PREFACE
The main focus of the present study is confined to the multiple impact the migrants have on the host country. The migrants not only induce politico-economic insecurity among the indigenous people but the cross-border ethnic affinity transcends the political loyalty to the host country into ethnic loyalty. Since separatism and regional trends are more forcefully pronounced in a plural society, the increasing assertiveness has strengthened such trends and given rise to ethno-nationalism. In this context, South Asia assumes importance as it not only inherits socio-cultural affinity but the physical boundaries also cuts across the ethnic boundary. The ethnic loyalty is exploited and manipulated in case of conflict between host society and the migrants. A modest attempt has been made in the present study, to examine the reasons and implications of migration and the perception of the migrant community as separate socio-political entity.

The scope of the present work is limited to the study of Indian immigrants in Nepal and Nepalese immigrants in Bhutan. The present study is divided into five chapters. In the first chapter an attempt has been made to discuss the factors of migration in terms of both ‘push’ and ‘pull’ factors and interaction of various other variables which induce in a person the urge to migrate. Various theories on migration is discussed to formulate a theoretical framework to study the migratory trends in South Asia. The chapter also deals with the factor of ethnicity and ethnic identity. The basis of migrants ethnic identity is discussed in this chapter. The chapter discusses the role of the migrants in ethnic politics of a multi-ethnic society and analyses how the transborder ethnic linkages can be a threat to the internal cohesion and stability.

The second chapter analyses the factors of migration in the South Asian region. The geographical factors, historical factors and other socio-economic factors have been discussed. This chapter analyses briefly the socio-economic position and political aspiration of Mohajirs in Pakistan, the people of Indian origin in Srilanka, the question of citizenship and the Indo-Srilankan relation in that context. The chapters also includes the issue of Bangladeshi immigrants in Assam and politicisation of the issue of migration.

The third chapter has focuses on socio-economic problems faced by the Indian immigrants in Terai. This chapter also examines the implications of various legislations enacted by Nepali government which were perceived as being discriminatory by the
Indian community in Terai. The attitude of Nepalis towards Indian immigrants has also been studied.

In the fourth chapter an attempt is made to analyse the history of Nepalese settlement in Bhutan. It has examined the extent to which Bhutan's political system accommodate the political aspiration of Southern Bhutanese. The role of the state in socio-cultural integration of the Nepalese is discussed. The failure of the process of integration and the assertion of their distinct identity is analysed. Besides, the immigrant Nepalese perception of 'Bhutanisation' and the government's justification for the cultural integration has been discussed.

The present study is based on both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include National Assembly Debates of Bhutan; government reports, pamphlets of the political parties of Bhutan in exile. In case of Nepal, the primary source materials include government documents unpublished papers, census data, population monograph, statistical data, and the report of 1984 Population Commission on internal and international migration. The inputs for this study have been gathered through extensive interviews with leaders and other public men in both Kathmandu and Thimpu and a number refugees in the camps of eastern Nepal.