

CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

Generally, marriage is the legal union of persons of opposite sex, which admits men and women to family life. It is stable relationship to them, in which a men and a women are socially permuted to have children implying the right to sexual relations. Actually, there is no universal definition of marriage. There is defined the marriage with relating the social and religious value and norms. The pattern of marriage is fundamental institution of all societies. It is expected to vary community-group differentiated religions culture, social customs and traditions. The concept of marriage in Asia, mainly in south Asian countries is quite different than other continental countries. In most of the Asian countries marriage does not depend on the legal status of union. In Carabin and Latin-American countries marriage can be defined to include consensual unions, visiting unions, trail marriage or some variation of these patterns. In our country, marriage can be defined as an union of male and female which is socially primited to share all human right.

We can take some social and demographic point of view a marriage can be defined as "a union between two persons of the opposite sex which involves rights and obligations fixed by law and custom" (UN, 1998).

According to Horton and Hunt, "Marriage is the approval social pattern where by two or more persons established a family" (Hurton and Hunt, 1968). There is defined by Mazumdar (1966), marriage as a socially sanctioned union of male and female are as a secondary

institution devised by society to sanction the union and mating of male and female for purposes of (i) established a household, (ii) entering into sex relations, (iii) procreating and providing care for the offspring.

Lundberg defined marriage as "marriage consists of rules and regulation which define the rights, duties, and privileges of husband and wife with respect to each other" (Lundberg, 1956).

In present context, marriage can be defined as an union of opposite sex is given responsibility to biological and social activities which is fulfilled on the basis of social, cultural, religious and legal premiton. In Hindu religion, marriage is known as permanent union of male and female which unchooping by the death.

There is determined the age at marriage by various socio-economic development and cultural factors in that society. There is governed the concept of age at marriage in the society of those persons by the education, occupation, communication and health facilities. The age at marriage is also determined by the religious customs actually in Hindu religion. We can found the different process of marriage. The process of marriage (arrange marriage, love marriage, and court marriage) also determines the age at marriage. In Hindu religion, there should not be given permission for love marriage in Brahmin and Chhetri. And Nepalese context, there is not used court marriage.

Nepal can be characterized as a "high nupiatility" (low age at marriage and high childbearing years are spent with in marriage), (Thapa, 1989). In rural and traditional societies, religious norms are more effective in determining age at marriage in which women inter into the exposure to the risk of childbearing. There is not equal developmental, occupational, cultural and modernism status to them. So, we can found a

little different in age at marriage in the different community groups. Age at marriage is one of the factors affecting fertility which is inversely proportional to fertility, change in age at marriage can have substantial influences on fertility.

The legal mean age at marriage in Nepal for a boy and girl is 18 and 16 years respectively. The singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) has increased from 19.5 years to 21.9 years for males and from 15.4 years to 19.5 years for females during 1961-2001. During this period, the mean age at marriage increased faster from women compare to men. This is due to the effect of various programs lunched by NGOs and INGOs concentrated mostly on women (CBS, 2001).

Literacy is the major component which has direct relation with the age at marriage. In general, schooling has positive effective on the marriage age and it encourage to delay the marriage specially the female literacy increases the self-confidence and offers them more income generating opportunities outside home which give the greater independent to them. But the legislation in most developing countries including Nepal, seems to be ineffective due to prevailing social customs and tradition and limited educational and employment opportunities for girls. So, proper educational and employment opportunities for women are the precursors of successful delay of marriage.

The type of family also affects the age at marriage. It is fairly safe to say marriage occurs late in those societies where young men and women are free to choose their partners. On the other hand, societies which give few rights to youngsters to choose their life partners are marked by the low age at marriage.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Socio-economic and cultural factors particularly religion and ethnicity are important variables in determining age at marriage in Nepal. Fertility is negative related with age at marriage. Most of the developing countries are suffering from high level of fertility. In the population of Nepal, TFR is around 4. So it shows that there is high fertility level. It is the consequences of low age at marriage. Women who marry early are more likely to have large families because of their exposure to risk of pregnancy and childbearing (UN, 1988).

The majority of the population about 86 percent is residing in rural areas in Nepal. Marriage is universal for Nepalese society. Various social and cultural customs determine age at marriage, specially of females generally early. There is strong cultural faith that a men and women become fulfilled members of the society conducted by Tuladher and others reported that if female age at marriage is increased upto 21 years, the population growth rate of Nepal could be reduced to 1.8 percent per annum (Tuladher, 1985).

A lady in Nepal has been her first child when she is 15 or 16 while the years between 20 and 30 are generally considered being the safest period for childbearing. It is assumed that increase in age at marriage controls fertility level to some extent, but age at marriage itself is influenced by various socio-economic and culture are some of variables affecting age at marriage and socio-economic conditions of the women of particular area to solve to some extent the current problem of high level of fertility in Nepal.

Literacy of female has a strong impact on total fertility rates, as literate women tends to marry later than illiterate women and more likely to use family planning method. Education has positive relation with age at marriage; higher the education delayed the age at marriage, lower the education earlier the age at marriage. So, education is the important variable for determining age at marriage.

Socio-cultural, economic and development processes are also most important variables which closely impact on age at marriage. Urbanization has a role to delay age at marriage. Though out in Asia, age at marriage is higher on average in urban than rural areas. Age at marriage seems different in Nepal too.

It is important to study the relationship between age at marriage and socio-economic change through can help to solve in some current problems of fertility level of various ethnic groups and also in Nepal.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The study is gone to carried out the pattern of age at marriage of Dalit community in rural area specially for remote area. The major objective of this study is to identify the socio-economic factors that affect female age at marriage on Dalit community in Pokhara VDC, Rukum. The specific objectives of this study are as follows:

-) To examine the relationship between socio-economic variables like education, occupation, children ever born, current age with female age at marriage in Dalit community of Pokhra VDC, Rukum.
-) To examine the differentials in socio-economic characteristics such as literary status, occupation status and children ever born to female age at marriage.

-) To evaluate the relative importance of each variable affecting female age at marriage in Dalit community of the study area.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study is based on current primary data of Pokhara VDC, Rukum where people are with poor status. Most of the Dalit women are labouring in agriculture sector. The study is gone to carryout the age at marriage of Dalit community (women) in rural area specially for remote area with different socio-economic characteristics. It presents relative important and strength of each socio-economic variables affecting age at marriage by Dalit community also.

Age at marriage is very near to relate to fertility because of time a women is exposed to the risk of childbearing. Age at marriage is an important variable in any comprehensive study of the demographic characteristics of a population since it is a powerful determinant of fertility level. Socio-economic and cultural factors as education, occupation and religion are some of the important variables that affect age at marriage. In these circumstances, there is a need to find out the level of female age at marriage in different socio-economic setting. It is necessary for policy maker and demographer to study about mechanism which is affected by socio-economic variable and fertility by age at marriage. The study is important to explore on marital practices, age at marriage and other related factors affecting age at marriage in Dalit community.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

This study has some limitation which are given as follows:

-) The respondents of this study are limited to the married Dalit women aged 15 to 49 years who live in Pokhara VDC, Rukum.
-) The study takes only level and pattern of age at marriage with respect to socio-economic factors.
-) The study only discuss with socio-economic factors affecting female age at marriage.

This study tries to establish relationship between socio-economic variables and age at marriage based on research question what are responsible factors to determine age at marriage in Dalit community of Pokhara VDC, Rukum.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The study is delivered into seven chapters. Chapter I is introduction including general background, statement of the problem, objectives, significance and limitations of the study. Chapter II is devoted to the literature review, conceptual framework and formulation of hypothesis. Chapter III is devoted to the study area and discuss on methodology, including nature of data and the tools used for the analysis.

Similarly, chapter IV is devoted to the socio-economic and Demographic background of the study population. Chapter V analyses the age at marriage by socio-economic variables like education, occupation, religion as well as demographic variables. Chapter VI includes statistical analysis to examine the direction and degree of strength of the relationship between dependent and independent population. And final chapter includes summary, conclusion and recommendations for further researcher.

CHAPTER – II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Literature Review

Marriage is a senseful relationship between men and women. It is a legal union of persons of opposite sex, which admits male and female to family life. It stabilises legal and social relation between men and women. The age at marriage of any society is determined by the combined effect of biological, economic, religious, tradition, social custom, psychological and also legal factors. Marriage and age at marriage is hardly depending on socio-cultural and economic condition of the household and society. Marriage is the socio-cultural and biological activities for managing and balancing the society. There could not be regulated status of the society or human being without marriage. The element of the society are interrelated with each other, therefore, society is made more strong, united, managed and durably balanced. There is a close relationship between socio-economic transformation and marriage or age at marriage in any society. Age at marriage is determined by the infrastructure of those societies.

The Hindu religious books have enjoined marriage as duty because an unmarried man can not perform some of the most important religious duties. According to them, marriage in Nepal is a holy performance of religious duties. The union is sacred and indissoluble in life and continues even after death of the husband. The parents are morally obliged to find mates for their children, and the children to accept the parental choice. The marriage is considered a union between two joint families rather than

between two young people. There is no room for courtship, because the young people never see each other before marriage.

Marriage is almost universal in Nepal and most births occur within marriage. The NDHS 2001, result shows that two fifths of women in their late adolescence (15-19 years) were already married. Compared to women, lower percentage of men of the same age group 11 percent was married.

According to many thinkers in the field of sociology and economics, population of a country or area is much dependent on economic and political conditions or political awareness of that country on the one hand and social on the other hand and that both can not separated from each other.

Francesco S. Nitti wrote in his 'Population and social system' there is believed that in the growth of population economics, ethic, politics and social condition and circumstances play their own part, but a very important part is played by economic conditions.

Even society is affected from their historical development which that is suffered from economic system of that society. Social structure is made through the formation of economy. Superstructure is determined by infrastructure of that society. The transformation of the socio-economic development of the society is made with this process (Marx).

Malthus said that prosperity is not to depend on population but population is to depend on prosperity. He also included that assumption on his essay that the psychological thought, passion between sexes is necessary and unavoidable.

Demography is the statistical and mathematical study of the size, composition and special distribution of human populations and of changes over time in these aspects through the operation of the five processes of fertility, mortality, marriage, migration and social mobility. Although it maintains a continuous descriptive and comparative analysis of trends, in each of these processes and in their net-result, its long-run goal is to develop a body of theory to explain the events that it charts and compares (Bogue, 1969; 1-2).

Davis and Blake (1956) have included marriage as one of the intermediate variables, which affected fertility as one of the intermediate variable in the age of entry into sexual unions. This is true in case of Nepal as well. Therefore, the age of entry into sexual union can be approximated by age at marriage. In addition to this social, cultural and religious factors equally contributed in adjoining the effect of age at marriage.

The developing countries as Asia is characterized by an early marriage pattern. It slightly increased from 1950s but little effects on the prevalence level. The traditional African and Asian marriage norms still exist nowadays and strongly favour early marriage for women and universal marriage for both sexes. In developing countries, three specific modernization factors emerge as determinants of delayed age at marriage primarily as concerned to women. They are urbanization, during of schooling and premarital works patterns to modern occupation. However, traditional factors, such as a primary system, ethnic group and religion also affect marriage timing and prevalence. The custom of arrange marriage is an important determinant of early marriage in Asia as it is an Africa. The range of women's age at marriage from about 20/23 and fit the intermediate marriage pattern in Latin America. In Europe, around

1900s, women's marriages were late with SMAM in the range of from 24 to 27 years (UN, 1990).

Limanonda and Pencodilok used multiple classification analysis and analysis of variance to examine the effect of socio-economic factors on age at marriage in Thailand. They concluded that educational attainment strongly influenced the age at marriage (UN, 1983).

Age at marriage has been rising in several countries in Asia in recent decades, although there exist difference in pace of change among the countries (Smith, 1980). In Nepal girls can marry after the age of 16 with consent of her parents or guardians, at 18 years she can marry without their consent. The corresponding ages for men are 18 and 21 years. In practice child marriage is common and it is estimated that about 40 percent of all women get married below 16 years of age. The payment of dowry and bride price is against the law (Social Reformation Act, 2033). It has been little changed nowadays.

In Nepal the information on marital status has been reported since 1961 census for the first time. An application of Hanjal's (1953) technique to estimate mean age at marriage shows that the female age at marriage increase from 15.2 years in 1961 to 16.7 years in 1971, indicating an increase of 1.5 years over the 10 years period (Banister and Thapa, 1981). The census of 1961 shows that the singulate mean age at marriage for male was 19.3 and 15.1 years for female. Similarly, the singulate mean age at marriage for rural male and female were 19.3 and 15.1 years and urban male and female were 22.0 years and 17.2 years respectively. So proportion married for both sexes, which would have been attributed to the level of education and occupation. The age at marriage was found to vary with respect to literacy.

In 1971 census, the mean age at marriage for male and female were 20.8 years and 16.8 years respectively. According to ecological zone, mean age at marriage for female was lowest for Terai i.e. 15.2 years followed by Hill women 17.1 years and higher than Terai and Hill 19.9 years for mountain women (CBS, 1987).

The census in 1981, there was classified the age at marriage by occupational status, level of education and urban rural residence by development and ecological regions. The census estimated that mean age at marriage for males and females were 20.7 and 17.2 years respectively in Nepal. The singulate mean age at marriage for literate and illiterate female were 17.3 and 16.8 years. The illiterate women were married 0.5 year earlier than literate women. According to race, the singulate mean age at marriage was higher for Buddhist and lower for Muslim, where Christians and Hindu were married at intermediate ages (CBS, 1987).

The Nepal fertility survey 1986 reported mean age at marriage for all currently married women who had married before age 25 was 17.0 years in the survey, the mean age at marriage of women of Terai was lowest i.e. 16.6 years and highest 17.4 was in mountain.

According to the New Era, the survey was base on 4979 women from all parts of Nepal. In the study, lowest age at marriage was reported by the central development region women found 13.9 years and the highest were 15.3 years of mid-western development region women. This study found that the literate and illiterate women age at marriage were 15.4 years and 14.3 years respectively. The level of education of husbands had not significant role on the age at marriage of their spouses. The place of residence was another variable to attract the age at

marriage, and which urban and rural women were reported age at marriage 15.6 years and 14.3 years respectively (New Era, 1986).

The 1991 census showed that the age at marriage in Nepal for male was 21.4 years and for female was 18.1 years. The age at marriage of urban lived women was 19.6 years while that of rural lived women was 17.9 years. Similarly, the age at marriage was lowest in Terai due to the effect of social and economic conditions. The highest age at marriage was found in Hilly women. The singulate mean age at marriage was lowest in far western development region's women was 16.9 years and highest in Eastern development region's women was 19.2 years. It shows that the socio-cultural norms determine the age at marriage (CBS, 1995).

From the record of 2001 census, CBS 2002 presented the age at marriage for male and female were 23.6 years and 20.3 years respectively. And other hand, DHS, 2001 presented the age at marriage for male were 19.7 years and for female were 16.6 years. The DHS 2001 report of age at marriage was found very low than the report of CBS 2002.

Nepal Fertility, Family Planning and Health Survey 1991 related that 28 percent of women aged 15 to 49 years were married by the age of 16 years and 68 percentage were married by exact age of 18 years. It suggested that age at marriage was lower among women of rural localities of Terai and those with no education.

CBS 1995 related the age at marriage by urban, rural residence, ecological zones, development regions and district too. The age at marriage of total married women was 18.1 years.

Acharya (1996) found that there was not any significant difference in age at marriage between Hindus and Buddhist women. He also found that literate women tend to marry almost 2 years later than the illiterates. Brahmin and Gurung women had lowest age at marriage and Rai women had highest age at marriage. There was no significant variation in age at marriage among different occupational groups. The study concluded that the education was observed as the strongest variable in explaining increase in age at marriage.

There are striking differences in mean age at marriage by ethnic groups. Mongoloid Tibetan had the highest mean age at marriage i.e. 18.2 years while Brahmans had the lowest 14.2 year and Newar, Terai group, Chhetri and other had 17.3, 16.1, 15.8 and 15.3 years respectively. Other studies have also revealed a higher mean age at marriage for Mongoloid Tibetans as Gurung, Bhote, Sherpa, Tamang and Magar compared to other communities (Macfarlane, 1976; Schuler, 1987). It has been suggested that young Mongoloid Tibetan boys and girls have greater freedom to choose their marriage partners, leading to a higher age at marriage than where marriage is arranged. In Tamang and Rai communities, it is acceptable for unmarried girl to have a child and this does not prejudice her marriage prospect (Majupuria and Majupuria, 1978).

The Chhatris and Brahmans traditionally have played the dominant role in the formation of modern Nepal in all socio-economic, religious and political spheres (Bista, 1972; Berreman, 1972). Among Brahmans who follow the Hindu doctrine, the donation of the virgin daughter before menarche to a suitable groom in an essential religious duty that provides merit which is called punnya (Bista, 1972).

Muslims marriage is distinct from the customs of the other ethnic group or other religion in that Muslims can marry any Muslim except a sibling (specifically one who had suckled the same breasts). Muslim marriage is usually arranged by parents and occurs at an early age. There is no stigma attached to remarriage by a widow, to separation or a 2nd marriage (Bista, 1972).

In Newar communities either Hindu or Buddhist, prepubescent girls have to undergo a ceremony, which involves a symbolic marriage with a bela fruit (a kind of hand covered fruit). There is then no urgency to marry them of at an early age.

Marriage usually occurs later in societies where the nuclear family is the norm (Howthorn, 1970), as among most Bhote, Gurung, Limbu, and Tamang (Monggo-Tibetian groups). According to their customs, married couple must establish their own household before the marriage. This may have led to their higher age at marriage (Furer-Haimendorf, 1964, Macfarlance, 1976, Caplan, 1974). Furthermore, the young male of these groups have traditional joined the army and police force and were encouraged to move urban areas to enlist before marriage in order to earn enough to establish a separate household.

"Tradition maintains that the six year is the most holy age for a Brahmin girls marriage and her parents achieve the greatest amount of punnya (Mirit), if they give her in marriage then punnya is so important that sometimes a rich Chhetri couple will adopt a Brahmin girl up to the age of eight or ten, never older than eleven years, to give her away to a Brahmin boy in marriage simply with the intention of accumulating Punnya. The acquisition of punnya is believed to help the couple have a son, to win prosperity and eventually to reach heaven when they dais"

(Bista, 1972). The Brahmin and Chhetri have a totally different prospective on marriage compared with other some ethnic communities in Nepali.

Age at marriage which is affected by the other factors like education, occupation, religion, and culture differences is a variable or route of the study of fertility (Risal and Shrestha, 1989).

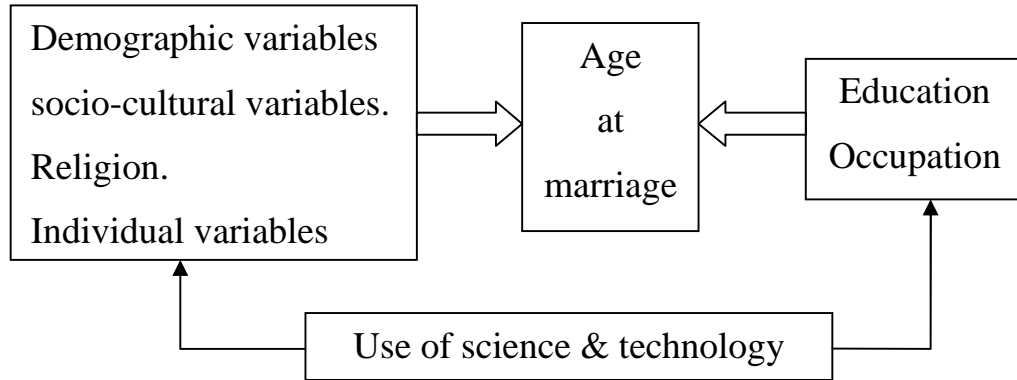
The civil court of Nepal has set the age at marriage for males at 21 and females at 16 years without parental permission and also 18 years for males and 18 years for females with parental permission. Nevertheless, early marriage is very commonly in use. It seems that the Nepalese are not completed to follow the rule.

The people who have socially discrimination is called Dalit which is introduced with untouchable water. According to ministry of local development Dalit were categorized into 23 castes in 1997. National Dalit commission defined 19 types of Dalit caste in 2003. But there can not be sufficient research about Dalit in depth study.

2.2 Conceptual Framework

The road map for the study is known the conceptual framework. Based on above literature review, it is evident that there are a number of factors which impact the female age at marriage. The major variables which affect female age at marriage are education, occupation, religion, caste and ethnicity and culture among the socio-economic variable. On the other hand, development of technology, residence area and cruss-culture also affect female age at marriage.

Figure 1
**Conceptual Framework for the Study of the Socio-Economic Impact
on Female Age at Marriage**



Note : It is based on Freedman's model for the sociological analysis of fertility level.

2.3 Formulation of Hypothesis

On the basis of literature review and the conceived conceptual framework, the relationships of socio-economic variables with age at marriage are translated into the following hypothesis.

- a. Education of women is positively related with age at marriage.
- b. Women who have engaged in non-agricultural sector have higher age at marriage then their counterparts who have engaged in domestic and agriculture sector (occupation).
- c. There is an inverse relationship between age at marriage and the mean number of children ever born.
- d. There is inverse relationship between current age of women and age at marriage on them.

CHAPTER – III

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction of Study Area and Target Population

Rukum is one of the hilly remote district among other five districts in Rapti zone of Mid-Western development region of Nepal. Geographically, it is situated in the 28[27' northern latitude and 82[12' to 83[9' eastern longitude. It's attitude 762 meter from the see level. Politically, it is divided into 43 village development committees (VDC), 11 areas and two constituency area.

The study area lies in one of the VDCs of Rukum district among 43 village development committee. Pokhara VDC is surrounded by five village development committees like Pwang and Kanda in the east, Pipal in the west, Syalapakha and Shova in the south whih is divided by the river, and in the jungle area, Pipal and Pwang lies in the north. It is situated in the middle-east of Rukum district.

Pokhara is introduced by flowing hot water (*Tato Pani*) and white soile (*Kamero*). But the life style of Dalits who live in Pokhara VDC, seem cool and dark. Most of Dalits look like in pityful condition. There was not taken accurate data in 2001 census because of affecting by people's war of Maoist. According to the record of VDC, there are 664 households in Pokhara VDC. There are 92 households of Dalit people among 664 households. Dalit population are about 15 percent in the VDC. They are categorized like Kami, Sunar, Damai, Sarki and Badi in Dalit community.

Kami who is introduced by Bishwakarma are more laborious than other Dalit and non-Dalit. Most of their time, they spent in work to make goods from copper and iron. Sunar are as Bishwakarma but they work for Gold. Damai is called Pariyar, they work on sewing clothes and known as tailor master: Sarki is known as cobbler. They also work to make the cover of domestic weapons using leather. Badi play local musical instrument called Madal. They also make small soil goods which is used to smoke tobacco on the local area. Badi who live in Pokhara VDC, they are different from other Badi communities. They are affected by other community. Although, they have their own occupation but most of them have forgotten their work and engage little in agriculture. The married women aged under 49 years are target population among this caste in this study.

3.2 Questionnaire Design

This study has used three types of questionnaire schedules : (i) household questionnaire, (ii) individual questionnaire and (iii) socio-economic questionnaire. The household questionnaire is used to collect detail information about age, sex, literacy, education, occupation and marital status of every member of the family. Individual questionnaire is quite related to the respondent's life. It is used to collect detail information about family size, type of family, current age, age at marriage, respondent's thought about marriage, and cultural norms on marriage. Socio-economic questionnaire is used to collect detail information related to socio-economic variables as occupation, education, literacy, property, income, about communication and development processes on the society. This questionnaire is also designed to collect information based on educational and occupational status of couple at the time of their marriage.

Around 50 questions are included in the questionnaire including descriptive, educative, reactive and economic related questions to fulfil the purpose of the study, which are included in appendix.

3.3 Method of Data Collection

This study is based on primary data which is collected at the field of the study area Pokhara VDC of Rukum district by author himself in June 2008. Census types survey method is selected that is all of the Dalit households are enumerated but those are left where there are not any married women under aged 49 years.

The information of household are collected by direct interview with respondent and knowledgeable member of family on different socio-economic characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, educational status, occupation etc. and individual information of married women are collected with direct interview. If the eligible women are not present at home at the time of enumeration, they are interviewed at the revisit. If there are more than one married women under aged 49 in a household, the younger one or recently married woman was selected for the information.

3.4 Data Processing

Following the data collection procedures, data were managed in micro-computer using data base software program. The data were carefully edited to ensure the quality. The different tables were generated by using SPSS program.

3.5 Style of Presentation

There are different style of presentation from collected information based on the survey data. There is shown various table as frequency tables and mean tables to examine age at marriage with respect to some selected socio-economic and demographic variables considered as independent variables whereas age at marriage of women is considered as dependent variable.

There is also shown the relationship between dependent and independent variables using the statistical tools as correlation coefficient (r), regression coefficient Beta (β).

3.6 Technique of Data Analysis

The statistical analyses are used to test the hypotheses mentioned above with the help of simple and multiple linear correlation (r^2) coefficients to show the direction and strength of relationship between dependent variables and independent variable. The standardized regression coefficient (β) have been calculated to evaluate the relative importance of each independent variable affecting dependent variable.

3.6.1 Estimation of Correlation Coefficient (r)

Let X_i be independent and Y_i be dependent variables, then the coefficient of correlation is given by,

$$r = \frac{\sum X_i Y_i}{\sqrt{\sum X_i^2 \cdot \sum Y_i^2}}$$

Where,

r = Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation

$i = 1$ to n number of cases used to required coefficients

X_i = deviation of X_i value from mean value of x .

Y_i = deviation of Y_i value from mean value of y

X_i^2 = Sum of square of mean deviation of x series

Y_i^2 = Sum of square of mean deviation of y series.

3.6.2 Procedure to Estimate Standardized Regression Coefficient Beta (S)

Regression Coefficient Beta (β) = $b \cdot \frac{\Sigma_y}{\Sigma_x}$

Where,

b = Unstandardized regression coefficient

Σ_y = Standard deviation of Y (dependent variable)

Σ_x = Standard deviation of X (independent variable)

3.6.3 Procedure to Estimate the Value of Coefficient of Multiple Determination (R^2)

Let Y (age at marriage) be dependent and X_1, X_2, X_3 be independent variables then R equals,

$$r_y (X_1, X_2, X_3) = \sqrt{1 - (1 - r^2_{y.X_1.X_2.X_3}) (1 - r^2_{y.X_2.X_3}) (1 - r^2_{y.X_3})}$$

Where,

r = Squared value of the partial correlation coefficient.

Therefore, $R^2 = (r_y \cdot X_1, X_2, X_3)^2$

3.7 Hypothesis Testing

Step 1: Two types of hypotheses Null hypotheses and Alternative hypotheses are formulated. Null hypotheses (H_0) states that

there is no statistically significant relationship between independent and dependent variables whereas alternative hypothesis (H_1) accepts that there is an impact of independent (socio-economic) variable.

Step 2 : Significance level for testing hypothesis is set for rejecting or accepting the null hypotheses. The hypotheses were tested at 0.01 and 0.001 levels of significance.

Step 3 : Setting a test criteria : It involves selection of an appropriate probability distribution for a particular test. Student's t-distribution is used on the assumption that population-distribution follows a normal distribution. t-statistics for testing correlation coefficient is given as :

$$t = r \sqrt{\frac{n - 2}{1 - r^2}}$$

Where,

t = t-statistics

n = Number of cases

r = Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient

2 = Number of data series used to compute r.

r^2 = Squared value of correlation coefficient.

And, t-statistics for the significance test of standardized regression coefficient (Beta).

$$t = \frac{B_0 - B}{S(B)}$$

Where,

t = Observed value of 't' statistics

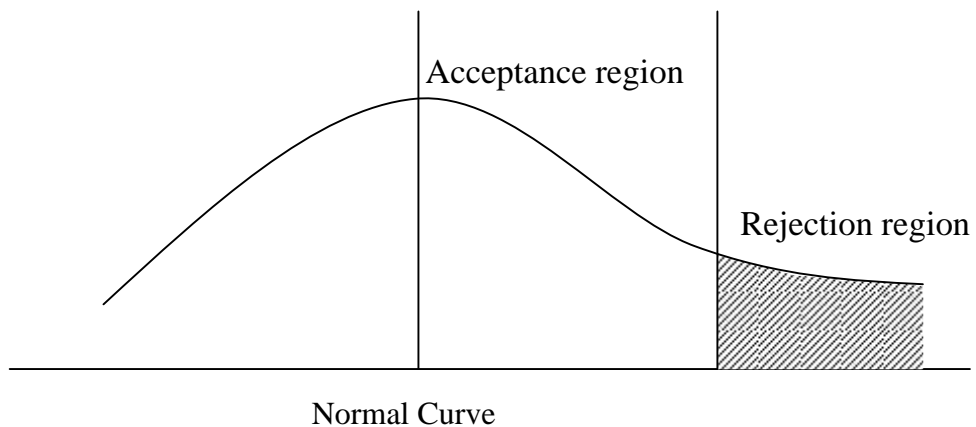
B_0 = Hypothesized value of standardized regression coefficient

B = Tested value of standardized regression coefficient

$S(B)$ = Standard error of estimated B .

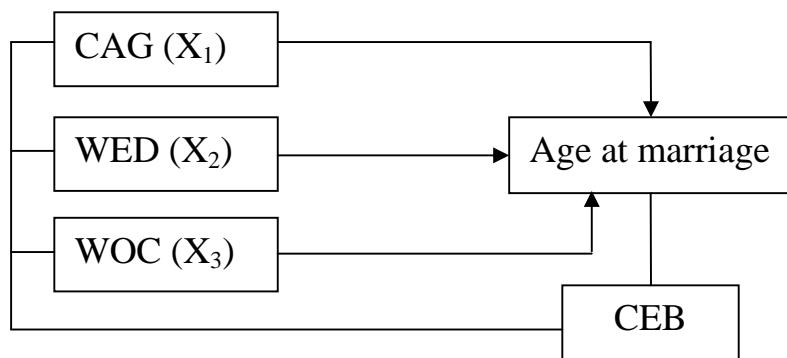
Null hypotheses is rejected at calculated value of t which lies in the region of rejection and accepted if it lies in the region of acceptance. If null is rejected then it is concluded that there is statistically significant correlation between independent and dependent variables.

Figure 2



3.8 Scheme of the Variables

Figure 3



CEB is affected variables from the target variable.

CHAPTER – IV

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY POPULATION

In this chapter social, cultural, economic and demographic characteristics of the households and respondents are discussed. The demographic characteristics are discussed through age-sex structure of household population, and cultural characteristics are represented by religion whereas socio-economic characteristics include household composition, education attainment, employment or occupational status, income status, size of land holding, household amenities, etc.

4.1 Age-Sex Structure

The proportion of people in different age groups by sex is the most basic of the demographic characteristic and plays a vital role in the population analysis. It is affected by the level of fertility, mortality and migration. In the study, the population is native born and non-migrant Dalit population of Pokhara village development committee (VDC). The five year age distribution for both sexes presented separately (Table 1) shows that there are more persons in 10-14 age group. The females of under five years and above 60 year age group are more than males. The total population of Dalit community in Pokhara VDC was counted to be 484, among them 246 were males and 238 females.

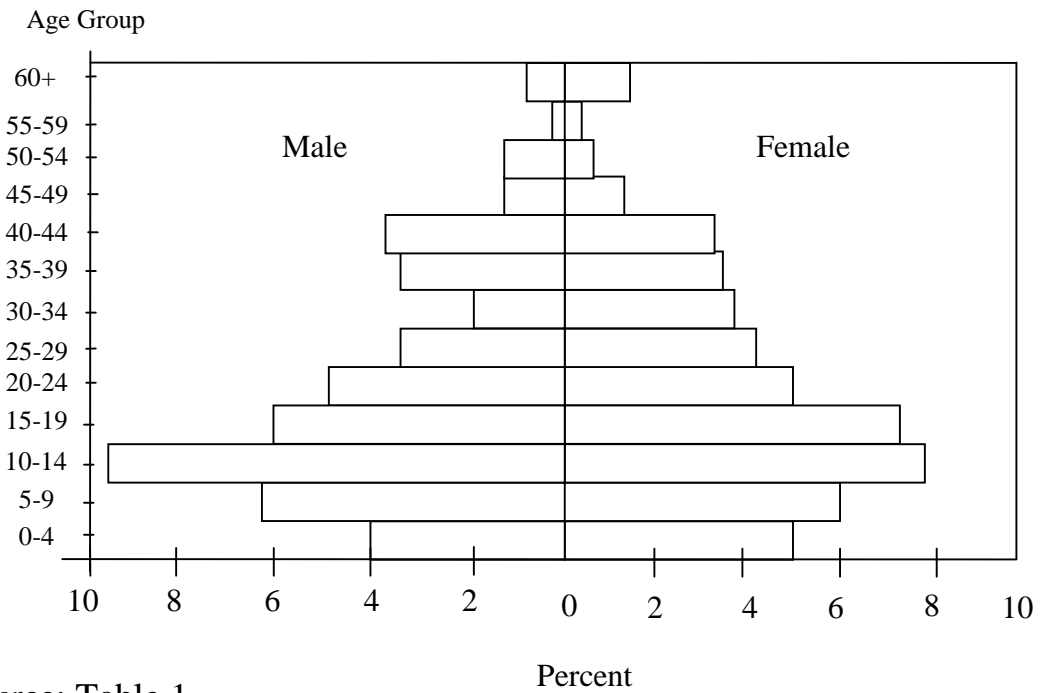
Table 1: Age-Sex Distribution of Dalit Population by Conventional 5 Year Age Group, Pokhara VDC, 2008

Age group	Sex	Male		Female		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-4		21	8.54	24	10.08	45	9.30
5-9		33	13.41	29	12.18	62	12.80
10-14		50	20.32	38	15.97	88	18.18
15-19		32	13.00	35	14.70	67	13.84
20-24		26	10.57	23	9.66	49	10.12
25-29		18	7.32	20	8.40	38	7.85
30-34		10	4.06	18	7.56	28	5.79
35-39		18	7.32	17	7.14	35	7.23
40-44		19	7.72	16	6.72	35	7.23
45-49		7	2.85	6	2.52	13	2.69
50-54		7	2.85	3	1.26	10	2.07
55-59		1	0.41	2	0.84	3	0.62
60+		4	1.62	7	2.94	11	2.27
Total		246	100.00	238	100.00	484	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

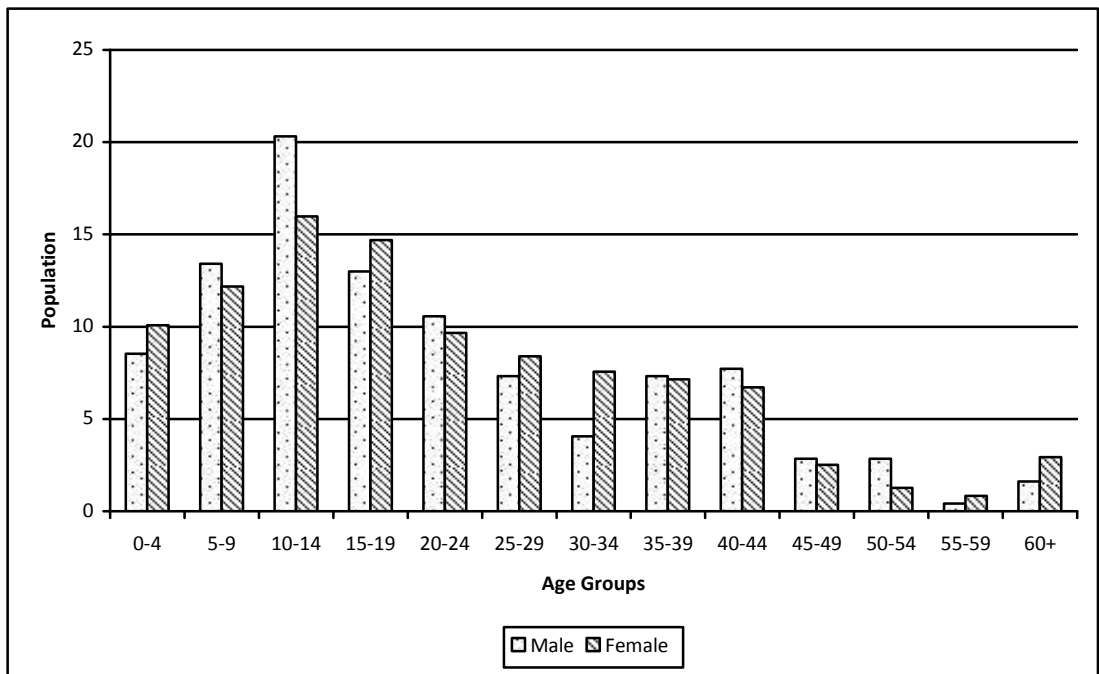
The table 1 shows that the proportion of males is greater by one and half (1.66%) percentage points than females among total population. In the total population, 50.83 percentage were males and 49.17 percentage female. The overall sex-ratio was found to be 103.36 which indicates higher male proportion than female population (103.36 males per 100 females). This is higher than national sex ratio in 2001 census which was 99.8 (CBS, 2002).

Figure 5: Pyramid of the Study Population



Source: Table 1.

Figure 5: Age-Sex Distribution of Dalit Population by Conventional 5 Year Age Group, Pokhara VDC, 2008



Source : Table 1.

The proportion of population in each successive age group is decreasing except at age group 10-14. The proportion of age distribution by sex is found highest in the age group 10-14 with 20.32 percentage and lowest (0.41%) in the age group 55-59 for males. The corresponding figures for females are found at 15.97 and 0.84 percentage respectively. The proportion of male population in age group 0-4 and 5-9 is found to be 8.58 and 13.41 percentage respectively. The corresponding figure for female is found to be 10.08 and 12.18 percentage respectively. The sex ratio of reported population by age group is not found to be as overall sex ratio in the study population. There may be some errors in the reported population for this result.

4.2 Dependency Ratio

The age dependency ratio is a measure of age composition for active and non-active population. It represents the ratio of combined child population and aged population to the population of intermediate age or working age population. Young dependency ratio is the number of population aged 0-14 per 100 population of 15-59 age groups. As well as old dependency ratio is the number of population aged 60 and above per 100 working population of 15-59 age groups.

Table 2 : Distribution of Dalit Population by Broad Age Groups of Pokhara VDC, 2008

Age group	Sex	Male		Female		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
0-14		104	42.27	91	38.28	195	40.29
15-59		138	56.10	140	58.82	278	57.44
60+		4	1.62	7	2.94	11	2.27
Total		246	100.00	238	100.00	484	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

There is found 42.56 percentage dependents with 57.44 percentage independents or 57.44 percentage population preserve to 42.56 percentage in the study population. The dependent population of young is comparatively small among females than males whereas it is opposite in the case of old aged population. Males are in adventurous works in their active age it affects in old age. So, there may be fewer male than female in aged population.

Table 3 : Dependency Ratio of Dalit Population, Pokhara VDC, 2008

Sex	Young age (in %)	Old age (in %)	Total (in %)
Male	75.36	2.90	78.26
Female	65.00	5.00	70.00
Total	70.14	3.96	74.10

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The young and old dependency ratio of Dalit population of Pokhara VDC is 70.14 and 3.96 respectively. The sum of the young and old dependency ratio is the total dependency ratio. Total dependency ratio of study population is 74.10. It presents that burden of young population group is more acute than old age group population. The young

dependency of male is higher than female dependency ratio by 10.36 but old dependency ratio is higher for female than male by 2.10. Total dependency ratio is 78.28 for males and total female dependency ratio is 70.00. The total dependency ratio of male is higher by 8.26 than total female dependency ratio.

4.3 Education Attainment

The educational attainment of the study population is considered as the ability of both reading and writing with little understanding. Data on education level are obtained for all persons aged 5 years and above. The educational status is regarding with literacy status and the knowledge to their health, and future for their children. Psychologist said that many children may become illiterate of literate fathers but any children may not become illiterate of literate mothers.

Table 4 : Percentage Distribution of Male and Female Study Population Aged 5 Years and Above by Educational Attainment, Pokhara VDC, 2008

Education	Male	Female	Total
No education	31.11 (70)	67.76 (145)	48.97 (215)
Non formal	21.33 (48)	17.29 (37)	19.36 (85)
Class 1-5	28.88 (65)	11.68 (25)	20.50 (90)
Class 6-10	15.99 (36)	2.80 (6)	9.57 (42)
SLC & Above	2.66 (6)	0.46 (1)	1.59 (7)
Total	100.00 (225)	100.00 (214)	100.00 (439)

Note : Figures in parantheses (brackets) are number of cases.

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

There are various literacy programs governed by the government and non-government agencies of Nepal. Specially, it support for informal

education. In the study population, the women who have no formal education were more than formally educated women. Among the study population, only one female was found having SLC level of education. No educated women were much higher than that of male. Around fifty percentage of Dalit population were found having no access to education. The males and females who got opportunity to join in school were 48 and 14 percentage respectively. In total, only 30 percentage of population got chance to join for formal education. In the study population, 70 percentage did not enter the school.

In common interpretation, literacy is the knowledge of writing and reading. A literate person is expected to be conversant with reading, writing and arithmetic. According to 2001 census, the total literacy rate was 54.1 percentage and literacy rates for males and females were 65.5 and 42.8 percentage respectively in Nepal.

Table 5 : Percentage Distribution of Study Population According to Literacy Status

Sex	Male	Female	Total
Literate	68.88 (155)	32.24 (69)	51.02 (224)
Illiterate	31.11 (70)	67.76 (145)	48.98 (215)
Total	100.00 (225)	100.00 (214)	100.00 (439)

Note : Figures in brackets are number of cases.

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The literacy rates of male and female in the study population are 68.88 and 32.24 percentage respectively and total literacy rate is 51.02 percentage. Consequently 31.11 percentage males and 67.76 percentage females are illiterate. Overall 48.98 percentage population are illiterate. The male literacy rate is higher by more than twice compared to that of

female. There is found vast gap between male and female literacy. There may be lack of social awareness for the low literacy status of female in the study population.

Table 6 : Percentage Distribution of Literate and Illiterate Dalit Population by Age and Sex, Pokhara VDC, 2008

Age group	Literate			Illiterate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
5-9	18.71 (29)	23.20 (16)	20.09 (45)	5.71 (4)	8.97 (13)	7.91 (17)
10-14	29.03 (45)	33.30 (23)	30.36 (68)	7.14 (5)	10.34 (15)	9.30 (20)
15-19	18.71 (29)	14.50 (10)	17.41 (39)	4.29 (3)	17.24 (25)	13.02 (28)
20-24	12.90 (20)	14.50 (10)	13.39 (30)	8.57 (6)	8.97 (13)	8.84 (19)
25-29	9.68 (15)	5.80 (4)	8.48 (19)	4.29 (3)	11.03 (16)	8.84 (19)
30-34	3.87 (6)	2.90 (2)	3.57 (8)	5.71 (4)	11.03 (16)	9.30 (20)
35-39	5.80 (9)	5.80 (4)	5.80 (13)	12.86 (9)	8.97 (13)	10.23 (22)
40-44	1.29 (2)	-	0.89 (2)	24.29 (17)	11.03 (16)	15.35 (33)
45-49	-	-	-	10.00 (7)	4.14 (6)	6.05 (13)
50-54	-	-	-	10.00 (7)	2.07 (3)	4.65 (10)
55-59	-	-	-	1.43 (1)	1.38 (2)	1.39 (3)
60+	-	-	-	5.71 (4)	4.83 (7)	5.12 (11)
Total	100.00(155)	100.00(69)	100.00(224)	100.00(70)	100.00(145)	100.00(215)

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The literacy status of the study population shows higher literacy rate in age group 10-14 years than in other, age groups, they were literate with either formal or non-formal education in both sexes. In the population of the study area, there were not found any literate population aged 45 and above. In total literate population, 30.36 percentage were in age group 10-14. The percentage of literate male and female were 29.03 and 33.30 respectively in age group 10-14.

4.4 Occupational Status of Household Population

Nepal is particularly predominant agricultural country whereas nearly 90 percentage of population are engaged in agriculture sector. In the remote rural area, around 99 percentage of population are engaged in labour and agriculture sector. There are found little population engaged in other occupation. Occupational structure has special importance in statistical roadmap of manpower planning which is an integral part of socio-economic development. It is concerned as one of the leading economic variables in demographic studies. Occupational status affects the demographic variables as fertility, morality, nuptiality and migration. It is generally found that there exists inverse relationship between types of occupation (farm to non-farm) and fertility and positive relationship between occupational status (farm to non-farm) and age at marriage. Occupational status is not only related to demographic events, it also effects on acceptance of technology and health facilities as communication, vehicles and future plan for their children.

Table 7 : Distribution of Household Population by Occupational Status

Type of occupation	Male	Female	Both sexes
Labour and Agr.	146 (64.89)	170 (79.44)	316 (71.98)
Business	7 (3.11)	1 (0.47)	8 (1.82)
Service	5 (2.22)	1 (0.47)	6 (1.37)
Students	59 (26.22)	25 (11.68)	84 (19.13)
No occupation (Idle)	8 (3.56)	27 (7.94)	25 (5.70)
Total	225 (100.00)	214 (100.00)	439 (100.00)

Note : Figures in brackets are percentages.

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

In the study population, there were found more population engaged in labours as herdsman, and agriculture. The population aged 5 to 25 were engaged more than population of other age group as cowherd and shepherd. So, the population of 5-9 age group is also included in occupation counting. Generally, the students are in age group 5-9 and 10-14 years who have access to go to school. Some population were found under aged 9 and above 5 years of age, the neither go school nor do any work and some population were found who are disabled. There were found few population engaged in other sector than agriculture.

Table 7 shows that the maximum number of study population were engaged in agriculture sector where 71.98 percentage population were occupied in agriculture with 5.70 percentage unemployed. The table shows that among male population agriculture accounts for the highest 64.89 percentage and which is 79.44 percentage for female. In the category of students, there were 26.22 percentage male and 11.68 percentage female. Similarly, the population who were engaged in business and service comprise 3.11 and 2.2 percentage respectively among males whereas females were equal in both sector with 0.47 percentage. Among total population 3.56 percentage male and 7.95 percentage female have no occupation or staying idle.

The occupation of female plays the important role for age at marriage. Specially, occupation impacts on age at marriage for female. The occupation of respondent gives the knowledge to women before marriage about it. Most of people follow the past work in their life. We can take basic knowledge from present work for past and future period. Generally, the respondent are based on past work and next generation will be affected by respondent's work. Table 8 shows the current

occupation of respondents from which it can be evaluated the relationship between occupation and age at marriage.

Table 8 : Distribution of Respondents by their Occupational Status

Type of occupation	Case	Percentage
Labour and Agriculture	76	90.48
House work	3	3.57
Students	2	2.38
Business	1	1.19
Service	1	1.19
Factory labour	1	1.19
Total	84	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The majority of respondents are in agricultural sector (90.48%) and lowest in the business, service and factory labour (1.19%) each. The respondent engaged in study are 2.38 percentage and 3.57 percentage spent the time on housework or do not go for any other work. From this table we can expect that the age at marriage may be low in the study population.

4.5 Income Status of the Study Population

The level of annual income and sources of income play a vital role and also determine level of living standard and other economic activities. The economic activities make positive effect on age at marriage. The person who are active on economic activities, will marriage late thus raising the age at marriage. The activities of person can also be focused by the household activities in economic reformation.

Table 9 : Distribution of Household According to Sources of Income, 2008

Source of income	Number of HH	Percentage
Agriculture	83	98.81
Service	7	8.33
Business	6	7.14
Pension	1	1.19
Manual labour	73	86.91
Others	29	34.52
Total	84	100.00

Note : Total percentage may exceed 100 because of multiple responses.

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The sources of income determine the income of population. The population will have low income status who involve in agriculture as major sources of income. Table 9 shows that the population who have agricultural sources for income are 98.81 percentage. Nearly 99 percentage depend on agriculture for the sources of income including other sources. Out of 84 households 86.91 percentage accept the manual labour as major sources of income, 8.33 percentage reported service, 7.14 percentage said business and 34.52 percentage have others occupation foreign labour, fishing etc. as major sources of income. The data show that there was only one pensioner among the study population.

The sources of income and annual income are positive related with each other. Annual income increases high when sources of income are found good and more than one.

Table 10 : Percentage Distribution of Household According to Annual Income, 2008

Annual income (Rs. in '000)	No. of HH	Percentage
1-10	11	13.09
10-20	19	22.61
20-30	20	23.80
30-40	10	11.90
40-50	7	8.33
50-60	5	5.95
60-70	6	7.14
70-80	2	2.38
80 and above	4	4.76
Total	84	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 10 shows that out of 84 households, only 4.76 percentage households had annual income of more than 80 thousands and 2.38 percentage households with annual income of 70 to 80 thousands, 7.14 percentage households had annual income between 60 to 70 thousands and annual income category of 50 to 60 thousands comprises 5.95 percentage households. Similarly, 8.33 percentage households had 40 to 50 thousands, 11.90 percentage households had 30 to 40 thousands, 23.80 percentage households had 20 to 30 thousands, 22.61 percentage households had 10 to 20 thousands and at last 13.09 percentage households had annual income lower than 10 thousands approximately. The largest proportion of 23.80 percentage of households have annual income of around 20 to 30 thousands.

4.6 Landholding Pattern of the Study Population

Land is one of the important indicators of the economic status of people. Nepal is an agriculture as well as rural country. Most of people depend on agriculture. The main economic source of country is agriculture. So, Nepal is called agriculture based country. This study has also collected information about size of landholding of households.

Table 11 : Distribution Households According to Landholding Size, 2008

Size of land	No. of case	Percentage
1 <i>Ropani</i>	7	8.33
2 <i>Ropani</i>	30	35.71
3 <i>Ropani</i>	35	41.67
4 and more than 4 <i>Ropani</i>	12	14.29
Total	84	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

According to Table 11, land is categorized into four groups in *Ropani*. Among the categories, the highest percentage of household (41.67%) had 3 *Ropani* of land followed by 35.71 percentage households with 2 *Ropani* of land and 4 *Roapani* of land and above category comprises 14.29 percentage of households. About 8 percentage of household had only 1 *Ropani* of land in their possession at the time of survey.

4.7 Household Facilities

Household amenity is related to economic set up. The facilities such as lighting, communication and source of drinking water indicate the

economic condition of family. The economic condition may have impact on female age at marriage. It has been found that the female age at marriage were high among females in the households where there are good facilities of households, on the other hand, female age at marriage were low among females who live in poor condition of households facilities. We can also examine the economic background of the family by the access of amenities.

Table 12 : Distribution of Households by Access of Lighting and Communications Facilities, 2008

Lighting facilities	No. of case (%)	Communication facilities	No. of case (%)
Electricity	12 (14.28)	Radio	62 (73.81)
Solar energy	10 (11.90)	T.V.	2 (2.38)
Oil lamp	15 (17.85)	Telephone	1 (1.19)
None	47 (55.95)	None	22 (26.19)

Note : Figures in brackets are percentage.

Note : The total percentages may exceed 100 because of multiple responses.

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 12 shows the information on the access of household to different amenities. On the basis of lighting facilities, nearly 56 percentage of households had not any lighting facilities, 17.85 percentage households depend on oil lamp, 11 percentage households had solar energy system and 12 households (14.28%) had access to electricity. On the study of communication facilities, one-fourth population (26.19%) are still far from any basic source of communication instrument. There were 73.81 percentage households where its family members can listen to

radio, and only 2 and one household had television and telephone respectively along with radio. Table 12 presents that highest proportion of households (73.8%) have radio as the mass media. These amenities may affect indirectly on the concept of age at marriage.

CHAPTER – V

ANALYSIS OF AGE AT MARRIAGE

This chapter attempts to analyse age at first marriage of the respondents according to current age group, education, occupation and religion. The differential age at marriage will also be corresponded to the number of children ever born (CEB) of same categories of respondents. Since the marriageable age for the women in Nepal is generally starts from 15 to 20 years, the age at marriage is classified as 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22+ in this study. The case of marriage in the age of 20 years and above are relatively lower than other age groups.

5.1 Occupational Status and Age at Marriage

Occupational status of women is one of the most important variables, which can affect age at marriage. Commonly, different occupational have different age at marriage. Analysis of the differentials is useful in understanding the mechanisms that determine age at marriage. The social determinants of age at marriage is very important in Nepal, where the kinship system of family type may exert a strong influence on age at marriage. In a tradition of arrange marriage, girls are encouraged to marry early and the lack of alternative to marriage, such as female employment outside the family, is associated with early marriage. The effect of socio-economic characteristics on age at marriage of Dalit women of Pokhara VDC, Rukum in 2008, is shown in Table 13. The occupation shows direct effect in raising female age at marriage. The study shows that who worked in agricultural sector has relatively low age at marriage than those who were involved in non-agricultural sector.

Table 13 : Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Occupational Status and Age at Marriage, Pokhara VDC, 2008

Occupational Status	No. of Respondent by Age at Marriage								
	™5	16	17	18	19	20	21	22+	Total
Agriculture sector	17.50 (14)	12.50 (10)	15.00 (12)	22.50 (18)	11.25 (9)	10.00 (8)	6.25 (5)	5.00 (4)	100.00 (80)
Non-agriculture sector	–	–	–	25.00 (1)	50.00 (2)	–	25.00 (1)	–	100.00 (4)
Total	16.67 (14)	11.90 (10)	14.29 (12)	22.69 (19)	13.10 (11)	9.52 (8)	7.14 (6)	4.76 (4)	100.00 (84)

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 13 shows that age at marriage varies with occupational status, among them women involved in agriculture were found having lower age at marriage than their counterparts involved in non-agriculture sector. Among women involved in agriculture 17.50 and 12.50 percentage were married in age of ™5 and 16 years respectively but women marrying at age ™5 and 16 years were not found among those who involved in non-agriculture. The highest percentage of women (22.50%) who involved in agricultural occupation have age at marriage of 18 years. The corresponding figure 50.00 percentage for those who were involved in non-agricultural sector. The age at marriage at age 18 is followed by age 15 and below with 17.50 percentage for those who involved in agriculture sector. The age at marriage and number of women are inversely related with each other for women involved in agriculture sector but not found so for women involved in non-agriculture sector in this study. The overall mean age at marriage was found to be 17.77 for the women involved in agricultural sector and 19.25 for the women who

engaged in non-agricultural sector (Table 14). The woman whose occupation was agricultural sector were found marrying one and half year earlier than counterparts involved in non-agriculture sector.

The determinant of awareness for age at marriage may be occupation of the people. People who are in non-agricultural occupation may have more awareness than those who are fully engaged in agriculture. Table 14 shows the mean age at marriage with different occupation of the respondents.

Table 14 : Percentage Distribution and Respondents According to Mean Age at Marriage and Occupation, Pokhara VDC, 2008

Occupation	Respondents	MAM
1. Agriculture Sector	80	17.77
Agriculture	76	17.75
House work	3	18.33
General/Factory labour	1	18.00
2. Non-agriculture sector	4	19.25
Students	2	19.50
Business	1	19.00
Service	1	19.00
Total	84	17.84

Note : MAM = Mean age at marriage.

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 14 shows that age at marriage varies with different occupational status, among them women in agriculture were found with lowest mean age at marriage i.e. 17.75 followed by general/factory labour with 18.00 years and then the women in house work were found to be

18.33 years. It is followed by business and service (19 years each) and highest among students with 19.50 years. The possible factor may be the number of years spent in school that contributes to the postponement of marriage and the awareness of risk of those who marry at an early age.

5.2 Age at Marriage and Education

Education is one of the most important social factor for determining age at marriage. The educational attainment and age at marriage of women has positive association. Education affects the female age at marriage and it is generally assumed that women having higher level of education tend to marry at later ages and women having lower level of education tend to marry at early ages. This study has also observed the similar pattern in the context of Dalit women in Pokhara VDC of Rukum district, a rural area, where age at marriage of illiterate women is lower than age at marriage of literate women.

Table 15 : Distribution of Respondents According to Age at Marriage and Educational Status, Pokhara VDC, 2008

Educational Status	No. of Respondent by Age at Marriage								Total
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22+	
Illiterate	13	9	9	13	7	6	5	3	65
Non-formal	1	1	2	5	4	1	-	1	15
Primary	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2
Secondary	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2
Total	14	10	12	19	11	8	6	4	84

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 15 shows that most of respondent were illiterate and only 4 of them have formal education. Most of the respondents who married at

age 18 years were either illiterate or have non-formal education. So, we can conclude that the common age at marriage is 18 years for female in the study area.

Literacy has positive effect on age of marriage. The people who are literate may have awareness of the social change. Social awareness, literacy and age at marriage are interrelated with each other. This study assumes that literacy increases the social awareness and social awareness can raise the age at marriage in turn. Table 16 shows the literacy status and mean age at marriage of the respondents.

Table 16 : Distribution of Respondents According to Mean Age at Marriage and Literacy Status, Pokhara VDC, 2008

Literacy status	Respondents		MAM
	No.	%	
Illiterate	65	77.38	17.88
Literate	19	22.62	18.37
Total	84	100.00	17.84

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 17 shows that out of 84 married Dalit women, 77.38 percentage are illiterate and were married at 17.88 years. But literate women have higher age at marriage i.e. 18.37 years. According to this table, it is clear that the literate women tend to marry later than illiterate women.

The educational attainment may have impacts on female age at marriage. Higher the educational attainment, higher the age at marriage and lower the level of education, lower the age at marriage were observed

from different studies. Table 17 gives the relationship of educational attainment and men age at marriage of the respondents in the study area.

Table 17 : Distribution of Respondents According to Mean Age at Marriage and Educational Attainment, Pokhara VDC, 2008

Educational level	Respondents	MAM
Non-formal	15	18.20
Primary	2	18.50
Secondary	2	19.50
Total	19	18.37

Note : MAM = Mean age at marriage.

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 17 shows that the women who have formal education have higher mean age at marriage than those who have non-formal education. The women who have non-formal education have mean age at marriage of 18.20 year whereas those who have primary and secondary education have mean age at marriage of 18.50 year and 19.50 years respectively. The difference between age at marriage of women having formal and non-formal education was found to be 0.80 years. However, the number of cases is very small.

5.3 Age at Marriage and Religion

Religion is a strong factor to control the social phenomena. Social custom, norms and attitude are bounded by the religion. Actually, social system is moved by the religious philosophy. Little and little are in materialism who do not accept religious chanting, they want to amend the

continued social and religions system. But nobody can go far from any religion. In this study, religion is also selected as one of the variables to study the age at marriage of Dalit women in Pokhara VDC, Rukum. There were found only two religious groups Hindu and Christian in the study population. Table 18 shows the mean age at marriage by the religion of respondents.

Table 18 : Distribution of Respondents According to Mean Age at Marriage and Religion, Pokhara VDC, 2008

Religion	Respondents	MAM
Hindu	77 (91.67)	17.84
Christian	7 (8.33)	18.14
Total	84 (100.00)	17.84

Note : Figures in brackets are percentage.

MAM = Mean age at marriage

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

From Table 18, it can be observed that out of total married women, 91.67 percentage are Hindu, and 8.33 percentage are non-Hindu who believe in Christianity. Hindu women were married at 17.84 years and the women who follow Christian religion were married at 18.14 years. The difference between age at marriage of Hindu and Christian women was 0.3 year or 4 months. Age at marriage of Hindu women was lower by 0.3 years (4 months) than Christian women. However, Christian women might not following the Christian religion from their childhood with parents.

5.4 Age at Marriage and Children Ever Born

To assess the age at marriage with respect to children ever born (CEB) on the basis of current age group of mother, the respondents were grouped in seven age groups from 15-19 years to 45-49 years. Age at marriage and children ever born (CEB) is interrelated with each other, number of children ever born varies significantly with the age of female. Age at marriage is considered as a prominent factor effecting children ever born. There is assumed that age at marriage and children ever born are inversely related. But literacy, income, occupation, communication, development process and awareness of social changes also affect CEB.

Table 19 : Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Age at Marriage and CEB by Current Age, Pokhara VDC, 2008

Age Group	CEB by the age at marriage of respondents								Total
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22+	
15-19	2.00 (1)	-	-	0.00 (2)	-	-	-	-	0.66 (3)
20-24	3.00 (3)	-	1.00 (2)	2.50 (2)	1.00 (3)	1.33 (3)	-	-	1.77 (13)
25-29	3.20 (5)	2.00 (2)	2.00 (1)	3.00 (8)	2.00 (1)	1.00 (1)	0.00 (1)	-	2.58 (19)
30-34	4.00 (3)	3.00 (3)	3.00 (2)	3.60 (5)	3.00 (1)	3.50 (2)	-	0.00 (1)	3.23 (17)
35-39	-	4.67 (3)	3.00 (2)	3.00 (1)	3.66 (3)	-	2.00 (3)	4.50 (2)	3.50 (14)
40-44	6.00 (1)	3.50 (2)	4.80 (5)	6.00 (1)	2.50 (2)	3.50 (2)	2.50 (2)	2.00 (1)	3.88 (16)
45-49	9.00 (1)	-	-	-	6.00 (1)	-	-	-	7.5 (2)
Total	3.86 (14)	3.40 (10)	3.33 (12)	2.95 (19)	2.72 (11)	2.37 (8)	2.33 (6)	2.75 (4)	3.04 (84)

Note : Figure in parentheses indicates the number of cases.

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 19 shows that the average number of children ever born (CEB) for the total respondents was found to be 3.04 and mean age at marriage of 17.84 years in the study population. Table also shows that the lowest age at marriage (TM15) is related to the highest mean number of children ever born (CEB) i.e. 3.86. In total the increasing age at marriage with decreasing children ever born was observed from age at marriage of TM15 years (3.86) to 21 years (2.33) but, for the age at marriage of 22+ years the CEB is slightly higher i.e. 2.75 that may be the effect of small number of cases. On the basis of age group, when current age of mother increases the children ever born (CBS) also increases in every age group which can be expected. For example, respondents aged 15-19 years had 0.66 CEB and respondents aged 45-49 years had 7.5 number of children ever born. There is highest number of CEB in the category of age at marriage of 15 years and below in age group 45-49 years i.e. 9. In every age group data generally show that increased age at marriage is related to decreased CEB except in some cases. In total the respondents who marry in early ages also have more children ever born (CEB).

Age at marriage is one of the factors that influence the fertility behaviour of women, particularly in a society like Nepal where contraceptive use is very low. Table 20 presents the mean number of children ever born and female age at marriage with their current ages. Mean age at marriage is found increased from 16.66 years in age group 15-19 to 17.84 years in age group 20-24 and slightly decreased to 17.26 years in age group 25-29. Female age at marriage was found 17.53 in age group 30-34, 18.85 years in age group 35-39, 18.25 years in age group 40-44 and it was decreased to 17 years in age group 45-49. The highest mean age at marriage (18.85) was found in age group 35-39.

Table 20 : Distribution of Respondents According to Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Current Age Group

Age Group	MAM	MCEB	Respondents
15-19	16.66	0.66	3
20-24	17.84	1.77	13
25-29	17.26	2.58	19
30-34	17.53	3.23	17
35-39	18.85	3.50	14
40-44	18.25	3.88	16
45-49	17.00	7.50	2
Total	17.84	3.04	84

Note : MAM = Mean age at marriage, MCEB = Mean children ever born
Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 20 presents the pattern of average number of children ever born and mean age at marriage with respect to current age of respondents. The relationship between age at marriage and CEB for different age groups of respondents have shown that the increase in current age leads to an increase in CEB but there is not much fluctuation found in age at marriage for the women aged 20-24 to 30-34 and CEB from 35-39 to 40-44. The respondents in age group 15-19 are themselves in younger ages therefore they might have been reported with lower age at marriage and CEB. Although, the different age at marriage have different number of children ever born but age of respondents and number of children ever born are positively related with each other. For example, the highest age group of women 45-49 have highest number of children ever born (7.5) than women of lower ages. Lastly, the table also shows the overall

average number of children ever born of 3.04 per woman with overall mean age at marriage of 17.84.

The number of children even born and female age at marriage are interrelated with each other. The age at marriage is decreasing with increasing number of children even born. Those women having more children ever born have earlier age at marriage than those having fewer children even born.

Table 21 : Distribution of Respondents According to Age at Marriage and Number of Children Ever Born, Pokhara VDC, 2008

No. of CEB	MAM	Respondents
0	20.20	5
1	18.89	9
2	17.74	19
3	17.65	20
4	17.27	15
5	17.63	11
6 and above	16.40	5
Total	17.84	84

Note : MAM = Mean age at marriage

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 21 shows that the age at marriage is lower for those women who have six and above children even born and those women who have no child their age at marriage is found at 20.20 years. Table shows that the relationship between number of children ever born and age at marriage is inversely related.

5.5 Age at Marriage by Duration of Marriage

Nepal can be characterized as a high nuptiality, low age at marriage and higher proportion of married population where most of the childbearing years are spent within marriage. Thus age at entry into sexual union and duration of marriage are important determinants of fertility, because pregnancy outside wedlock is rare and contraception use is very low in Nepal. Women who marry early are more likely to have large families because of their longer exposure to risk of pregnancy and childbearing.

Table 22 : Distribution of Respondents According to Age at Marriage and Duration of Marriage, Pokhara VDC, 2008

Duration of marriage	Mean age at marriage	Respondents
0-4	19.00	10
5-9	18.16	19
10-14	17.68	22
15-19	17.56	16
20 and above	17.29	17
Total	17.84	84

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 22 shows that the mean age at marriage is highest (19.00 years) for women whose duration of marriage is 0-4 years and lowest (17.29 years) for those whose duration of marriage is 20 years and more. The age at marriage is declining with increasing marriage cohorts, which clearly shows the increasing trend of age at marriage with time. The mean age at marriage is 18.16, 17.68 and 17.56 years for women having 5-9, 10-14 and 15-19 years of duration of marriage respectively.

Difference between highest and lowest mean age at marriage is more than one and half years. The mean age at marriage of women is increasing with their lower duration of marriage. It indicates that age at marriage is changing with time. Although, age at marriage and marriage duration are closely associated with fertility, both marriage duration and age at marriage are components determining fertility.

CHAPTER – VI

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

This part of the study emphasizes on the statistical analysis of established hypothesis. The variable viz. current age of women (CAW), education level of women (EDW), occupational status of women (OCW) and also children ever born (CEB) are tested for their statistical relationship with mean age at marriage (AM). To examine the interrelationships between selected variables the study has used, (i) correlation and (ii) regression analysis. In correlation analysis all the variables have been correlated to age at marriage and Karl Pearson's correlation coefficient (r value) has been calculated to assess the direction and strength of relationship among each socio-economic variable and age at marriage. In regression analysis the independent socio-economic variables (EDW, OCW, CAW) have been regressed (r square of determination) with age at marriage. In this study, children ever born is also used to help further study of Dalit population. There is also shown the relationship of children ever born with age at marriage.

6.1 Correlation Analysis

Hypothesis 1 : Education and Age at Marriage

The education level of respondents are categorized as illiterate, non-formal, primary and secondary. There is found that the level of education and age at marriage are positively correlated to each other, which is shown in Table 23. The correlation coefficient (r) of education and age at marriage is 0.353 and it is statistically significant at level 0.001. It is clear from this statistical finding that age at marriage increases with increase in level of education. This finding is similar to the most of

other findings related to educational level of women and their age at marriage.

Hypothesis 2 : Occupation and Age of Marriage

There is found that non-agriculture occupation status of women is positively correlated with age at marriage. In other word, non-agriculture (students, business and service) occupation status of women have higher age at marriage than that of women in agriculture occupation like agriculture, house work and labour. The correlation coefficient between occupation and age at marriage is 0.403 which is significant at level <0.001 . The positive relationship is shown in Table 23. It indicates that the women who have elegant occupation, they have higher age at marriage than that of women having other occupational status.

Hypothesis 3 : Age at Marriage and Children Ever Born

There is found that age at marriage of women and children ever born are negatively correlated to each other as shown in Table 23. The correlation coefficient between age at marriage of women and children ever born is -0.305 and its significant level is 0.005. The negative correlation between age at marriage and children even born indicates that when age at marriage of women increases number of children ever born decreases.

Hypothesis 4 : Current Age and Age at Marriage

Current age of women has positive relationship with age at marriage. The correlation coefficient between current age and age at marriage of women is 0.191, and significant level is 0.082. It indicates that age at marriage is increasing toward younger age cohort. This findings is contradictory to the hypothesis.

Table 23 : Correlation Matrix

	AM	CAW	DEW	OCW	CEB
AM	1				
CAW	0.191	1			
EDW	0.353**	-0.122	1		
OCW	0.403	0.072	0.701*	1	
CEB	-0.305***	0.558*	-0.125	0.037	1

AM = Age at marriage

CAW = Current age of women

EDW = Education of women

OCW = Occupation of women

CEB = Children ever born

* = Significant level of 0.000

** = Significant level of 0.001

*** = Significant level of 0.005

6.2 Regression Analysis

Hypothesis 1 : Education and Age at Marriage

The education of women is found having positive effect on age at marriage. Statistically significant value of beta at 1.278 with significance level of 0.001 shows that the education status of women has positive relationship with age at marriage. This positive effect is also found in Tables 15 and 16. The coefficient value shows that when educational status of women rise per unit the age at marriage also raises by 1.278. The determination coefficient value of 0.124 explains variation of 12.4 percentage.

Hypothesis 2 : Occupation and Age of Marriage

Occupation of respondents are categorized as agriculture housework and labour in agriculture sector and students, business and service in non-agriculture occupations. Statistically significant value of beta at 1.065 with significance level of <0.001 shows that the occupational status of women is positively associated with age at marriage. The positive relationship is also found in table 14. The coefficient value shows that when the occupational status of women changes from agriculture to non-agriculture the age at marriage increase by 1.065. The regression out put shows that the value of coefficient of determination 0.163 explains the 16.3 percentage variation in age at marriage.

Hypothesis 3 : Age at Marriage and Children Ever Born

Age at marriage of women has a negative relationship with number of children ever born. The coefficient value of beta -0.413 with significance level of 0.005 indicates that the shift from one age cohort to the next age cohort will decrease the number of children ever born by a multiplicative factor of -0.413. The number of children ever born vary by 9.3 percentage.

Hypothesis 4 : Current Age and Age at Marriage

Current age of Dalit women living in Pokhara VDC is found to be positively associated with age at marriage as in Table 20 reflecting the regression coefficient value of beta 0.057 which is significance at level 0.082. This value of beta indicates that when age group of women increases by one unit the age at marriage also increase by multiplicative

factor of 0.057. The value of coefficient of determination 0.036 explains the 3.6 percentage variation in age at marriage.

Table 24 : Regression Out Put

Level	R ²	β	Significance
EDW	0.124	1.278	0.001
OCW	0.163	1.065	0.000
CEB	0.093	-0.413	0.005
CAW	0.036	0.057	0.082

R² = Coefficient of determination

β = Regression coefficient

EDW = Education of women

OCW = Occupation of women

CEB = Children ever born

CAW = Current age of women

CHAPTER – VII

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Summary of Findings

This study has analyzed the different demographic and socio-economic variables in order to determine the variation in age at marriage. This study utilized the field survey data collected in June, 2008. The topic 'socio-economic impacts on age at marriage on Dalit women' clarify itself about the target population. For this study, the data were collected by censusly of Dalit household were found 84 households, with married women aged under 49 years. The dissertation is focused on following objectives.

There were tested following hypothesis for examination of the above objectives:

-) There is positive relationship between educational level of women and age at marriage.
-) There is positive relationship between elegant occupation and age at marriage.
-) there is inverse relationship between children ever born and age at marriage of women.
-) There is inverse relationship between current age of women and age at marriage of them.

Correlation and regression analysis were also carried out to examine the strength of relationship to age at marriage as well as relative importance of selected demographic and socio-economic variables to explain the variation in age at marriage. Current age of women, occupation status of women, children ever born and age at marriage were taken for this study.

Mean age at marriage of Dalit women aged under 49 is about 17.84 years. Most of the ever married women were found to be married between age 15 and 19 years. Some ever married women were found to be married under 15 years. There were also found that child marriage were situated in Dalit community.

Age at marriage is positively related with education. The age at marriage of women is increased when their educational level is increased. Occupational status of respondents is positive relationship with age at marriage. Education and occupation are also positively related with each other. There is found that occupation made elegant by the people who had higher level of education than other people.

There is found positive relationship between current age of women and age at marriage of them. The table shows that age at marriage is slightly decreasing toward younger age cohort. Age at marriage is considered as a prominent factor effecting children ever born. The children ever born increasing while, age at marriage decreasing. In general trend, the lower children ever born has associated with the higher age at marriage of women.

7.2 General Findings

1. In this study, the proportion of males are highest than females by 1.66 percentage in total population.
2. In the study population, sex ratio is to be found 103.36.
3. The male dependency ratio of study population is higher than the female dependency ratio by 8.26. In total dependent population, males are higher than female dependency by 4.86 percentage.
4. In the total Dalit population, females are deficit by 1.66 percentage than males.
5. The proportion of population, engaged in agriculture occupation were 64.89 percentage. In this study 26.22 percentage were students and 3.56 percentage were had not occupation.
6. The literate population were 51.02 percentage either they were literate by formal or non formal education.

Form analysis of age at marriage :

7. Higher number of women is married below the age 19 years.
8. Significant proportion of Dalit women are married below the legal age at marriage.
9. The women are engaged in non-agriculture only 4.76 percentage.
10. Age at marriage is at 17.77 years that those women who have agriculture occupation.
11. Age at marriage of women who are engaged in study is the highest 19.50 years which is followed by business and service by at age 19 years.

12. The women in Dalit community can not read and write by 77.38 percentage; their mean age at marriage is 17.88 years.
13. Generally, children ever born is decreasing with increasing age at marriage. The difference between womens who have one and those who have six children ever born were found 2.49 years on age at marriage.
14. The mean children ever born was found 3.04 with mean age at marriage at 17.84 years.

7.3 Conclusion

The basic as primary education is important factor for raising of women age at marriage to some extend. From the age at marriage point of view, farming is the worst occupation among the occupations. Age at marriage of women determines the value of children to a few extend. Age at marriage is determined by different variable but not included all variables in this study. The age at marriage is strongly attached by the socio-economic variables. The age at marriage could not be changed without improving socio-cultural and economic condition of the society. The study population is found to be moved by convention and tradition.

7.4 Recommendations

7.4.1 Policy Implications

Nepal is categorized as early married country. The age at marriage for the female even legally is very low age. Therefore, the legal age at marriage should be raised. There must be enforcement of law regarding age at marriage, and registration of marriage should be made compulsory. Legalization of age at marriage is not sufficient for higher age at marriage

because there is still prevalence of cultural norms and tradition value favouring the age at marriage. Hence, to background such prevailing in Nepalese society, there should be such programmed to be lunched such a society should also allow for higher age at marriage for women. There should be several governmental and non-governmental activities to make female aware of advantages of delaying age at marriage. The education also plays a very important role to rise the age at marriage of women. The educational status of Dalit women is very low compared to others. Education of women would not result only in delayed marriage but it could also make women aware of the small family size and good health to them. There must be spread some formal and not-formal education for the adolescent about marital health. Government should taken account strictly emphasis on female education.

Occupational transformation of the women is recommended from conventional and agriculture related agriculture, housefery and labour areas to elegant and non-agricultural (business, service and study) areas; that would be more effective to increase age at marriage. The government should lunch some programs to create employment opportunity specially for the women in conventional areas. The study of children ever born is also most important for balancing population. There should be wide-spread the health facilities to go in remote areas. After the knowledge of health, education and wel-bing, population will be in balancing and good position.

7.4.2 Recommendation for Further Research

There is examined the differential age at marriage by different socio-economic and demographic variables. Demographic and socio-economic variables have both direct and indirect effect on age at

marriage. These variables interact directly and indirectly to each other. Therefore, there is a need of an in-depth study considering the economic status of household; and cultural and religious background of population to explain further findings.

There is found that the age at marriage lowest for engaged in agriculture occupation and it may have higher fertility. So realizing this fact, further researchers could be expected to focusing on the population with large majority was engaged in agriculture on other remote areas. Now, non-formal and primary level of education of female is increasing, one should examine the effect of non-formal and primary education on female age at marriage and different socio-economic and socio-culture setting to ascertain where the effects are actually of education.

Other similar types of studies can be carried out in other areas of Nepal with large data set. Some sophisticated statistical tools as path analysis, analysis of variation and multiple classification analysis could also be used which may produce different results and probably that they can explain the population phenomena of Nepal in extensive way.

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