

**DETERMINANTS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL DROP
OUT IN CHITWAN AND NAWALPARASI**

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THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
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Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that this thesis entitled “Determinants of primary school drop out in Chitwan and Nawalparasi” has been carried out by Mr. Naresh Manandhar under my supervision. His research work is original. It is submitted for the fulfillment for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics to the Central Department of Statistics, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal. He has successfully completed the thesis under my guidance. I recommend it for the approval and acceptance.

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Letter of Forward

This thesis entitled “Determinants of primary school dropout in Chitwan and Nawalparasi” is submitted by Mr. Naresh Manandhar for the fulfillment for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics. The research work is carried out under the supervision of Prof. Azaya Bikram Sthapit during the period 2008 to 2011. The thesis is forwarded to the Dean’s office, Institute of Science and Technology, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, for its approval for the award of Ph. D. Degree in Statistics. His registration number is 204/2064-065 and date of enrollment is 2064/7/27 (B.S.).

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ABSTRACT

Nepal's school education is structured as early childhood development (ECD) / pre-primary level (PPC), primary level, lower secondary, secondary and higher secondary education. Primary level provides five years of education to the 5-9 years of school-going age children and consists of five grades I-V. The primary school dropout is defined as "any student who leaves school for any reason before graduation or completion of a program of studies without transferring to another elementary or secondary school."

The objective of research is to find out the causes of dropout in primary schools of the study districts. The null hypotheses based on objectives are there is no significant difference between the primary school dropout children of boys and girls, at various grades and government and private school.

A cross-sectional tracer design study was conducted in 30 sampled schools of Chitwan and Nawalparasi districts. The pre-designed questionnaire was used for interview method to collect information about dropout and studying children from one of the parent. The interviewed were taken from one of parents of 101 and 109 actual dropout children respectively from Chitwan and Nawalparasi districts. To fit the logistic regression model, 250 parents of studying children were selected by using stratified random sampling and the interviews were taken.

The highest actual dropout rate was found to be 6.69 percent in grade I and followed by 5.24 percent, 3.66 percent, 2.48 percent and 3.66 percent in grades II, III, IV and V respectively. The dropout rate for girl (4.04%) was less than boys (4.50%). The boys (52.6%) were more dropped out than girls (47.6%). The overall primary school dropout rate was found to be 4.26 percent in these study districts. The mean age of primary school dropout children is 8.74 years with standard deviation of 2.021 years. *Dalit* caste comprised of around 30.5 percent of dropped out children and they have higher chances of dropped out. The majority (73.3%) of dropout children were found to be *Hindu* by religion followed by *Buddhist* (21.4%) and *Muslim* and others (5.2%). The maximum (42.2%) of the actual dropout was due to illiteracy and negligence of parents in the education of their children. Other causes of dropout were household work (38.5%) and poor economic status of parents (26.6%). Education status of the father plays an important role in children education and if he is illiterate the chances of dropout is very high.

From logistic regression analysis of child related variables, grade, age and work at home were found to be significant variable and among family related variables, parent's apathy towards their children education, education status of father, education status of mother, occupation status of father and number of children in family were found to be significant.

Government of Nepal should make the provision of automatic upgradation at primary grades so that any child will not dropout due to failure in examination or repetition. Decreasing the dropout rate requires attraction for dropped out children, active participation of parents, local communities and government working in conjunction with one another.

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Abbreviations

CBS	Centre Bureau of Statistics
CERID	Centre for Education Research and Innovative Development
CI	Confidence interval
CWIN	Centre for Child in Nepal
DOE	Department of Education
DR	Dropout Rate
EFA	Education for All
GER	Gross Enrollment Rate
HMG	His majesty Government
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOE	Ministry of Education
NCES	National Centre of Education System
NESP	New Education System Plan
NER	Net Enrollment Rate
OR	Odds Ratio
PEP	Primary Education Project
PR	Promotion Rate
ROC	Receiver Operating Characteristic
RP	Resource Person
RR	Repetition rate
SWAp	Sector-Wide Approach
UPE	Universal Primary Education
VDC	Village Development Committee
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Social and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund