

PERCEPTION OF NEPALI MIGRANT WORKERS

ON OUT-OF-COUNTRY VOTING



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PERCEPTION OF
**NEPALI MIGRANT
WORKERS**

ON **OUT-OF-COUNTRY** VOTING

© Shramik Sanjal and Law and Policy Forum for Social Justice
(LAPSOJ)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nepal's democracy remains incomplete without the inclusion of its citizens abroad. Out-of-Country Voting (OCV). The right of Nepali migrant workers to vote from abroad has long been promised in constitutional and judicial provisions but remains unrealized in practice.

This report, "Perception of Nepali Migrant Workers on Out-of-Country Voting", represents a collaborative effort of the Shramik Sanjal and Law and Policy Forum for Social Justice (LAPSOJ) to capture the perceptions of Nepali migrant workers regarding OCV. The survey comprises 6,485 responses across seven major destination countries for Nepali migrant workers (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Oman, and Bahrain). The study provides a rare, data-driven lens into how disenfranchisement is perceived by those sustaining Nepal's economy through remittances.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Despite constitutional guarantees of equality and representation, millions of Nepali citizens abroad remain unable to participate in national elections. The 2018 Supreme Court directive had ordered the Government of Nepal and the Election Commission Nepal (ECN) to operationalize OCV, reaffirming it as an inalienable right under domestic and international law. However, implementation has stalled due to political inertia, administrative constraints, and the absence of enabling legislation.

The issue gained renewed urgency following the Gen-Z–led uprising of September 2025, which transformed Nepal’s political landscape and led to the formation of an interim government mandated to hold elections in March 2026. This context provides a critical policy window to enact OCV through ordinance and set a precedent for inclusive democracy.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted through an online questionnaire between July 14 and September 7, 2024, administered by Shramik Sanjal’s volunteers in the six GCC countries and Malaysia. Using a non-probability convenience sampling approach, the study aimed to document awareness levels, perceptions, and the perceived feasibility of implementing OCV. The research followed ethical guidelines, ensuring informed consent, confidentiality, and voluntary participation.

DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW

Among 6,482 valid responses analyzed, 88.3% were male and 11.7% female — a gender distribution reflective of Nepal’s migration patterns. Most respondents were aged 25–38 years, concentrated in the service (47%), construction (27%), and electronics/manufacturing (23%) sectors. The majority (96%) held secondary-level education or below, underscoring the socio-economic diversity of Nepal’s migrant workforce.

Respondents originated from all seven provinces, with Koshi (28%), Bagmati (18%), and Gandaki (17%) contributing the highest shares. This distribution captures a representative cross-section of Nepal’s labor diaspora in major destination countries.

KEY FINDINGS

Awareness and Registration

A significant proportion of migrants remain excluded from formal voter registration: over 40% were unaware of their registration status, and 68% lacked awareness of the Supreme Court’s decision on OCV. Awareness gaps were more pronounced among female migrants and those with lower educational attainment.

Interest and Democratic Engagement

Despite these gaps, the desire for electoral participation is overwhelming. Nearly 90% expressed strong interest in exercising their voting rights from abroad. The main motivations were the protection of democratic rights (79%), desire to contribute to Nepal’s political process (67%), and concern over policies affecting migrant workers (73%). While direct political engagement remains limited, indirect participation — such as recommending family voting choices or supporting campaigns online — is common, particularly among younger migrants.

Electoral Preferences

A majority of migrants favored the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system at both federal and provincial levels, reflecting a preference for direct representation. Electronic or internet voting (92%) emerged as the most preferred method, followed by in-person voting at embassies (38%). Proxy and postal voting options received minimal support.

Perceptions of Feasibility and Barriers

Most respondents believed OCV is feasible (over 60%), but several practical barriers persist: Legal barriers in host countries



Awareness gaps were more pronounced among female migrants and those with lower educational attainment.

(reported by 80% of respondents); Technical challenges (65%); Lack of awareness about procedures (65%); Security and verification concerns, though secondary, were also noted. Higher levels of education were associated with confidence in OCV feasibility – respondents with bachelor's degrees or higher expressed the strongest belief in its implementability.

Insights on the Gen-z migrants

Youth migrants aged 18–31, the cohort close to Gen-Z age category, exhibited particularly high civic motivation. Over 85% expressed readiness to vote electronically, and 45% believed OCV would significantly impact their daily lives both abroad and at home. This generation, digitally fluent and politically aware, represents a transformative constituency for Nepal's democratic renewal.



POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of this study point to an urgent need for comprehensive policy action to ensure the democratic inclusion of Nepal's migrant population. The foremost priority lies in legal and policy reform. The Government of Nepal and the Election Commission should move swiftly to enact an Out-of-Country Voting (OCV) ordinance ahead of the March 2026 elections, creating a legal pathway for migrant participation. This temporary mechanism should subsequently be institutionalized through the Parliament after the election of HoR, transforming OCV from a discretionary provision into permanent electoral rights. Such legal reinforcement would not only fulfill Nepal's constitutional commitment to equality and representation but also set a lasting precedent for inclusive governance.

For the Election Commission Nepal (ECN), operational readiness is essential. The Commission should establish a dedicated OCV implementation department equipped with adequate technical and financial resources. Priority must be given to developing a secure, accessible, and verifiable e-voting system tailored to the digital and logistical realities of migrant workers. Pilot testing, cybersecurity audits, and user-centered design will be critical to building public trust. In parallel, the ECN should conduct targeted voter education campaigns, particularly in collaboration with labor missions and migrant networks, to close the widespread awareness gap identified in the study.

The interim government and political parties also have a crucial role in ensuring that OCV receives cross-party endorsement and legislative continuity. As Nepal approaches a transformative election, parties must commit to supporting OCV not only through temporary ordinances but through their manifestos and long-term legislative agendas. Embedding OCV in political discourse will help sustain

momentum beyond the transitional phase and secure the rights of citizens abroad as a permanent feature of Nepal's democratic architecture.

The role of civil society organizations (CSOs) is equally important in bridging the gap between migrant aspirations and state implementation capacity. CSOs should advocate for stronger legal language that obligates, rather than merely authorizes, the ECN to initiate OCV. They can also serve as independent watchdogs to monitor and verify the transparency, security, and credibility of any new voting mechanism introduced. At a time when public skepticism about electoral integrity is high, civil society engagement will be vital to reinforcing accountability and public confidence.

Finally, migrant workers and citizens themselves must be viewed not as passive



beneficiaries but as active stakeholders in this process. Through collective mobilization, advocacy networks, and diaspora organizations, they can demand accountability from political actors, alongside the Gen-Z groups voicing for OCV to assert their constitutional right to representation. Awareness-raising campaigns led by migrant groups can play a decisive role in translating policy intent into practical access. Likewise, researchers and policy analysts have an ongoing responsibility to generate evidence on the logistical, financial, and technical feasibility of different OCV models—whether embassy-based, postal, or digital—and to assess their suitability within Nepal’s political, administrative and resource context.

These policy implications emphasize that the introduction of OCV is not merely a procedural reform but a democratic milestone. It requires coordinated effort

across state institutions, political parties, civil society, and the diaspora to convert legal promise into lived democratic practice. If pursued with urgency and foresight, OCV can transform the relationship between Nepal and its global citizens, turning remittances of money into remittances of political voice and participation.

This study underscores a powerful truth: Nepal’s democracy abroad is alive but unheard. The data reveal not apathy but exclusion; not indifference but impatience. For an interim government preparing to restore public trust, enabling OCV is both a constitutional obligation and a historic opportunity. If executed with integrity and foresight, it can transform the remittance economy into a political remittance — one that strengthens democratic legitimacy through the voices of those who have long sustained the nation from afar.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The completion of this report, “Perception of Nepali Migrant Workers on Out-of-Country Voting”, represents more than a milestone. It is rather a testament to the collective commitment towards advancing democratic representation for Nepali working in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Malaysia.

The effort is the result of vision, collaboration and dedication from numerous individuals and institutions. We (Shramik Sanjal and LAPS0J) extend our sincere gratitude to all who contributed to this endeavor. We believe behind every data point and narrative presented in this report lies a shared vision for an inclusive and participatory Nepal.

This survey was made possible through the partnership between Shramik Sanjal and Law and Policy Forum for Social Justice (LAPS0J). From the outset, the aforementioned institutions

provided invaluable expertise in legal advocacy, labour rights and community mobilization. Their insight and guidance were instrumental in designing a survey that sought to capture the perception of Nepali overseas workers. Their contribution extended beyond methodology as they demonstrated a deep commitment to ensuring that the voices of migrant workers remain integral to shaping Nepal's democratic future. The insights contained in this report was guided by the principled leadership from two institutions along with the generous support from Humanity United, while maintaining ethical principles,

emphasizing data privacy and respondents/facilitators' anonymity. Thank you for your partnership and integrity.

This survey was further strengthened by a team of dedicated volunteers of Shramik Sanjal, whose efforts transformed a complex research vision into tangible results. They devoted their personal time, travelled across the region to facilitate the data collection, purely driven by shared belief in the power of informed civic engagement. We extend our deepest appreciation to each volunteer, who addressed technical issues while extending empathy and encouragement throughout the process. It was only due to these tireless volunteers the 68% of respondents who would check "No" on their knowledge of the Supreme Court's decision on Out-of-Country Voting now know such a directive order exists, and two general elections have already completed despite the decision.

Most importantly, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the survey respondents, who

were the true foundation of this study. We could not thank those 6,485 Nepali migrant workers more who took time to fill out the survey despite their demanding work schedules and various other challenges of life abroad.

Last but not least, we thank various Civil Society Organizations, Migration Researchers, Journalists and other individuals who provided their invaluable suggestions to enhance the analytical aspect of this report.

This report is a collective achievement and a statement of gratitude. It is our sincere hope that this work will inspire policymakers, civil society organizations, and citizens alike to recognize out-of-country voting as a fundamental component of Nepal's democratic framework.

Shramik Sanjal and LAPSJ

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Full Form
B.S.	Bikram Sambat (Nepali Calendar)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ECN	Election Commission of Nepal
FPTP	First-Past-The-Post
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GoN	Government of Nepal
HoR	House of Representatives
LAPSOJ	Law and Policy Forum for Social Justice
LLE	Local Level Election
MoLESS	Ministry of Labour Employment and Social Security
MW	Migrant Workers
OCV	Out-of-Country Voting
PR	Proportional Representation
SEE/SLC	Secondary Education Examination / School Leaving Certificate
UAE	United Arab Emirates

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VOTE

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Nepal mirrors a state where many voters are silenced, not by force, but by distance; not by constitutional provisions, but by territory; and not by policy, but by its lack of implementation.

The year 2022 was the election year in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal with both Local Level and General Elections. Based on the 2021 census, the total population of Nepal was about 29.16 million, with the estimated number of 19.9 million being 18 and above¹, hence eligible to vote. Even if we consider a similar age distribution for the absentee population (2.17 million), approximately 1.4 million eligible voters are disenfranchised. These are just estimates, however, the number tells a precarious story of Nepal's election policy and implementation. The missed-

out were migrant workers, students, undocumented workers, and those in India. This survey gives significant weightage to the migrant workers, who are not just the workers or breadwinners of Nepal's economy. Still, they are citizens, taxpayers, and potential kingmakers whose absence from the ballot box could tip the scales of democracy itself, unlike the official name of the Nepali state (Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal) and its constitutional provisions on rights and responsibilities for the citizens.

¹Nepal Economic Forum, 2021 <https://nepaleconomicforum.org/key-highlights-from-the-census-report-2021/>



Nepal's 2015 constitution promises equality and representation, yet its migrant workers, whose hard-earned remittances act as a bedrock for Nepal's foreign currency reserve.

Therefore, implementing out-of-country voting (OCV) is one of the fundamental characteristics of a functioning democracy, without which, in the case of Nepal, the left-outs' voices would continue to remain unheard, and their rights trampled. This report explores the perspective of such unfortunates, who, despite the Supreme Court's order, are yet to exercise their suffrage rights. The report captures the perspectives of 6485 Nepalese migrant workers in seven countries, the GCC countries and Malaysia. Although this report is not a definitive analysis nor universally generalizable, it attempts to pierce the silence, offering a 'searing glimpse' into

their understanding of OCV – and why it matters now more than ever.

Nepal's 2015 constitution promises equality and representation, yet its migrant workers, whose hard-earned remittances act as a bedrock for Nepal's foreign currency reserve to mitigate perennial trade deficits, languish in democratic exile. The Supreme Court's 2018 directive, spurred by a fearless writ petition from the Law and Policy Forum for Social Justice (LAPSOJ), demanded OCV mechanisms, affirming voting as an inalienable right under national and international law. The Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) has since pledged legal reforms in its Third Strategic Plan (2076/77-2080/81 B.S.), but progress crawls while millions remain sidelined. The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare and exacerbated this neglect: stranded workers, ignored by a government they cannot hold accountable, became a haunting symbol of exclusion. Fast forward to September, 2025– the Gen-Z led uprising toppled the government, hence, altering the calculus of political bargaining. In other words, the movement



disrupted the political gerrymandering, where elected politicians chose their voters and not the vice-versa which is attributed to a decade-long idleness to execute The Supreme Court's directive order on diaspora voting. Nevertheless, the interim government born from the political upheaval operates on a clear mandate of holding an election in March, 2026.

This survey, a collaboration between LAPSOJ and Shramik Sanjal Kathmandu, is no mere academic exercise; rather, it is a clarion call for rising against this grave injustice. It reveals what these workers know, feel, and expect of their right to vote, thrusting their plight into the spotlight and demanding action from a system that has too long turned away.

Spanning seven countries with significant Nepali diaspora, this survey reached over 6,485 migrant workers—a daunting effort to gather voices scattered across deserts, factories, and urban sprawls. Indeed, it was designed with urgency and care, the questionnaire attempted to prove the

migrant workers' awareness of the Supreme Court's ruling, their grasp of OCV's potential, and their readiness to engage given the opportunity. The survey was administered through an online questionnaire, where Shramik Sanjal's selfless volunteers took the arduous journey around the GCC countries and Malaysia to facilitate its dissemination to different categories of workers. The vivid testimonials of the volunteers earned a huge shout-out and at the same time helped construct new avenues for research, learning and policy recommendation.

Getting back to the survey, while the findings may not claim analytical precision or generalizable inferences as it was never the scope of the survey, on the contrary, the findings offer something equally potent: an unfiltered perspective on where Nepali migrant workers stand in this fight for inclusion. Should diaspora voting happen, it not only corrects a historic injustice of disenfranchisement but also forge natural alliance between domestic politics and migrants in the form of 'political remittance'.





CHAPTER 2

METHODOLOGY

This survey, administered via Google Form, was conducted to explore the perceptions of Nepali migrant workers regarding out-of-country voting (OCV). The survey questionnaire was kept open from July 14 to September 7, 2024.

The survey, designed by LAPS0J and Shramik Sanjal Kathmandu, aimed to provide insights into the prospects of OCV for Nepali citizens living abroad, focusing on their awareness, perceptions, and potential engagement based on the Supreme Court's rulings.

SELECTION OF COUNTRIES

The survey targeted seven countries: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Oman, and Bahrain. These countries were chosen due to their status as the most sought after destinations for Nepali migrant workers.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The study adopted a cross-sectional survey design to capture the perceptions and attitudes of Nepali workers in these countries regarding OCV. The online format was chosen to ensure wide and easy reach, given the geographical dispersion of the target population across deserts, factories, and urban areas, as described in the survey's context.

Population and Sampling

The target population included Nepali workers currently employed in the aforementioned seven countries. Given the

logistical challenges of random sampling in foreign settings, a non-probability convenience sampling method was employed. Volunteers from Shramik Sanjal, who are themselves Nepali workers in these regions, facilitated the dissemination of the survey, ensuring accessibility to diverse worker categories. The survey reached a total of 6,485 participants, with the following distribution:

TABLE 1: Number of respondents from the destination countries in the sample

Country	Number of Participants
Saudi Arabia	1,125
Kuwait	1,078
Malaysia	1,070
UAE	1,068
Qatar	1,010
Oman	617
Bahrain	507
Others	10

This distribution reflects the effort to capture voices from key labor migration hubs, with a small “Others” category accounting for 10 participants.

Data Collection Method

The survey questionnaire was administered through a Google form. For the data collection, Shramik Sanjal’s volunteers undertook arduous journeys across the GCC countries and Malaysia to facilitate dissemination, ensuring that workers in various locations could participate.

Survey Instrument

The questionnaire, developed by LAPSOJ and Shramik Sanjal Kathmandu, was designed to gather comprehensive data on several dimensions:

- **Migrant Worker’s demographic data:** Including age, gender, academic qualification, sector of employment, their name in the voters’ list in Nepal and so forth.
- **Awareness of Voting Rights:** To assess their knowledge on the Supreme Court of Nepal’s rulings on OCV.
- **Perceptions of OCV:** To explore their views on OCV’s potential impacts, benefits, and challenges.
- **Likely Engagement:** To assess their willingness and readiness to participate in OCV if given the opportunity.

The questionnaire was made available in both Nepali and English to ensure accessibility and comprehension, with a mix of multiple-choice and open-ended questions to capture both quantitative and qualitative insights. The survey aimed to explore migrant workers’ awareness of legal mechanisms, their perception of OCV’s potential, and their readiness to participate, as highlighted in the survey’s objectives.

Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed using a combination of descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Descriptive statistics summarized the sample characteristics, such as the distribution of participants across countries and their demographic profiles. Inferential statistics were used to identify patterns between different variables, such as the direction of relation (through percentage analysis) between awareness levels and willingness to engage in OCV.



Volunteers from Shramik Sanjal, who are themselves Nepali workers in these regions, facilitated the dissemination of the survey, ensuring accessibility to diverse worker categories.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The study complied with ethical guidelines for research involving human subjects. Informed consent was obtained from all participants before they started the survey, ensuring they understood the purpose, its voluntary nature, and the confidentiality of their responses. Measures were taken to protect participant privacy and anonymity by keeping the name and number optional and data stored securely and used solely for research purposes. The research team acknowledged the potential vulnerability of migrant workers, ensuring that participation did not expose them to any risk, and provided contact information for support if needed.

LIMITATIONS AND CHALLENGES

While the survey achieved significant responses of 6,485 participants, the convenience sampling method may have selection bias, potentially overrepresenting workers connected to Shramik Sanjal volunteers and their networks. Additionally, the online format may have excluded workers with limited internet access, particularly in remote areas or homes for domestic workers. Additionally, the nature of perception is ephemeral, which can easily be swayed with any change in events, therefore, the research team do not claim the stated perceptions remain similar at this point in time.

Despite these limitations, the survey's design, as evidenced by the volunteers' efforts, aimed to construct new avenues for research, learning, and policy recommendations.



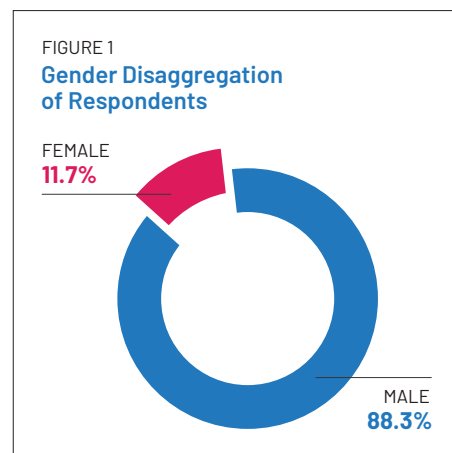


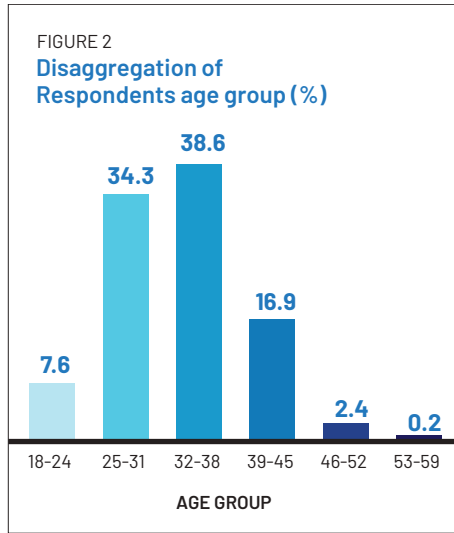
CHAPTER 3

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

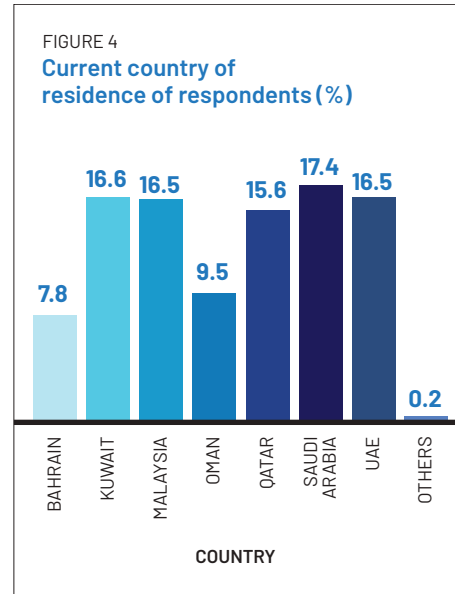
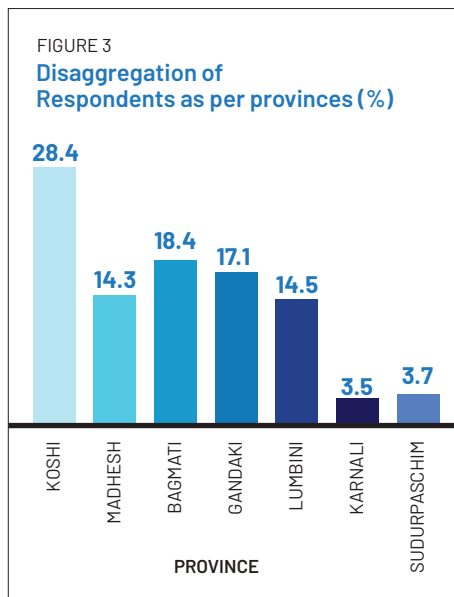
The total number of responses used for the analysis was 6,482. Even though the total number of respondents was 6485, we chose to remove responses from the 'other' gender category, the 'prefer not to say' gender category, and the '60 and above' age group category, as each category only had 1 response.

As mentioned in the methodology, the data on the demographic characteristics, electoral awareness, interest in electoral participation, prior engagement in elections, perception, and feasibility of out-of-country voting implementation. Below, we present the demographic characteristics of the respondents.

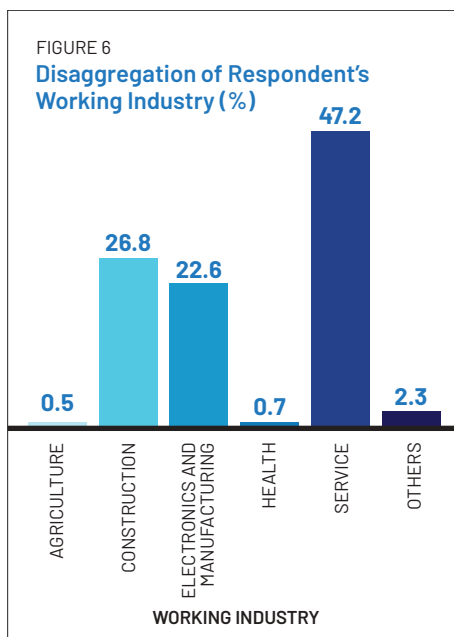
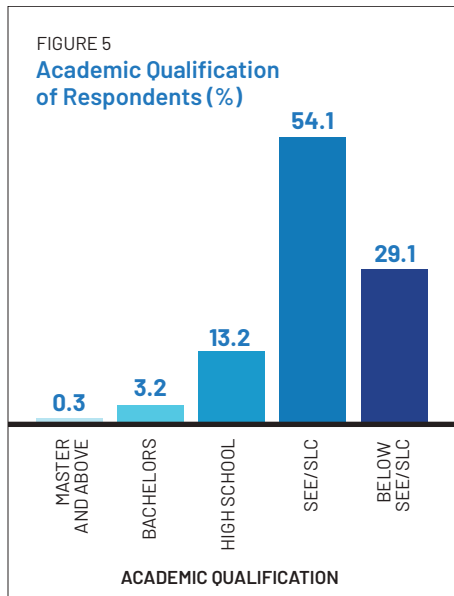




Of the total respondents, 88.3% were males while 11.7% were females. The number of females in our sample is comparatively lower than the 2021 census data, which shows 19% of the total migrants are females (CBS 2021 - Census data). As the survey was voluntary, we do expect the sample distribution to be different from the actual distribution. As for the age group distribution, most respondents were from the 32-38 age category (38.6%), followed by the 25-31 and 39-45 age categories, having 34.3% and 16.9% respectively. The remaining age categories represent 10.2% of the respondents.



Amongst the provinces, the highest number of respondents were from the Koshi province with 1841 respondents, making 28.4% of the total sample. Of the total respondents, Bagmati and Gandaki had 18.4% and 17.1% respectively. Whereas the numbers from Madhesh and Lumbini were between 930 to 950. The Karnali and Sudurpaschim had the lowest numbers, both below 240. Since the focus countries for our study were the GCC and Malaysia, almost all the surveys were from these countries; only 10 responses were from other countries. The highest percentage of respondents were currently working in Saudi Arabia (17.4%), whereas Kuwait, Malaysia, and UAE each had around 16.5% of the respondents. The number of respondents in Qatar was just above 1010, followed by Oman, which had 617, while Bahrain had the lowest number with just over 500 respondents.



In terms of the academic qualification of the respondents, over 3500 respondents had the highest qualification of SEE/SLC (10th grade). Around 1900 of the respondents had not completed SEE/SLC. 854 of the respondents had completed until high school, while the remaining 231 had completed at least until bachelor's level. Most of the migrants in the sample were engaged in the service industry, 47.2% of the total respondents. 26.8% of the respondents were working in the

construction sector followed by 22.6% in the Electronics and manufacturing sector. The remaining 3.5% were from health, agriculture and other sectors.

Dissecting further into the demographic characteristics of the respondents in the sample, Kuwait had the highest proportion of female migrants, accounting for 30% of its migrant population, followed by the UAE at 23%. These figures are notably higher than the overall sample average of 11.7%. Across different employment sectors, male migrants dominated the workforce, with the exception of the health sector, where female migrants made up an overwhelming 98% of the 47 migrants surveyed. In terms of provincial distribution, Madhesh had the lowest percentage of female migrants, with only 4% of its migrant population being women. Migrants from Koshi province made up the largest share of respondents for both genders, accounting for 28% of all male migrants and 32% of all female migrants. A substantial majority of female migrants, accounting for 86%, are employed in the service industry, highlighting its dominance as the primary sector for female migrant workers.

In terms of sectoral distribution, Madhesh province had the highest proportion of migrants working in the construction sector, with 37% engaged in this field. In contrast, in the remaining six provinces, nearly half of the migrant population was employed in the service sector. Whereas, the educational attainment among migrants varied across provinces, with Koshi having the highest percentage of migrants with high school level education or higher at 21%, followed by Bagmati at 20%. In the other provinces, this figure remained at 15% or lower, with Karnali reporting the lowest share at just 6%.

The distribution of migrant workers across industries showed distinct patterns across different destinations. In Saudi Arabia, nearly half (49%) of all migrants were

engaged in the construction sector alone. Malaysia, on the other hand, had 40% of its migrant workforce employed in electronics and manufacturing. The service sector played a dominant role in other countries, with 42% of all migrants in Oman, 58% in Bahrain, 63% in the UAE, and a significant 75% in Kuwait working in this sector.

Education levels may also have influenced migrants' choice of destination. Among those with a bachelor's degree, 32% migrated to Qatar, while 26% opted for the UAE. A similar trend was observed among those with master's degrees and above, with Qatar and the UAE attracting 32% and 27%, respectively. Even among high school graduates, Qatar remained a key destination, receiving 26% of such migrants, followed by Kuwait (21%) and the UAE (17%). Other countries had relatively smaller shares of high school-educated migrants.

Migration patterns varied significantly by province. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Malaysia were the most popular destinations for migrants from Madhesh province, with 31%, 21%, and 20% choosing these countries, respectively. Kuwait attracted 23% of all migrants from Gandaki. From Karnali, Kuwait and the UAE were equally preferred, each receiving 26% of the province's migrants, followed by Malaysia at 21%. Similarly, a significant share of migrants from Sudurpaschim province opted for Kuwait (27%) and the UAE (23%), highlighting their preference for these Gulf nations.

The distribution of migrant workers across different industries varied significantly by destination. The service sector absorbed a large share of migrants in several countries, with Kuwait leading at 75%, followed by the UAE (63%), Bahrain (58%), and Oman (42%). Meanwhile, Malaysia had a significant 40% of its migrant workforce engaged in electronics and manufacturing. The construction sector remained dominant in Saudi Arabia and Qatar, where 49% and 37% of migrants, respectively, were employed in this industry. Along with the construction sector, Qatar also had 37% of migrants employed in the service sector. Education levels also influenced employment trends, particularly within the service sector. Even though the sample had only 22 respondents with a master's degree or higher, a significant 68% of these migrants worked in the service sector, alongside 76% of those with a bachelor's degree. Even among migrants with lower educational qualifications, the service sector remained a major employer, accounting for 68% of high school graduates, 45% of those who had completed their SEE/SLC and 39% of those who had not completed SEE/SLC.





ELECTION

CHAPTER 4

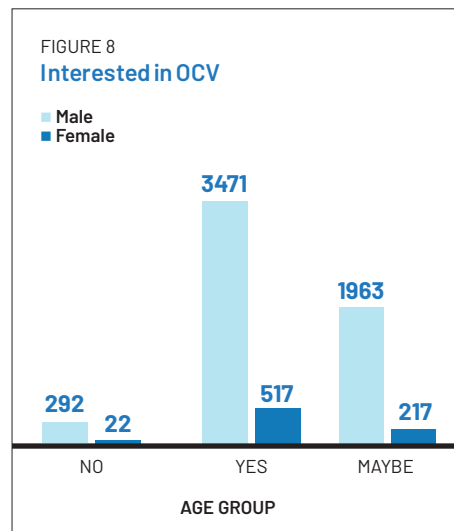
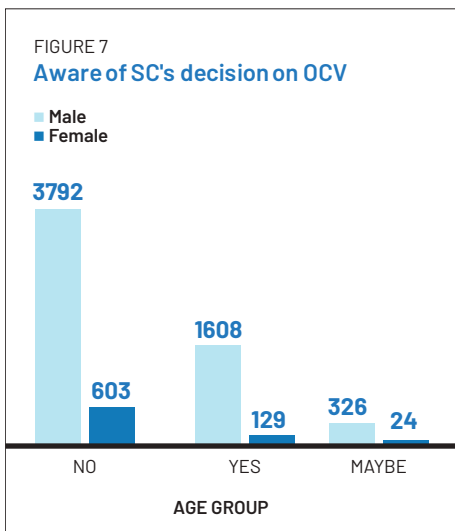
ELECTORAL AWARENESS AND PERCEPTION

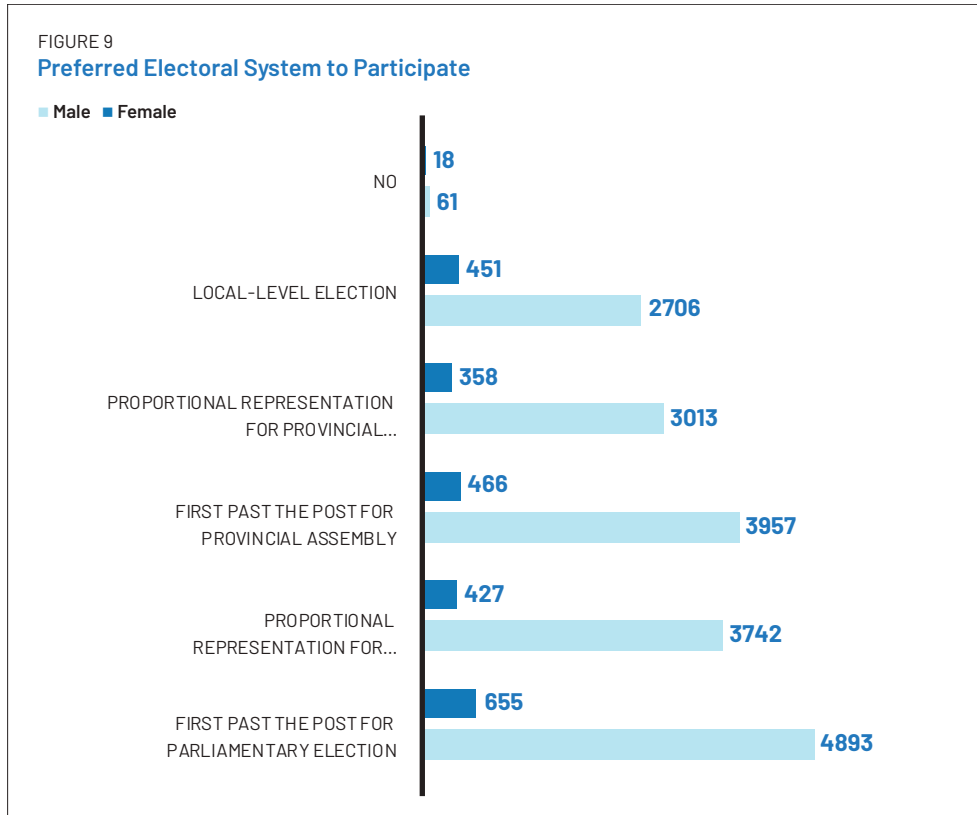
ON OUT-OF-COUNTRY VOTING OF NEPALI MIGRANTS - CROSS-TABULATION ANALYSIS

BY GENDER

A notable proportion of both male and female migrants seem to be uncertain about their voter registration status, with 42% of men and 39% of women reporting that they are unaware of whether their names have been included in the voters' list. When it comes to knowledge about the

OCV system, a larger share of the female population (80%) appeared to be less aware compared to 66% of males. Despite these gaps in awareness, the majority of both groups expressed interest in exercising their voting rights as migrant workers, with 61% of men and 68% of women indicating their willingness to participate.



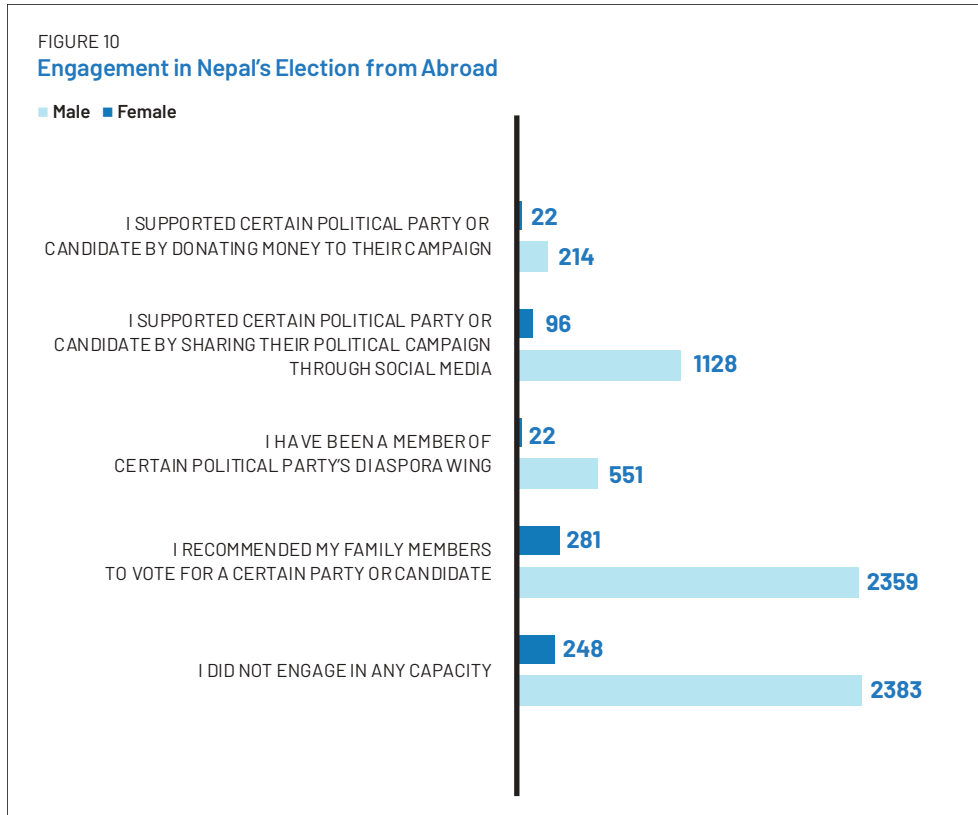


Among those who were either interested or ambivalent about voting, the option of protecting human rights emerged as the most selected factor influencing their decision, with 77% of men and 76% of women prioritizing while the belief in diaspora emerged as the least selected factor, chosen by 49% of men and 40% of women. In terms of the electoral system they would prefer to participate in, a large majority favored the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system at the federal level (90% of men and 89% of women), followed by the FPTP at provincial level (73% of men and 64% of women).

When examining past electoral participation, 73% of male and 61% of female migrants reported that they had not voted in any of the elections held since 2008. Engagement in these elections was most commonly observed through indirect involvement, such as recommending family

members to vote (41% for men and 37% for women) or supporting party campaigns via social media (20% for men and 13% for women). Fewer migrants reported direct involvement, with only 10% of men and 3% of women having been members of a diaspora wing of a political party, and a small proportion even donating to political campaigns (4% of men and 3% of women). Notably, a significant proportion of migrants did not engage in any form of electoral participation, accounting for 42% of men and 33% of women.

In terms of their perception of the OCV system, over 94% of men and 96% of women agreed that it is an essential part of democracy, with the majority recognizing the benefits it offers. However, a significant segment of migrants remained unsure about the specific benefits of OCV across various dimensions such as ensuring representation regardless of location (41%



of men and 42% of women), encouraging diaspora participation in political affairs (35% of men and 25% of women), enhancing the legitimacy of the electoral process (45% of men and 55% of women), fostering a sense of belonging and connection to the homeland (35% of men and 21% of women), and protecting the collective rights of migrants (33% of men and 22% of women).

Regarding the overall feasibility of implementing the OCV system, the majority of migrants expressed confidence, with 59% of men and 64% of women in support, although a considerable number remained unsure (35% of men and 32% of women). Several logistical hurdles were identified that could impede the implementation of OCV, including legal barriers in destination countries (reported by 79% of men and 85% of women), technical challenges (70% of men compared to 48% of women), a consistent lack of awareness (65% for both groups), security concerns (40% of men and

46% of women), and difficulties in verifying eligibility (13% of men and 15% of women).

When it comes to the potential impact of OCV, nearly half of the migrants believed that it would make a significant difference in their everyday lives while living abroad (49% of men and 52% of women) as well as after returning home (48% of men and 49% of women). Conversely, a substantial number remained uncertain about its impact, with 38% of men and 40% of women unsure about the difference it would make while abroad, and 43% of men and 46% of women uncertain about its effect after repatriation. Finally, in terms of preferred voting methods, an overwhelming majority favored electronic or digital voting (93% of men and 91% of women), followed by in-person voting at embassies (37% of men and 51% of women), while proxy voting was met with skepticism (15% of men and 32% of women) and postal voting was the least preferred option at only 6% overall.

FIGURE 11
Perceived Potential Complications or Logistical Hurdles in Implementing OCV

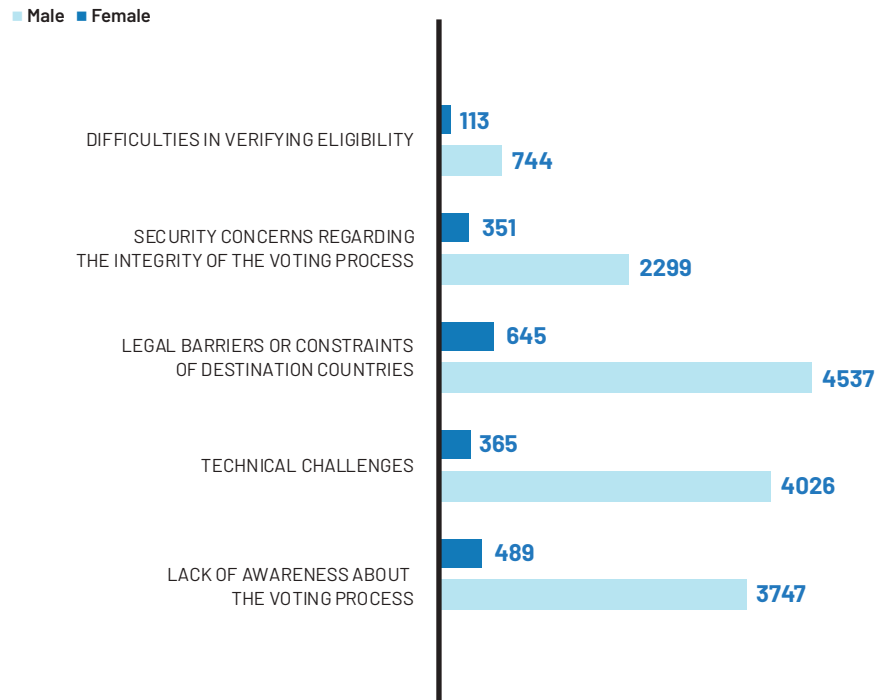
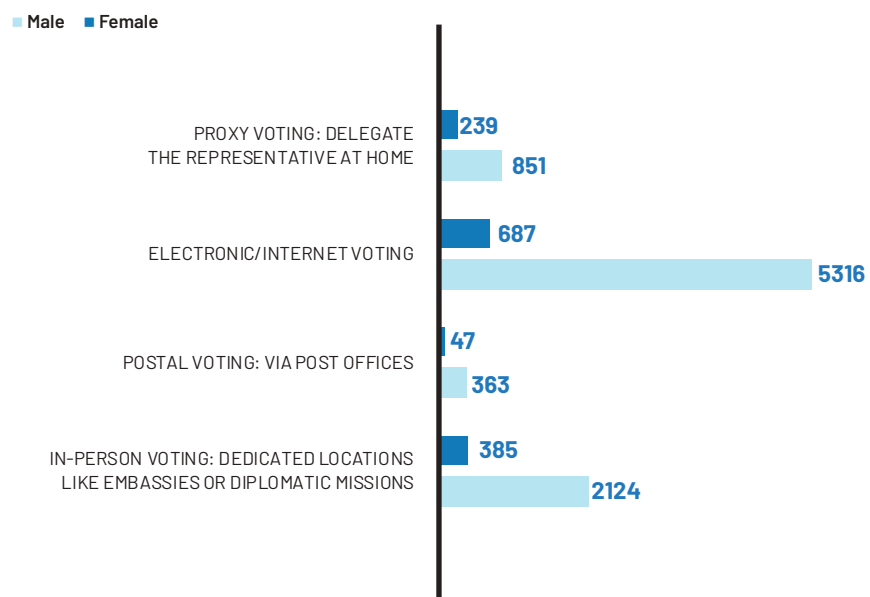


FIGURE 12
Feasible Voting Method (per country of residence and cost borne by voter)



BY AGE GROUP

Among the various age groups, 63% of individuals aged 18–24 reported having their names in the voters' list, a considerably higher proportion compared to the 40–49% range observed among older age groups. In contrast, about half of those in the 39–45 age bracket were uncertain about their registration status, whereas other groups tended to be relatively more aware.

A similar trend emerged regarding awareness of the Supreme Court's decision on OCV. Across all age groups, the majority were unaware of the decision, with the 25–31 age group showing the highest level of unawareness at 71%, followed closely by the 32–38 group at 68% and the 18–24 group at 67%. On the other hand, individuals aged 46–52 appeared to be the most informed, with 38% aware of the decision. Encouragingly, migrant workers across all age categories demonstrated strong certainty in their interest to exercise their voting rights, with participation figures ranging from 60% to 93%. Particularly, the 39–45 and 46–52 age groups expressed their interest in OCV for several key reasons: a desire to contribute to the political process (66% and 75%, respectively), belief in the importance of diaspora representation (61% and 66%), a sense of connection to their home and political development (69% and 65%), concerns about policies affecting migrant workers (75% and 73%), and the protection of democratic rights (83% and 81%).

When it came to election preferences among those interested in OCV, local-level elections were the least favored overall, with only 50% opting for them. However, this trend was reversed among the youngest (18–24) and the older (53–59) age brackets, where local elections were preferred by 69% of respondents. Across all age groups, the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system emerged as the most popular voting method, receiving support



In contrast, about half of those in the 39–45 age bracket were uncertain about their registration status, whereas other groups tended to be relatively more aware.

from 88% to 94% of migrants. In contrast, the Proportionate Representation (PR) systems were less favored, with 62–74% endorsement at the federal level and only 51–62% at the provincial level. Notably, the 18–24 age group displayed the highest interest in all voting systems, with 93% for FPTP Federal, 74% for PR Federal, 77% for FPTP Province, 62% for PR Province, and 69% for local-level voting.

Regarding past electoral engagement, 45% of participants indicated that they did not engage in Nepal's elections while abroad, whereas a significant 41% reported recommending their family members to vote for a particular candidate or political party. Furthermore, between 71% and 93% of migrants across the age spectrum strongly agreed that OCV is an essential element of democracy. Yet, a considerable portion remained unsure about its benefits; for instance, 42% of respondents in the 25–31 and 32–38 age groups and 43% of those aged 39–45 were uncertain whether the Nepal Government would ensure representation for all citizens regardless of location. Similarly, nearly half of the participants across several age groups—45% of those aged 18–24, 49% of 25–31, 45% of 32–38, and 46% of 39–45—remained neutral on whether the government would enhance the legitimacy of the electoral process through OCV.

In terms of feasibility, a significant 76% of migrants in the 18–24 age bracket believed



that it is realistic for Nepali migrant workers to participate in OCV, with an additional 26% indicating there might be a possibility. When asked about potential logistical hurdles, migrants across age groups identified security concerns regarding the integrity of the voting process (ranging from 39% to 47%) and difficulties in verifying eligibility (ranging from 6% to 27%) as the least pressing issues.

Finally, the impact of voting from abroad was underscored by the fact that 70% of migrant youths aged 18–24 believed that being able to cast their votes while overseas would make a significant difference in their daily lives both abroad and after returning to Nepal. When it came to preferred voting methods, electronic or internet voting was overwhelmingly favored across all age groups, with support between 92% and 97%, while proxy voting (7% to 20%) and postal voting (only 2% to 8%) were much less popular.

BY PROVINCE

Among the factors influencing participation in OCV, the protection of democratic rights was consistently the most important across all provinces, closely followed by concerns about policies affecting migrants. In terms of electoral systems, the First-Past-The-Post system at the federal level was overwhelmingly preferred—with 85% to 96% of migrants across provinces opting for it, followed by the FPTP system at the

provincial level. Interestingly, although the highest voter turnout among those who participated in any election since 2008 was recorded during the 2022 local elections (ranging from 12% to 15%), local-level elections were the least favored overall. Regarding election engagement while abroad, migrants across all provinces generally either did not engage at all or limited their involvement to recommending family members on which party or candidate to vote for.

While nearly all migrants agreed that OCV is an essential component of democracy, those in Karnali and Sudurpaschim tended to be more neutral about its benefits compared to migrants in other provinces. Specifically, less than half of migrants from Karnali (48%) and Sudurpaschim (47%) believed that it is feasible for Nepali migrant workers to participate in OCV, whereas between 58% and 64% of migrants in other provinces held this view. A significant portion of migrants from Karnali (47%) and Sudurpaschim (49%) also expressed uncertainty by indicating that it might be possible, reflecting their doubts about the actual implementation of the system. In Madhesh, 18% of migrants did not believe that OCV would make a significant difference in their everyday lives while abroad, and 14% shared this sentiment regarding their lives after returning to Nepal. Moreover, over half of the migrants from Karnali (54% and 56%) and Sudurpaschim (53% and 58%) were

unsure about the potential impact of OCV on their daily lives both while overseas and after repatriation.

In terms of voting methods, only 3% to 8% of migrants across the seven provinces viewed postal voting via post offices as a viable option, while 10% to 19% favored proxy voting, and a larger share—ranging from 27% to 48%—supported in-person voting at dedicated locations such as embassies or diplomatic missions. Ultimately, the most preferred voting method across provinces was electronic or internet voting, with between 91% and 96% of migrants considering it the most feasible option.

BY CURRENT COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

Among migrants residing in different countries, there were varied levels of awareness regarding their registration status and the Supreme Court's decision on OCV. A significant proportion of migrants from Malaysia (58%), UAE (55%), Kuwait (54%), and Saudi Arabia (46%) were uncertain whether their names were listed in their respective municipality or rural municipality voters' list. In contrast, awareness of the Supreme Court's decision on OCV was highest among migrants from Qatar, with 56% being aware, while only 13% of those in Kuwait reported such awareness.

Interest in exercising voting rights as Nepali migrant workers was exceptionally high in Qatar, where 100% of respondents expressed their intent to vote, followed closely by a significant 91% of migrants in Kuwait. When considering the factors that drive their interest in participating in OCV, respondents from different countries highlighted several key motivations. A strong desire to contribute to Nepal's political process was most pronounced in the UAE (90%), Saudi Arabia (79%), and Malaysia (69%). Similarly, belief in the importance of diaspora representation

was prominent among migrants in the UAE (80%), Saudi Arabia (70%), and Malaysia (64%). A deep connection to home and its political developments was most evident in the UAE (87%), followed by Saudi Arabia (76%), Malaysia (72%), Qatar (71%), and Oman (69%). Concerns about current policies affecting migrant workers were highest among migrants in Qatar (95%), then in the UAE (84%), Oman (83%), Saudi Arabia (74%), and Malaysia (72%). Protection of democratic rights was a particularly strong motivator among migrants in Kuwait (95%) and Qatar (87%), while those in the UAE (76%), Malaysia (75%), Oman (73%), and Saudi Arabia (68%) also placed importance on this factor.

Electoral system preferences revealed an overall tendency to lean towards the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system for the House of Representatives. For example, an overwhelming 97% of migrants from Kuwait and 94% from Qatar supported FPTP at the federal level, while 92% of Malaysian and 80% of Saudi Arabian migrants also favored this system. However, preferences for local-level elections diverged sharply; although significant numbers from Kuwait (88%) and Qatar (92%) supported voting in local-level elections, only 23% of migrants in Malaysia and 26% in Saudi Arabia expressed the same preference.

Engagement in Nepal's elections among migrants varied as well. In the UAE, 19% of migrants recommended that their family members vote for a certain party or candidate, whereas in Kuwait this figure soared to 74%. Additionally, 35% of migrants in Saudi Arabia had actively participated as members of a political party's diaspora wing, and 48% supported campaigns by sharing political content on social media.

When it came to the perceived benefits of OCV, migrants in Malaysia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE tended to be neutral or unsure. For instance, a substantial 79% of

migrants from Kuwait remained uncertain about whether OCV would strengthen the legitimacy of the electoral process, and opinions among Bahrain migrants were divided—with 10% disagreeing and 18% strongly disagreeing that universal electoral participation would protect the rights of migrants.

Perceptions regarding the feasibility of OCV were mixed. A significant majority believed it to be feasible in Kuwait (93%), Qatar (99%), and Bahrain (71%), while a considerable proportion in Malaysia (60%), Saudi Arabia (52%), and the UAE (56%) felt that it was only “maybe” possible, reflecting doubts about its practical implementation. Across countries, several logistical hurdles were noted: lack of awareness about the voting process was a major concern among migrants in Malaysia (75%), Qatar (80%), and the UAE (90%); technical challenges were seen as significant by 58% to 87% of respondents in most countries, although only 10% of Kuwaiti migrants considered them a challenge; legal barriers ranged from 53% in Bahrain to 95% in Kuwait; security concerns regarding the voting process were especially high in Qatar (73%); and difficulties in verifying eligibility were reported by 24% of migrants in Qatar and 21% in the UAE.

Finally, when evaluating preferred voting methods, electronic or internet voting emerged as the most popular option across all countries, with more than 90% of migrants favoring it — except in Bahrain, where 73% supported this method. In-person voting at dedicated locations such as embassies or diplomatic missions was seen as feasible by 83% of migrants in Kuwait and 68% in Qatar, while postal voting via post offices was the least favored option, with only 1% to 13% of respondents considering it a viable method.

BY WORKING INDUSTRY

Because the majority of the migrant workers fell under the three broad industry

categories of Construction, Electronics and Manufacturing and Service, the data is quite skewed and has evened out on most other variables, and hence no other significant observations on OCV could be drawn based on the working industry.

BY ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

Academic qualifications among migrants were found to be directly proportional to several key electoral behaviors and attitudes. For instance, those with higher education were more likely to have their names registered in the voters’ list: 82% among respondents with a master’s degree or above, 72% for bachelor’s degree holders, 65% for high school graduates, and just 41% and 40% among those with SEE/SLC and below, respectively.

This positive correlation extended to awareness of the Supreme Court’s decision on OCV, where 95% of migrants with a master’s degree or above were aware of the ruling, compared to 61% of bachelor’s degree holders, 48% of high school graduates, and only 23% and 20% among those with SEE/SLC and lower qualifications. Similarly, the interest in exercising voting rights as Nepali migrant workers was highest among those with higher academic credentials, with 95% of both master’s and bachelor’s degree holders and 93% of high school graduates expressing strong interest, while interest notably dropped to 54% for SEE/SLC holders and 58% for those below that level.

In terms of electoral preferences, the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system for the House of Representatives was the most popular option across all educational categories, with support ranging between 86% and 96%. In contrast, the Proportional Representation (PR) system for the Provincial Assembly was less favored, with only 41% to 57% endorsing it. Notably, when considering local-level elections (LLEs), a clear divide emerged: 78% of bachelor’s degree holders and 75% of high school

graduates showed interest in LLEs, while only 44% of SEE/SLC holders and 50% of those with lower qualifications were inclined to participate.

Perceptions regarding the benefits of OCV also varied by educational attainment. Migrants with SEE/SLC and lower qualifications expressed significant uncertainty about whether OCV would ensure representation regardless of location (51% and 41% unsure, respectively), encourage diaspora participation in political affairs (43% and 33%), strengthen the legitimacy of the electoral process (57% and 43%), foster a sense of belonging to the homeland (41% and 31%), and protect the collective rights of migrants (41% and 31%). Beliefs about the feasibility of OCV reflected these educational differences as well. A vast majority of those with high school qualifications and above—91% among high school graduates, 92% to 94% among bachelor's degree holders, and 91% among those with a master's degree or higher—felt that it was feasible for Nepali migrant workers to participate in OCV. In contrast, a significant portion of respondents with SEE/SLC (43%) and below (36%) were unsure about its feasibility.

When considering potential complications, legal barriers or constraints in destination countries were widely viewed as a

significant hurdle, with agreement rates of 55% among those with a master's degree or above, 77% among bachelor's degree holders, 72% among high school graduates, and even higher levels of 83% and 79% among those with SEE/SLC and lower qualifications. Furthermore, perceptions of OCV's impact on everyday life varied considerably: while 72% of bachelor's degree holders and 77% of high school graduates believed that OCV would make a significant difference while living abroad—and 75% and 73%, respectively, believed the same for life after returning to Nepal—only 44% of SEE/SLC holders and 45% of those with lower qualifications shared this belief. Finally, regarding voting methods, migrants with higher qualifications were more optimistic about in-person voting at dedicated locations such as embassies or diplomatic missions (with 59% of master's and high school graduates, and 56% of bachelor's degree holders in favor) compared to only 35% of SEE/SLC holders and 34% of those with lower qualifications. Nevertheless, the electronic or internet voting method emerged as the most preferred option across all academic groups, with 77% support among those with a master's degree or above (noting the smaller sample size), 92% among bachelor's degree holders, and a robust 90% to 93% among high school graduates and those with SEE/SLC or lower qualifications.





CHAPTER 5

PERCEIVED CHALLENGES OF OCV

This section takes a deeper dive into the perceived challenges surrounding Out-of-Country Voting (OCV) among Nepali migrant workers, unpacking patterns across key demographic variables such as gender, age, province of origin, country of employment, working industry, and education level.

Through cross-tabulation analysis, this exploration seeks to identify which specific sub-groups of migrants are disproportionately affected by particular barriers, offering important guidance for tailoring future OCV initiatives.

Overall Trends in Perceived Challenges

When asked about potential logistical hurdles to implementing OCV, the most widely cited concerns included legal barriers in destination countries, technical

challenges, and a lack of awareness about the voting process. Specifically, 79% of male migrants and 85% of female migrants identified legal barriers as a challenge.

Technical challenges were perceived by 70% of men compared to a lower 48% of women, while a consistent 65% of both groups highlighted the lack of awareness as an obstacle. Meanwhile, security concerns regarding the voting process (40% of men and 46% of women) and difficulties in verifying eligibility (13% of men and 15%

of women) were considered relatively less pressing.

Disaggregating by Age and Gender

A further breakdown revealed important age- and gender-based differences in how these challenges are experienced:

Lack of Awareness: Among younger migrants aged 18–24, a higher proportion of male migrants (69.6%) identified lack of awareness as a challenge compared to 49.4% of female migrants. However, this pattern reversed in the 39–45 age group, with 86.8% of female migrants highlighting it as a concern, exceeding the 70.6% reported by their male counterparts.

Technical Challenges: The sharpest gender gap emerged around technical challenges. In the 18–24 age category, 76.5% of male migrants reported technical difficulties, while only 32.6% of female migrants did the same. Though this discrepancy narrowed in older age groups, the pattern persisted: 69.6% of men versus 41% of women in the 25–31 age group, and 67.8% of men versus 55.8% of women among those aged 32–38.

Legal Barriers: Legal constraints in destination countries remained a consistently cited challenge across all groups, particularly among younger migrants. In the 18–24 age group, 83.7% of male and an even higher 94.4% of female migrants identified this as a barrier. Upon informal consultations, the legal barrier can be attributed to lack of awareness of local laws.

Security Concerns: Perceptions of security risks also showed notable variation. In the 32–38 age group, 54% of female migrants expressed concern about the integrity of the voting process compared to 39% of male migrants.

Difficulties in Verifying Eligibility: Though cited less frequently overall, verification difficulties drew attention in the 39–45 age

category, where 31.6% of female migrants flagged it as a challenge compared to 21.1% of their male counterparts.

Provincial and Country of Employment

Differences: Regional origin played a significant role in shaping perceptions. Less than half of migrants from Karnali (48%) and Sudurpaschim (47%) believed it was feasible for Nepali migrant workers to participate in OCV, whereas 58% to 64% of migrants from other provinces were more optimistic.

Differences were also evident across countries of employment. A vast majority of migrants in Kuwait (93%), Qatar (99%), and Bahrain (71%) believed in the feasibility of OCV, while substantial proportions in Malaysia (60%), Saudi Arabia (52%), and the UAE (56%) remained uncertain, suggesting context-specific constraints.

Logistical hurdles also varied by host country. Lack of awareness was especially pronounced among migrants in the UAE (90%), Qatar (80%), and Malaysia (75%). While technical challenges were considered significant by 58% to 87% of migrants in most destinations, only 10% of Kuwaiti migrants perceived them as a concern. Legal barriers ranged widely, from 53% in Bahrain to a striking 95% in Kuwait, while security concerns peaked in Qatar (73%). Difficulties in verifying eligibility were cited by 24% of respondents in Qatar and 21% in the UAE.

Working Industry Influence: Perceptions of technical challenges to OCV also varied by the sector of employment. Among the three most prominent industries employing Nepali migrant workers, those engaged in the Construction (77%) and Electronics and Manufacturing (78%) sectors were significantly more likely to identify technical difficulties as a barrier to OCV compared to their counterparts in the Service sector, where only 58% reported it as a concern.

Educational Influences: Perceptions of OCV feasibility and its challenges also differed markedly by education level. A vast majority of respondents with higher education qualifications—91% of high school graduates, 92% to 94% of bachelor’s degree holders, and 91% of those with master’s degrees or above—believed OCV to be feasible. Conversely, significant uncertainty persisted among those with SEE/SLC (43%) and lower education (36%). When considering challenges, legal barriers were most frequently identified by those with lower education levels—83% among those with SEE/SLC and 79% among those below SEE/SLC—compared to 77% of bachelor’s degree holders and 55% of those with a master’s degree or higher. This suggests that lower educational attainment may correlate with heightened perceptions of systemic barriers in the host country. In summary, perceptions of the challenges surrounding OCV among Nepali migrant workers are shaped by intersecting factors of gender, age, education, province of origin, working industry and country of employment. While legal barriers, technical difficulties, and lack of awareness remain the most consistently cited hurdles, the degree and nature of these concerns vary across sub-groups. These findings underscore the importance of adopting a context-sensitive, demographically informed approach to the design and implementation of OCV mechanisms, ensuring that outreach, technical facilitation, and legal advocacy efforts are tailored to address the distinct needs and barriers faced by different migrant communities.

GEN-Z TUNED OCV INSIGHTS

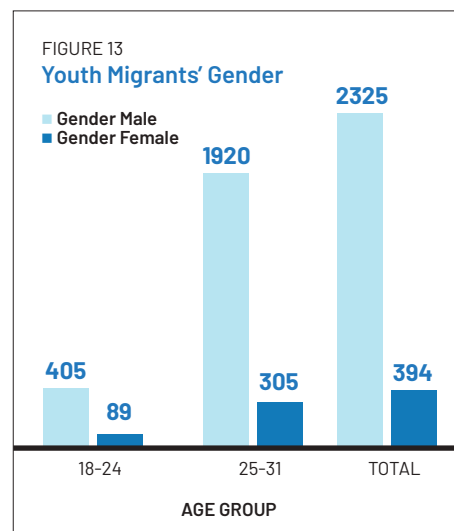
The recent Gen-Z uprising has reshaped Nepal’s political discourse, making their perspectives on OCV particularly relevant. Gen-Z represents a digitally native demographic with strong expectations for transparency, inclusivity, and tech-driven solutions. Their advocacy for systemic

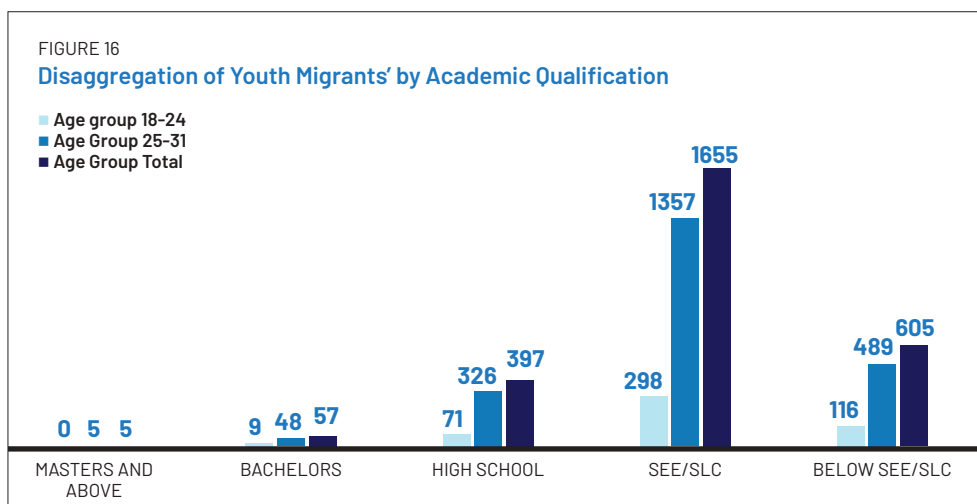
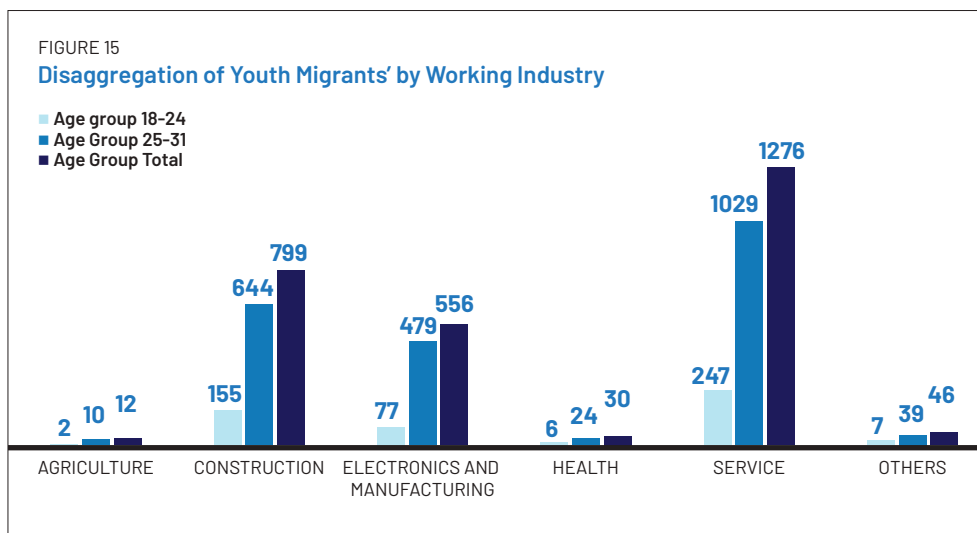
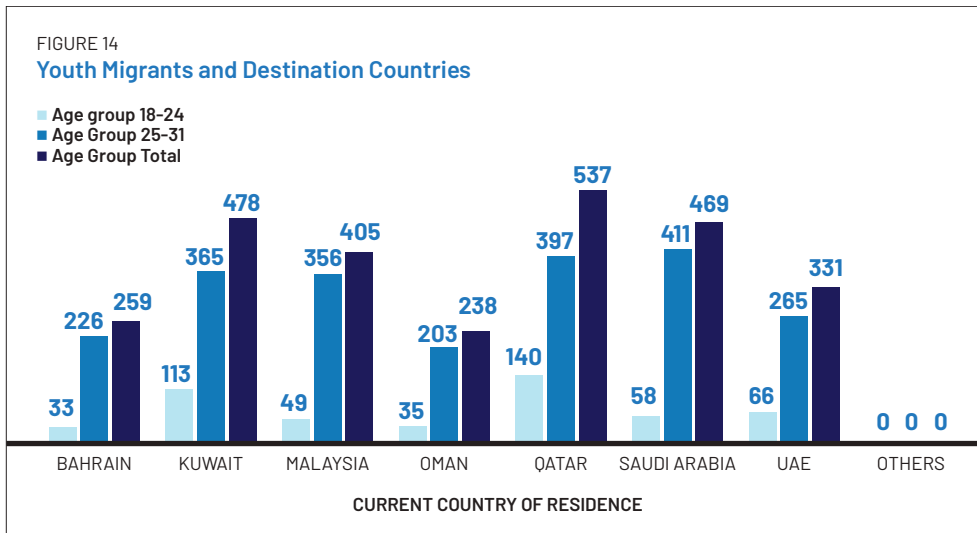
reforms and digital governance align closely with the push for securing OCV for Nepali living abroad. Including Gen-Z insights at this moment is critical because they are not only the largest emerging voter base but also key influencers in shaping public opinion, public policy and demanding accountability. Their preferences and activism provide a forward-looking lens for designing OCV systems that resonate with future generations and strengthen democratic legitimacy.

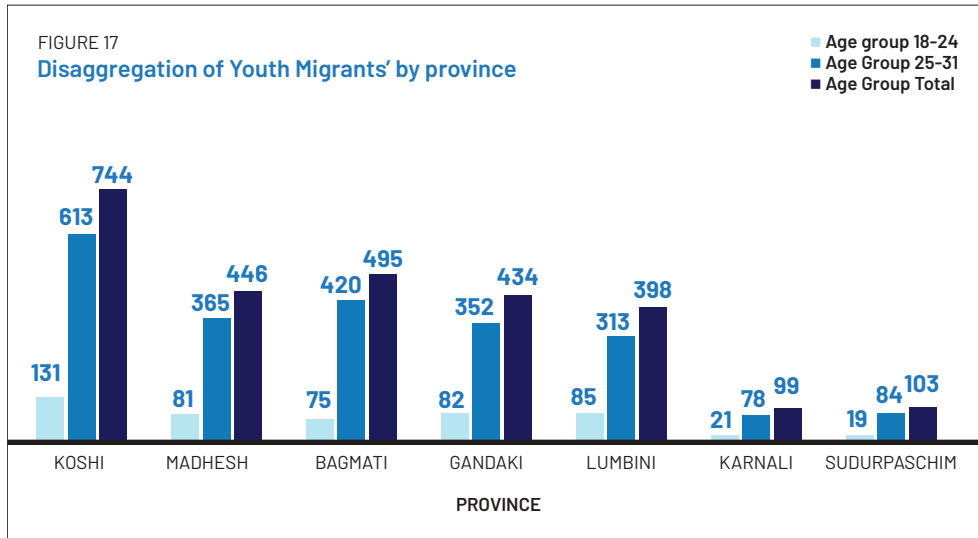
This analysis focuses on youth respondents aged 18-24 and 25-31 – the cohort closest to Gen-Z in 2025, within the OCV perception survey of 6,482 participants. Three key insights stand out:

1. Youths show strong intent to vote from abroad: 1,703 said ‘Yes’ (42.7% of all ‘Yes’ responses), and 887 said ‘Maybe’.
2. The preferred voting method is overwhelmingly electronic/internet voting, with 2,517 youths supporting it (41.9% of all who chose this option).
3. Attitudes toward OCV are highly positive: 2,259 youths strongly agree it is essential for democracy (44.8% of all strong agreements).

DEMOGRAPHICS



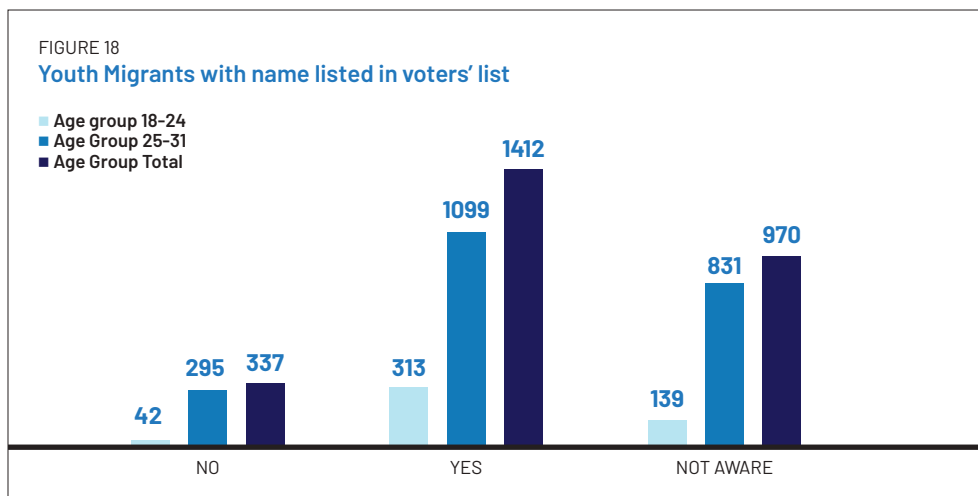


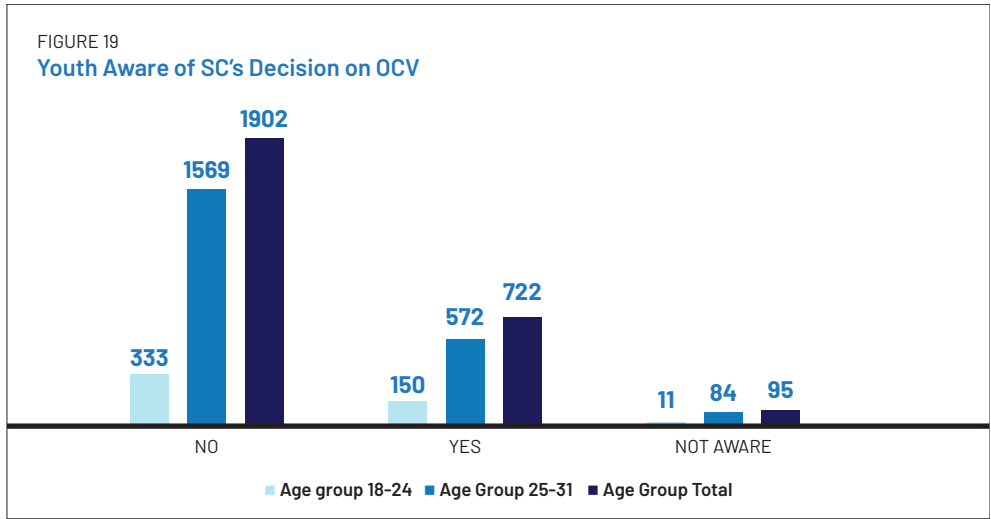


Of the total young respondents (18–24 & 25–31), 40.6% of all male respondents and 52.1% of all female respondents in the full survey fell within this youth bracket. Youth responses cluster most in Qatar (537 youth; 53.2%), Kuwait (478; 44.4%), and Saudi Arabia (469; 41.7%); other notable cohorts include Malaysia (405; 37.9%), UAE (331; 31.0%), Bahrain (259; 51.1%),

and Oman (238; 38.6%). The largest youth groups are in Service (1,276 youth; 41.7%), Construction (799; 46.0%), and Electronics/ Manufacturing (556; 38.0%). Most youths reported SEE/SLC (1,655; 47.2%), followed by Below SEE/SLC (605; 32.0%) and High School (397; 46.5%). Youth counts are highest in Koshi (744; 40.4%), Bagmati (495; 41.5%), and Madhesh (446; 48.0%).

REGISTRATION & AWARENESS

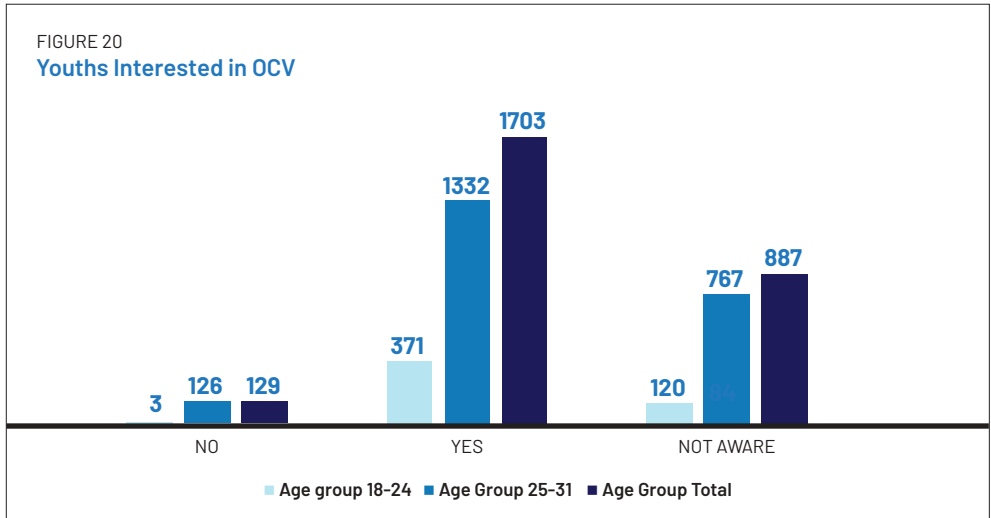


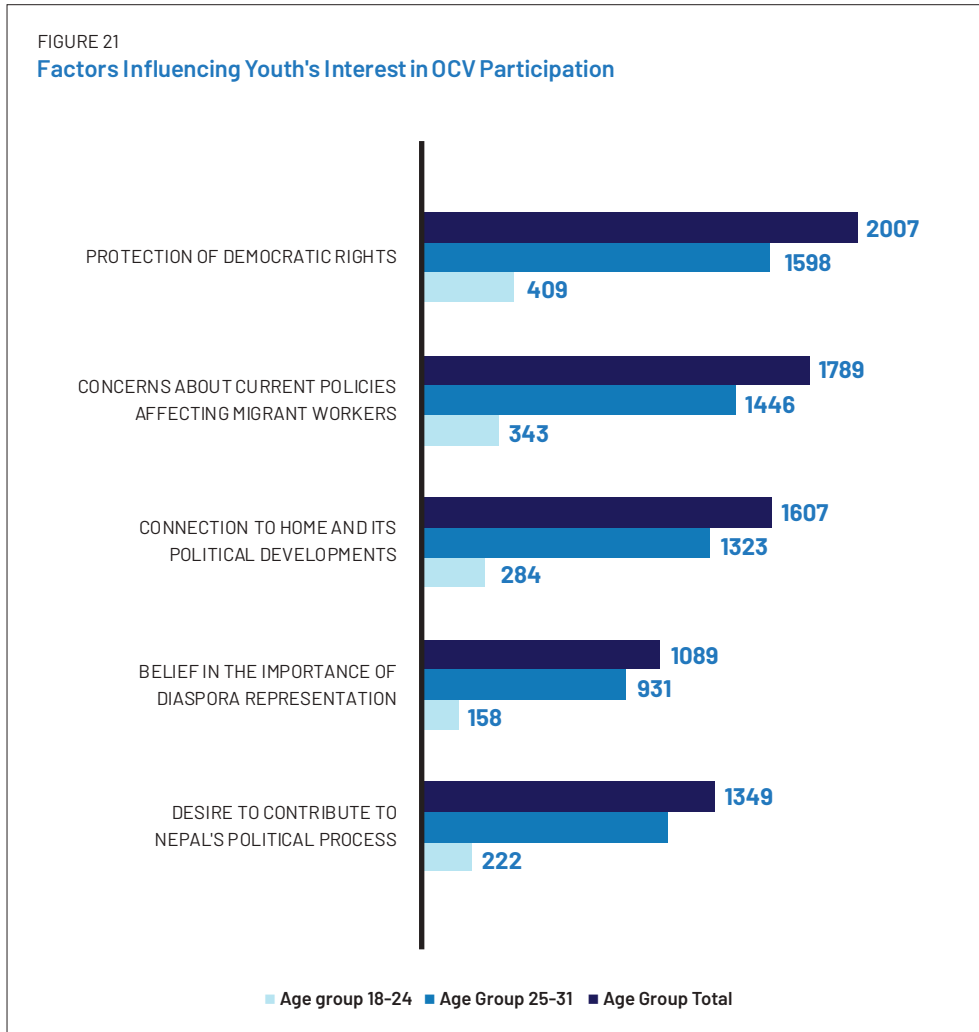


Among youths, 1,412 reported having their names on the voters' list at home (48.2% of all 'Yes'); another 970 said they were not aware (35.6%), and 337 said No (40.6%).

Awareness of the Supreme Court's decision on OCV remains limited: 1,902 youths answered No (43.3%), 722 answered Yes (41.6%), and 95 said Maybe (27.1%).

INTEREST & MOTIVATIONS



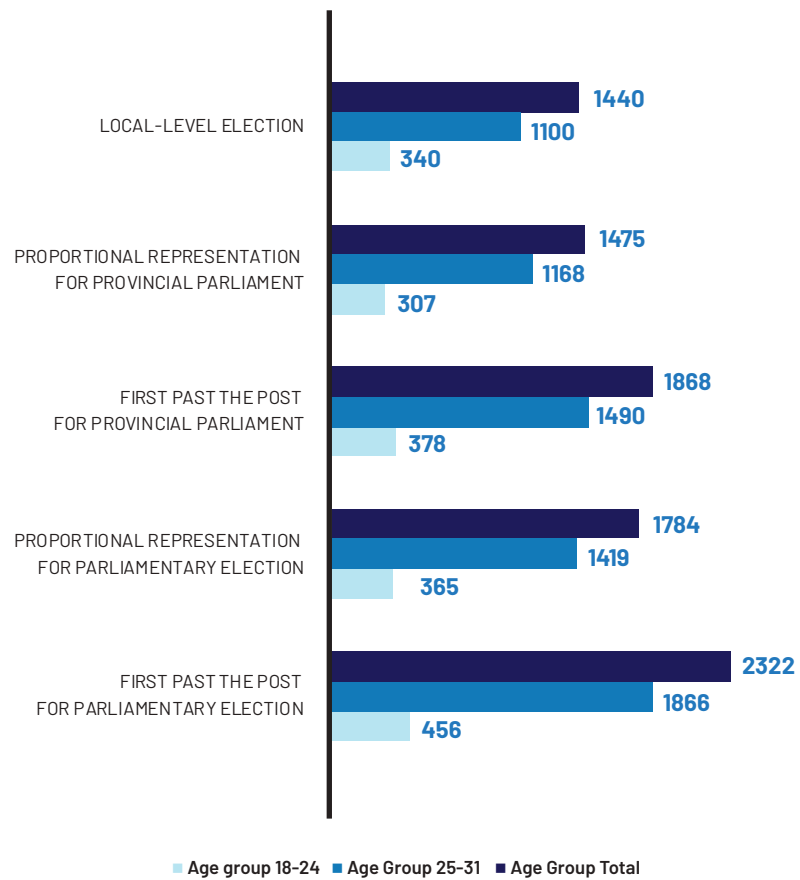


When asked whether they would exercise voting rights from abroad if given the opportunity, youths expressed strong intent: 1,703 said Yes (42.7%), 887 said Maybe (40.7%), and only 129 said No (41.1%). Consistent with that intent, 1,349 youths desired to contribute to Nepal's political process (39.0%), 1,089 believed diaspora representation matters (37.2%), and 2,007 emphasized protecting democratic rights (42.4%).

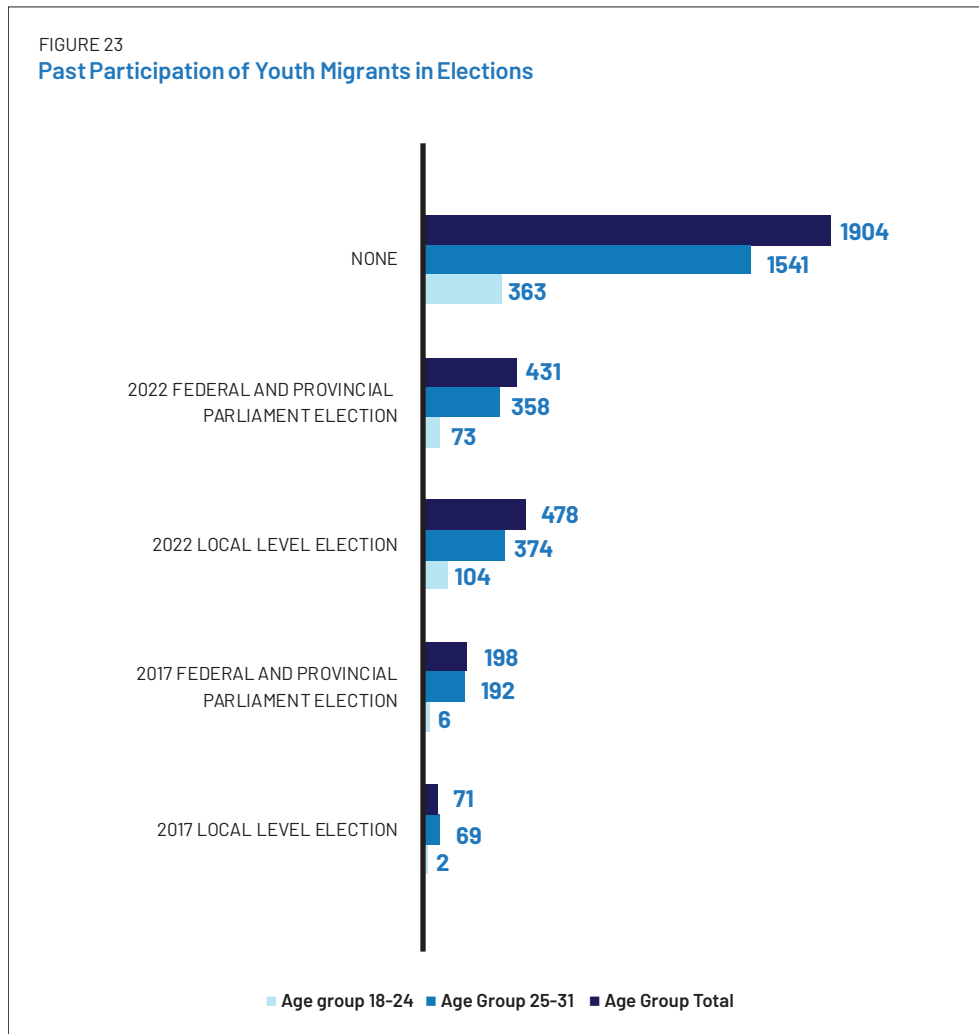
Support for allowing OCV across tiers is broadly strong among youths: for Federal Parliament, FPTP drew 2,322 youth supporters (41.9%), while PR drew 1,784 (42.8%); for Provincial Parliament, FPTP had 1,868 youths (42.2%) and PR had 1,475 (43.8%). At the local level, 1,440 youths supported OCV (45.6%).

SUPPORT FOR ELECTION PROVISIONS

FIGURE 22
Preferred Electoral System to Participate



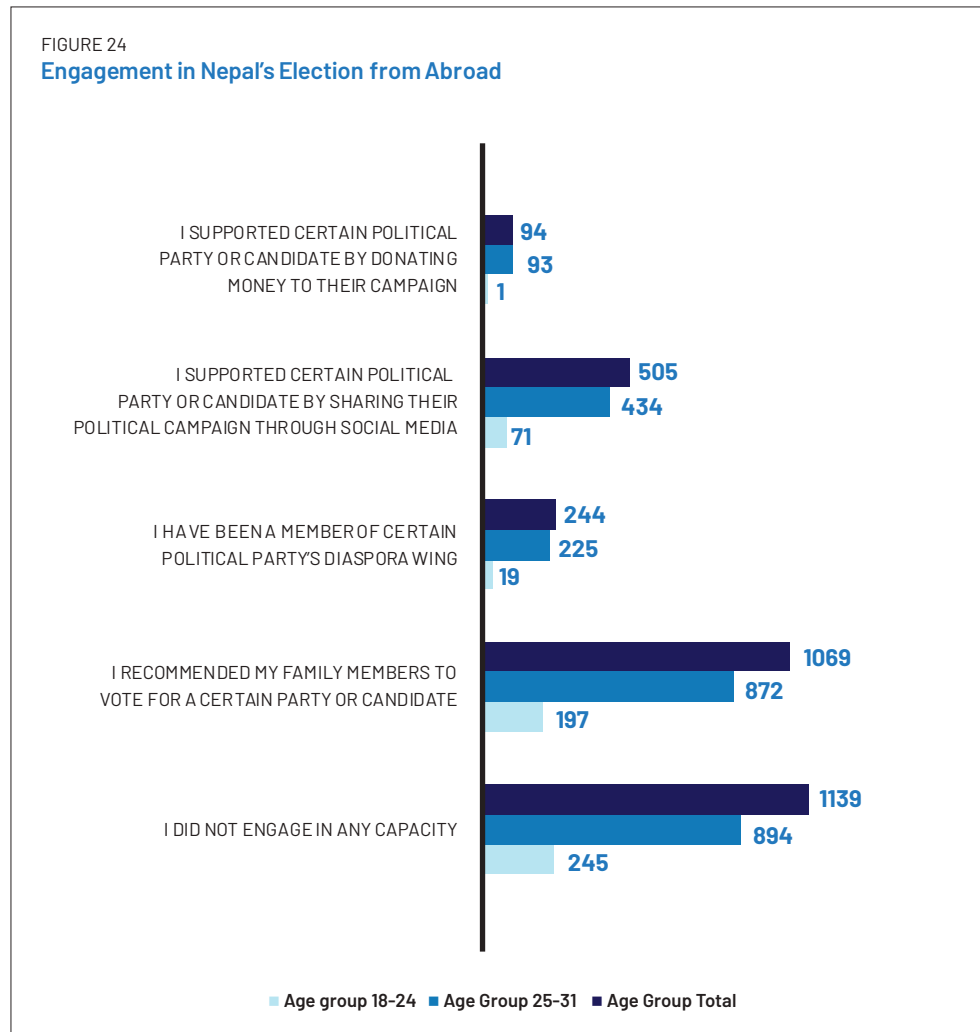
PAST ELECTION PARTICIPATION



Youth participation is notably higher in the 2022 cycle than in 2017. For the 2022 Local Level Election, 478 youths reported participation (58.0%), and for the 2022 Federal & Provincial, 431 youths

participated (56.6%). In contrast, for 2017 Local Level only 71 youths participated (23.5%). A sizable 1,904 youths selected 'None of the listed elections' (41.1%).

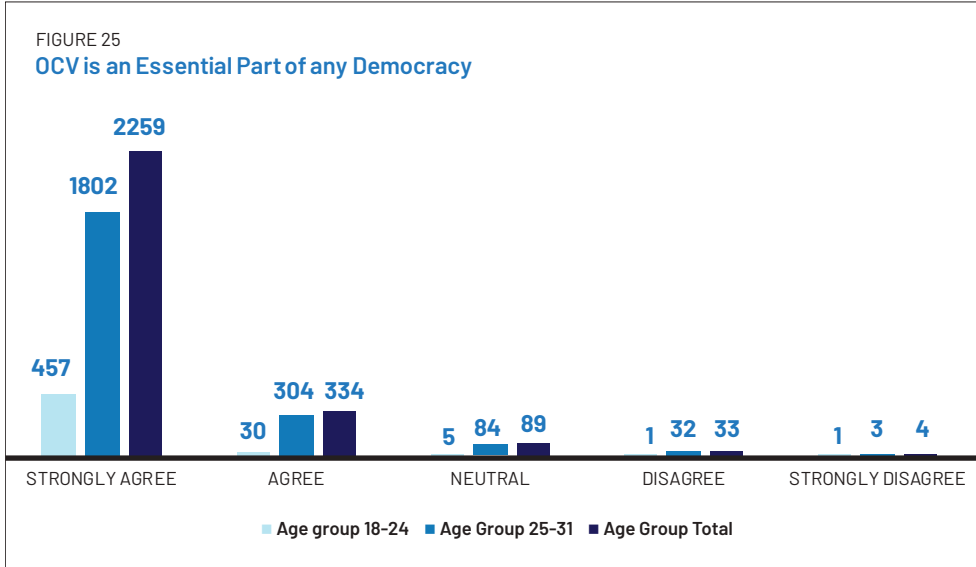
POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



1,139 youths said they did not engage in any capacity (43.3%). Even so, 1,069 recommended voting choices to families (40.5%), 505 supported campaigns via

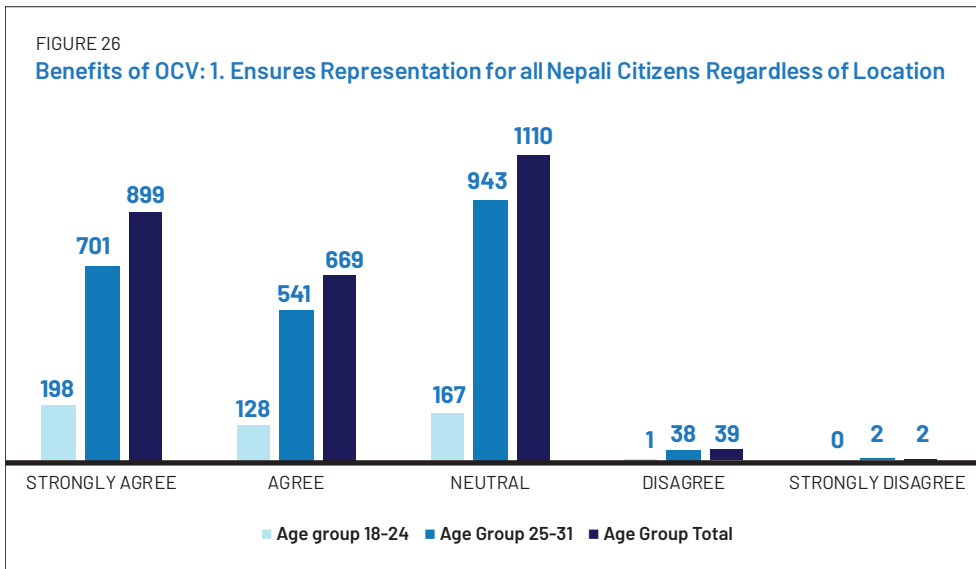
social media (41.3%), 244 were members of a party's diaspora wing (42.6%), and 94 donated to a campaign (39.8%).

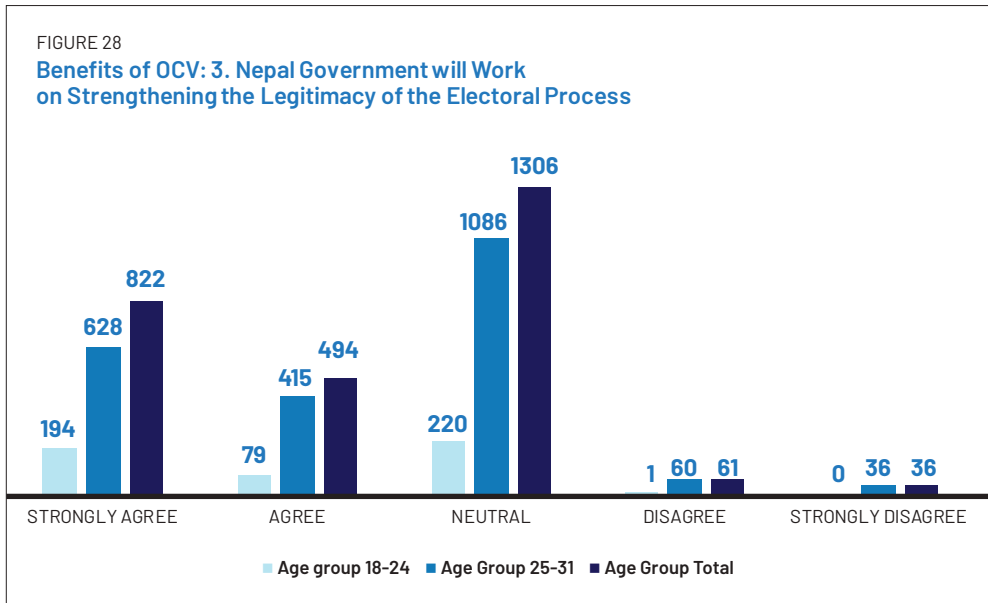
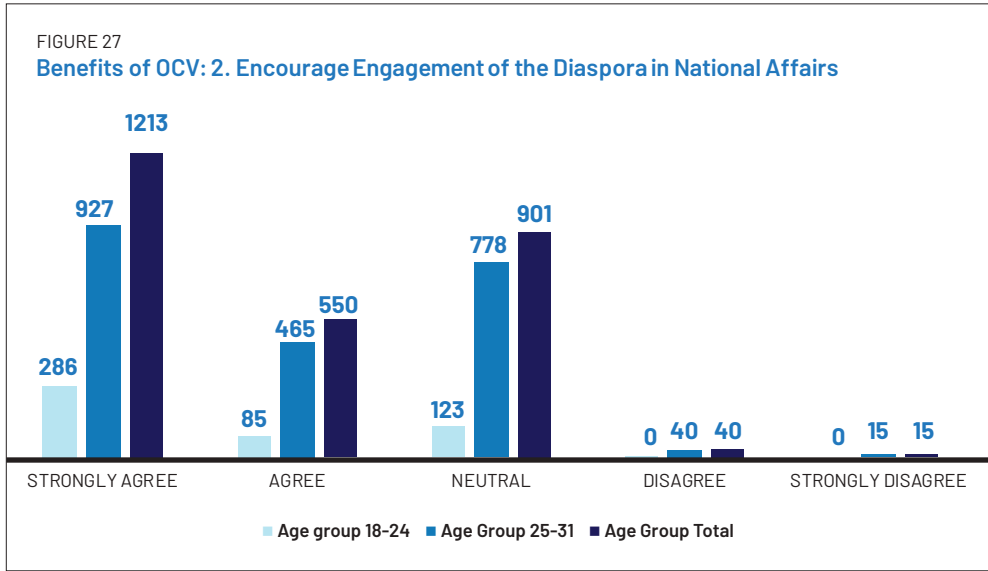
ATTITUDES & PERCEIVED BENEFITS

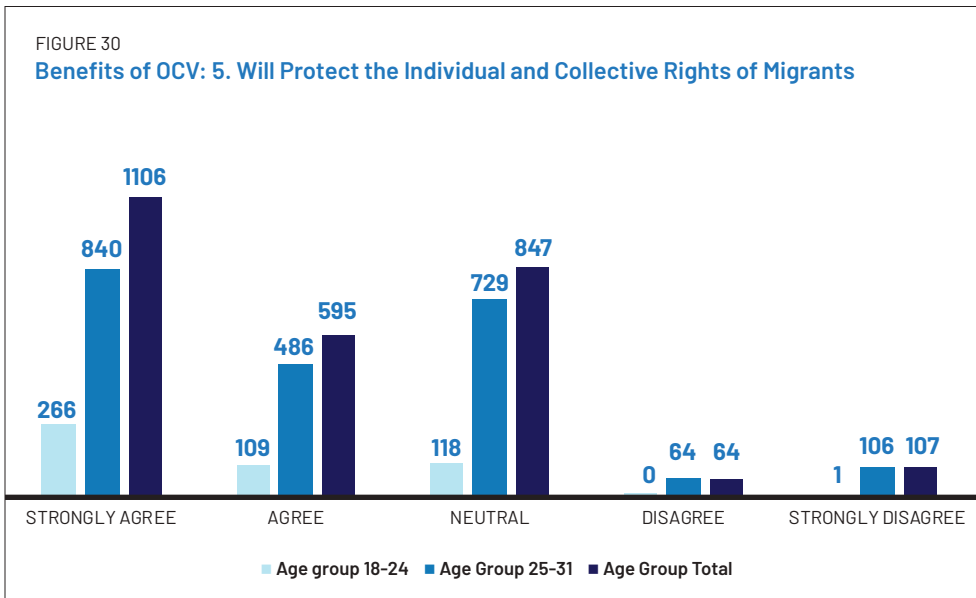
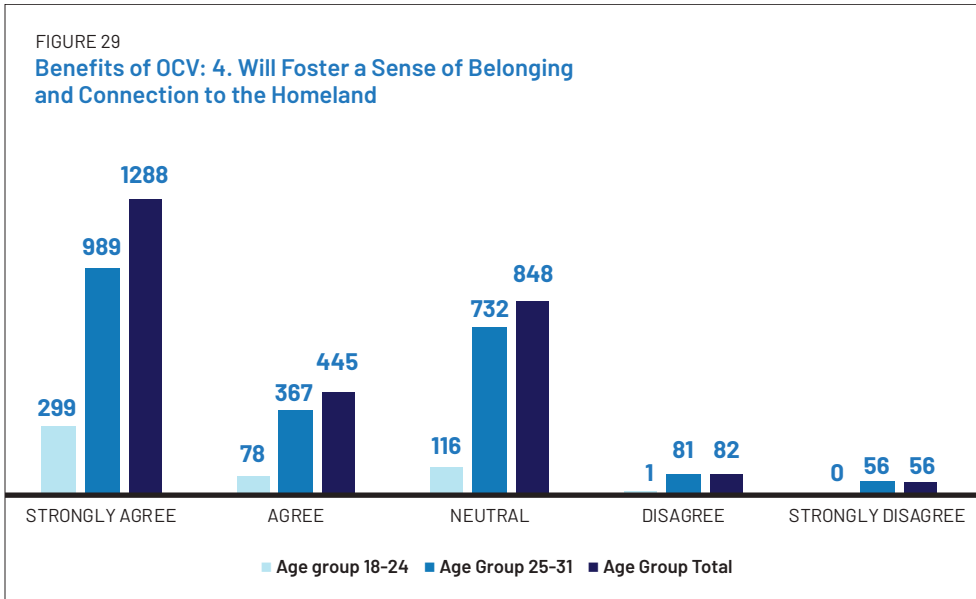


On principle, youths strongly endorse OCV: 2,259 selected 'Strongly Agree' with 'OCV is an essential part of any democracy' (44.8%). Benefits such as representation,

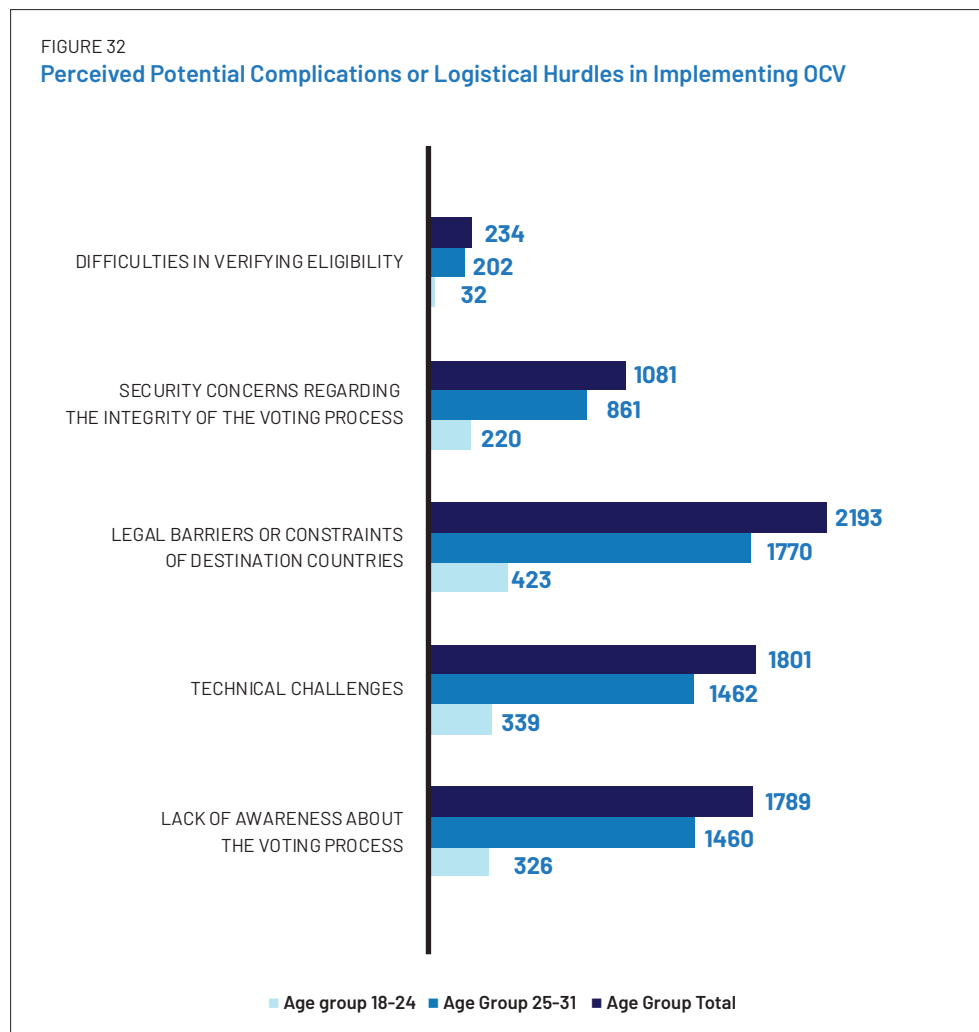
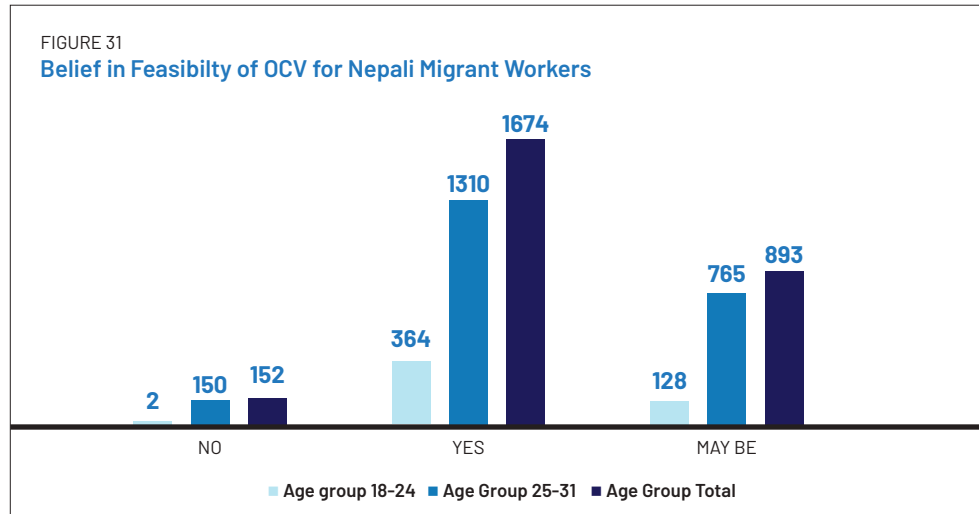
legitimacy, belonging, and rights protection all drew strong youth agreement, with 'Strongly Agree' shares consistently above 40%.





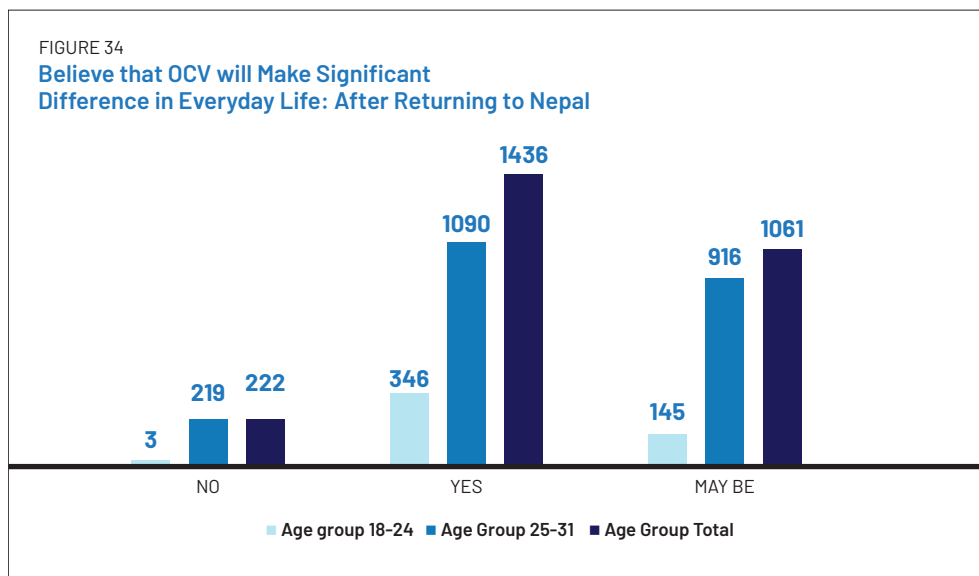
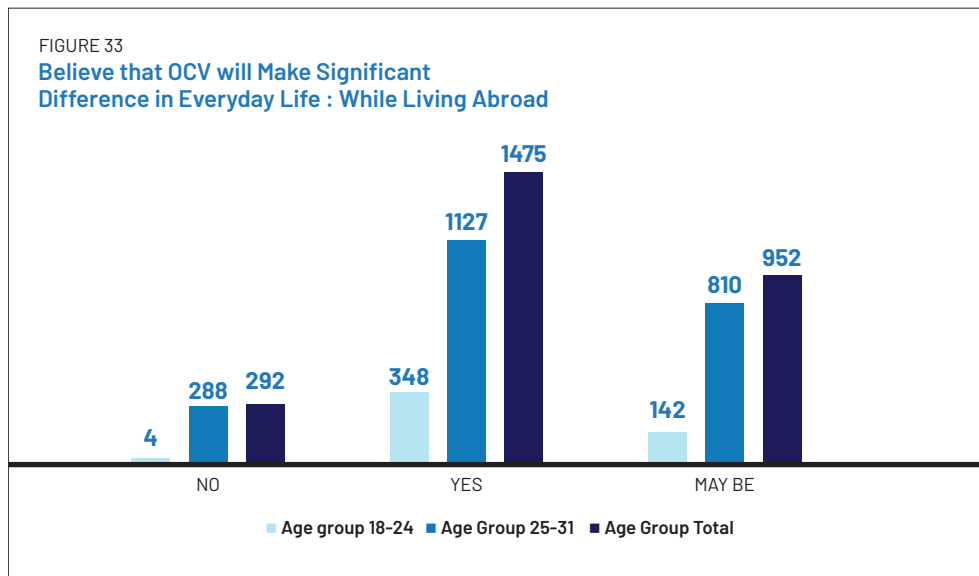


ATTITUDES & PERCEIVED BENEFITS



On feasibility, 1,674 youths believe OCV for migrant workers is feasible (43.4%), 893 answered Maybe (39.8%), and 152 said No (39.6%). Barriers flagged include legal constraints (2,193 youths; 42.3%), technical challenges (1,801; 41.0%), and lack of awareness (1,786; 42.2%).

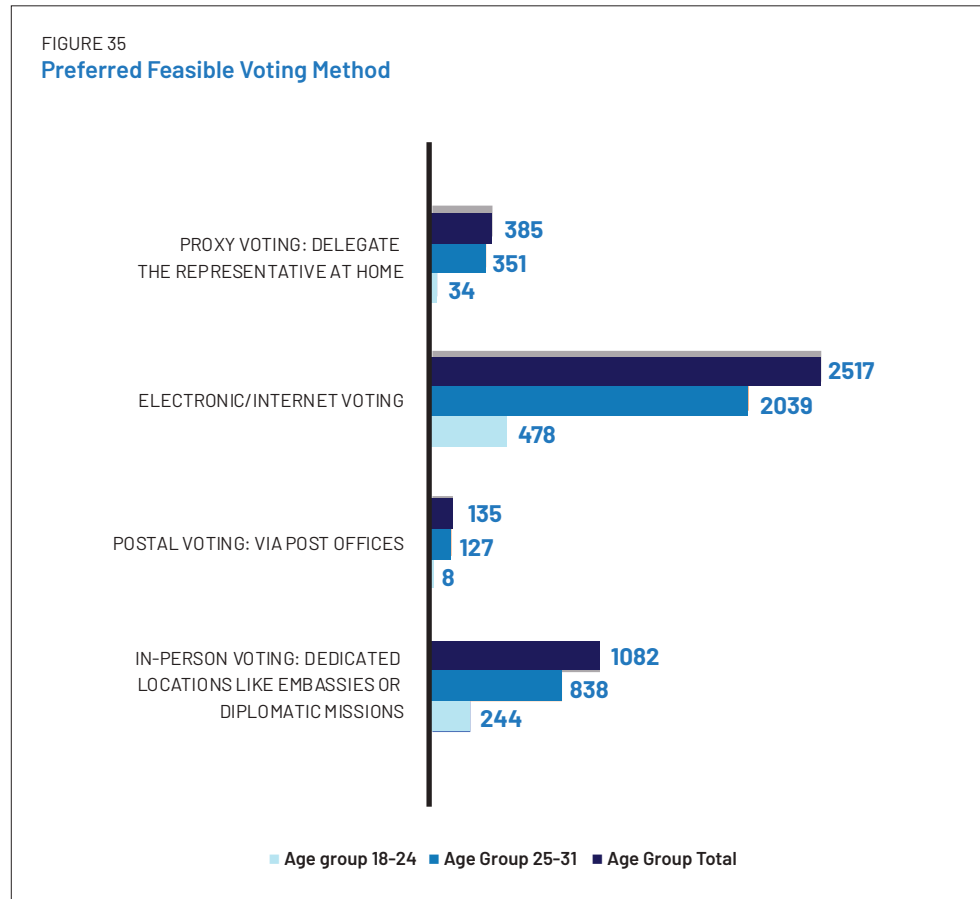
EXPECTED IMPACT



Asked about tangible impact, 1,475 youths said being able to vote from abroad would make a significant difference while living

abroad (45.9%), and 1,436 said it would matter after returning to Nepal (45.7%).

PREFERRED VOTING METHODS



Electronic/internet voting was overwhelmingly favored across the youths, with 2,517 supporting it—41.9% of all respondents who preferred electronic

voting. In comparison, 1,082 youths preferred in-person voting (43.1%), 385 opted for proxy voting (35.3%), and just 135 preferred postal voting (32.9%).





CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSION

Nepal stands at a critical juncture in its democratic evolution. The evidence from this survey reveals that the demand for Out-of-Country Voting (OCV) among Nepali migrant workers is not only widespread but deeply rooted in a collective yearning for inclusion, recognition, and accountability.

For decades, Nepali migrant population has been instrumental in sustaining its economy through remittances, yet remains disenfranchised from the very political processes that determine its governance. The survey's findings dismantle the myth of migrant apathy: the desire to participate in elections is overwhelming, but structural, legal, and logistical barriers continue to silence millions of voices abroad.

The data underscore an optimism amongst migrant workers; the implementation of OCV is feasible. With the 2018 Supreme

Court directive already affirming the constitutional right to vote for citizens abroad, and the collective voices of Gen-Zs for securing OCV in the aftermath of the recent uprising of Sept. 8 & 9, 2025, the onus now lies with the Interim Government to translate the legal precedent and Gen-Z's mandate into practice. The upcoming March 2026 elections, under an interim government, provide a historic opportunity to set this transformation in motion. Implementing OCV through an ordinance, albeit temporary, would mark the first tangible step toward institutionalizing

inclusive suffrage and strengthening the legitimacy of Nepal's democratic system. Failure to act, on the other hand, risks perpetuating a status quo that alienates millions of citizens and erodes the credibility of the electoral process.

Beyond legal reform, immediately through ordinance and later on through regular parliamentary processes, the path forward demands coordination, innovation, and trust. The Election Commission Nepal must lead with technical preparedness, investing

in secure digital infrastructure and targeted voter education. Political parties must transcend partisan divides to uphold OCV as a shared democratic imperative. Civil society organizations should maintain vigilant oversight, ensuring that the rollout of OCV is transparent, inclusive, and credible. Equally, migrant workers themselves must continue to assert their agency—transforming economic remittances into political remittances that can reshape Nepal's democracy from abroad.



Ultimately, this study is more than a survey of perceptions; it is a call to conscience. It urges policymakers, institutions, and citizens alike to recognize that democracy loses its moral authority when it excludes those who sustain it.

Ultimately, this study is more than a survey of perceptions; it is a call to conscience. It urges policymakers, institutions, and citizens alike to recognize that democracy loses its moral authority when it excludes those who sustain it. By enfranchising its citizens abroad, Nepal can redefine the meaning of participation and reaffirm the principles of equality and representation upon which its republic was founded. The time for deliberation has passed; the time for implementation has arrived. Ensuring Out-of-Country Voting is no longer just a policy choice—it is a democratic necessity.





CHAPTER 7

RECOMMENDATIONS

While this study was exploratory in nature, the findings it has generated have significantly advanced the understanding of Nepalese labor migrants' perceptions of Out-of-Country Voting (OCV). Based on these insights, the following sectoral recommendations are proposed to guide the ongoing discourse and policy efforts toward making OCV a viable reality in Nepal:

POLICY AND LEGAL CONTEXT

- Moving forward, it is critical to acknowledge that the Election Commission Nepal (ECN) in 2023 drafted the bill to amend and integrate election laws, called 'Election Management Act, 2080', and it included provisions addressing OCV. Specifically, Clause 22 of the bill envisioned to empower the ECN to collect data on Nepali citizens residing abroad for inclusion in the voter

registration list. Furthermore, Clause 204 permitted the ECN to manage voting for eligible citizens through diplomatic missions or other designated bodies in foreign countries. Notably though, Sub-clause (2) of Clause 204 limited this right to participation in the Proportional Representation (PR) election for the House of Representatives (HoR), while Sub-clause (5) provided the legal basis for online voting, provided the ECN was

satisfied with the confidentiality and security of the voting process.

- However, the recent Gen-Z uprising (Sept 8 & 9, 2025) changed the aforementioned political dynamics of Nepal, where, with the federal parliament dissolved, the regular route of law-making has been disrupted, thus only leaving room for ordinance to cater OCV proceedings. As the current interim government is mandated to hold a snap election, scheduled for March 5, 2026, it is imperative to have such ordinance in place if OCV is to materialize starting from the immediate election. However, since ordinances by nature are temporary laws, any OCV related legal changes arising from ordinances would need to be tabled and passed by the parliament to cement such changes for permanent provisioning of OCV in periodic elections of Nepal. Thus, the interim government, despite being shorthanded with resources, specifically constrained by time, has a historic opportunity to set precedence for OCV and pave the way for its institutionalization in Nepal.

POLICYMAKERS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

- Political parties should work collaboratively to build consensus around supporting the interim government with OCV related ordinance to commence its implementation in the immediate election scheduled for 5 March 2026. Furthermore, as Nepal stands on the brink of an election, political parties must go beyond ordinances and embed Out-of-Country Voting (OCV) into their manifestos and long-term legislative agendas. Institutionalizing OCV within mainstream

political discourse is essential to maintain momentum beyond this transitional phase and to guarantee that the voting rights of Nepali citizens abroad become a permanent feature of Nepal's democratic framework.

- The bill to amend and integrate election laws that had remained pending for nearly two years, had paved the way for necessary amendments to ensure OCV, although limited to only PR elections for the HoR. The interim government can uptake these provisions through ordinance, thereby incorporating further progressive provisions for inclusion of voting rights for all FPTP and PR elections as far as possible.
- The government and policymakers should commission dedicated rapid studies to identify viable models for implementing OCV, including through diplomatic channels, and allocate adequate resources from the national budget to enable the ECN to establish a designated department responsible for overseeing OCV operations.

ELECTION COMMISSION NEPAL (ECN)

- The ECN should proactively engage with political leaders and government stakeholders to ensure that current momentum towards an ordinance to hold OCV be expedited, allowing sufficient time to plan and implement necessary mechanisms for OCV ahead of the 2026 election.
- Findings from this study indicate that an overwhelming majority of migrant workers (92.6%) prefer electronic or internet-based voting, while only 38.7% favored in-person voting through

diplomatic missions. In line with this, the ECN should prioritize the development and testing of secure e-voting systems that meet the expectations of the migrant population.

- The study also revealed gaps in migrant workers' understanding of different tiers of elections and electoral systems in Nepal. As a result, the ECN should integrate targeted voter education programs that explain the roles and significance of various elections, particularly the rationale for seeing OCV participation in the PR election for the HoR only in recent discussions – a provision that contrasts with the majority preference (86.4%) for FPTP voting.

CITIZENS (INCLUDING THE MIGRANT POPULATION)

- Citizens, particularly those in the migrant population, should actively exercise their agency and utilize existing platforms to demand their constitutional right to vote and hold the government accountable for ensuring their enfranchisement, starting from the scheduled March 5, 2026 HoR election through ordinance that amends related election laws for its provisioning.
- Migrant workers should consider forming issue-based advocacy groups or coalitions to lobby for ensuring and broadening of voting rights beyond the currently discussed PR election for the HoR, thereby amplifying their collective voice in Nepal's democratic processes.

CIVIL SOCIETY

- National and international civil society organizations (CSOs) should play a facilitative role in bridging the gap

between migrant laborers' aspirations to vote and the legal frameworks under formulation by the government. While acknowledging the incremental nature of policy reform, civil society actors should advocate for the progressive expansion of migrant voting rights.

- Given the recent political development in the aftermath of Gen-Z Uprising, 2025, Civil Society ought to advocate for an Ordinance to swiftly integrate OCV provisions in the 2026 election.
- Civil society should remain vigilant regarding the potential risks to democratic integrity posed by poorly designed OCV systems. It is imperative for CSOs to independently test, review, and verify any OCV mechanisms developed by the ECN to safeguard the credibility and transparency of the process.

RESEARCHERS

- While OCV represents a fundamental democratic right for currently disenfranchised nepali migrants, its implementation is inherently complex, involving significant legal, technical, and financial considerations. Researchers should contribute by identifying and recommending the most viable, contextually appropriate, and cost-effective voting methods suited to Nepal's political and resource landscape.
- Furthermore, researchers should actively engage in research uptake and knowledge translation efforts by collaborating with CSOs and policymakers, producing evidence-based recommendations that can inform advocacy strategies, policy formulation, and legislative amendments.

ANNEX: TABLES

A.1: CROSSTABS BY GENDER

		Gender	
		Male	Female
		Count	Count
Gender	Male	5726	0
	Female	0	756
Age	18-24	405	89
	25-31	1920	305
	32-38	2224	278
	39-45	1017	76
	46-52	146	8
	53-59	14	0
Current Country of Residence	60 and above	0	0
	Bahrain	481	26
	Kuwait	755	322
	Malaysia	1033	36
	Oman	565	52
	Qatar	945	65
	Saudi Arabia	1115	10
	UAE	823	244
Working Industry	Others	9	1
	Agriculture	26	4
	Construction	1726	12
	Electronics and Manufacturing	1436	27
	Health	1	46
	Service	2407	650
	Others	130	17
Academic Qualification	Masters and above	18	4
	Bachelors	182	27
	High School	737	117
	SEE/SLC	3152	356
	Below SEE/SLC	1637	252
Province	Koshi	1598	243
	Madhesh	893	37
	Bagmati	1005	188
	Gandaki	996	113
	Lumbini	827	115
	Karnali	201	28
	Sudurpaschim	206	32

CONTINUE: A.1: CROSSTABS BY GENDER

CONTINUE: A.1: CROSSTABS BY GENDER

		Gender	
		Male	Female
		Count	Count
Do you have your name listed in voters' list in your respective municipality/rural-municipality ?	No	719	112
	Yes	2577	352
	Not Aware	2430	292
Are you aware of the Supreme Court's decision on Out of Country Voting, where	No	3792	603
	Yes	1608	129
	Maybe	326	24
Provided with an opportunity; would you be interested in exercising your voting rights as a Nepali migrant worker living abroad?	No	292	22
	Yes	3471	517
	Maybe	1963	217
Desire to contribute to Nepal's political process	No	2346	365
	Yes	3088	369
Belief in the importance of diaspora representation	No	2800	443
	Yes	2634	291
Connection to home and its political developments	No	1945	379
	Yes	3489	355
Concerns about current policies affecting migrant workers	No	1593	388
	Yes	3841	346
Protection of Democratic Rights	No	1260	174
	Yes	4174	560
Other	No	5434	734
	Yes	0	0
No	No	5386	733
	Yes	48	1
First past the post for Parliamentary election	No	541	79
	Yes	4893	655
Proportional Representation for Parliamentary election	No	1692	307
	Yes	3742	427
First past the post for Provincial Parliament	No	1477	268
	Yes	3957	466
Proportional Representation for Provincial Parliament	No	2421	376
	Yes	3013	358
Local-Level Election	No	2728	283
	Yes	2706	451
No	No	5373	716
	Yes	61	18
2008 Constitutional Assembly Election	No	5479	712
	Yes	247	44
2013 Constitutional Assembly Election	No	5560	710
	Yes	166	46

CONTINUE: A.1: CROSSTABS BY GENDER

CONTINUE: A.1: CROSSTABS BY GENDER

		Gender	
		Male	Female
		Count	Count
2017 Local Level Election	No	5458	722
	Yes	268	34
2017 Federal and Provincial Parliament Election	No	5370	679
	Yes	356	77
2022 Local Level Election	No	5045	613
	Yes	681	143
2022 Federal and Provincial Parliament Election	No	5053	667
	Yes	673	89
None	No	1556	295
	Yes	4170	461
I did not engage in any capacity	No	3343	508
	Yes	2383	248
I recommended my family members to vote for a certain party or candidate	No	3367	475
	Yes	2359	281
I have been a member of certain political party's diaspora wing	No	5175	734
	Yes	551	22
I supported certain political party or candidate by sharing their political campaign through social media	No	4598	660
	Yes	1128	96
I supported certain political party or candidate by donating money to their campaign	No	5512	734
	Yes	214	22
No	No	2129	292
	Yes	3597	464
OCV is an essential part of any democracy.	Strongly Agree	4454	584
	Agree	915	144
	Neutral	245	15
	Disagree	101	13
	Strongly Disagree	11	0
Benefits you see in allowing Nepali migrants to vote from abroad: If implemented, Nepal Government ensures representation for all Nepali citizens regardless of location	Strongly Agree	1871	143
	Agree	1363	282
	Neutral	2356	319
	Disagree	129	12
	Strongly Disagree	7	0
Benefits you see in allowing Nepali migrants to vote from abroad: If implemented, Nepali Political Parties and other relevant stakeholders encourage engagement of the diaspora in national affairs	Strongly Agree	2312	362
	Agree	1268	193
	Neutral	2033	191
	Disagree	90	9
	Strongly Disagree	23	1
Benefits you see in allowing Nepali migrants to vote from abroad: If implemented, Nepal Government will work on strengthening the legitimacy of the electoral process	Strongly Agree	1757	128
	Agree	1195	197
	Neutral	2594	415
	Disagree	120	15
	Strongly Disagree	60	1

CONTINUE: A.1: CROSSTABS BY GENDER

CONTINUE: A.1: CROSSTABS BY GENDER

		Gender	
		Male	Female
		Count	Count
Benefits you see in allowing Nepali migrants to vote from abroad: If implemented, Electoral Participation of every citizen regardless of their location will foster a sense of belonging and connection to the homeland	Strongly Agree	2477	422
	Agree	1100	162
	Neutral	1924	156
	Disagree	134	12
	Strongly Disagree	91	4
Benefits you see in allowing Nepali migrants to vote from abroad: If implemented, Electoral Participation of every citizen regardless of their location will protect the individual and collective rights of migrants	Strongly Agree	2198	292
	Agree	1334	281
	Neutral	1916	164
	Disagree	112	12
	Strongly Disagree	166	7
Do you believe it is feasible for Nepali migrant workers to participate in out-of-country voting?	No	357	27
	Yes	3367	487
	Maybe	2002	242
Lack of awareness about the voting process	No	1979	267
	Yes	3747	489
Technical challenges	No	1700	391
	Yes	4026	365
Legal barriers or constraints of destination countries	No	1189	111
	Yes	4537	645
Security concerns regarding the integrity of the voting process	No	3427	405
	Yes	2299	351
Difficulties in verifying eligibility	No	4982	643
	Yes	744	113
Other	No	5726	756
	Yes	0	0
If provided with the opportunity to vote from abroad, do you believe it would make a significant difference in your everyday life while living abroad?	No	742	65
	Yes	2820	391
	Maybe	2164	300
If allowed to vote from abroad, do you believe it would make a significant difference in your everyday life after returning to Nepal?	No	484	35
	Yes	2767	373
	Maybe	2475	348
In-person Voting: Dedicated locations like Embassies or Diplomatic Missions	No	3602	371
	Yes	2124	385
Postal Voting: Via Post Offices	No	5363	709
	Yes	363	47
Electronic/Internet Voting	No	410	69
	Yes	5316	687
Proxy Voting: Delegate the representative at home	No	4875	517
	Yes	851	239

A.2: CROSSTABS BY AGE GROUP

		Age					
		18-24	25-31	32-38	39-45	46-52	53-59
		Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
Gender	Male	405	1920	2224	1017	146	14
	Female	89	305	278	76	8	0
Age	18-24	494	0	0	0	0	0
	25-31	0	2225	0	0	0	0
	32-38	0	0	2502	0	0	0
	39-45	0	0	0	1093	0	0
	46-52	0	0	0	0	154	0
	53-59	0	0	0	0	0	14
	60 and above	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Country of Residence	Bahrain	33	226	206	41	0	1
	Kuwait	113	365	402	159	32	6
	Malaysia	49	356	501	153	10	0
	Oman	35	203	278	90	11	0
	Qatar	140	397	306	149	18	0
	Saudi Arabia	58	411	412	204	34	6
	UAE	66	265	393	293	49	1
	Others	0	2	4	4	0	0
Working Industry	Agriculture	2	10	13	4	1	0
	Construction	155	644	632	268	34	5
	Electronics and Manufacturing	77	479	598	267	40	2
	Health	6	24	16	1	0	0
	Service	247	1029	1169	528	77	7
	Others	7	39	74	25	2	0
	Academic Qualification	Masters and above	0	5	10	6	1
Bachelors		9	48	91	46	14	1
High School		71	326	313	122	19	3
SEE/SLC		298	1357	1278	509	63	3
Below SEE/SLC		116	489	810	410	57	7
Province	Koshi	131	613	710	342	44	1
	Madhesh	81	365	348	125	11	0
	Bagmati	75	420	495	174	25	4
	Gandaki	82	352	398	230	40	7
	Lumbini	85	313	368	148	26	2
	Karnali	21	78	89	36	5	0
	Sudurpaschim	19	84	94	38	3	0
Do you have your name listed in voters' list in your respective municipality/rural-municipality ?	No	42	295	354	112	24	4
	Yes	313	1099	1005	438	68	6
	Not Aware	139	831	1143	543	62	4

CONTINUE: A.2: CROSSTABS BY AGE GROUP

CONTINUE: A.2: CROSSTABS BY AGE GROUP

		Age					
		18-24	25-31	32-38	39-45	46-52	53-59
		Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
Are you aware of the Supreme Court's decision on Out of Country Voting, where	No	333	1569	1699	700	87	7
	Yes	150	572	642	310	59	4
	Maybe	11	84	161	83	8	3
Provided with an opportunity; would you be interested in exercising your voting rights as a Nepali migrant worker living abroad?	No	3	126	164	20	0	1
	Yes	371	1332	1494	669	109	13
	Maybe	120	767	844	404	45	0
Desire to contribute to Nepal's political process	No	270	995	1037	361	38	10
	Yes	221	1104	1301	712	116	3
Belief in the importance of diaspora representation	No	334	1184	1242	421	53	9
	Yes	157	915	1096	652	101	4
Connection to home and its political developments	No	208	801	921	331	54	9
	Yes	283	1298	1417	742	100	4
Concerns about current policies affecting migrant workers	No	150	684	828	270	41	8
	Yes	341	1415	1510	803	113	5
Protection of Democratic Rights	No	84	519	611	187	29	4
	Yes	407	1580	1727	886	125	9
Other	No	491	2099	2338	1073	154	13
	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0
No	No	488	2090	2325	1052	151	13
	Yes	3	9	13	21	3	0
First past the post for Parliamentary election	No	36	256	261	57	9	1
	Yes	455	1843	2077	1016	145	12
Proportional Representation for Parliamentary election	No	127	692	777	339	59	5
	Yes	364	1407	1561	734	95	8
First past the post for Provincial Parliament	No	114	623	692	265	45	6
	Yes	377	1476	1646	808	109	7
Proportional Representation for Provincial Parliament	No	185	955	1081	495	75	6
	Yes	306	1144	1257	578	79	7
Local-Level Election	No	151	1024	1210	548	74	4
	Yes	340	1075	1128	525	80	9
No	No	487	2066	2309	1064	150	13
	Yes	4	33	29	9	4	0
2008 Constitutional Assembly Election	No	457	1802	1802	840	127	10
	Yes	30	304	484	214	24	3
2013 Constitutional Assembly Election	No	5	84	144	25	2	0
	Yes	1	32	69	12	0	0
2017 Local Level Election	No	1	3	3	2	1	1
	Yes	198	701	714	328	65	8
2017 Federal and Provincial Parliament Election	No	128	541	657	278	36	5
	Yes	167	943	1040	472	53	0

CONTINUE: A.2: CROSSTABS BY AGE GROUP

CONTINUE: A.2: CROSSTABS BY AGE GROUP

		Age					
		18-24	25-31	32-38	39-45	46-52	53-59
		Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
2022 Local Level Election	No	1	38	88	14	0	0
	Yes	0	2	3	1	0	1
2022 Federal and Provincial Parliament Election	No	286	927	967	414	72	8
	Yes	85	465	625	251	31	4
None	No	123	778	853	418	51	1
	Yes	0	40	50	9	0	0
I did not engage in any capacity	No	0	15	7	1	0	1
	Yes	194	628	681	312	63	7
I recommended my family members to vote for a certain party or candidate	No	79	415	595	267	32	4
	Yes	220	1086	1136	507	58	2
I have been a member of certain political party's diaspora wing	No	1	60	68	5	1	0
	Yes	0	36	22	2	0	1
I supported certain political party or candidate by sharing their political campaign through social media	No	299	989	1079	443	80	9
	Yes	78	367	537	248	29	3
I supported certain political party or candidate by No donating money to their campaign	No	116	732	790	396	45	1
	Yes	1	81	60	4	0	0
No	No	0	56	36	2	0	1
	Yes	266	840	926	380	68	10
OCV is an essential part of any democracy.	Strongly Agree	109	486	675	303	40	2
	Agree	118	729	785	401	46	1
	Neutral	0	64	53	7	0	0
	Disagree	1	106	63	2	0	1
	Strongly Disagree	2	150	202	28	1	1
Benefits you see in allowing Nepali migrants to vote from abroad: If implemented, Nepal Government ensures representation for all Nepali citizens regardless of location	Strongly Agree	364	1310	1422	640	105	13
	Agree	128	765	878	425	48	0
	Neutral	168	765	950	309	45	9
	Disagree	326	1460	1552	784	109	5
	Strongly Disagree	155	763	839	284	43	7
Benefits you see in allowing Nepali migrants to vote from abroad: If implemented, Nepali Political Parties and other relevant stakeholders encourage engagement of the diaspora in national affairs	Strongly Agree	339	1462	1663	809	111	7
	Agree	71	455	548	183	35	8
	Neutral	423	1770	1954	910	119	6
	Disagree	274	1364	1484	618	82	10
	Strongly Disagree	220	861	1018	475	72	4
Benefits you see in allowing Nepali migrants to vote from abroad: If implemented, Nepal Government will work on strengthening the legitimacy of the electoral process	Strongly Agree	462	2023	2162	854	112	12
	Agree	32	202	340	239	42	2
	Neutral	494	2225	2502	1093	154	14
	Disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Strongly Disagree	4	288	429	78	5	3

CONTINUE: A.2: CROSSTABS BY AGE GROUP

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		Age					
		18-24	25-31	32-38	39-45	46-52	53-59
		Count	Count	Count	Count	Count	Count
Benefits you see in allowing Nepali migrants to vote from abroad: If implemented, Electoral Participation of every citizen regardless of their location will foster a sense of belonging and connection to the homeland	Strongly Agree	348	1127	1119	524	84	9
	Agree	142	810	954	491	65	2
	Neutral	3	219	242	50	4	1
	Disagree	346	1090	1118	498	78	10
	Strongly Disagree	145	916	1142	545	72	3
Benefits you see in allowing Nepali migrants to vote from abroad: If implemented, Electoral Participation of every citizen regardless of their location will protect the individual and collective rights of migrants	Strongly Agree	250	1387	1519	712	97	8
	Agree	244	838	983	381	57	6
	Neutral	486	2098	2293	1035	146	14
	Disagree	8	127	209	58	8	0
	Strongly Disagree	16	186	202	61	10	4
Do you believe it is feasible for Nepali migrant workers to participate in out-of-country voting?	No	478	2039	2300	1032	144	10
	Yes	460	1874	1996	919	130	13
	Maybe	34	351	506	174	24	1
Lack of awareness about the voting process	No	168	765	950	310	45	9
	Yes	326	1460	1553	784	109	5
Technical challenges	No	155	763	839	284	43	7
	Yes	339	1462	1664	810	111	7
Legal barriers or constraints of destination countries	No	71	455	549	184	35	8
	Yes	423	1770	1954	910	119	6
Security concerns regarding the integrity of the voting process	No	274	1364	1485	619	82	10
	Yes	220	861	1018	475	72	4
Difficulties in verifying eligibility	No	462	2023	2163	855	112	12
	Yes	32	202	340	239	42	2
Other	No	494	2225	2503	1094	154	14
	Yes	0	0	0	0	0	0
If provided with the opportunity to vote from abroad, do you believe it would make a significant difference in your everyday life while living abroad?	No	4	288	429	79	5	3
	Yes	348	1127	1120	524	84	9
	Maybe	142	810	954	491	65	2
If allowed to vote from abroad, do you believe it would make a significant difference in your everyday life after returning to Nepal?	No	3	219	242	51	4	1
	Yes	346	1090	1119	498	78	10
	Maybe	145	916	1142	545	72	3
In-person Voting: Dedicated locations like Embassies or Diplomatic Missions	No	250	1387	1520	713	97	8
	Yes	244	838	983	381	57	6
Postal Voting: Via Post Offices	No	486	2098	2294	1036	146	14
	Yes	8	127	209	58	8	0
Electronic/Internet Voting	No	16	186	202	61	10	4
	Yes	478	2039	2301	1033	144	10
Proxy Voting: Delegate the representative at home	No	460	1874	1997	920	130	13
	Yes	34	351	506	174	24	1



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