

**SEX PREFERENCE AND FERTILITY**  
**(A Case Study of Meghauri Village in Chitwan District)**

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# **TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
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Kirtipur, Kathmandu Nepal**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This is to certify that this dissertation entitled "**Sex Preference and Fertility (A Case Study of Meghauri Village in Chitwan District)**" is prepared under my supervision by Ms. Dewaka Basel for the partial fulfilment of the requirement of the Master's Degree of Arts in Population Studies. To the best of my knowledge, the study is original and carries useful information on sex preference and fertility. I, therefore, recommend it for evaluation to the Dissertation Committee.

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## **LETTER OF APPROVAL**

This dissertation work entitled "**Sex Preference and Fertility (A Case Study of Meghauri Village in Chitwan District)**" prepared and presented by Ms. Dewaka Basel has been accepted as partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master's of Arts in Population Studies.

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Date: February, 2009

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## **ABSTRACT**

The present study on the sex preference and fertility are carried out by collecting primary data from the sample survey in ward number 5 of Megghauli VDC in Chitwan district. The main aim of this study is to examine the existing reasons of desire for children by sex. For this study the respondents are currently married women aged 15-49 years and their husband. The study covers total of 673 populations from total of 125 selected household. Out of 125 selected household, 86.1 percent people are literate. Out of the total population aged (10 years and above), 37.5 percent are founds in agricultural, 30.6 percent are founds in students and 13.3 percent are services.

The socio-economic, demographic and cultural variable affects sex preference and fertility. Most of respondents, 68.8 percent household have 0.03386 hectare to 0.67730 hectare of land, 22.4 percent household have above than 0.6773 hectare, 8.8 percent household have 0.03386 hectare and below their cultivable land ownership. Most of respondent 89.6 percent are supported the 12 months in a year for their income efficiency. Out of total respondent, 91.2 percent have given birth to children but only 8.8 percent haven't any children. Who have given birth of children, 42.1 percent of respondent have given birth of only one Son, 33.6 percent of respondents have given birth only one daughter. 14.9 percent respondents have not given any son and 24.6 percent respondents have not any daughter. 31.6 percent of respondents whose children are died among their live birth. Among the total number of children died, 72.2 percent son are died. Out of 114 respondents, 57.9 percent respondents have given the first birth of son and 42.1 percents have given first birth of daughter. Out of total respondents, 81.6 percent of the respondent are reported that they would like to have their first child as a son and 18.4 percent respondents would like to have their first child as a daughter, 68.8 percent of husband and 65.6 percent of wives are wanted at least one son in their family and 20 percent of husband and 21.6 percent of wives are wanted at least one

daughter. Majority of the respondents both husband and wives more emphasized on the increase heredity and old age security for wanting sons.

The large proportion of agricultural respondents (51.0%) want son .Among total respondents, 18.6 percent of illiterate respondents want son and 21.27 percent want to daughter. Similarly 81.4 percent of literature want to son for first child and 78.3 percent want to daughter for first child. Out of 114 respondents, 19.3 percent respondents want to two sons among their ideal family size, who have three children in their family. About seventeen percent respondents want to one son among their ideal family size, who have two children in their family. As well as 17.5 percent respondents want to two sons in their family size who have four children and above. Highest proportion of respondents who want to pregnancy who want to pregnancy continuous in age group 35-39 years and highest proportion of respondents who don't want to pregnancy continuous in age group 20-24 years. . 90.7 percent of literate respondents don't want to pregnancy continuous but only 75.6 percent of literate respondents want to pregnancy continuous. Most of the highest percent of agricultural respondents want to pregnancy continuous than other occupational respondents. 57.1 percent of respondents have used the temporary family planning method who have only one son and 42.9 percent of respondents have use the temporary family planning method who have not any son.

## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

CBS	=	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDPS	=	Central Department of Population Studies
GOs	=	Governmental Organizations
Ha.	=	Hectare
i.e.	=	That is
MOPH	=	Ministry of Population and Health
MOH	=	Ministry of Health
MA	=	Master's of Arts
NFHS	=	Nepal Family Health Survey
NDHS	=	Nepal Demographic Health Survey
NGOs	=	Non-Governmental Organizations
S.L.C.	=	School Leaving Certificate
SPSS	=	Statistical Package of Social Science
TU	=	Tribhuvan University
UN	=	United Nations
UNFPA	=	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	=	United Nations International Children's Education Fund
US	=	United States
VDC	=	Village Development Committee
VoC	=	Value of Children
Vol.	=	Volume
WHO	=	World Health Organization
NLS	=	Number of Living Sons
NLD	=	Number of Living Daughter

# **CHAPTER - I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Preference means likeness, sex preference refers to the preference of the particular gender. Simple preference of sex means either preference goes for son or it goes for daughter. Preference of son is widely spread in many rural areas of Nepal in compare with the urban area. Sex preference and fertility are different demographic components but it is interrelated each other. Sex preference and fertility are varies form family, society and community to community. This rate of growth of population is guided by sex preference and fertility. Many social scientists and demographers have considered the sex preference particularly son is one of the important factor responsible for leading towards high /low fertility.

In the content of Nepal, the dominant socio- cultural dogmas have always been socially and culturally pronatalist. The large number of children is considered as a symbol of well being. In Nepali society whether Hindus and Buddhist the eldest son must perform the parents' funeral pyres and continue their family tradition.

The degree of sex preference varies in different societies and countries because of in the different religious and cultural norms and values as well as social practices, most of the people demonstrated culture as a pronounced son preference, although there were balance desired in the number of sons and daughters in most countries (Arnold, 1985: 290).

High fertility rate is also related with educational level. Female education is an important factor in determining reproductive behaviours. The total fertility rate is uneducated women is internal mechanism of women to rise age at marriage. It cuts down the reproductive span of women and

reduces fertility. An increase in educational level increase age at marriage, increase of contraception, breast feeding and can hope not to prefer the gender. As a study of Sundrijal and Gokarna areas by Sapkota (1993:67) shows a shift in education status of women from literate to primary secondary and higher level found to reduce fertility indirectly.

In the contest of Nepal, large proportion of women having more children commonly demonstrates a son preference. However the preference for daughter is also evident when women have two or more living sons but no daughter (MoH 1986).

There is also a very common saying that "let it be late, let it be a son" which means people can wait for long time to have a son for their family. There is also a very common saying that " Chori Ko Janma Hareko Karma" it is also focus in son preference in our traditional concept.

Gender preference for children of a certain sex can have an impact not only on fertility but also morality. There is evidence that advanced medical technologies such as those used for prenatal sex identification have been exploited as a tool for a selection of children by the sex of the fetus. In other words, ultrasound and amniocentesis have been used as methods for determining whether or not to abort fetus in general, preference for children of one sex. i.e. males may lead to problem of sex discrimination, sex selection abortion, female infanticide a poor quality of sex for females a " marriage squeeze" deterioration of the family system and have advance towards sustainable social and economic development in countries where such a preference exists ( Wongboonsin and Ruffolo, 1995 cited in Bhattarai, 2002).

Considering the literacy rate, fertility rate and value of children, this study will try to find the effect of education economic and demographic variables on sex preference and fertility especially among the people of Chitwan district Meghauri VCD.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Sex preference in various areas of Nepal is different by different causes that are social status, caste, religion, educated - non educated, rich poor, rural-urban, agricultural, non -agricultural etc. There finding showed a strong preference for son. In Nepali society desire for a daughter cannot be ruled out. There is a strong desire for at least one daughter to balance the sex composition of the family.

Daughters are also valued due to religious and cultural tradition and norms and values related to the social practices. Because of the different religious and cultural group of people in Nepal, the degree of sex preference also different among the group of people.

Nepal is not only a multiethnic, agriculture, traditional and rural society but also a pronatalistic society with a strong son preference (Gurung, 1992).

The Nepalese Human Development Research (HDR) index for women is one of the lowest in the world and not surpassingly fertility rate in Nepal is one of the highest in Asia.

According to Hindu religion, to have a son is a necessity to light funeral pure at ones death and to attain salvation in the next life not to have a child is a kind of social degradation for a couple. This sort of socio- cultural stigma has worked country to the attainment of the goal (Bhande and Kanitkar,1982).

Sex preference and fertility are affected by some socio- economic and demographic variables. The main issues of this study are the some problems which are following:

- ❖ How the direction of sex preference and fertility would be determined?
- ❖ Is there a strong variation from the socio- economic variables in sex preference and fertility?
- ❖ What is the role of demographic variables in determining the fertility and sex preference?



Although, a few studies have been done about sex preference and fertility for the selected areas and for some selected communities by some researchers but the specific studies about the sex preference and fertility of Meghauri VDC Telauri not yet been conducted. This study is based on primary data source and for the megauri VDC 5 of the mid western Tarai. It is being a distinct and important study.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to find out the prevailing situation of the Telauri community about sex preference and fertility among the males and females of the reproductive span.

The following are the specific objectives of this study:

1. To identify the socio-economic and demographic background of the population residing in ward number 5 of Meghauri VDC.
2. To examine the effects of sex preference on fertility behaviour.
3. To examine the existing reasons of desire for children by sex.

### **1.4 Limitations of the Study**

The study without limitation cannot be conducted. So it is necessary to limit the research according to the purpose of study, time duration and resources. The following are the limitation of this Study.

1. The study covers only a ward in a particular village development committee so the finding cannot be generalized.
2. The respondents are limited to the only married women aged 15-49 years and their husbands.
3. Selection of certain socio- economic, demographic and psychological variables are considered to explain the sex preference and fertility.
4. Even though the sex preference is likely to be affected by infant and child mortality, this factor is not incorporated in the study. It is because the interest of this study is confined only sex preference and fertility.

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

1. This study is most important to find out the socio- economic and demographic status of ward five of Meghauri VDC.
2. The findings of the study will be very useful for planner and policy maker as well as NGOs,
3. It will be very useful for social activities who are in engage to improve life status of backward communities.

## **1.6 Organization of the study**

This study consists of six chapters. The first chapter deals with the introduction, statement of problem, objectives, significant and limitation of the study. The second chapter includes literature review and conceptual framework of the study. Third chapter includes methodology of the study. The socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the study population and respondent include in chapter four. The chapter five deals with sex preference of respondent for different ways. Such as, death condition of child of the respondents, sex of first birth, ideal number of children, opinion of sex for first child, desire for at least one child of each sex, regions for sex preference so on. Conclusion and recommendation are given in sixth chapter.

## **CHAPTER - II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Theoretical Review**

Sex preference is a preference of a particular gender (sons or daughter). Parents prefer for the sex of their children across cultures and it is important for studying family planning because they may affect completed fertility. Actually birth of children whether it is a son or a daughter is determined by biological factors. Which is not under the control of couples or individuals choice? However many people wish to have their family with preference gender composition of their offspring and are pervasive all over the world and not only vary widely across the cultures but also with in a country.

In many Asian and African Countries sons are taken as sources of economic gain of the family and girls are taken as a financial burden. Therefore son preference may lead to positive relationship between the number of son and fertility for economic and physical reasons. Thus families with a high proportion of sons should feel themselves under less demographic pressure.

According to the book of Rites "A women is to obey here father before marriage, her husband during married life and her son in widowhood" These traditions also stress the importance of carrying on the family line through male progeny. These values provide the justification for the tradition of female infanticide. Precise information is not available but John Arid estimated that the level of differential female infanticide might have been about 2.5% prior to 1949 (US Bureau of the Census, 1961, cited in Dangi, 2004).

Education is a crucial factor for the determination of desired family size and sex preference. The study, which was carried in the sample population, all the women of the sample were illiterate and 17.12 percent of their husbands were literate. Attainment of higher education is instrumental in reducing desired family size in Nepal, (Dahal, 1989). Karki (1982) using data from some

rule and urban areas found a negative collection between education and fertility variables (cited in CBS, 1987: 292). Using the Nepal fertility survey (NFS) data 1976, Pant and Acharya (1988: 56) showed that the mean number of children ever born among literate women was 2.3 as compared 3.3 among illiterate women.

In the Nepal, parental preference for at least one child of each sex in general has been well documented large preparation of women who desire more children show a preference for sons. However, the preference for daughter is also evident when women have two or more living sons but no daughters (MoH, 1986: 136; Tuladhar, (1989:11; Dahal 1989:78).

World Fertility Survey (WFS) conducted a study in many developing countries during 1970s collecting data regarding Easterlin state preference for the sex of the next child among women respondent of reproductive ages. Using this information, strong son preference was found in Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Republic of Korea and Jordan. Daughter preference in Venezuela and Jamaica and moderate and equal preference for son and daughter can be found in several countries. Most of which are Latin America and Caribbean countries. The most notable finding for gender preference is that women desire at least one child of each sex. In Nepal among currently married women aged 15-49, 67 percent wanted their next child to be a boy, 75 percent wanted a girl and 25.5 percent women were undecided (Cleland et al.,1983, UN1987).

The sex preference particularly on son is one of the importance factors responsible for the high fertility when a family was at least one son or more, parents want to use contraceptives to delay or stop child bearing having sons. Who survive induces parents to adopt more effective or permanent methods of birth control, such as sterilization or to have abortion (Gupta, 1987).

Arnold (1975) developed a method to estimated quantitative effect of sex preference on fertility and family planning. The method is based on the assumption that with in each parity, contraceptive prevalence would of equal value among various sex compositions of children in the absence of sex that is if sex preference is

completely absent all couple within each parity are expected to act in the same manner as those couples who are currently most satisfied with the sex composition of their children. Using the Korean national fertility survey data he found that the contraceptive use in Korea in 1974 would increase from 45.8 to 54.8 percent in the absence of sex preference. In a study using data from Nepal fertility survey 1976 by using same methodology it estimated that contraception use in 1976 would increase by 1.1 percentage points from the then level of 2.9 percent in the absence of sex preference. In 1987, using the same method he examined effect of sex preference on family planning in 27 countries. In this study the data were using from various sample survey conducted during 1965 to 1984. He found no significant impact of sex preference on fertility and family planning. In 1992 by using data from 26 countries, employing same method. He also found to significant effect on fertility and family planning.

According to Caldwell (1993) developed a theory known as "Theory of intergenerational wealth flow" explaining fertility behaviour in any type of society at any level of the development is rational. In a society, the fertility is high if children are economically useful to parents and low if children are economically not beneficial to the parents. For the high or low fertility, many determining variable of fertility are playing various roles. Sex preference is wide spread all over the world. In the context of developing countries, son preference is stronger because of economic, socio-economic and socio- psychological and cultural reasons.

Arnold (1975), a preference for a balance exists in tandem with a moderate preference for sons North Africa Kenya and Sri-Lanka. Among women with two children in Morocco, those with one girl and one boy are least likely to want another child (60%) those with two boy are next most likely (71%) and those with two girls are the most likely to want another child (80%). A preference for a balance co-exists with a slight son preference in Burunda Mexico and Zimbabwe.

The Value of Children (VOC) study in six Asian and Pacific countries also suggest that family size is influenced by the son preference (Arnold et al., 1975 cited Bastakoti 1999).

Parents always like to have particular number of children with desired sex in the family, even though the birth of a child is purely a biological phenomenon. In other word couples may continue child bearing beyond their overall desired numbers of sons and daughters (Cleland et al., 1983).

Most researchers looking for the reasons for strong son preference in Korea argue that son preference was deeply rooted in the Confucian tradition with its patrilineal and patrilineal social structure. Therefore, sons are crucial for carrying on the family name and traditions and also wanted to provide economic security for parents are to perform the rituals ancestral worship also (Arnold, 1985).

Traditionally Nepalese society favours high fertility children are symbols of well being both socially and economically, marriage in early and universal. It is a disgrace for a couple. Particularly, the wife does not have children. High fertility is desired because by producing children. Preferable sons a woman raises her status in the family (CBS, 2002; 51)

Women's role in decision making is very weak at the national level as well as in their family. There are provisions made by government on some legal and constitutional rights for female over males to encourage them in every level of decision making but in reality, their participation is not given priority and that have little say on most of the decisions they cannot drive any proposal unacceptable to men are the dominant of the decision making. Even at the family level it is the man who decides on many aspects. So the composition of a family according to gender is also the desire of men more than women through only women can give birth and the she had to take risk of her life while giving the birth to baby women have always been leaders in community and non-government organization but are under represented at most level of governmental especially in ministerial and other executive bodies. In those countries, still have no women in parliament and in at least 8 countries. Women

can not even vote. Women are 13 percent of the world parliamentarians up from 7 percent 1975. Only 9 countries is the proportion of women in the national parliament 30 percent or above (UNFPA, 2000: 54).

It is obvious that children serve many functions for parents and fulfill many needs. Satisfactions and costs are therefore conceived broadly to encompass economic, social and psychological dimensions. An assumption to be tested by the study is that perceived satisfactions and costs of children are a major motivational force in children-bearing and that they interact with situational barriers and facilitators to affect both family size preference and fertility (Arnold, 1992).

A popular Confucian saying goes "if you have a son, you can say you have a descendent. But you can not say if you have ten daughters" (UNICEF, 1994:22).

### **Empirical Review**

Son preference is very strong in the first two parties. Among caste/ ethnic group, it is strong in all groups. Strong preference for son is found in Buddhist among the religious group. This is more evident among literate or attain primary education. On the other hand strong preference for son is found among women whose husbands are engaged in agriculture. Among ecological region, son preference is strong in his similarly, it is stronger in far western Development Region (0.78%) among women residing in development regions (Bhattarai, 1997: 80-83).

Gupta (1987) found that strong son preference hinders fertility decline. In his study he shows that strong son preference is not inconsistent with fertility decline, In fact, sex bias may worsen with reduction in family size. The reason for discriminating against females does not lie primarily in economic hardship. In India son preference is primarily culturally determined and scarcity of resources may at most accentuate the effects of sex bias within a given culture. Nor does sex preference seem to be associated with low levels of female's participation in income generating activities.

Margan and Niraula (1995) studied in two Nepalese village (Bagadhi Benighat) has resulted that Benighat wives with at least one son are more than twice as likely to report using contraception as those with no sons.

According to Gurung (1992), Nepal is not only an agricultural traditional and rural society but also a pro-natalist society with a strong son preference. However daughters are also valued due to religious and cultural traditions and norms and values related to the social practices. Because of the different religious and cultural groups of people in Nepal, the degree of sex preference also different among the groups of people.

The social discrimination of female against male child is still evident in the society and there are reports of extreme case of over-female infanticide in India. Around ten million female fetuses may have been aborted in India over the past two decades because of traditional preference for boys. According to the study published in "The lancet journal", It is estimated that parental sex discrimination and selective abortion accounts for 0.5 million missing girls yearly. A figure of ten million missing female birth would not be unreasonable. The "girl deficit" is far more prominent in educated women. The number of boys born as second children was twice as high among this group as among illiterate mothers. However the deficit did not vary by religion. This warned that infanticide abortion was driving India towards a gender imbalance with alarming social consequences (University of Toronto Canada, 1998) cited in The Kathmandu Post, 10 January 2006. Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and South Korea face similar problems (UNFPA, 2001).

In some Asian Countries, there are 105 men for every 100 women because of discrimination against girls. Although many countries have banned parental gender testes. Illegal test are available and females are aborted more than males (UNFPA, 2005).

In equality between women and men limits the potential of individual, families' communities and nations. Ending gender discrimination is a urgent



human rights and development priorities, says the state of world population 2000 report from the UNFPA.

In the west sex has become a game of pleasure to satisfy one's carnal needs but in East it is still a part of a ritual, a way to continue the family Hindu males, by temperament, used to be spiritualistic and would run a way from their women for spiritual attainment. So, Hindu shrines were decorated with all types of erotic carvings to initiate the male into sexual activities and by doing so, sex was made sacred. The purpose of sex was to beget a son and this belief generated the feeling that son is important because he can uphold family traditions and give continuity to the family name. They were never considered daughters of Satan or sources of evil as in west. They were always taken as sources of inspiration, a helping male or a source of pleasure and bliss (Sharma, 2001).

According to Williamson (1978) many couples bear additional children in the attempts to have one or more sons. Thus it could be said that the gender inequality and fertility is the result of son preference. In societies generally males are taken as more valuable than females. Sons are considered as mean of earning in our society. From a case study of sex preference and fertility in rural Nepal in Kumal community, Nawalparasi it was found that on-the sex composition among children 3.3 percent women desired only daughters in their children. Similarly 59.4 percent couples desired more sons and fewer daughters. 8.9 percent desired more daughters than sons and for equal sons and daughters, 28.3 percent expressed their desire (Bastakoti, 1999).

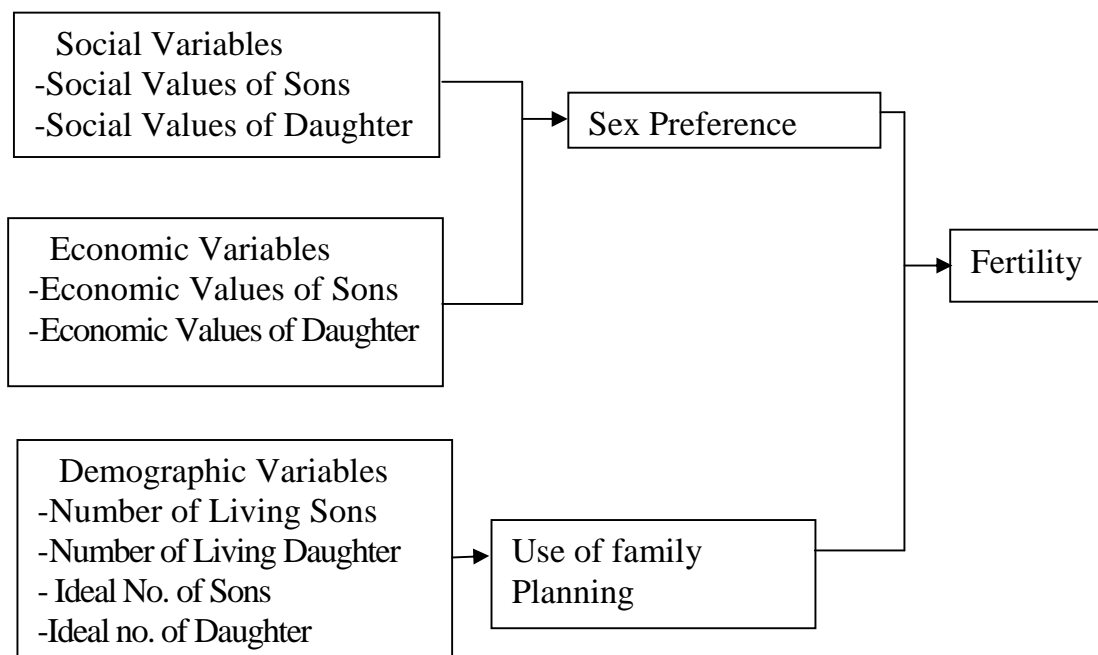
According to S. Ramasundarah (1995) the fertility is declining in Tamilnadu rapidly and the main reason is that they started to limit their family size with the development of economic aspect as well as infrastructure, social factor and social reforms by periyar cultural factors. Among the "Periyar" was most effective campaign which talks about liberate. Raju and Bhat (1995) say that there is high sex preference in India, through who have only one son. The social discrimination of female against male child is still evident in the society

and there are reports of extreme cases of ever-female infanticide in some place of India. Sex preference is determining the use of contraception even they have desire on small family size they want desired sex composition of their family.

If a preference for one sex over another is based on consideration of differential no price or cost rather than one taste couples burdened with children of the more, expensive disfavored sex and are less able to afford extra children than those with offspring of the chapter gender (Sah 2001 cited in Pandey, 2006).

There is an inverse relationship between educational attainment of all women husband's education has 20 percent effect on fertility while mothers education has effect more than double than fathers education plays the main rules reducing fertility (Das, 1998).

**Figure No. 1: Conceptual Framework**



There are three types of variables which are social, economic and demographic variables affected by sex preference and fertility. Social variables include occupation education and so on. These variables help to determine the social values of son or daughter as well as there are different economic variables which help to determine the economic values of son or daughter. Similarly there are also different demographic variables like age, sex, marital status and so on. These all variables help to determine the number of living

sons and daughter and ideal number of sons and daughters which all are determined by the use of family planning methods both permanent and temporary. These all variables help to have sex preference which results in high or low fertility. Those frameworks have been designed on the basic of these conceptual frameworks.

## **CHAPTER - III**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Study Site and Its Justification**

Chitwan is a district which lies in Narayani Zone of Nepal. This district is a central part of Nepal. The area covers hill and terai. It is located between 27<sup>o</sup>27' and 46<sup>o</sup> north latitude and 83<sup>o</sup>53' to 85<sup>o</sup>27' east longitude approximately. It covers an area of 2218 square kilometers. The climate of this district is known as tropical and sub tropical on an average this district experience average maximum temperature of 30.3<sup>o</sup>c and minimum temperature is below than 16.6<sup>o</sup>c in summer and winter seasons. An average rainfall of the district is 1512.3 ml.

There are 36 VDCs and 2 municipalities in Chitwan district. Among them, Meghauri is one of the largest VDC of Chitwan district which is 150 kilometer far from the Kathmandu to the west.

#### **3.2 Sources of Data**

This study used both primary and secondary data. Literature review is based on secondary source and primary data are collected through the field survey. Primary data compared with data taken from CBS and other governmental and non-governmental publication. Basically, this study is conducted on the basis of quantitative and qualitative research method. The data are collected in June 2008 at Meghauri VDC in Chitwan district.

#### **3.3 Sample Design**

There are 527 households in Ward No.5 of Meghauri VDC, where 3,430 population are living with 1,705 males and 1,725 females. All the households are not taken for the study due to financial problems and short duration of study and only those household having women aged 15-49 years were taken the sample and interviewed.

#### **3.4 Questionnaire Design**

To meet the objectives of study and considering limited time and resources data are collected by preparing semi-structure questionnaires

schedule. Closed type questionnaire are designed to obtain behaviour of respondents. To achieve main target of the studies some supportive questions about basic demographic and socio-economic information of the respondents such as: age, sex, education, occupation, marital status, relation to head of household are collected. Both household and individual questionnaire are used in the survey.

The household questionnaire deals about the household characteristics. In individual questionnaire, some of the questions are asked to the married women of reproductive age group (15-49 years) and some of these questions are asked to husband.

### **3.5 Data Collection and Interview**

The study focus on currently married women age 15-49 and their husband. All 125 household are visited in the morning and evening time when both husband and wife are present in house. Originally the research instrument interview schedule prepared in English language and then translated in to Nepali language.

### **3.6 Data Processing and Analysis**

After collection of data, we need to analysis of data and interpretation of the result is necessary. Data processing, field questionnaire are carefully check out. Then collected data tabulated and made the numbers of percentage, frequency, simple calculation, cross tabulation by the SPSS program. Tables are grouped in certain chapters and topic according to the research objective. Analyses are presented in each chapter. This analysis depended on interpretation of the data.

## CHAPTER - IV

### SOCIO- ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDY POPULATION AND RESPONDENTS

This chapter deals the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the study population and respondents of Megghauli VDCs ward number 5. Which includes age-sex composition of study population, educational status, occupation status, marital status, family size of respondents, caste/ethnicity of respondents, amount of cultivable land ownership of respondents, income efficiency during a year of respondents and educational status of respondents.

#### 4.1 Age Sex Composition of Study Population

The population composition is the internal structure of a human population with respect to one or more demographic attributes or traits at a particular point of time male and female of different age perform different function in society and they have different needs. Age-sex structure of a country or community determines its labour force, basic needs, culture. In view of the diversity of roles and needs as established in each society variations in the composing of age and sex can have economic social and political implications. The study covers total of 673 populations from a total of 125 selected household in ward number 5 of Megghauli VDC of Chitwan district.

**Table 4.1: Distribution of Study population by Age and Sex in the study Area**

Age group	Population						Census
	Male		Female		Total		Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
0-14	106	35.0	126	36.5	232	34.5	38.5
15-59	196	57.4	203	58.9	399	59.3	55.0
60+ above	26	7.6	16	4.6	42	6.2	6.5
Total	328	100.0	345	100.0	673	100.0	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2008.

From Table 4.1 shows that, 35.0 percent of male population are in age group 0-14 years and 36.5 percent of female population are in the same age groups. Similarly, 57.4 percent of males and 58.9 percent of females are in age group 15-59 years and 7.6 percent of males and 4.6 percent of females are in age group 60 years and above.

It is clear that the economically inactive population are 40.7 percent (0-14, 60 and above population are 34.5 and 6.2 percent respectively). Similarly, the economically active populations are 59.3 percent (15-59 year).

With comparing both data (study survey and census) inactive population are 40.7 percent in the study survey and 45.0 percent in census which shows that economically inactive populations are lower than census due to the field survey size are smaller and also cause of age heapping. On the other hand, the economically active populations are higher (59.3%) than census (55.0%) because of the age heapping and a few percentage of emigration rate.

## **4.2 Educational Status of Study Population**

Education is the basic requirement for the social and economic development of community or nation. It also enhances the political development and civilization. Therefore, education is a major variable of socio-economic change of the people. It also plays a vital role in fertility determination as well as sex preference. Distribution of population by education status are presented in Table 4.2

**Table 4.2: Educational Status of the Study Population by Six Years and Above**

Literacy Status	Population	
	Number	Percent
Literate	543	86.1
Illiterate	88	13.9
Total	631	100.0
Educational Status		
Primary Level	161	29.7
Lower Secondary	158	29.1
Secondary	70	12.9
SLC Pass	86	15.9
Intermediate	23	4.2
Bachelors and above	8	1.5
Informal	37	6.8
Total	543	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From Table 4.2, it is clear that about 86.1 percent people are literate in the study area. The figure is higher compared to national figures and district figures (54.1% and 71.1%) respectively. In the study area, there is high opportunity of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) programme than national figure and district figure. So many people are literate than their district and nation.

However, a large majority of study population (29.7%) have only primary level of education. About twenty-nine percent and 13 percent of study population have lower secondary and secondary level of education respectively. Similarly 16 percent and 4 percent people have passed SLC level and intermediate level respectively. As well as, 1.5 percent people have Bachelor and above level. Similarly 6.8 percent of study populations have informal education. They are literate without formal education.



### 4.3 Occupation Status of Study Population

Occupation is the backbone of economy. It plays a vital role for determinations of children. So, it is very important to discuss about occupation status of the people. In the study was conduct about sex preference and fertility. Fertility and occupation are interrelated with each other.

**Table 4.3: Occupation Status of the Study Population (aged 10 year and above) in the Study Area**

Occupation	Number	Percent
Own agriculture	144	25.8
Wage Labour in agriculture	12	2.2
Adhiya	53	9.5
Industry	1	0.2
Services	74	13.3
Business	30	5.4
Non agricultural labour	7	1.3
Students	171	30.6
Housewives	62	11.1
Non Involved in any Income generating Work	4	0.7
Total	558	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From Table 4.3, it is clear that majority of people (30.6%) are engaged in study. About twenty-six percent, two percent and ten percent people are engaged in own agriculture, wage labour in agriculture and Adhiya (crops sharing) respectively. In total, 37.5 percent people are engaged in Agricultural sectors.

On the other hand, 13.3 percent are engaged in different services. Similarly 5.4 percent people are engaged in business and 11.1 percent people are engaged in house wives. It is seen that most of the people are engaged in agricultural sectors and study.

#### 4.4 Marital Status of Study Population

Marital Status is a very important factor for determining socio-economic and demographic characteristics of population. Marital status brings a significant change determining socio-economic status of the family. Marital status is generally connected with fertility. Table 4.4 presented the distribution of study population by marital status.

**Table 4.4: Distribution of Study Population (aged 10 years and above) by Marital Status**

Marital Status	Number	Percent
Unmarried	217	38.9
Married	305	54.7
Widow/er	28	5.0
Separated/ Divorce	8	1.4
Total	558	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From Table 4.4, it is clear that in the study area, 38.9 percent population is unmarried. Similarly 54.7 percent population is married. Similarly, 5.0 and 1.4 percent population is widow/widower and separated/divorce respectively.

#### 4.5 Family Size of Respondents

The household composition have been affected by the process of development and increasing trend of urbanization. Family sizes of respondents have also determined the sex preference. Table 4.5 presents the family size of respondent.

**Table 4.5: Distribution of the Family Size of Respondent**

Family size	Number	Percent
1-4	41	32.8
5-6	53	42.4
7 and above	31	24.8
Total	125	100.0
Average HH size		5.6

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From Table 4.5, it is clear that, 42.4 percent respondent have 5-6 family size. Similarly 32.8 percent respondents have 1-4 family size and 24.8 percent respondent have 7 and above family size.

On the other hand, the average household size is 5.6. The figure are higher compared to national figure (5.3).

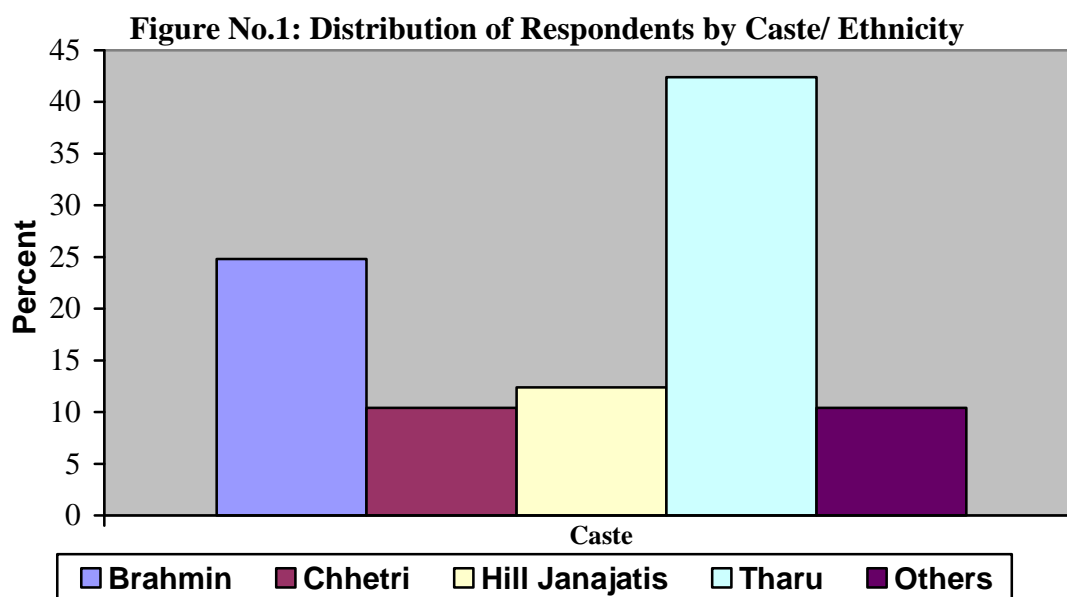
#### **4.6 Cast/Ethnicity of Respondents**

Nepal is a multi- ethnic country. There are various caste/ethnic groups. Each caste/ethnic groups have their own languages and own culture. The cultural diversity have made rich to the Nepalese people in the world. The following table shows the distribution of respondents by caste/ ethnic groups.

**Table 4.6: Distribution of Respondents by Caste/ Ethnicity**

Caste/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Brahmin	31	24.8
Chhetri	13	10.4
Hill Janajatis	15	12.4
Tharu	53	42.4
Others	13	10.4
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.



From Table 4.6 shows the information about the caste and ethnicity of the respondents in study area. The highest numbers of respondents are Tharu (42.4%) Caste followed by Brahmin (24.8%), Hill Janajatis (12.0%), Chhetri(10.4%) and Others(10.4%) castes respectively.

#### **4.7 Amount of Cultivable Land Ownership of Respondents**

Land is the most important resource available to the majority of the people to meet their subsistence. Since Nepal is an agricultural country where land holding is an important measure for assessing the economic status of people. Therefore land holding factor is an important factor to determine the sex preference and fertility behaviour. The information on land ownership among the respondents plays the vital role in our study.

**Table 4.7: Percent of Respondents by Land Ownership**

Land	Number	Percent
0.03386 ha and below	11	8.8
0.03386 ha to 0.67730 ha	86	68.8
Above than 0.67730 ha	28	22.4
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From Table 4.7, it is clear that about 68.8 percent respondents have 0.03386 hectare to 0.67730 hectare land. about twenty-two percent respondents have above than 0.67730 hectare. As well as only 8.8 percent respondents have less than 0.03386 hectare land.

#### **4.8 Income Efficiency During a Year of Respondents**

Income Efficiency is an important factor to determine the sex preference and fertility behaviour.

**Table 4.8: Percent of Respondents by Income Efficiency During Year**

Months	Number	percent
9	3	2.4
10	7	5.6
11	3	2.4
12	112	89.6
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field survey 2008.

From Table 4.8, it is clear that 89.6 percent respondents are support the 12 months in a year for their income efficiency. About two percent respondents are support the 9 and 11 months in a year for their income efficiency and only 5.6 percent respondents are support the 10 months in a year for their income efficiency.

#### **4.9 Educational Status of Respondents**

The educational attainment of currently married women aged 15-49 years and their husband is an important socio- economic factor. This factor can play the vital role for the level of knowledge of sex preference and fertility. Table 4.9 shows that the distribution of the respondents by literacy and level of educational attainment.

**Table 4.9: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Status**

Educational Status	Husband		Wife		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
No education	12	9.6	24	19.2	36	14.4
Primary Level	10	8.0	25	20.0	35	14.0
Lower Secondary	40	32.0	42	33.6	82	32.8
Secondary	22	17.6	8	6.4	30	12.0
S L C Pass	26	20.8	11	8.8	37	14.8
Intermediate and above	9	7.2	2	1.6	11	4.4
Informal	6	4.8	13	10.4	19	7.6
Total	125	100.0	125	100.0	125	100.0

Source: Field survey 2008.

From Table 4.9, it is clear that there are higher proportion of wife (33.6%) who have completed lower secondary education and husbands are 32.0 percent. There are 9.6 percent of husbands and 19.2 percent of wives are illiterate. Similarly, 4.8 percent of husband and 10.4 percent of wives are literate. overall 8.0 percent of the husbands and 20.0 percent of the wives have attended primary education while 17.6 percent of the husbands and 6.4 percent of wives have attended secondary level of education 20.8 percent of the husbands and 8.8 percent of wives have passed SLC. Intermediate and above level of the education have 7.2 and 1.6 percent for husbands and wives respectively.

## **CHAPTER - V**

### **SEX PREFERENCE AND FERTILITY**

The studies of sex preference of children have been mostly limited to married women with the implicit assumptions that their preference is representative of married couples. Parents always like to have particular number of son and daughter, couple tends to continue child bearing beyond their overall desired family size. Parental attitudes and behavior regarding this approach come to be known as sex preference. The tendency and the degree of sex preference vary in different societies, cultures and religions as well as in countries.

#### **5.1 Live Birth Condition of Respondents**

Some women have given the birth of children and some women haven't given the birth of children if they want. In this part, out of 125 respondents some are given the birth of child and some aren't given the birth of child.

**Table 5.1: Distribution of Respondents by Have Given Birth to Child**

Have you given birth to child	Number	Percent
Yes	114	91.2
No	11	8.8
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2008.

From Table 5.1, it is clear that 91.2 percent respondents have given birth to a child but 8.8 percent haven't given birth to a child.

## 5.2 Live Birth Condition of Respondent by Sex

Some women have given birth of child and some women haven't given birth of child.

**Table 5.2: Distribution of Respondents by Number of Son and Number of Daughter**

Son	Respondents	Percent	Daughter	Respondents	Percent
0	17	14.9	0	28	24.6
1	48	42.1	1	38	33.3
2	33	28.9	2	32	28.1
3	11	9.6	3	11	9.6
4	4	3.5	4	4	3.5
5	1	0.9	7	1	0.9
Total	114	100.0	Total	114	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From Table 5.2, it is clear that majority of respondents (42.1%) who have given birth of only one son. In the same way 33.3 percent of respondents have given birth of only one daughter. About fifteen percent respondents haven't given birth any son and 24.6 percent respondent haven't given birth any daughter. But about 1/1 percent respondents have given birth of 5 sons and 7 daughters respectively.

## 5.3 Death Condition of Children of Respondents

Life starts from birth and ends at death, some people die at an early age and some at a latter age. The United Nations and World organization have defined death as follows, "Death is the permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after birth has taken place." Thus, a death can occur only after a live birth and the span between birth and death is life.



**Table 5.3: Distribution of Respondents Whose Children Was Died Among Their Live Births**

Children died	Respondent	Percent
Yes	36	31.6
No	78	68.4
Total	114	100.0
Son	26	72.2
Daughter	10	27.8
Total	36	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From Table 5.3, it is clear that 31.6 percent of respondents whose children are died among their live births. But 68.4 percent of respondents whose children isn't died among their live births. Among the total number of children died 72.2 percent of respondents' sons are died and 27.8 percent of respondents daughter are died.

#### **5.4 Sex of First Birth of Respondents**

**Table 5.4: Distribution of Respondents Reported that Sex of First Birth.**

Sex of first birth	Respondents	Percent
First Son	66	57.9
First daughter	48	42.1
Total	114	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2008.

From Table 5.4, it is clear that more than 58 percent of respondents have given the first birth of son and 42 percent of respondents have given the first birth of daughter.

#### **5.5 Ideal Number of Children**

In Nepal, parents would not like to choose themselves the number and sex of their child in the family. They believe that the birth of the child entirely

depends on their fate. Nevertheless, all couples were prepare the ideal sons and daughter also represent the magnitude of sex preference.

Ideal numbers of children are collected only from the currently married women aged 15-49 years. The results on the ideal number of sons are presented in the following tables.

**Table 5.5: Distribution of Ideal Number of Sons by Respondents**

Live birth	Ideal No. of Sons	Women number	Percent
One child 18 (15.8%)	No Sons	-	-
	One Son	14	12.3
	Two Sons	4	3.5
Two Child 31 (27.2%)	No Sons	2	1.7
	One Son	19	16.7
	Two Sons	10	8.8
Three child 35 (30.7%)	No Sons	-	-
	One Son	12	10.5
	Two Sons	22	19.3
	Three Sons	-	-
	Four Sons	1	0.08
Four child and above 30(26.3%)	No Sons	1	0.08
	One Son	8	7.0
	Two Sons	20	17.5
	Three Sons	1	0.08
	Four Sons	-	-
Total		114	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2008.

From Table 5.5, it is clear that 30.7 percent of respondents report that their family size is three children and 27.2 percent of respondents reported their family size is two children. About twenty-six percent of respondents reported their family size is four children and above. About sixteen percent of respondents reported their family size is one children. In other hand, 19.3 percent respondents want to two sons among their ideal family size, who have three children in their family. About seventeen percent of respondents want to one son among their ideal family size who have two child as well as 17.5

percent respondents want to two sons in their ideal family size who have four children and above. At last 49.1 percent of respondents want at least two sons for their family. Similarly 46.5 respondents want one son for their own family but only 1.8 percent of respondents doesn't want son for their own family.

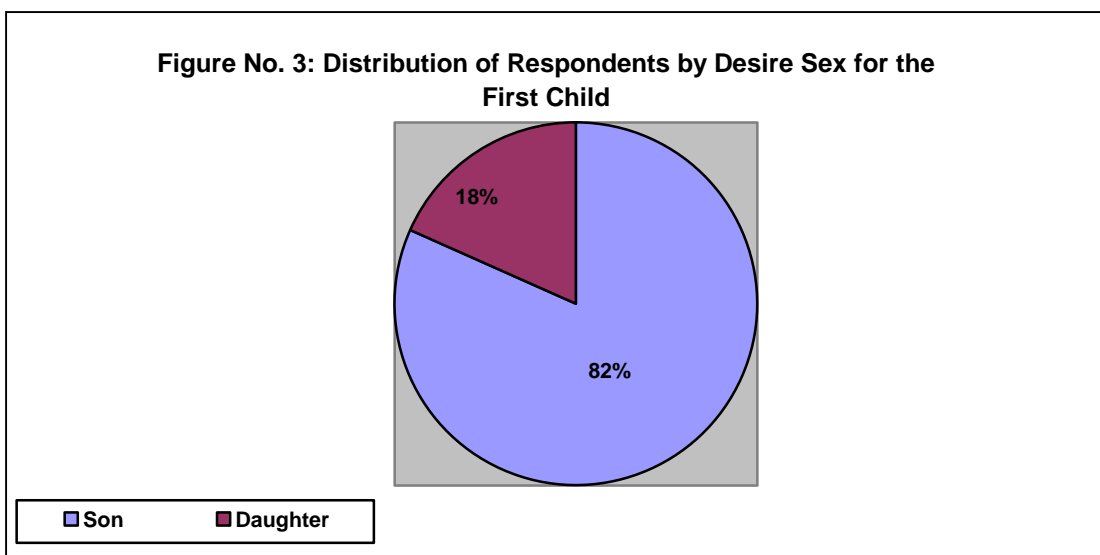
## 5.6 Desired Sex for the First Child

The first born child is one of the influential factors that contribute in determining the fertility. The birth of a first child is son there would be happiness and satisfaction in the family and will be provided help in economic activities and other practical support. On the other hand, if the first child is a daughter she will help in the household work, companionship to the mother and prosperity in the family. The expectation of having sons and daughter are different among society. So it if necessary to observe the preferred sex of the first born child among the respondents.

**Table 5.6: Distribution of Respondents by Desired Sex for the First Child**

Desired sex for the first child	Number of women	Percent
Son	102	81.6
Daughter	23	18.4
Total	125	100.0

Source: field survey, 2008.



From Table 5.6, it is clear that nearly 82 percent of the respondents reported that they would like to have their first child as a son and 18.4 percent of the respondents reported that they would like to have their first child as a daughter.

### **5.7 Desire for at Least One Child of Each Sex**

The respondents want at least one child of each sex in their family. This dreamness helps to regulate fertility behavior. A family without son faces danger economically and socially not only in this life, but in the next life as well. Son preference exists in many societies, daughter also occupy an important position in many societies.

It is therefore necessary to examine to what degree the couples desire at least one child of each sex in the family. For this purpose, information is obtained from the respondents (both husband and wife) by asking the question. “If you have desired no. of children but no son/daughter, do you give continue to give children till son/daughter?” The respondents who answered yes to the above question are included for this purpose. The respondents desire for at least one child of each sex is presented in Table 5.7.

**Table 5.7: Distribution of Respondents by Desire for at Least One Child of Each Sex**

Desire for at least one child of each sex	No. of husbands	Percent	No. of wives	Percent
At least one sons	86	68.8	82	65.6
At least one daughter	25	20.0	27	21.6
Total	125	100.0	125	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2008.

From Table 5.7, it is clear that 68.8 percent of husband and 65.5 percent wife reported that if they have desired number of children but no son, they give continue to give children till son. But, 82.6 percent of husband and 82.9 percent of wife are strongly felled at least one son. About seventeen percent of husband and 17.1 percent of wife are very strongly felled at least one son.

On the another hand, 20 percent of husband and 21.6 percent of wife reported that if they have desired number of children but no daughter, they want to give continue to give children till daughter.

### **5.8 Reasons for Sex Preference**

In the developing countries sons are valued for the economic benefits and they are valued for old age security of the parents. Similarly, daughters are valued for practical help in family, especially helping to mothers. Both sons and daughters are wanted because they are valued for different reasons. They are generally valued for economic, socio-economic and socio-psychological and cultural reasons (Karki, 1988).

Sons are especially valued in many developing countries for long term as economic benefits, including old age security. Sons are also wanted for their role on continuing the family name and lineage. This motivation is like to more cultural values than the level of development. Daughter tends to be valued for practical help they provide in the household rather than for long term economic utility. They are sometimes looked to for care and comfort in the parents old

age. Daughters are also wanted to provide companionship for the mother because girls are perceived as having more appealing personalities than boys.

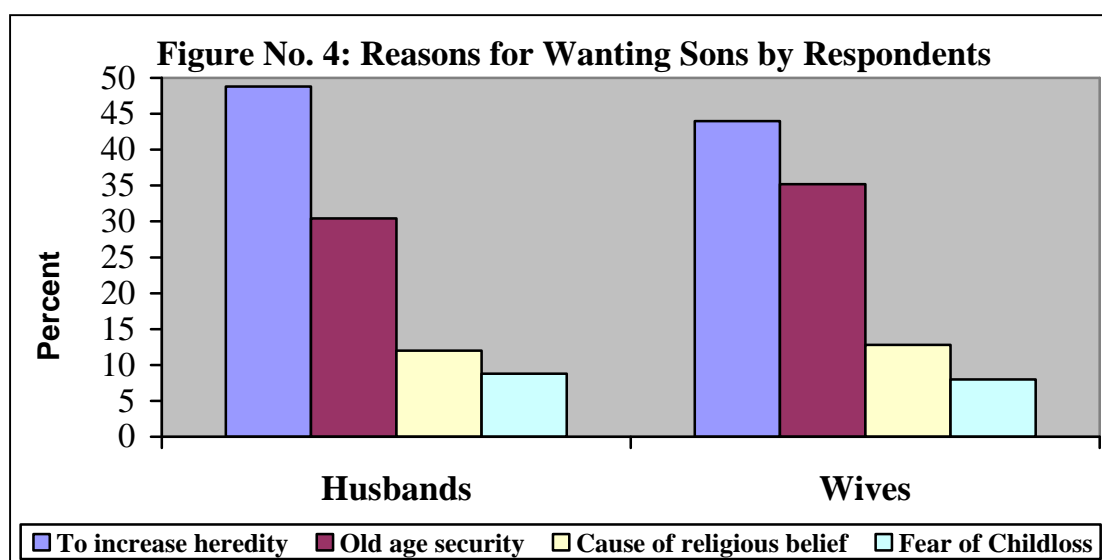
### 5.8.1 Reasons for Wanting Sons

All the respondents both husbands and wives, who wanted at least one son in their family asked to obtain the main reason for wanting sons. The questions for this purpose is, “What are we importance of the son in your society?” Then, they are given answer about major reasons from which they are influenced to have at least one son in the family.

**Table 5.8: Distribution of Respondents by Reasons for Wanting Sons**

Reasons	Husbands		Wives	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
To increase heredity	61	48.8	55	44.0
Fear of Child loss	11	8.8	10	8.0
Old age security	38	30.4	44	35.2
Cause of religious belief	15	12.0	16	12.8
Total	125	100.0	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.



From Table 5.8, it is clear that about 48.8 percent husbands and 44 percent wives are wanted sons for to increase heredity reasons. Old age security is the second highest reason to have sons. Also 12.0 percent husbands and 12.8 percent wives are wanted sons for cause of religious belief. Only 8.8

percent husbands and 8 percent wives are desired son for fear of child loss. In this way, most people are found wanting son for increase heredity.

### 5.8.2 Reasons for Wanting Daughters

All the respondents who wanted at least one daughter in their family composition were asked give reasons for wanting daughter. In this regard, the question was, "what is the value of the daughter in your society?" Then they are given answer about the reasons for act wanting least one daughter

**Table 5.9: Distribution of Respondents by Reasons for Wanting Daughter**

Reasons for wanting daughter	Husbands		Wives	
	Number	Percent	Number	percent
For religious occasion	79	63.2	73	58.4
For Kanyadan	2	1.6	2	1.6
For household work	44	35.2	50	40
Total	125	100.0	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From Table 5.9, it is clear that, about 63.2 percent husband and 58.4 percent of wives are preferred daughter for religious occasion. About thirty-five percent husband and 40 percent of wives are preferred daughter for household work. We can clearly find that majority of the respondents want son for to increase heredity and daughter for the religious occasion.

### 5.9 Desired Sex Composition of Respondents

Different couple wants to different sex composition in their family. Some couples wants only one son in their family. Some couples wants to only one daughter and some wants more son less daughter. Similarly, some couple wants to more daughter less son and some wants equal son and daughter. The Table 5.10 also describes the desire sex composition of respondents.

**Table 5.10: Distribution of Respondents by Desired Sex Composition**

Couple by Desire Sex composition	Husbands		Wives	
	Number	Percent	Number	percent
Any son	4	3.2	2	1.6
Daughter only	2	1.6	2	1.6
More son less daughter	38	30.4	28	22.4
More daughter less son	2	1.6	2	1.6
Equal son and daughter	79	63.2	91	72.8
Total	125	100.0	125	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2008.

From Table 5.10, it is clear that nearly 63.2 percent of husband and 72.8 percent of wives are reported that they would like to equal son and daughter of sex composition. In the same way, 30.4 percent of husband and 22.4 percent wives are reported that they would like more sons less daughter of sex composition. About two percent of both husband and wives are reported that they would like more daughters less son. At last, 3.2 percent husband and 1.6 percent wives are reported that they would like any son of sex composition.

### **5.10 Decide on the Number of Children of Respondent Family**

In Nepalese society, most of the husband decide on the number of children in nuclear family because of the economically strings. In the joint family father in law are deciding on the number of children. Most of the patriarchal society never follow the women's decision and suggestions in all the an aspects of the decision making process. Our social and cultural values are that women cannot participate in decision making level. All parts or sectors of decision making are male dominated. Education can play key role in determine family size and compromising for deciding the particular number of children for couple. Generally, literate and educated women and their husband's discuss about the number children they desire. Table 5.11 also shows the distribution of respondents by the person who decide on the no. of children.



**Table 5.11: Distribution of Respondents by the Person Who Decide on the Number of Children**

Person who decide on the number of children.	Respondent	Percentage
Husband	50	40.0
Father in law	9	7.2
Mother in law	2	1.6
My self	3	2.4
Both husband and wife	61	48.8
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2008.

From Table 5.11, it is clear that nearly 48.8 percent of respondents decide on the number of children both husband and wife. Comparatively 40 percent on of respondents decide the number of children those husband but only 2.4 percent of respondents decide on the number of children them self. Only 7.2 percent and 1.6 percent of respondents decide on the number of children those fathers in law and mother in law respectively. The highest proportion of respondents reporting involvement of both husband and wife in taking decision their number of children may indicate that most of the respondents stated that, social, economic and environmental factors also indirectly affect in this matter.

### **5.11 Desire for First Child of Respondent by Occupation and Education.**

Desire for a particular sex of a child occurs dare to gender inequality. Gender inequality and number of children directly affected by occupation and education of the parents.

**Table 5.12: Distribution of Respondents who Desire for First Children by Occupation**

Desire for first child by Occupation	Sons		Daughters		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agriculture	52	51.0	14	60.9	66	52.8
Non-agriculture	12	11.8	2	8.7	14	11.2
Non-involved in income generation	38	37.3	7	30.4	45	36.0
Total	102	100.0	23	100.0	125	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2008.

From Table 5.12, it is clear that 81.6 percent of respondents want son for first child. Among them 51.0 percent respondents are involve in agriculture work. About thirty seven percent are non-involve income generation work and 11.8 percent respondent are involve in non-agriculture work. At last, large proportion of agricultural respondents want sons other occupation.

On the other hand, 18.4 percent of respondents want daughter for first child. Among them, 60.9 percent respondents are involved in agriculture work. About thirty percent respondents non-involve income generation work and 8.7 percent are involve in non-agriculture work.

**Table 5.13: Distribution of Respondents who Desire for First Child by Education**

Desire for first child by Education	Sons		Daughters		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Illiterate	19	18.6	5	21.7	24	19.2
Literate	83	81.4	18	78.3	101	80.8
Total	102	100.0	23	100.0	125	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2008.

From Table 5.13, it is clear that 81.6 percent of respondents want son for first child. Among them, 81.4 percent respondents are literate and 18.6 percent are illiterate. Similarly, 18.4 percent of respondents want daughter for first child. Among them, 78.3 percent respondents are literate and 21.7 percent illiterate.

## 5.12 Opinion Pregnancy Continuous by Selected Background Characteristics

The view of pregnancy continuous are directly related the number of sons. For these purpose the questions, "If you have desired number of children but no son, do you give continue to give children?" The tables 5.14 present the opinion of pregnancy continuous by selected background characteristics.

**Table 5.14: Distribution of Respondents by Opinion of Pregnancy Continuous by Age Group**

Opinion of pregnancy continuous by Age group	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
15-19	4	4.9	2	4.7	6	4.8
20-24	7	8.5	13	30.2	20	16.0
25-29	18	22.0	6	14.0	24	19.0
30-34	16	19.5	9	20.3	25	20.0
35-39	19	23.2	5	11.6	24	19.2
40-44	8	9.8	2	4.7	10	8.0
45-49	10	12.2	6	14.0	16	12.8
Total	82	100.0	43	100.0	125	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2008.

From Table 5.14, it is clear that, 65.6 percent of respondents want to pregnancy continuous. Among them, 23.2 percent of respondents are in age group 35-39 years, which is the highest proportion of respondent who want to pregnancy continuous. Similarly, 22.0 percent of respondent are in age group

25.-29 years. About nineteen percent of respondents are in age group 30-34 years. 12.2 percent respondents are in age group 45-49 years. About eight percent and 4.9 percent respondents are in age group 20-24 and 15-19 years respectively.

On the another hand, 34.4 percent of respondents don't want pregnancy continuous. Among them, 30.2 percent of respondent are in age group 20-24 years, which is the highest proportion of respondents who don't want to pregnancy continuous. Similarly, 20.2 percent of respondents are in age group 30-34 years. About fourteen of respondents are in age group 25-29/45-49 years. About twelve percent respondents are in age group 35-39 years and 4.7 percent respondents are in age group 15-19/40-44 years. who don't want to pregnancy continuous.

At last, highest proportion of respondents who want to pregnancy continuous in age group 35-39 years and highest proportion of respondents who don't want to pregnancy continuous in age group 20-24 years.

**Table 5.15: Distribution of Respondents by Opinion of Pregnancy Continuous by Education**

Opinion of pregnancy continuous by Education	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Illiterate	20	24.4	4	9.3	24	19.2
Literate	62	75.6	39	90.7	101	80.8
Total	82	100.0	43	100.0	125	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2008.

From Table 5.15, it is clear that 90.7 percent of literate respondents don't want to pregnancy continuous but only 75.6 percent literate respondents want to pregnancy continuous

**Table 5.16: Distribution of Respondents by Opinion of Pregnancy  
Continuous by Occupation**

Opinion of pregnancy continuous by Occupation	Yes		No		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agriculture	47	57.3	19	44.2	66	52.8
Non-Agriculture	7	8.5	7	16.3	14	11.2
Non-involved in income generative work	28	34.1	17	39.5	45	36
Total	82	100.0	43	100.0	125	100.0

Sources: Field survey 2008.

From Table 5.16, it is clear that 65.6 percent respondents want pregnancy continuous. Among them, 57.3 percent of agricultural respondents want to pregnancy continuous. About thirty-four percent of respondents want to pregnancy continuous who aren't involved in income generating work and only 8.5 percent of respondents want to pregnancy continuous who involve in non-agricultural work.

### **5.13 Number of Living Children Practice of Family Planning Methods**

Acceptance of Contraception and the number of living children are close association. The use of contraception devices and birth control measure reduce the birth rate. The number of surviving children is directly related to the family planning acceptance.

For this purpose, the question, "Do you have ever used family planning methods?" was asked. If the answer was 'yes' then they were again asked, "Which method have you been using?" table 5.17 presents the family planning acceptance by the number of living children.

**Table 5.17: Number of Living Children Practice of Family Planning Methods**

Number of living children	Use of family Planning permanent		Total
	Temporary	permanent	
1	4	1	7.4
2	1	17	26.5
3	2	25	39.7
4+	-	18	26.5
Total	7(10.3)	61(89.7)	68

Source: Field Survey 2008.

Acceptance of family planning by various methods contributes to reduce fertility and ultimately reduce the desire family size. Only 10.3 percent the total users of family planning methods use the temporary methods. 89.7 percent of total users of family planning methods the permanent methods. The couples who used temporary methods are the purpose delay birth. Also the number of living children one higher the participation of spouse to use temporary method. Similarly the number of living children three and four, highest the participation of couple used permanent method.

**Table 5.18: Number of Living Sons Practice of Family Planning Methods**

No. of living sons	Use of family Planning method				Total	
	Permanent		Temporary			
	Number	percent	number	percent	Number	Percent
0	1	1.6	3	42.9	4	5.9
1	27	44.3	4	57.1	31	45.6
2	23	37.7	-	-	23	33.8
3	8	13.1	-	-	8	11.8
4	2	3.3	-	-	2	2.9
Total	61	100.0	7	100.0	68	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2008.

From Table 5.18 it is clear that 57.1 percent of respondents are used temporary family planning method who have only one son. Similarly 42.9 percent of respondents used the temporary family planning who haven't any son.

## **CHAPTER – VI**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The study is carried out using primary data collected from the sample survey conducted in Meghauri VDC in Chitwan district. This chapter deals with the major finding, conclusion and recommendations of the study are as follows:

#### **6.1 Summary**

The summaries of findings of this study are as follows:

- ) The study covers total of 673 populations from a total of 125 selected household.
- ) Out of 125 selected household, 86.1 percent people are literate
- ) Most of the populations are found in agriculture (37.5%) category followed by students (30.6%) and services (13.3%).
- ) The study showed 54.7 percent populations are married, which are followed by unmarried (38.9%) from the total of 125 selected household.
- ) The study covers total of 125 selected household 42.4 percent of population have 5-6 person of family, 32.8 percent of population have 1-4 persons and 24.8 percent of population have seven and above person in their family.
- ) Out of total 125 respondents, 42.4 percent respondents are found Tharu caste, followed by Brahmin (24.8%) , Hill Janajatis (12.0%), Chhetri 10.4% and others (10.4%).
- ) Most of the respondents 68.8 percent household have 0.03386 hectare to 0.67730 hectare of land 22.4 percent households have above than 0.67730 hectare. About eight percent households have 0.03386 hectare and below their cultivable land ownership.

- ) Most of respondents 89.6 percent are support the 12 months in a year for their income efficiency
- ) Out of the total 125 husbands 9.6 percent are illiterate and 8 percent have primary level, 32.0 percent have lower secondary level, 17.6 percent have secondary level, 20.8 percent have SLC passed and 7.2 percent have intermediate and above and 4.8 husband literate from no formal education. Similarly, 19.2 percent wives are illiterate and 20.0 percent have primary level, 33.6 percent have lower secondary, level 6.4 percent have secondary level, 8.8 percent SLC passed, 1.6 percent have intermediate and above and 10.4 percent wives are literate from non formal education.
- ) Out of total respondents, 91.2 percent have given birth to child but only 8.8 percent haven't give birth to a child.
- ) Out of total respondents who give birth of child, 42.1 percent of respondent given birth of only one son. 33.6 percent of respondents given birth only one daughter. 14.9 percent respondents have not given any son and 24.6 respondents have not given any daughter.
- ) 31.6 percent of respondents whose children are died among their live birth. Among the total number of children died 72.2 percent Son are died.
- ) Out of 114 respondents, 57.9 percent respondents have given the first birth of son and 42.1 percents have given first birth of daughter.
- ) Out of total respondents, 81.6 percent of the respondents reported that they would like to have their first child as a son. And 18.4 percent respondents would like to have their first child as a daughter.
- ) 19.3 percent respondents want to two sons among their ideal family size, who have three children in their family. About seventeen percent respondents want to one son among their ideal family size, who have two children in their family as well as 17.5 percent respondents want to two sons in their family size who have four children and above.



- ) 68.8 percent of husband and 65.6 percent of wives want at least one son in their family and 20 percent of husband and 21.6 percent of wives want at least one daughter.
- ) Majority of the respondents both husbands and wives more emphasized on the increase heredity and old age security for wanting sons and religious occasion and household works for wanting daughter than other reasons.
- ) Among all the respondents, 63.2 percent of husbands and 72.2 percent of wives reported that they would like to equal son and daughter of sex composition.
- ) But 30.4 percent husbands and 22.4 percent of wives report that they would like to more son less daughter of sex composition.
- ) Among all the respondents 48.8 percent of respondents decide on the number of children both husbands and wives but 40.0 percent of respondents decide on the number of children that husband.
- ) The large proportion of agricultural respondents (51.0%) want son than other occupation respondents.
- ) Among total respondents, 18.6 percent of illiterate respondents want son and 21.7 percent want to daughter. Similarly 81.4 percent of literature want to son for first child and 78.3 percent want to daughter for first child.
- ) Highest proportion of respondents who want to pregnancy continuous in age group 35-39 years and highest proportion of respondents who don't want to pregnancy continuous in age group 20-24 years.
- ) 90.7 percent of literate respondents don't want to pregnancy continuous but only 75.6percent of literate respondents want to pregnancy continuous.
- ) 65.6 percent respondents want pregnancy continuous. Among them, 57.3 percent of agricultural respondents want to pregnancy continuous.34.1

percent of respondents want to pregnancy continuous who are not involved in income generating work and only 8.5 percent of respondents want to pregnancy continuous who are involved in non agricultural work.

- ) Only 54.4 percent of respondent have ever use family planning method. Among them 89.7 percent of responds have used the permanent method
- ) 57.1 percent of respondent use the temporary family planning method who have only one son. 42.9 percent of respondents use the temporary family planning method who have not any son.

## **6.2 Conclusions**

This study is based on the field survey used several questions to generate data pertaining to the sex preference. This study summarizes the information of 125 currently married women age 15-49 and their husband. The finding of this study yielded the following conclusions.

We can conclude that, out of 114 respondents, highest percentage of respondents (57.9 %) has given the first birth of son then daughter. This percentage clearly says that most people have given the first birth of son then daughter naturally. In some way, out of total respondents, highest percentage of respondents (81.6 %) report that they would like to have their first child as a son, only 18.4 percent would like to have their first child as a daughter. It is found that son preference to be highest then daughter preference.

Majority of the respondents both husband and wives more emphasized on the increase heredity and old age security for wanting son and religious occasion and household works for wanting daughter then other reasons. In view of sex composition, most of the respondents (63.2 percent husband and 72.2 percent wives) report that they would like to equal son and daughter. This percentage are followed the reason of more son less daughter.

In way of education status, 81.4 percent of literate respondents wanted to son for first child and 18.6 percent of illiterate respondents wanted son. This evidence provides that son preference to be higher than daughter preference.

19.3 percent respondents want to two sons among their ideal family size, who have three children in their family. About Seventeen percent respondents want to one son among their ideal family size who have two children in their family as well as 17.5 percent respondents want to two sons in their family size who have four children and above.

Highest percentage (23.2%) of respondents want to pregnancy continuous in age group 35-39 years then other age group, if they have desired number of children but no son.

75.6 percent of literate respondents want to pregnancy continuous but 24.4 percent of illiterate respondents want to pregnancy continuous. If they haven't son on their family. In case of occupational status, the highest percent of agricultural respondents want to pregnancy continue, if they haven't son in their family.

At last, the highest percent of respondents (57.1 %) are use temporary family planning method that have only one son.

### **6.3 Recommendations for Further Research**

1. This study has been carried out sex preference and fertility among the currently married women age 15-49 years and their husbands of Telauli Village in Meghauri VDC in Chitwan district further study may be carried out in other specific communities.
2. This study has been carried out only for quantitative data so that further study may be carried out in qualitative data process.

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