



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI

SHORT ABSTRACT OF THESIS

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SHORT ABSTRACT

India framed a draft nuclear doctrine in 1999 and the official nuclear doctrine in 2003. Both these documents highlighted with certain variations that India would adhere to a No First Use (NFU) policy of nuclear weapons. This thesis seeks to explore the rationale behind the NFU policy of India. It examines the probable factors: actors, strategy, and norms that may have influenced India's decision to adopt the NFU policy in its nuclear doctrine.

While there is a voluminous literature on India's nuclear journey, the studies available have not been able to deeply analyse the probable reasons behind India's adoption of the NFU policy. This thesis attempts to address this particular research gap while examining the agents, strategic, and normative factors that may have influenced the NFU policy. The study will try to contribute to the existing theoretical debates on International Relations (IR) literature on the NFU policy of nuclear weapons.

Through an analysis of a questionnaire survey, the content analysis of respondent's overall feedback, selected documents relating to India's nuclear policy, and selected books and articles, the thesis argues that any attempt at explaining the NFU policy of India with the help of a single factor will not be a complete picture. While strategic logic is a relatively more important factor, it is incomplete in itself. The normative factors, the social construction of norms against the violence of the use of nuclear weapons, and the role of political leaders and strategic experts supplement the strategic logic.