

National Identity Card in Nepal

Introduction

The National Identity Card of Nepal is a federal-level Identity card with a unique identification number for each person that can be obtained by citizens of Nepal, based on their biometric and demographic data. The data is collected by the National ID Card Management Centre (NIDMC), a statutory authority established in July 2011 by Nepal's government under the Home Ministry's jurisdiction.

This card will feature a unique number, photo, personal Information and 10 fingerprints of the bearer. Upon full implementation, this card will replace the current "Nepalese Citizenship" and will be used for National Identity, personal identity, as Voter ID Card and as a Social Security Card through its unique number. This card will not replace other documents like Passport, Driver's License.

Background

Bhagawati Devi Bhandari 101-year-old, a resident of Phidim Municipality-4, acquired the first national ID card in the country from Minister for Home Affairs Ram Bahadur Thapa in the Panchthar district.

Documents are required for National Identity Card

The documents required to apply for National Identity Card in Nepal are:

1. Application form
2. Passport size Photo
3. Citizenship for Identity verification
4. Parent's citizenship
5. Marriage certificate (Couples only)
6. Migration certificate or "Basai Sarai" (If changed state permanently)
7. Death certificate (If your partner is no more)

Any Nepalese who has citizenship and is 16 years or above can apply for Rastriya Parichaya Patra(NID).

Pre Enrollment of National Identity Card

Application for the National Identity Card Nepal can be submitted using 2 methods,

1. Online Registration at donidcr.gov.np
 2. Submit the Application Form at District Administrative Office.
- You can submit your application either way mentioned above, and after successful registration, you will get appointment dates for Biometrics and documents submission.

- Visit the office you selected at 10 am (during opening hours), and within an hour, they will register your Biometrics and complete the application process. If you fail to provide the necessary documents or information, then they will not accept your application.
- If your application is approved, you will receive your National Identification Number from SMS.

Features of NID

The e-NID system in Nepal aims to digitize the national identity card and incorporate advanced technologies for improved security and functionality. The key features and benefits of the proposed e-NID system in Nepal may include:

Biometric Data: The e-NID would likely include biometric data such as fingerprints and iris scans to enhance identification accuracy and reduce the risk of identity fraud.

Smart Card Technology: The e-NID may be implemented as a smart card with an embedded microchip that securely stores personal information and digital signatures.

Digital Authentication: The e-NID can be digitally authenticated using card readers or other electronic devices. This allows for quick and reliable verification of the cardholder's identity.

Integration with Services: The e-NID could be integrated with various government and private sector services, enabling streamlined access to services, online transactions, and e-governance initiatives.

Secure Data Storage: The e-NID system would likely include secure centralized databases for storing and managing personal information, ensuring data accuracy, integrity, and privacy.

Online Verification: The e-NID system could provide online verification services, allowing individuals and organizations to authenticate identities remotely, which can be particularly useful for digital platforms and e-commerce transactions.

Challenges of NID in context of Nepal

While the implementation of a National Identity Card (NID) system in Nepal offers several benefits, there can be certain drawbacks or challenges associated with it. Here are some potential drawbacks to consider:

Inclusivity and Accessibility: Introducing an NID system may present challenges for marginalized communities, remote areas, and individuals with limited access to government services. Ensuring that the NID system reaches all citizens, including those in rural and disadvantaged regions, would be essential to avoid creating further disparities.

Data Security and Privacy Concerns: Digital systems are vulnerable to cybersecurity threats, and the NID system could be at risk of data breaches or unauthorized access. Safeguarding the personal information stored in the NID system is crucial to protect individuals' privacy and prevent identity theft.

Infrastructure and Connectivity: Establishing a reliable and secure infrastructure to support the NID system, especially in remote areas with limited connectivity, could be a

challenge. Adequate investment in technology infrastructure and connectivity would be necessary to ensure widespread implementation and usage of the NID system.

Maintenance and Upgrades: NID systems require regular maintenance and updates to keep up with evolving technologies, security standards, and changing citizen needs. Ensuring continuous funding, technical expertise, and dedicated resources for maintenance and upgrades can be a challenge for the government.

Potential for Abuse of Power: If not carefully regulated, the NID system could be susceptible to misuse by authorities or individuals with access to the database. Strict legal frameworks and oversight mechanisms need to be in place to prevent the misuse of citizens' personal information and protect against potential abuse of power.

Exclusion and Discrimination: There is a risk that the NID system could be used to discriminate against certain individuals or communities based on their personal information or demographic characteristics. Measures should be in place to prevent discriminatory practices and ensure fair and equal treatment for all citizens.

Cost and Affordability: Implementing and maintaining an NID system can be expensive, requiring significant investment in technology, infrastructure, training, and administration. The cost burden should be carefully managed to avoid placing undue financial strain on individuals or hindering access for marginalized populations.

Conclusion

The implementation of a National Identity Card (NID) system in Nepal presents both benefits and challenges. While the NID system offers enhanced security, streamlined processes, and improved access to services, it must be implemented with careful consideration of inclusivity, data security, infrastructure, privacy concerns, and potential abuses of power. Addressing these challenges through inclusive policies, robust cybersecurity measures, infrastructure development, privacy safeguards, and transparency can help ensure that the NID system in Nepal effectively serves its purpose while protecting the rights and privacy of citizens. By striking a balance between the advantages and drawbacks, Nepal can strive towards a well-designed and well-managed NID system that contributes to efficient governance and inclusive development.

Reference list

[1] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Identity_Card_\(Nepal\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Identity_Card_(Nepal))

[2] <https://kathmandupost.com/national/2018/11/19/centenarian-bhandari-acquires-first-digital-national-id-20181119201216>

