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Proposal of

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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Monarchy's Influence on Nepalese Culture and Identity

Proposal Paper

Research Methodology

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Nepal, a nation with a deep-rooted cultural and historical heritage, was ruled by a monarchy for more than two centuries. The unification of Nepal, led by King Prithvi Narayan Shah in the mid-18th century, laid the foundation for a centralized state, bringing together diverse ethnic, linguistic, and religious communities under one rule. The monarchy, particularly the Shah Dynasty, played a significant role in shaping Nepalese identity by fostering national unity, preserving cultural traditions, and upholding Hindu religious values.

Throughout history, Nepalese kings were regarded as both political rulers and cultural symbols. The concept of "Divine Kingship" associated with the monarchy strengthened the belief that the king was the guardian of Nepalese traditions, religious practices, and national sovereignty. The monarchy actively promoted Hinduism, which has been a dominant cultural and religious force in Nepal. Many cultural traditions, rituals, and festivals such as Indra Jatra, Dashain, and Tihar have historically been linked to royal ceremonies, further reinforcing the monarchy's role in preserving Nepalese heritage.

Architectural and artistic influences of the monarchy can be observed in many historical structures, including the Kathmandu Durbar Square, Patan Durbar Square, and Bhaktapur Durbar Square, which remain as testaments to Nepal's royal past. These sites, once the royal palaces of kings, continue to attract cultural and historical significance. The Malla Kings, who ruled Nepal before the Shah Dynasty, also contributed to Nepal's rich artistic and cultural landscape, which the monarchy continued to preserve.

Politically, the monarchy played a vital role in maintaining Nepal's independence, especially during the colonial era when neighboring countries like India were under British rule. Kings like Prithvi Narayan Shah promoted a strong national identity, famously calling Nepal a "yam between two boulders" to signify its position between two powerful nations, India and China. This ideology of self-reliance and national pride became deeply embedded in Nepalese culture.

However, with changing political landscapes, the monarchy faced challenges, leading to a shift towards democracy in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. After years of political transitions, Nepal was declared a republic in 2008, ending its long-standing monarchical system. Despite this, discussions about the monarchy's role in preserving Nepalese culture and identity continue, with some advocating for its revival due to its deep historical and cultural ties to the nation.

This research aims to explore the significance of the monarchy in preserving Nepalese culture and identity, examining its historical contributions and the ongoing debate about its relevance in modern Nepal.

2.Statement of the Problem

The monarchy played a crucial role in preserving Nepalese culture and national identity for centuries. With its abolition in 2008, there is ongoing debate about whether its absence has weakened traditional values and national unity. Many cultural practices were closely tied to the monarchy, raising concerns about their continuity. This research aims to explore the monarchy's role in shaping Nepalese identity and assess its cultural impact in the present-day context

2.1 Research Questions

This research has mainly focused on investigating following research questions:

- How did the monarchy contribute to preserving Nepalese culture and identity?
- What cultural and historical aspects were influenced by the monarchy?
- Has the abolition of the monarchy affected Nepalese traditions and national unity?
- What are the current perspectives of Nepalese people on the monarchy's role in cultural preservation?

3. Objectives of the research

3.1 General Objectives

The general objective of this research is to analyze the role of the monarchy in preserving Nepalese culture and national identity. It aims to examine how the monarchy influenced Nepalese traditions, values, and historical heritage and to assess its cultural impact after its abolition.

3.2 Specific Objectives

This research aims to:

- Examine the historical role of the monarchy in shaping Nepalese culture and identity.
- Identify the cultural and religious traditions influenced by the monarchy.
- Assess the impact of the monarchy's abolition on Nepalese traditions and national unity.
- Analyze public perceptions regarding the monarchy's role in cultural preservation.

4. Literature Review

The literature review provides an overview of existing studies, historical accounts, and scholarly discussions on the role of monarchy in Nepalese culture and identity. Various sources highlight the monarchy's influence in shaping Nepalese traditions, religious practices, and national unity.

Several historians and scholars argue that Nepal's monarchy played a crucial role in preserving national identity. Prithvi Narayan Shah, the founder of modern Nepal, emphasized the idea of a unified Hindu kingdom, fostering a strong cultural and religious foundation. Many royal rituals, such as Dashain Tika ceremonies and Indra Jatra celebrations, were closely associated with the monarchy, reinforcing its cultural significance.

Studies also suggest that the monarchy contributed to the preservation of Nepalese heritage through its patronage of architecture, art, and religious institutions. The construction of Durbar Squares, temples, and palaces across Nepal reflects the royal family's dedication to cultural preservation. Additionally, royal decrees and policies helped maintain traditional social structures and customs.

However, after the monarchy's abolition in 2008, scholars have debated its lasting impact. Some argue that the removal of the monarchy weakened national unity and cultural continuity, while others believe that democracy allows for cultural evolution without monarchical influence. Recent studies and public discourse indicate mixed opinions regarding the monarchy's role, with some advocating for its restoration to safeguard Nepalese identity.

5. Theoretical Frameworks

The theoretical framework for this study is based on theories related to cultural preservation, national identity, and governance. The following theories help explain the role of the monarchy in shaping and sustaining Nepalese culture and identity:

5.1 Cultural Preservation Theory

This theory suggests that institutions, traditions, and historical legacies play a crucial role in maintaining cultural continuity. The monarchy, as a long-standing institution in Nepal, has historically influenced cultural practices, religious traditions, and national unity.

5.3 National Identity Theory

National identity is shaped by historical events, shared traditions, and cultural symbols. Nepal's monarchy acted as a unifying force, fostering a collective national identity through its religious and cultural associations.

5.4 Political Legitimacy Theory

This theory explains how rulers gain and maintain authority based on cultural, religious, and historical legitimacy. In Nepal, the monarchy was historically seen as a divine institution, strengthening its role as a protector of cultural heritage.

5.5 Modernization Theory

This theory suggests that societal changes, such as democratization and globalization, impact traditional institutions. The abolition of the monarchy in 2008 marked a shift in Nepal's governance, raising questions about the continuity of cultural traditions once associated with royal influence.

By applying these theories, this research aims to analyze how the monarchy contributed to cultural preservation and national identity, as well as the impact of its absence on Nepalese society.

6. Research Methodology

6.1 Data analysis

The collected data is analyzed using thematic analysis, identifying key themes related to cultural preservation, national identity, and public opinion. Historical records are examined to assess the monarchy's influence over time

6.2 Impact of Political Changes

As Nepal's political landscape continues to evolve, recent developments may affect the study's conclusions. Despite these limitations, the research provides valuable insights into the monarchy's historical and cultural significance in Nepal. The research methodology outlines the approach used to study the role of the monarchy in preserving Nepalese culture and identity. This section includes research design, data collection methods, and analysis techniques

6.3 Research design

This study follows a qualitative research design, focusing on historical analysis and public perception. It involves the examination of historical documents, literature, and scholarly discussions to understand the monarchy's culture. This study primarily focuses on Nepal's monarchy from the Shah Dynasty period to its abolition in 2008. It examines its impact on cultural traditions, festivals, national unity, and public perception.

6.4 Ethical Considerations

The research ensures confidentiality and informed consent for participants in surveys and interviews. Data is collected objectively, and sources are properly cited to maintain research integrity.

7. Limitations of the study

While this research aims to explore the role of the monarchy in preserving Nepalese culture and identity, it has certain limitations:

- a. Limited Availability of Historical Data – Some historical records and sources may be biased or incomplete, affecting the accuracy of the study.
- b. Subjectivity in Public Perception – The study relies on opinions, which may vary among different groups based on political beliefs and personal experiences.
- c. Time and Resource Constraints – Due to limited time and resources, the study may not cover all aspects of Nepalese culture influenced by the monarchy.
- d. Geographical Scope – The research primarily focuses on Nepal and may not consider external influences on cultural preservation.
- e. Data Collection Methods
 - Primary Data: Collected through surveys, interviews, and discussions with historians, cultural experts, and the general public to understand their perspectives on the monarchy's role.
 - Secondary Data: Gathered from books, journal articles, government reports, and online resources that provide insights into Nepal's monarchy, culture, and identity.
- f. Sampling Method

A purposive sampling technique is used to select participants, including historians, cultural scholars, and individuals with strong opinions on the monarchy. The study may also include a diverse group of Nepalese citizens to understand varying perspectives.

8. Study Timeline

Activity	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Review literature & finalize research design	✓					
Develop & test research instruments		✓				
Recruit sites & participants		✓	✓			
Collect survey & organizational data			✓	✓		
Conduct interviews & observations				✓	✓	
Analyze data & identify patterns					✓	✓
Write up findings & recommendations						✓

9. References

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