



Article history

Received: 12 Nov 2023

Accepted: 8 Jan 2024

Factors Influencing Military Diplomacy in Nepal

Yukesh Upreti

Abstract

Military diplomacy has been a vibrant tool for enhancing national interest with the peaceful use of resources for acquiring the objective of the foreign policy of the nation. The Nepali Army has a long tradition of exercising military diplomacy in order to safeguard sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security. Different experts and scholars perceive that the military diplomacy of Nepal has been influenced by various domestic and international factors. The objective of this research is to assess various domestic and international factors that influence military diplomacy in Nepal. The research assumes an alternative hypothesis having a relationship with the influencing factors of military diplomacy. The research follows a sequential explanatory design using both primary and secondary data. Primary data are collected by using a stratified sample technique from 68 government officers engaged in administrative, security, and Foreign Service of Nepal with five-point Likert-scales questionnaire. Secondary data are extracted from research articles, books, newspapers, and online sources. The findings show that all the sub-variables of domestic and international factors are highly correlated. The regression analysis shows that domestic and international factors have a 91.5% effect on the military diplomacy of Nepal. The research suggests an improvement of domestic factors and competing with international factors for enhancing the military diplomacy of Nepal.

Keywords: Military diplomacy, national interest, foreign policy, defense policy, Nepali Army

Introduction

Military diplomacy is the non-violent use of military forces through various diplomatic tools in order to achieve the objectives of foreign policy by building mutual trust, promoting cooperation, and maintaining international stability between the nations (Gregory, 2014). It is the peaceful utilization of military resources in a cooperative manner to establish cordial bonds with the neighbor countries (Maharjan, 2023). After the end of the second world war, military diplomacy emerged as a form of soft power which is one of the important tools of a nation in order to pursue the foreign policy interests in the field of security and defense policy with the

* Armed Police Force, Nepal
Email ID : yuk.upreti@gmail.com

aim of building international relation and global governance by performing different activities like international peacekeeping, military personal exchange, bilateral visits and joint exercises (Gregory, 2014; Pajtinka, 2016; Paudel, 2022; Kafle, 2022).

The Nepali Army has a long history of exercising military diplomacy in order to promote the national interest and safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity of Nepal (Shrestha, 2014). From the era of unification of Nepal, the late king also regarded as the father of the Nation, Prithivi Narayan Shah has exercised military alliances, exchanges of military personnel, and cross training as a tool of military diplomacy for national welfare (Kafle, 2022). Similarly, in the era of Rana regime military diplomacy was conducted by assisting British India to counter the sepoy mutiny in 1857 A.D. Furthermore, deployment assistance of the Nepali Army in World War I and II, the provision of Nepali youth to be recruited in the British and Indian Armies and confer of the Nepalese prime minister to an honorary general of the British Army were ongoing military diplomatic activities (Paudel, 2022). After the establishment of democracy in Nepal, the following are the military diplomatic activities practiced by the Nepali army.

Table No 1

Nepali Army Diplomatic Activities

S.N.	Activities	Tools
1	Conferring Honorary rank of General to Nepali Army chief and Indian Army Chief	Diplomatic Tradition
22	Participating in the UN Peacekeeping Mission	Negotiations
3	Joint Military Exercise	Agreement
4	Military Training and Education	Negotiation/Agreement
5	Exchange of Military Attaché	Negotiation/Agreement

(Source: Researcher Compilation, 2023)

Military diplomacy strengthens national unity, nationalism, and national security and has a significant relationship with foreign policy to boost national interest (Lamsal, 2022). Military diplomacy in Nepal has been a pivotal tool to achieve the principles of foreign policy by strengthening Nepal's policy of isolation, special relations and non-aligned movement while addressing the geopolitical changes in the regional and international environment by preserving national interest (Maharjan, 2023).

Mainaly & Pant (2017) mentioned Nepal's foreign policy should be devised with a proper assessment of strengths and weaknesses since Nepal's weak representation in the international arena has dampened military diplomacy. Due to the lack of a separate doctrine related to military diplomacy in Nepal's foreign policy in 2020, political instability, misunderstandings and deficiency of coordination have derailed the growth of military diplomacy in Nepal (Kafle, 2022; Poudyal, 2023; Maharjan, 2023). There have been notable research conducted on the importance of military diplomacy and the researcher found a research gap in identifying and assessing the various factors influencing military diplomacy in Nepal. This research fills the vacuum of different factors influencing military diplomacy in Nepal.

Objective

Military Diplomacy in Nepal has been affected by several factors. Due to changes in political, economic, technological, and geopolitical environment, it is necessary to cope with the globally accepted minimum standard to continue military diplomacy. The core objective of this research is to assess various domestic and international factors and their effect in Military Diplomacy in Nepal. The sub-variables of domestic and international factors are accessed from different literature review. The research would act as a guideline for the military leadership for appropriate conduction of Military Diplomacy in Nepal.

Literature Review on different Factors influencing Military Diplomacy

There has been notable contribution of literature in Military diplomacy. Many scholars mention military diplomacy as a component of international relations that enhances national interest in the international arena. However, various factors influence the success and effectiveness of military diplomacy.

Drab (2018) mentions military diplomacy as an instrument in response to post-cold War which can be influenced by immediate security situations in domestic and international politics. The change in world governance directly influences military diplomacy due to changes in political ideologies (Subedi, 2005; Paudel, 2022). The role of political leadership and national policy of a country plays a significant role in shaping military diplomacy (holsti, 2004). Political leaders and the political stability of any nation have a direct relationship with national security which can easily influence military diplomacy (Bhattarai, 2022).

Scholars like Plessis (2008) & Winger (2014) mentioned national interests, foreign policy, and security concerns have a direct impact on military diplomacy. These interests and security choices of allies, affect the level of military engagement with its partnership. Lkenberry (2001) highlighted historical treaties and alliances significantly influence the strength and growth of military diplomacy.

Changes in political system, economic condition, and national power always have a dominant role in the country's military capabilities and diplomacy. The failure of the state in the political system also has an impact on military diplomacy. Similarly, the presence of conflict and crises can hinder and necessitate military diplomacy emphasizing the need for effective communication and conflict resolution strategies (Bercovitch, 2006). The advancement of technology particularly in communication and surveillance, has added a new generation to current military diplomacy practice by raising the ability to maintain communication channels (Kupchan, 2001).

Conceptual Framework and Hypothesis

Every nation is focused on improving its military capabilities by enhancing military diplomacy to have a harmonious diplomatic and friendly relationship. The Nepali army has an enormous role in protecting the nation from foreign intervention. The military diplomacy of Nepal needs to have continuous progress to safeguard the nation from foreign threats. Consequently, the political leadership needs to identify different influencing factors of military diplomacy. The study of influencing factors has been a significant research gap which is filled by conducting this research. By assessing the literature, the following conceptual framework has been developed.

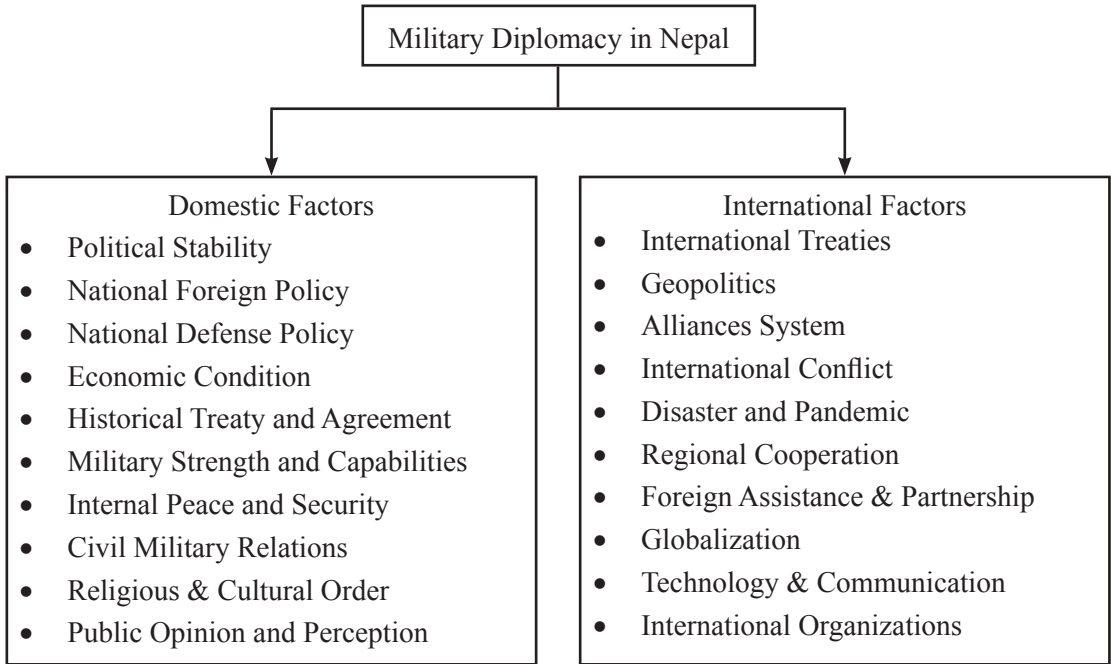


Figure 1 : Researcher Conceptual Framework

Note: Researcher conceptual Framework where military diplomacy in the dependent variable whereas domestic and international factors with its sub-variables are independent variables. (Source: Researcher Illustration, 2023)

In order to meet the objective of the research the following hypothesis has been stated:

H1: There is a significant association between sub-variables of domestic factors of military diplomacy.

H2: There is a significant association between sub-variables of international factors of military diplomacy.

H3: Both domestic and international factors are associated with the military diplomacy of Nepal

Methodology

The research follows a sequential explanatory research design to interpret and contextualize the quantitative findings. Both primary and secondary data have contributed to the generalization of the concept. Primary data are extracted from five-point (Likert scale) questionnaires where the values 1,2,3,4 and 5 are taken as ‘strongly disagree’, ‘disagree’, ‘Neutral’, ‘agree’, and ‘strongly agree’ respectively. Secondary data are extracted from research articles, books, newspapers, and online sources. The study engaged a stratified sample technique from senior government officers engaged in administrative, security, and foreign services. All the respondent officers have a minimum job experiences of 10 years. Altogether, 100 questions were distributed online to respondents and 68 responses (68%) have been achieved. The sample size is shown below in the table.

Table 2**Sample Size of the study**

S.N.	Service	Class	Frequency	Percentage
1	Nepali Army	Special Class: First Class: 2 Second Class:26 Third Class:2	30	44.12%
2	Nepal Police	Special Class: First Class:1 Second Class:11 Third Class:2	14	20.5%
3	Armed Police Force	Special Class: First Class:1 Second Class:8 Third Class:1	10	14.7%
4	Foreign Service	Special Class: First Class: Second Class:2 Third Class:1	3	4.4%
5	Administrative Service	Special Class: First Class:1 Second Class:6 Third Class:4	11	16.27%
	Total		68	100%

(Source: Field Survey.2023)

The study is based on descriptive and inferential analysis. The descriptive analysis consists of mean, standard deviation, and standard error to measure the variability of different sub-variables of domestic and international factors of military diplomacy whereas regression and correlation analysis is used to measure the relationship between the variables with the help of a statistical package for social science (SPSS) software.

Findings and Analysis

The findings are arranged according to the research hypothesis. At first, the variables derived from the literature review are defined. Secondly, the results of domestic and international factors and their sub-variables are interpreted and after computing the variables, the correlation and regression test is conducted to measure the relationship. At last, both domestic and international factors are computed and analyzed with the military diplomacy of Nepal.

Variable Definition

Domestic Factors

1. **Political stability:** Political stability is a state or country's ability to maintain consistent and good governance to avoid sudden and disruptive changes in national security. It is a desirable condition for the prosperity of a nation which includes economic growth, social well-being, and international relations.
2. **National Foreign Policy:** They are the set of principles, strategies, and actions that a country employ to maintain its balanced relations with others countries. They have a direct relation with national security and military diplomacy.
3. **National Defense Policy:** They are the doctrine of a nation or protecting the nation against external threats. It includes military structure, international alliances, and military capabilities which have a direct relationship with military diplomacy.
4. **Economic Condition:** The economic condition of any nation is its ability to spend towards its military structure. The economic condition of any nation determines military diplomacy.
5. **Treaty & Agreement:** Treaty and agreement are formal binding pacts that ensure commitment and obligations. Defense pact also influences military diplomacy through various diplomatic instruments.
6. **Military Strength:** Military strength holds the almighty to purchase and hold military installations and influence country's stance in the international community.
7. **Peace & Security:** Internal security situations, conflict, chaos, and disorder harass the development of military diplomacy due to government engagement in restoring peace. Hence, internal peace and security have an enormous role in military diplomacy.
8. **Civil-military relations:** They are the civil trust towards the military of the country. It is also considered as fundamental aspect of a democratic society which holds civil supremacy, accountability, and rule of law.
9. **Religious and cultural order:** They are the socio-cultural variables that raise the belief system and tolerance. The imbalance in religious and cultural order ignites security challenges that deny the growth of military diplomacy.
10. **Public Opinion & Perception:** they are the critical aspects of well-functioning society. Public opinion and thought towards the nation and society are indispensable elements of national power.

International Factors

1. International Treaty: They are the sources of international law which are universally obligatory activities in world governance. International treaty like the UN Charter has an enormous role in determining the military diplomacy of any nation.
2. Geopolitics: They are the study of political, economic, and geographical relationships of the states. Currently, the world has been influenced by geopolitical international relations.
3. Alliance system: The alliance system is the key component of international relations which has a high impact on military diplomacy. They include military assistance, training, meetings, and dialogue.
4. International Conflict: They are the major determinant factor of military diplomacy. The crises between the nations led different countries militaries to join the alliance for mutual benefit. Currently, the Russia-Ukraine war and, Israel-Palestine war have polarized the world causing an impact in military diplomacy.
5. Disaster & Pandemic: world effecting pandemic and disasters like Covid 19, the Haiti earthquake; Ebola, etc have acute impact on nation's military capabilities which reduces military diplomacy.
6. Regional cooperation: Currently, most of the countries of the world are knocked into a regional cooperation which stands for mutual peace and economic growth. Associations like the EU, GCC, SAARC, ASEAN, etc. has a huge impact on military diplomacy.
7. Foreign Assistance: Foreign aid, technical assistance, and infrastructural development are universally launched programs for mutual coexistence. Assistance in military aid, training, equipment, etc is defense-related matter which holds in the engagement of military diplomacy.
8. Globalization: The rise of globalization also has invited transnational threats and multinational attacks on ICT. Military diplomacy helps in building cooperation by exchanging ideas and advice so globalization also has an impact on Military diplomacy.
9. Technology and communication: In the current world ICT helps in establishing formal within the military of the nation by securing information, cyber diplomacy, and resources mobilization.
10. International Organization: They are also the main sources of energizing military diplomacy. The charter of the UN has made provision for multinational security force deployment in conflict-prone areas for establishing world peace which is a diplomatic actions of the military.

Table: 3**Result of Responses of Domestic Factor**

Sub-Variables	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Neutral (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)
Political Stability	11.8	5.9	17.6	44.1	20.6
Foreign Policy	8.8	2.9	8.8	50	29.4
Defense Policy	8.8	0	17.7	29.4	47.1
Economic Condition	5.9	2.9	26.5	47.1	17.6
Treaty & Agreement	2.9	8.8	35.3	44.1	8.8
Military Strength	2.9	5.9	20.6	38.2	32.4
Peace and Security	5.9	11.8	8.8	47.1	26.5
Civil-Military Relations	5.9	11.8	29.4	38.2	14.7
Religious & Cultural Order	2.9	20.6	38.2	32.4	5.9
Public Opinion & Perception	0	17.6	38.2	29.4	14.7
Number of Respondents (N) = 68					

(Source: Adapted from field survey, 2023)

The above table reveals the responses of domestic factors influencing military diplomacy in Nepal. In the first sub- variable political stability, 64.7% of responses have been received above the neutral level. In the second sub variable, 79.4% of responses have been received above the neutral line. All the responses reveal that the maximum number of respondents agreed and strongly agreed on the sub-variables of domestic factors. For a better understanding of averages and standard deviation, the descriptive analysis of responses is shown in the table below.

Table: 4**Descriptive Analysis**

Sub-Variables	Mean	SD	SE
Political Stability	3.56	1.24	0.22
Foreign Policy	3.88	1.15	0.19
Defense Policy	4.05	1.20	0.20
Economic Condition	3.67	1.00	0.17
Treaty & Agreement	3.47	0.89	0.15
Military Strength	3.91	1.02	0.17
Peace and Security	3.76	1.15	0.19
Civil-Military Relations	3.44	1.07	0.18

Religious & Cultural Order	3.17	0.93	0.16
Public Opinion & Perception	3.41	0.95	0.16
Domestic Factors	3.636	.824	.141
Number of Respondents (N) = 68			

(Source: Adapted from research findings, 2023)

In the table, the mean value and standard deviation of sub-variables are shown. The mean responses of all the sub-variables range from 3.17 to 4.05 which show a high level of agreement with the variables. Among all the sub-variables, defense policy has the highest mean value of 4.05 with a Standard deviation of 1.2 which means the majority of respondent officers agreed national defense policy is the major determinant factor of military diplomacy. The sub-variable religious and cultural order has the lowest mean value of 3.17 which indicates that religious and cultural order do not have a major effect on the domestic factor of military diplomacy in Nepal. Furthermore, computing all the sub-variables the composite mean and standard deviation of domestic factors are 3.63 and 0.824 which is a normally distributed curve. The degrees of association between sub-variables of domestic factors are shown below.

Table: 5
Correlation Coefficient

Sub-Variables	Domestic Factor	P-Value
Political Stability	0.725**	.000
Foreign Policy	0.815**	.000
Defense Policy	0.789**	.000
Economic Condition	0.727**	.000
Treaty & Agreement	0.601**	.000
Military Strength	0.857**	.000
Peace and Security	0.884**	.000
Civil-Military Relations	0.852**	.000
Religious & Cultural Order	0.770**	.000
Public Opinion & Perception	0.669**	.000
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-Tailed)		
* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-Tailed)		

(Source: Adapted from SPSS software, Research Findings, 2023)

The table shows the relationship between sub-variables of domestic factors influencing military diplomacy in Nepal. According to Muchinsky (1993) & Parivizifard (2012), a correlation coefficient closer to 1 is more statistically significant. The values below 0.2 have a negligible relationship, values from 0.2 to 0.4 have low relationship, value from 0.4 to 0.7 has a moderate

relationship, and value from 0.7 to 0.9 has a high relationship, and value above 0.9 has very high relationship. The correlation coefficient value of all the sub-variables ranges from 0.669 to 0.884 with a P-value of 0.00 (which is less than 0.05). It means that all the sub-variables have a relationship with a domestic factor of Military diplomacy. The sub-variables treaty & agreement and public opinion have a moderate relationship and other eight sub-variables have a high relationship with domestic factors. Furthermore, the effect of change in one unit of sub-variables into a domestic factor of military diplomacy is explained in the regression table below.

Table: 6
Regression Analysis

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.119	.218		4.109	.000
Political Stability	.224	.055	.336	1.397	.173
Foreign Policy	.123	.088	.171	2.640	.013
Defense Policy	.201	.076	.294	2.278	.031
Economic Condition	.154	.068	.188	3.643	.001
Treaty & Agreement	.249	.068	.270	3.358	.002
Military Strength	.232	.069	.289	4.581	.000
Peace and Security	.272	.059	.381	1.980	.040
Civil-Military Relations	.154	.078	.201	.853	.014
Religious & Cultural Order	.064	0.75	.073	2.788	.009
Public Opinion & Perception	.151	.054	.175		
Dependent Variable: Domestic factor					
R2= .914		F.Stat=59.49		Sig= 0.00	

(Source: Adapted from SPSS software, Research Findings, 2023)

The table shows the regression analysis of sub-variables of domestic factors of military diplomacy. The value of R^2 is 0.914 which means the sub-variables have a 91.4% effect on the domestic factor. Likewise, the significant value is 0.00 which means that the model is significant for study. The beta value shows the change in one unit of the dependent variable due to the change in the independent variable. The beta values of the sub-variables are explained in the graph below:

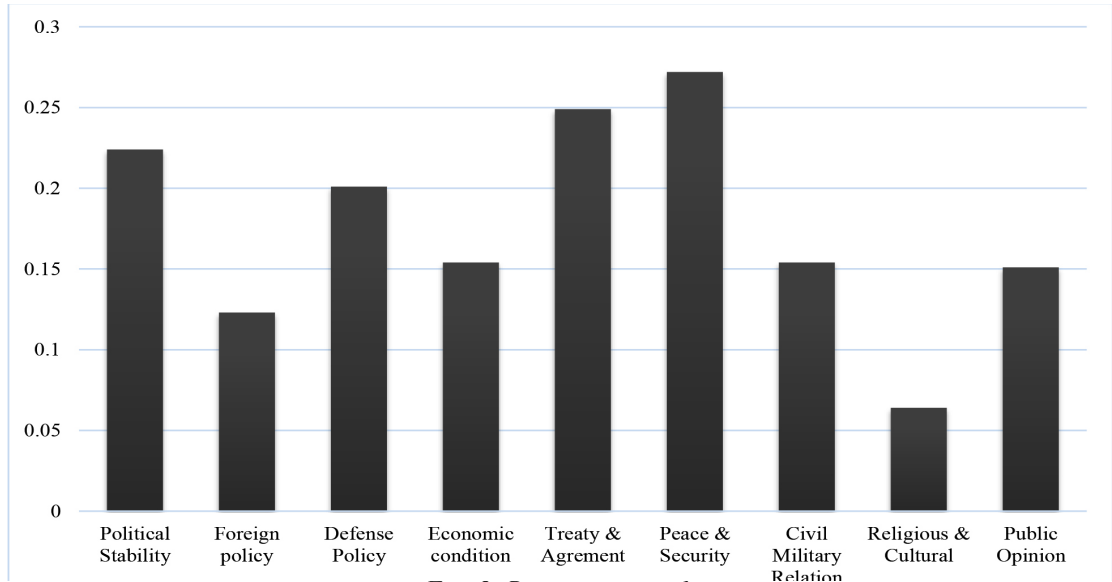


Fig. 2: Regression graph

(Source: Research Findings, 2023)

The graph shows the contribution of different sub-variables of domestic factors influencing military diplomacy in Nepal. The sub-factors like political stability, defense policy, treaty & agreement, peace, and security have the highest impact. The change in one unit in this factor will bring 0.2 unit (and more) effect on domestic factor of military diplomacy in Nepal. Similarly, economic conditions, civil-military relations, foreign policy, and public opinion have moderate effects whereas, religious and cultural order have a low effect on domestic factor of military diplomacy.

Table: 7
Result of Responses of International Factor

Sub-Variables	Strongly Disagree (%)	Disagree (%)	Neutral (%)	Agree (%)	Strongly Agree (%)
International Treaty	5.9	8.8	23.5	50	11.8
Geopolitics	2.9	5.9	17.6	44.1	29.4
Alliances System	8.8	8.8	23.5	38.2	20.6
International Conflict	8.8	11.8	23.5	44.1	11.8
Disaster & Pandemic	8.8	2.9	26.5	44.1	17.6
Regional Cooperation	2.9	5.9	23.5	38.2	29.4
Foreign Assistance	2.9	5.9	29.4	41.2	20.6
Globalization	2.9	8.8	38.2	35.3	14.7
Technology & Communication	2.9	11.8	17.6	38.2	29.4
International Organization	2.9	8.8	20.6	44.1	23.5

Number of Respondents (N) = 68

(Source: Adapted from field survey, 2023)

The above table reveals the responses of international factors influencing military diplomacy in Nepal. In the first sub- variable international treaty, 61.8% of responses were received above the neutral level. In the second sub-variable, 73.5% of responses have been received above the neutral line. All the responses reveal that the maximum respondent agreed and strongly agreed on the sub-variables of international factors. For a better understanding of averages and standard deviation the descriptive analysis of responses is shown in the table below

Table: 8
Descriptive Analysis

Sub-variables	Mean	SD	SE
International Treaty	3.52	1.02	0.17
Geopolitics	3.91	0.99	0.17
Alliances System	3.52	1.18	0.20
International Conflict	3.38	1.12	0.19
Disaster & Pandemic	3.58	1.10	0.18
Regional Cooperation	3.85	1.01	0.17
Foreign Assistance	3.71	0.97	0.16
Globalization	3.50	0.96	0.16
Technology & Communication	3.79	1.09	0.18
International Organization	3.76	1.01	0.17
International Factors	3.656	.876	.152
Number of Respondents (N) = 68			

(Source: Adapted from research findings, 2023)

In the table, the mean value and standard deviation of sub-variables are shown. The mean responses of all the sub-variables range from 3.38 to 3.91 which shows a high level of agreement with the variables. Among all the sub-variables, geopolitics has the highest mean value of 3.91 with a standard deviation of 0.99 which means the majority of respondent officers agreed geopolitics is the major deterrent factor of military diplomacy. The sub-variable international conflict has the lowest mean value of 3.38 which indicates that international conflict does not have a major effect on the international factor of military diplomacy in Nepal. Furthermore, computing all the sub-variables the composite mean and standard deviation of international factors are 3.65 and 0.87 which is a normally distributed curve. The degree of association between sub-variables of international factors is shown below

Table: 9
Correlation Analysis

Sub-Variabes	International Factor	P-Value
International Treaty	0.768**	.000
Geopolitics	0.819**	.000
Alliances System	0.848**	.000

International Conflict	0.821**	.000
Disaster & Pandemic	0.839**	.000
Regional Cooperation	0.879**	.000
Foreign Assistance	0.876**	.000
Globalization	0.826**	.000
Technology & Communication	0.837**	.000
International Organization	0.832**	.000

(Source: Adapted from research findings, 2023)

The table shows the relationship between sub-variables of international factors influencing military diplomacy in Nepal. The correlation coefficient value of all the sub-variables ranges from 0.768 to 0.879 with a P-value of 0.00 (which is less than 0.05). It means that all the sub-variables have a strong relationship with an international factor of military diplomacy. Furthermore, the effect of change in one unit of sub-variables into an international factor of military diplomacy is explained in the regression table below.

Table: 10
Regression Analysis

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.358	.187		1.916	.066
International Treaty	.220	.055	.336	4.109	.000
Geopolitics	.149	.088	.171	1.397	.173
Alliances System	.178	.076	.294	2.640	.013
International Conflict	.171	.068	.188	2.278	.031
Disaster & Pandemic	.203	.068	.270	3.643	.001
Regional Cooperation	.281	.093	.312	3.040	.002
Foreign Assistance	.094	.103	.104	1.091	.000
Globalization	.216	.070	.237	3.078	.005
Technology & Communication	.185	0.70	.231	2.654	.013
International Organization	.172	.071	.199	2.403	.023
Dependent Variable: Domestic					
R2= .937		F.Stat=83.118		Sig= 0.00	

(Source: Adapted from research findings, 2023)

The table shows the regression analysis of sub-variables of international factors of military diplomacy. The value of R² is 0.937 which means the sub-variables have a 93.7% effect on the domestic factor. Likewise, the significant value is 0.00 which means that the model is significant for study. The beta value shows the change in one unit of the dependent variable due to change in the independent variable. The beta value of the sub-variables are explained in the graph below

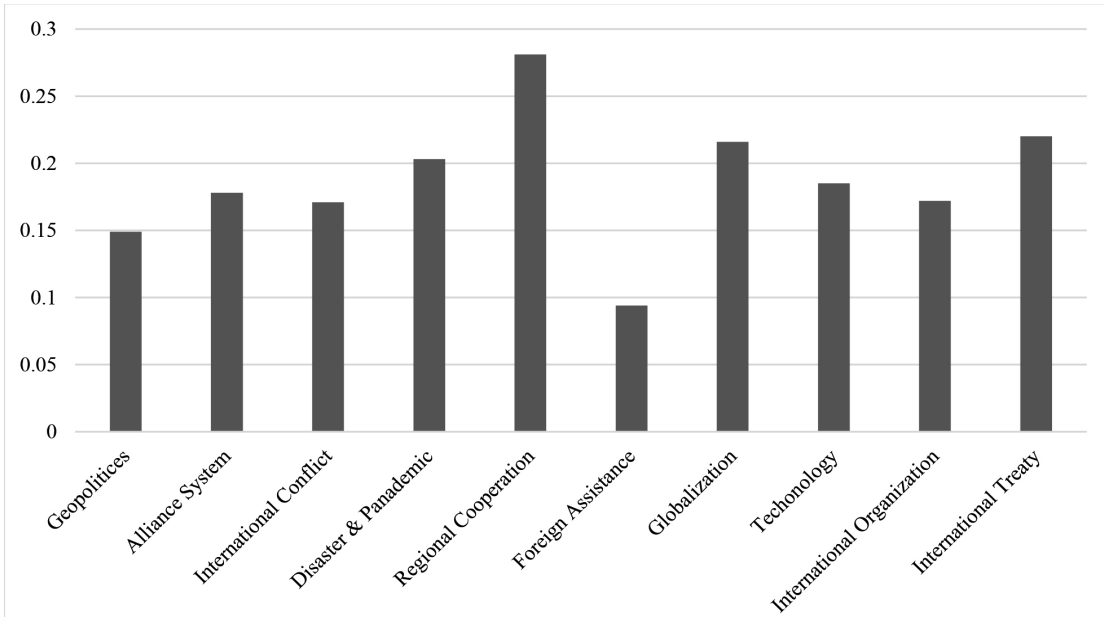


Fig: 3: Regression Graph

(Source: Research Findings, 2023)

The graph shows the contribution of different sub-variables of international factors influencing military diplomacy in Nepal. The sub-factors like an international treaty, disaster & pandemic, regional cooperation and globalization have the highest impact. The change in one unit in this factor will bring 0.2 unit (and more) effect on the international factor of military diplomacy in Nepal. Similarly, geopolitics, alliance systems international conflict, and international organization have moderate effects whereas, foreign assistance has low effect on domestic factor of military diplomacy.

Table: 11

Descriptive Analysis of Domestic and International Factors

Sub-variables	Mean	SD	SE
Domestic Factors	3.636	.824	.141
International Factors	3.656	.876	.152
Military Diplomacy	3.646	.8103	.138

(Source: Research Findings, 2023)

The table shows the descriptive data of domestic and international factors. The composite mean discovered from these two variables is the combined descriptive value of military diplomacy which is discovered as a mean 3.646 and a standard deviation of 0.81. Military diplomacy relations with domestic and international factors are shown in the correlation analysis below.

Table: 12
Correlation Analysis

		Correlations		
		MD	Domestic Factor	International Factor
Military	Pearson Correlation	1	.951**	.957**
Diplomacy	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000
(MD)	Number of Respondent (N)= 68			
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).				

(Source: Adapted from research findings, 2023)

The table shows the relationship between domestic and international factors and military diplomacy in Nepal. The correlation coefficient value of the domestic factor is 0.951 and the international factor is 0.957 with a P-value of 0.00 (which is less than 0.05). This means that both variables have a very strong relationship with the military diplomacy of Nepal. Furthermore, the effect of change in one unit of domestic and international factors of military diplomacy is explained in the regression table below

Table 13
Regression

Coefficients ^a					
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.245	.201		1.217	.233
Domestic factor	.936	.054	.951	17.334	.000
International factor	.885	0.48	.908	18.554	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Military Diplomacy					
R2= .915		F.Stat=344.36		Sig= 0.00	

(Source: Adapted from research findings, 2023)

The table shows the regression analysis of domestic and international factors of military diplomacy in Nepal. The value of R² is 0.915 which means domestic and international factors have 91.5% effect on domestic factor. Likewise, the significant value is 0.00 which means that the model is significant for study. The beta value shows the change in one unit of the dependent variable due to change in the independent variable. The beta values of the sub-variables are explained in the graph below.

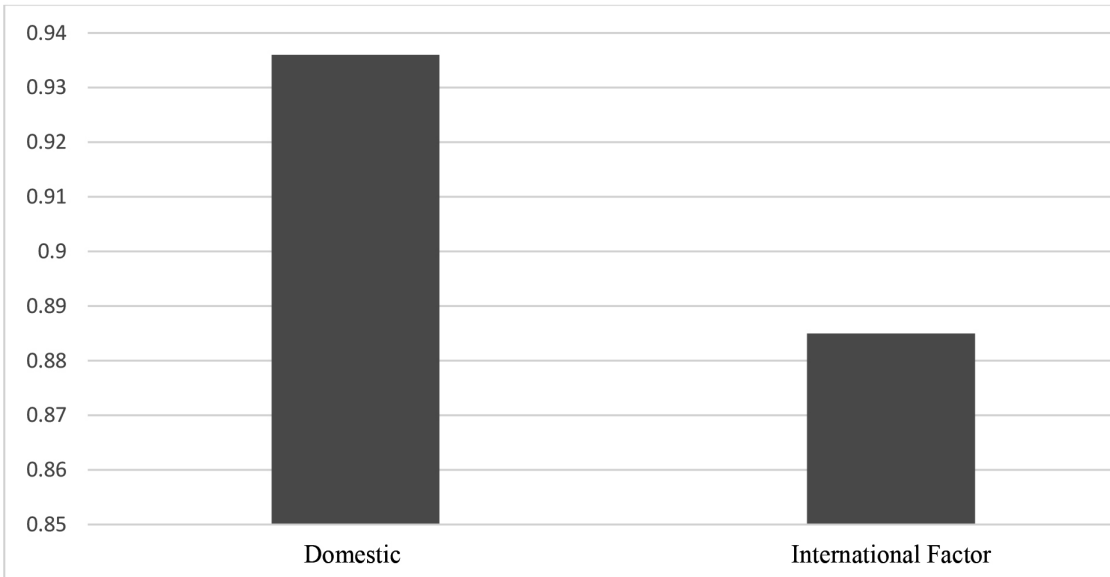


Figure: 4 Regression Graph
 (Source: Research Findings, 2023)

The graph shows the contribution of domestic and international factors influencing military diplomacy in Nepal. The findings show that domestic factors have the highest impact than international factors. The change in one unit in domestic factor will bring a 0.93 unit effect in military diplomacy in Nepal. Similarly, a change in one unit in international factor will bring a 0.88 unit effect in military diplomacy in Nepal.

General Discussion

Military diplomacy has been an essential tool for maintaining internal security by maintaining peace, and promoting international coordination by maintaining healthy neighbor relations. The developed countries of the world have been extremely practicing military diplomacy and have been successful in promoting their national interests. The developing and underdeveloped countries are creeping in practicing military diplomacy. In the current world, military diplomacy plays a significant role in nation development. There have been different views on exercising military diplomacy in Nepal. In recent days military exercise programs focused on enhancing capacity building also have been dragged into controversy. Such activities derail the military capabilities which will have an enormous impact on the security of the nation. Military diplomacy needs to be continued for the sake of the nation, it is, therefore, necessary to understand the entire necessary element that influences military diplomacy in Nepal. The research findings reveal domestic factors play the most dominant role in military diplomacy in Nepal. In domestic factors political stability, national defense policy, internal peace & security, and ancient treaties and agreements plays vital roles. With the change in the political system from 1990 A.D., the nation has never remained in silence. In this decade of period, political confrontations have injured the foreign policy of Nepal. The frail foreign policy also has hindered the growth of military diplomacy in Nepal. There is an urgent need to strengthen military cooperation with neighbor countries which will enhance the skill and knowledge of Nepali

army personnel. Also, the apathy of the government of Nepal to increase defense attaché has delimited the growth of military diplomacy. It is necessary to reciprocate with neighbor nations in building a strong foreign policy. Many security experts condemn of inappropriate national defense policy of Nepal. The lack of military diplomacy legitimacy in defense policy and lack of political commitment to facilitating and flourishing military diplomacy have acted as major hurdles. Therefore, it is necessary to gain adequate knowledge from political leadership on contemporary defense issues. Also, ancient treaties and agreements have huge contribution in influencing military diplomacy. Such obsolete treaties and agreements need to be updated and modified as per the global scenario.

There is also the important role of international factors in sizing military diplomacy. International treaty, disaster, regional cooperation, and globalization plays a vital role in influencing the military diplomacy of Nepal. Military leadership must act accordance with international standards. Also, the current diplomatic success of the Nepali army in serving the blue helmet needs to be sped up form enhancing military diplomacy.

Conclusion

The core objective of this research is to assess various domestic and international factors and their effect in Military Diplomacy in Nepal. The research concludes by analyzing different domestic and international factors influencing military diplomacy in Nepal. Domestic factors have more influence on military diplomacy. The research has identified major domestic factors. In particular, the major domestic factors political instability, national defense policy, internal peace and security, and treaties and agreements are the most influencing factors. There is a necessity for conducting further research on these variables for better suggestions. Also, international factors like globalization, regional cooperation, and international treaties and laws need to be adhered to by the government of Nepal. It is an urgent requirement to revise the foreign policy of Nepal to compete with international standards to promote military diplomacy in Nepal.

References

- Bhattarai, G. (2022). Assessing Nepal Military diplomacy: Neighbour and Beyond. *Unity Journal*.
- Drab, H. (2018). *Defence Diplomacy – An Important Tool for the Implementation of Foreign Policy and Security of the State*. Retrieved from ecurity and Defence Quarterly 2018;20(3):57–71: <https://securityanddefence.pl/Defence-diplomacy-an-important-tool-for-the-implementation-of-foreign-policy-and,103330,0,2.html>
- Gregory, W. (2014). The velvet Gauntlet: A theory of Defence Diplomacy. *IWM Junior Visiting Fellow, vol 33*.
- Holsti, R. (2004). *Public Opinion and American Foreign Policy, Revised Edition*. Retrieved from Univeersity of Michigan Press: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3998/mpub.6750>
- Ikenberry, J. (2001). *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars, New Edition*. Retrieved from Princeton University Press: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv3znx0v>

- Kafle, S. (2022). Military diplomacy: Role of Nepali Army in reshaping Nepalese foreign Policy. *Unity Journal, Vol 3*.
- Kupchan, C. (2001). *Power in Transition : The Peaceful Change of International Order/ Charles A. Kupchan, Emanuel Adler, Jean-Marc Coicaud and Yuen Foong Khong*. Retrieved from United Nations Library: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/452383?ln=en>
- Lamsal, H. (2022). Effectiveness of Military diplomacy towards Nationalism, National Security and Unity. *Unity Journal, Vol 3*.
- Maharjan, R. (2023). Leveraging Military Diplomacy in Nepal Foreign policy. *Unity Journal, Vol 4*.
- Mainaly, R. (2017). Foreign policy need to be devised. *The Kathmandu Post*.
- Pajtinka, E. (2016). Military Diplomacy and Its Present Functions. *SECURITY DIMENSIONS*.
- Paudel, J. (2022). The role of Military Diplomacy in Nepal Foreign Policy. *Unity Journal, Vol 3*.
- Plessis, A. (2008). *A Defence Diplomacy*. Institute for Strategic Studies, University of Pretoria,.
- Shrestha, B. (2021). Diplomacy in the perspective of Boundaries. *Journal of foreign Affairs, Vol 1*.
- Winger, j. (2014). School of Defence studies. *South African Journal*.

