Women's Status and Fertility Behaviors

(A Case Study of Methinkot VDC, Kavre, District)

By Puja Kafle

A Dissertation Submitted to the Central Department of Population Studies Faculty of Humanities and Social Science In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement For the Masters Degree of Arts In Population Studies

> Tribhuvan University Katmandu, Nepal

> > December 2009

RECOMMENDATION

The dissertation work entitled **'Women's Status and Fertility**' (A case study of Methinkot VDC, Kavre) by Ms. Puja Kafle is presented under my supervision for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Masters Degree in Arts in Population Studies. I therefore, recommend the dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

Ms. Suma Sedhain Lecturer, CDPS, TU

APPROVAL LETTER

The dissertation work entitled **'Women's Status and Fertility**' (A case study of Methinkot VDC, Kavre) by Ms. Puja Kafle is presented for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Masters Degree in Arts in Population Studies.

Approved

Prof. Dr. Prem Singh Bisth (Head of the Department)

Mr. Shiva Hari Adhikari External Examiner

Ms. Suma Sedhain Supervisor

Central Department of Population Studies

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Tribhuvan University Katmandu, Nepal December, 2009

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Prof. Dr. Prem Singh Bisth, Head of The Central Department of Population Studies, TU for providing me an opportunity to accomplish this study on the subject of my interest.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Ms. Suma Sedhain, Lecturer, CDPS, TU for her valuable suggestions, guidance and supervision during the preparation of this thesis. Also my genuine thanks to all CDPS family for their cooperation and help during the preparation of this thesis.

I am highly indebted to my husband Mr. Sushil Ghimire for his strong encouragement and providing me valuable time in this study. Also sincere thanks to my father Mr. Purna Chandra Kafle, mother Bhubanshowri Kafle, brother Mr. Puskar Kafle, sister Parikcha Kafle for helping me to collect data during the field work.

My special thanks go to my brother Jeewan Kumar Ghimire for computer work and my family members (Ms. Deepa Dahal, Bharosha, Bhumika and Supreet Ghimire) for supporting me in various steps of this study. Finally, I can not forget the co-operation given by one of my friend Uma Gairapipli.

Puja Kafle Kaushaltar, Bhaktapur

December 2009

TABLE OF CONTANT

CHAPTER ONE

	Page Number
Introduction	1-7
1.1 General background of the study:	1
1.2 Statement of problem	3
1.3 Objective of the study:	6
1.4 Significance of the study:	6
1.5 Limitations of the study:	6
1.6 Organization of the study:	7
CHAPTER TWO	
Review of Literature and Conceptual Framework	8-20
2.1 Theoretical Review	8
2.2 Empirical Literature	12
2.3 Conceptual framework:	20
CHAPCTER THREE	E
Methodology of the study	21-23
3.1. Study area	21
3.2 Nature of data	21
3.3 Research design	21
3.4 Sample size	22
3.5 Questionnaire Administration	22

3.6 Data collection method233.7 Data Entry Processing and Analysis23

CHAPTER FOUR

Introduction to the study area	24-27
4.1 Distribution of population by five year age groups	24
4.2 Distribution of Population by Caste/Ethnicity	25
4.3 Distribution of population by Mother Tongue	26

4.4 Education	27
4.5 Distribution of population by Occupation	27

CHAPTER FIVE

Background Characteristics of the study	28-46
5.1 Socio-economic background of the respondents.	28
5.1.1 Sex of the household head.	28
5.1.2 Type of family	29
5.1.3 Place of birth.	29
5.1.4 Literacy status:	30
5.1.5 Current economic work	31
5.1.6 Type of current occupation	31
5.1.7 Position and place of work	32
5.1.8 Husband's economic work	33
5.1.9 Agricultural land	34
5.1.10 Food sufficiency from own land	35
5.1.11 ownership of house	35
5.1.12 Livestock	36
5.1.13 power of using property	36
5.2 Demographic background of the respondents	37
5.2.1 Age composition of the respondents	37
5.2.2 Age at marriage	37
5.2.3 Children Ever Born	38
5.2.4 Age of first child bearing	39
5.3 Knowledge and use of family planning	39
5.3.1 Ever use of contraception by literacy status	40
5.3.2 Current use of contraception	41
5.4 Status of maternal health	43
5.4.1 Place of delivery	43
5.4.2 Taking antenatal care by the respondents	44
5.4.3 Work at Pregnancy	45

CHAPTER SIX

Differential in Fertility by Background characteristic	47-57
6.1 Mean CEB by type of family	47
6.2 Mean CEB by Literacy status of women	48
6.3 Mean CEB by Husband Literacy status:	49
6.4 Mean CEB by occupation of the respondents	49
6.5 Mean CEB by husband's economic work:	50
6.6 Mean CEB by age of Respondents	51
6.7 Mean CEB by age at marriage	52
6.8 Mean CEB by age of first child bearing	52
6.9 Mean CEB by child loss experience	53
6.10 Mean CEB and family planning	54
6.11 Mean CEB by decision making power of women	55
6.12 Mean CEB and status of health services	55
6.13 Mean CEB by work during pregnancy	57

CHAPTER SEVEN

Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations	58-63
7.1 Summary	58
7.1.1 Background characteristics of respondents	58
7.1.2 Mean CEB by background characteristics	60
7.2 Conclusion	61
7.3 Recommendations	62
7.4 Recommendations for future research	63

BIBLI OGRAPHY SAMPLE OF QUESTIONNAIRE

LIST OF TABLES

Page Number

CHAPTER FOUR

Table 4.1 Distribution of population by Age and Sex, Methinkot VDC, 2001	25
Table 4.2 Distribution of population by Caste/Ethnicity, Methinkot VDC, 2001	26
Table 4.3 Distribution of population by Mother Tongue, Methinkot VDC, 2001	27

CHAPTER FIVE

Table 5.1 Distribution of the respondents according to sex of household head	28
Table 5.2 Distribution of respondent by type of families	29
Table 5.3 Distribution of respondents by place of birth	29
Table 5.4 Distribution of the respondents by literacy status	30
Table 5.5 Distribution of respondents by level of education	30
Table 5.6 Distribution of the respondents by current economic work	31
Table 5.7 Distribution of respondents by current occupation	32
Table 5.8 Distribution of the respondents by position of work	32
Table 5.9 distributions of respondents by place of work	33
Table 5.10 Distribution of respondents by husband economic work	33
Table 5.11 Distribution of respondent's husband by type of work	34
Table 5.12 Distribution of respondents by agricultural land	34
Table 5.13 Distribution of respondents by food sufficiency from own land	35
Table 5.14 Distribution of respondents by ownership of house	35
Table 5.15 Distribution of respondents having livestock in the household	36
Table 5.16 Distribution of respondents by power of using property	36
Table 5.17 Age components of the respondents	37
Table 5.18 Distribution of respondents by age at marriage	38
Table 5.19 Distribution of respondents by children ever born	38
Table 5.20 Distribution of respondents by age of first child bearing	39
Table 5.21 Distribution of respondents according to knowledge of FP method	40
Table 5.22 Distribution of respondents by ever use of contraception and	
literacy Status	40

Table 5.23 Distribution of respondents by Ever use of contraception	
and level of education	40
Table 5.24 Distribution of respondents by currently use of contraception	
and literacy status	41
Table 5.25 Distribution of respondents by currently use of contraception and	
level of education	42
Table 5.26 distribution of respondents by place of delivery	43
Table 5.27 Distribution of respondents by ANC treatment	44
Table 5.28 Distribution of respondents taking TT vaccine and iron tablets	
on pregnancy	44
Table 5.29 Distribution of respondents by working hours during pregnancy per day	45
Table 5.30 Distribution of respondents according to currently pregnancy	46
Table 5.31 Distribution of respondents by number of still birth	46

CHAPTER SIX

Table 6.1 Distribution of respondents by mean CEB and type of family	47
Table 6.2 Distribution of respondents by mean CEB and literacy status	48
Table 6.3 Distribution of repentance by mean CEB and husband literacy status	49
Table 6.4 Distribution of respondents by current occupations	50
Table 6.5 Distribution of respondents by mean CEB and husband economic work	50
Table 6.6 Distribution of respondents by mean CEB and age of mother	51
Table 6.7 Distribution of respondents by mean CEB and age at marriage	52
Table 6.8 Distribution of respondents by mean CEB and age of first child bearing	53
Table 6.9 Distribution of respondents by mean CEB and child loss experience	53
Table 6.10 Mean CEB by Ever use of contraception	54
Table 6.11 Distribution of respondents by mean CEB and Decision making power	55
Table 6.12 Distribution of respondents by mean CEB and place of delivery	56
Table 6.13 Distribution of respondents by taking Antenatal care	56
Table 6.14 Distribution of respondents by mean CEB and work at pregnancy	57

ACRONYMS

ANC	Antenatal Care Service
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDPS	Central Department of Population Studies
CEB	Children Ever Born
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
FP	Family Planning
GRR	Gross Reproductive Rate
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IUD	Intra Uterine Device
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOPE	Ministry of Population and Environment
PNC	Postnatal Care
Pvt.	Private
SLC	School Leaving Certificate
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Science
TBAs	Traditional Birth Attendances
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
TT	Tetanus Taxied
TU	Tribuvan University
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VDC	Village Development Committee

ABSTRACT

'Women's Status and Fertility Behaviors' is a study by the information of 120 currently married women of Methinkot VDC, Kavre Planchok District. The study is carried to analyze the relationship between status of women and fertility performance in rural area. The main objectives of the study are:

- > To identify socio-economic and health status of women in Methinkot VDC
- > To study the fertility behavior of women in Methinkot VDC
- To examine the relationship between status of women of reproductive ages (15-49 years) and children ever born.

The socio-economic demographic and health status are included under status of women. The fertility performance of women is measured in mean CEB. The major findings of the study are:

About (66%) of respondents were literate but only (8.3%) respondents have completed higher level of education. Agriculture is the major occupation of the area. (About 73%) respondents are engaged in agriculture.

The highest (44.2%) respondents were married below the age of 15. About (67%) respondents have their first childbearing between the ages (15-19) years .This shows it needs to increase age at marriage. All of the respondents found working during pregnancy period among them (58.7%) work for more than ten hour a day. It shows that there is a poor reproductive health status of women.

The lowest mean CEB (1.53) is to women who married at the age of (20-24) years and the highest mean CEB (3.2) is found to the women who started childbearing between the age (15-19). Women with ever use of contraception have (2.61) CEB and currently using respondents have (2.65) CEB.