CHAPTER I

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Women in Nepal constitute more than half of the country's total population but the condition of the majority of them is not satisfactory. Despite equal rights and opportunities guaranteed by the constitution, women in real life have not been able to enjoy the same. The condition in the rural areas is even worse. Women are discriminated against and lag behind in many areas, barring a few exceptions, mainly because of our long held social and cultural structure and attitude. The status of women must be enhanced.

However, there have been changes in the attitudes of the society regarding women in recent times. It has been realized that without development of women, the long term and sustainable development of the country is not possible.

The term "status of women" is very exclusive in concept and there are difficulties in defining and measuring, though social demographic literature uses numerous terms such as female autonomy, women right, power of freedom, women empowerment to describe the status of women, its measurement is often confined two standard and readily ascertainable variable 'education' and 'occupation'.

The term "status of women" is defined as the unification of the position of women occupation as a worker, a student, a wife and a mother the power and the prestige attached to these positions, and the rights and duties, she is expected to exercise (UN 1984). Women status is a multidimensional phenomenon which shows that the status of women is conceptualized at two different levels; micro level, or that status of women within the household and at the macro level, their status in the society, education and female labour force participation are as measurement of women status within the household and in the society too. Women approach on social resources is measured by their level of education while their level of education while their material resources can be measured by their level of labour force participation and degree of the economic independence to earn by themselves, which consequently establishes their status in the society. Gaining an education and occupation may enable women to be a decision maker and control over social and material resources within the household, their

indicators can provide women economic independence which helps to raise their socio – economic status.

In the different historical periods, women were regarded as subordinates and supporting hands of their husbands or whom they depend for most of their needs. Their dependency shifts from father to husband and finally to son throughout their lifecycle. The economic position of women was unequal to men in almost all the country of the world. The status of women in the society was assumed to be more important at the first major UN conference on women held in 1995. After this conference, many activities have been done to enhance the status of women in many countries.

In Nepal, women are in the frontline of household and community efforts to alleviate poverty and cope with its impact. In Nepal women remain illiterate, underrepresented and unaware of their rights and Nepal's economy continues to suffer the consequences of foregone production, diminished family welfare and rapid population growth. The critical contribution of women to Nepal's economy mandates their empowerment as a crucial element of political, economic and social development. Currently about two about two – thirds of Nepal women cannot read or write.

Traditionally women status in Nepal, compared to men has always been low. They lacked proper nutrition and weren't sent to school for education. Their access to health services was very limited. Moreover, they were denied property inheritance and even reproductive right. Women are far behind their male counterparts in many spheres of development because women are undervalued and marginalized throughout their lives. Deprivation and discrimination starts from childhood. Oppression and suppression begins from the womb and ends in the grave. The key reason behind these phenomena in Nepal's prevailing is socio – cultural setting, which is based on a patriarchal system. Because of this mentality and thinking pattern, women's present and potential contributions are consistently unrecognized. From the household to the planning and policy level, they are given minimal priority in terms of education, skill development and other recreational activities. In the recent years, things have been changing and the status of women in Nepal is also improving. A few legal provisions were made to enhance the status of women.

A women status, both in household and within society, can reduce fertility through spacing and limiting fertility. As fertility is the major component of population change, it contributes for the increase in the size of the population. Fertility is defined as the actual birth performance of women and it is mainly guided by women's reproductive behaviour.

The empowerment and autonomy of women and improvement of their political, legal, socio – economic and health status are important. The equal participation and partnership of both women and men are required for both productive and reproductive life. The international conference on population and development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 has emphasized women empowerment as a basic tool for country's overall development. The ICPD has declared that advancing gender and empowering women and elimination of all kinds of violence against women and ensuring women to control their own fertility are cornerstone of population and development related program (UNFPA, 1998).

The high rate of population growth in Nepal is primarily due to persistent high fertility and declining mortality (CBS). There are a number of factors contributing to high fertility. The major factor is the low status of Nepalese women. Women employment is another indicator of status of women. Female age at marriage and use of contraception is directly related to fertility.

Social scientist and demographer consider that significant reduction in fertility requires improvement in living standard of people. It can be possible only through increasing the level of income, education and improvement of working status of people. Any change in fertility behaviour of the society is greatly influenced by education among married women. Female education is highly important factor in determining reproductive behaviour in any community. The total fertility rate for uneducated women is much higher than the educated women. The level of fertility is found decreasing with the increasing level of education.

Human rights to women, Nepal's constitutions accords equal rights to both men and women. Nepal has amended many laws to improve the rights of women. The ministry of women and social welfare is an important step in the institution building towards women's power and decision making. Moreover, during 2002 then HMG organized a National Commission for women. The government's commitment to general mainstreaming and several other programs such as micro – credit are bringing women to mainstream of the economy. Nepal's commitment to

this is fully reflected in attempts to bring about a change in legal provision, budgetary efforts to gender equality (MoPE, 2004)

Though the status of women differ from one ethnic group to another and one community to another, they are deprived or lagging behind in some way, in each and every community.

Newar community is an indigenous group. They have a distinct collective identity. They have their own language, religion, tradition, culture and civilization, own traditional egalitarian social structure among all groups in Nepal, truly reflecting the model of four Hindu Varna categories. Newars are divided internally into more than 40 districts cultural groups with different occupational categories though they share common language (mother tongue) Newari (Monograph 2001).

Newar constitute 5.6 percent of total population in both census 1991 and 2001. The Newars stand numerically the highest in three districts of Kathmandu valley (Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur). Bhaktapur district is the kingdom of Newari society. It has the highest percentage of Newar population (55.91%) throughout the country.

As caste / ethnicity is a determinant of the way of life of most Nepalese (Niraula and Shrestha 1997; 13) The difference among caste / ethnicity and community groups are rooted in their cultural background, social relations and family systems and are reflected in religion, occupation, age at marriage and reproductive behaviour. It is argued that apart from prices and incomes, considerable differences in fertility are influenced by religious and linguistic boundaries, across cultures and across societies at different level of development (Lee and Bulatao, 1983)

1.2 Statement of the problem

Women in Nepal live in an oppressive, backward and feudal environment which is caused by patriarchal value system, unequal power relation and socio – religious, cultural norms and traditions. Therefore, women are rendered powerless, asset less, excluded and perceived as worthless. Likewise women are largely denied from education, legal and civil, economic and individual and their own identity.

The religious, cultural as well as existing laws of Nepal permit male to be superior which set free to govern over women. Men feel superior to women.

In Nepal, it is believed that women and girls are not subjected to be independent or fee from the time of birth until the date of death. She is under the control of parents especially fathers, after her marriage she becomes property of her husband. So her husband deserves right to decide about her life. After the death of husband or in her old age she has to be under control of her son or children. Such situation is established in our society, culture and family which are the great discriminations for female.

The impact of status of women and fertility continued high rates of population growth posses a series challenge to the achievement of objectives and target with regard to socio – economic development. There are parallels between demographic characteristics such as high growth rate, high fertility and high dependency on the one hand and low level of female educational attainment, high infant and maternal mortality, lower female life expectancy and low rates of female labour participation on the other.

One of the most important indicators of women status is control over their own fertility. Women body have been used and abused on account of their fertility. To an extent, social extent, social control over women's sexuality is also related to the fertility. In the Hindu tradition, women are worshipped for their fertility, in the exalted status of mother – goddess while infertility is considered as curse. Pregnancies, child births and lactation force women to withdraw from active economic work, this makes them dependent on other members of their family. Frequent pregnancies impinge on their health and sometimes even on their very lives. It is therefore, most important to examine whether women have control over their own fertility. Hitherto, no research has focused on the degree of control that women exercise over their own fertility (Population Monograph of Nepal, 1995, 444)

The fertility performance is quite effectively influenced by the educational status of female. The higher the education, the most appropriately the decision is made. In the social context, each woman likes to show the higher status and that is possible with an ideal family size. The fertility rate of educated women is lower than of uneducated women.

Women are more vulnerable in terms of health risk. One of severe pain of the state and the society is maternal mortality. This incidence is proved because most of mother delivers their pregnancies at home. The majority of them don't receive any antenatal checkups. The low level of health advantages increases the health vulnerability of women and the infants. In Nepal, high infant death rate is also one of the factors of high fertility.

Unwanted pregnancy is another indicator how are women dominated in terms of fertility performance. Unwanted pregnancies lead to induced abortion and induced abortion is the second major cause of maternal mortality in the world and so in Nepal. Early marriage is wide spread in rural area because of traditional behaviour. Women in rural areas were married 1.7 years earlier than the urban women (Population Monograph of Nepal, 1995)

If the women are given right to decide their fertility performance, they would decide in the response of the existing socio – economic resources. Therefore, ICPD has clearly stated the role of women empowerment in terms of population programming as "advancing gender and the empowerment of women and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women and ensuring women ability to control their own fertility is cornerstone of population and development related programs." (UNFPA, 1998)

The main cause of prevailing high fertility in Newar is almost universal marriage and demand for children specially son in social and cultural lives. The total fertility rate for Newar has 4.89 (Niraula and Shrestha, 1997, 1340). It is higher than National level. The almost universal marriage, low level of female education, low level of employment, male decision making power at home are the major cause of high fertility in Newar community.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The general objective of the study is to identify overall scenario of the status of women and its impact on their fertility behaviour in Bhaktapur municipality among Newar community. The study has aimed to bright out the following specific objectives:

i) To identify the fertility behaviour according to the socio – economic status of women in the study area.

ii) To identify the status of women in Newar community.

iii) To identify the relationship between status of women and fertility performance.

1.4 Significance of the study

Fertility is natural element of population change. The status of women plays a vital role in fertility differentials. In spite of the national policy to control fertility, the plans are not getting appropriate shape, is the major issue of the current population management approach. This study tries to focus the issues of inherent fertility performance pattern in female. Therefore this study will be an appropriate tool for evoking determinants of status of women.

The development process is impossible without the development of women. The empowerment of women and the improvement over their status is a key of sustainable development. The study consists of socio – economic status, health status, educational status, age at marriage, age at first birth, use of contraception, decision making power in Bhaktapur municipality among Newar community. So the study finds out the actual status of women in the study area. Further, the study also shows reproductive health behaviour. So this study will be useful for the local government for policy formulation and implementation.

Without the control over the fertility behaviour the population can't be controlled. Though many researches had been done in many other areas and ethnic groups, the status of women and fertility hasn't been done in Bhaktapur municipality among Newar community. Therefore the study will be beneficial for the researchers, academician, scholars, students and others also, who are interested to study on this particular field.

1.5 Limitation of the study

Each and every research has their own limitations. The followings are the limitations of the study:

- The study was carried out in two wards of Bhaktapur municipality i.e.; ward number 9 (the smallest ward) and ward number 17 (the largest ward).
- The study won't take into account of the fertility trend over the time.
- The study covered only certain number of female among reproductive ages having at least a child, so it can't be generalized for the whole nation.

1.6. Organization of the study

The study is organized into nine chapters. The first chapter is introductory part that includes background of the study, statement of problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, limitation of study and organization of the study.

In the second chapter literature review (theoretical and empirical) and conceptual framework is presented.

The third chapter deals with the methodology of the study. This chapter includes selection of the study area, sample selection, research design, questionnaire design, data collection tools and techniques and data processing and analysis.

The background characteristics of the household population are discussed in chapter four which includes household population by age and sex, educational attainment, martial status, occupation, household composition, household characteristics and household possessions.

The fifth chapter discusses about the background characteristics of the respondents and provides information on age, educational attainment, occupation and religion of the respondents.

Fertility and family planning is comprised in chapter six. The subject matter is elaborated in different heads such as age at marriage of respondents, age of the respondents at first birth, medical facility obtained, child loss experience, knowledge of family planning, ever use of contraception, number of children and children desired by the respondents.

In chapter seven, status of women is discussed under the sub titles such as decision making, ownership of property, husband's occupation, educational attainment of husband and involvement in micro credit.

The eighth chapter deals with fertility differentials. This includes CEB in relation with age of women, age at marriage, literacy status and educational attainment of respondents and their husbands, occupation of respondents and their husbands, child loss experience, knowledge of family planning, ever use of contraception and decision making.

Finally, chapter nine presents the summary, conclusion, recommendation and further research issues.

CHAPTER II

2. LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Theoretical Literature Review

Human fertility indicates the actual reproduction performance of women. It is a complex process, which is responsible for biological maintenance of society. But there are several social, cultural, psychological, economic and political factors to determine the process of fertility. These factors are responsible to determine level and differentials of fertility (UN 1973: PP64)

Fertility has two phenomenons while it operates one its attitudes and another is behaviour. Couples make up their mind first by determining the tentative size of family they would like to have called attitude then they give birth to children called behaviour, on the basis of their attitudes (Chalise, 1998: PP1)

The term status of women is very exclusive in concept and there are difficulties in defining and measuring through. Social demographic literature uses numerous terms such as female autonomy women rights, prestige, power or freedom to describe the status of women, its measurement is of ten continued with two standard variables – education and occupation (Mason, K.O., 1984)

Demographers and social scientists are, even today, busy in research of a systematic theory which would provide explanations of changes in fertility levels and differentials in fertility which would also serve as a basis for predicting future fertility trends. This gap in the knowledge of demographic phenomena continues despite the efforts made by social scientists to propound various theories of fertility (Bhende and Kanitkar, 2003: 1 – 26)

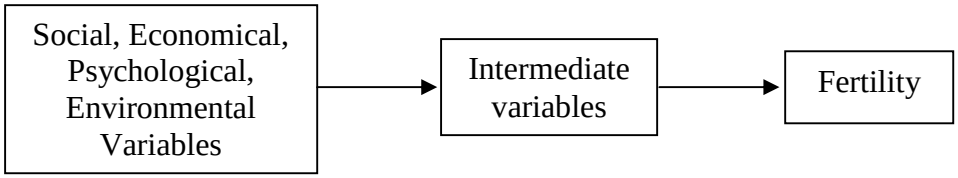
The theory of demographic transition is one of the important theories of fertility. It is development by Frank W. Notestein in 1945 is the pioneering theory movement of population from a condition of high fertility and high mortality to low mortality along with socio – economic development. The conceived socio – economic development includes communication, income generation, facilities and participation of women in all aspect of life as advocated by the threshold hypothesis of fertility decline (Iichman 1975, 25 – 228)

The changes in demographic trends especially in birth and death follow the process of modernization, which involves incomes, rising standard of living and advances in sanitations and medical knowledge which eventually results in raising the status of women and rising the age at marriage. (Bhende and Kanitkar, 2003: 130 – 134)

In 1956 Kingsley Davis and Judith Blake proposed eleven variables which they defined as "intermediate variable" – six among them are affecting sexual intercourse, three affecting conception and remaining two affecting gestation and parturition. They concluded that any social or cultural factor which affects fertility must do so through and only through one or more of these intermediate variables. (Davis and Blake, 1956: 211 – 235)

John Bongoarts and Robert Potter (1985) designated the intermediate variables proposed by Davis and Blake as proximate determinant of fertility consisting seven variables (i) marriage and marital disruption, (ii) use and effectiveness of contraception, (iii) induced abortion, (iv) postpartum amenohorea, (v) spontaneous – intrauterine mortality, (vi) frequency of inter course of fecundabiltiy, (vii) menopause or permanent celibacy. They also rose the age at marriage and martial disruption, post – partum infecundability, contraception and induced abortion affects fertility directly.

The following simple diagram summarizes the relationship among the determinant of fertility.



(Source: Bangoarts and Potter, 1985: 180)

The United Nations has attempted to study the relationship between the level of fertility and various indicators of the level of socio – economic development, which is known as "Threshold hypothesis of fertility decline". This study was based on the data collected from various countries having different levels of gross reproduction rate. The following are the twelve indicators of socio

– economic development: per capita income, energy consumption, degree of urbanization, proportion of economically active males employed in non – agricultural activities, hospital beds per thousand population, life expectancy, infant mortality rate, proportion of women married in the 15 – 19 age group, female literacy rate, newspaper circulation per thousand population, radio receiving sets per thousand population and cinema attendance. It was observed that the average value of each of these indicators of the high fertility countries differ widely from that of the low fertility countries. This theory explains that the countries of the very highest fertility are on that account is at a disadvantage in development or that a very low level of development is conducive to exceptionally high fertility. (Bhende, Asha 2003; 336)

Harvey Liebenstein, in his well – known work, Economic Backwardness and Economic Growth published in 1957, has formulated a theory that explains the factors which determines the number of children desired by each couple. This theory is based on the assumption that people make "rough calculation" regarding the utilities and disutility of children and decide on the number of children. They would like to have such calculations taken into account to balance between the satisfactions or utilities obtained from an additional child and the "cost" both monetary and psychological of having on additional child. According to Liebenstein three types of utilities are derived from and two types of costs are involved in, having an additional child. The types of utilities are:

a) The utility of the child as a "consumption good", that is; the child is here considered as a source of personal pleasure to the parents.
b) The utility of a child as a "productive unit", that is; the child it is expected, would enter the labour force at some point of tile and contribute to the family income.
c) The utility of a child as a "source of security" in the old age of the parents or even otherwise.

The two types of costs involved in having an additional child are:

a) Direct costs, in the sense of conventional current expenses of bringing up a child according to the conventional standard until the child becomes self supporting.
b) Indirect costs, which includes opportunities foregone due to the appearance of an additional child, such as the mother's inability to work, inability to purchase a television set, or a motor car etc.

Liebenstein also mentioned the three changes that occurs the course of economic development, which affect the utilities and costs of an additional child. The effects of these changes are:

i) Income effects
ii) Survival effects
iii) Occupational distribution effects

Source: Bhende, Asha 2003; 32 – 328

Coldwell (1977) argued that mass education might be a fundamental determinant, which will bring fertility from high to low levels. The effect of education works through the restructuring of family relationship that in turn affect family economics and the direction of the net wealth flow. He suggested that education have an impact of fertility because

a) Education reduces the child's potential work inside and outside the home.
b) It increases the cost of children.
c) Schooling creates dependency, both within the family and within the society.
d) It speeds ups cultural change and creates new cultures.
e) The school serves as a major instrument for propagating the values not of the local middle class, but of the western middle class. He further points out that demographic change is unlikely to penetrate if the movement towards mass schooling is restricted to male only. (Tuladhar, 1989)

Differential fertility hypothesis decline assumes that people's choices are affected by their experience and circumstances. The differential fertility hypothesis seeks differences in people regarding their real fertility. A study conducted in some of the Latin American countries in 1974 revealed that education is the most powerful mean to reduce the fertility status of women and improving occupational status of women and her husband has significant effect on fertility decline (Iichman 1975). The socio – economic background and norms about family size differ from one community to another. As the reproductive needs are different, so that the demand for children is the major concern of differential fertility hypothesis.

The model of Easterline (1976) is related to the economic cost benefit analysis of the children. It was natural fertility, desired fertility and optional fertility. Natural is the number of births of a family that is entirely depending on the health and sexual behaviour of the family members. The number of children as desired by a couple in which cost of fertility remains zero is the desired fertility. Optional fertility is the result of maximization of utility with budget remaining constant (Easterline, 1976 cited in PAN, 2000)

2.2 Empirical Literature

The United Nations has define the status of women in the contest of their access to knowledge, economic, resources and political as well as their personal autonomy in the process of decision making when Nepalese women's status is analyzed in the light, the picture is generally bleak. In the early 1990s, Nepal was rigidly patriarchal society in virtually subordinates to men. (Lewis Johnson)

Women constitute about half of the world population and a major part of the unrecognized labour force in the world. It has been a matter of great concern during the last few decades that conventional statistics reflect neither the substantial contributions of women in labour input and management of HH production nor their progressive marginalization from modern forms of asset ownership and employment avenues (United Nations 1992, Beneria 1982, citied in Population Monograph 1995)

In Nepal "the status of women" study series, published between 1979 – 1981 by Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) established that women constitute the backbone of Nepalese agriculture, especially in the hilly areas. The contribution to HH production and income was found to be at par with men, both in terms of labour input as well as in decision making roles. (Acharya, 1995)

A major recommendation running through "the status of women" study series called for improving statistical methods of data gathering and processing so as to underline the differential impact of various developmental interventions among men and women (Acharya and Bennett 1981). A recent review of 1981 and 1991 census data reveals the substantial improvements have been made on the methodology of data collection, but still a large gap remains (Acharya, 1994)

Women in Nepal constitute half of the country's total population but the condition of the majority of them is not satisfactory. Despite equal rights and opportunities guaranteed by the constitution, women, in real life, have not been able to enjoy the same. The condition in the rural areas is even worse. Women are discriminated against and lag far behind in many areas, barring a few exceptions, mainly because of our long – held social and cultural structure and attitude. The status in Nepal must be enhanced. However, there have been changes in the attitude of the society regarding women in recent times. It has been realized that without development of women the long term and sustainable development of the country is not possible. (Singh, 2002)

The status of women as reflected in their legal right, education, employment, health, family decision making power and position in household affects demographic behaviour such as age at marriage, fertility and infant child and maternal mortality. These in turn have an impact on the improvement of women's status and their participation in the development process. (UN 1992; 13)

The women empowerment have been very much emphasized by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and suggested that it is a basic tool for a country's overall development and improving the quality of people's life. The ICPD has also declared that advancing gender and the empowerment of women and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women and ensuring women ability to control their own fertility are cornerstones of population and development related programmes. (UNFPA, 1998)

The social status of women in Nepal is generally low, a situation attributes both the general poverty of the country and the gender based distribution of power and resources in the family and society. Although the constitution of Nepal guarantees equal rights, there are the imbalances between the legal provision (particularly regarding poverty) and in the interpretation and application of law. (Maskey, 1995)

"*Chhora paye khasi, chhori paye pharsi*" a popular saying which suggests have a feast of mutton when a son is born and eating modest pumpkin when a daughter is born, sumps up the different values the society has places on sons and daughters. In such situation, a mother regrets when she gives birth to a daughter. If she doesn't give birth to a son, her husband is likely to marry a second wife in the hope of a son. On the other hand women having more sons enjoy higher status in the family. (Bennett, 1981)

Women are seen as daughters, wives and mothers. They are not recognized as individuals with their own identity. Women's social position is entirely defined by the status of her father, husband and son. (Acharya, 1981)

Population census results in gender perspective in the population census 2001 in volume III shows that the pattern of the status of women is society. Reproductive status of women might be the cause of disruption in marital status. Very often women are suffered from marital dissolution due to failure to give birth of children of desired sex as well as infecundity situation. Cultural and religious

belief prevailing in the society leads to get married at earlier ages for women as compared to men. In this way, there are gender differences in the age of first marriage. Again reproductive status of women differs according to literacy status and ethnicity. Therefore attempts are made to bring out gender differences in marital status, age at first marriage, living arrangements with spouse. (Population Census Volume III, 2001)

The level of fertility is one of the important indicators of the status of women. There is inverse relationship between age at first marriage of women and number of their children every born. Marriage of women is an exposure to become pregnant in Nepalese society. So, women who got married at earlier age have higher probability of having more children. Higher number of children means hardship of life to the respective mother. The fertility pattern of the country indicated that women have higher fertility in the early part of childbearing age. But adolescent fertility is a major concern of maternal and child health. Teenage pregnancy cause more complications that relates to the health and survival of both mother and child. (CBS, 2001)

Family and cultural norms as well as religious beliefs vary from one ethnicity to others. So the degree of gender asperities will also differ among various ethnic groups. Some ethnic groups of Nepal do not practice child marriage or they do not marry at younger ages whereas it is often practiced in other ethnic population. Similarly activities concerning to take care of reproductive health of female HH member is obviously differed among various ethnic population. It is noted that women are in more pressure to have more children in the case of some ethnic groups. Ethnic differences can also be observed in sex preference of children ever born. In some ethnic population ever married female will get full social status only after having a son. (Population Census result in gender perspective, 2001)

The status of Nepalese women improved to some extent by the law of the land codified in 1910 B.S., during the regime of King Surendra. According to this code, if a certain crime was committed by a woman she had to suffer half of the

punishments prescribed for the men. Besides, the Sanskrit literature propagates that women would be exempted from capital punishment if she committed the greatest crime. Many *sawals* and ordinances were issued for the purpose of exempting women from capital punishment. Under the constitution of 2004 B.S, men and women were granted voting rights. But the constitution is not implemented. (Kandel, 2005)

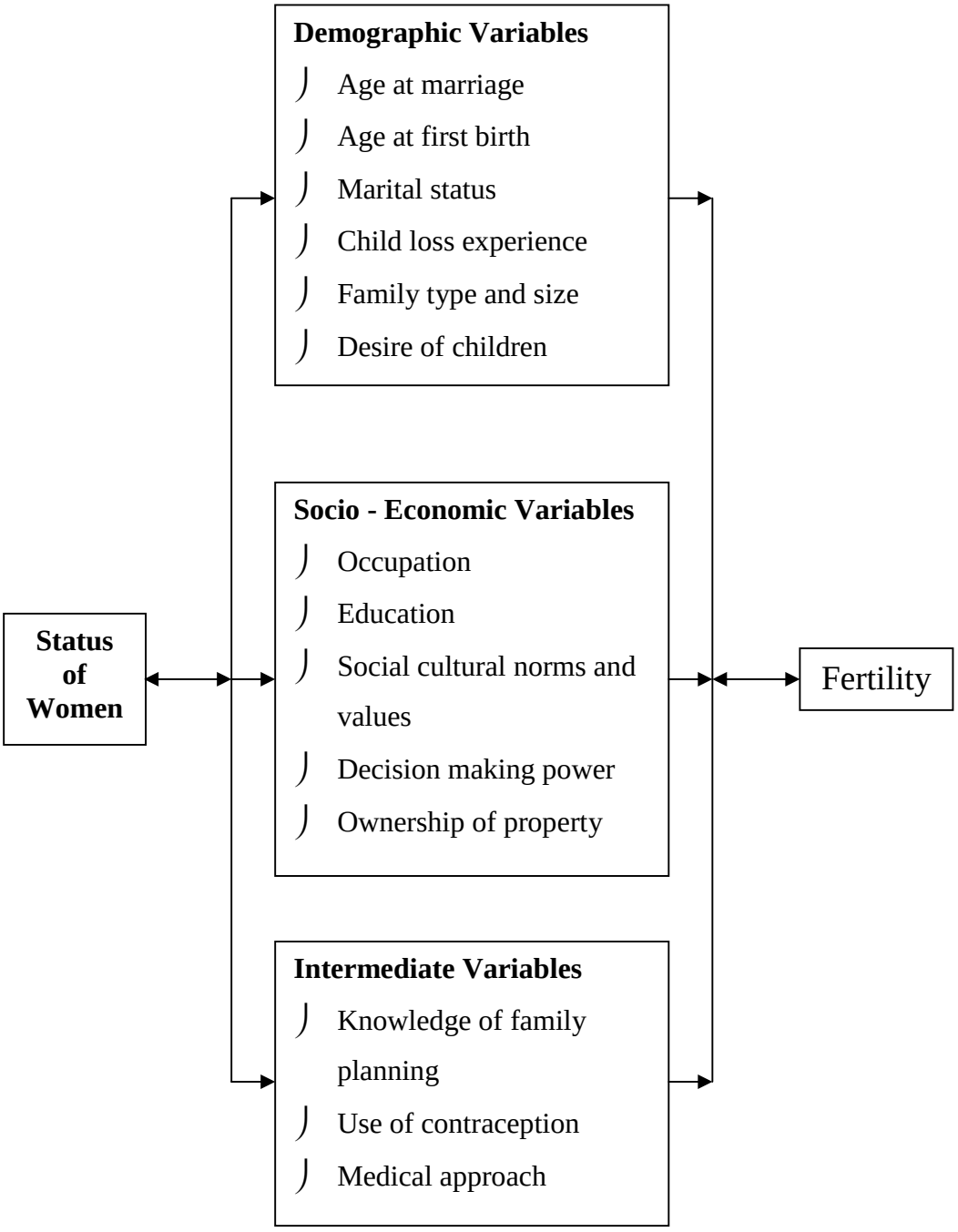
The constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal 2015 B.S. announced no discrimination on the basis of caste, creed and sex. Equal rights are granted to male and female by the constitution of 2019 B.S. The civil code (Muluki Ain) of 2020 B.S. has brought revolutionary change on the social status of women. It legalized inter caste marriage, banned polygamy, strengthened the position of divorced women and conferred a few inheritance right to property. The amendments of the civil code of 2020 B.S. have further extended the social and economic rights of women in Nepal. (Kandel, 2005)

The position and the status of women seem to be changing from age to age in different ways in different regions. The attitude of society towards women could not remain the same in different historical periods and different places. The status of women as mentioned in the Hindu religious scriptures is appreciated and they are regarded as goddess but later on in practice, they were dominated and exploited. The women in Hindu society were bound by a number of social, legal and religious barriers. However, women's role in the family is inevitable and without them a family or a society can never be imagined. (Kandel, 2005)

One of the most important indicators of women's empowerment is control over their own fertility. Women's bodies have been used and abused on account of their fertility. To an extent, social control over women sexuality is also related to their fertility. In the Hindu tradition, women are worshipped for their fertility, in the exalted status of mother, goddess, while infertility is considered a curse (Benneth, 1983). Pregnancies, child birth and lactation force women to withdraw from active economic work, thus making them dependent on other members of the family.

Frequent pregnancies impinge on their health and sometimes even on their very lives. It is therefore most important to examine whether women have control over their own fertility. (Kandel, 2005)

2.3 Conceptual Framework



CHAPTER III

3. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

As far as the methodology is concerned, this study is primarily uses survey method. The data are obtained from primary as well as secondary data. Primary data are collected from field work survey. The secondary data are collected from the previous research works, journals, magazines and other relevant publications.

3.1 Selection of the study area

Bhaktapur, literally the 'city of devotees' is renowned for its elegant art, fabulous culture, colourful festivals, traditional dances and the typical Newar lifestyles. Tourists visiting Nepal feel their visit incomplete unless they get a mesmerizing glimpse of this ancient 'city of culture'. Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Changu Narayan Temple are the two cultural heritages that are enlisted in the World Heritage list from Bhaktapur. The conch shaped historic city, Bhaktapur, spreading over an area of 6.88 sq. km. (Bhaktapur Municipality only) and lying at 12 km east of Kathmandu, was founded in the 12the century by King Annanda Dev Malla.

This district lies between 27^0 36' to 27^0 44' north latitude and 85^0 25' to 85^0 32' east longitude. It is surrounded by Kavrepalanchowk district in the east, Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts in the west, Kathmandu and Kavrepalanchowk district in the north and Lalitpur district in the south. Its east – west length is 16 km and north – south length is 12.2 km describing an area of 119 sq. km. It lies in the Central Development Region in Bagmati zone with Bhaktapur Municipality as headquarters. Bhaktapur is divided into 16 VDCs and 2 municipalities.

The total population of Bhaktapur is 225,461 (CBS, 2001) consisting 114,789 male population and 110,663 female population. The total households are 41,253 and average HH size is 5.47. The annual growth rate is 2.7 percent and population density is 1895 per sq. km. Majority of population i.e. 89.8 percent are Hindus, 9.4 percent are Buddhists, 0.4percent are Christians, 0.27 percent are others. Newar 55.9 percent constitute the large community, Bharmin constitutes

10.2 percent, Chhetris 18.5 percent, Tamang 6.5 percent, Magar 1.6 percent and others 7.3 percent. 60.9 percent of total population use Newari language, 34.3 percent use Nepali language, 3.8 percent use Tamang as their major language and 0.9 percent use other language. Average life expectancy is 57 years and literacy rate is 59.1 percent, male being 69.2 percent and female 49.1 percent. Per capita income is NRs. 9,922 per annum. The share of adolescent (10 – 19 years) population of this district is 24.18 percent with male 27,717 and female 26,808.

3.2 Sample Selection

In the study point of view, for the collection of primary data the smallest ward, Chochhen (ward number 9) with an area of 0.033 square kilometers and the largest ward, Bharbachho (ward number 17) with an area of 1.6575 square kilometers were chosen. Ward number 9 comprises of 357 households while ward number 17 comprises of 638 households (source: Bhaktapur municipality, 2058). For the survey 47 households (35.9% of total HH) from ward number 9 and 85 households (64.1% of total HH) from ward number 17 were chosen for the collection of primary data.

3.3 Research Design

This study is designed to describe the relationship between status of women and fertility particularly of Newars of Bhaktapur municipality. This is based on the survey and the descriptive research design. In order to fulfill the specific objectives of the study, the analysis will be based mainly on primary and secondary data of each variable such as economic and socio – cultural aspects of their present and past status which have been identified and described to light on the status of Newar women of Bhaktapur municipality.

3.4 Questionnaire Design

Structural questionnaire is used to collect the information based on the educational status, economic activity, health access, decision making power, occupation, knowledge of family planning methods, use of contraceptives and various others socio – economic variables.

3.5 Data Collection Tools and Techniques

The ever married women bearing at least one child, selected for the interview are the main source of information for the survey. Key informants, official records and various governmental and non governmental documents are used as secondary data.

3.5 Data Processing and Analysis

The collected data are analyzed in descriptive as well as statistical ways by using statistical methods. The information collected through the interview and questionnaires are transformed into quantitative data sheet and then necessary tabulations are formed. The data are analyzed using simple statistical procedure such as frequency, percentages and mean. Interpretations of the data are done based on the frequency, percentage and mean tables.

CHAPTER IV

4. BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLD

This chapter deals with the information of demographic and socio – economic characteristics of the study area population of Bhaktapur municipality, which may represent socio – economic status affecting fertility among Newar community

The study covers 132 households and the total population was found to be 705. The study covers 47 HH from ward number 9 of Bhaktapur municipality and 85 HH from ward number 17. Regarding the total population by sex, the study found 50.64 percent (357) males and 49.36 percent (348) females with sex ratio of 102.59. More than 27 percent of the total populations in the study area were found illiterate. The majority of the total populations were engaged in agriculture with 68.5 percent. Out of the total HH (132), 57.6 percent were joint family type while 42.4 percent were nuclear families. Regarding HH headship only 3.8 percent of HH were lead by females and 96.2 percent were lead by male. Out of the total population majority of HH have tap facility for drinking water and all the HH have electricity facility. Average family size was observed as 5.22 per HH. Out of the total population 38.6 percent HH were found to have below 5 family members and 61.4 percent of HH were found to have above 5 family members. Regarding HH effects majority of the population have the access to the facilities such as radio, television, mobile, land line telephone and others. Majority of the HH population were found to have ownership of land. The detail study on each topics of HH characteristics are presented in this chapter.

4.1 Household population by age and sex

Realizing the difficulty of analyzing a single year age data, the household population has been studied under five years age group. The results of the study area are presented as follows:

Table 4.1. Percentage distribution of study population by five years age group and sex

Age group	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0 – 4	27	7.6	36	10.4	63	9.0
5 – 9	8	2.2	19	5.6	27	4.0
10 – 14	25	6.9	19	5.6	44	6.
15 – 19	23	6.5	21	6.0	44	6.2
20 – 24	62	17.3	55	15.7	117	16.5
25 – 29	50	14.1	43	1.3	93	13.2
30 – 34	49	13.7	36	10.4	85	12.1
34 – 39	15	4.3	18	5.2	33	4.7
40 – 44	15	4.3	22	6.3	37	5.2
45 – 49	34	9.4	34	9.7	68	9.6
50 – 54	15	4.3	9	2.6	24	3.4
55 – 59	8	2.2	8	2.2	16	2.3
60 +	26	7.2	28	8.0	54	7.6
Total	357	100	348	100	705	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table 4.1 presents information on the distribution of the household population of the study area by five years age group. The highest proportion (16.5%) of the population is in 20 – 24 age group. The lowest proportion (2.3%) of population is in 54 – 59 age groups which indicates that in the given age group, the mortality is higher than other age group. Table 4.1 also shows that 19 percent of total population is below 15 years of age and 7.6percent of total population is above 60 years of age. The economically active population i.e. of age group 15 – 59 years is 73.3percent in the study area. It is also observed from the table that the total male population (357), 50.6 percent is higher than the total female population

(348), 49.4 percent. The sex ratio of the study area is approximately 103 i.e. 100 females is equal to 103 males.

4.2 Educational attainment of household population

Educational attainment is an essential element of a population that strengthens the backbone of development in every aspect of it. Thus, the survey of educational attainment of household population has always been a key factor to define the status of the study area. Here, table 4.2 presents information on the percentage distribution of population 5 years and above by literacy status and educational attainment as follows:

Table 4.2 Percentage distribution of population of 5 years and above by literacy status and educational attainment

Literacy status	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Literate	275	83.3	192	61.5	467	72.7
Illiterate	55	16.7	420	38.5	175	7.3
Total	330	100	312	100	642	100

Educational attainment	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than primary	30	10.9	28	14.6	58	12.4
Primary	43	15.6	26	13.5	69	14.8
Lower secondary	49	17.8	51	26.6	100	21.4
SLC & +2	141	51.3	82	42.7	223	47.8
Bachelor & Above	12	4.4	5	2.6	17	3.6
Total	275	100	192	100	467	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table 4.2 indicates that 72.7 percent of total population is literate while 27.3 percent of it is illiterate. Among the literate population 12.4 percent of total population has attained less than primary education i.e. these people have been literate without undergoing the formal education. The highest percentage (47.8%) is in SLC and + 2 level. Only 3.6 percent of total population has attained Bachelor and above, while 14.8 percent are in primary level and 21.4 percent are in lower secondary level.

4.3 Marital status of household population

In this study, the researcher has classified marital status on the following ways:

i) Married: Men and women who are married either consensually, religiously or legally and lived together as a husband and wife under social norms and values at the time of enumeration.

ii) Unmarried: Any person who is not confined to be married by any means based on legal document, religious ceremony or social sanctions at the time of enumeration.

iii) Widower/Widow: The married persons, whose either husband or wife have died and have not been involved in any actions such as re-marriage at the time of enumeration.

iv) Divorced: Husbands and wives who have been living separate permanently under socially practiced norms and legal sanctions.

v) Separated: Married persons, unable to live together for certain reasons of misunderstanding or quarrel and living with separate arrangements.

The results of the study area are presented as follows:

Table 4.3 Percentage distribution of population by marital status

Marital status	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Married	195	54.5	201	57.8	396	56.2
Unmarried	152	42.6	126	36.2	278	39.4
Widower / Widow	10	2.9	21	6.0	31	4.4
Divorced	-	-	-	-	-	-
Separated	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	357	100	348	100	705	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 4.3 presents information on the percentage distribution of household population by marital status. There are 56.2 percent population who are married, followed by 39.4 percent population who are unmarried and 4.4 percent

widower/widow. Divorced and separated were not found in the study area population.

4.4 Occupation of household population

Occupation of a person may be defined as the work the person is involved in for the sake of earning the livelihood. Though various occupations are in practice, in the study point of view, the occupations in the study area population has been classified as (a) agriculture/HH works, (b) service, (c) business/trade, (d) foreign employment, (e) daily wages and (f) others. The results of study area are presented as follows:

Table 4.4 Percentage distribution of population of 10 years and above by occupation

Occupation	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture / HH works	202	62.7	219	74.7	421	68.5
Service	66	20.5	42	14.3	108	17.6
Business / Trade	30	9.3	23	8.0	53	8.6
Foreign employment	9	2.8	1	0.3	10	1.6
Daily wages	10	3.1	3	1.0	13	2.1
Others	5	1.6	5	1.7	10	1.6
Total	322	100	293	100	615	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 4.4 presents information on the percentage distribution of population involved in different occupation discussed above. It is seen that most of the population (68.5%) are involved in agriculture/HH works, which emphasizes on Nepal being an agricultural country and agriculture being the major work of its general citizens. After agriculture service is seen to be second widely practiced occupation which observes 17.6 percent of total population. 8.1 percent of total population is seen to be involved in business/trade and 2.1 percent in daily wages. Foreign employment observes 1.6 percent of total populations while remaining 1.6 percent of total population are involved in various other occupation rather than those mentioned.

4.5 Household composition

Table 4.5 presents information on the household composition of the study area population on different headings such as (i) Type of family, (ii) Household headship and (iii) Number of household members. The results of the study area are presented as follows:

Table 4.5 Percentage distribution of population by types of family, household headship and number of household members

Types of family	No. of cases	Percentage
Joint	76	57.6
Nuclear	56	42.4
Total	132	100

Household headship	No. of cases	Percentage
Male	127	96.2
Female	5	3.8
Total	132	100

No. of household members	No. of cases	Percentage
⎪ 5	51	38.6
Above 5	81	61.4
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Most of the household comprises of joint family (57.6%) while remaining 42.4 percent is of nuclear family type. The majority of household is headed by males, which observes 96.2 percent of total household and only 3.8 percent of total household is headed by females. The information on number of household members shows that the majority (61.4%) of the household is a large type family comprising of members more than 5 in number and only 38.6 percent of household are small type family where the numbers of family members is below or equal to 5 in numbers.

4.6 Household characteristics

Information on access to electricity, source and access to drinking water and type of toilet facility are some physical characteristics of a household that are

used to assess the general well being and socio – economic status of household members. The information gathered in the study area is shown below:

Table 4.6 Percentage distribution of population by sources of drinking water, electricity and toilet facility

Household characteristics	No. of cases	Percentage
a) Sources of drinking water		
Tap	96	72.7
Well	31	23.5
Others	5	3.8
Total	132	100
b) Electricity		
Yes	132	100
No	-	-
Total	132	100
c) Toilet Facility		
No facility	5	3.8
Ordinary toilet	120	90.9
Flush/Modern toilet	7	5.3
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 4.6 presents information on the percentage distribution of households by source of drinking water, access to electricity and type of toilet facility. 72.7 percent of household obtain drinking water from improved piped water system i.e. tap (either private or public). On the other hand, 23.5 percent of household obtain drinking water from well and remaining 3.8 percent depend on other means. The table shows that 100 percent of the household have access to electricity which is an overwhelming result in the major step of development of civilization in the study area. Table 4.6 also presents information on toilet facility. The majority, 90.9 percent of household have ordinary toilet facility where 3.8percent of household do not have any kind of toilet facility. 5.3 percent of household have improved flush/modern toilet facility.

4.7 Household possessions

Information on possessions of different household effects and ownership of land is one of the major elements to reflect the socio – economic status of

households. Table 4.7 presents the information on the percentage distribution of possessions of various household effects such as radio, television, mobile phone, land – line telephone etc. and ownership of land by each male and female members of the household as follows.

Table 4.7 Percentage distribution of population by possession of household effects and ownership of land

Household Possessions	No. of cases	Percentage
a) Household effects*		
Radio	127	96.2
Television	82	62.1
Mobile phone	109	82.6
Land – line telephone	88	66.7
Others	70	53.0
b) Ownership of land		
Yes	102	77.3
No	30	22.7
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

**the total percentage exceeds 100 because of multiple responses.*

Radio is the most common possession in the household with 96.2 percent. Slightly more than half of the household have a television, which is considered as a luxury item with 62.1 percent. Majority of household (82.6%) have approach to mobile telephone, while only 66.7 percent have the possession of at least one land – line telephone.

Of the total land possessed by the household in the study area population, 77.3 percent of land is owned by males and 22.7 percent is owned by females.

CHAPTER V

5. BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

Literary 'respondents' mean the persons who answer questions, especially in a survey. For this study, the married females in between the ages of 15 to 49 and bearing at least one child were selected as the respondents. This chapter presents information on various characteristics of the respondents selected as the prior criteria.

5.1 Age of respondents

Age of women is one of the major demographic variables to determine the fertility behaviour of the women. Age determines the character of women to participate in any action of fertility. The results of the study area are presented as follows.

Table 5.1 Percentage distribution of age of respondents by 5 years group

Age group	No. of cases	Percentage
15 – 19	4	3.0
20 – 24	14	10.6
25 – 29	35	26.5
30 – 34	19	14.4
35 – 39	23	17.4
40 – 44	21	16.0
45 – 49	16	12.1
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 5.1 presents information on the age of the respondents by 5 years group. The highest population 26.5 percent is in 25 – 29 age groups while the lowest population 3.0 percent is in 15 – 19 age groups. Similarly, the second highest population 17.4 percent is in 35 – 39 age groups, which is followed by 16.0 percent of the respondents in 40 – 44 age groups. The remaining age groups 30 – 34, 45 – 59 and 20 – 24 observes 14.4 percent, 12.1 percent and 10.6 percent of total population of the respondents respectively.

5.2 Educational attainment of the respondents

Education defines the ability of a person to understand the written literature, extract its meanings and reflect it in the general behaviour. Education provides a tool to a person that enables oneself to adjust in the current developing human civilization. Therefore, education is an essential essence of life.

Table 5.2 Percentage distribution of respondents by literacy status and educational attainment

Literacy status	No. of cases	Percentage
Literate	74	56.1
Illiterate	58	43.9
Total	132	100
Educational attainment		
⎸Primary	9	12.2
Secondary	31	41.9
SLC & Above	34	45.9
Total	74	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 5.2 presents information on the educational status and educational attainment of the respondents. Under educational status heading, the respondents are categorized as literate and illiterate on the basis of their ability to read and write. It is seen that more than half of the population i.e. 56.1 percent of total respondents are literate and 43.9 percent are illiterate. The educational achievement of the respondents, as shown by the table, observes the majority of respondents (45.9%) to have attained SLC and above, which is followed by secondary level with 41.9 percent. The least percentage 12.2 percent of respondents have attained primary level education or below.

5.3 Occupation of respondents

Occupation of a person may be defined as the work the person is involved in for the sake of earning the livelihood. Though various occupations are in practice, in the study point of view, the occupations of the respondents have been classified as (a) agriculture/HH works, (b) service, (c) business/trade, (d) foreign employment, (e) daily wages and (f) others. The results of study area are presented as follows.

Table 5.3 Percentage distribution of respondents by occupation

Occupation	No. of cases	Percentage
Agriculture / HH works	76	57.6
Service	31	23.5
Business / Trade	16	12.1
Foreign employment	-	-
Daily wages	6	4.5
Others	3	2.3
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 5.3 presents the information the percentage distribution of the respondents by their occupation. The majority of respondents are seen to be involved in agriculture/HH works with 57.6 percent. On the second position lies service with 23.5 percent which implies the involvement of females in more socio – economic activities. Thirdly 12.1 percent of total respondents were found to be involved in business/trade either started on their own or bestowed by former members of the family. In the point of earning their livelihood, 4.5 percent of total respondents were found to be involved in daily wages and remaining 2.3 percent of respondents were entitled with various works other than mentioned earlier.

5.4 Religion of respondents

Religion is the social practice being practiced since a long time from the historical time. Religion also defines ones faith and belief. It also directs the way of living of a person. Thus religion also proves to be an essential characteristic of a person, which enables to understand their general social, cultural, economical structural and fertility behaviour.

Table 5.4 Percentage distribution of respondents by religion

Religions	No. of cases	Percentage
Hindu	116	87.9
Buddhist	16	12.1
Muslims	-	-
Christianity	-	-
Others	-	-
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 5.4 presents the information on the percentage distribution of the respondents by religion. The overwhelming percentage 87.9 percent of total respondents are Hindus and remaining 12.1 percent of respondents are Buddhist. Other religions such as Christianity, Muslims and others were not found in the study area population.

CHAPTER VI

6. FERTILITY AND FAMILY PLANNING

Fertility is one the three principal components of population dynamics that determine the size and structure of the population. Information in this chapter is based on pregnancy histories collected from women of age 15 – 49 having at least one child interviewed during the study. During the study, the women were asked questions relating to their age at marriage, age at first birth, medical attention they got before, during and after pregnancy, number of children they gave live births to and also desired number of children. Accumulation of these information have helped to monitor the current fertility trends in the study area population. The level of current fertility is one of the most important demographic indicators for determining the status of women and for health and family planning policy makers because of its direct relevance to the population policy and programs.

Family planning is another part discussed in this chapter. Family planning has been the priority highlighted matter in most of the development plans of the government, whose main objectives include gradually reducing the population growth rate by promoting the knowledge of family planning and increasing the use of contraceptive measures. This chapter attempts to discuss on the knowledge and use of various contraceptive methods in the study area population.

6.1 Age at marriage of respondents

Marriage marks the point in a women's life when childbearing becomes socially acceptable. Age at first marriage has a major effect on childbearing because women who marry early have, on average, a longer period of exposure to the risk of becoming pregnant and a greater number of lifetime births.

Table 6.1 presents the information on the percentage distribution of the respondents by their age at marriage in 5 years group. It is seen that the majority of the respondents were married by the age in between 20 – 24, with 44.7 percent. Nearer to it, 43.2 percent of the total respondents were married in

between the ages of 15 – 19. Very few, 2.3 percent of the total respondents were married earlier i.e. in between the ages of 10 – 14 and only 9.8 percent of the respondents were married at the age in between 25 – 29.

Table 6.1 Percentage distribution of respondents by age at first marriage in 5 years group

Age group	No. of cases	Percentage
>10	-	-
10 – 14	3	2.3
15 – 19	57	43.2
20 – 24	59	44.7
25 – 29	13	9.8
29 +	-	-
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

6.2 Age of the respondents at first birth

The onset of childbearing at an early age has a major effect on the health of both mother and child. It also lengthens the reproductive period, thereby increasing the level of fertility. The information collected about the age of the respondents at first birth in the study area population is tabulated as follows.

Table 6.2 Percentage distribution of respondents by age at first birth in 5 years group

Age group	No. of cases	Percentage
15 – 19	18	13.6
20 – 24	91	69.0
25 – 29	23	17.4
30 – 34	-	-
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 6.2 presents information on the percentage distribution of the respondents by their age at first birth in five years group. Almost three quarters of the total respondents (69.0%) have given first birth by the age in between 20 – 24. 17.4 percent of the respondents are send to have given first birth by the age in

between 25 – 29. The least age of the respondents at first birth is seen to be 13.6 percent in the age group 15 – 19.

6.3 Medical facility obtained by the respondents

The availability and approach to the medical facilities have positive effect on the health and life span of every individual. The medical attention acquired by the respondents before, during and after pregnancy helps to lessen the risk of child loss and also proves to be essential in maintaining the good health of both mother and child.

Table 6.3 Percentage distribution of respondents by medical approach during pregnancy, child birth and after child birth

Medical facilities	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage
ANC	94	71.2	38	28.8
During delivery	104	78.8	28	21.2
PNC	72	54.5	60	45.5
TT vaccine	114	86.4	18	13.6

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 6.3 presents the information on the percentage distribution of the respondents by medical approach obtained before pregnancy, during child birth and after the delivery along with essential TT vaccination of the childbearing mother. It is seen that most of the respondents have been able to obtain adequate approach to ANC which observes 71.2 percent to total population of respondents. More than ANC, 78.8 percent of total respondents were able to get medical attention during delivery and only 54.5 percent of the respondents are seen to have continued to get medical attention as shown by PNC result in the table. The good number of respondents, 86.4 percent, has been able to obtain TT vaccine during the pregnancy.

6.4 Child loss experience of the respondents

Child loss experience corresponds to the early childhood mortality and high risk fertility behaviour of women. Information on these sections contributes to a better understanding of a population's socio – economic situation and sheds

light on the quality of life of the population. Information on childhood mortality often acts as broad indicators of social development and health status of a population. Thus these information are helpful in identifying promising directions for health programs and for advancing child survival efforts.

Table 6.4 Percentage distribution of respondents by child loss experience

Child loss experience	No. of cases	Percentage
No child loss	120	90.9
1 child loss	9	6.8
2 & more child loss	3	2.3
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 6.4 presents information on the percentage distribution of the respondents by child loss experience. The large numbers of respondents, 90.9 percent do not have any experience of child loss, which is a good sign of approach to medical facilities on time. Very few 6.8 percent of the respondents have an experience of one child loss while fewer to this only 2.3 percent of the respondents have an experience of two or more child loss.

6.5 Knowledge of family planning of respondents

Family planning refers to the process of controlling the number of children one has by using contraception. Controlling the number of children means controlling the birth rate which eventually helps in controlling the population growth as birth is one of the major causes of population change. Thus for the management of population change the knowledge of family planning is essential.

Table 6.5 Percentage distribution of respondents by knowledge of family planning

Knowledge of family planning	No. of cases	Percentage
Yes	129	97.7
No	3	2.3
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 6.5 presents information on the percentage of the respondents by their knowledge of family planning. The large numbers of the respondents were

found to be familiar with the subject matter with 97.7 percent. This familiarity can be deduced from their regular interactions with different media provided within their perimeter. Very few, 2.3 percent of the respondents could not meet enough criteria to be categorized as literate in the case of family planning, though they had little knowledge of it.

6.6 Ever use of contraception

Data on ever use of contraception has special significance because it reveals the current success of programs promoting the use of family planning among couples. Ever use refers to the use of a method at any time, with no distinction between past and present use. In the study process, respondents who had heard of a method of family planning were asked if they had ever used a method. The results are tabulated as follows.

Table 6.6 Percentage distribution of respondents by ever use of contraception

Ever use of contraception	No. of cases	Percentage
Non user	34	25.8
User	98	74.2
Total	132	100
Methods*		
Female sterilization	16	16.3
Male sterilization	18	18.4
Pills	34	34.7
Condoms	75	76.5
Injectables	38	38.7
Norplant	52	53.1
Others	43	43.9

Source: Field Survey, 2008
**total percentage exceeds 100percent due to multiple responses*

Table 6.6 presents information on the percentage distribution of the respondents by ever use of contraception and different methods used by them. Among the respondents, 74.2 percent of the respondents reported of using contraception while remaining 25.8 percent reported of not using any contraception till the time of enumeration. In the long list of different contraceptive methods, condoms (76.5%) were found to be the most used method. Secondary popular method was seen to bee Norplant (53.1%) which is followed

by injectable (38.7%). Very few were seen to be attracted towards sterilization, in which 16.3 percent reported of female sterilization and 18.4 percent of male sterilization. The total percentage is observed more than 100 percent in the table, due to multiple responses.

6.7 Number of children of the respondents

Number of children that the respondents gave life birth to is one of the major tools to identify the current trend of fertility among the women in the study area population. As birth has direct impact on population change, the number of children that the respondents gave life birth to is an essential factor of the study. The results of the study are shown in the table below.

Table 6.7 Percentage distribution of respondents by number of children

No. of children	No. of cases	Percentage
1	16	12.1
2	35	26.5
3	43	32.6
4 +	38	28.8
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 6.7 presents information on the number of children the respondents gave live birth to. The respondents having single children were seen to be 12.1 percent, while those having two children were 26.5 percent. The largest percentages (32.6%) of the respondents have three children. The respondents having four or more than four children observe 28.8 percent of the total respondents.

6.8 Children desired by the respondents

The information gathered on the desire of children by the respondents provide specific signal of future reproductive intentions of married couples. The results of the study are shown as follows.

Table 6.8 Percentage distribution of respondents by desire of children

No. of children desired	No. of cases	Percentage
1	34	25.8
2	51	38.6
3	26	19.7
4 +	21	15.9
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 6.8 presents information on the percentage distribution of respondents by the desired number of children. The majority 38.6 percent of total respondents reported of desiring at least two children, which is followed by 25.8 percent of total respondents with desire of only one child. The respondents desiring three children were very few with 19.7 percent. The table also presents that 15.9 percent of total respondents still desire of four or more children.

CHAPTER VII

7. STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

The word 'status' refers to the legal, social or professional position of somebody in relation to others. This chapter presents information in revealing the status of the respondents. The status of women is the result of socio – economic and cultural practices of a society and biological factor. It has multiple effects on the socio – economic and demographic behaviour of the society. Generally the status of women is considered as the living standard and life style in which they are living. The status of women is the most determining factor in fertility. The status of women, understood in terms of opportunities for additional education, alternatives to domestic roles, freedom of movement and related issues, is usually considered by demographers in relation to fertility.

Information in this chapter is based on the interview with the respondents to reveal their status in the family and society. For this purpose, the respondents were asked various questions in relation to their participation in decision making process on topics such as marriage, use of contraception, child bearing, household works and rearing children. Further more, this chapter includes information on ownership of property, husband's occupation and their educational attainment, which are the key factors to determine status of women. This chapter also includes information on the involvement of the respondents in micro – credit and their minimum monthly savings.

7.1 Decision Making

Women's participation in the decision making process is an important indicator of their empowerment. Women are considered to participate in decision making if they make decisions alone or jointly with their husband. The strength of women's role in decision making varies with the type of decision. The information in table 7.1 sought to present the participation of women in decision making in topics such as marriage, use of contraception, child bearing, household work and rearing children.

Table 7.1 Percentage distributions of respondents by decision making on marriage, use of contraception, child bearing, household work and rearing children

Decision making on	No. of cases	Percentage
a) Marriage		
Own	34	25.8
Family	96	72.7
Others	2	1.5
Total	132	100
b) Use of contraception		
Male	43	32.6
Female	51	38.6
Both	38	28.8
Total	132	100
c) Child bearing		
Male	24	18.2
Female	27	20.4
Both	81	61.4
Total	132	100
d) Household works		
Male	16	12.1
Female	102	77.3
Both	14	10.6
Total	132	100
e) Rearing children		
Male	33	25.0
Female	57	43.2
Both	42	31.8
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

It is observed from table 7.1 that 72.7 percent of the decisions of marriage are taken by family members without direct concern of the women getting married. Marriage is a private affair, but only 25.8 percent of decisions of marriage among the respondents have been private decision of the persons while 1.5 percent of decisions were affected by some other means rather than self conscience or family.

A woman's desire and ability to control her fertility and her choice of contraceptive methods are in part affected by her status in the household and her

own sense of empowerment. Table 7.1 also shows the percentage distributions of the respondents by their ability to provide decision making in the use of contraception. Nearly equal, 32.6 percent and 38.6 percent of the decisions on use of contraception are given by male and female respectively in the study area population. Only 28.8 percent of the decisions on use of contraception were seen to be taken jointly by both husbands and wives.

Bearing a child is totally the right of the women. To accept to bear a child to be participate in the process with full physical and mental acceptance. Table 7.1 also presents percentage distribution of decisions made in the case of child bearing by husbands, wives or both. It is seen that most of the decisions (61.4%) of child bearing were taken jointly by both husbands and wives, while 18.2 percent of decisions were that of males and remaining 20.4 percent of decisions were solely taken by the females in the study area population.

The participation of women in decision making in various household works such as purchase of daily goods, food items to be prepared, the place to fetch water from, visit to the relatives etc are discussed under the common topic and its percentage distribution is presented in that table 7.1. The highest amount of decisions (77.3%) in the household works was observed to be taken by the females with respect to the decisions made by males (12.1%) and very few (10.6%) is taken jointly.

Decisions on rearing of children includes decisions made on their behalf such as clothes they wear, food they eat, choosing school for them, deciding their games and time table, and dos and don'ts on various topics. Table 7.1 presents information on the percentage distribution of the decisions taken on rearing children by male, female and both. It is seen that nearly half of the decisions (43.2%) on rearing children are taken by females while 25.0 percent of decisions are taken by males. 31.8 percent of total decisions taken on the behalf of rearing children are seen to be done with joint effort of both male and female.

7.2 Ownership of property

Possession of physical property is one of the major key to determine the status of women in their family and society. In the view of demographers, possession of such property indicated the quality of life of a person and more or less determines one life standard and social status. Ownership of property can also be discussed as the major element to affect the empowerment of women and finally their status.

Table 7.2 Percentage distribution of respondents by ownership of property

Properties	Yes	Percentage	No	Percentage
House	5	3.8	127	96.2
Land	18	13.6	114	86.4
Bank balance	36	27.3	96	17.7
Others	14	10.6	118	13.4

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 7.2 presents information on the percentage distribution of respondents by ownership of property on different headings – house, land, bank balance and others (this includes possession of jewellery, cash in hand etc). It is seen that only 13.83 percent of total respondents have certain possession of property while the remaining 86.17 percent don't own any property. On the basis of headings, 3.8 percent of the respondents have own at least one house, 13.6 percent of the respondents own some land, 27.3 percent of the respondents have certain bank balance and 10.6 percent of the respondents have possessions of some properties such as jewellery, cash in hand etc.

7.3 Husband's occupation

One's occupation defines one's living standard. Here, husband's occupation defines how well he is able to fulfill the requirements of a family and also how well he is able to provide a better life to his wife as Nepal is based on a patriarchal system. In Nepalese context husbands or the males of the family are the major persons to be responsible for earning money by performing certain occupation. Therefore, husband's occupation can also be considered as a major element to identify the status of women.

Table 7.3 Percentage distribution of respondents by husband's occupation

Occupation	No. of cases	Percentage
Agriculture / HH works	57	43.2
Service	40	30.3
Business / Trade	18	13.6
Foreign employment	5	3.8
Daily wages	12	9.1
Total	132	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 7.3 presents information on the percentage distribution of respondents by their husband's occupation. It is sent that nearly half (43.2%) of the respondents' husbands are engaged in agriculture/HH works. Secondly, 30.3 percent of the respondents' husbands are in service of some kinds and it is followed by 13.6 percent of the respondents' husbands, who are engaged in their own business/trade. 9.1 percent of the respondents' husbands are engaged in daily wages work while only 3.8 percent of the respondents' husbands are in foreign employment.

7.4 Educational attainment of husband

How a person reacts to a statement or more precisely the behaviour of other persons often depends on the educational background of the former person. In the context of husband and wife, their behaviour and respect for each other's status highly depends upon their educational attainment. Education provides a person with a definite way of thinking and reacting on others behaviour. Thus, educational attainment of husbands of women is an essential part of the study for generating a concrete idea on the status of women in the study area population.

Table 7.4 presents information of the percentage distribution of the respondents by educational status and educational attainment of their husbands. More than one third population (78.8%) of the respondents has literate husbands while remaining 21.2 percent of the respondents are illiterate. Among the literate husbands, the maximum percent 58.6 percent have attained education above SLC level while nearly equal 21.2 percent and 20.2 percent of the husbands are below primary level and at secondary level respectively.

Table 7.4 Percentage distribution of respondents by educational attainment of husbands

Educational status	No. of cases	Percentage
Literate	104	78.8
Illiterate	28	21.2
Total	132	100
Educational attainment		
⎸Primary	22	21.2
Secondary	21	20.2
SLC and above	61	58.6
Total	104	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

7.5 Involvement in micro – credit

The development of co – operative limited in the country like Nepal has been an essential land mark in the process of uplifting the living status of the people. The involvement of people in co – operatives have developed the habit of depositing their earnings, no matter how small it may be and also have been able to induce some entrepreneurship in the people through micro – credit. Co – operatives have provided a ground for all to deposit small amounts and opportunities of higher financial acts using the micro – credit facilities. Hence, the involvement of the respondents in micro – credit has also an essential effect in enhancing their status.

Table 7.5 Percentage distribution of respondents by involvement in micro credit

Involvement in micro credit	No. of cases	Percentage
Yes	122	92.4
No	10	7.6
Total	132	100
Min. monthly savings		
Rs. 100	93	76.2
Rs. 200	17	14.0
Rs. 300	6	4.9
Rs. 400 +	6	4.9
Total	122	100

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 7.5 presents information on the percentage distribution of the respondents by their involvement in micro – credit and their minimum monthly savings. The maximum numbers of the respondents were seen to have involved in at least one co – operative, which observes 92.4 percent of total respondents. Only 7.6 percent of the respondents were not found to be involved in any of such acts. Among the respondents, who were involved in micro – credit, the majority of the respondents (76.2%) save at least Rs. 100 in a month. Next to it, 14 percent of the respondents save at least Rs. 200 per month. The equal numbers of respondents (4.9%) were seen to save at least Rs. 300 and Rs. 400 and more per month.

CHAPTER VIII

8. FERTILITY DIFFERENTIALS

This chapter deals with fertility behaviour of married women aged in between 15 – 49 in the study area, by some selected socio – economic and demographic variables. Number of children ever born (CEB) to women in reproductive ages is one of the best indicators for fertility, which is taken as dependent variables. It is measured in terms of mean numbers of children ever born with various socio – economic and demographic characteristics.

Note: The following procedure was applied to calculate mean CEB.

$$CEB \times \frac{B_a}{W_a}$$

Where, B_a = Total number of CEB to women in age group 'a'.

W_a = Total number of women in age group 'a'.

CEB = Children Ever Born

8.1 Age of women and mean CEB

The age of women is one of the demographical factors influencing fertility. It is expected that as the age of married women increases the mean number of children every born also increases. The results of the study area are presented in the following table.

Table 8.1 Mean CEB by five – years age group of respondents

Age group	No. of cases	No. of children	Mean CEB
15 – 19	4	3	0.75
20 – 24	14	26	1.85
25 – 29	35	107	3.05
30 – 34	19	65	3.42
35 – 39	23	98	4.26
40 – 44	21	112	5.33
45 – 49	16	98	6.12
Total	132	509	3.86

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 8.1 presents the information on the mean CEB by age of the women. It shows that higher the age of respondents higher is the number of children every born. It also shows that mean number of CEB varies by age of women. The highest CEB of 6.12 is reported by women of the age group 45 – 49 years. The lowest CEB of 0.75 is reported by women of the age group 15 – 19 years. The average number of the child ever born in the study area is found to be 3.86.

8.2 Age at marriage and mean CEB

Age at marriage plays a vital role in affecting fertility. Higher age at marriage is associated negatively with mean number of CEB among the women. However, lower age at marriage is expected to have positive association with mean number of CEB. The age at marriage with mean CEB is shown in the following table.

Table 8.2 Mean CEB by age at marriage of respondents

Age group	No. of cases	No. of children	Mean CEB
>10	-	-	-
10 – 14	3	17	5.66
15 – 19	57	308	5.40
20 – 24	59	163	2.76
25 – 29	13	21	1.61
29 above	-	-	-
Total	132	509	3.86

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 8.2 presents the mean CEB by age at marriage of the respondents. It shows that higher the age at marriage, lower the mean number of CEB and vice – versa. The highest mean number of CEB of 5.66 is found for women married in between the age of 10 – 14 years, while the lowest mean number of CEB of 1.61 is found for women married in between the age of 25 – 29 years. Also the mean number of CEB for women married at 15 – 19 years is found to be 5.40 and that for women married at 20 – 24 is 2.76.

8.3 Literacy status and educational attainment of respondents and mean CEB

Literacy status of women is one of the major instruments for the reduction in fertility. Literate women are found to be more aware of the issues of their quality of children than the illiterates. Therefore, education has indirect impact upon fertility which indirectly reduces the level of fertility.

Table 8.3 Mean CEB by literacy status and educational attainment of the respondents

Literacy status	No. of cases	No. of children	Mean CEB
Literate	74	158	2.13
Illiterate	58	351	6.05
Total	132	509	3.86
Educational attainment			
Primary	9	38	4.22
Secondary	31	76	2.45
SLC and above	34	44	1.29
Total	74	158	2.13

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 8.3 presents information on the mean CEB of the respondents by literacy status and educational attainment. It shows that the mean number of CEB (6.05) is higher for illiterate respondents in comparison to mean number of CEB (2.13) for literate respondents. Table 8.3 also shows the variation of mean number of CEB by educational attainment of respondents. It shows that higher the level of educational attainment, lower is the mean number of CEB. The lowest mean number of CEB (1.29) is seen for the respondents with higher education (SLC level and above) while the maximum mean number of CEB (4.22) is seen for the respondents with lower education (less than or equal to Primary level). It also shows that the mean number of CEB of the respondents attaining secondary level education is 2.45.

8.4 Literacy status and educational attainment of husbands' of the respondents and mean CEB

Educational status of husbands plays an important role in decreasing fertility. Education influences the fertility in different way and especially it plays a vital role to bring awareness. It has been accepted that fertility decreases with the increasing level of husband's education. The following table presents the information on the literacy status and educational attainment of husbands' of the respondents and means CEB.

Table 8.4 Mean CEB by literacy status and educational attainment of husbands' of the respondents

Literacy status	No. of cases	No. of children	Mean CEB
Literate	104	311	2.99
Illiterate	28	198	7.07
Total	132	509	3.86
Educational attainment			
Primary	22	109	4.95
Secondary	21	74	3.52
SLC and above	61	128	2.09
Total	104	311	2.99

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 8.4 presents the information on the mean CEB of the respondents by their husbands' literacy status and educational attainment. The mean number of CEB was found to be the highest as 7.07 to those women whose husbands were illiterate. As to the general acceptance that fertility decreases with the increasing level of husbands' education, the mean CEB was found as 2.99 to literate husbands. On the basis of educational attainment the mean CEB was found the highest as 4.95 for husbands' whose education were below primary level and the least as 2.09 for husbands' whose education were above SLC. The mean CEB for secondary level husbands' was found to be 3.52.

8.5 Occupation of respondents and mean CEB

The occupational status of women has an explanatory power in determining fertility. Occupation affects indirectly in the fertility behaviour of

women. Generally, gainfully employed women tend to have smaller families. Different occupations are found to have different fertility level. The results of the study area are presented below.

Table 8.5 Mean CEB by occupation of the respondents

Occupation	No. of cases	No. of children	Mean CEB
Agriculture / HH works	76	382	5.02
Service	31	59	1.90
Business / Trade	16	33	2.06
Foreign employment	-	-	-
Daily wages	6	25	4.16
Others	3	10	3.33
Total	132	509	3.86

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 8.5 presents information on the mean CEB by the occupation of the respondents. The mean number of CEB is the highest for the women involved in agriculture/HH works (5.02) which is followed by daily wages (4.16). The lowest mean number of CEB is observed by service holders (1.90) and that for the women involved in business/trade was found to be 2.06.

8.6 Occupation of husbands' of respondents and mean CEB

Husbands' occupation is found to be significant variable in the fertility differential of women. Generally women whose husbands are engaged in modern type of occupation have been found to have lower fertility. The information on the mean CEB by occupation of husbands' of respondents in the study area are presented below.

Table 8.6 Mean CEB by occupation of husbands' of the respondents

Occupation	No. of cases	No. of children	Mean CEB
Agriculture / household works	57	299	5.24
Service	40	83	2.07
Business / Trade	18	41	2.27
Foreign employment	5	27	5.40
Daily wages	12	59	4.91
Total	132	509	3.86

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 8.6 presents information on the mean CEB by husbands' occupation of the respondents. In the study area, the women whose husbands are engaged in foreign employment have the highest mean number of CEB (5.40) and are followed by the agricultural/HH works (5.24). On the third position, the husbands' engaged in daily wages observe the mean number of CEB as 4.91. The least mean number of CEB for the husbands' involved in business/trade was found to be 2.27 and that for the husbands' involved in service was found to be 2.07

8.7 Child loss experience and mean CEB

Child loss experience is an important factor, which determines the fertility performance of women. There is a positive relationship between child mortality and fertility. If there is lower child mortality, lower the fertility is to be expected. In any community where high child mortality exists the women would likely to give relatively more births because she would be motivated to replace her dead child. In this way, higher child mortality would promote to women to produce more children and vice – versa.

Table 8.7 Mean CEB by child loss experience of the respondents

Child loss experience	No. of cases	No. of children	Mean CEB
No child loss	120	421	3.51
1 child loss	9	62	6.89
2 and more child loss	3	26	8.67
Total	132	509	3.86

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 8.7 presents information on mean CEB by child loss experience by the respondents. The highest mean number of CEB as 8.67 is observed to the women having experience of two or more than two children. This is followed by women with one child loss experience, which observes 6.89 mean number of CEB. The women with no child loss experience observe the least mean number of CEB as 3.51.

8.8 Knowledge of family planning and mean CEB

Knowledge of family panning is necessary for the use of contraception. Thus, the knowledge of family planning largely affects the fertility performance of a woman. In general, there exists a negative relationship between knowledge of family planning and fertility of women.

Table 8.8 Mean CEB by knowledge of family planning

Knowledge of family planning	No. of cases	No. of children	Mean CEB
Yes	129	486	3.76
No	3	23	7.66
Total	132	509	3.86

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 8.8 presents the information on the mean CEB by knowledge of family planning of the respondents. There is a vast difference in the mean number of CEB between the women with knowledge of family planning and without its knowledge. The highest mean CEB (7.66) is found for the women who do have knowledge of family planning and the least mean CEB (3.76) is found for those having knowledge of family planning.

8.9 Ever use of contraception and mean CEB

The prevalence of contraception has been one of the determinants of fertility in any society. Use of contraception has been one of the major causes for the decrease in fertility of women. Thus, there exists an inverse relationship between the use of contraception and fertility.

Table 8.9 Mean CEB by ever use of contraception

Ever use of contraception	No. of cases	No. of children	Mean CEB
Non – user	34	273	8.02
User	98	236	2.40
Total	132	509	3.86

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 8.9 presents information on the variation of mean number of CEB by use of contraception by the respondents. There mean number of CEB of the women who reported of never use of contraception was observed to be the highest

as 8.02. The mean number of CEB for the women who have been the user of contraception has found to be relatively lower as 2.40.

8.10 Decision making and mean CEB

Decision making power is one of the most important development indicators to enhance the status of women. The greater the power of decision making of women, the higher will be her status on the society. Fertility level of women is also associated with decision making power in the household.

Table 8.10 Mean CEB by decision making on marriage, use of contraception, child bearing, household works and rearing children

Decision makings on	No. of cases	No. of children	Mean CEB
a) Marriage			
Own	34	110	3.23
Family	96	392	4.08
Others	2	7	3.50
Total	132	509	3.86
b) Use of contraception			
Male	43	202	4.69
Female	51	243	4.76
Both	38	64	1.68
Total	132	509	3.86
c) Child bearing			
Male	24	85	3.54
Female	27	103	3.81
Both	81	321	3.96
Total	132	509	3.86
d) Household works			
Male	16	68	3.93
Female	102	407	3.99
Both	14	39	2.78
Total	132	509	3.86
e) Rearing children			
Male	33	129	3.90
Female	57	223	3.91
Both	42	157	3.73
Total	132	509	3.86

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Table 8.10 presents information on the variation of mean CEB by decision making on various issues such as (a) marriage, (b) use of contraception, (c) child bearing, (d) household works and (e) rearing children.

The highest mean CEB (4.08) was found to those women who were married by family's decision, while the least mean CEB (3.23) was found to those women who were married by their own decision.

Nearly equal mean CEB of 4.69 and 4.76 were observed for the decision made for the use of contraception by male and female respectively, while relatively very low mean CEB (1.68) was seen for the decision made by both for the use of contraception.

Under the heading of decision making on child bearing, relatively equal mean CEB of 3.54, 3.81 and 3.96 were observed for decisions made by male, female and both of them respectively.

Decisions on household works also observe relatively equal mean CEB as 3.93 and 3.99 respectively for male and female. It is followed by mean CEB of 2.78 to those couples who participate equally in decision making on household works.

Similarly, a very close distribution of mean CEB was observed for the decision made on rearing children by male (3.90), female (3,91) and both (3.73).

CHAPTER IX

9. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATION AND FURTHER RESEARCH ISSUES

This chapter attempts to summarize the entire study and draw conclusion as well as recommendation for policy implication and research issues.

9.1 Summary

This study has analyzed basic demographic and socio – economic variables of Newar community in ward numbers 9 and 16 of Bhaktapur municipality based on the primary data in which 132 households were considered where 132 currently married women of age in between 15 – 49 and bearing at least one child were enumerated. The research work has studied fertility behaviour in terms of CEB with respect to the different demographic and socio – economic variables in order to determine the extent of variation in children ever born of currently married women aged 15 – 49 and bearing as least one child.

The findings of the study are summarized as follows:

- For the purpose of the study the smallest and the largest wards (in terms of area) respectively 9 and 17 of Bhaktapur municipality were selected.
- For the individual interview 132 currently married women of reproductive ages (15 – 49) and bearing at least one child were selected.
- In the study area, among the 132 sample households (47 households from ward number 9 and 85 households from ward number 17) the total population was found to be 705 in which percentage of male (50.6%) was higher than the percentage of female (49.4%).
- Of the total population (132 households) 19 percent population were below 15 years and 7.6 percent were above 60 years of age. The economically active population (15 – 59 years) was found to be 73.3 percent.
- The sex ratio in the study was found approximately to be 103.
- In the study area, 72.7 percent of total populations were literate and 27.3 percent were illiterate. Among the literates, 51.39 percent have attained higher

level education above SLC level while 12.4 percent have been literate without going through formal schooling.

- Out of the total populations 56.2 percent were married, 39.4 percent were unmarried and 4.4 percent were widower/widow. Divorced and separated populations were not observed in the study area.
- The majority of populations (68.5%) were engaged in agricultural/HH works while the remaining 31.5 percent were engaged in different occupations such as service (17.6%), business/trade (8.6%), foreign employment (1.6%), daily wages (2.1%) and others (1.6%).
- Nearly equal 57.6 percent and 42.4 percent of the total populations had joint and nuclear family respectively in which the majority (96.2%) of households was headed by males while the rest (3.8%) were headed by females.
- Of the total populations, 61.4 percent were large type family composing of more than 5 members and the percentage of small family having less than 5 members was found to be 38.6 percent.
- Most of the household (72.7%) had access to tap water, 100 percent households have electricity facility while 90.9percent have ordinary toilet facility.
- Different household effects such as radio (96.2%), television (62.1%), mobile (82.6%) and land line telephone (66.7%) were observed in the study area where 77.3 percent had ownership of land of their own.
- Out of the 132 respondents, the highest population (26.5%) was found in age group 25 – 29 while the least (3.0%) was found in age group 15 – 19.
- Of the total respondents, 56.1 percent were literate and 43.9 percent were illiterate. Among the literates, 45.9 percent have attained higher education above SLC level while 12.2 percent have attained below primary level education.
- More than half, 57.6 percent of the respondents were found to be involved in agricultural/HH works followed by business/trade (12.1%), services (23.5%), daily wages (4.5%) and others (2.3%).
- The maximum percentages, 87.9 percent of the respondents were Hindu and 12.1 percent were Buddhist.

- 44.7 percent of the respondents were married in between 20 – 24 years which is followed secondly by 43.2 percent married in between 15 – 19 years.
- Out of the total respondents, 69.0 percent gave birth to their first child at the age of 20 – 24 followed by 25 – 29 age groups (17.4%) and 15 – 19 age groups (13.6%).
- In terms of medical approach, 71.2 percent of respondents had access to ANC, 78.8 percent during delivery, 54.5 percent in PNC and 86.4 percent got TT vaccination.
- The overwhelming percentage, 90.9 percent of the respondents didn't have child loss experience while 6.8 percent had experience of 1 child loss and 2.3 percent experienced 2 or more child loss.
- 97.7 percent of the respondents were found to have knowledge of family planning where 74.2 percent were the users of contraception.
- Condoms (76.5%) were found to be the most preferred contraceptive method among the respondents followed by Norplant (53.1%) while the fewest 16.3 percent preferred female sterilization.
- The distribution of respondents bearing 1, 2, 3 and 4+ children were found to be 12.1 percent, 26.5 percent, 32.6 percent and 28.8 percent respectively.
- The maximum (38.6%) of the respondents quoted to desire at least 2 children while the least (15.9%) of the respondents quoted to desire 4 and more than 4 children.
- Under decision making, 41.06 percent of the decisions were found to be performed by the females independently under different discussed headings such as marriage, use of contraception, child bearing, HH works and rearing children.
- Very few 13.83 percent of the properties of the household were owned by the respondents.
- The maximum, 92.4 percent of the respondents were seen to be involved in micro credit where the highest percentage, 76.2 percent of the respondents saved at least Rs. 100 per month.
- The average mean CEB in the study area was found to be 3.86.

- The highest mean CEB (6.21) was seen in the age group 45 – 49 while the lowest mean CEB (0.75) was seen in the age group 15 – 19 of the respondents.
- Mean CEB for the respondents married at 10 – 14 years was found the highest (5.66) and for 25 – 29 years was found the lowest (1.61).
- Mean CEB for illiterate respondents was found the highest (6.05).
- Among the literate respondents, the lowest mean CEB (1.29) was found for those who had attained education above SLC and the highest mean CEB (4.22) was found for those who had attained education below primary level.
- The respondents involved in agricultural/HH works had the highest mean CEB (5.02) against the least mean CEB (1.90) for service holders.
- The highest mean CEB (8.67) was observed for the respondents having 2 and more child loss experience.
- The mean CEB of 7.66 was found for the respondents who did not have the knowledge of family planning while 3.76 was seen for those whose had the knowledge.
- Among the respondents, the least mean CEB of 2.40 was observed for the users of contraception.
- The mean CEB of 4.01 was seen for the respondents actively participating in decision making.

9.2 Conclusion

The study performed in the smallest and the largest wards respectively Chochhen (ward number 9) and Bharbachho (ward number 17) among the currently married women aged between 15 – 49 and bearing at least one child in Bhaktapur municipality has enlisted the negative relationship between women's socio – economic status and fertility. the study shows that higher the socio – economic status of women, lower is the fertility of them.

In the study the fertility behaviour of the women were studied in terms of CEB with respect to different demographic and socio – economic variables such as age of women, age at marriage, literary status and educational attainment of the women and their husbands, occupation of women and their husbands, child loss

experience, knowledge of family planning, ever use of contraception and involvement of the women in decision makings.

Age of women and age at marriage are the most important demographic variables that play a vital role in determining the fertility behaviour of the women. The study concludes that the women at higher ages have higher CEB and the women married at lower ages have higher CEB.

Literacy status and educational attainment have been observed as the major instrument for the reduction of fertility in the study. This can be concluded as the mean CEB of literate women was very low as compared to the mean CEB of illiterate women. The educational attainment has also played an important role to reduce the fertility as it was observed in the study that the women attaining higher educational level have low mean CEB. Following the similar trend, the literacy status and educational attainment o the women's husbands have also shown inverse relationship with fertility.

Occupations of both women and their husbands have been observed as significant variable in determining the fertility behaviour of the women. In the study the mean CEB of the couples engaged in agricultural/HH works was seen higher than the mean CEB of the couples engaged in other different occupations. Thus, it also concludes a negative relationship between women's status and their fertility.

In the field of population studies the concept of positive relationship between child mortality and fertility is generally accepted. The study has set foot to prevail the same concept as higher mean CEB was seen for the women with higher number of child loss experience, because in any community where high child mortality exists the women would likely to give relatively more births, motivated to replace the dead ones.

Knowledge of family planning and ever use of contraception largely affects the fertility behaviour of the women. The study concludes an inverse relationship between these demographic variables and fertility of the women. Similarly, the involvement of the women in decision making also observes an inverse relationship with the fertility behaviour of the women.

9.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion of the study following recommendations may be advantageous:

a) Education is one of the most important factors in determining status of a person. The educational status of females was found very low as compared with that of males. Thus several programs to educate both males and females should be implemented.

b) To achieve a lower level of fertility, infant mortality rate should be reduced. Thus programs related to child and maternal health should be introduced to reduce infant and child mortality. Besides this, programmes such as mass immunization, nutrition, child and maternal health care facilities, cheap medical facilities may help to reduce infant and child mortality.

c) To reduce the fertility, informal education and family planning related awareness programs should be given to married women.

d) There should be IEC (Information, Education and Communication) service and availability of contraceptive methods in order to increase prevalence.

e) For the advancement of women, skillful training and employment opportunity should be created.

9.4 Further research issues

- This study have examined the impact on fertility by different socio – economic and demographic variables such as age of women, age at marriage, literacy status, educational attainment, occupation, knowledge of family planning, use of contraception, decision making etc and analyzed in terms of mean number of CEB. Other socio – economic variables like cultural norms, value of children, religious belief, sex preference etc could also be used to examine the relationship with fertility in further research.
- Other demographic variables, ecological, biological and psychological variables could be taken into consideration as further research issues.

- Only small sample size of 132 currently married women bearing at least one child have been taken in this study. Thus it would be more reliable if the sample size could be increased.
- This study is purely based on the homogeneous Newar population of ward numbers 9 and 17 of Bhaktapur municipality. Thus this study in heterogeneity could be done in different parts of Nepal.
- This study only attempts to examine the relationship between socio – economic status of women and their fertility. The further study could be conducted to examine the socio – economic as well as political status of women and their fertility.
- In this study only simple statistical tools have been applied for data analysis. Further research could be done by applying bivariate, multivariate and regression analysis.

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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

Tribhuvan University

Central Department of Population Studies

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Survey Questionnaire on "Status of women and fertility"

District: …… **Municipality: …….**

Ward No.:…… **Household No.:……..**

Date:……

Section A: Household Questionnaire

S.No.	Name of HH members	Relation with HH head	Sex	Age	Literacy	Educational attainment	Marital status	Occupation

Codes:

Relation with HH head	Sex	Literacy	Educational Attainment	Marital status	Occupation
HH Head…1 Wife/husband….2 Son……..3 Daughter……4 Daughter in law….5 Grand son……6 Grand	Mal…...1 Female..2	Literate…1 Illiterate..2	>Primary….1 Primary….2 Lower Secondary….3 SLC & +2….4 Bachelor & above……5	Married …..1 Unmarried…..2 Widower/ Widow……..3 Divorced……4 Separated…5	Agricultural/ HH works….1 Service…..2 Business/ Trade……3 Foreign employment…4 Daily

daughter….7					wages…5 Others…..6

[Tick the best option]

S.No.	Questions	Options
1.	Type of family.	a) Joint b) Nuclear
2.	Number of family members.	a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4 +
3.	Source of drinking water	a) Tap b) Well c) Others……
4.	Availability of electricity facility	a) Yes b) No
5.	Availability of toilet facility	a) No facility b) Ordinary toilet c) Flush/Modern toilet
6.	Possession of household effects	a) Radio b) Television c) Mobile d) Land – line telephone e) Others…….
7.	Ownership of land	a) Yes b) No

Section B: Individual information

A. Background characteristics of the respondent

S.No.	Questions	Options
1.	Name of respondents	……..
2.	Age of respondents	……..years
3.	Literacy status	a) Yes b) No
4.	Educational Attainment	a) Less than Primary b) Primary c) Secondary d) SLC and Above……..
5.	Occupation	a) Agricultural/HH works b) Service c) Business/Trade d) Foreign employment e) Daily wages f) Others……
6.	Religion	a) Hindu b) Buddhist c) Christian

		d) Others……..

B. Fertility Behaviour of the respondent

S.No.	Questions	Options
1.	Age at marriage	……..years
2.	Age of respondent at first birth	……..years
3.	Medical Approach: a) ANC b) During delivery c) PNC d) TT vaccine	 a) i) Yes ii) No b) i) Yes ii) No c) i) Yes ii) No d) i) Yes ii) No
4.	Child loss experience	a) Yes b) No
5.	Number of child loss	a) 1 b) 2 c) 2 +

C. Family Planning

S.No.	Questions	Options
1.	Knowledge of family planning.	a) Yes b) No
2.	Ever use of contraception	a) User b) Non User
3.	Methods of contraception used	a) Female sterilization b) Male sterilization c) Pills d) Condoms e) Injectables f) Norplant g) Others…….
4.	Number of children (live births)	a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4 +
5.	Desire for more children	a) Yes b) No
6.	Numbers of desired children	a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4 +

D. Decision making

S.No.	Questions	Options
1.	Decision of marriage	a) Own b) Family c) Others……..
2.	Decision on use of contraception	a) Male b) Female c) Both
3.	Decision on child bearing	a) Male b) Female c) Both
4.	Decision on HH works	a) Male b) Female c) Both

5.	Decision on rearing children	a) Male b) Female c) Both

E. Miscellaneous

S.No.	Questions	Options
1.	Ownership of property	a) Yes b) No
2.	Type of property owned a) Land…… b) Bank balance…….. c) Others……..	 a) i) Yes ii) No b) i) Yes ii) No c) i) Yes ii) No
3.	Husband's occupation	a) Agricultural/HH works b) Service c) Business/Trade d) Foreign employment e) Daily wages f) Others……
4.	Literacy status of husband	a) Yes b) No
5.	Educational attainment of husband	a) Less than Primary b) Primary c) Secondary d) SLC and Above……..
6.	Involvement in micro credit	a) Yes b) No
7.	Minimum monthly savings in micro credit	a) Rs. 100 b) Rs. 200 c) Rs. 300 d) Rs. 400 + …….

Thank you for your kind co – operation.