

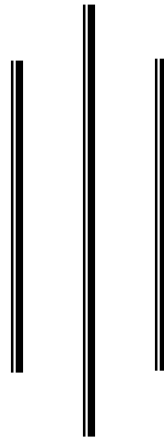
# **VITAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM IN NEPAL**

**By:**

**Binod Kumar Mandal**

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

The registration of vital events is one of the important source of population information. The other sources of population such as: census, sample survey and survey provide cross-sectional data i.e. the state of population at a fixed point in time, but vital statistics provides data on a continuous basis. Therefore, these data are very useful in studying population dynamics.

There is a continuous change in the population. This registration provides the information about the change in population. These changes, generally, is brought by birth, death, marriage, migration and divorce. So, the events which brings change in human population as well as human life are called vital events. The process of keeping records of all these events is known as vital registration (VR).

The occurrence of a vital event is reported by the persons concerned to the appropriate authorities. For instance, parents report the occurrence of a birth, relatives report a death in the family or an individual report his or her own marriage. Vital records may be defined as those concerned with vital events or those which have recorded vital events, such as births, deaths, still births, marriages, divorces etc (Bhende and Kanitkar, 2003).

Vital events involving changes in the civil status of a person is also considered as vital events. From the demographic point of view, a still birth or a foetal death is also considered as vital event, because it is related to both the events of birth and death. A persons' entry into the world (by birth) and a persons' departure from it (by death) is considered to be vital events, for these

events mark the beginning and the end of a persons' life. During the span of life from birth to death, a change may take place in an individual's civil condition, that is, he/she may get married or divorced, or may be adopted.

According to UN, 'Vital Statistic System is the Legal Registration, statistical recording and reporting of the occurrence of, and the collection, compilation, analysis, presentation, and distribution of statistic pertaining to vital events, which in turn include live births, deaths, foetal deaths, marriages, divorces, adoptions, legitimating, recognitions, annulments, and legal separations (Shrayock, et al. 1975).

In any society, births, deaths, marriages, divorces and migrations occur continuously. Hence, such events are continuously recorded. This recording or registration of vital events is known as the vital registration system. The registered events are compiled and the resulting statistics are known as vital statistics. (Bhende and Kanitkar, 2003).

Vital Registration System, which is also known as civil registration, is an important tool for studying the dynamics of population. Because of this importance, most of the countries in the world seen to universalize in their country effectively. However, the history of the registration of vital statistics is a fairly long one. In earlier times, the registration of births and deaths in most European counties was done by the church and other religious bodies. In the fifteenth century, the Archbishop of Toledo introduced registers for the recording of vital events. The first systematic Paris register was established in Sweden to be followed by similar register in Canada (1610), Finland (1628) and Denmark (1648). In 1538, by an order of Thomas Cornewell, the clergy of England was required to record baptisms, weddings and burials. In Sweden (1608), 1<sup>st</sup> systematic register collected,. Later in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, civil registration was introduced in the colonies of Massachusetts Bay and new Plymouth n the United

States. In these civil system, registration was under the charge of government clerks and the events of births, deaths and marriages were recorded rather than the ceremonies associated with these events. England further consolidated (combine) the law in 1686 to make vital registration system more scientific. In 1804, France adopted Napoleonic code which conformed the civil rights of people only after the proof of births, marriages and deaths registration. This is an important landmark in the history of vital registration.

In 1837, England adopted vital registration records publishing laws. In 1839, there was the first published report on the basis of vital registration records by the registrar Dr. Williams Farr. After in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, several countries in Western Europe and South American adopted the system of civil registration where the responsibility for the registration of vital events rested with the national government.

In the context of Nepal, the system of civil registration of vital events includes births, deaths, marriages, divorce and migration in a continuous basis and total process of collection, compilation, analysis and publication is formed as vital registration system, however, UN has defined vital events to live birth, Death, Foetal Death, Marriage, Divorce, Adoption, Legitimization, Recognition, Separation, Annulment of Marriage (MOLD, 2003). Historically, the village panchyats were order to register vital events (birth, death and migration) in 1962. In 1964, the CBS has a pilot project on VRS. The office of village development committee and municipalities are also the registers at local levels. At the current situation, the office of registrars are under the Ministry of Local Development at the central level. A continuous VRS since April 1978 (2034 Baishakh 1<sup>st</sup>) is in use.

In the case of India, the registration of vital events was introduced by the British government of more than hundred years ago. In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, administrators began to attach importance to the registration of civil

events especially the deaths. Recently, the “Registration of Births and Deaths Act” passed in 1969, extended to the whole India, and makes the registration of births, still births and deaths compulsory. Failure to register such events is punishable under the Act.

Because of multiple signification of vital registration, most of the countries in the world seem to universalize the system in their country effectively. However, few of the countries especially first world countries are succeed in the effort, countries like the Usak, the UK, Canada, France, Sweden, Japan, Australia, etc. have made the system effective through which reliable demographic analysis are made possible. In many developing countries, sizable number of births and deaths are not reported, hence the records remains incomplete and imperfect (Bhende and Kanitkar, 2003).

## **1.2 Importance of Vital Registration**

After a vital event is reported and registered, a certificate is issued to the person concerned. Such registration of vital event has a dual importance: individual importance on the one hand and national importance, on the other hand

### **1.2.1 Individual Importance**

For the individual, such a certificate is useful as a legal document having evidentiary value. The certificate of vital event plays an important role. For instance, after the birth is reported and registered, a birth certificate is prepared for the parents or guardians. This is the proof of the fact of his/her birth, is one of the most important uses of a birth certificate. Also, it is the best proof of his/her age. The birth certificate is also useful in establishing a person’s nationality or citizenship for obtaining a passport. It is moreover, a legal proof for establishing family relationship, and is especially useful for settling question of inheritance or insurance claims. Also, by obtaining citizenship certificate depending on birth

certificate, a individual can participate in social programmes (e.g. family allowances, tax benefits, education, service, care and protection of children, right to insurance benefits).

Death certificate is required for the disposal of a dead body. It is also required for setting of inheritance or insurance claims. It provides legal evidence of the fact circumstances of death. Sometimes, it is used for demonstrating the right of the surviving spouse to remarry and for the support of claims for other benefits which may be predicated on the death of an individual. A marriage certificate is useful to establishing the marital status of a person and the legitimacy of the children born through marriage. Also, records of marriage is useful for such purpose as receipt of alimony allowances, claims for tax benefits, provision and allocation of housing or other benefits related to marital status of a couple and changing national status of a couple, and changing nationality on the basis of marriage. In addition, records of divorces are important for establishing the right of an individual to re-marry and to be released from financial and other obligations incurred by the other party.

Hence, in a modern complex society, an evidentiary document such as a birth certificate, deaths certificate, marriage certificate etc. is absolutely essential, as a person is required to establish his/her right to citizenship and nationality and his/her place in the society, especially with respect to his/her privilege's and duties as a member of that society.

### **1.2.2 National Importance**

Vital registration is such source which can provide data on regular basis even in smallest standard unit of area. Also, from VRSM, demographic structure, size and friends are found regularly and the wide information is collected related with the registered events. So, seasonal, monthly, yearly change in socio-economic and demographic situation can be drawn from civil registration data. For the

development of a nation, different kinds of policies, plans and targets are need . In order to make such policies, plans and targets, a regular source of data on population is needed, so that the achievement of previous planned programme also can be evaluated.

There are such sources that they are either cross-sectional or expensive and tedious to obtain the reliable data. For instances, census is conducted in 5 or 10 years interval in huge national resources should be needed and the processing of data takes long time when the socio-economic and demographic situation may have been changed drastically. Similarly, survey's can provide limited information of the specified time in the limit sample people.

Similarly, in addition to the documentation of name, parentage and nationality for every child, the written document of birth data and consequently age provides source for a greater degree of accuracy in a wide range of age-related data needed for administrative purpose as well as statistical and epidemiological uses derived from such sources. The analysis of birth registration, influence and effectiveness of family planning programme evaluation fertility rate and different factors of fertility differentials can be studies. Also, birth records are the basis form many community based public health programmes for post-natal care of mother and child, and may be used, when needed, for programmes of vaccination and immunization premature baby case, assistance to disabled persons.

Death records are also necessary to clear a number of administrative files, such s disease-case registers, population registers, social security files, military service files, electoral rolls, identity files and tax registers. The death certificate usually contains information on the cause of death, on the basis of which we can find the cause of death, the further research of medical science, arrangement of medical facilities according to mobility in the specific place in the specific time

can be performed effectively. From the marriage registration, nuptiality trends, patterns and differentials can be found. Meanwhile, mean age at marriage, portion of usual marriage type, age difference between husband and wife etc. are found and can be analyzed. Administratively, marriage records are used as proof of the formation of a marital bond, and may be needed to initiate family benefit programmes related to health, housing etc. From the registration of migration, the flow of migration from and to the major areas can be found. Similarly, the density of those areas can be observed, analyzed and predicted, which helps to manage over-migrated areas. Because of the increased national and international mobility of the population, vital records certificates, especially for the migrant, have taken on additional importance, which can prove his/her civil status and nationality.

Thus, the data of vital statistics is very much useful for planning physical facilities, educational facilities, provision for food supply, policy makers, planners, administrators in the fields other than those of public health, etc. Social, economic and health conditions of any society can also be known from its birth and death rates and by an analysis of the causes of death, marriage, divorce and migration. This helps to expand the social and economic infrastructure, material infrastructure facilities, making investment policies and projections, to make an effective public management system and for other various activities.

### **1.2.3 Human Rights**

Vital registration system plays an important role in human rights. Neither the Universal Declaration of Human Rights nor the related international covenants make any specific reference to the right to register a death. However, the right has been asserted in international conventions on economic, social and cultural rights. The right to register the death is also implicit in connection with the exercise of other human rights such as right to inherit and those arising from social security system and the collection of insurance.



For every government, it is the responsibility of guarantee the human rights in the country. Some important rights mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Child Rights depend on the vital registration. Mainly the rights are:

- ) Equal right to legality,
- ) Right to social security,
- ) Right to citizenship,
- ) Right to education
- ) Right to identity
- ) Right to registration of birth
- ) Right to security from parents and elders, etc.

Countries who have signed the declaration have inalienable responsibility to provide and preserve inalienable human rights. Further in order to secure above mentioned rights, various important conventions like world conference on population in 1984, and Cairo Convention on Population and Developments in 1994 ha urged all government of establish, improve, expand and regularize the Civil Registration system. Hence, realizing the importance of study in the dynamic process of demographic variables, agencies like UNFPA, WHO, PRB, UNICEF, plan International Save the Children, among others are contributing in assisting and making land in hand to the government for the extension and improvement of Civil Registration system.

Similarly, the right to register a marriage is not included as such in the international human rights conventions. However, the declaration of the United Nations General Assembly on the subject of the registration of the marriage are: the declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women (1967), and the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. On the other hand, resolution 843 (ix) of 1954 of the United Nations General Assembly on the status of women in private law urged governments to establish a

register of divorces. Further, this revolutions also recommended by the economic and social council in 1965 (UN, 1998).

### **1.3 Situation Analysis of Vital Registration in Nepal**

An ideal vital registration should be precise and quick. Vital registration system (VRS) consists of two matters that publicity of registrations' and "practical use of statistics." However, vital registration in Nepal is inferior both in quality and quantity. As it is depending on an investigation of the home ministry that is done in 1989, only less than 14 percent residents registered it even during the investigation period. A resident registers many years later after occurrence of an event, so it is difficult exactly to analyze a data (JOCVN, 1996). Penalty of not registering a vital event is nominal is use of registration certificate is also limited (MOPE, 2002).

Information to censitize people about the importance of vital registration is limit where most of the illiterate people are dwelling. One noticeable aspect is that there is very limit media to rural areas of Nepal and the access of those devices are in the hand of few people. Further, illiterate people can't understand every message advertised to sensitive people either because of the media language is different from their mother tongue or because of memory lapse. In this matter visible media like television, view, etc. seems better than non-visible i.e. radio, FM, etc. But in these areas, visible media and devices are rarely accessible. As a consequence, most of the events are not registered or even if they are registered, they are registered very late, that is years after the events have taken place. At the same time, very little evolution studies have been carried out in this regard and recently, no evolution studies regarding the effectiveness of coverage and improvement of the VRS has been done. Thus, it is difficult to know the percentage of under registration of vital events and whether it is improvity or deteriorating. Thus, the data obtained form VRS are not used for demographic analysis. The data obtained form the VRS over the year have been summarized in table 1.1.

**Table 1.1: Vital Events Registered Since 2035-2061 BS in Nepal**

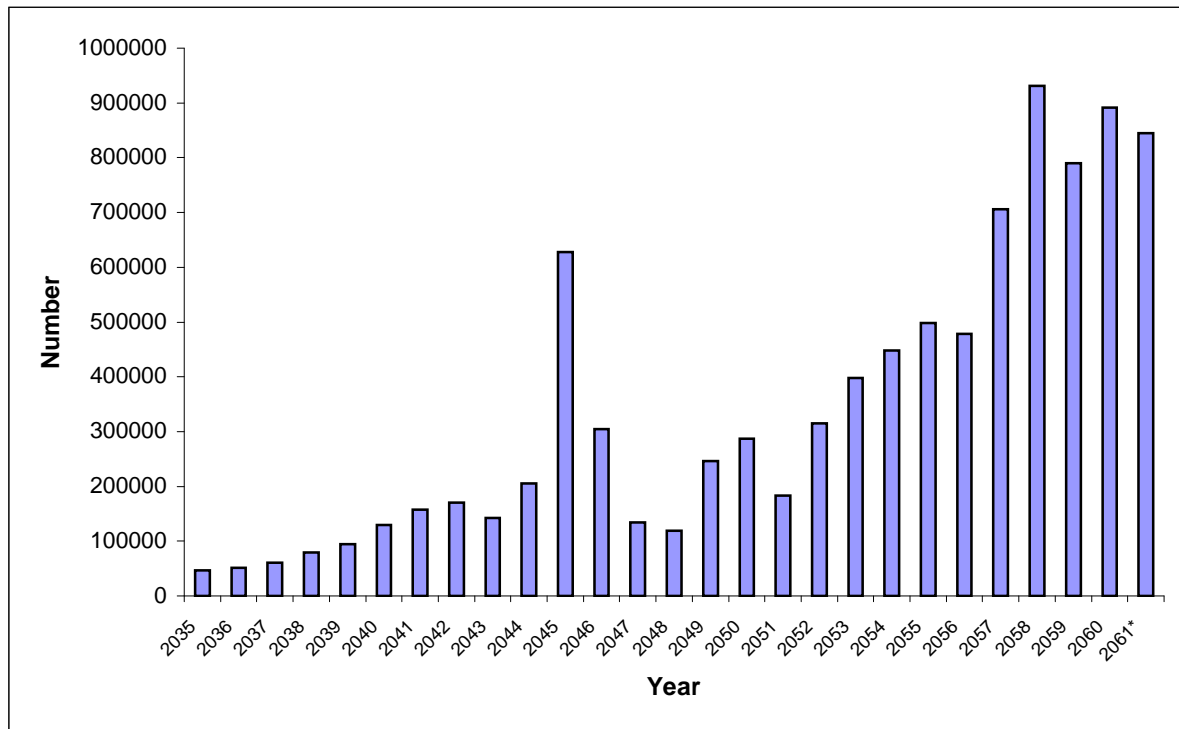
| Year  | Birth   | Death   | Marriage | Migration | Divorce | Total   | District covered |
|-------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|---------|---------|------------------|
| 2035  | 36310   | 6643    | 4269     | 0         | 0       | 47222   | 10               |
| 2036  | 36876   | 10511   | 3860     | 0         | 0       | 51247   | 17               |
| 2037  | 43517   | 12698   | 4525     | 0         | 0       | 60740   | 25               |
| 2038  | 54202   | 1701312 | 8231     | 0         | 0       | 79465   | 34               |
| 2039  | 68010   | 18119   | 8651     | 0         | 0       | 94780   | 40               |
| 2040  | 67778   | 16071   | 10346    | 5628      | 0       | 129823  | 40               |
| 2041  | 108325  | 20181   | 14499    | 14932     | 0       | 157937  | 40               |
| 2042  | 126613  | 23466   | 15975    | 4679      | 21      | 170754  | 40               |
| 2043  | 103374  | 18719   | 14780    | 5443      | 12      | 142334  | 40               |
| 2044  | 150023  | 23319   | 24018    | 7714      | 15      | 205089  | 40               |
| 2045  | 445642  | 37162   | 116695   | 2876      | 11      | 628186  | 40               |
| 2046  | 204198  | 27067   | 48475    | 24968     | 14      | 304722  | 40               |
| 2047  | 84818   | 20154   | 20540    | 8561      | 0       | 134073  | 75               |
| 2048  | 68814   | 23566   | 16599    | 966       | 31      | 118677  | 75               |
| 2049  | 177285  | 50182   | 33558    | 15556     | 71      | 246652  | 75               |
| 2050  | 188897  | 45900   | 33612    | 18930     | 57      | 287396  | 75               |
| 2051  | 116387  | 30830   | 22836    | 13289     | 33      | 183375  | 75               |
| 2052  | 179673  | 52650   | 49697    | 33443     | 108     | 315569  | 75               |
| 2053  | 222592  | 76730   | 61895    | 3711      | 82      | 398411  | 75               |
| 2054  | 270886  | 57821   | 79086    | 40487     | 38      | 448318  | 75               |
| 2055  | 301382  | 655447  | 80556    | 50685     | 18      | 498088  | 75               |
| 2056  | 295415  | 63857   | 79638    | 39735     | 50      | 478695  | 75               |
| 2057  | 488299  | 63178   | 702180   | 52591     | 41      | 706291  | 75               |
| 2058  | 688531  | 69874   | 121131   | 51346     | 57      | 930939  | 75               |
| 2059  | 563021  | 66993   | 113669   | 46738     | 104     | 790525  | 75               |
| 2060  | 620595  | 71031   | 143097   | 5643      | 97      | 891063  | 75               |
| 2061* | 600395  | 73592   | 125644   | 44707     | 137     | 844475  | 75               |
| Total | 6311856 | 1062793 | 138070   | 611130    | 997     | 9344846 |                  |

Source: MOLD, 2005.

\* MOLD, 2006.

From the table 1.1, it is observed that the level of registration of vital events in Nepal has increased gradually in the later years. This trend has been shown in figure 1.1. In initial year 2035 B.S., the total registered vital events were 47,222 which has gone up 628,186 in 2045 B.S. Then it fell to the lower level in 2048 B.S. and than started to increase. In 2061 BS, total event registered were 844475 among them 600,395 were births, 73592 were deaths, 125644 were marriage, 44,707 were migrations, and only 137 events were divorce cases.

**Figure 1.1: Trend in Civil Registration in Nepal 2035-2061 B.S.**



#### 1.4 Statement of the Problem

There is coverage of area in the nation for civil registration to 75 districts only since 2047 B.S. i.e. after the restoration of democracy. A person registers the event many years later when he need a certificate of an event. Despite the importance of registration for individual as well as nation, the data obtained from

VRS cannot be used. It is evident that the birth is registered when birth certificate is needed either enrolling children in school or taking citizenship certificate.

There are lots of INGOs, NGOs, CBOs and other groups to rise about the other issues like family planning, HIV/AIDS, child labour, women's status, etc, and the studies like have been carried out for the purpose to improve the respective global issues. But the very few agencies and governments hardly can take responsibilities for the improvement of VRS. Few literatures are available in the subject of VRS. So, among the drawing an attention to concerned individuals, agencies, government and others, the problem is identified and attempted in the study.

Similarly, the deaths are not registered either because there is no property in the dead person's name or because there is no relatives or eligible person to inform. Further a rare event of female death is registered because still female are lacking their own identity and property even if her husband or any male is alive in her house. Marriage cases are not registered or registered lately because most of the female are agrarian and they don't need any registrations certificate and to take citizenship related to her husband. On the other hand, there is a very rare case of divorce. If the divorce is common in the society, most couple would register immediately because of fear of divorce or as a proof of marriage in the case of disharmony in their relationship.

Lastly, migration is not registered because there is freedom to buy and sell property anywhere inside the country. And there is no objection to use public resource and facilities to migrant. If any individual needs, the certificate of any events, he/she does not register the event unless he/she does not need nay certificate because he/she thinks that it is worthless and it is for others or nation. In the more remote rural areas, because of difficult geographical territory, it takes

long time to arrive at local registrar's office (i.e. at VDC office) to register an event. So, it is also a barrier of not registering the vital event.

### **1.5 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the studies are generally to assess the status of the vital registrations in the study area and to provide the direction for the improvement of VRS according to the findings of the study. The other specific objectives are:

- To analyze the behaviour and the practices of vital registration.
- To analyze the trend in vital registration,
- To analyze the administrative efficiency of vital registration system,
- To analyze the attitude of the people towards existent vital registration system,
- To analyze the civil knowledge on vital registration in the study area.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

This study provides the picture of civil registration status, knowledge and attitude about the government programme on the subject among the respondent in the study area. Therefore, this report may be a guideline for policy making programme for government, policy makers, respective agencies and individuals who are studying in this subject. This study provides an assessment in-depth study in the area, which may represent other places to some extent. During the time of survey, it was aimed not only to collect information but appropriate information regarding vital events were given to users after filing the questionnaire. This may become an interesting topic for researcher and readers. Since, very less study has been carried out in this subject in Nepal, this study has tried to attract an attention of population related student in this issue.

## **1.7 Limitation of the Study**

This study mainly focuses on VRS especially in terms of trend, effectiveness, knowledge, behaviour and attitude. Since, this is an small level study in an individual level, it is impossible to cover the area nationally, or even in district level. Sample area is choose as Bahuarwa VDC, Dhanusha district. This case study can also be generalized to the similar socio-economic, geographical situational area. Because of coverage of small area, the result can't be generalized in other dissimilar areas. Also, no care of divorce is found in the study area. So, information about divorce is not included although it is taken as vital event.

## **1.8 Organization of the Study**

This study is organized into six chapters. The first chapter deals with background of the study, importance of registration, VRS in Nepal, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study and organization of the study. The second chapter deals with literature review in which theoretical literature, empirical literature, conceptual framework and research questions are included. The third chapter concerned with methodology of the study which includes sources of data, study area, sampling method and sampling size, research instruments, etc.

Similarly, chapter four provides background characteristics of the respondents and fifth chapter analyze the data about vital registration trend, knowledge and practice of respondents. At last, six chapter presents the summary of findings conclusions and recommendations.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Theoretical Literature**

The study depends upon deductive as well as inductive methods of research. This study has carried out deeply on the problem seeking out to the existing literature. Because a research is a reproduction of new knowledge in the existing knowledge. To find out the way of conducting research and collecting more information on the issue to fulfill the objectives, many available literature are reviewed as far as possible.

#### **2.2 Vital Registration in Different Countries**

The registration of vital events was started from Europe in 15th century, until 1662 the records were not used for statistical purpose. After then, for the better and reliable statistics, it was experienced that the registration of vital events should be continuous, compulsory, permanent and universal. Keeping this in mind, many countries had made strong laws for the registration of vital events.

In 1886, the government of India introduced the Births, Deaths and Marriage Registration Act, which served very little purpose, for registration under this act was purely, voluntary. Recently, the registration of births and deaths act passed in 1969, extends to the whole of India and makes the registration of births, still births and deaths compulsory. Failure to register such an event is punishable under the act (Bhende and Kanitkar, 2003).

Prior to the 1950, vital registration hardly functioned in China. In 1957, vital registration was expanded to several large cities. In 1987, the ministry of Health established a VRS to record the facts and causes of deaths. At present, VRS



covers 41 cities and 85 countries adjacent to large cities. The total population covered by this system in 2000 was about 110 million, half in cities and half in rural countries, which occupies only 8 percent of the national population (Yang, et al. 2005).

In Bangladesh the first law of registration of birth was enacted in 1873. Under this law, the registration of births was very low. The parliament of Bangladesh approved a new Births and deaths registration law in 2004. This law considers the birth and death as vital event. The new law on births and deaths registration includes an enforcement clauses that any person providing false information or refuse to register without appropriate cause should be fined. It is expected that this clause will encourage people to register. However, the rate of registration of births in Bangladesh remain at a very low that is, only 9 percent as of December 2005 (Plan Bangladesh, 2006).

In Canada, the British Columbia Civil registration system began in 1872 under legislation entitled "An act respecting the registration of Births, deaths and marriages in the province of British Columbia" (VPL, 2006). Here, birth, death and marriage are taken as vital events.

In England and Wales, centralized registration system was established in 1837 through the creation of the General Register office by an Act in 1836 (Registration Act and the Marriage Act of 1836). This legislation was amended Birth and Death registration Act of 1874, which is particular, placed in the responsibility for registration of births upon the parents instead of on the local registrars (Wolfenden, 1954). Effective civil registration commenced in Scotland and Ireland in 1855 and 1864 respectively.

According to Wolfenden, 1954, because the attainment of nation-wide registration has been a problem of interstate-cooperation, the American public Health Association in 1895 suggested a model state Bill. It dealt with only

registration of births and deaths, so the Bureau of the census in 1938 recommended to the state of uniform vital statistics act covering marriages and divorces as well as births and death (also still births) as vital events. It embodied the Modal state Bill to authorize records the data on births, deaths, still births, marriages, divorce and annulments of marriages as vital events and use of vital statistics as evidence.

Though any failure to register births and death sis punishable by law, the coverage of registration of vital events in India is very far form satisfactory. The extent of non-reporting of vital events is found to be very high in rural areas, one of the causes of this is mass illiteracy (Bhended and Kanitkar, 2003).

In 2000 alone, some 50 million on births wont unregistered over 40 percent of all estimated birth world wide that year. In South Asia, over 40 percent of all estimated birth worldwide that year. In South Asia, over 40 percent of the world's unregistered birth in 2000 (UNICEF, 2003). These or from countries where systems of registrations and not in place or functional. This shows that many vital events are not registered. In 1994-95, less than one third of the Asian countries were known to have reliable registration (Bhended and Kanitkar, 2003).

## **2.3 Vital Registration System in Nepal**

### **2.3.1 Historical Background**

Vital registration act in Nepal was passed in 2033 (1976/77) and implemented or activated form 2034 B.S. (1976-77) (MOPE, 2002). In 2034 B.S. vital registration division was established inside Home Ministry to bear the responsibility of recording civil events. According to the law passed in 2033 B.S. (1976/77) and regulation passed in 2034 B.S. (1977/78), vital registration in Nepal was launched in first Baishakh 2034 B.S. (April 13, 1977), with coverage of ten district. The programme coverage was gradually expanded to 17 districts in 2035

B.S. (1978/79), 25 districts in 2036 B.S. (1979/80), 34 districts in 2037 B.S. (1980/81), 59 districts in 2038 B.S. (1981/82) and 75 districts (nation wide coverage) was covered from Baishakh 1, 2047 B.S. (.e. April 14, 1990) after the restoration of democracy.

It was realized that the significance and needs of individual records of registered events officially in the national level. However, at first the legal establishment and implementation of keeping records of civil events was started by the village panchayat act 2018 B.S., Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), conducted a pilot project in three districts (Kathmandu,. Lalitpur and Bhaktapur) in 2020 B.S., to register the vital events. But the programme of the project was stopped working on the areas. In 2028 B.S. (1971/72), family planning and maternal child welfare project launched a programme of registering vital events which was aimed of valuating family planning. But the programme was cancelled in 2032 B.S. reasoning that the work was not in the criteria of the project.

The government transferred the job regarding VRS from Home Ministry to Ministry of Local Development (MOLD) in 193 i.e. from Shrawan 1, 2050 B.S. The MOLD has a responsibility of quickly and effective completion of the system. For this purpose, it established vital registration section inside the MOLD and appointed register. A manager of vital registration section is a register of Nepal.

There are units of civil registration in each municipality and VDC that belongs to the DDC. There is a local registrar (LR) at each office and has a responsibility at each area, each district there is a unit of vital registration that Districts Development Committee (DDC) (75 units) manages. A local registrar has an authority to hand over the certificate to informants. The registered forms that the local registrars send in their respective districts are arranged by DDC and has been sent to MOLD.

### 2.3.2 Legal Provision

Some important acts in Nepal as a law in order to reduce the obstacles in the process of registration of vital events, which was passed 2033 B.S. and amended in 2037 B.S. and 2048 B.S. and amended in 2037 B.S. and 2048 B.S. for the first and second time respectively. The main articles of this act are as follows:

Act 2: Definition: If the term is not used for other purpose,

A. The term 'vital events' should be known as birth, death, marriage, divorce and migration of an individual.

B. Migration should be known as the process of shifting from one VDC or municipality to another VDC or municipality within the country or migration to abroad or entering into the country from the abroad for more than six months period.

C. Registrar is known as the personnel (Registrar or local registrar) nominated according to act No. 3.

Act 3: Registrar and local registrar: In order to use this act, HMG can nominate a registrar and under his supervision nation wide in every VDC and municipality LRS.

Act 4: Information on the vital events:

1. In the following situation, following individuals should inform filling the form within 35 days of occurrence of an event at the local registrar office.
2. The information on birth and death should be given by household head (HH) and in his/her absence among male adults in the households, the older one should inform.

B. The information on marriage by both husband and wife,

C. The information on divorce by any one of the couple,

D. The information on migration should be provided by HH in case of family migration and migrated person should inform in case of individual migration.

2. If the events occurs outside form Nepal (According to sub-act 1), the responsible person as indicated in sub-act 1 should inform within 60 days when he/she comes in Nepal.

3. The responsible person as indicated in sub-0act 1 can refer other person for the registration of an event.

Act 5: Registration of vital events: After getting:

1. The information according with act 4, the local registrar registers the events on related register according as:

A. To check whether the form filled by the informant is current or not and current it if it is not.

B. If the informant is illiterate, register fills the form himself or ask to fill and thub sign of informant's on it.

2. While registering divorce, verdict or of the court with respect to divorce case should be observed.

3. As prescribed in act 4 sub-0act (1) or (2), if a person comes within 35 days after the prescribed date, the event should be registered by LR taking fees of Rs. 8.

4. Boyound the out of 'criteria, of a person comes to register on event after the times as indicated in sub-act (3), the LR can register the event taking an approximate fine or Rs. 50.

Act 6: Providing certificate: According to act 5, LR will hand a certificate recently after registering the event over the person as indicated by act 4 , sub-act 1 for fee.

Act 7: Duplicate certificates of registered event can be given:

1. In the loss or destroy of the certificate handed according to the act 6, in application should be given by the responsible person in the LR's office.
2. With respect to the application field according to sub-act (1), LR can given duplicate certificate taking a prescribed fee if he sees the application correct and true.

Act 9: Validity of registration: Certificate of registration will be valid as a proof of any office and court or can be used in personal work. Registered name, age and caste can be corrected:

1. The birth of a baby taken place after the date of this act's implementation and if the birth is in once registered, the name, age and case of the baby can be corrected before six months of registration of responsible person gives application to the local registrar.
2. The application field according to act 9 (A) sub act (1) will be investigated. After investigation the application field according to sub-act 1, the LR can give the birth certificate correcting in the register for free.
3. Beyond the rule of this act, the existent name, age and caste in prevalent in the register and given certificate according to this act can not be corrected by no other prevalent laws.

Act 13: Punishment

1. If somebody gives the wrong information on vital events of others for his self-benefit or aiming at deceiving others and if he information proved to be a fake, the informant will be fined an approximate Rs. 100 or one month imprisonment or both and if the event was already registered, the registration will be cancelled.
2. If somebody destroys information form or register book or family list intensively for his sold benefit, which were in his/her responsibility to care,

he will be punishment for 3 months imprisonment or fine or Rs. 300 to 600 or both.

3. If somebody disturbs (makes obstacles) to eligible informants coming to register the events, he will be punished for an approximate Rs. 200 in case of the disturbance is proved.

(Note: The above mentioned main acts of legal provisions are non-official translation and expected that the translation does not given different meanings).

After obtaining the main articles of legal provision about VRS, there arise some questions as: Is this enough or not? Is this reaches to all individuals or not? Is the use of vital certificates, to the related field, compulsory or not? etc. Hence, the existing legal provision seems to be review according to the demands of time and situation.

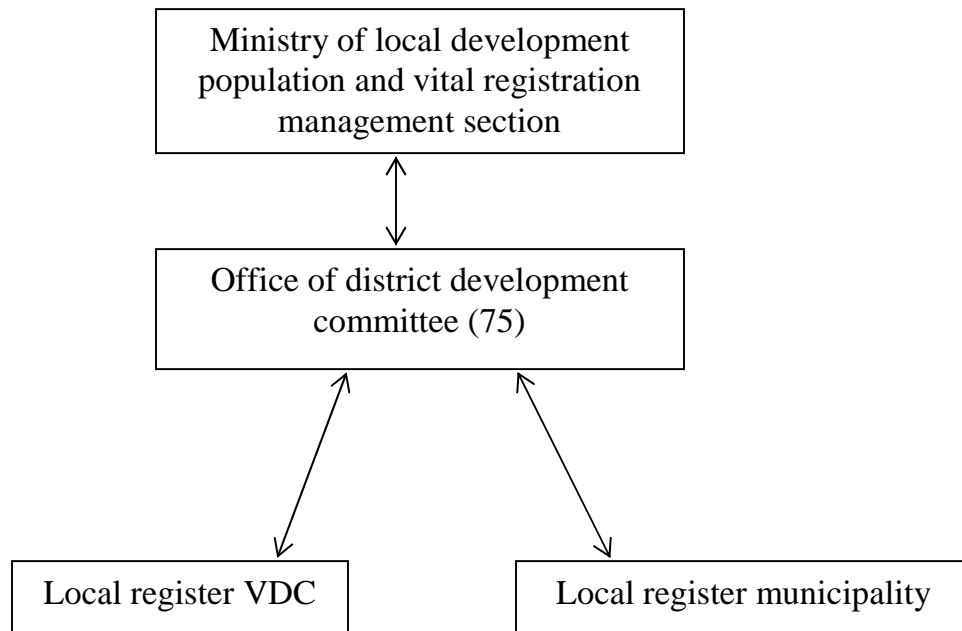
### **2.3.3 Existing Organizational Management**

Now a days, registrar's office is the main agency responsible for the implementation of the system. This office is placed under MOLD as a section of population and vital registration management. This central level office has 11 staffs including registrar.

At the district level, the office of DDC is responsible for collecting and managing the forms of the districts and sending the records at central level office. Generally, there are two staffs at this office for each, all total there are 80 manpower, in DDCs. Similarly, all total 26 manpower, in municipality level in the country. At VDC level, the authority has given the secretary for registering vital events (MODL, 2003).

For the better performance in vital registration, there should be continuous communication among the related institutions. The relation among those

institutions for the communication of information of vital registration programme from local level to central level can be shown as:



Source: MOLD, 2005.

## 2.4 Empirical Literature

In Nepal, there is still 45.9 percent of illiteracy (CBS, 2005). Even the people know that the vital events should be registered, they don't think it's importance if they don't need nay certificate.

The VRS is a reliable, continuous and cost effective source of demographic data, which also secure the social and individual human right of any individual who registered the event. Despite its importance, the VRS is very weak in Nepal.

In Nepal, infant mortality rate is 64.4 percent per 1000 live birth and crude birth rate is 30.62 percent per 1000 population (CBS, 2005), which are considered as very high. Many people register the birth f baby after baby growth upto the age to be allowed to enroll in the school. So, it is very difficult to calculate birth rate and almost impossible to calculate IMR using registered data. On the other hand,



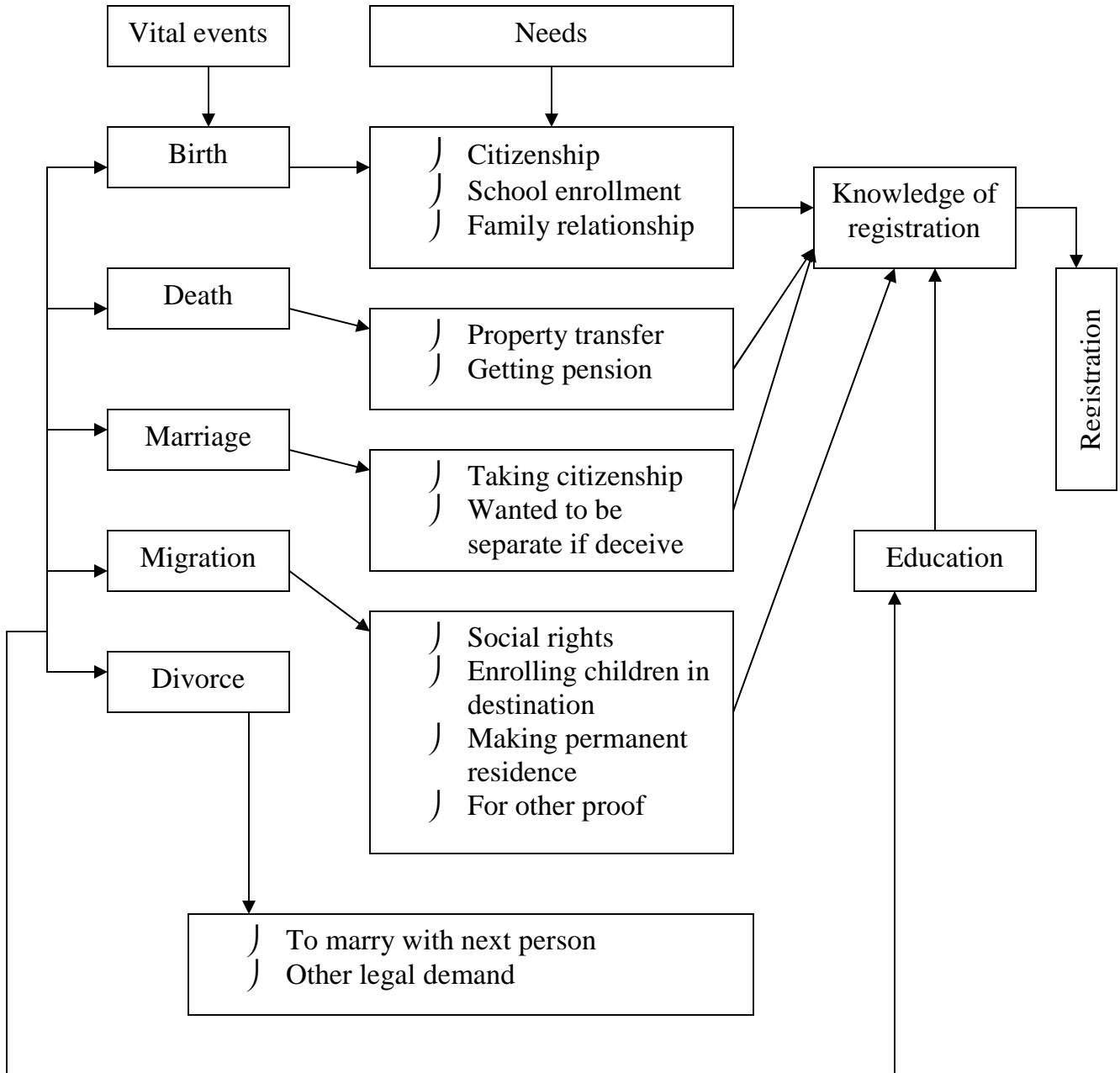
most of the births and deaths occur not at hospital but at home where family can't recognize cause or killer disease. So, it is difficult to analyze the major cause of death.

A resident of Nepal registers an event when he/she needs certificates of events. At that time, because of memory lapse, information may not be valid. Accordingly, death is registered when the assets of the dead person have to be transfer to other's, migration is mainly registered when they need migration certificate. Marriage is mainly registered when both spouse are going abroad and they need certificate for other purpose.

In most of the rural area of Nepal, people get citizenship certificate and enroll into school without birth certificate. Because of difficult geographical territory, people might have long hours trip for the registration of an event leaving their daily work for a day and even they cannot be sure that either the local registrar or forms are in the office or not. So, they either never register or postpone it to their leisure time.

Bohara, 2005, had conducted a research in Kirtipur municipality. He found that about 95 percent of the respondents have heard about vital registration. He also found that the main cause of not registering the events was no need of registration certificate.

## 2.5 Conceptual Framework



## **2.6 Research Questions**

To fulfill the given objectives, the study attempted to answer the following research questions:

- a. What is the proportion of respondents having knowledge of civil registration?
- b. The proportion of civil events registered within one year?
- c. What are the main sources of information to civil registration?
- d. How the people perceive about civil events?
- e. The proportion of civil events registered in proper time in the study area?

## **3. Methodology**

### **3.1 Introduction of the Study Area**

Bahuarwa Village Development Committee (VDC) lies in Dhanusha District and Janakpur zone. Which is situated at central region of country Nepal. It is situated at South-East corner of Janakpur municipality. Rupaitha and Deopura VDCs are lie in west boundary. Deodiha and Akaura VDCs are lie in south boundary. Kataiya and Bharariya VDCs are lie in east boundary and Lohana VDC and Janakpur municipality are lie in north boundary. Which has only nine wards. Although Mandal, Muslim, Thakur, Yadav, Sah, Raut, etc. ethnic groups are living in this VDC. This VDC is facilitated by various infrastructures (i.e. road, school, electricity, health post, telephone, medicine, etc.). This VDC is plain area and it's southern part, which is situated many temples and a big field.

### **3.2 Nature and Sources of Data**

This study was carried out in the field, the data used in analysis are from primary source, but some secondary source of data are used to analyze the registration. The area of chosen only one VDC i.e. Bahuarwa VDC in Dhanusha

district. The nature of data are mostly quantitative. Literature review chapter totally based on the review of secondary sources. But the generalization of the study based on the findings from the field.

### **3.3 Sampling Method and Sample Size**

The purpose of sampling to represent all population of sample area. A highly dense area covering of every household having a vital event during one year preceding the survey is difficult task. So, determining the sample size of 135 household purposive sampling method was adopted to select the household having vital cases during the reference period. Only 15 households were selected purposely from each ward (Total 9 wards). Bahuarwa VDC. In the survey area, household head could not be met, any member of household activities was asked the questions. Mainly, if the birth was occurred in the household during one year (from Chaitra 2063 to Phalgun 2064 B.S.). In the household where the marriages were occurred, either bridegroom or bride was chosen as respondent. In the case when respondent couldnot respond properly, the person who registered the event was asked about the information so as to find out better response.

### **3.4 Research Tools and Instruments**

A semi-structured questionnaire was developed for the study. Necessary modification was done to accommodate the study population in view of the objectives of the study. The structures as well as language of the questionnaire was mainly based on the translation of the question developed by Home Ministry in 2049 B.S. which was set up while conducting a survey named “Vyaktigat Ghatana Darta Namuna Savekshan.” Questionnaire was developed in English and asked in Maithili and sometimes help was taken from local friend at the interview time. Pencils, erasers and sharpeners were used to fill up the responses for the purpose to correct suspected and recalled answers.

### **3.5 Field Operation**

Field work was conducted from Ashad to Shrawan 2065. After the search of related households, related respondents were selected and by asking few primary questions that were not included in the questionnaire, in order to become familiar, the respondents were interviewed. Researcher himself has asked the questions to the interviewers. A careful and cross-checking was done during and after the interview to conform the reference period. In some households, respondents were hesitating to respond correctly and easily. In such case, the purpose of the study was cleared them.

### **3.6 Data Management and Analysis**

The questionnaire were pre-coded, but in case of open-ended questions, coding was done after the completion of field work. For the analysis of data, at first, different types of dummy tables were designed that could present data on different way. Finally, the models was approved that showed the different aspects of VRS. Then, the classification and counting was done with the help of tally bars, as it is done traditionally, to generate tables. After generating tables, for the analysis of data frequency and percentages are used. From the tables descriptive analysis has been made to observe the trend and situation of VRS. Data are displayed through figures wherever felt necessary.

## CHAPTER IV

### BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

This chapter presents the socio-economic and demographic background of the respondents. In this study, the respondents are those who responded about their household events like birth, death, marriage, divorce and migration. Respondent's age and sex, caste/ethnicity, religion, literacy and educational attainment, occupation, family size, etc. status are discussed.

#### 4.1 Age and Sex

Age and sex of the respondents may have a great impact on the status of registration of vital events. That's why information on age and sex were collected among the respondents which is tabulated in table 4.1.

**Table 4.1: Distribution of Respondents by Age and Sex**

| Age group | Total  |         | Male   |         | Female |         |
|-----------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
|           | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| 15-19     | 3      | 2.2     | 2      | 2.1     | 1      | 2.5     |
| 20-24     | 18     | 13.3    | 8      | 8.4     | 10     | 25.0    |
| 25-29     | 25     | 18.5    | 16     | 16.8    | 9      | 22.5    |
| 30-34     | 23     | 17.0    | 15     | 15.7    | 8      | 20.0    |
| 35-39     | 14     | 10.3    | 12     | 12.6    | 2      | 5.0     |
| 40-44     | 10     | 7.4     | 7      | 7.3     | 3      | 7.5     |
| 45-49     | 121    | 8.8     | 10     | 10.5    | 2      | 5.0     |
| 50-54     | 10     | 7.4     | 7      | 7.3     | 3      | 7.5     |
| 55-59     | 7      | 5.1     | 6      | 6.3     | 1      | 2.5     |
| 60-64     | 11     | 8.1     | 11     | 11.5    | 0      | 0.0     |
| 65+       | 2      | 1.4     | 1      | 1.0     | 1      | 2.5     |
| Total     | 135    | 100.0   | 95     | 100.0   | 40     | 100.0   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

It is clear from the table 4.1 that among the total households having cases of vital events during the reference period, highest proportion (18.5%) of the respondents were in the age group 25-29 years. Among them, 16 were males and 9 were female. Similarly, 17.0 percent were form the age group 30-34, in which 16 were males and 8 females. The least proportion is found for age 65+ which accounts only 1.4 percent.

#### 4.2 Caste/Ethnicity

Bahuarwa VDC is a living place of multi-ethnic groups. In which the majority falls to Kewat followed by Muslim and Yadav. In this study, 13 caste/ethnic groups are recorded among the selected population. The table 4.2 presents the summary of cast/ethnicity among the respondents.

**Table 4.2: Distribution of Respondents by Caste/Ethnicity**

| Caste/ethnicity | Number | Percent |
|-----------------|--------|---------|
| Kewat           | 62     | 45.9    |
| Muslim          | 20     | 14.8    |
| Yadav           | 11     | 8.1     |
| Thakur          | 9      | 6.6     |
| Teli            | 8      | 5.9     |
| Baniya          | 6      | 4.4     |
| Hajam           | 4      | 2.9     |
| Paswan          | 4      | 2.9     |
| Kurmi           | 3      | 2.2     |
| Mukhiya         | 3      | 2.2     |
| Mahara          | 2      | 1.4     |
| Dhobi           | 2      | 1.4     |
| Haluwai         | 1      | 0.7     |
| Total           | 135    | 100.0   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

From the table 4.2, it is found that majority (45.9%) of respondents are Kewat caste/ethnic group followed by Muslim (14.8%), Yadav (8.1%) are, Thakur (6.6%). Less than 2 percent each of the respondents are Mahara, Dhobi and Haluwai.

### 4.3 Religion

Nepal is constitutionally a multi-religious kingdom with legal provisions of no discrimination against other religions. But, historically, Nepal is a country of multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-ethnic country. Therefore, it is common to find multi-religion in this study area. Being Hindu religious country, majority of the respondents were Hindu.

**Table 4.3: Distribution of Respondents by Religion**

| Religion | Number | Percent |
|----------|--------|---------|
| Hindu    | 107    | 79.2    |
| Muslim   | 20     | 14.8    |
| Buddhist | 8      | 6.0     |
| Total    | 135    | 100.0   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Table 4.3 is evident that a vast majority of the respondents are Hindu which is accounted for about 79.2 percent followed by Muslim (14.8%), only 6.0% respondents are Buddhist. The percentage of Hindu and Muslim are lower and more than national level (80.6%) and (4.2%) respectively. While Buddhist (6.0%) is lower than national level (10.7%).

### 4.4 Occupation

Occupation is an indicator which shows status of family, cultural, educational, health and economic background. So, occupation is not merely the



source of gaining of money but also the major factor that determines many things which are happening in human life. But finding exact occupation and income for every people is a challenging task because of privacy and difference in nature of the people. Some are likely to expose differently than what they do and what they earn. For example, if somebody is involved in service and holds some agricultural land, he/she is likely to say his/her occupation as an agriculture. Even though, based on the response of the respondents table 4.4 shows the occupation status.

**Table 4.4: Distribution of Respondents by Major Occupation**

| Occupation  | Number | Percent |
|-------------|--------|---------|
| Agriculture | 26     | 19.2    |
| Business    | 37     | 27.4    |
| Service     | 40     | 29.6    |
| Daily wage  | 15     | 11.2    |
| Housewife   | 5      | 3.7     |
| Study       | 5      | 3.7     |
| Pensioner   | 3      | 2.2     |
| Poultry     | 4      | 2.9     |
| Total       | 135    | 100.0   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Table 4.4 shows that majority of respondents (29.6%) are holding service out of total respondents followed by about 27.4 percent respondents are holding business. Similarly, slightly greater than 19.2 percent of the respondents are holding agricultural, occupation and 11.2 percent respondent's occupation is daily wage. Nominal cases are found for study, housewife, poultry and pensioner.

## 4.5 Education

Education is the most influencing factor for almost all variables especially related to demography. Without any correlation with education, a demographic research may be a lame result. Education is sense-eye of any advanced society. Education does not help only to live healthy life but also helps to made the goal of any government programme. Therefore, education is the first way of development. Respondents were asked whether they could read and write. The respondents who said that they could were further asked about grade passed. The responses of the respondents from the study population is presented in table 4.5.

**Table 4.5: Distribution of Respondents by Literacy/Educational Attainment**

| Educational attainment | Number | Percent |
|------------------------|--------|---------|
| Illiterate             | 13     | 9.6     |
| Literate               | 122    | 90.4    |
| Total                  | 135    | 100.0   |
| Educational attainment |        |         |
| No schooling           | 7      | 5.7     |
| Primary                | 20     | 16.3    |
| Lower secondary        | 13     | 10.5    |
| Secondary              | 9      | 7.3     |
| SLC                    | 22     | 18.0    |
| Intermediate and above | 51     | 41.8    |
| Total                  | 122    | 100.0   |

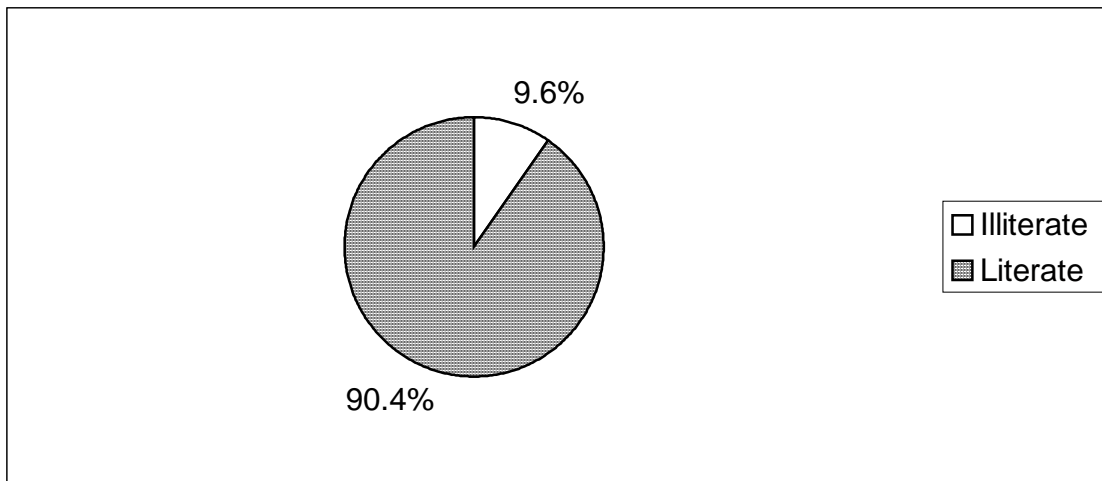
Source: Field survey, 2008.

It is evident from table 4.5 that 90.4 percent of respondents are literate and the rest of them (9.6%) are illiterate. Among the total literate respondents, the highest proportion (41.8%) have attained intermediate and above level of

education fooled by SLC which accounts for 18.0 percent. This shows that respondents are highly educated. About 16.3 percent have attained primary level education. Similarly, 10.5 percent and 7.3 percent of the literate respondents are found attending lower secondary level and secondary level respectively. ON the other hand, about 5.7 percent of the literate respondents are literate without formal education.

Figure 2 further makes easy to perceive about respondent's literacy/educational attainment status at a glance, which is presented below:

**Figure 2: Respondent's Literacy and Educational Status**



#### **4.6 Family Size**

The types of Nepalese family is joint or large size where obviously more members of family with more than tow generations share their kitchen together. The size of family determines the quality of life. Quality of life depends on fulfillment basic needs which includes education and health. Therefore, education determines the knowledge in every aspect which may include the knowledge on vital registration. Respondents were asked about the family size keeping in view

the above mentioned fact. The responses according to their family size are tabulated in table 4.6.

**Table 4.6: Distribution of Respondents by Family Size**

| Family size         | Number | Percent |
|---------------------|--------|---------|
| < 5                 | 34     | 23.0    |
| 5-7                 | 69     | 48.4    |
| 8-10                | 28     | 23.0    |
| 11+                 | 4      | 5.3     |
| Total               | 135    | 100.0   |
| Average family size | 5.2    |         |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Table 4.6 shows the mean number of family size among the respondents is 5.2 which is smaller than national average (5.25). The majority of the respondents (51.1%) households have 5-7 members. The figures for the respondents who have less than 5 and 8-10 members are 25.1 and 20.7 percent respectively. The least proportion of the respondent's are found having 11 and more members in their house.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **VITAL REGISTRATION TRENDS, KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES**

#### **5.1 Situation of Vital Registration**

Although, very few studies carried out in this respective issue, every study has revealed that vital registration in Nepal is very poor and almost all the registered events are very lately registered. The study area (Bahuarwa VDC) of this paper may not be an exceptional case.

##### **5.1.1 Situation of Vital Events Registration in Bahuarwa VDC**

In Dhanusha district, the registration of vital event was started from 1st Baishakh 2036 B.S. (1979/80). Since Bahuarwa VDC lies in Dhanusha district, here also, registration of vital events was started from 1st Baishakh 2036 BS under the vital registration act 2033 BS. In the initiated year, total 14 events were registered, among them 7 were births, 3 were deaths and 4 were marriage events. No case of migration and divorces were registered. Because of the importance and needs of registration certificate has increased, the trend on registrations of vital events also seen as increasing in later year. However, in Nepal, very few events are registered and almost the registered events had occurred many years ago. The Bahuarwa VDC is not an exceptional case. The data obtained from the registration section are tabulated below:

**Table 5.1: Distribution of Registered Events since 2036 and 2061 BS in Bahuarwa VDC**

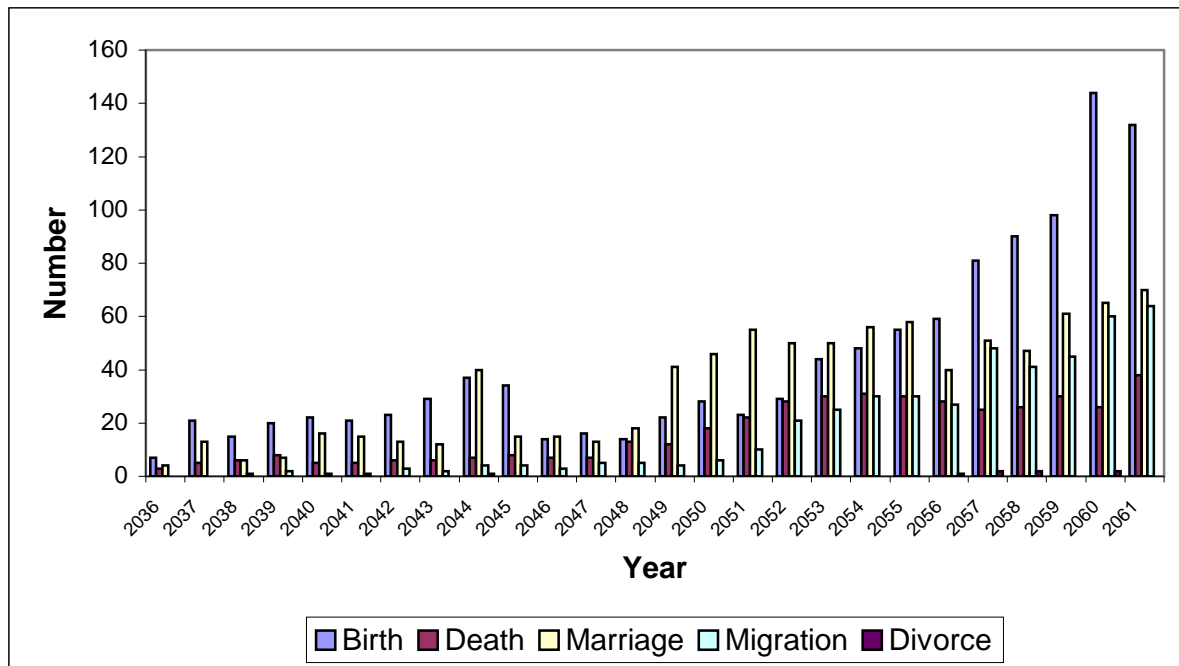
| Year  | Birth | Death | Marriage | Migration | Divorce | Total |
|-------|-------|-------|----------|-----------|---------|-------|
| 2036  | 7     | 3     | 4        | -         | -       | 14    |
| 2037  | 21    | 5     | 13       | -         | -       | 9     |
| 2038  | 15    | 6     | 6        | 1         | -       | 28    |
| 2039  | 20    | 8     | 7        | 2         | -       | 37    |
| 2040  | 22    | 5     | 16       | 1         | -       | 44    |
| 2041  | 21    | 5     | 15       | 1         | -       | 42    |
| 2042  | 23    | 6     | 13       | 3         | -       | 45    |
| 2043  | 29    | 6     | 12       | 2         | -       | 49    |
| 2044  | 37    | 7     | 40       | 4         | 1       | 89    |
| 2045  | 34    | 8     | 15       | 4         | -       | 61    |
| 2046  | 14    | 7     | 15       | 3         | -       | 39    |
| 2047  | 16    | 7     | 13       | 5         | -       | 41    |
| 2048  | 14    | 13    | 18       | 5         | -       | 50    |
| 2049  | 22    | 12    | 41       | 4         | -       | 779   |
| 2050  | 28    | 18    | 46       | 6         | -       | 98    |
| 2051  | 23    | 22    | 55       | 10        | -       | 110   |
| 2052  | 29    | 28    | 50       | 21        | -       | 128   |
| 2053  | 44    | 30    | 50       | 25        | -       | 149   |
| 2054  | 48    | 31    | 56       | 30        | -       | 165   |
| 2055  | 55    | 30    | 58       | 30        | -       | 173   |
| 2056  | 59    | 28    | 40       | 27        | 1       | 155   |
| 2057  | 81    | 25    | 51       | 48        | 2       | 207   |
| 2058  | 90    | 26    | 47       | 41        | 2       | 206   |
| 2059  | 98    | 30    | 61       | 45        | -       | 234   |
| 2060  | 144   | 26    | 65       | 60        | 2       | 297   |
| 2061  | 132   | 38    | 70       | 64        | -       | 304   |
| Total | 1126  | 430   | 877      | 442       | 8       | 2884  |

Source: VDC records, 2005 (Civil registered cell).

From the table 5.1, it is observed that at the beginning period, very nominal events are registered. IN later period, the trend of registering events is in increasing. The amount of birth registration increased significantly since 2057 BS. Similarly, registration of death, marriage and migration events, is in increasing trend, however, it is not found that amount of under registration events. In the last year 2061 BS, total 304 events were registered, among them 132 were births, 38 were deaths, 70 were marriages and 64 were migration events. In case of divorce, no case was registered because, in Nepalese society, it is not common. In total, only 8 events of divorce is registered form 2036 to 2061.

The trend of vital registration in Bahuarwa VDC is also shown in following figure.

**Figure 3: Trend of Registered Events since 2036 to 2061 BS in Bahuarwa VDC**



### 5.1.2 Events Registered During One Year Reference Period (From Chaitra 2063 to Phalgun 2064)

The arrangement and filing system despite the low registration is found well in the VDC office. In the records, it is also observed that the events were registered which were occurred many years before. Only one case of divorce is registered in this year. Few questions were also asked with the local registrar of the VDC, he said that because of necessity of the certificate, mostly births are registered even if they are late but until and unless the people do not need certificate, they don't register any vital events. The VDC's registration records during reference period is shown in table 5.2.

**Table 5.2: Distribution of Monthly Registered Events during One Year Period, 2063/64 BS**

| Month         | Birth | Death | Marriage | Migration | Divorce | Total |
|---------------|-------|-------|----------|-----------|---------|-------|
| 2063 Chaitra  | 50    | 6     | 20       | 10        | -       | 86    |
| 2064 Baishakh | 58    | 5     | 16       | 8         | 1       | 88    |
| 2064 Jestha   | 36    | 4     | 16       | 18        | -       | 74    |
| 2064 Ashad    | 35    | 4     | 15       | 11        | -       | 65    |
| 2064 Shrawan  | 30    | 3     | 13       | 10        | -       | 56    |
| 2064 Bhadra   | 32    | 3     | 12       | 6         | -       | 53    |
| 2064 Aswin    | 31    | 2     | 13       | 6         | -       | 52    |
| 2064 Kartik   | 34    | 4     | 15       | 8         | -       | 61    |
| 2064 Mangsir  | 37    | 3     | 16       | 10        | -       | 66    |
| 2064 Poush    | 38    | 9     | 17       | 8         | -       | 72    |
| 2064 Magh     | 110   | 3     | 14       | 6         | -       | 124   |
| 2064 Phalgun  | 96    | 5     | 18       | 9         | -       | 128   |
| Total         | 587   | 51    | 185      | 110       | 1       | 925   |

Source: VDC record, 2008 (Civil registration cell).



Table 5.2 shows that 925 cases of vital events were registered during one year period. The data seems very appropriate in the sense that very large no. of marriage is registered in the month of Phalgun and Chaitra. In case of birth, more number of events are registered in Magh and Phalgun months. One of the reason si that, for registered an examination forms of class 8, student needed birth certificate. This shows that people have registered the events only when they need certificate, whether they have knowledge and positive attitude towards registering an event in time. Accordingly, there were registration 587, 51, 185, 110 and 1 events of birth, death, marriage, migration and divorce respectively in the VDC during a year.

## 5.2 Knowledge on Vital Registration

By knowledge, changing behaviour in any asepect is occurred. In the case of vital registration also, knowledge of vital registration among people is important which increase the registration status. However, some studies have shown that there is no sufficient knowledge among people about vital registration. But in the study area there is significant knowledge of vital registration. Respondents were asked if they have heard about vital registration to find the level of knowledge about it. The responses are presented in table 5.3.

**Table 5.3: Distribution of Respondents Having Knowledge about VR**

| Vital registration knowledge | Number | Percent |
|------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Yes                          | 110    | 81.4    |
| No                           | 25     | 18.5    |
| Total                        | 135    | 100.0   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Table 5.3 shows that the majority of the respondents have knowledge on vital registration. Among the total respondents, about 81.4 percent of them have

knowledge on civil registration. Rest (18.5%) of them are found ignorant about vital registration. One of the interesting thing is found that most of the people know vital registration as birth registration (Janma darta).

### 5.3 Time of Knowledge

Respondents were asked about how many years/months/days before they have heard about vital registration among the respondents who had knowledge of vital registration. The mean years before since the respondents had heard about civil registration is found to be 5.56 years and the median years being 8 years. Table 5.4 summarizes the responses about the time in years before since the respondents have knowledge about civil registration.

**Table 5.4: Distribution of Respondent’s Knowledge about Civil Registration for Number of Years before Survey**

| Have heard about VR year before | Number | Percent |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|
| 1 year                          | 3      | 2.7     |
| 2 year                          | 5      | 4.5     |
| 3 year                          | 6      | 5.4     |
| 4 year                          | 7      | 6.3     |
| 5 year                          | 5      | 4.5     |
| 6 year                          | 6      | 5.4     |
| 7 year                          | 8      | 7.2     |
| 8 year                          | 7      | 6.3     |
| 9 year                          | 11     | 10.0    |
| 10 year                         | 13     | 11.8    |
| 12 year                         | 14     | 12.7    |
| 15 year                         | 4      | 3.6     |
| 20 year                         | 4      | 3.6     |
| Don’t know                      | 17     | 15.4    |
| Total                           | 110    | 100.0   |
| Mean years                      | 5.56   |         |
| Median years                    | 8      |         |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Table 5.4 shows that about 12.7 percent of the respondent who have heard about vital registration had heard about it 12 years before followed by 10 years before which comprises 11.8 percent. About 10 percent said that they have been heard vital registration for 9 years. But the majority of the respondents (about 15.4 percent), who had heard about vital registration, could not report about the time when they heard about vital registration. There were 4 respondents who have heard about vital registration a long before 20 years ago.

#### **5.4 Source of Information**

Ministry of Local Development (MOLD) has been giving the information of vital registration form different media. The access of information is low especially in rural areas and comparatively higher in urban areas. Respondents were asked about their first source of information about vital registration. Mixed responses were found from them. Some respondents were not sure that form where they heard about it first. Also, some of them gave multiple answer which were accepted as different categories. Table 5.5 below shows the source of information on vital registration among the respondents.

**Table 5.5: Distribution of Respondents by First Source of Information about Vital Registration**

| Source         | Number | Percent |
|----------------|--------|---------|
| Radio          | 52     | 47.2    |
| Television     | 39     | 35.4    |
| Friends        | 30     | 27.2    |
| Newspapers     | 14     | 12.7    |
| While studying | 9      | 8.1     |
| Family members | 6      | 5.4     |
| Neighbours     | 5      | 4.5     |

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Note: The number and percent of the above table are multiple response and are based on total 110 respondents

It is evident from Table 5.5 that large portion of the respondents have heard about vital registration from radio and television which are accounted for 47.2 and 34.4 percent respectively. Similarly, about 27.2 percent respondent have heard from their friends, and about 2.7 percent respondents have known about vital registration from newspapers. Some respondents have known while studying and from family members. The least proportion of the respondents are found to have heard about vital registration from their neighbors.

### **5.5 Knowledge about Time Period of Registration After the Occurrence of an Event**

Respondents were asked about the time duration within when the event should be registered according to Vital Registration Act in Nepal, so as to find their proper knowledge about VRS, among those who said to have heard about vital registration. They were asked questions “where should we register the vital events?” and “within how many days of occurrence of an event we should register the event?” The response of the first question undoubtedly was VDC office with LR from all respondents. So, it can be said that every people who have heard about vital registration also has knowledge about where the event should be registered.

The response of the second question about the prescribed days within which an event should be registered is presented in table 5.5.

**Table 5.6: Distribution of Respondents by Knowledge of Time Duration of Registration**

| Response       | Number | Percent |
|----------------|--------|---------|
| Within 30 days | 4      | 3.6     |
| Within 35 days | 41     | 37.2    |
| Within 45 days | 26     | 23.6    |
| Within 1 year  | 4      | 3.6     |
| Don't know     | 35     | 31.8    |
| Total          | 110    | 100.0   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

It is clear from the table 5.6, the significant number of respondents have knowledge about the prescribed time of registration of an event which accounted for about 37.2 percent. About 3.6 percent of the respondents reported this time duration is 30 days. On the other hand about 23.6 percent and 3.6 percent of the respondents said within 45 days and 1 year respectively, of occurrence of an event, the event should be registered. This is their misinformation about it. Significant proportion (31.8%) of the respondents do not know about the duration of registration. Combining the response percentage of ‘within 46 days,’ ‘within 1 year’ and ‘don’t know’, nearly 59 percent of the respondents don’t know about the time duration of registration. It is one of the causes of not registering the vital events in time.

## **5.6 Perception about Vital Registration**

Respondents were asked about their perception towards importance of vital events or why they feel it is necessary to register an event. Multiple responses were accepted in this respect. It is also found that respondents have better knowledge about reason for birth, death and marriages registration than that of migration. The responses are tabulated separately.

### **5.6.1 Respondent’s Perception about Birth Registration**

A question ‘why’ they feel it is necessary to register birth event?’ was asked to the respondents. Almost 95 percent of them gave their answer at least one option. The response results are classified below in table 5.7.

**Table 5.7: Distribution of Respondents by their Perceptions about the birth Registration**

| Why birth registration?                                    | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| To enroll in the school                                    | 16     | 14.5    |
| To get citizenship certificate                             | 35     | 31.8    |
| To provide information to government                       | 6      | 5.4     |
| All of the above   | 29     | 26.3    |
| To enroll in the school and taking citizenship             | 10     | 9.0     |
| To get citizenship and providing information to government | 4      | 3.6     |
| To know the increase of population                         | 4      | 3.6     |
| For administrative purpose                                 | 2      | 1.8     |
| Don't know   | 4      | 3.6     |
| Total  | 110    | 100.0   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

From table 5.7, in study area it is found that majority of the respondents (31.8%) have answered that birth registration is required to get citizenship certificate. About 26.3 percent of respondents have understood that main purpose of registering birth for three main purposes which are namely ‘to enroll in the school’, ‘to get citizenship certificate’, and ‘to provide information to government’. Similarly, 14.5 of the respondents reported that birth is register only ‘to enroll in the school’. Slightly more than 3.6 percent of the respondents don't know that why the birth is to be registered.

### **5.6.2 Perception about Death Registration**

It is found that respondents are less alert about death registration rather than birth registration. Some respondents had puzzled for some moment when the

question “Why we should register death event?” was asked. After remembering the options of previous questions, significant proportion of respondents said ‘to provide information to government.’ Almost all responses are categorized in table 5.8 below.

**Table 5.8: Distribution of Respondents by Their Perceptions about Death Registration**

| Why death registration?   | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|
| To transfer the assets and pension of dead person.  | 41     | 31.9    |
| To solve the insurance problem.   | 2      | 2.1     |
| To provide the information to government.   | 16     | 10.6    |
| All of the above  | 19     | 12.7    |
| To transfer the assets and pension of dead person and to provide information to government. | 8      | 8.5     |
| To transfer the assets and pension of dead person and to solve the insurance problem.       | 3      | 4.2     |
| For administrative purpose.   | 2      | 2.1     |
| To know the decrease of population.   | 5      | 6.3     |
| Don't know  | 14     | 21.2    |
| Total   | 110    | 100.0   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Table 5.8 shows that about 37.2 percent respondents responded that the death should be registered ‘to transfer the assets and pension of dead person’ which is followed by the respondents who said all three categories; ‘to transfer the assets and pension of dead person’, ‘to solve the insurance problem’ and ‘to provide the information to government’ account about 17.2 percent. Similarly, slightly more than 14.5 percent respondents gave the answer that the death is registered only ‘to provide information to government’. As well, 10 percent

responded in multiple ways. However, about 12.7 percent said that they don't know about the reason for death registration. This shows that people have less knowledge about death registration than birth registration comparatively.

### 5.6.3 Perception of Respondents about Marriage Registration

Respondents were asked a separate question 'Why you feel it is necessary to register marriage?' in order to know their perception of registering marriage. While asking this question, some married women were seen teared because of disturbance in relationship with husband. However, mixed answers were obtained in this issue. Table 5.9 further classifies the perception of respondents about the purpose of registering marriage event.

**Table 5.9: Distribution of Respondents by Their Perception about Marriage Registration**

| Why marriage registration?                             | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| To prove relationship                                  | 28     | 25.5    |
| To legalize the event                                  | 26     | 23.6    |
| To get the share of property                           | 11     | 10.0    |
| All of the above                                       | 16     | 14.5    |
| To legalize and to prove relationship                  | 12     | 10.9    |
| To make passport                                       | 2      | 1.8     |
| To prove relationship and to get the share of property | 1      | 0.9     |
| Don't know   | 14     | 12.7    |
| Total  | 110    | 100.0   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Table 5.9 shows that the majority of respondents (25.5%) accept that marriage is registered to prove relationship. Also, about nearly equal proportion (23.6%) of the respondents accept marriage should register for legalize the event.



ON the other hand, 14.5 percent of respondents had multiple responses that marriage should be registered for all three categories as ‘to prove relationship’, ‘to legalize the event’ and ‘to get share of property’. Similarly, slightly more than 11 percent respondents said that marriage should register ‘to legalize and to prove relationship’. However, about 13 percent of respondents do not know why the marriage should be registered.

#### **5.6.4 Perception of Respondent’s about Registration of Migration**

The respondents who have heard about vital registration were again asked why they feel it is necessary to register the migration in order to depict their knowledge and perception about registration of migration. There was less knowledge and perception among the respondents and why it is necessary to register migration. They were found to be confused that whether the migration is registered as vital event. Therefore, the majority of the responses were found that they don’t know why the migration should be registered. The different responses are tabulated in table 5.10.

**Table 5.10: Distribution of Respondents by their Perception of Registering Migration Event**

| Why migration registration?  | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| To get social rights in the place of destination.  | 31     | 28.1    |
| To provide information to government.  | 20     | 18.1    |
| All of the above   | 13     | 11.8    |
| To know the place of origin  | 4      | 3.6     |
| For voting purpose.  | 3      | 2.7     |
| To get citizenship and to buy land.  | 2      | 1.8     |
| To know the decrease and increase of population at the place of origin and place of destination. | 2      | 1.8     |
| To legalize the event.   | 1      | 0.9     |
| Don’t know   | 34     | 30.9    |
| Total  | 10     | 100.0   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Table 5.10 shows that the majority of respondents (28.1%) accept that marriage is registered to get social rights in the place of destination. About 18i percent of the respondents have responded ‘to provide information to government’. Similarly, 12 percent of the respondents gave answer ‘all of the above’, which includes ‘to get social rights in the place of destination’ and ‘to provide information to government.’ However, about 31 percent of the respondents do not know why the migrations is registered. Other respondents have their own type of answers.

### 5.7 Respondent’s Interaction Status

Social interactions are the most important to broaden the area of knowledge of people in a society and relay the information to the society. Information on registration of vital events has the same level of importance and it heavily depends in social interaction. To know the closeness to municipality office, LR, neighbours and among family members, some questions were asked to the respondents. The responses are tabulated in table 5.11.

**Table 5.11: Distribution of Respondent’s Interaction Status with VDC Office, Neighbours and among Family Members**

| Questions                                      | Response category |      |    |      | Total |
|--|-------------------|------|----|------|-------|
|  | Yes               | %    | No | %    |       |
| Have you ever discussed with others about VRS? | 70                | 63.6 | 40 | 36.3 | 110*  |
| Do you used to talk about VRS in your family?  | 90                | 81.8 | 20 | 18.1 | 110*  |
| Have you ever visited VDC office?              | 103               | 76.0 | 32 | 24.0 | 135   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

\*Note: The respondents who have no knowledge about vital registration were not asked about the discussion status with others and family.

Table 5.11 shows that 63.6 percent of the respondents who have knowledge of vital registration, have discussed about it with others and the rest have no communication about it. Similarly, 81.8 percent of the respondents have discussion about vital registration in the family. This shows that communication about vital registration in family is more common than outside the household. Among the total respondents, about 76 percent of them have visited VDC office and rest have never visited the office.

### 5.8 Respondent's History of Registration of Events

Respondents were asked whether they had ever registered any event during the reference period. Only slightly more than 41 percent of the total respondents said they have registered at least one event. Majority of the respondents said they have not registered any event. Table 5.12 clarifies the respondent's history of vital registration.

**Table 5.12: Distribution of Respondents According to the History of Registration Vital Events before Survey Date**

| History of event registration             | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|
| <b>Ever registered?</b>                   |        |         |
| Yes                                       | 35     | 26.9    |
| No  | 95     | 73.0    |
| Total                                     | 130    | 100.0   |
| <b>Registered event</b>                   |        |         |
| One birth                                 | 10     | 20.0    |
| Two birth                                 | 5      | 8.5     |
| Three birth                               | 1      | 2.8     |
| One birth and one death                   | 2      | 2.8     |
| One birth and one migration               | 3      | 5.7     |
| Two births and one death                  | 1      | 2.8     |
| Three births and one death                | 1      | 2.8     |
| One birth and one marriage                | 3      | 5.      |
| One birth, one marriage and one migration | 1      | 2.8     |
| One death                                 | 7      | 11.4    |
| One death and one marriage                | 2      | 2.8     |
| Two deaths and one marriage               | 1      | 2.8     |
| One marriage                              | 13     | 20.0    |
| One migration                             | 5      | 8.5     |
| Total                                     | 55     | 100.0   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Table 5.12 shows that majority of the respondents (59.2%) have not registered any vital events from their household while only 40.8 percent of the respondents have registered at least one event. Among the respondents who said to have registered the vital events, 23.6 percent ever registered only one marriage followed by one birth which accounts 18.1 percent. Similarly, about 13 percent have registered one death and 9 percent of respondents have registered two births and one migration for each. Registration of other event comprises less than 7 percent of respondents.

### 5.9 Civil Registration by Socio-Economic Variables

A cross tabulation of civil registration status according to various socio-economic variable is established in order to see whether there is influence or significance of any variable to motivate vital registration. However, no vast difference between literate and illiterate, agricultural and non-agricultural and large and small size family group is found. But, according to educational attainment, significance is found. Table 5.13 shows that relation between various socio-economic variables and vital registration.

**Table 5.13: Distribution of Respondents by Socio-Economic Variables**

| Variables                     | Registered | Not registered | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------------|-------|
| <b>Literacy</b>               |            |                |       |
| Illiterate                    | 4 (30.7)   | 9 (69.2)       | 13    |
| Literate                      | 51 (41.8)  | 71 (58.1)      | 122   |
| Total                         | 55 (40.7)  | 80 (59.2)      | 135   |
| <b>Educational Attainment</b> |            |                |       |
| Not schooling                 | 2 (28.5)   | 5 (71.4)       | 7     |
| Primary                       | 3 (15.0)   | 27 (85.0)      | 20    |
| Lower secondary               | 4 (30.7)   | 9 (69.3)       | 13    |
| Secondary                     | 4 (44.4)   | 5 (55.6)       | 9     |
| SLC and above                 | 39 (53.40) | 34 (46.6)      | 73    |
| Total                         | 52 (42.6)  | 70 (57.3)      | 122   |
| <b>Occupation</b>             |            |                |       |
| Agriculture                   | 8(30.8)    | 18 (69.2)      | 26    |

|                 |           |           |     |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| Non-agriculture | 45 (45.5) | 54 (54.5) | 99  |
| Study           | 2 (40.0)  | 3 (60.0)  | 5   |
| House-wife      | -         | 5 (100.0) | 5   |
| Total           | 55 (40.7) | 80 (59.2) | 135 |
| Family size     |           |           |     |
| <5              | 10 (29.4) | 24 (70.6) | 34  |
| 5-7             | 32(46.4)  | 37 (53.6) | 69  |
| 8-10            | 11 (39.3) | 17 (60.0) | 28  |
| 11+             | 2 (50.0)  | 2 (50.0)  | 4   |
| Total           | 55 (40.7) | 80 (59.3) | 135 |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Note: Number in parenthesis are the percentages of the respectively row total.

Table 5.13 shows that among the total respondents (135), majority of them (59.2%) have not registered any vital event. So, for every variable, it is seen that majority of respondents have not registered any event. Among the total illiterate respondents (13) slightly more than 69 percent have not registered any vital event, only about 31 percent have ever registered the vital events. Similarly, about 59.2 percent literate respondents have not registered any event while about 41 percent literate respondent have ever registered vital event. Among the respondents who said they have ever registered at least one event, majority are literature. The educational attainment has no significance for registering vital event up to secondary level. But more than 53 percent of the respondents, who have attained SKLC and above level of education, have ever registered the events. This shows that there is no effect of education below SLC in vital registration.

Respondent' occupation has been classified into four categories i.e. auricular, non-agriculture, study and housewife. Respondent's occupation seems more positivist to vital registration. More proportion 45.5% of the non-agricultural respondents have registered at least one event preceding the survey than the residents who have occupation as agriculture 30.8 %. Almost all housewife are not seem to register the vital events.

No discrepancy has been observed regarding family size. But the slight influence has been seen in family size 5-7 member which accounts more than 46 percent for registering at least one vital event. Similarly, slightly more than 41 percent of respondents have 8-10 family members have ever registered the event followed by the group of more than 11 family members which accounts of 50 percent have ever registered vital event.

### **5.10 Respondent's Access to Register and Registration Forms**

To know the effectiveness of service provided to people in the case of civil registration, some questions were placed in the questionnaire. Since, long time taken to reach the registration office affects and may be one of the cause of not registering an event, a question was asked to know the time taken to reach registration office. Almost all the respondents had said that they reach the office within 45 minutes by the use of bicycle or motor bike or other vehicle. This shows that the office is not so far.

Similarly, easy access to registrar office, and availability of forms and certificates plays an vital role in covering vital records effectively. If one suffers for register an event by lacking forms, sometimes by absence of LR and by other factors he returns without registering an event. He postpone the registration either in his/her leisure time or don't go to register until he needs certificates. So, these are the factors in which the completeness of vital registration depends.

Respondents were asked several questions orderly to find their previous experience of easy access to registrar and registration forms etc. among the respondents who had registered at least one vital event. The result are tabulated below:

**Table 5:14: Distribution of Respondent's Access to Registrar and Registration Forms**

| Questions   | Respondents |      |    |      |
|---|-------------|------|----|------|
|   | Yes         | %    | No | %    |
| Did you easily find the registration office?                      | 54          | 98.1 | 1  | 1.8  |
| Did you easily visit the registrar?                               | 53          | 96.3 | 2  | 3.6  |
| Did you easily get the registration forms?                        | 52          |      | 3  | 5.4  |
| Did the registrar hesitate to register and called yu for nex day? | 3           |      | 52 | 94.6 |

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Note: Only those who have registered at least one vital event.

Table 5.14 clearly shows that respondents had not to be suffered from slow office system,. Among the 55 respondents who had visited VDC office to register vital events. Slightly more than 98 percent had found the registration office easily, about 96 percent had found easily visited at local registrar, about 95 percent had found the registration forms easily for the registration of an event. Similarly, about 5.4 percent respondents had said that the registrar hesitate and called for next day to register a vital event reasoning that he had to no time to register. Therefore, a question was asked for those respondents, how many times they went to register an event, then they said that they all (4 respondents) had visited 2 times for registering a single event.

### **5.11 Causes of Registering Vital Events**

Respondent's were further asked about the reasons for registering the event among those who said to have ever registered the event. Mostly, individual causes were found in this respect. However, the main cause was their need of certificates. Therefore, it can be predicted that people tend to go to register the event only

when they need certificates. Table 5.15 further presents the causes of registering the vital events.

**Table 5.15: Distribution of Respondents by Causes of Vital Events Registration**

| Causes   | Number* | Percent |
|--|---------|---------|
| Legal compulsion   | 10      | 18.1    |
| To get citizenship   | 13      | 23.6    |
| To transfer the private assets   | 1       | 1.8     |
| To enroll the children in school   | 8       | 14.5    |
| To transfer the private assets and pension of dead person  | 5       | 9.0     |
| To enroll the children and getting citizenship   | 5       | 9.0     |
| Legal compulsion, to transfer the pension and other enumeration  | 1       | 1.8     |
| Legal compulsion, enrolling children and getting citizenship   | 5       | 9.0     |
| To enroll the children, getting citizenship and to legalized the event                                   | 3       | 5.4     |
| To legalized the event and getting citizenship   | 2       | 3.6     |
| To enroll the children, to get citizenship and to transfer the private assets and pension of dead person | 2       | 3.6     |
| Total  | 55      | 100.0   |

Source: Field Survey, 2008

\*Note: Only those who have registered at least one vital event.

Individual differences can be seen in table 5.15 in which majority of the respondents who have ever registered the event, 23.6 percent of them responded



that they registered because they have to receive a citizenship certificate. About 18 percent said legal compulsion rather than their needs. Similarly, 14.5 percent responded that they registered because to enroll the children in school. Even if the responds are categorized into different categorize as found from the field, combining together, slightly more than 41 percent of the respondent needed certificate either to enroll in school or to take citizenship or to transfer private assets, pension of dead person, etc.

### **5.12 Respondent's History of Timely Registering the Vital Events**

Respondents who said to have ever registered the vital events were asked whether they have registered the events timely. They were even cross questioned if they paid any cost (fees) for registration so as to find out whether the events registered were timely or not. Because if the event is registered in time i.e. within 356 days of occurrence of an event, there is no any cost (fees) needed for registration. The responses are tabulated in table 5.16 below:

**Table 5.16: Distribution of Respondents by Cost Paid While Registering an Event**

| Cost paid  | Number | Percent |
|------------|--------|---------|
| Yes        | 34     | 61.8    |
| No         | 13     | 23.6    |
| Don't know | 8      | 14.5    |
| Total      | 55     | 100.0   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Table 5.16 shows that 23.6 percent of the respondents had registered vital events within the time i.e. within 356 days of occurrence of an event. On the other hand, 61.8 percent of the respondents had paid some amount for registering an event and 14.5 percent had either forget the amount they paid or the respondents

themselves had not gone to register the events so they didn't know about it. This shows that the status of timely registering an event is very poor in the study area.

### 5.3 Registration Status of Vital Events during Reference Period

In order to analyze a situation of rate of completion of vital registration for all events occurring within reference period, Table 5.17 presents findings in the study area.

**Table 5.17: Coverage of Registration among the Occurred Events during Reference Period**

| Events    | Registered | Not registered | Timely registered | Total event occurred |
|-----------|------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Birth     | 11 (25.0)  | 32 (72.7)      | 5 (11.3)          | 44                   |
| Death     | 13 (34.2)  | 24 (5.2)       | 2 (5.2)           | 38                   |
| Marriage  | 19 (44.1)  | 23 (20.9)      | 9 (20.9)          | 43                   |
| Migration | 5 (26.3)   | 14 (10.5)      | 2 (10.5)          | 29                   |
| Total     | 48 (33.4)  | 93 (64.5)      | 18 (12.5)         | 144                  |

Source: Field Survey 2008.

Note: Numbers in parenthesis are percent of row total of events occurred.

Table 5.17 shows that out of 135 households (respondents) there occurred 144 events all together in the reference period of one year. The registration status is found cry poor and the timely registration is very nominal. Out of total events occurred in the respondent's households, about 65, percent events are not registered whereas about 33 percent events are registered and only about & percent of the events are registered timely i.e. within 35 days of occurrence of events.

Similarly, among the total birth events (44), only 250 percent are registered, officially in which 11.3 percent are registered timely. Out of total deaths (39), about 36 percent are registered and 5.2 percent are registered timely. In the case of marriage, out of total events (43), 44.1 percent are registered in which 20.9 percent

are registered within time. About-29" percent of the migration cases are registered in which 10.5 percent are registered in time. However, some questions about divorce were put in questionnaire no case of divorce was found.

### 5.1.3.1 Status of Birth Registration according to Birth Order

Respondents were asked about the birth order of the baby born within period regardless of registration to find out whether there is any difference gestation according to birth order. The result is tabulated in Table 5.18 below:

**Table 5.18: Distribution of Births by Order and Registration Status**

| Birth order | Registered | Not registered | Total |
|-------------|------------|----------------|-------|
| First       | 7 (36.8)   | 12 (63.2)      | 19    |
| Second      | 4 (26.6)   | 11 (73.4)      | 15    |
| Third       | 1 (11.2)   | 8 (88.8)       | 9     |
| Sixth       | -          | 1 (100.0)      | 1     |
| Total       | 12 (27.3)  | 22 (72.7)      | 44    |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Note: Numbers in parenthesis are the row percentages.

At the time of first birth, there is happiness in every family but the happiness increases in second, third and higher order of births (MoH., 2049 BS). The impact of the happiness may fall to birth registration as well. Considering the fact, this study also attempted to collect information on the issue.

Table 5.18 shows that out of 19 cases of first birth order, 35 percent are registered. In the case of second order birth, about 27 percent are reported to registered. Similarly, about 11 percent of births are register in the case of third order but no sixth birth is found to have registered. The causes of not registering the accessive birth order can be drawn as:

- ) More births are given by poor and illiterate family where they have less knowledge about registration,
- ) The parents cannot enroll later born children in school as the number of children increase, so they don't tend to register the birth,
- ) The family suffers from many domestic problems when they have large number of children.

### 5.13.2 Father's Education and Birth Registration

Due to the patriarchal social system in Nepal, husband plays an important role in every decision of household. Also, educational status of husband makes an additional point for decision making. In the case of registration of children's birth, education of father may have positive impact, because, generally, it is assumed that educated father have knowledge of registration as well as the importance of it. In this study, considering the same assumption, information on father's education was collected and the relation with registration of birth are tabulated below:

**Table 5.19: Distribution of Registered and Not Registered Births by Father's**

| Father's education | Registered | Not registered | Total |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|-------|
| No schooling       | -          | 2 (100.0)      | 2     |
| Primary            | -          | 9(100.0)       | 9     |
| L. secondary       | 1 (33.3)   | 2 (66.6)       | 3     |
| Secondary          | 1 (25.0)   | 3 (75.0)       | 4     |
| SLC and above      | 10(37.0)   | 16 (63.0)      | 26    |
| Total              | 12 (26.7)  | 32 (73.3)      | 44    |

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Note: Numbers in the parenthesis are the percentages of the respective rows.

Table 5.19 shows that there is no close positive relation between father's education and number of birth registrations. There seems reverse relation for all

level of education attained by fathers. However, among the registered events, some positive impacts are seen between birth registration and SLC and above educated fathers. Out of 26 cases in which father's education was SLC and above, 37, percent births have registered while 63 percent births have not registered.

### 5.13.3 Mother's Education and Birth Registration

Mother's education influences the knowledge and attitude on every aspect of behaviours and household decision making. It is said that if male is educated it is for himself but if female is educated, the whole family is educated. So, an emphasis was given to check mother's education on birth registration in this study and mother's education was asked in each registered and not registered birth cases. From the responses an attempt has been made to see the impact of mother's education in birth registration.

**Table 5.20: Distribution of Registered and Non-Registered Births by Mother's Education**

| Mother's education      | Registered | Not-registered | Total |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|-------|
| Illiterate              | -          | 3 (100.0)      | 3     |
| Literate (no schooling) | -          | 3 (100.0)      | 3     |
| Primary                 | -          | 7 (100.0)      | 7     |
| L. secondary            | 2 (40.0)   | 3 (60.0)       | 5     |
| Secondary               | -          | -              | -     |
| SLC and above           | 10 (37.0)  | 16 (63.0)      | 26    |
| Total                   | 12 (26.7)  | 32 (73.3)      | 44    |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Note: Number in the parenthesis are the percentage of the respective rows.

It is clear from Table 5.20 that out of 3 cases of birth from illiterate mother, no one has been found to be registered the birth. Same case has been found literate

but no schooling mother. Out of 7 cases of primary attended mother is found not registered. (in the other hand, no mothers were found who attended secondary level education and gave birth of children during the reference period. Only 37 percent of the SLC and above level attendants have registered the birth, out of 26 cases. This shows that reverse relationship between mother's education and birth registration.

## 5.14 Causes of Not Registering Civil Events

### 5.14.1 Causes of Not Registering Births

Among the households where birth events were occurred during reference period but were not registered, were asked about the cause of not registering the birth event. Mixed responses were found. Because of not knowing the importance of registration and no need of birth certificate, were the answers of more respondents. It has shown that their unwillingness to register an event. The responses are tabulated in Table 5.21.

**Table 5.21: Causes of Not-Registered Births**

| Causes                                  | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|
| Not thinking important                  | 5      | 15.6    |
| No need of birth certificate            | 10     | 31.2    |
| Not getting time to go for registration | 7      | 21.8    |
| Absence of husband                      | 1      | 3.1     |
| Not knowing about registration          | 9      | 28.1    |
| Total                                   | 32     | 100.0   |

Source: Field Survey, 2066.

It is found from Table 5.21 that the cause of not registering the birth was because of no need of birth certificate which accounts 31.2 percent out of total 32 cases of not registered birth events during reference period. As well, 28.1 percent

said 21.8 percent said that they did not know about the registration, 15.6 percent said not having time to go for the registration. Similarly, 15.6 percent of respondents have not registered because if they thought it is not important.

#### **5.14.2 Causes off Not Registering Death**

The causes of not registering civil events were collected separately for every event from those who have not registered the events because the causes are different for different event. The cause of not registering the death events were also collected in the study and the obtained responses are tabulated below:

**Table 5.22: Distribution of Not Registered Deaths by Causes**

| Causes                                  | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|
| No thinking important                   | 5      | 20.8    |
| No need of death certificate            | 8      | 33.4    |
| Not getting time to go for registration | 3      | 12.5    |
| Not knowing about registration          | 8      | 33.3    |
| Total                                   | 24     | 100.0   |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Table 5.22 shows that the major cause for not registering the event were 'no need of death certificate' and 'not having knowledge about the registration', which constitute 33 percent of each among those who have not registered the death. The third main cause for not registering death was found to be 'not thinking important' (21%). Similarly, 16 percent of the respondents said because of not getting time to go to register.

Among the respondents who are migrated in the study area in the reference period and are not registered the event were asked about the reason for not registering. Despite the small number of cases of migration event, the expected

and reasonable result is found in the sense that in the previous observation among all respondents, the knowledge about migration was lesser than that of other events. Therefore, the majority of respondents replied that they were ignorant about the issue. Table 5.23 shows the responses regarding the reason of not registering migration.

**Table 5.23: Distribution of Migrant Respondents who had Not-Registered**

| Causes                           | Number | Percent |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Nobody asked to register         | 3      | 21.4    |
| Not thinking important           | 1      | 7.1     |
| No need of migration certificate | 4      | 28.5    |
| Not knowing about registration   | 6      | 42.8    |
| Total                            | 14     | 100.0   |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

According to the response, the majority cause of not registering the event was ignorance about the registration of migration, which is accounted for 42.8 percent of the total not-registered migration events. As well, 28.5 percent said that they don't need migration certificate, so they haven't registered. Similarly, 21 percent said, 'nobody asked to register' which shows that they don't know about registration, 7 percent thought that this is not important and they don't registered.

#### **5.14.4 Registration Marriage Event**

In Nepal, the marriages are performed in the month of Mansir, Magh, Phalgun, Baisakh and Ashar, mainly. The time of data collection and end of reference period was Phalgun/Chaitra. Among the 44 cases of marriage events, 3 cases were found recently married just 3-4 days before at the time of data collection. However, the emphasis was given to education of bride and bride-grooms so as to find out the relation of education to registration status of marriage



event. Table 5.24 shows the educational attainment of bride and bride-grooms and marriage registration status.

**Table 5.24: Distribution of Cases of Marriage by Educational Attainment of Bride Grooms and Brides and Registration Status**

| Educational attainment | Bride-groom |                |       | Bride      |                |       |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------|------------|----------------|-------|
|                        | Registered  | Not registered | Total | Registered | Not registered | Total |
| No-education           | -           | 2(100.0)       | 2     | -          | 3 (100.0)      | 3     |
| Primary                | 2 (66.7)    | 1 (33.3)       | 3     | -          | -              | -     |
| L Secondary            | 3 (37.5)    | 5 (62.5)       | 8     | 6 (54.5)   | 5 (45.5)       | 11    |
| Secondary              | 1 (20.0)    | 4 (80.0)       | 5     | 1 (50.0)   | 1 (50.0)       | 2     |
| SLC and above          | 14(53.8)    | 12 (46.2)      | 26    | 13 (46.4)  | 15(53.6)       | 28    |
| Total                  | 20 (45.5)   | 24 (54.5)      | 44    | 20 (45.5)  | 24 (54.5)      | 44    |

Source: Field survey, 2008.

Note: Number in parenthesis are the percentage of the respective row total.

From Table 5.24, it is clear that out of 44 cases of marriage, 20 (45.5%), are registered and 24 (54.5%) are not registered. Two cases (66.7%) out of 3 among whom the bride-groom's education is primary are registered. Out of 8 cases, 3 cases {3 7.5%) in which bride-groom's education is lower secondary are registered and again 14 cases (53.8%) out of 26 cases in which the bride-groom's education is SLC and above are registered. Finding shows that even the bride-grooms education affect marriage registration. That means higher the bride-groom's education, higher the Probability of registration.

The effect of bride's education on marriage registration has been observed in which more proportion, of the marriage are registered within one year with the increase in the education level. Out of 11 cases among whom the bride's education is lower secondary, 6 cases (54.5%) are registered. Again 13 cases (46.4%) out of

28 causes in which the bride's education is SLC and above are registered. It is observed that lower secondary level education seems a behaviour modification attribute in this aspect and no influence of secondary and SLC and above level of education in registering marriage event.

#### 5.14.5 Causes off Not-Registering Marriage Event

Among the households where marriage events during reference period were performed but the event was not registered, respondents were asked about the reason of not registering the event. Among 24 cases of not-registered marriage events, 13 events (54.2%) were not registered because of no need of marriage certificate. Table 5.25 clearly shows the causes of not-registering marriage events.

**Table 5.25: Distribution off Not Registered Marriage Events by Causes**

| Causes   | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| Not getting time to register                                     | 3      | 12.5    |
| No need of marriage certificate                                  | 13     | 54.2    |
| Not knowing about registration                                   | 6      | 25.0    |
| No need of marriage certificate and not getting time to register | 2      | 8.3     |
| Total  | 24     | 100.0   |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 5.25 shows that majority of respondents (54.2%) had not need of marriage certificate, followed by 25.0 percent said that they were ignorant about registration, where as 12.5 percent respondents had not get time to go for registration. Also, rest 8.3 percent respondents had multiple causes. This shows that respondents have thought that the registration of marriage is not important.

### **5.15 Respondent's Attitude Towards Civil Registration**

At the end of the questionnaire two questions about their comment on the Civil Registration System and suggestions for further improvement, were asked in order to analyze their attitudes and perceptions.

It is found that out of total respondents (1356) 80 percent respondents didn't want to comment the system. But among the respondents who had commented, 9 percent said that this system is not effective. Similarly, about 7 percent respondents commented that it has less publicity, so, less usefulness. As well, 1 percent respondents commented that it should be follow up timely so that it becomes effective.

With respect to the suggestions, most of the respondents (44%) didn't want to give suggestions. However, among those who gave suggestions, most of the respondents (30%) suggested that household visit should be arranged by VDC if possible to register the event by recruiting a local manpower in each ward, office due to which the people who do not have time to go to registrar's office and who are ignorant about registration, can get benefit and the government system would be effective. Other suggestions also were provided by them. VRS should be published and broadcasted through electronic and non-electronic media, so that it become effective.

## CHAPTER VI

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 6.1 Summary of the Findings

The study was carried out in Bahaurawa VDC selecting 135 households as ample size where there were vital events within reference period. Based on the obtained data this study has found the major findings of information about the Civil Registration which are listed below:

- ) Among the total households having cases of vital events during the reference period, the highest proportion (18.5%) of the respondents are from 25-29 years age group followed by 30-34 which is accounted for 17 percent.
- ) The majority (45.9%) of respondents fall in Kewat caste/ethnic group followed by Muslim which accounts 14.8 percent.
- ) Because of Hindu religious country, majority of the respondents 79.2 percent are from Hindu religions followed by Muslim 14.8 percent.
- ) Majority of the respondents are involved in services which accounts 29.6 percent followed by business 27.4 percent, agriculture 19.2 percent and daily wage 11.2 percent.
- ) It is found that 90.4 percent of respondents are literate among them 41.8 percent have attained intermediate and above level of education.
- ) Mean number of family size among the respondents is 5.2 percent which is smaller than national average (5.25%). Majority of the respondents (5.11 %) has 5-7 members in their household.

- ) Most of the studies have revealed that vital registration in Nepal is very poor and almost all the registered events are very lately registered. The study area Bahurwa VDC may not be an exceptional case, but the registration of vital events is in an increasing trend.
- ) The obtained data from the VDC office records shows that 925 cases of vital events were registered during one year period. Among them 587 cases of births, 51 cases of death, 185 cases of marriage, 110 cases of migration and only one case of divorce were registered in VDC during the year.
- ) This study shows that the respondents have good knowledge about vital registration. Among the total respondents, 81.4 percent of the respondents have knowledge on vital registration.
- ) About 13 percent of the respondents who have heard about VR had heard about it 12 years before followed by 10 years before which comprises 12 percent respondents.
- ) More respondents (47.2%) have radio for getting information on civil registration. The second major source of information about VR is seen as television.
- ) Above 37 percent of the respondents don't know why the migration is registered and more than 28 percent of the respondents gave the answer that registration of migration is done to get social rights in the place of destination.
- ) More than 64 percent of the respondents use to discuss about vital registration with others in the community and more than 81 percent of the respondents also use to talk about vital registration in the family. The majority of respondents (23.6%) have registered one marriage event followed by 18 percent registering one birth.

- ) More than 53 percent of the respondents who have attained SLC and above level of education have ever registered the events.
- ) More proportion (45.5%) of the non-agricultural respondents than agricultural (30.8%) are found to have ever registered the vital events.
- ) More than 94.6 percent of the respondents responded that the registrar did not hesitate to register an event and didn't called for the next day.
- ) Among those who have ever registered the vital events, more than 23.6 percent of the respondents responded that they registered the event because of to get citizenship and about 18 percent of the respondents said legal compulsion.
- ) Out of 15 households there occurred 144 events all together in the reference period. Out of total events occurred in the respondents household, about 65 percent events are not registered, only about 33 percent events are registered and only about 13 percent of the events are registered timely i.e. within 35 days of occurrence of an event.
- ) It is found that in the study area 36.8 percent of the first births and 26.6 percent of second births are found to be registered.
- ) According to father's education, 37 percent of the fathers who attained SLC and above level have registered the birth where as only slightly more than 33 percent of the lower secondary level attendants have registered.
- ) Only 37 percent of the SLC and above level attendants mother have registered the birth while this figure is slightly greater for those who attended lower secondary which accounts 40 percent.
- ) Slightly greater than 31 percent of the unregistered births are not registered because of no need of birth certificate followed by not knowing about registration, which accounts 28.1 percent.

- ) It is found that major cause of not registering deaths were ‘no need of death certificate’ which accounts 33 percent and ‘not knowing about registration’ this also accounts 33 percent.
- ) Among the not registered migrants, majority of the respondents 42.8 % responded that the cause of not registering migration was ‘not knowing about registration of migration’.
- ) The population of registered marriage events within one year period is in increasing trend with the increase of education level of both bride and bridegroom. No marriage registration observed where the bride’s education is below lower secondary.
- ) The majority of respondents (54.2%) who have not registered marriage events said that they did not need of marriage certificate.
- ) With respect to the suggestions, among those who responded, 30 percent suggested that household visit should be arranged by VDC if possible to register the events by recalibrating a local manpower in each ward. to make it more effective it should be broadcast and publish through electronic and non-electronic media with highlighting it’s importance.

## **6.2 Conclusions**

In Nepal, vital registration programme has crossed 29 years. But the achievement of this programme is inferior in both quality and quantity. It is well known that very little efforts have been made to increase the coverage of the vital events. Penalty of not registering vital events is nominal and the use of registration certificate is also limited. As a consequence, most of the events are not registered or even if they are registered, they are registered very late, that is, years after the events have taken place. On the other hand, very little evaluation studies have been carried out and recently no evaluation studies regarding the effectiveness,

coverage and improvement of this system have been done. As a result, no body knows the parentage of under registration of vital events and whether it is improving or deteriorating. So, for demographic analysis, the data obtained from civil registration is not used.

It is also observed that, an individual registers an event when he needs registration certificate of the event. So, the more births were found to be registered after 6 or 12 or 16 years of occurrence of the event. At that time, there may occurs the probability of memory lapse, the information may not be valid. Similarly, death is registered when the assets of dead person have to be transfer to other's name. Migration is registered if the birth occurred in destination and certificate of birth is needed from that place or enrolling the children in school or in any other institution or if any purpose migration certificate is needed. Marriage is mainly registered by the tear of spouse thinking if deceived by any and if certificate is needed to get citizenship certificate for bride or when both spouses are going abroad or they need certificate for other purposes. However, the quantity of birth registration has been seemed increasing because of many fields of application of birth, certificate.

In Nepal, the weakness of the system may be due to lack of sufficient budget for the administration, supervision, control and monitor of the system because most of the government's effort depends upon donor agencies. These agencies have been giving the priority on the issues of women and children's vulnerability, health, family planning, HIV/AIDS and other profitable fields, which are global and burning issues. But the civil registration cannot have contribution in these global issues because the system is not effective and complete. As well, the weakness of the system start from central level to local level. There is lack of manpower, equipment and separate offices/rooms to perform the registration of vital events and related works. The existing manpower have also no motive to help government and to motivate people rather to save their job. It may due to they are not trained as a consequence they don't know



importance of registration of vital events but they think it is just for a job. Also, it is found that people don't have intention to register the events even if they have knowledge about it. Therefore, no positive relation between educational attainment and vital registration has been observed.

Due to the difficult topographical structure of Nepal, in the remote rural areas, an individual has to walk hours or day to reach the VDC or registrar's office. Also, if s/he goes to register, it is not sure that s/he can register the event because, there may be lack of forms of related events and registrar may not be present. If s/he fails once, s/he may cancel the registration or postpone for many days/months/years later. This condition also observed in sub-urban areas where there is no facility of transportation.

In case of Nepal, if the process is made easy and who ever comes for registration and if the event is registered, it may bring many social problems in the border side because any of the Indian residents can register event for his/her self benefit and can take citizenship of Nepal easily. That's why it is not an easy task as we rise voice for its completeness.

Since, the registered forms and certificates are very valuable evidences of ms, her life or proof of his/her identity and nationality, so these documents should be long lasted. But the paper and printing quality of form and certificate are very low. The loss of any evidence may arise other legal problems.

If the VRS becomes very effective and complete, it provide us populations related data monthly/annually which helps us to analysis the effectiveness of any programmes. It helps National Planning Commission to make social policy and programmes after analyzing the vital statistics. Similarly, from the record of births and deaths registration, an effective and error-less voter list can be made. Also, the registered documents provides the related proofs to judiciary body of government. Information about death registration is also beneficial for Health Ministry to find the causes of death and to solve that problems.

Despite the importance of vital data for the different ministries, planning commissions judiciary body and other governmental, non-governmental and civil society, no efforts of integrating the civil registration have been made by them. The Maoist problem and political crisis rather worsen the system. Local Registrars have no environment to work in the VDC and most of the remote VDCs are destroyed. Therefore, the firm records and regularity of system has been difficult to conduct.

### **6.3 Recommendations**

Based on the findings, conclusions drawn from the obtained data and review of existing literature, the recommendations to strengthen the VRS in the study area specially in Nepal are listed below:

- ) The existence vital registration law should be reformed according to the demand of time and implementation of the law should be effective,
- ) Civil registration should be made compulsory not only a will of the citizen,
- ) The ways and places of necessity of registration certificate should be broaden,
- ) People have knowledge about civil registration but they have no sufficient knowledge and they don't know the importance of civil registration but they only know the civil events should be registered and why it should be registered, they can hardly answer. That's why they should be provided enough information needed to enlighten in this regard,
- ) The emphasis on the sufficient knowledge about vital registration in school curriculum and in population subject of higher level of education should be given,
- ) The manpower of vital registration should be added and they should have appropriate qualification in this matter to collect and manage the records properly,

- ) In the remote areas where a resident has to walk hours to arrive at VDC office for registration, ward level government body should be authorized to distribute forms and s/he should inform about related documents,
- ) In case of urban area, where population density is high, ward level service should be provide by adding manpower of vital registration, if possible household visit should be performed,
- ) The quality of registration forms and certificates should be improved both in paper and printing,
- ) At least one computer for the purpose of keeping record should be equipped with necessary materials in each district and municipality office,
- ) A continuous training programme for manager, supervisors and staffs who are working in registration of vital events should be carried out. The training plan should distinguish between internal training, which is directed towards civil registrars, vital statisticians, and other technical and administrative personnel for emphasize techniques, methods, and skills, and external training, which is directed towards policy makers, local officials, medical and health personnel and others associated with the quality and uses of civil registration and vital statistics, which should be designed to inform groups about the needs and function of civil registration and vital statistic,
- ) Seminars and workshops for personnel from within the system should be scheduled periodically to exchange views on problems encountered in civil registration and vital statistics operations,
- ) The most important thing is that the target groups whose vital events have been or will be recorded, must inform about the compulsory and importance of civil registration. The general public need to know where, when and how to register the events. The best way to reach the general population through media, and other information, education and communication campaign techniques,

- ) In Nepal, radio is still only one and strong media to supply the information about vital registration to remote rural areas, so sufficient information on local language through this media should be supplied. Entertainment programming on television and radio can be a powerful force for the communication of messages, especially among illiterate or semi-literate audiences,
- ) Information through press media should be supplied by using newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, posters, hording boards, booklets, etc.,
- ) In urban area, where access of internet is possible, should be inform though internet broadcasting,
- ) For the implementation of the above mentioned fundamentals, a sufficient budget, assets and aid is necessary.

So, Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Health and Population, National Planning Commission, other donor agencies especially working for the management of population, health, nutrition and human right, INGOs, NGOs,, and community based organizations should integrate civil registration in their programmes and should assist and co-operate with the Vita Registration Management Section of the government.

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## APPENDIX 1

### QUESTIONNAIRE

Code No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 District: Dhanusha Village/Tole: Bhuarwa Ward No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of household head: \_\_\_\_\_ HH members: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of respondent: \_\_\_\_\_ Caste/ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

**Age:**

Sex: Male:..... 1 Female:..... 2

**Religion:**

Hindu .....1 Buddhist .....2 Muslim..... 3

Christian.....4 Others (specify) .....5

Literacy status: Literate .....1 Illiterate .....2

**Educational Attainment:**

Primary..... 1 Lower secondary.....2 Secondary .....3

SLC .....4 Intermediate..... 5 Diploma and above....6

**Occupation:**

Agriculture .....1 Business .....2 Industrialist .....3

Service .....4 Daily wage .....5 Other (specify) ....6

Income (monthly) : Rs.

**Questionnaire on vital registration**

| Questions |  | Response category |           | Skip |
|-----------|--|-------------------|-----------|------|
| 1         | Please mention the number of vital events occurred in this house during one year (from Baiskakh 2064 to Chaitra 2064 B.S.) | <b>Event</b>      | <b>No</b> |      |
|           |  | 1. Birth          | .....     |      |
|           |  | 2. Marriage       | .....     |      |
|           |  | 3. Migration      | .....     |      |
|           |  | 4. Divorce        | .....     |      |



|   |   |   |       |
|---|---|---|-------|
|   |   | 5. Death .....  |       |
| 2 | Have you heard about vital registration?                                      | Yes .....1<br>No .....2→  | Q. 11 |
| 3 | If yes, when did you know   | Before ... year(s) ... month(s)   |       |
| 4 | What was the source of information about vital registration?                  | Radio .....1<br>Television.....2<br>Newspaper.....3<br>Hoarding board.....4<br>Friends .....5<br>Other (specify).....6  |       |
| 5 | Where should we register the vital events?                                    | VDC office with local....1<br>With VDC chief .....2<br>Other (specify).....3<br>Don't know .....9   |       |
| 6 | Within how many days of occurrence of an event, we should register the event? | Within ..... days<br>Don't know .....9  |       |
| 7 | Why should we register the birth  | To enroll in the school....1<br>To get citizenship.....2<br>To help the government<br>providing information .....3<br>All of above.....4<br>Don't know.....9  |       |
| 8 | Why should we register the death?   | To transfer the private assets<br>and pension of dead person..1<br>To solve the insurance<br>problem.....2<br>To provide information for<br>government .....3 |       |

|              |   | Others (specify).....4<br>Don't know .....9   |              |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |  |
|--------------|---|---|--------------|----|----------|---|-------------|---|--------------|---|--|
| 9            | Why you feel it is necessary to register the marriage/divorce?                        | To prove the relationship....1<br>To get the share of property..2<br>To legalize the event.....3<br>Others (specify).....4<br>Don't know .....9   |              |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |  |
| 10           | Why you feel it is necessary to register the migration?                               | To get social rights in the place of destination.....1<br>To provide information for government.....2<br>Others (specify).....3<br>Don't know .....9  |              |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |  |
| 11           | Have you ever visited at municipality office?   | Yes .....1<br>No .....2   |              |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |  |
| 12           | Have you ever met local registrar?  | Yes .....1<br>No .....2   |              |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |  |
| 13           | Have you ever used to discuss with others about vital registration?                   | Yes .....1<br>No .....2   |              |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |  |
| 14           | Do you use to talk about vital registration in your family?                           | Yes .....1<br>No .....2   |              |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |  |
| 15           | Have you ever register the vital events (birth, marriage, divorce, migration, death)? | Yes .....1<br>No .....2→  | Q. 28<br>(a) |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |  |
| 16           | Which of these events have you registered?  | <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Events</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Birth</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Marriage</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Migration</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Events       | No | 1. Birth | 1 | 2. Marriage | 2 | 3. Migration | 3 |  |
| Events       | No  |   |              |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |  |
| 1. Birth     | 1   |   |              |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |  |
| 2. Marriage  | 2   |   |              |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |  |
| 3. Migration | 3   |   |              |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |  |

|    |   |  |       |
|----|---|--|-------|
|    |   | 4. Divorce            4<br>5. Death                5   |       |
| 17 | How much time it takes to arrive at the municipality office?                    | Around ..... minutes<br>Don't know.....9   |       |
| 18 | Did you easily find the registration office?                                    | Yes .....1<br>No .....2  |       |
| 19 | Did you easily find the form there?   | Yes .....1→<br>No .....2   | Q. 21 |
| 20 | If no, what were the causes not found the forms?                                | Lack of forms.....1<br>Due to over crowding in the registration section.....2<br>Others (specify).....3                                  |       |
| 21 | Did you easily visit the registrar?   | Yes .....1<br>No .....2  |       |
| 22 | Did the register hesitate to register and called you next day?                  | Yes .....1<br>No .....2→   | Q. 25 |
| 23 | If yes, what were the causes to called you next day?                            | Lack of forms.....1<br>Late arriving in office.....2<br>Due to over crowding in the registration section.....3<br>Others (specify).....4 |       |
| 24 | How many times you have to go for registration?                                 | ..... times  |       |
| 25 | While going to register the vital events, what was the reason for registration? | Legal compulsion.....1<br>To enroll the children in the school.....2<br>To get citizenship.....3<br>To transfer the pension and          |       |

|              |  | other remuneration.....4  |        |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |            |   |          |   |  |
|--------------|--|---|--------|----|----------|---|-------------|---|--------------|---|------------|---|----------|---|--|
|              |  | Other(s) specify.....5  |        |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |            |   |          |   |  |
| 26           | Did you pay any money for the registration?  | Yes .....1<br>No .....2<br>Don't know.....9   |        |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |            |   |          |   |  |
| 27           | If yes, how much did you pay for what event? | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Events</th> <th>No</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Birth</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Marriage</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Migration</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Divorce</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Death</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Events | No | 1. Birth | 1 | 2. Marriage | 2 | 3. Migration | 3 | 4. Divorce | 4 | 5. Death | 5 |  |
| Events       | No   |   |        |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |            |   |          |   |  |
| 1. Birth     | 1  |   |        |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |            |   |          |   |  |
| 2. Marriage  | 2  |   |        |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |            |   |          |   |  |
| 3. Migration | 3  |   |        |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |            |   |          |   |  |
| 4. Divorce   | 4  |   |        |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |            |   |          |   |  |
| 5. Death     | 5  |   |        |    |          |   |             |   |              |   |            |   |          |   |  |

### Birth related Questionnaire

28.a. If there is any birth occurred in the house during this year (from Baisakh 2064 to Chaitra 2064 B.S.) (If it is registered go to Q. No. 30).

#### Childs:

Birth place: Home .....1 Hospital.....2

Birth order: Sex: Age:

Birth date: Reg. date:

| No.                     | Father | Mother |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| i. Name                 |        |        |
| ii. Age                 |        |        |
| iii. Education          |        |        |
| iv. Occupation          |        |        |
| v. Income (monthly) Rs. |        |        |

28.(b) If the birth is not registered?

Birth place: Home .....1 Hospital.....2

Birth order: Sex: Age:

Birth date:

| No.                     | Father | Mother |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| i. Name                 |        |        |
| ii. Age                 |        |        |
| iii. Education          |        |        |
| iv. Occupation          |        |        |
| v. Income (Monthly) Rs. |        |        |

|                                    |  |   |       |
|------------------------------------|--|---|-------|
| 29                                 | If you have not registered the birth, what are the causes of not registered?                         | Not thinking important.....1<br>Not need of birth certificate..2<br>Couldn't meet the registrar...3<br>Others (specify).....4 |       |
| <b>Death related questionnaire</b> |  |   |       |
| 30                                 | Is there any miserable event like death occurred in this year (from Baisakh 2064 to Chaitra 2064 BS) | Yes .....1<br>No .....2→  | Q. 35 |
| 31                                 | In which place, death is occurred?   | At the house.....1<br>At hospital.....2<br>On the road .....3<br>Others (specify).....4                                       |       |
| 32                                 | What was the reason of death?  | Old age.....1<br>By illness.....2<br>Accidents.....3<br>Other (specify).....4   |       |
| 33                                 | Have you registered the death?   | Yes .....1→<br>No .....2  | Q. 35 |
| 34                                 | If no, what are the reasons of not registering the death?  | Not thinking important .....1<br>Not need of death certifiicate.2<br>Couldn't meet the registrar....3                         |       |

|  |  |   |              |
|--|--|---|--------------|
|  |  | Others (specify).....4  |              |
| <b>Migration related questionnaire</b> |  |   |              |
| 35                                     | Where is your birth place?   | ..... district.....anchal   |              |
| 36                                     | How long have you been living here?  | Since...year (s),..... month(s)<br>Don't know.....09  |              |
| 37                                     | Were you migrated here?  | Yes .....1<br>No .....2   |              |
| 38                                     | If yes, where were you coming from?  | District.....<br>Anchal.....  |              |
| 39                                     | What was the reason for migration?   | .....   |              |
| 40                                     | Did you register your migration?   | Yes .....1→<br>No .....2  | Q. 42        |
| 41                                     | If no, what is the reason for not registering?   | Do not knowledge.....1<br>Nobody asked to register...2<br>Not thinking important.....3<br>Couldn't meet the registrar..4<br>Other (specify).....5 |              |
| 42                                     | When did you register your migration?  | Before.... year(s).... Month(s)   |              |
| <b>Marriage related questionnaire</b>  |  |   |              |
| 43                                     | Is there any marriage occurred in this house during this year (from Baisakh 2064 to Chaitra 2064 BS) | Yes .....1<br>No .....2→  | Q. 45<br>(b) |
| 44                                     | If yes, have you registered the marriage?  | Yes .....1<br>No .....2   |              |

45.(a) If the marriage is registered,

| No.     | Bride-groom | Bride |
|---------|-------------|-------|
| i. Name |             |       |
| ii. Age |             |       |

|                         |  |  |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| iii. Education          |  |  |
| iv. Occupation          |  |  |
| v. Income (monthly) Rs. |  |  |

Marriage date: ..... Marriage type:.....

45.(b) If the marriage occurred and not registered.

| No.                     | Bride-groom | Bride |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------|
| i. Name                 |             |       |
| ii. Age                 |             |       |
| iii. Education          |             |       |
| iv. Occupation          |             |       |
| v. Income (monthly) Rs. |             |       |

Marriage date: ..... Marriage type:.....

|    |   |   |  |
|----|---|---|--|
| 46 | What is the reason why you couldn't register? | Not getting time to register...1<br>Not need of marriage certificate.....2<br>Couldn't meet the registrar ....3<br>Others (specify).....4 |  |
|----|---|---|--|

**Divorce related questionnaire**

|    |   |                          |          |
|----|---|--------------------------|----------|
| 47 | Is there any divorce occurred in this house during this year (from Baisakh 2064 to Chaitra 2064 B.S.) | Yes .....1<br>No .....2→ | Q. 51    |
| 48 | If yes, have you registered the divorce?  | Yes .....1<br>No .....2→ | Q. 49(b) |

49.(a) If the divorce is registered (If it is registered go to Q. 51)

| No.     | Bride-groom | Bride |
|---------|-------------|-------|
| i. Name |             |       |
| ii. Age |             |       |

|                         |  |  |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| iii. Education          |  |  |
| iv. Occupation          |  |  |
| v. Income (monthly) Rs. |  |  |

Divorce date: ..... Divorce type:.....

49.(b) If the divorce is not registered

| No.                     | Bride-groom | Bride |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------|
| i. Name                 |             |       |
| ii. Age                 |             |       |
| iii. Education          |             |       |
| iv. Occupation          |             |       |
| v. Income (monthly) Rs. |             |       |

Divorce date.....

|    |   |   |  |
|----|---|---|--|
| 50 | If the divorce is not registered, what are the causes?          | Not getting time to register...1<br>Not need of divorce certificate.....2<br>Couldn't meet the registrar ..3<br>Other (specify).....4 |  |
| 51 | Your comment about existent vital registration system.          |   |  |
| 52 | Do you have any suggestion about the vital registration system? |   |  |



