ASIAN COLLEGE OF HIGHER STUDIES

(Affiliated to Tribhuvan University)

Ekantakuna, Lalitpur

Case Study

On

"*Birth Registration System In Nepal*"

For

E-governance (CSC377)

Under the Supervision of

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CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

The undersigned certify that they have read and recommended to the respective subject teacher and external teacher for acceptance, a case study entitled "**BIRTH REGISTRATION SYSTEM IN NEPAL**" submitted by Babin Rana, Rajan Bohara, Sahil Bhattarai**,** Shreya Shrestha, Shishir Aryal, Laya Pandey for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Information Technology.

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With respect,

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Sahil Bhattarai

Shreya Shrestha

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Laya Pandey

ABSTRACT

This study looks at Nepal's Birth Registration System, with a focus on how e-governance might be integrated to improve service delivery. The study used a mixed-methods approach, with quantitative data from government records and qualitative insights from field observations and interviews. The key findings show that the digital registration system adopted in Mahalaxmi Ward 03 greatly improves data entry and retrieval operations. Trained workers and easily accessible services help to improve the system's efficiency. However, obstacles such as low public awareness and bureaucratic delays continue. The SWOT analysis identifies strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, indicating that thorough public awareness efforts, technical upgrades, and regulatory reforms are required to improve the birth registration process. Addressing these issues is critical to ensure universal access to birth registration and promote social inclusion and legal identity for all citizens in Nepal.

Keywords: Birth Registration, E-governance, Nepal, Legal Identity, Public Awareness, Technological Upgrades, Policy Reforms, Social Inclusion

List of Abbreviation

ACHS: Asian College of Higher Studies

G2C: Government to Citizen

SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

TU: Tribhuvan University

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Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Birth registration is the foundation of civil registration systems around the world, ensuring access to services and legal recognition. In Nepal, the evolution began in the 1950s with the passage of the first legislation aimed at keeping track of significant events. The 1971 Marriage Registration Act and the 1976 Vital Event Registration Act, which required the registration of births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and migrations and were fully implemented countrywide by 1989, were significant steps forward [1]. New legal modifications in 2020 and 2021 made the operation even more efficient. Even with developments, outreach to impoverished areas remains difficult, necessitating ongoing efforts to ensure that everyone has access to birth registration and all accompanying rights and services.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Although birth registration in Nepal has advanced significantly, there are still underlying issues that restrict its applicability. There is insufficient registration coverage because many people, especially those living in remote and marginalized areas, do not have access to birth registration services. Due to this discrepancy, a sizable portion of the population does not have legal identity, which is necessary in order to obtain essential services like social protection, healthcare, and education. Additionally, errors and delays in registration are caused by regulatory barriers and inefficiencies in the current system.

These issues show how crucial it is to thoroughly review the current birth registration system in order to pinpoint obstacles and implement solutions. In order to promote equity and social inclusion, it is imperative that these issues be resolved so that every person in Nepal can establish their legal identity from birth.

1.3 Objectives

The major goal of this research is to assess the existing condition of birth registration in Nepal and identify areas for improvement. Specific aims are to:

- To investigate the techniques and technologies utilized for birth registration.
- To evaluate the efficiency of the present e-governance approach.

- Identify gaps in the existing literature and practice.

1.4 Research Questions

- What are the current tools and technologies used in birth registration in Nepal?
- How effective is the e-governance model in facilitating birth registration?
- What are the primary challenges faced by the birth registration system in Nepal?

1.5 Rational Importance

Because it emphasizes how crucial birth registration is to preserving one's legal identity, obtaining resources, and defending one's rights, this study is crucial. Access to societal benefits like healthcare, education, and social security—all made possible by birth registration—is essential to an individual's growth and well-being. Additionally, it offers trustworthy demographic data that supports national policy and planning. Registration coverage and efficiency will be increased by comprehending and resolving the problems with the current system, such as accessibility in rural areas and awareness among the poor. In addition to promoting social inclusion and reducing inequality, the project aims to improve birth registration so that everyone is acknowledged and permitted to fully engage in society.

Chapter 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Tools and Technology Used

Various tools and technologies are employed in the birth registration process in Nepal. These include:

- **Online platforms** make registration easier by allowing users to submit required information and documents electronically. This ensures a more efficient process and lowers the requirement for physical presence.

- **Online forms** are used to collect data from registered users. They are intended to be user-friendly and accessible so that anybody can complete tasks without requiring substantial technical knowledge.

- **Centralized databases** store collected data securely and allow for easy retrieval and management of information. Centralized databases serve to maintain the integrity and accuracy of birth records.

2.2 E-Governance Model

The "Birth Registrations" system uses the Government to Citizen (G2C) concept. This concept emphasizes providing governmental services directly to consumers via electronic methods, which allows for better access and more effective service delivery [2]. The birth registration procedure uses the G2C approach to promote accessibility, decrease administrative hassles, and increase overall efficiency. This strategy uses technology to streamline operations, minimize processing times, and assure accurate and timely data gathering, increasing the reach and effectiveness of birth registration services throughout Nepal.

2.3 Thematic Review

Birth registration is critical for assuring legal recognition and access to services in Nepal. Nepal's Constitution recognizes it as a fundamental right necessary for a child's identification, protection, participation, survival, and growth. Despite improvements, with registration rates increasing from 35% in 2006 to 77.2% in 2019, many children, particularly those living in remote and marginalized areas, remain unregistered due to legal, administrative, and socioeconomic impediments [1].

According to the 2021 National Population and Housing Census, 74% of children under five had their births registered, with considerable regional variances. Parental education, mobility, institutional delivery, and media exposure all have an impact on registration. More affluent, educated, and media-savvy parents are more likely to register births. Interaction with the healthcare system is also important. International best practices, including those from Bangladesh, Brazil, Ghana, and India, demonstrate the value of combining birth registration with health services. However, Nepal faces obstacles such as procedural issues, a lack of information, cultural barriers, and financial limitations. Addressing these issues necessitates governmental changes, awareness campaigns, and increased accessibility, particularly in remote areas. Despite advances, more work is needed to ensure universal coverage and defend every child's right to a legal identity by better integrating birth registration with other services.

2.4 Research Gap

Despite substantial technological and policy advances, there are still gaps in the successful implementation of birth registration systems. There has been little empirical research into the practical barriers that isolated and marginalized communities encounter when accessing birth registration services. Furthermore, additional research is needed to determine the influence of e-governance projects on birth registration rates and service delivery in underdeveloped nations. This study seeks to fill these gaps by presenting thorough observations gleaned from field trips and stakeholder interviews in Nepal.

Chapter 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study uses a mixed-methods research methodology, which combines quantitative data analysis with qualitative insights taken from field trips. The quantitative component is examining government data and statistical reports to determine birth registration rates, trends, and geographical disparities in Nepal. The qualitative component is based on a field visit to the Mahalaxmi Ward 03 office, where direct observations and informal conversations with staff and registrants allowed for a thorough knowledge of the birth registration process. This dual method ensures a thorough examination that captures both the numerical breadth and the human experiences of the birth registration system.

3.2 Population and Sampling

The population for this study consists of government officials, ward office staff, and people who have recently registered births at the Mahalaxmi Ward 03 office. To represent a varied range of opinions and experiences, the target demographic includes both urban and rural individuals. During the field visit, we focused on people directly involved in the birth registration process, such as registrants and administrative professionals, to get firsthand knowledge about the operational elements and obstacles of birth registration.

3.3 Sampling Technique

The qualitative component of the study was conducted using a purposive sampling technique. This strategy was adopted to ensure that the sample included important informants who were familiar with the birth registration procedure. During the field visit to the Mahalaxmi Ward 03 office, we picked participants with recent experience with birth registration, as well as staff members in charge of handling and processing registrations. This strategy enabled us to collect thorough and relevant information about the procedures, problems, and user experiences associated with birth registration in the ward office. Purposive sampling ensures that the data acquired is rich in detail and highly relevant to the research aims.

3.4 Site Selection

The Mahalaxmi Ward 03 office was chosen as the principal location for the field trip due to its representational character and accessibility. Ward 03 is a large administrative unit that handles a high volume of birth registrations, making it an ideal place to observe the registration process and discover common difficulties and best practices. Ward 03 was also chosen because of its urban context, as opposed to rural areas, which are frequently the focus of birth registration research. By selecting this site, the study hopes to provide a fair view of the birth registration process in various situations, so contributing to a more thorough knowledge of the system's strengths and opportunities for development.

Chapter 4: DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.1 Service Model

The Ward 03 birth registration office's service model was evaluated to better understand the registration process's workflow and efficiency. The birth registration process at Mahalaxmi Ward 03 is systematic, beginning with the submission of necessary paperwork by the parents or guardians. These documents include the hospital's birth notification, parental proof of identity, and evidence of domicile. Once the documents are presented, the ward office personnel validates the information before entering it into the digital registration system.

Mahalaxmi Ward 03's digital system is linked to a central database, making registration records easily accessible and up to date.The service model emphasizes ease of access for registrants, with a clear and straightforward process for obtaining the necessary documentation. Additionally, the ward office provides assistance to those who may need help filling out forms or understanding the registration requirements, ensuring inclusivity and support for all community members.

4.1.1 Process of Birth Registration in Nepal

The following process is required to get birth registration [3] -
- Submit the application to the ward office using the prescribed forms.
- Fill out the form and send all relevant papers.
- After validating the paperwork, the government will issue the birth certificate within a few days.

4.1.2 Documents Required for Birth Registration

The Documents required are as follows [3]:
- Documents from the hospital verify the birth of child.
- If child is not born in hospital, then the other documents (like witness)
- Birth time, date and location of birth.
- The original citizenship of parents (compulsory)
- Marriage certificate of parents (compulsory)
- Original certificate of Migration/Basai Sarai (If Migrated)

4.1.3 Online Birth Registration in Nepal.

For online birth registration following method should be followed [3]–

- Visit the website of the related municipality
- After the website of related municipality link is opened, click on 'Add New'
- Fill out the form and at last enter your mobile number
- After submission, the message will be sent with the Token Number to the entered mobile number
- Contact the municipality office within 30 days after the Token Number received .

Note: The token number will not be valid after 30 days and need to register again.

4.1.4 Various conditions may arise during the Birth Registration in Nepal

- If the father is in a foreign nation, the birth registration should be done under the mother's guardianship, including her citizenship, father's citizenship, marriage certificate, and other relevant documents.
- If the kid is an orphan, the district head will represent the guardian. The birth registration process will be carried out with a recommendation letter from the ward office where the child was born/lives.
- If the child's parents are deceased or absent, the birth registration is completed under the guardianship of the ward head and a witness to the child's birth.

4.1.5 Fees Required for the Birth Registration in Nepal

- If registered within 35 days of birth: Free
- After 35 days: Rs500

4.1.6 Time required for birth Registration in Nepal

- The process can take anything from a day to a week, depending on the complexity of compiling necessary paperwork.

4.1.7 Frequently Asked Questions about Birth Registration in Nepal

a) Is it necessary to register a birth in Nepal?

- Yes, it is necessary to register a birth for legal validity. The birth certificate is required in all legal procedures, such obtaining citizenship and many more.

b) Can a mother register the birth of a child in Nepal?

- Under certain circumstances, a mother can register the birth of the child in Nepal.

c) Can we register a child's birth if the father is a foreigner?

- Yes, we can register the birth of a child born in Nepal whose either of the parents is Nepali.

d) Can we register a child's birth if the parents are missing, dead, or unknown?

- Yes, but a police report and witness are required

e) What is the official website to register or see birth registration numbers in Nepal?

- Ans: https://donidcr.gov.np/

4.2 SWOT Analysis

A SWOT analysis was conducted to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with the birth registration system at Mahalaxmi Ward 03.

Strengths:

- **Efficient Digital System:** The use of a digital registration system ensures quick data entry and retrieval, reducing the time needed for registration.
- **Trained Staff:** The staff at Mahalxmi Ward 03 are well-trained and knowledgeable about the registration process, which enhances service delivery.
- **Accessibility:** The office is easily accessible to the local population, with clear instructions and assistance available for registrants.

Weaknesses:

- **Limited Awareness:** Despite the efforts to make the process accessible, there is still a lack of awareness among some community members about the importance and procedure of birth registration.
- **Bureaucratic Delays:** Occasionally, bureaucratic delays can occur, especially when additional verification of documents is needed.
- **Resource Constraints:** The office sometimes faces resource constraints, such as limited staff or technical issues with the digital system, which can affect service efficiency.

Opportunities:

- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** There is an opportunity to conduct more extensive public awareness campaigns to educate the community about birth registration.

- **Technological Upgrades:** Investing in advanced technology and infrastructure can further streamline the registration process and reduce bureaucratic delays.

- **Policy Reforms:** Implementing policy reforms that simplify the registration process and reduce the number of required documents can make the system more user-friendly.

Threats:

- **Technological Failures:** Dependence on digital systems poses a risk of technological failures, which can disrupt the registration process.

- **Political Instability:** Political instability and changes in government policies can affect the continuity and efficiency of birth registration services.

- **Social and Economic Barriers:** Social and economic barriers, such as poverty and illiteracy, continue to hinder some community members from accessing birth registration services.

Chapter 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, and IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Summary

This study sought to examine the birth registration procedure in Nepal, focusing on practical factors noticed during a field visit to the Mahalaxmi Ward 03 office. We used a mixed-methods research methodology, combining quantitative data from government records with qualitative insights gained from direct observations and interviews at the ward office. The study provided an in-depth overview of the tools and technology used, as well as the e-governance model and total birth registration services. In addition, a SWOT analysis identified the current system's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Key findings from the study include:

    i. The digital registration system at Mahalaxmi Ward 03 facilitates efficient data entry and retrieval.

    ii. Trained staff and accessible services contribute to the effectiveness of the registration process.

    iii. Despite these strengths, challenges such as limited public awareness and occasional bureaucratic delays persist.

    iv. There are significant opportunities for improvement through public awareness campaigns, technological upgrades, and policy reforms.

5.2 Conclusion

The birth registration process at Mahalaxmi Ward 03 shows both the progress made and the ongoing obstacles of achieving comprehensive birth registration in Nepal. The digital technology and trained personnel are valuable assets that improve the efficiency and dependability of the registration procedure. However, in order to achieve universal birth registration, it is critical to address the highlighted vulnerabilities and dangers, such as low knowledge and potential technical problems.

Effective birth registration is critical for maintaining legal identity and access to basic services for all people. This study emphasizes the necessity for ongoing efforts to

improve the registration process, particularly through increased public education and targeted policy improvements.

5.3 Implementation

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are proposed for the implementation of improvements in the birth registration process:

- **Public Awareness Campaigns** [4]**:**

Launch comprehensive campaigns to educate communities on the importance and procedure of birth registration using radio, TV, social media, and community events.

- **Technological Upgrades:**

Invest in digital infrastructure to enhance registration system efficiency and reliability. Implement backup systems and regular maintenance.

- **Policy Reforms:**

Simplify registration by reducing document requirements and streamlining verification processes. Introduce mobile units for remote areas.

- **Capacity Building:**

Provide ongoing staff training to ensure they have updated skills. Allocate resources to address staff shortages and improve service.
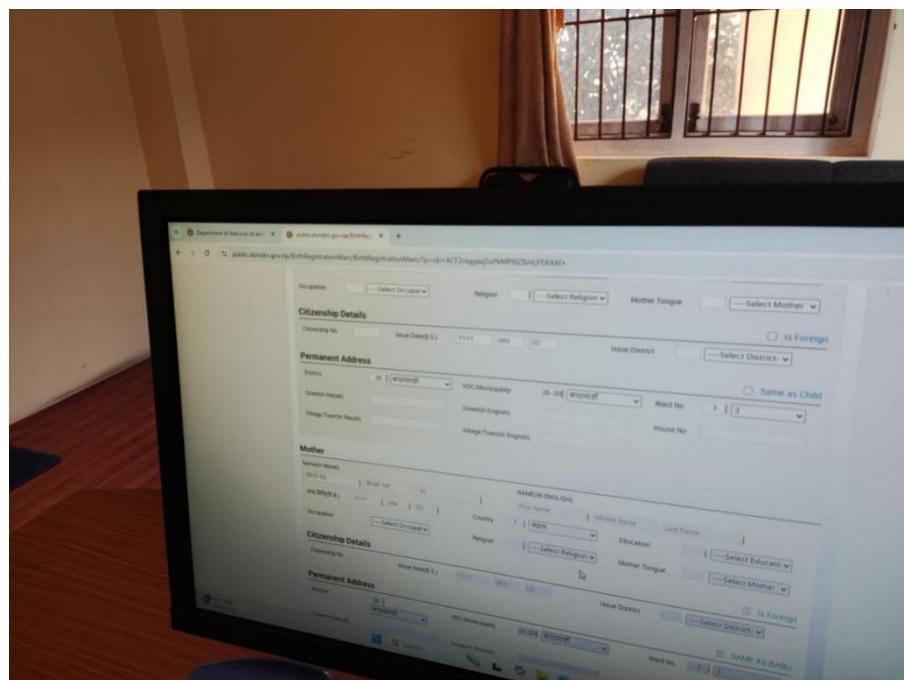
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Establish a robust framework to monitor progress and identify areas for improvement. Regularly update policies based on stakeholder feedback.

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Appendix

Online Birth Resistration Form

public.donidcr.gov.np/BirthRegistrationMain/BirthRegistrationMain?p=ob%2BACF2rxqibas5x2EjHVA%3D%3D

शिशुको जन्मको ठेगाना   ☐ Is Foreign

District   28 ललितपुर   ▾   VDC/Municipality   ---Select VDC/Mu ▾   Ward No.   ---Select Ward Nc ▾

Parents' Details

No. of babies born(till now including current one)   No. of babies alive(till now including current one)

Marriage Registration No.   Marriage Date(B.S.)   YYYY   MM   DD

GrandFather

Name(In Nepali)   NAME(IN ENGLISH)

पहिलो नाम   बिचको नाम   थर   First Name   Middle Name   Last Name

Citizenship Details   ☐ Is Foreign

Citizenship No   Issue Date(B.S.)   YYYY   MM   DD   Issue District   ---Select District- ▾

Father

Name(In Nepali)   NAME(IN ENGLISH)

पहिलो नाम   बिचको नाम   थर   First Name   Middle Name   Last Name

जन्म मिति(वि.स.)   YYYY   MM   DD   Country   1 नेपाल   ▾   Education   ---Select Educatic ▾

Occupation   ---Select Occupat ▾   Religion   ---Select Religion ▾   Mother Tongue   ---Select Mother ▾

Citizenship Details   ☐ Is Foreign

Citizenship No   Issue Date(B.S.)   YYYY   MM   DD   Issue District   ---Select District- ▾

Permanent Address   ☐ Same as Child

District   26 काठमाण्डौ   ▾   VDC/Municipality   26-20 काठमाडौं   ▾   Ward No.   3 3   ▾

Street(In Nepali)   Street(In English)   House No.

Village/Town(In Nepali)   Village/Town(In English)

Mother

Name(In Nepali)   NAME(IN ENGLISH)

पहिलो नाम   बिचको नाम   थर   First Name   Middle Name   Last Name

जन्म मिति(वि.स.)   YYYY   MM   DD   Country   1 नेपाल   ▾   Education   ---Select Educatic ▾

Occupation   ---Select Occupat ▾   Religion   ---Select Religion ▾   Mother Tongue   ---Select Mother ▾

Citizenship Details   ☐ Is Foreign

Citizenship No   Issue Date(B.S.)   YYYY   MM   DD   Issue District   ---Select District- ▾

Permanent Address   ☐ SAME AS BABU

District   26   VDC/Municipality   26-20 काठमाडौं   ▾   Ward No.   3 3   ▾
            काठमाण्डौ   ▾

Street(In Nepali)   Street(In English)   House No.

Village/Town(In Nepali)   Village/Town(In English)

Applicant's Details

                                          ☐ Grand Father ☐ Father ☐ Mother

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Applicant's Details

☐ Grand Father ☐ Father ☐ Mother

Name(In Nepali)   NAME(IN ENGLISH)

| पहिलो नाम | बिचको नाम | थर | | First Name | Middle Name | Last Name |

Relation with the newborn

| | -- Select Relation � |

Citizenship Details   ☐ Is Foreign

Citizenship No [ ]   Issue Date(B.S.) [YYYY] [MM] [DD]   Issue District [ ] [---Select District- �]

Address

District [26] [काठमाण्डौ �]   VDC/Municipality [26-20][काठमाडौं �]   Ward No. [3] [3 �]

Street(In Nepali) [ ]   Street(In English) [ ]   House No. [ ]

Village/Town(In Nepali) [ ]   Village/Town(In English) [ ]

Remarks(In English) [ ]   Remarks(In Nepali) [ ]

Mobile No [ ]   पेश सफल भएपछि स्किनमा देखिएको वा मोबाइलको Message Box मा आएको टोकन नं. लिई ३५ दिन भत्र सम्बन्धित वडा कार्यालयमा जानुहोस् ।

[Submit]   [Cancel]

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