider	No. of Household	Percent
Dhami/Jhakri	11	24.44
Sub-health post	14	31.11
Hospital	5	11.11
Both	15	33.33
Total	45	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 4 shows that 24.00 percent of the respondents go to Dhami/Jhakri, 31.11 percent of respondents go to the health post, 11.11 percent of the respondents go to the hospital to take services while 33.33 percent go to the health post, hospital, and traditional healer. It shows that people have faith in Dhami/Jhakri till now. In the study area, people of the old age group used traditional healers and people of young age used both treatments. After the declaration of the municipality, health workers are added to the health post with the internal source of the municipality and health-related awareness programs are also conducted.

Sources of Drinking Water

In most villages of Nepal, there is no supply of pure drinking water. In the study area, most households (70%) have their own pipe line but not safe drinking water. There is the provision of a base level of water. They were not using any purifying methods. During the field study, the researcher observed that there were eight drinking water projects working between the coordination of different NGOs and consumer groups. It has piped water availability of 90.2% and a traditional source of water is 4.9 and river water is used at 2.4 percent (Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality Profile, 2075).

Sanitation

Sanitation is also the main component of the development of a village. Data derived from observation all households have toilet facilities but not clean toilets. These toilets are not attached to the water tank. The housing cleanliness is poor. Mostly, animals are kept within the house on the ground floor. Due to these activities, there are more possibilities of the sickness of people in the study area.

The Economy Activities

The factors are related to the economy of the study area including land and food production, family and animal husbandry, foreign migration, salary, and wages, and income and expenditure system. Actually Nepali economy is agrarian. In the field of industrialization, the country also has not achieved significant progress.

Occupation of Total Householders

Agriculture is the main base of livelihood for 66 percent of people in Nepal. In recent years, the trend in non-farm employment is increasing due to migration to urban areas and foreign countries. It seems that besides agriculture products, small businesses, agriculture, and non-agricultural wage labor play an important role as the households' income. So, a household economy implies diverse sources of income. The field data also support the above-mentioned statements. In the study area, most of the families have multiple occupations; the major occupation is not the same among the families. In household surveys, it has been seen that most families have foreign employment and agriculture. It means these two occupations are the general occupation of this area. Very few people take part in the occupation except these two. During the field survey, when the researcher asked them about their occupation, most of them easily said 'agriculture', which can be accepted in the case of some families but it is difficult to accept for all families because agricultural activities are done by most of the families but their production is very small. It means their agricultural products are not sufficient for their consumption. It is very difficult to find such a family which gains cash by selling their agricultural products. It is also clarified by the land holding size of that area.

People agree on the fact that the cash income from agriculture has no significant role in their economic upliftment, so many households depend on foreign employment. Among the sample respondents, official jobs (within Nepal), small businesses, wage labor within the village, agricultural products, livestock, and remittances from India are the major sources of household income. According to the criteria of urbanization, there is a lack of specialization in activities, there is a lack of diversity in occupations which are the main criteria of urbanization. It shows that the study area is only a municipal administrative unit but does not meet the criteria of urban.

Table 5: Occupation of Total Householders Above the age of 10 except Student

Major Occupation	No. of People	Percent
Agriculture	95	48.72
Hotel + Other Business	10	5.13
Daily Wage Work	15	7.69
Government Services	5	2.56
Foreign Employment	67	34.36
Livestock Farming	3	1.54
Total	195	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 5 shows about 50 percent of people involved in agriculture and 35 percent involved in foreign employment respectively. Only 2.56 percent engaged in government services. This shows that agriculture and foreign employment are the main livelihood options in this place. This is the lack of entrepreneurship which is the main feature of urban areas.

Table 6: Major occupation of household heads

Major Occupation	No. of People	Percent
Agriculture	32	71.11
Hotel + Other Business	2	4.44
Daily Wage Work	3	6.67
Government Services	2	4.44
Foreign Employment	6	13.33
Total	45	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2021

Table 6 shows that 32(71.11%) of the sampled families are involved in agriculture. According to municipality profile 2075, there was 93 percent of people of ward no.9 involved in the agriculture sector but now it reduces. There are 13.33% of families involved in foreign labor and 6.66%, work as wage laborers for their livelihood. There are only 4.44% of families involved in services. This table indicates that the people in the study area are mainly farmers.

Agriculture Practices

Agriculture is the backbone of the Nepalese economy. The topography, climate, irrigation facility, economic conditions, and technical advancement of the area determine the agricultural practices of any place in general. However, the agricultural practices of the study area are still traditional and primitive.

Most of the farmers plow their land with iron-tipped wooden plows, which is a very traditional tool. Oxen are usually used to plow fields as drought animals, which is not efficient. All the agricultural activities are carried out manually from land preparation to harvesting crops.

. The agricultural activities of the people of the study area are highly influenced by the seasonal cycle. The major seasons are rainy and winter. They cultivate crops in the favorable season. Maize, millet, and paddy are grown in the rainy season, whereas wheat and mustard are grown in winter. Most of the people in the study area have not produced vegetables in the winter season but they produce pumpkin, squash, potato, cucumber, bean, and other vegetables grown in the rainy season. There is a lack of off-season farming and commercial farming. According to a household survey, 2(4.44%) households have done commercial vegetable farming.

Livestock

Animal husbandry is an essential and integral part of subsistence farming. Farmers keep livestock for different purposes, e.g. Manure, milk, meat, wool, and plow. Sometimes they get cash income by selling their livestock and its products in the village. Most of the households keep at least one livestock in the village. The following table 7 shows the number of livestock in the sampled households.

Table 7: Number of Livestock

Kinds of Animals	No. of Animals	Percent
Goat	385	59.51
Cattle	150	23.18
Buffalo	112	17.31
Total	647	100.00

Source: Field Study, 2021

The major livestock found in the study area are cattle, goats, and buffalos. Table 7 shows that the goats are large in number, which alone comprises 59.25, cattle comprise 23.18 and buffalo comprise 17.31 percent. The main purpose of raising animals is to sell and help in agriculture. About eighty percent of households sell milk at Silgadhi but it is only the subsistence type that has not become commercial.

The above description shows the study area's socioeconomic condition is not well. It lies in municipalities but there is a lack of socioeconomic features in municipalities. There are many problems with the transformation of society as an urban character. After the declaration of municipality and election was held of local bodies, the ward chairperson's effort for development is praiseworthy. In the initiation of the ward chairperson, the development projects are running, local road construction, irrigation, education, sport, health, vegetable farming, and livestock farming. For development activities on initiation ward chairpersons apart from the municipal office, they coordinate with the federal government, provincial government, NGO, and INGO.

The infrastructure sector is a prerequisite for development. It plays an important role in expediting the entire socio-economic transformation of the country. Infrastructure will directly contribute to building an equitable, inclusive, and employment-oriented society as the sector is also a driver of long-

term development. This sector will have a major role in creating a widely affordable and accessible modern infrastructure, an indicator of economic prosperity. Additionally, it can play a key role in materializing deep interconnectivity and increasing production and productivity sustainably.

The condition of transport in Dipayal Silgadhi municipality is not satisfactory. There is one airport for air service but it is not regular. The main means of transportation is the road. Due to the vast topography or uneven land, it is more expensive to build and suffers from landslides and mudslides in rainy seasons. According to the profile of Dipayal Silgadhi municipality 2075, there is a time variation to access road transport in Dipayal Silgadhi municipality. Ward no. 9 has a minimum time to access the road is 25.4 minutes and a maximum is 90 minutes. This condition of the road shows people in the study area cannot feel like living in a municipal area. They face difficulties in remote areas. There is a time variation to access the health service. The minimum time to access health services is 5 minutes and the maximum is 60 minutes. This condition showed that the health service is also out of track of people.

Discussion

This study is based on the perspective of a municipality as an urban character. Urbanization is a form of social transformation from traditional rural societies to modern urban communities. Urbanization refers to an increasingly large number of people living in small places and basically engaged in non-agricultural activities, which depends on the development of industrialization, and infrastructure within cities, towns, and their neighborhoods. But in Nepal, the municipality is declared as a political agenda.

Regarding to urban characters and criteria, there exist different views and rules and regulations in worldwide manner. It is estimated that nearly two-thirds of countries utilize an administrative definition to classify urban areas, but almost all of them add an additional element such as population size, density, occupation, or urban functions to characterize urban settings.

For the definition of urban area world, 49 countries utilize only population size and density. Things are made more complicated when analyzing population thresholds used by countries. While Denmark or Iceland define urban locals when they have only 200 inhabitants or more, The Netherlands and Nigeria fix a threshold of 20,000, Mali opts for 30,000 inhabitants, and Japan's cities known as *shi* refer to a population of 50,000 inhabitants or more. Moreover, some countries combine population size criteria with other elements to define what constitutes urban. For instance, urban areas in Bhutan need to satisfy at least 4 conditions out of 5 criteria: a minimum population (1,500 inhabitants), a threshold in population density (1,000 persons per sq. km), depend on non-primary economic activities (more than 50%), a minimum requirement for the area of the urban center (not less than 1.5 sq. km.), and the need to have economic potential for future growth (revenue base). Likewise, Cambodia recognizes urban communes the places where there is a population above 2,000 inhabitants with a percentage of male employment in agriculture below 50%, and a population density exceeding 200 persons per square kilometer. Interestingly, while the last parameter of population density is defined by the Chinese authority as having at least 1,500 persons per square kilometer, in Germany the urban communes have a population density equal to or greater than 150 inhabitants per sq. km.

The definition of urbanization is considerable in Nepal because the areas designated "urban" have been defined and redefined over the years. Its extension is slow in the early period but has rapidly grown in recent years.

The origin of urban settlements in Nepal is unknown. Very little is known about urban living in Nepal during the period of Kirants. The historical evidence of the existence of towns in the Kathmandu Valley is found only for the Lichhavi period 100BC to 1000AD (Malla1978:30 cited from Khanal and

Basyal,). It has been noted that during the Lichhavi period there were many settlements in the Kathmandu valley developed into a prominent commercial center known as *Dranga* in the 10th century. During the 10th century, the consolidation of *Dranga* evolved into an urban settlement (Ranjitkar, 1980-81:26). By the eleventh century, three principles of settlement in the Kathmandu valley had already started to be referred to as capital towns. Outside the valley, there was a scant indication of the presence of (urban) settlements in the Lichhavi period, like Nuwakot, Dolkha, Banepa and Panauti (CRDA1990:24, Shrestha1981:12), Located in the adjoining hill region around Kathmandu Valley.

During the Malla period (1257- 1768), Kathmandu was developed as an administrative and Centerport trade center between India and Tibet, which made Kathmandu a prosperous town. During the medieval period, the whole of present Nepal was divided into a large number of Baisi and Chaibisi states which influenced urban growth pattern characteristics as capitals, fort towns, and military garrisons (Shrestha 1981:27). But most of these centers had no strong economic base because of trade and industry development hampered by fighting each other; however the products of handloom, metal and gold-silver ornaments were especially exported to Tibet. Apart from these, minting coins and exporting to Tibet were the main functions of these towns.

After 1769, Kathmandu became the capital of unified Nepal as well as the seat of political, economic, and social power. The productive agricultural base of Kathmandu valley and small-scale industrial production of metalware and textiles further reinforced its population growth (Sharma 1989:7). Outside the Kathmandu valley, many new settlements were developed largely as a consequence of an increase in the number of those employed as officials, soldiers, and minerals in the town to collect the revenue from the peasantry and to recruit troops for the state's further expansion (Selddon1993:196). Settlements developed in this way were Tansen, Pokhara, and Bandipur in the western Hills and Dolkka in the eastern hills. Along with this, the spread of Newar traders and small manufacturers from Kathmandu during the later half of the nineteenth century further contributed to the physical and economic growth of a number of settlements in the hills (Blakie et.al.1980:123-4).

In Tarai, the extension of the Indian railway network along the north to the border of Nepal around the turn of the 19th century resulted in the growth of trading centers for the export of timber and local grain surpluses using these railheads (Blakie et.al.1980:125). However political, demographic, and climatic reasons de-couraged the growth of large permanent settlements in Tarai until 1920. The trade treaty of 1923 between Nepal and British-India, had made a positive impact on the growth of urban centers in Tarai. Most of the Tarai market centers had been initiated as periodic markets; however such centers soon turned into permanent towns and the increasing importance of southern commercial centers significantly contributed to the increasing expansion of the Indian market in the country. The industrial development that took place in Tarai during the 1930s further enhanced the importance of southern towns (Shrestha 1981:131).

The towns developed in Tarai before 1951 were Biratnagar, Birgunj, Nepalgunj, Hetauda, and Janakpur at the railheads and break-up-bulk points, with the gradual integration of hills into the Indian market. Other break-up-bulk points developed between hills and Tarai were Dharan and Butuan.

The 1952/54 census provides data on 10 “prominent” settlements with a population of over 5,000 but refrained from defining an urban area. The 1961 census for the first time defined an urban area or a ‘Sahar’ as “an area with a population cluster of 5,000 and over and having an urban environment such as high school, college, judicial and administrative offices, bazaar, communication facilities, mills, factories, etc.” but also indicated that the definition was not strictly followed (Bastola, 1995). The *Nagar Panchayat Act* of 1962 provided the nomenclature of Nagar as the local-level urban administrative unit or a municipal area as distinct from a local-level rural administrative unit. It stipulated the population size

criteria of “not less than 10,000” as a generally necessary, but not a sufficient condition, for providing the municipal status to a locality. Since 1962 an urban area has been interpreted in Nepal not as a settlement unit *per se* but as a unit of local self-government. Since 1971 the *Panchayat* (Village Development Committee or VDC) has been taken as the basic unit of the census enumeration.

As a result, the concept of settlement configuration as a unit of census enumeration has been lost as the aerial extent of a VDC (*Panchayat* before 1990) includes many, often far-flung, settlement units. Indeed the concept of localities included in censuses since 1971 is a misnomer because these in fact are not “localities” in the sense of settlement units but only *Panchayats* or VDCs. Further, the decision regarding the designation and determination of the area extent of localities is not made by the Central Bureau of Statistics but by the Ministry of Local Development. Since 1971 areas with municipal status have been *ipso facto* considered urban. The fact that the population size criteria was not consistently followed in the designation of *Nagar Panchayat* is revealed from the fact that at least four of the newly classified *Nagar Panchayats* in 1971 had a population of less than 10,000 while 12 other ‘localities’ in the country had a population of over 10,000 but were not classified as *Nagar Panchayats* [Sharma, 1989]. In 1976 the population size criteria to receive the municipal status was reduced to 9,000. In 1990 with the re-establishment of the multi-party system the *Nagar Panchayats* were renamed *Nagarपालिका*.

The Municipality Act of 1992, and the Local Self Governance Act of 1999 redefine and classify municipal areas. According to the Local Self-Governance Act 1999, Municipalities are classified into three categories: *Mahanagarपालिका* (Metropolitan city), *Upa-Mahanagarपालिका* (Sub-Metropolitan city), and *Nagarपालिका* (Municipality). *Mahanagarपालिका* is a municipality with a “minimum population size of 300,000, annual revenue of at least Rs. 400 million, facilities of electricity, drinking water, communication, paved main and subsidiary roads, provision of specialized health services, essential infrastructure for international sports events, adequate opportunities for higher education in different fields, at least one established university, adequate urban facilities, and an area that has already received the status of a *upamahanagarपालिका*”. Similarly a *UpaMahanagarपालिका* is a municipality with a “minimum population size of 100,000, annual revenue of at least Rs. 100 million, facilities of electricity, drinking water, communication, paved main roads, education and health services of a high standard, general infrastructure for national and international sports events, provision of public parks and a city hall and similar urban facilities, and an area that has already received the status of a *nagarपालिका*”. The Act lays down (a) minimum population size of 20,000 in the Tarai and 10,000 in the hill/mountains, (b) annual revenue of 5 million in the Tarai and 500,000 in the hill/mountains and “minimum urban facilities such as electricity, road, drinking water, communication and other similar urban facilities” as necessary conditions for the designation of municipal status or a *Nagarपालिका*. While the double standard in designating municipal area between the Tarai and the hills remains incomprehensible, Article 88 (2) C of the Act considers a *Nagarपालिका* as only a “semi-urban area”. When the Act was promulgated there were one *Mahanagarपालिका* (Kathmandu), four *Upamahanagarपालिकास* (Biratnagar, Lalitpur, Pokhara and Birganj), and 53 *Nagarपालिकास*. According to the spirit of the Act, the 53 *Nagarपालिकास* are semi-urban areas.

The main cause of urbanization in Nepal is the reclassification of settlements as towns. There were only 10 urban areas in the 1952/54 A.D., which reached 293 in 2017 A.D. In the seven decades since the 1952s urban population increased from 0.238 million to 16.55 million while the number of designated urban places increased from 10 to 293. The percentage of the urban population in the country has grown from 2.9 percent to 62.50 percent. Nepal’s urban population has increased to 17% in 2011 from 13.9% in 2001; the urban population growth rate was at 3.38%. The urban growth rate between 2010 and 2015 was 5.21 percent (UN DESA, 2014: p.393) Urban population became 18.5% in 2014, 38.2% in 2016, and 62.5 % in 2017.

Urbanization can be understood from different perspectives. In the study of urban phenomena, sociologists are particularly interested in changes in human behavior and ties in family, kin-groups, and community. From this perspective, urbanization can be understood as the erosion of communitarian values.

Similarly, the existence of raw materials and minerals was other, the case of Dipayal Silgadhi — it neither had a transportation network facilitated by a river system nor raw materials for the establishment of industry and trade. Similarly, it was also not a center of any particular religious prominence. However, it had some locational advantage in the sense that it facilitated north-south trading activity. The main impetus for its urbanization however came from the 'political-military' interests of early rulers. The rulers, after the unification of the country in 1769, developed Dipayal Silgadhi as an administrative center of the Far-west. Similarly, it was also developed as a military center for the far-western region, which led to the establishment of military camps and other related offices.

The discontinuation of village-based government institutions and their establishment in Dipayal Silgadhi in the recent past and its recognition as a center for the far-west province has increased the inflow of people from rural areas. Therefore, the drive for urbanization has not come from economic necessity, but from administrative and political interests

In Nepal, the study of cities and towns and policies concerning their development has been greatly influenced by geographical thought. Therefore, changes in discourses in urban geography have also influenced urban development. The approach of regional geography in particular (which replaced the concept of environmental determinism coined in the the1920s, and regards the role of physical features—site and situation—as determinants of urban foundations and growth) has influenced urban development.

This approach pays attention to the regional relations of towns and cities and to the existence of morphological regions within urban areas. The location theories of Walter Christaller (sometimes called the Central Place Theory) and August Losch (Johnston et al 1986:506) have been particularly instrumental in influencing our understanding of the spatial organization of human activities and, thus, became the cornerstone of regional planning. To further strengthen the understanding of how this pattern of centers gradually develops, the 'growth poles' theory came into existence. This theory, which has influenced urban development and regional planning processes, explains the diffusion of growth patterns from centers to the periphery or hinterland. The concept of growth corridors with urban centers as growth propellers, first introduced in Nepal during the fourth plan (1970-75), is used here as 'development regions'. Similarly, the focus of town-hinterland relationships in recent policies for urban development has been derived from these concepts of growth poles and diffusion of growth from higher-order centers to lower-order centers. According to this approach, Dipayal Silgadhi municipality forms the center of the far-western development region. Then it was restructured on the recommendation of the state restructuring commission adding new areas.

The family structures and the internal, emotional, and mental relationships of the people have been changing slowly due to the urbanization process which can change the whole society. In Dipayal Silgadhi municipality, due to the effect of urbanization, the large extended families have been broken down and turned into nuclear families and at the same time females are now working outside competing with their male counterparts and keeping a significant role in taking any decisions of the family matters. On the contrary, people are greatly dependent on the available social networking facilities which significantly reduces the internal relationship of their closest neighbors. Urbanization negatively affects the mental situation of a child and the relationship between parents and child because parents are working outside the house and for this, they can't give enough time to their children.

Similarly, if we look literacy rate by sex we can see that the portion of females (46.03%) is greater than males (30.97%) in illiterate people and the number of males is greater than females in literate people. In the context of level education except the no schooling male number is higher in every level. The literate people most of them are of lower education level. It is because the people of this area take part in school education in their local schools at an early age but when they are grown to teenagers or adults they give up their school and engage in economic activities such as trade, the job in foreign countries. Generally, it seems that people give higher priority to earning money because of poverty. According to ward no 9 chairpeople, about 60 percent of the budget received from the municipality is invested in the education sector, which helps to improve the educational status of people in this area and it is easy and increases access to education of people. The municipality allocated about 32 %for the education sector, while the national budget is 11.64 percent of Rs. 172.19 billion in Nepal (MOF, 2020/2021).

The role of women is one of the essential factors for analyzing the socio-economic structure of a household. Urbanization has brought several changes inside and outside the home regarding the role of women. In the past, females were limited within the surroundings of household work but after the declaration of a municipality, women have to be involved in social, political, and income-generating activities as well.

In community-level work, women participate in social work such as they get involved in common social works, attending meetings, and so on. During the study, researchers found there is a lack of entrepreneurship in that society. Many women haven't been involved in any kind of business except agriculture, due to the fear of moral down and being hesitant about what other people said. So, these women are totally dependent on their husbands. According to the provisions of the constitution, women's participation increases in politics. They are involved in elections as a party candidate and voters.

Trade is considered a growth engine for the development of any city. The trade and commerce of Dipayal Silgadhi municipality have not increased remarkably but somehow. There is a lack of industry and most people are involved in agriculture but the agriculture system is traditional. Therefore the income level of people is low which affects trade and business. The communication systems of this city are increased and therefore there is a good communication system with the other places of the country. For this reason, somehow, there is an increasing income level and standard of life.

A great combination of various occupations is seen in the planned city where the income level of the people is enough to maintain their families and themselves. But, in the case of Dipayal Silgadhi municipality, this combination of occupations is relatively low. The occupation option is very low

Due to the declaration of municipalities, the land tax is increased but production is not increased. The rate of tax is increasing but facilities are not increasing. The above description shows the study area's socioeconomic condition is not well. It lies in municipalities but there is a lack of socioeconomic features in municipalities. There are many problems with the transformation of society as an urban character.

Conclusion

This study is based on the perspective of a municipality as an urban character. The researcher concludes that there is a lack of characteristics of urban life in Dipayal Silgadhi municipality. Declaration municipality cannot change the socioeconomic status of people living in the new adjoining area of the municipality. Infrastructures both social and economic are not good in Dipayal Silgadhi municipality. The development of infrastructure in this city doesn't follow the proper planning technique. For this

reason, these are creating various problems in Dipayal Silgadhi municipality and bringing great sufferings to public life. Most of the roads of the cities are not well spacious and developed which hampers the city dwellers to a large extent. Due to this existing situation, kills valuable time of people, causes terrible road accidents, and even agglomeration by water on roads due to the rainfall. There is a lack of occupational diversification. Most people engage in primitive agriculture. There is a lack of commercialization in agriculture, in absence of irrigation facilities and training. Another main livelihood strategy is foreign labor migration. There is also a lack of trade specialization and diversification, though which are the main criteria of urban development. The Dipayal Silgadhi municipality has made a master plan for development activities. Municipality tries to work according to the concept of 'do better with less' but is not effectively implemented due to lack of financial resources, the traditional system of resource mobilization, and high expectations of people. For proper development of the municipality, detailed studies should be conducted about different sectors.

In conclusion, the existing situation proves that Dipayal Silgadhi municipality is administratively municipal, practically rural. It has a lack of urban character. As miserable conditions are seen in urban areas of Nepal, Dipayal Silgadhi Municipality is not far from the situation. The study could not include all aspects in-depth therefore for the fulfillment of the gap, the researcher recommends that research should be done one by one in every sector in detail.

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