

Transition of Civil-Military Relations for National Development in Nepal

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Abstract

Before the formation of the professional military and the cavalry, there were citizen militias, an army composed of ordinary citizens in ancient Greece. Numerous scholars in academia have reinforced an ideal relationship between the military and the civilians. Though the traditional roles of the military to protect the national sovereignty and territorial integrity remain crucial, it is important to reassess the roles played by the military in national development in the contemporary liberal democratic societies of the twenty-first century. The objective of the article is to reflect on the changing dynamics of the civil military relationship and discourses in the development of Nepal and to explain why and how the civilian supremacy has been institutionalized over a period of time as enshrined in the Constitution of Nepal. The paper unfolds implications for identifying the means and ways to strengthen the civil-military relationship in the present socio-political context of Nepal. Various information and facts were collected through secondary sources and normative lens was used to analyze the changing dynamics of the civil military relationship and discourses in the development of Nepal. It is revealed that Nepali Army (NA) has been successfully transitioning to a new role by being effectively involved in national

development programs through socio-economic infrastructural development works, by providing humanitarian aid in relief missions and contributing to various national pride projects identified by the government of Nepal and the government must provide resources and mandate NA to carry out various development activities.

Keywords: Civil–military relations, democracy, nation development, Nepali Army, Political, Transition

Introduction

Although the long-established roles of the military to protect the national sovereignty and territorial integrity remain significant, it is important to re-evaluate the roles played by the military in national development in the contemporary liberal democratic societies. Military is a well-organized modern institution that is conscious of the need for social and political transition in Civil-military relations (CMR) and is often the driving force in the context of national development. In recent years there has been significant participation of the military in development works as well as relief missions particularly in developing nations like Nepal, where the need for development is most imperative. United Nations defined development as a multidimensional undertaking to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. Economic

development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development (United Nations, 1997, p. 1). According to United Nations Decade Report, national development refers to growth plus change. Change in turn is social and cultural as well as economic and qualitative as well as quantitative (Bawa, n.d.).

There are numerous challenges for the state ruler, in the country with history of authoritarian rule, to coordinate with the military and in ensuring control for making strong relationship with the society for meaningful democracy and development. The notion of CMR is not only about the relationship between the government and the power of army (relating to its function) but also about the relative affiliation between the military and civilian in development efforts, human relief acts and to support secure lives. It is very difficult to define CMR in a specific manner. As an interdisciplinary field, it provides room for research for political scientists, the military, sociologists, and historians. The national security is affected by the pattern of CMR as they have impact on the strategic assessment (Owens, 2017). Feaver (1999) has clearly defined CMR as a broad subject matter and has further mentioned that it encompasses the entire range of relationships between the military and civilian society at every level. CMR inclines towards the control or direction of the military by the highest civilian authorities in nation-states (Feaver, 1999, p. 210).

Huntington (1957) Mentions:

Civil-military relations are one aspect of national security policy. The aim of national security policy is to enhance the

safety of the nation's social, economic, and political institutions against threats arising from other independent states. (pp. 1-4)

The CMR is embodied in the state's fixed rules and decision-making procedures. The relationship between the civil and military rulers depends on the sharing of responsibility for control between civilian leaders and military officers. Moreover, the CMR relies on the responsibilities conditioned by a nationally evolved regime of principles, norms, rules, and expectations (Bland, 1999, p. 3-5).

The concept of CMR in a country or any region is hugely influenced by its political system, public perception of the military, foreign policy and history (Rukavishnikov & Pugh 2006, p. 131). Another factor of influence is the constant evolution of civil societies and the military as an institution. In Europe for example, the countries that have joined NATO and the EU have focused on democratization and civilian control of their military while in Russia, Ukraine and the former Soviet Socialist republics, now socialist states they are more centrally controlled (Cottey, 2006). Despite the continuation of struggle with twin legacies of war and authoritarianism, there is growing recognition for CMR in the countries of former Yugoslavia (Cottey, 2006). The context of particular political systems determines the CMR. Transition of CMR depends on political and military realm of a country. CMR transformation is deeply rooted in structural transformation of politics to democratic government with civilian dominated political system. The relative distribution of power between the government and the armed forces of a country shows the extent of CMR building and interactions between armed forces as institutions and the

sectors of society (Forman and Welch, 1998, p. 2).

This paper attempts to reflect on the shifting dynamics of the civil-military relationship and discourses in the development of Nepal. It also tries to explain why and how the civilian supremacy has been institutionalized over a period of time as enshrined in the Constitution of Nepal. The paper has drawn implications for identifying the means and ways to reinforce CMR in the present socio-political context and economic context of Nepal.

Methodology: Methods and Techniques

Regarding the study of CMR in political sciences, there are three forms of analysis namely, normative, empirical/descriptive, and theoretical analysis. The normative analysis seeks answer to questions like: What ought to be done? How much civilian control is enough? And what can be done to improve CMR? (Feaver, 1999, p. 213). Similarly, the empirical/descriptive lens involves distinguishing between what is happening in practice and what the civilians think (Feaver, 1999, p. 216-217). It is worth mentioning that most of the literatures in CMR are public and most of them consist of empirical/descriptive treatments of the civil-military scene in different countries or regions. The third one, the theoretical analysis provides a basis for the normative lens while drawing conclusions (Feaver, 1999, p. 217). This paper intends to analyze CMR from the normative lens. CMR depends on the political system, the foreign policy and the will of the state's rulers. As a departure from the tradition of war, many countries in the world have reviewed the role of army for the prosperity of the nation. In this article, secondary data and information from national and international research articles,

published literature on the area of study have been collected and critically analyzed.

Transition of Civil –Military Relations (CMR) and its Determinants

Before professional armies and cavalrymen, there were citizen militias, an army composed of ordinary citizens in ancient Greece (Lane, 2013). CMR has been an important topic in contemporary liberal democratic societies. The relationship between entire civil societies and military organization intended to protect them is referred to as the civil military relations (Longdom, n.d.). It is the relationship between the military and civilian society at every level.

Beyond the traditional role of military in the world, this article attempts to establish the dynamics of the changing role of CMR in 21st century. According to Huntington's theory related to treatment of CMR, there are two models of CMR; subjective control and objective control of the military by political leaders. In the subjective control model, the military is highly politicized and closely integrated with and participates in the political and social system while in the objective control model, military professionals and political leaders focus their efforts in distinct arenas of expertise with clear division of responsibilities and roles (cited in Celik, 2012, p. 46 and Nix, 2012, P. 89)

Felipe Aguero defines civilian supremacy as the ability of a civilian, democratically elected government to conduct general policy without interferences from the military, to define the goals and general organizations of national defense, to formulate and conduct defense policy, and to monitor the implementation of military policy (Cited in Perez, 2015 p. 6)

Concerning civil supremacy Perez mentioned that:

Civilian may have a little or no say in matters related to the integrity of military institutions such as promotions, formulation of military doctrine, internal discipline, salaries, equipments and armaments and the formulation of defense policy and strategic goals. (Perez, 2015 p. 6)

Skaar and Malca (2014) state that the CMR constitutes a crucial element in the transition to substantive democracy all over the world. In Latin America, the military has been responsible for extensive violations of human rights and humanitarian law during periods of authoritarianism or civil war (Skaar and Malca, 2014, p. IV). The military has gradually been brought back under civilian rule after the institution of democracy in the region in the 1980s and 1990s (Skaar and Malca, 2014, P. IV).

The countries with authoritarian rules cannot be expected to have high level of CMR. The countries that have democratic political system and are super military power are concerned with world order. The US foreign policy plays lead roles on how the US military deployed in other countries act with the civilian to form the relation based on its internal policy (Forman and Welch, 1998, p. 22). According to Forman and Welch (1998), discussion on CMR remains to be an issue in those countries emerging from civil wars (Forman and Welch, 1998, p. 2).

Beginning in the 1970s, Latin America witnessed sustained transition to democracy, which meant restructuring of CMR. It requires military to be subordinate to popularly elected officials (Perez, 2015, P. 4). For solidity of democratic regime, there

is an increasing role of healthy CMR. An unhealthy relationship between the armed forces or military and state remains to be an enduring threat to the people (Tapia, 2016, p. 2). In the name of healthy relationships, the autonomy of military or armed forces should never be undermined (Tapia, 2016, p. 20).

Revealing the case of successful transition from authoritarianism to stable democracy, Spain provides a brilliant case study, with valuable lessons for many Latin Americans, southern European, and eastern European nations that are making the transition from authoritarian to either democratic rule or consolidating the transition in a stable regime (Aguero, 1995,). In Indonesia, the Indonesian Armed Forces have performed a twin role of contributing to the nation's development. First one is a defense and security force and the other as a socio-political force (Sukirno, 1990, p. 1).

The roles of the military, its functions and relationship with society varied initially from country to country and then the whole world after the cold war. In the beginning of the 21st century there has been argument towards the legitimacy of the implication of military in the society (Forster, 2006, p. 1). The 21st century calls for issue of military transition from authoritarian to democratic rule.

The civilian control refers to distribution of political power between military and civilian groups which is most conducive to the emergence of professional attitudes and behavior among the members of the officer corps (Huntington, 1957, p. 83, as cited in Taylor, 1998, p. 33). Taylor (1998) underlines that the military must possess the minimum amount of power required for the existence of a profession (Taylor, 1998, p. 33). Clausewitzn defines wars as political in nature

and believes that the armed forces should be under the control of civilian government as armed forces do not exist for their own sake (Bowen, 2010, p. 1). Clausewitz and Sun Tzu, both warn against civilian meddling in military operations (as cited in Bowen, 2010, p. 1). This is often a problem between the civilian government and army where sometimes there are interferences in the army by the government.

Huntington (1957) mentioned that the role of the military in society has never been satisfactorily defined. He assumed that the extent of reduced power of military groups would increase in civilian control (pp. 80-97). Despite the necessity of military for the safeguarding of the country and the people, it might act as a threat for destruction of society and democracy when there is lack of balance of power. Therefore, in the 21st century, there is growing importance of military in any country for its foreign policy and political strategy and the CMR is highly prioritized in the developed country.

Perception Towards Civil-Military Relations (CMR) in Different Countries

Following the cold war era, there were drastic changes in the world regarding the redefinition of the roles, organization and financing of military. It was very challenging for the European militaries in the post-Cold War era, to maintain relationship between armed forces and the societies (Forster, 2006, p. 1).

After the end of cold war, the western European countries had to revise the security policies. It is tricky to get answers on how democracies shape internal relations with their military (Routledge, 2012). Concerning the democratic CMR, a considerable level of variations can be observed in the matters of

shaping internal relations with their military (Routledge, 2012). After 1990s profound changes have been affecting the democratic CMR.

Europe experienced only seven years of general peace during seventeenth century due to constant strife. This led to the establishment of the standing professional army, which is one of the important institutional developments of the early modern world (Mears, 1969, p. 106). The monarchs who were considered to be divine knew the importance of the fighting force in terms of size and strength and realized that the protection of state cannot be fully entrusted to the mercenary soldiers who were recruited only during a military emergency and terminated (Mears, 1969 p. 106). This further created an understanding that trained and well-disciplined professional with regular means of obtaining supplies and replacement would be necessary for both peace and war (Mears, 1969 p. 106-115).

We generally find considerable changes in the CMR of different countries due to political shift and foreign policy of the countries. It is noticed that heightened political-military tension leads to dynamic CMR in the countries. The civilian supremacy in democratic countries leads to stable CMR as opposed to increased tension. A brief discussion on CMR and development in different countries are presented below,

United States of America

In addition to the capability to fight and win wars, America's military forces have something to offer to civilians as well. The Civil-Military Cooperative Action Program requires the military to participate in enhanced individual and unit training and; build morale through meaningful community involvement. The program encourages cooperation

between civilian and military sectors of society, enhancing the social, economic, ecological and environmental situation of the areas that are within reach of existing military base structures. Furthermore, the program includes activities like advancing equal opportunity and helping alleviate racial tension, conflict, and misunderstanding, increasing the opportunities for disadvantaged citizens to receive employment, training, education, and recreation (Gilroy, 1995 p. 74, as cited in Taylor, 1998, p. 60-70). Stuart (2013) suggested that Americans took great pride in their nation's history of military subordination to civilian authority and indicated that the subject of CMR must be constantly monitored in a democracy with a large and powerful army Stuart, 2013, p. 1). Stuart (2013) mentioned: "The military's dominance of the foreign policy community would be less of a problem if there was an atmosphere of trust and familiarity between civilian and military policy makers." (Stuart, 2013, p. 2)

In USA, the types of training of military forces are related to foreign policy objectives and strategies (Blakeley, 2006, p. 2). Training has a vital role to play in improving the CMR. US foreign policy during the Cold War, the post-Cold War years, and the period since 9/11 has changed its course. While the first phase was primarily repression that witnessed widespread human rights violations, particularly in Latin America, the second phase evoked democracy, neo-liberalism, and the last intensified legitimation efforts in the South (Blakeley, 2006, p. 3). Huntington (1957) spelt out that as per the constitution in USA there is no civilian control over the military and it lacks objective civilian control compatible with a high level of military professionalism in USA (pp. 163-192).

The Peoples Republic of China

In China, the Military-Civil Fusion (MCF) Development Strategy focuses on economic and social development strategies with its security plans to build an integrated national strategic system and capabilities in support of China's national rejuvenation goals (Office of the Secretary of Defense, 2020, p. 18). The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) prioritizes economic development as the "central task" for driving China's modernization across all areas, including its armed forces (Office of the Secretary of Defense, 2020, p. 11).

According to Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu, in the matters of war the order to the military is given only after the political decision of civilian government. He also viewed that the generals in army act as assistants to the nation and receive orders to prepare for war from the civilian government (cited in Bowen, 2010, p. 1). Based on a study of the role of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Chinese elite politics, Saunders and Kiselycznyk (2010) revealed increasing prominence of the PLA's role in domestic disaster relief and protecting China's economic interests abroad (Saunders and Kiselycznyk, 2010, p. 28).

They further added that the military can increase its value to China's civilian leaders. Though China has accelerated its military modernization and ramped up its defense spending, China has sought to reassure its neighbors and other major powers that it will not pose a military threat (Saunders and Kiselycznyk, 2010, p. 30).

United Kingdom

Regarding CMR in the United Kingdom, the forces had to re-shape, re-construct and pursue their own modernization to achieve "territorial

defense". By 2002, the UK military worked with the government in view of European Union's relating governments in trans-national force size and structures and their deployment on humanitarian and peace support missions (Segell, 2011).

Russia

Gomart mentioned

Normally, the study of CMR seems to address a narrow, technical question of institutionalizing greater or lesser civilian control over the uniformed military, on which a long and distinguished literature exists, particularly in regard to the Soviet era. (Gomart, 2008)

Even in today's Russia many things of the old system of the former Soviet Union prevail and there is a need to address most of the problems concerning transition, development and consolidation of democracy (Kapuscinski, Ryszard, Imperium, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1994, pp. 324-325 as cited in Falkenberg, 1997. p. 89). Falkenberg (1997) viewed that Russia should consider the historical context and the specific circumstances of democratization in Germany after World War II in order to establish a viable democracy like the Federal Republic of Germany after the World War. Taking reference of Russian President Vladimir Putin's address at the Bundestag on September 25, 2001 and his urge to the Russian admission to NATO as part of global coalition against terrorism, Blank (2002) stressed on the lack of civil supremacy. He added that this is required for the complete transformation of the system to civilian control over the military although the current system is normally or formally civilian control (Blank, 2002, p. 91).

Federal Republic of Germany

Germany is committed to peace, and its foremost task is safeguarding, promoting and shaping peace within Germany as well as in the international community (Falkenberg, 1997, p. 50). Germany has the foreign and security policy for interlinking and reconciliation with international community and remains active in international peacekeeping tasks based on the UN Charter. Germany intends to cooperate with Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a member of the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO) as well as of the European Union (EU) and the Western European Union (WEU) for linking these institutions together and turning them into a strong security order (Falkenberg, 1997, p. 52).

Turkey

In the Republic of Turkey, due to high ambition of the senior military officers, frequent coups were witnessed (four times between 1960 and the "postmodern coup" of 1997). The Turkish military were found to be enjoying a range of both formal and informal powers, prerogatives, and perquisites (Aydınli, 2012, p. 100-108-). However, a deep structural transformation toward a more democratic, civilian-dominated system has been seen in Turkey though still evolving, civil- military paradigm. The transformation stems from the dynamics of transformation within the military (Aydınli, 2012, p. 100-108).

India

In view of large democracy, India's civilian control of the military remains complete. The Indian military continues to function as a professional army. There is essentiality for clearly articulated military objectives and Indian military responses taking into account

India's long-term political and military objectives (Ray, 2015, p. 58). The Indian military faces the burden of being involved in fighting for internal security challenges. The bureaucracy's role as an intermediate agency between the political leadership and the military is severely impeding direct civil-military communication (Ray, 2015, p. 59). India's political leadership should be futurist and strike the correct balance to develop a modernized military with sufficient focus in defense policy while establishing comprehensible political goals.

Myanmar

Myanmar exercised freedom during the rule of President Thein Sein, former general of Myanmar. However, following the 2008 constitution, the then Sein government resumed power after an election in November 2010. Despite the elected government, the military retained its powers (Lintner, 2017). Due to lack of transition to democracy, Myanmar has no democratic process that would imply constitutional changes aimed at reducing the power of the military. It would be desirable to see how the new government formed after the recent general election proceeds towards strengthening democracy and protecting the fundamental right of its people.

Civil-Military Relations (CMR) in Nepal

Nepali Army, formerly called the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) has a long history dating back to the 18th century Gurkha soldiers, who 'unified' Nepal under the leadership of King Prithvi Naryan Shah. The fact that Nepal has never been colonized or conquered speaks volume to the role played by the NA in protecting the national territory and state sovereignty. CMR in Nepal was emphasized even during the rule of King

Prithvi Narayan Shah, who stressed on the importance of the civil and army relation and mentioned that the soldiers and the public are the essence for the King and that the King should always work with the soldiers and the public. He also emphasized on the need for training soldiers and motivated the soldiers (Law Commission, 2018, p. 15-16).

Upreti (n.d.) accentuated that strengthening CMR requires a holistic approach for security sector reforms at both the political and military levels and anew national security policy for Nepal (Upreti (n.d.) p. 18). Basnet, (2013) mentioned that the foundation of current CMR in Nepal was the Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007 which made a drastic change in military affairs by breaking the link between the King and the military, symbolically illustrated by changing the name of the Royal NA to the NA (Basnet, 2013, p. 3). Moreover, Satyal (2015, p. 1) duly appreciated the role of the civil society in shaping effective democratic CMR during Nepal's transition to democracy.

After the political change in 2008, there was a kind of question on the neutrality of the army in Nepal. Thapa and Sharma (2010) questioned on whether the Army transforms itself into a politically neutral and professional fighting machine or becomes highly politicized (Thapa and Sharma, 2010). However, in the present context, Constitution of Nepal 2015 has strengthened the CMR in Nepal and civil supremacy has been acknowledged in different sectors.

Making an in-depth analysis of the CMR in various periods e.g., the time of the rule of King to Prithvi Narayan Shah, King Mahindra's take over in 1960, the CMR post 1990 and the direct rule of King Gyanendra, K.C(2013) noticed that there were many

CMR problems in Nepal. He indicated that the CMR worsened during the rule of the post-conflict Maoist-led government (K.C, 2013, p. 124). According to K.C (2013), CMR in Nepal developed towards confrontation when the Maoists talked openly about launching of an October Revolution, establishing People's Republic in Nepal, and integrating all the Maoist combatants into the NA (K, C, 2013, p. 133). He clearly mentioned that for stable civilian control of the military in the context of Nepal, the constitutional legal framework was a necessary condition to be followed by compatible leadership with democratic values (K.C, 2013, p. 135). Despite the complex CMR in the past, the civilian supremacy is in place after 2006 parliamentary declaration, and the promulgation of Interim Constitution in 2007 and the Military Act reform. The NA has completely obeyed the civilian authority.

As per constitutional provision, the NA is committed to the Constitution, for the safeguarding of independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Nepal. Besides the NA has been mobilized by the government in other works including development, construction and disaster management works, as provided in the Federal law (Ministry of Law and Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, 2072 BS), Therefore, there should be no question on the civil supremacy in NA.

Nepali Army Towards National Development

The role of the NA is as significant as it was in the past but with changing times, NA has played broader roles along with protecting the national boundaries. NA has been involved in various operations other than war, such as disaster response, humanitarian assistance, nature conservation, national development

etc. Besides, NA has been acknowledged for carrying out various national pride projects which contribute to the national economy (Thapa, 2019). Making remarks on the increasing importance of CMR in Nepal, the Chief of Army has vowed to enhance the same in the Command Directive 2075 with command directive upholding the "People First and Mission Always"(Thapa, 2019)

Nepal is suffering from great loss of human lives and damage to properties every year due to natural and non-natural disasters like flood, landslide, thunderbolt, fire, road accidents, and epidemics (Ministry of Home Affairs, 2018, p. 1). In the circumstances of these disasters, the NA has been extensively involved in management and relief operations through search, rescue and evacuation operations in dangerous landscapes (Thapa, 2019, p. 16). More than 80 percent of the total population of Nepal is at risk from floods, landslides, windstorms, hailstorms, fires, earthquakes and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). The country is among the 20 most disaster-prone countries in the world (Ministry of Home Affairs, 2017, p. XII).

Towards an immediate response during the 2015 earthquake, NA stood as the reliable national institution that demonstrated the prerequisite skills, had disciplined human resources, and the logistics (Shrestha and Pathranarakul, 2018, p. 23). NA has also been working in different conflict zones to protect the civilians under the United Nations command ("*Civil military*," 2019). Addressing a workshop organized by NA to discuss CMR: in present socio-political environment of Nepal, the then deputy prime minister and defense minister Ishwor Pokharel underlined NA has its own history of civilian loyalty and it has always been under the civilian control ("*Civil military*," 2019).

Towards identifying means and ways to strengthen the CMR in present socio-political context of Nepal, Thapa highlighted the need for making use of motivated and committed personnel of national armed force and its material resources, for non-traditional roles by the states in developing countries (Thapa, 2019). Despite having the primary responsibility of protecting the national sovereignty and territorial integrity by defending the nation against external aggression, the national army of any nation is increasingly involved in various operations such as disaster response, humanitarian assistance, nature conservation, national development etc. (Thapa, 2019, p. 3).

Manandhar et al. mentioned that following the 2015 earthquakes, NA was more “trusted” than the police, courts, government, civil service, and others based on the public opinion surveys (The Asia Foundation, 2017, p. 6). Towards improving Nepal’s disaster response capabilities, Manandhar et al. underlined the need for improving coordination between domestic civil organizations and the NA (The Asia Foundation, 2017, p. 11).

The NA has played an important role in a large number of road construction and bridging projects. To date the NA has completed more than twenty road projects in very difficult geographical locations and rigged mountain and some roads are currently being built to provide access to some of the remote and least developed areas of Nepal. Since the time of devastating earthquake in 1934, the NA has in a number of incidents contributed to evacuate, and temporarily house thousands of people and mobilized the army in flood relief operations in various parts of the country. The NA has also been involved in relief activities during peace mission in a devastating earthquake hit Haiti (IT Division, Nepali Army).

The NA was the major partner in the old Kantipath project linking Kathmandu to the Indian border (IT Division, Nepali army.) One very important road project undertaken by the army has been the 81.8 km Nijgadh-Kathmandu fast track that will connect the Terai and the capital city Kathmandu. Moreover, the impact of the mobilization of the Army is very visible in almost all the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation areas in the country. It is distinct in protection of forests and their biodiversity to protect endangered species, plants and the natural heritage. It is involved in the protection of 13 National Parks and wildlife reserves (IT Division, Nepali army).

NA has been largely involved in the protection duties for nature conservation, supporting in nature conservation research works, social service, and disaster management. It is worth mentioning that with the help of the Government of Nepal, the NA has established a national rehabilitation center which consists of surveillance team and physiotherapy (IT Division, Nepali Army). As an inseparable agency in Disaster Relief Operations, the Government of Nepal has entrusted the NA rescue and relief missions during floods, earthquakes, avalanches, fires, landslides, air and other transportation disasters.

Involvement of NA at the forefront to prevent and control the rapidly spreading Covid-19 virus has been well recognized by the Nepali People. NA played an important role in the initial months of the outbreak through management of quarantine zone for Nepali students who were evacuated from Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the pandemic. The NA’s Army hospital in Kathmandu was one of the designated hospitals to treat COVID-19 cases in Nepal (KathmanduPati, 2020).

NA's deployment to the border checkpoints managing the movement at the border, keeping people from India in holding centers and then escorting them back to their districts has been commendable. They have been involved in construction and management of the quarantine camps in coordination with federal, provincial as well as the local governments. Additionally, the army has been delivering medical supplies and working in the management and disposal of the bodies of those who have died from the infection (KathmanduPati, 2020).

In realization of having many critical resources like trained personnel, organization, leadership, equipment, skills and national and international contribution to major disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides, NA should be entrusted to train and mobilize civilian of different sectors so that they can earn their livelihood through skilled works and contribute to national development. They can be mobilized for massive relief activities in need of the nation through NA. This will strengthen the CMR for national development.

Conclusions

The aforementioned views and countries' experiences are sound enough to highlight the importance of CMR in the world today. The primary responsibility of national army remains to protect the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation. The CMR depends on the sharing of responsibility for control between civilian leaders and military officers. The political system, public perception of the military and foreign policy, largely influence the concept of CMR in any country or region. The CMR refers to the relationship between the military and civilian society at every level.

Civilian supremacy refers to the ability of a civilian, democratically elected government to conduct general policies without interferences from the military. The civilian control also refers to distribution of political power between military and civilian groups. CMR is of two types' subjective control and objective control of the military by political leaders.

Beginning from 1970s, many countries witnessed sustained transition to democracy which led to the restructuring of CMR e.g. Latin America. A problem between the civilian government and army prevails when there are interferences in the army by the government. The military must possess the minimum amount of power required for the existence of the profession. The types of training of military forces should be related to its foreign policy objectives and strategies like in the USA. Training generally meant to build capacity, like developing skills or ensuring aspects of human right. A country intensifies its efforts to advance its overall development including economic growth by strengthening its armed forces like in China. The foreign and security policy focus on interlinking and reconciliation with international community and being active in international peacekeeping tasks like in Germany.

Ensuring civilian supremacy military can be instrumental in the task of nation building and national development. A strong nexus between the civil society and military in identifying the actual needs of the people and working together can be highly contributing factor for the country's development.

Implications

A stable CMR has been the greatest need and highest priority of the nations all over

the world since it is a crucial element in the transition to substantive democracy. Nepal has followed a similar trend, as CMR has demonstrated a very vital role in the transition to substantive democracy during all types of political changes through the years. The NA has been committed to carry out national development efforts as per the sentiments of national campaign ‘Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali’ vowed by the government of Nepal.

Having the civilian supremacy, CMR in Nepal is stable. Therefore, the government of Nepal must provide resources and mandate NA to carry out various development activities and the development projects entrusted by the government. The NA must also allocate adequate resources to its soldiers so that they can carry out various development-oriented activities in cooperation with the civil societies. NA can organize different types of trainings related to advance technical skills, human rights, working with civil society and government intuitions. Other trainings might include training the youth in providing skills that are more desirable in relief activities during natural disasters, running health camps, and various skills related to life. It is worth mentioning that NA has also operated Schools and Medical College that have contributed to developing skilled technical human resource.

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