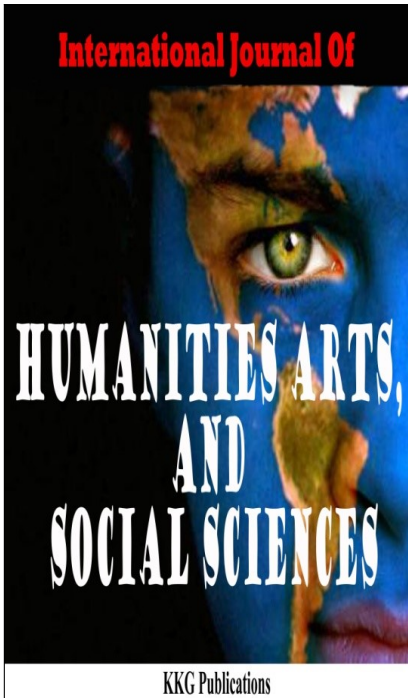


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Political Network Can More Influential than Other Networks for Economic Awareness: A Case Study of Nepalese Village

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Published online: 28 December 2017

To cite this article: Prasad, L. S. (2017). Political network can more influential than other networks for economic awareness: A case study of Nepalese village. *International Journal of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences*, 3(6), 249-263.

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.20469/ijhss.3.20002-6>

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POLITICAL NETWORK CAN MORE INFLUENTIAL THAN OTHER NETWORKS FOR ECONOMIC AWARENESS: A CASE STUDY OF NEPALESE VILLAGE

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Keywords:

Economy
Political Network
Social Network

Received: 31 June 2017

Accepted: 21 September 2017

Published: 28 December 2017

Abstract. The main aim of this study will focus to investigate the strength and weakness of existing organized and unorganized social and political networks, as a collective or inclusive community characteristics, and economic activity in the rural Nepal, whereas huge social imbalances and low literacy rate and poor economic conditions are still existing. For achieving this goal, firstly this study will find out existing social and political networks of a pilot village "Harinagar" in the Eastern part of Nepal and then performance for building the strong cooperative society, circulating information among heterogeneous people, and encouraging them for being economically active. And by using rural household data, this study introduces that as huge amount of population has been influenced by political parties in almost all of the rural areas of Nepal, there is much more citizens' connectivity in political network than other existing social networks. Even various thoughts, ethnic, and religious ideologies differ within regional and national political parties, this study will prove that after awareness and intervention in the present social and political networks, people will be able to solve the local problems themselves and make direct involvement towards the village's economic awareness and its activities and political networks will be proved as more influential than other social networks.

INTRODUCTION

There is no doubt that without mutual understanding within economically active people in the village, political activists, social activists, and government authorities, economic output of the village could not be raised in properly. If those are divided in multiethnic, castes, and different languages used in the society, then cooperation process becomes more complicated. However, it is possible to achieve this goal by establishment of such kind of effective social networking system which helps to co-ordinate them to make efforts for economic development. This study is seeking for comparatively identifying how and what types of social network and political network structure would be better for information diffusion, through which heterogeneous community could line up together and share the common resources to improve economic awareness.

Existing Social Networks in the Village

In the field survey 2011, study found some people are already correlated with local organized social network. Some organizational networks are professional like Nepal Bar Association, Nepal Teachers Associations, and Student Associations. Nepal Teacher Association and Nepal Bar Association members are active in the village but those organization networks have limited members and they are divided severely among the present

national and regional political parties, whereas total 100 teachers are there in the 7 schools in the village, who are divided in 9 major political parties. Similarly, only around 22 lawyers are divided in the existing political parties as its sister organization. The nature of their carrier development network seems working as sister organization of political parties and their activities have been seen more concerned with social and personnel matters than economic matter.

Organized Religious Network

Islamic Religion Association is also very influential as a social network in this village. Total 277 households (23% of the total population) are Muslims and religious in this village and almost all of them have members in this religious network and concerned with social activities and pray for God once a week. This social network's functions are also not concerned with economic activities

Cooperative Society and Children Development Network

These two organized networks have completely social nature activities concerned with suggesting and helping in social matters and children education, health, and their future. Even cooperative society has a total of 29 members and children

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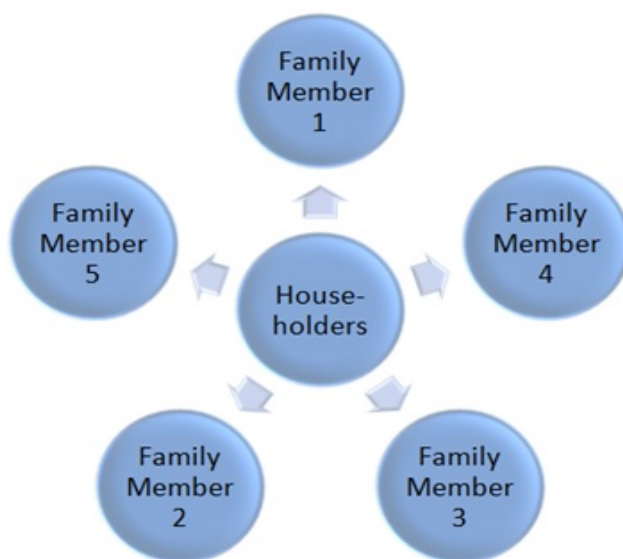
development network has only 21 parents, so we could not expect with them to do many economic activities.

Unorganized Family Network

There is strong evidence to suggest that social networks can improve socio-economic well-being of communities. For example, Eagle, Macy, and Claxton (2010) found the structure of social networks and related diversity of individual relationship are strongly correlated with the economic development of com-

munities. Underdeveloped countries like Nepal still have joint family livelihood social structure in the rural region. Even three-generation families stay together in the same house in the village. Most of them might be economically active. Top members or house-holders of the family hold a tie with each family member and guide them. So we have seen that family network or ego network is predominated in the village, which is stated below:

FIGURE 1
Family Network Structure of the Village



Although, in such kind of householder-dominated family network (kin network), householder decides everything for the whole family and remains in the one-way communication system, which can be seen in the Figure 1. Householder does not listen to their children's future occupation dreams and desires but forces them to follow their own traditional occupation. Traditional nature of the family network in the rural society in Nepal has not seen the significant roles for economic awareness activities at the moment.

It might also indicate that the two individuals are structurally equivalent, or are friends with the same people. As noted earlier, it is difficult to disentangle the concepts of cohesion and structural equivalence in an egocentric network, and thus, we use indicators of all three types of close relationships: marital, familial, and embedded friendships. All three relationship variables are coded as mutually exclusive (i.e., spouses are also not the family members, and neither spouses nor family members are coded as close friends) (Bello & Rolfe, 2014).

Unorganized Friendship Network

Still, a huge number of people is not connected with social network in this village, though such people are sharing their ideas and problems with their close friends as personal counseling activities. We wanted to make their friends circle by replacing into an organized network structure and drive to become more functioning related to the economic activities rather than personal counseling only.

They listed their 5 very close friends in the survey questionnaire form. Finally, we succeeded to organize them and drive towards the economic cooperation. Some positive results have been seen after network intervention applied, as will be described in this paper. This study also shows that this kind of friendship network will be functioning well than other professional organization network, existing small social networks, and family-based networks.

Organized Political Parties' Network

The use of political party's network has been increasing significantly day by day in social interaction, constitutional matters, and economic development. There are several regional and national-level political parties existing in the village. All the political parties have their own organizational structure at the village level, as village development committee to ward level committee have direct approach with their huge members, influential citizens, and local government bodies. With the many circumstances of religious, ethnical, and political thoughts differing within the parties, there is hope they also might be united in a strong network to make efforts to concentrate on the economic development issues to avoid their conflicts. We can use such local leaders for leadership network.

Leadership networks provide resources and support for leaders, and increase the scope and scale of impact leaders can have individually and collectively. Nurturing and catalyzing leadership networks are increasingly a focus of leadership development efforts, especially those that seek to develop leadership with a capacity to influence policy and bring about social and systems' change (Hoppe & Reinelt, 2010; Saahar, Sualman, Hashim, & Mohamed, 2017). Then local political activists can perform their capacity with the development of leadership networks and change people's minds toward the economic reform society. This study focuses on the performances of the local political network activities and strongly advocates that it might be more and more influential network than a friendship network and other organized or unorganized networks.

Individuals frequently make those choices for reasons unrelated to politics and then live within the "constraints" or range of available information defined by those choices. The distribution of politics in socially-defined contexts geographical or otherwise then limits subsequent political decisions; for example, the neighborhood may be politically homogenous but dissimilar to the individual, and the trusted friend might be ignorant of politics (Kaur & Naqshbandi, 2014; Sokhey & Djupe, 2011). There are other practical and historical-theoretical grounds to question an ethnicist alignment of federal units. On the practical side, with more than 90 ethnic and caste groups and more than 60 languages, an ethnic alignment threatens the prospects of

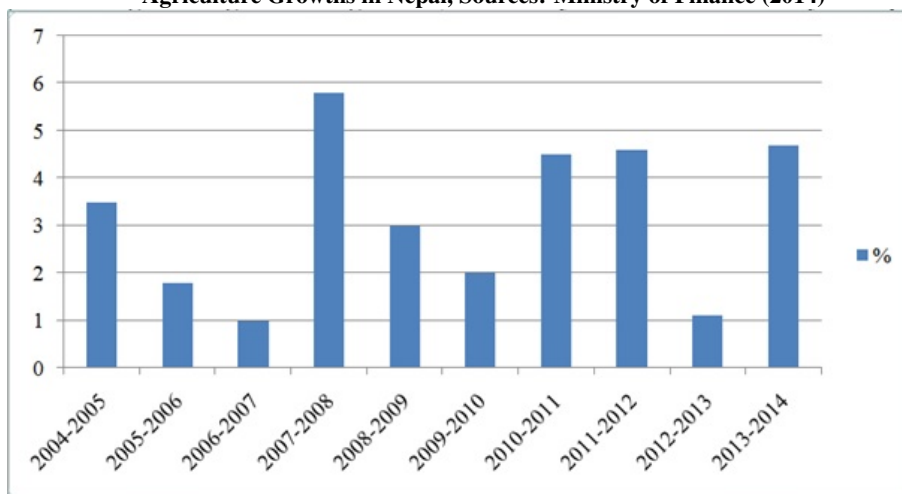
an almost infinite regress, the course of which could see an immensely negative political, economic, and human consequence (Chaitanya, 2007; Manager, 2017).

Economic Glances

In the global economy scenario, neighboring countries China and India have achieved impressive economic growth over the years. This becomes even clearer and comes much nearer to home as one considers the fact that it is Nepal's two immediate neighbors, India and China which have instituted political, economic, and ideological systems which have led them to the highest rate of capitalist growth the world over within the last couple of decades (more precisely, three decades in the case of China and two in the case of India). The very high rate of growth in India and China is likely to continue in the foreseeable future (Chaitanya, 2007). But unfortunately, political instability, internal conflict, ineffective state policies, and weak implementations of the plan acted unfavorable in the development process of Nepal (World Development Report, 2011). Nepal is one of a least developed Asian country with per capita GDP of US\$447 only in 2010 (Nepal Human Development Report, 2014), one-third of India's GDP and one-tenth of China.

Similarly, according to the recent published Nepal Government Statistical Data, 25.16% people are still below the poverty line of earning below Nepalese Rupee 19261 annually (equivalent of US\$190 approximately). Agriculture sector has been playing a vital role in Nepalese economic growth. The sector's role has been important mainly due to its significant contribution to more than one third of GDP and available employment opportunities for the entire rural farmer communities and food security to the nation at large (Ministry of Finance, 2014). More than 70% people of this village are engaged in agriculture sectors and more concentrated in the social network and political networking activities. Nepal is making efforts to move out of an extended political transition and has envisioned graduating from a least developed to a developing country by 2022. For achieving this target, the economy needs to grow 8% annually (Ministry of Finance, 2014). But agricultural growth is far behind this target, which is seen in the Figure 2:

FIGURE 2
Agriculture Growths in Nepal, Sources: Ministry of Finance (2014)



With effective intervention in the existing social networks and political networks, labor force mobilization, irrigation facilities, using the agriculture equipment and fertilizers, improved seeds and seedlings, and marketing activities can be more cooperative and fully inform each other, resulting into effects on the agricultural growth of the village.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Observing the above various situations and conditions of Nepal, we decided to select one research venue for pilot study for achieving the objectives of this study, named Hari Nagar Village Development Committee (VDC), where total estimated population is 9000 approximately in 1200 households. This place is located in Sunsari District (where total population is 751125), eastern part of Nepal. Total area of this small village is 1,945 Hecter and divided in 9 wards geographically. This small village is located just 18 km away from the second largest city of Nepal, "Biratnagar" and 16 km from a small town of "Inaruba".

Occupational People Included in Research Questionnaire

Total economically active people are not a huge amount in this village, estimated as just 40% of the total population of 8040 (Village Development Committee/Municipality, 2011). Agriculture, cattle farming, day labor, small trade, health worker, teacher, carpenter, and other small services are the main income sources of the people; beside these sectors, others are in uncountable numbers. We wanted to include all kinds of economically active people in this survey, but it could not be possible to include such occupational people who are in very small number. Also, we tried to include at least all kinds of major occupational people in this study.

Agriculture Situation of the Village

More than 60% people are involved in this sector and produce the major crops of rice, wheat, mastered oil, brown wheat, millet, sesame, varieties of beans, sugarcane, and other foods. Varieties of vegetables and fruits like banana, papaya, mango, coconuts, cucumber, litchi, and guava are also accounted in a huge quantity. In the non-crop items of the production is jute.

Problems Facing on Agriculture

When we asked the question (what kind of problems you face related to your occupation) from the participants who filled up the questionnaire and interacted with the political activists, government authority, and social activists, study found these are the main problems serving as obstacles for the improvement in agriculture sectors:

- 1) Ancient methods used: Firstly, people still have using the ancient methods and equipment in the agriculture field, because of their traditional thinking habit.
- 2) Lack of irrigation facilities: Nepal's agriculture remained heavily lopsided to water-intensive crop agriculture in a situation of inadequate backup of required inputs. No more than a fifth of irrigable land has access to year round irrigation (Madhab, 2008). Irrigation facilities are not sufficient in the village also with no irrigation channel built yet. Only one river flows in this village and water flowing range of the river is very low in every season. As a result, farmers could not get water for irrigation in their field when they need. Finally, they have to depend on rain or climate.
- 3) Lack of utilities: Some farmers are using the "pumping set" (such kind of machine which supplies the water to the field), which is running by electricity or diesel (fuels). Diesel is not available in the local market of this village and will be expensive

when brought from cities. Lack of electricity power has been seen as the main obstacle for development at present in Nepal, 6 hours' power cut per day in Nepal at the present time. It makes difficult to use the machine with electricity.

4) Unavailability of fertilizers: Fertilizers are not available in the market timely when they are needed. The sole reliance on import for supply of chemical fertilizer renders the availability uncertain and costly (Madhab, 2008).

5) Transportation problem: Transportation is the basic requirement for socio-economic development. Transportation problem is pushing behind the progress, not only in agriculture sector but in the whole economy and society of the village. Even department of road has shown in this year's 2014 report, total 10810 km. black topped road has been built nationwide. But no single concrete or black topped road has been made in this village and all of the roads' conditions are muddy or gravel one. Farmers are not able to carry their products to the big market, even though it is not so far, only located in the second largest city of Nepal called "Biratnagar" and another city "Inaruwa", respectively 18 km to east and 16 km to north.

6) Lack of warehouse: There is no single storage facility of foods, fruits, and vegetables in this village. Even the farmers produce it in many hard circumstances. As a result, farmers compel to sellout the perishable items immediately at a very cheaper rate to the local traders and if they fail to sale immediately, then huge quantities will be damaged.

7) High cost of production: With the increasing labor costs, fertilizer costs, and other supportive costs day by day (National Bank of Nepal report shows that 10% inflation rate every year), returns are not shown as sustainable. Many farmers have not enough investment for maintaining these costs timely. Poor farmers have not sufficient property for collateral to take loans from the bank. Banks do not trust them to give loans without any collateral. Neither government office is assisting such farmers.

8) Unavailability of equipment: Agriculture equipment, tools, and fertilizers are not available in the local market timely. Return is not sufficient for the livelihood in the agriculture occupation. That's why young generations do not want to follow their agriculture occupation in the future. People who are interested in the agriculture are decreasing year by year. When poorer farmers have not sufficient property for collateral to take loans for growing their crops, government-owned banks have to provide the loans at very low interest rate without any deposit or collateral. Like, Indian Government had a policy in the Fiscal Budget Program in 2012 to provide IRS. 50,0000 for any person without any deposit or collateral. In the case, if crops will be damaged by heavy rain and flood or drought,

government must provide incentives and redemption of taxes or make the insurance of their production.

Day Labor

Day labor is second largest occupational group of this village. If agricultural income is not sufficient for living, people are engaged in the day labor. But scope is limited to this village. They enter the nearest cities for huge labor market. Even they go to Panjab (Indian province) and other parts of India for finding jobs and spend their leased period. Those having little saving to spend for flying overseas try to enter huge labor markets in Arabian countries. One in every four households (25.42%; 1.38 million households) reported that at least one member of their household is absent or is living out of country. Total number of absent population is found to be 1,921,494 against 0.76 million in 2001. The highest proportion (44.81 percent) of absent population is from the age group 15 to 24 years. Gulmi, Arghakhanchi, and Pyuthan districts reported the highest proportion of their population being absent (staying abroad) (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2012).

Trader

As the size of this village, very few traders are engaging in the related basic need goods' trade like glossaries shops, small tea and food shops, vegetable shops, medicine shops, jewelries shop, etc. Some traders had argued that due to lack of investment, they have to compel to do small trading. If they will get a chance to take loan from bank without any collateral or government provides the loan facilities, they could improve or expand their business properly.

Teacher

Teachers' salaries are comparatively good in most of the Nepalese villages. In the village, most of the people have their own houses, they do not need to pay for rent and foods, vegetables are comparatively very cheaper than cities, and most of them have already little space for growing vegetables and foods. They need not pay extra pocket money for luxurious demands like in cities, because villagers have not so big dreams like urban people.

Ministry of Education Report (2013) shows the government-run school teacher's basic salary scale per month is now Rs. 13,650 (US\$130 approximately) for primary level, Rs. 14,480 (US\$138 approximately) for lower secondary level, and Rs. 18,790 (US\$179 approximately) for secondary level, which is sufficient in the village.

The above salary scale will be varied on the basis of their grade also. Teachers can play the vital role for awareness in

the Nepalese village. Some teachers are keenly involved in the social activities, but unfortunately have severely divided politically.

METHODOLOGY

For finding the details of economic and social data of the village and political network position, a sample questionnaires form concerning objectives had been filled up by different ethnicities, castes, religions, different occupations, and groups speaking different languages in different wards of that village and had made interview with local government authorities and social activists also concerning society and economic activities. Research consists of the two groups of people, total 60, most of them from the occupationally active group of the agriculture people of the Harinagar village out of 8040 population and 34 in politically active leaders participating in the existing political parties, representing 2123 active political members in the village who were interviewed for finding their network

performance effective in economic matters. Before establishing the political network, we found the indirect connectivity of party and closeness within political parties and formed the indirect individual actors (politician) network, having a large connectivity with all political parties. We collected the necessary information by telephone conversation with local political network leaders and gathered the data from the local and national news, articles, and national survey reports also. General data collection of 60, including 42 persons in agriculture, 10 traders, 5 in service sectors, and 3 students, is shown in Table 1, whereas 55 are male and only 5 are female.

Similarly, Table 2 describes the general data collection of 34 from the total 9 political parties, whereas 31 are male and only 3 are female. In both the Tables, data show the females have participated less than males because of male-dominated society in the Nepalese village and women are very shy to talk with outside persons.

TABLE 1
Description of Survey Respondents (Villagers)

Categories	Description
Total number	60
Gender	Male-55, Female-5
Occupational	Agriculture-42, Trader-10, Service-5, Students-3
Occupational in %	Agriculture-70%, Trader-16.67%, Service-8.33%, Student-5%

TABLE 2
Description of Survey Respondents (Political Leaders)

Categories	Description
Total number	34
Gender	Male-31 (91%), Female-3 (9%)

Similarly, two groups of people, total 60 in most of them from occupationally active people and 34 from politically active leaders participating from friendship circles and political party, respectively, were interviewed for finding their network performance and effectiveness in economic matters. We collected the necessary information by telephone conversation with local friendship networks' leaders and political networks' leaders and gathered the data from the local and national news, articles, and national survey reports also. Finally, comparative study of achievements by political networks' activities and other organized and unorganized social networks' activities in the village was done and decision was made about the emphasis on the more influential roles by political networks than other social networks on the basis of their performances.

DISCUSSION AND SURVEY FINDINGS

Huge People are Not correlated with Social Network

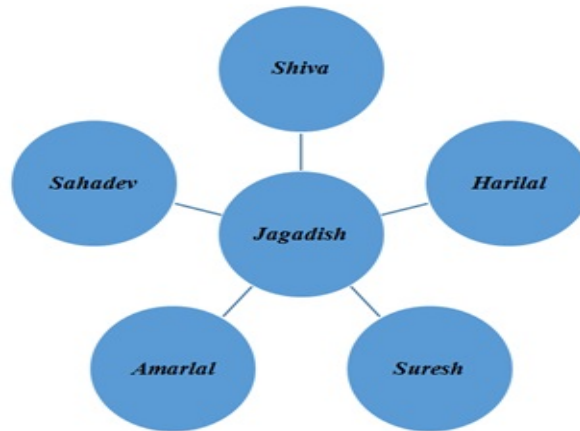
Still, huge people were not connected with social network in this village. I made them to find who they knew or who were their friends and make a small friendship network for sharing their ideas and problems. They mentioned their 5 very close friends in the survey questionnaire form. 60 participants of the survey have mentioned the names of their five friends in their questionnaire form. There is hope of this friends list connecting in the social network circle for improving or sharing the information among members.

Friendship network tends to span across different contexts; we have friends at our places of work, from our school, from our neighborhood, and so on. Sometimes, these friends overlap, for

example, a friend from our workplace might also live in our neighborhood. Similarly, a friend from our neighborhood might be related to any political party. In the case of above example, all of the intimate friends of Mr. Jagadish have neighborhood and involvement in the same occupation of agriculture also. We

have seen such kind of friendship network is increasing nowadays to function as a socializing network and emotional support network after awareness and suggest them to make five close friends' circle in the end of 2011 in the village by some Social Network activists (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3
A Friendship Network in the Village

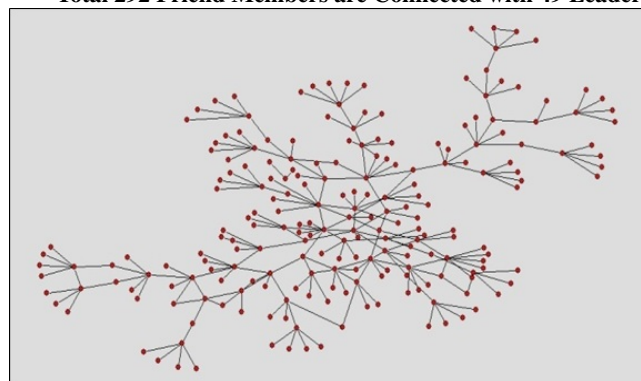


Network Interventions and its Effective in Friendship Network

All the small group members of friendship network have been united or socially tied up for a common cause or their shared goals, after being awarded by the local social activists and us within six months of its formation in 2012. As a result, the social network structure has become more connected within alters rather than before hierarchy model in the friendship network. After finding friends of the society members and existing organizations, network interventions are purposeful efforts to

use social network or social network data to generate influence, accelerate behavior change, improve performance, and/or achieve desirable outcomes among individuals, communities, organizations or populations (Valente, 2012). For the effective application of the network interventions, first of all, we should take care of the goals and objectives. Secondly, how individuals or organizations change or can be changed is critically important for choosing the right type of intervention and the correct mix of promotional elements and materials (Valente, 2012).

FIGURE 4
Total 292 Friend Members are Connected with 49 Leaders



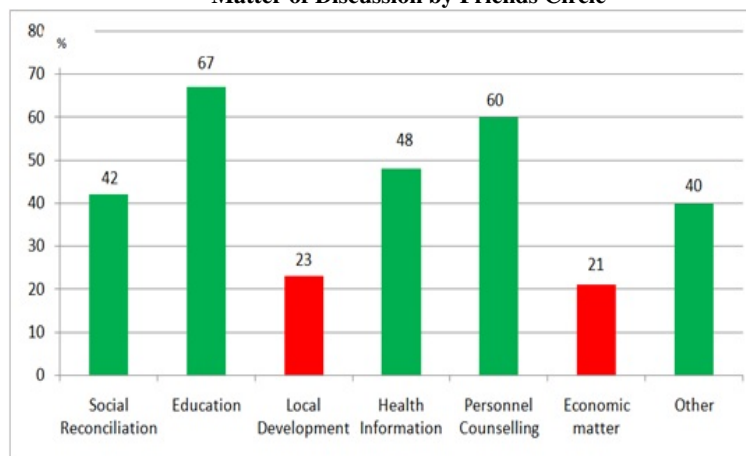
Similarly, two-way communication should be applied between group leaders and their members. The interventionist should not use the network as a delivery vehicle but also be prepared to use network information to learn from the community and to better serve community needs (Valente, 2012). Figure 4 shows the 292 friends among total 358 members are connected with 49 leaders and remaining 66 friends among total 358 members are connected with 11 leaders in separate groups, which is not mentioned in the figure. Network interventions are based on the diffusion of innovation theory, which explains how new ideas and practices spread within and between communities (Valente, 2012). But in our village, the leaders of various small organized social networks usually have not so close contact. Almost 49 leaders are connected with their friend members. If we spread

out the information among at least 10 leaders, who are in top connecting personality, it will be enough for delivering the message to whole 292 friend members and their families. Their family members will get benefit from the family network, which is described in the Introduction Chapter. Remaining 66 friend members will be communicated by their 11 leaders separately. It means total 21 leaders are key persons for communicating to whole 358 friend members and their family members also.

Achievement from Friendship Network (FN) and its Weakness

A friendship network has no barriers to discuss or work on any subject related to the problem and no barriers to political thoughts, religions, and casts of the village.

FIGURE 5
Matter of Discussion by Friends Circle



After establishing this FN, we motivate the leaders and their followers to focus on discussing or solving the local problems. We intervene and guide the leaders in their periodical meetings and gatherings on how to keep the record of the discussion matters above.

Figure 5 shows that total 25 participants (42%) of the total 60 participants have discussed the matter of social reconciliation between tribe, castes, and social classes. The highest number, 40 persons (67%), is sharing the idea related to children's education in contrast with only 13 persons (23%) sharing the idea of local development matters and 12 persons (21%) sharing on economic matters. Similarly, 29 persons (48%) talk related to improvement of health condition and second highest number of 36 persons (60%) involves in personnel counseling. But from the economic point of view, the discussion matters will not be enough to maintain the objective of productivity, whether consultation on the education, health, and personnel counseling

will play the supportive role or make bright environment to create economic progress. If we focus on improving the economic progress in the village, we should make them concentrate or escalate more on the economic matters than other subjects.

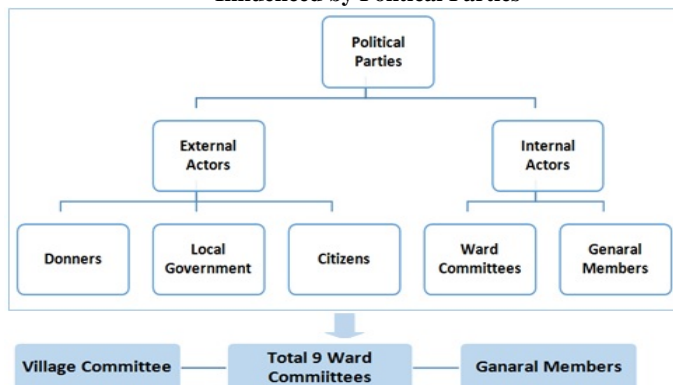
Political Parties and their Ideologies

In the Nepalese society, there are several political 'ism' or ideologies existing right now such as Maoism, Communism, Liberalism, Socialism, Ethnic-oriented, Less-class based, and many more. When two or more ideologies compete for identity and legitimacy, emergence of ideological conflict is obvious. Personality clash and erosion of ideology in the major political parties led to emergence of many new ethnic-oriented identities, and racial, social, cultural, and religious conflicts are emerging slowly. Most people hold similar political views to those of the friends and the family members. Considerable evidence demonstrates that friends, family members, and coworkers are

likely to agree on political matters, including political partisanship (Bello & Rolfe, 2014). From the different perspective, the party's internal structure is seen as a network linking party members and external actors, blurring the boundaries between

the organization and its surroundings (Parigi & Sartori, 2014). Then local political activists can perform their capacity with the development of leadership networks and change the people's minds toward the economic reform society.

FIGURE 6
Influenced by Political Parties



Identifying the structure of the party means focusing on the level of relationship that connects its members with each other rather than on the level of relationships among parties or between a party and the electorate (Parigi & Sartori, 2014). After describing about political network and its effectiveness and weakness in the village, our observation and the study show that it could play more influential role than friendship network to make people aware of the economic matters if political parties are united and make a strong local network. Some social activists and we also encourage them to be united and create a network at least with party executives or top-level leaders. In such a case, they should give emphasis on local developments rather than their ism or political ideologies and thoughts. In the village, field survey 2012 found that every national and regional political party has

its own local organization (Harinagar Village Committee) and it is also connected with small ward unit organization. This interpretation of the networked structure of the party is compatible with the organizational approach to party (Parigi & Sartori, 2014). Parigi and Sartori (2014) defined a party as a coalition of interests organized in subunits that sometimes competed and sometimes cooperated, but were nevertheless tied together by a set of loosely coupled relationships. In the initial survey 2011, we found that political parties were not willing to sit and discuss any matter before. After lot of conversation, they realized their center party fought with each other for power hunger and made them have unnecessary conflict with villagers. Then they agreed to be in networking structure at the local level. .

TABLE 3
Political Parties and their Members

S.N	Political Parties	Executives	Influence
1	Nepali Congress (NC)	21	515
2	Nepal Communist Party (UML)	21	285
3	Maoist Party	21	195
4	Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)	28	180
5	Rastriya Prajatantra Party Nepal	15	150
6	Madheshi Forum Nepal	11	358
7	Tamalopa	11	250
8	Janata Party Nepal	15	145
9	Nepal Communist Party (ML)	11	45

After that, even ethnic, religious, and political ideologies differ within regional and national political parties. They meet frequently and discuss and solve the local problems themselves and discuss within parties' executives and public on different kinds of matters which are directly concerned with economic growth. Table 3 shows total 2123 people (more than 20% of the total population of the village) are the general members of the political parties. It means how the political networks' significant role can influence huge members for economic development.

Frequencies of Party's Internal Meeting

There are formal and informal meetings of parties internally. In the village, most of the people are free at evening time and they have no work to do in the evening. Informally, they go to local market and chat with their closest friends and ideological intimates with a cup of tea. Table 4 shows that the political parties' formal meeting is held twice a week on average.

TABLE 4
Frequencies of Executive Meetings of Political Parties

Parties	Executives	Frequencies of meetings
Nepali Congress Party (NC)	21	2 times a week
Nepal Communist Party (UML)	21	3 times a week
Maoist Party	21	3 times a week
Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)	28	3 times a week
Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP Nepal)	15	2 times a week
Madheshi Forum	11	2 times a week
Tamalopa	11	3 times a week
Janata Party Nepal	15	2 times a week
Nepal Communist Party (ML)	11	Once a week

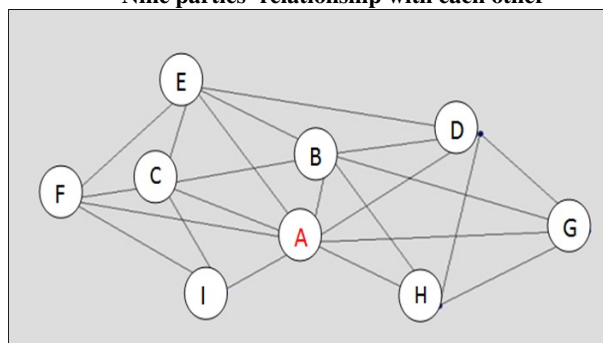
The interventionist should not only use the network as a delivery vehicle but also be prepared to use network information to learn from the community and to better serve community needs (Valente, 2012). Political party president is directly responsible and touched with the community and their executive members and becoming an interventionist of their own political parties.

Survey Findings on Political Networks

Total 34 top ranking or influential political leaders from the existing 9 major political parties in the village had been interviewed in 2013 for finding their performance after the formation

of the political network. Survey found that top most leaders of all the parties have periodical contact search to find the solution when a problem arises in the village. Figure-11 has shown the close relationship between political parties, where 54 lines were read in the network. In the middle, A has close relationship with all of the 8 parties, B has close relationship with 6 parties, and C, D, and E have equal 5 close relationships. Similarly, E, F, and G have equal 5 close relationships and I have only 3 relationships with other parties. Here A has a between party to coordinate with all the parties.

FIGURE 7
Nine parties' relationship with each other



Identify the influential persons is difficult. Leaders may not be the best change agents. Leaders have a vested interest in the status quo (Valente, 2012), in the context of study reports some influential people are involved in political parties and they work for their individuals interest like ; teachers union and other professional organizations in this village. Leaders can be identified and groups matched or assigned to them, or the groups can be identified first and a leader selected afterwards (Valente, 2012). So build up such network analysis which is matching the group and a leader. People who occupy a central position

in a network tend to be more visible, they tend to know many people and many people know them (Biermann & Koops, 2017). They might be considered leaders, they might be at the centre of gossip circles, or they might be among the first to hear of any news. Total 34 top ranking or influential political leaders from the existing 9 major political parties in village (representing of total 2123 political members) had been interviewed in 2013 and 2014 for finding their performance after the formation of the political network.

FIGURE 8
Relations between 34 Executives' Leaders of Political Parties

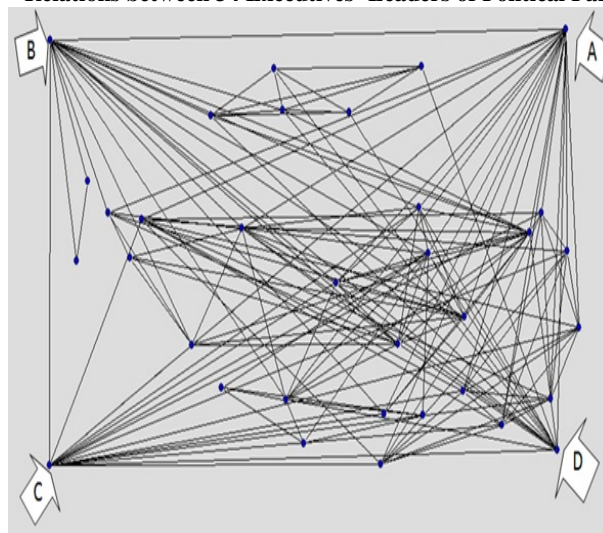


Figure 8 has shown the relationship or close contact between the executives and high rank leaders of the 9 major political parties of the village. With the total 343 lines read in this network, leader of Mr. A has maximum 22 contacts within 34 sample interviewed executives and high ranking leaders of all the existing nine political parties. Similarly B, C, and D have contact with 18, 16, and 15 high rank leaders, respectively. We selected them, who have connection with all of the 9 political party executives and top ranking leaders, representing the total 2123 members of all the parties and could deliver the message to them through party's hierarchy channel like in Figure 10. Political party's size and its strength will be flexible from time to time, according to the regional and national economic change and new national issues affected. After the general election at the end of 2013 and new government formation held in 2014, Nepalese political party's equation and its members have become changeable. The member of defeated parties of Maoist and ethnic-based parties have been decreasing, leaving the mother party and joining the centrist ruling party for sake of the position. It is

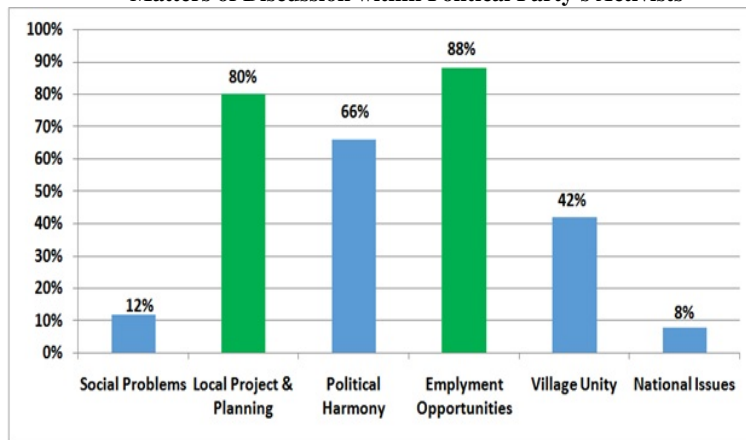
a normal practice in the underdeveloped countries like Nepal. But this study shows that if political network or its leaders have commitment for improving the village development, party leaders' and executives' shifting situation could not affect the economic activities and performance in the village (See Figures 10 and 11).

Social Network Analysis (SNA) is used to increase the awareness of leaders about the power of networks to further catalyze relationships and connection, and to strengthen the capacity of the network to act collectively (Hoppe & Reinelt, 2010). With the huge general members of the political parties, all of the small group leaders, correlated with family network, friendship network, emotional network, socializing network, and career advice network, were being aware of the local political activist for aim of becoming united or social ties among the people attracted to a common cause or focused on a shared goal (Hoppe & Reinelt, 2010). They drive the door to door campaign for making aware the local small group leaders to promote and share information, provide advice and support, learn from one

another, and occasionally collaborate together in the focus on economic matters (Hoppe & Reinelt, 2010). Political parties have strong hold or connection with their members and people also with the help of their organizational hierarchy setup. Political network can drive the door to door campaign for making them aware of the economic matter.

Achievement from Political Network and its Weakness
 Political parties were not willing to sit and discuss any matter before. After lot of conversation, they realized their center party fought with each other for power hunger and made them have unnecessary conflict with the villagers. They meet frequently and discuss and solve the local problems themselves and discuss within parties' executives and public on various matters, which is directly or indirectly concerned with economic growth.

FIGURE 9
Matters of Discussion within Political Party's Activists

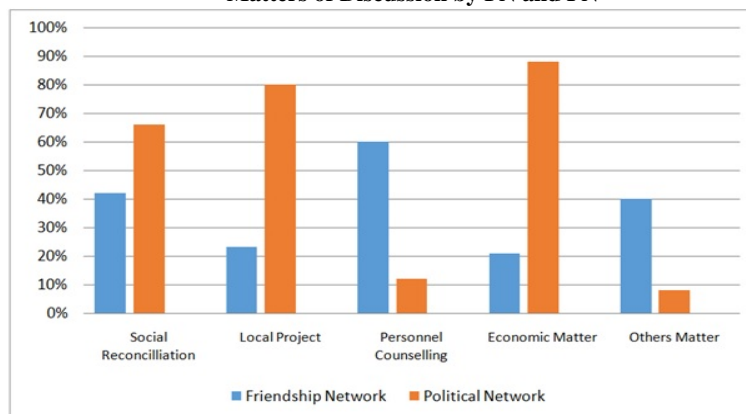


In the Figure 9, highest percentage, 88% of the political network members are discussing and solving the employment opportunity (job finding) matters and 80% are thinking on local projects and planning. Political harmony is in very positive account at 66% and village unity is increasing trends than before at 42%. Tendency of decreasing level has been seen on the national issues and social problem discussion at 8% and 12%, respectively.

Friendship network has no any barriers to discuss or work on any subject related to the problem and no barriers to political thoughts, religions, and casts of the village. After establishing this FN, we motivate the leaders and its followers to discuss seriously and make them solve the local problems as soon as possible. We intervene and guide leaders in their periodical meetings and gathering for how to keep the record of the discussion matters.

Comparative Achievements from FN Network and PN

FIGURE 10
Matters of Discussion by FN and PN



Similarly, political parties were not willing to sit and discuss any matter in advance. Even ethnic and religious ideologies differ within regional and national political parties. This study shows that after awareness and intervention in the workshops and their periodical meetings or conferences in the year of 2013 and 2014, they became more serious for discussing and solving the local problems.

a) Highest percentage, 88% of political network members, is discussing and solving the employment opportunity (job finding) matters, which is directly increasing the village GDP and support for poverty alleviation, but poor rate of 21% sharing in the friendship network for job finding. b) 80% are thinking on local project and planning in the political network, but only 23% are sharing the idea of local development matters in friendship network. c) Social reconciliation matter, concerning village unity and peace environment, also is in very positive account at 66% in the political network. Even some political parties are ethnic-based than 42% in the friendship network. It has proven that PN increases sound relationship among ethnic and

religious-based people also. d) It was found that as human nature practices in the friendship network, the highest percentage of 60% is sharing the idea related to personnel counseling like children education, health information, and other personnel matters. In contrast, as nature of political thoughts and ism, political network members do not want to share personnel counseling with others, resulting in a poor rate of 12%. e) Friendship network members are free to talk about any subject. That's why they discuss national issues and other topics, whose rate is higher than political network.

Comparative Economic Performance Indication by FN and PN

During the 6-month period of Jan to June and July to Dec of the year 2014, we did collect the information about their performance from the political network leaders and friendship network leaders by the telephone conversation and obtained results depicted in Table 5.

TABLE 5
Performances of FN and PN

No	Discussion or Solve the Subjects	FN	PN
		1st/2nd (Half Year)	1st/2nd (Half Year)
A	Job Findings/Recommendation	52/54	182/226
B	Marketing Information	4/6	19/32
C	Seeds and Fertilizers Sharing	9/15	43/75

a) Job findings/recommendations: Friendship network members and political network members are rapidly working to deliver the information for solving the agricultural problems and finding the job solution in the village. People engaged in agriculture or farming need not be involved for the whole year and for a full time in their occupation. They can use their least time to work for other people's fields instead for money or other help as a barter system. Political networks have succeeded to solve the unemployment problem in both the periods.

b) Marketing information: Farmers are getting lower price and minimized return for their products because lack of market knowledge. They need more co-operation with each other in this matter. There is still very poor performance of both the networks in this matter. But political network is getting better progress than friendship network.

c) Seeds and fertilizers sharing: Similarly, solving the problems of finding the seeds and fertilizers timely is a tough job for farmers of both the networks, but political network has done well in this matter also. d) With these various strong evidences or reasons, it would be proved that the political network has

played the crucial role for economic awareness than friendship network and other social networks in this village as well as in all such kinds of small villages in Nepalese society.

CONCLUSION

We would like to describe in this chapter about comparison results of friendship network and political network. Increasing the cooperative attitude within the present political parties is the main reason to being united in their network and success to drive the people towards the economic awareness in the village. Figure 11 shows increasing tendency of the discussion matter in political harmony and village unity within political parties has accelerated to make them concentrate on the discussion on employment opportunity and local project & planning. Friendship network members should succeed to being united or organizing themselves and increase the discussion matter in a variety of subjects also, but failed to increase the discussion matter in an economic chapter. Figure 5 has shown friendship network has succeeded to improve in human-based matter of discussion like education (67%) and health (48%). Similarly, it made

improvement in the personnel concealing matter also but failed to improve in the economic matter, still remaining at 21% only. Political parties have a large number of members in the top to grass root organizational structure. They have influential followers in the village and have close interest people in the business and bureaucratic sectors also. According to the Table 3, at least they have direct relationship with 2123 members (more than 20% of the population in the village) and its possibility to increase the awareness activities is more in the population than the friendship network. Political parties are bound to hold gatherings, meetings, and conferences for the time being while guided by their legislation. They have scheduled to frequently conduct executives and general meeting and can respond fast to information delivery. But friendship members have no timetable to have meeting or gathering and will be a lengthy process for delivery of information. According to Table 4 of the frequency

of the political parties' meeting duration, there is more possibility of quick information transfer than friendship network.

Income Disparity

The living standard of the people in this village does not differ at glance and nobody is seen enjoying a luxurious life, but field survey 2012 has shown some people's income differences are so wide, with monthly income of NRS 2000 to 30000 (JPY 1900 to JPY 2850 in present value). But it was very few count; only 3 persons of the total 60 participants showed their monthly income of more than NRS 25000 (JPY 24000). Similarly, 5 persons showed their monthly income of NRS 2000 to NRS 3000 (JPY 1900 to JPY 2850), which is very hard to survive in this amount. There were 3 students interviewed in total 60 participants and 2 were unemployed. One was in a part-time job getting 3000 per month.

TABLE 6
Monthly Incomes of the Respondents

Income Per Month	2012 Field Survey (%)	2015 Field Survey (%)
NRS 2000 to 5000	26	12 (Reduced, Average 18% per year)
NRS 5001 to 10000	31	26 (Reduced, Average 5.37% per year)
NRS 10001 to 15000	36	49 (Increased, Average 8.84% per year)
NRS 15001 above 7	13	(Increased, Average 15.38% per year)
	100	100

Poverty Line in the Village

Village Development Committee/Municipality (2011) has estimated 28% of the people are poorer, on the basis of available food or sufficient foods during the one-year period. But in the National contexts, different studies showed the different results

on poverty. Government of Nepal has shown in 2011, 26% people of Nepal are below the poverty line. In contrast, UNDP (United Nation Development Programmed, 2010) had estimated in 2010 report, 60% of people are still below the poverty line in Nepal.

TABLE 7
Poverty Line

Food	Availability In 2010 (VDC Report) in %	In 2014 (Field Survey) in %
Adequate for 3 months	9	2
Adequate for 6 months	9	4
Adequate for 9 months	10	7
Insufficiency to live	28	13
Adequate for 1 year	55	66
Exceed from 1 year	17	21
	100	100

Table 7 shows that percentage of the poverty line in this village is decreasing rapidly compared to the previous data of 4 years back. Basic Statistics 2016 have estimated that still 25.2% people are living below the poverty line in Nepal since 2014.

60 villagers had been interviewed for finding the economic indicator of the village and found 13% of villagers are below the poverty line, which is decreased more than half during the four-year period of this village data and still stood in nearly

half of the national poverty line in 2014. It has proven that political network played the vital role to reduce the poverty line compared to previous record of this village and present at the national level.

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