

# CHAPTER- I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General Background of the study

Nepal is a landlocked country with multi-linguistic, multi-religion and multi-ethnic. Population of Nepal is 23,151,423. Among them 11,563,921 are males and 11,587,502 are females. Like many developing countries, Nepal has also been experiencing the problem of high population growth rate. The population growth rate of Nepal is 2.25 percent per annum. The sex ratio is 99.8 and population density is 157.3 people per square kilometer. The total household number is 4,253,220. If the population increases in the same ratio it will be doubled within 31 years. The main cause to increase the population growth is continuous decline in death rate, early age at marriage and fertility, low level of contraceptive use. The high population is a serious problem in Nepal. Obviously, the undesired population increase has a tremendous effect on overall development efforts of the country (CBS, 2003).

There are two issues concerning the trend of age at marriage in Asia that have implications for the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents. The trend of a fall in age at menarche, which implies an earlier onset of adolescences, sexual maturity and ability to produce which is commonly attributed to a variety of environmental, genetic and socio-economic factors, including improved nutrition and exposure to modern social life. The second issue related to the high incidence of marriage during adolescence in some countries in the regions, resulting into high rates of child bearing (Gubhaju, 2002).

Marriage is nearly universal in SAARC countries and age at marriage among females is still low and centers around 18-19 years. It is 17.9 years in Maldives, 18.7 years in Bangladesh, 18.7 years in India, 18.9 years in Pakistan and 24.4 years in Sri-Lanka. At least one third of the female of age group (15-19) are married in all countries and this is high as percent in Maldives and Nepal (UNFPA, 1994).

In Nepal, marriage is almost universal. That means, almost 99.2 percent women

were married in rural areas at the age of 45-49 years age group and 98.6 percent women were married at the same age group in 2001 (Chaudhary and Niraula 2002).

Nepal is facing low age at marriage and fertility high itself. Dolakha District is near by Katmandu but selected area is remote area of Dolakha. There aren't facilities of transportation, electricity, available hospital, and educational institution. The study area's children are compelled to leave home in childhood for getting higher education. There isn't good agricultural land. So, they can't survive their production. They are affected by traditional matter. Most of the people have been following low age at marriage, high fertility, unsafe delivery, not using contraceptive etc. As the result, population is being increased day by day. Not only this, lack of facilities of transportation, hospital, education, they are experiencing low life expectancy.

Normally, age 50 is considered as the cut off line for the marriage studies. The marital status of persons, especially of woman, after 50 years of age has less significance in shaping marriage structure and childbearing. In Nepal, marriage is almost universal. That means, almost all persons marry before they reach at the age at 50 (Chaudhary and Niraula 2003).

Marriage is almost universal in Nepalese society. The life time fertility span of a woman is directly affected by age at marriage beside other factors. Fertility and marital age of woman has close relationship to each other due to biological, socio-economic and cultural factors (Risal and Shrestha, 1989:23).

Nepalese culture and prevailing religious domes permit couples to live together only after the marriage. Hence, the reproductive performance is possible after legal marital union in Nepal. There is strong culture faith that only after marriage man or woman becomes a full fledged member of society (Dahal, 1992:2).

Marriage and fertility in a society have been differentiated by their social, culture, economic, demographic and educational factors. Fertility is related to psychological

capacity to reproduce, individual performance, marriage law and customs, the loss of fertility regulation and social control (UN, 1990:6). Early marriage especially of the females with high marriage prevalence pattern has been sustained by agrarian economy and low educational attainment (UN 1990:30).

Education is one of the important factors which can influence the age at marriage and fertility. Women's education is positively related to the age at marriage and negatively to fertility (Shakya, 1993:1).

The literacy rate of Nepal for both sexes was much lower (male 54.5% and female 25%) even in 1991 (NPC, 1993:2).

Mean age at marriage for males and females were calculated from successive censuses was found to be 19.4 years in 1961, 20.87 years in 1971, 20.7 years in 1981, 21.4 years in 1991 and 22.9 years in 2001 for males respectively in Nepal. It was 15.4 years in 1961, 16.8 years in 1971, 17.2 years in 1981, 18.1 years in 1991 and 19.5 years in 2001 for female respectively in Nepal (CBS, 2003:287)

Age at marriage is an indicator of status of women in a society. Higher the status of women in society, higher will be her age at marriage (Pradhan 1981:64).

Age at marriage has great importance on fertility and fertility is influenced by different factors like social, economic and biological factors. Total fertility rates of Nepal is estimated to different successive census 6.3 in 1971, 6.3 in 1981, 5.6 in 1991, and 4.1 in 2001 (MOPE, 2004).

Data shows that the total fertility rate from 1972 to 2001 as 6.3 in 1971, 5.6 in 1991 and 4.1 in 2001. It means total fertility rate of Nepal declining in successive censuses but it is too high when compared to developed countries like Japan 1.5, Australia 1.9, Sweden 2, United State 1.5 (WB,1991) and neighboring countries in Asia like Sri Lanka 2.6, China 2.4, Korea 1.6 and India 4.29. (USCAPE: 1990)

This decrease in fertility in terms of the TFR is unprecedented in Nepal. As mentioned earlier, the TFR has decreased from 4.1 births per woman in 2001 to 3.1 births per women in 2006 (NDHS, 2009:67)

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Age at marriage is the dependent variable of different socio-economic and religious factors. Most of the marriage decisions in Nepal depend on the parents or guardians especially for the cases of girls. Therefore, the age at marriage and marriage related decisions do reflect the perception of guardians or an elder generation, which results in the unpredictability of marriage timing and prevalence for even educated and younger generations. Age at marriage is one of the proximate determinants affecting women's reproductive behaviors (Bongauarts, 1978).

Women married at young ages start early childbearing and have longer period exposed to the risk of conception (UN 1994:113)

Developing countries are still facing the problem of high fertility rate. In spite of the significant investments in the population field during the successive development plans the reduction in the level of fertility is not achieved. Contraceptive use is still limited (3.9%) in Nepal. Therefore, the entry into sexual union of a woman is the important factor affecting fertility in Nepal. It is also hard to reduce the prevailing fertility level unless the socio-economic and demographic factors responsible for demand for children are affected. In the context of Nepal, the percentage of married female is increasing, polygamy is practiced for sex preference and child marriage is common. Except these there are so many cultural religious and social norms and values affecting the marriage trend in Nepal.

Like other places of Nepal, Most of people of the selected study area have many problematic situations. Limited numbers of people have acquired good education.

Different matters such as education, cultural custom and tradition belief, facility of school, religion, ethnicity, occupation, etc influence the age at marriage. Marriage can play vital role to affect fertility rate. None the less, some of the populations have been using modern useful contraception, modern delivery, and child bearing. Some of them don't have any idea about them. Selected study area is remote area itself. It has complex situation to face modern time because of different problems. So, reason of all these matters, I have selected this particular study area to address all these above problems. So, it is called limited study.

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

The general objective of the study is to identify the pattern of age at marriage and fertility of Marbu VDC., Dolakha district.

The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

- 1 To assess the differentials in age at marriage and child ever born (CEB) with respect to socio-economic and demographic variables.
- 2 To examine the relationship between age at marriage and CEB.

### **1.4 Significance of the study**

The main purpose of the study was to find out the various economic and demographic aspect of age at marriage and fertility of selected area of Marbu VDC. This study is great as significance in the society as follows:

- 1 This study is very important to find out the age at marriage and its relation to fertility(CEB)
- 2 The findings of this study can be very useful for planners, policy makers, government as well as various NGO's and INGO' to implement the programs.
- 3 It may be useful for social activities and related organizations who are engaged into improve the life status of backward communities and can be helpful as a guideline for further research.

### **1.5 Limitation of the Study**

The level of age at marriage of any society is determined by the various socio-economic and demographic factors. The important of each of these factors in the study can't be denied. This study is limited as follows:

- 1 This study is based only on selected ward no. 7, 8, and 9 of Marbu VDC of Dolakha district. So, the findings may not be applicable as an indicator of the other community as well as for the nation as a whole.
- 2 Selection of certain socio-economic and demographic variables such as age at marriage, education, occupation, religion, ethnicity, social custom and tradition are considered to explain CEB as a measure of fertility which are calculated based on information with ever married women aged 15-49 years in the study area.
- 3 This study excludes psychology, biological and political factors, which affect fertility directly or indirectly.

## **CHAPTER- II LITERATURE REVIEW**

## 2.1 Theoretical Literature Review

Marriage is an arrangement. It establishes legal and social relation between men and women. It provides on “unequivocal, legal, economic and social section for fruitful social relations” (Trusell et. al; 1982).

Marriage is universal and child bearing is confined to marital union. Marriage is one of the four proximate determinants of fertility the other three being contraception abortion and breast feeding (Bongaarts and Pettor, 1983).

Fertility refers to actual birth performance of the group of women or the relative frequency with which the birth occurs in the total population or int the population exposed it, which is basically in result of serious of three biological phenomenons like sexual intercourse, conception and gestation (Sinha, 1986, P-103).

According to Libentein (1957) the number of children desired by each couple and there fertility decision depends upon the utility and disutility of children. Fertility is influenced by occupation status of production system.

The lower age at marriage of women is based on the concept that her husband should be senior in age than wife. However the low on marriage also attempt to prevent another practice which although less common was equally detrimental to women that is the marriage of a young girl to a man may years senior to her, which practice frequently led to early widowhood for women in a social context where widow remarriage was forbidden (Lynn Bennett, 1979).

Age at marriage is one of the factors affecting fertility which is inversely proportional to fertility. If marriage occurs within the child bearing period. Generally age at marriage refer to the age at first marriage in which women enters into the exposure to the risk of child bearing. Historically, the inverse relationship has existed between women’s age at marriage and for fertility. Malthus first recognized age at marriage as an important factor in population growth. He checked the growth of population mainly two elements first

was "positive checks". Which affect mortality such as poverty, war, sickness and famine another was "preventive checks". Which affect fertility such as delayed marriage and permanent celibacy (Population Information Program, 1979: 12).

Child marriage is prohibited by law and normally, it is assumed that there is presence of child marriage in educated, modern and urban communities. Acharya Meena in 1979 found that the incidence of child marriage is reported higher in Katmandu than in hills and Mountains (Acharya, 1979).

Age at marriage is an indicator of status of women in a society. Higher the status of women in society higher will be her age at marriage (Pradhan, 1981:64).

Premarital pregnancy may be most common when marriage is either very early late related to the social norms. Though, most investigators suggested that the dominant association with early marriage may reduce intercourse frequencies and thus claim especially, weak, besides the psychological factors like rate of sexual intercourse, conception, fetal wastage, etc. There are several non-physiological factors affecting the relationship between marriage and fertility (Smith, 1983).

Traditionally, marriage norms in Asia strongly favor early marriage for girls and customs remained common in several countries. The traditional norms affect both proportion married and age at marriage in Asia countries: South Asia is exceptional among world for early and higher proportion of marriage (UN, 1990).

Davis and Blake (1956) have included marriage as one of the Intermediate variables" which affect fertility. One of the intermediate reliable in the age of entry into sexual union can be approximated by age at marriage. The addition to these social, cultural and religious factors equally contribute in adjoining the effect of age at marriage on fertility (Bhende and Kanitkar, 1992:211-219).

There are several mechanisms through which education may positively effect the age at marriage: (i) longer schooling may involuntarily delay the age at marriage; (ii) work



opportunity increase with the level of education; (iii) educated boys and girls may also consider early age at marriage as an obstacle to achieving social and economic mobility and therefore may postpone their marriages until they have a stable career path and permanent source of income (CBS, 2003: 301).

There is a strong association between fertility and education with the TFR declining as the level of education increase. The TFR of women with no education (4.8) is more than double that of women with at least S.L.C. level of education (2.1) (NDHS, 2006) .

The aim of family planning program must be enable an individual to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information and means to do so and to ensure informed choice and make available to full range of safe and effective method. The success of population education and family planning programmed in a variety of setting demonstrates that informed individuals every where can and will act responsibility in the light of their own needs and those families and communities. The principle of uniformed free choice is essential to the long-term success of family planning program (UN, 1994).

Fertility is one of the major determining factors of population change and it varies with changes of socio-economic, demographic and culture conditions. In many industrialized countries and some developing countries, average fertility is now well below the two-child average. Because these low fertility levels lead to population decline sooner or later. Demographers and social scientists from less developed countries have recently shown interest in studying age at of fertility in countries where contraception is not widely practiced. Fertility refers to the physiological capability of women have. It differs from fecundity, which refers to the physiological capability of women to reproduce. Fertility is directly determined by a number of factors which in turn, are affected by a great many social, cultural, economic, health and other environmental factors. Fertility is affected by cultural, social, economic and health factors (PRB, 2005).

## **2.2 Empirical Literature Review**

The world's total fertility rate in 2005 is 2.7. The differences between developed and developing countries have been found 1.6 and 3.2 respectively. In south Asian countries the F.F.R. is 3.7. (PRB, 2005) Nepal's population in 2005 is estimated to reach to 27.1 million with growing at 2.0 percent per annum & 3.5 total fertility rates. This size is projected to reach to 51.2 million by 2050 (UNFPA, 2005).

The trends of mean age at marriage have been found different between developed and developing countries with their socio-economic status. In some Asian countries, there is a high proportion of marriage during adolescence. In Bangladesh, for instance, 47 percent of women aged 20-24 were married by age 18 & 20, respectively. A similar high rate of adolescent married is observed in Nepal 76 percent were married by ages 20. (Gubhaju, 2002)

First census of Nepal reported that Singulate mean age at marriage in 1961 census, resulted that illiterate women tends to marry earlier than literate women tends to marry earlier than literate women ( Banister and Thapa, 1981 )

In the history of Nepal, the data on marital status was provided by 1952/54 first scientific census. Information was collected for person of person of five years and above in the 1952/54. Six years and above in the censuses of 1961 and ten years and above in the censuses of 1981 and 1991 (CEB, 1987).

In Nepal, the Singulate Mean Age at Marriage is the highest in Eastern Development Region with 23.7 years for male and 20.3 years for female. The lowest in Mid- Western and Far-Western Region with 21.8 years for male and only 18.5 for female in Far-Western region (CBS, 2003: 288).

The age at marriage was also varied by ecological zones. In Nepal, Singulate mean age at marriage was reported to be 22.1, 23.4, 22.5 for males and 19.6, 20.2, 18.9 for females in mountain, Hill and Terai respectively (CBS, 2003: 288).

The SMAM was also found by the district in the 2001. The highest and lowest SMAM for females were found in Manang (25.36 years) and lowest in Rautahat (17.22 years) (Chaudhary and Niraula, 2003).

In Nepal, Singulate Mean Age at Marriage was reported to be 19.3 and 20.7 for females and 22.5, 24.5 for males in rural and urban area respectively in 2001 (CBS, 2003:2008).

Age at Marriage for women with some education was 15.6 years compared to 15.0 years for those with no education (MOH, 1976).

A study conducted by Acharya (1996) of reported age at marriage and Children Ever Born (CEB) differ according to education level of women. Women having illiterate, primary education, secondary education, S.L.C. education level have age at marriage was estimated at 17.83 years, 17.27 years, 19.35 years, 19.80 years and Children Ever Born was 3.98, 2.98, 2.4 and 1.30 in 254, 48 and 10 cases respectively.

Education is one of the factors which affects on age at marriage. Therefore, the literate men and have a higher Singulate mean age at marriage than their counterparts. This relationship is more propounded among female than male. For men the singulate mean age at marriage is 21.2 for illiterate and 23.6 for literate. The corresponding for women are 17.6 and 20.8 respectively (CBS, 2003).

Data from three DHS Surveys conducted in Nepal over the last decade show an impressive increase in the use of modern contraceptives, comparison of the data from the DHS survey in Nepal over the last ten years shows that the current use of contraception has increased from 26 percent in 1996 to 44 percent in 2006, a 70 percent increase over the decade (NDHS, 2006:81).

The fertility is the higher in rural (3.3) than urban (2.1). By ecological zone, the highest TFR in Mountain (4.1). Mid and Far Western Development Region have the highest

TFR (3.5) and lowest in Central Development Region in 2006 (NDHS, 2006).

The knowledge at least one modern method of family planning in Nepal is universal among both women and men. The most widely known modern contraceptive methods among all women and men, currently married women are: injectable (97-99 percent), female sterilization (97-99 percent), condom (95-97 percent); male sterilization (91-96 percent), and contraceptive pill (91-95 percent). Seventy three to eighty four percent of women know of implants, about two in three women have heard of the IUD; while between 7-11 percent of women have heard of emergency contraception. About 44 percent of currently married women are using modern contraceptive method. This shows interesting result the proportion of women who are using a modern method has increased by 25 percent over the past five years from the 35 percent reported in the 2001 NDHS to the current level of 44 percent (NDHS, 2006).

The same pattern is replicated for currently married women; expect that the mean number of children ever born is higher for currently married women (3.0 children) than for all women (2.4 children). The difference between all women and currently married women in the mean number of children ever born is due to a substantial proportion of young and unmarried women in the former category who exhibit lower fertility (NDHS, 2006).

Thus, age at marriage has been proved as one of the important factors responsible to determine the level of fertility. The knowledge and use of FP also determine the level of fertility. Therefore, the examination of fertility by age at marriage provides much clear way to assets the problem of high fertility in Nepal. The level of education and awareness of FP of the people also help to examine the fertility.

### **2.3 Policy to influence age at marriage and fertility**

The millennium Summit in 2000, which brought world leaders together to produce a common framework for international development priorities and set the agenda for the United Nations in the twenty first century. The Summit focuses on reduction of poverty

and produced series of eight Millennium Development Goals, notably omitting the ICPDs goal of universal access to reproductive health information and care. Yet family planning and reproductive health contribute directly or indirectly to achieving each of the MDGs, Which are: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, Achieve universal primary education, promote gender equity and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other illness, Ensure environmental sustainability, Develop a global partnership for development.

The initiation of population policies in Nepal goes back to late fifties since Nepal launched its first five year plan. The first plan (1956-61) to the Tenth plan (2002-2007) had own objectives, target and strategies. Among them, Tenth plan had objective to associate the people into development activities through the development of small and quality family. It had strategy was easy access to reproductive health services, delayed marriage and breast feeding will be encouraged. The program special emphasized to increase the accessibility of girl in educational opportunity (CEB, 2003).

In Nepal, FP need was initiated in 1965 in government sector in its regular address to the parliament( then Ratriya Panchayat) by His Majesty the King of Nepal saying “ in order to bring equilibrium between the population growth and economic output of the country, my government has adopted a policy of family planning) . In the same year, Maternal and Child Health section was established under MOH and incorporated family planning in this section. After 3 years, in 1968 family planning services were started with establishment of Family Planning and Maternal and Child Health (FP/MCH) Project under the Ministry of Health, in non-government sector, Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN) was established in 1959 with the support of pathfinder conducting different activities inside the Kathmandu valley to increase awareness of FP. (Shrestha, Dirgha Raj, 2008: Reproductive Health)

## **2.4 Conceptual Framework**

Age at marriage is considered as intermediate variable that affects fertility directly and

the variation in age at marriage is determined by women's education, occupation, religion, ethnicity, social custom and tradition. Such aspects are depicted in the following framework.

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## **CHAPTER- III METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Study Area**

Dolakha district lies in Janakpur zone of central development region of Nepal. It is

situated between 27 ° 28" south to 28 ° 00" south longitude and 85 ° 50" east to 86 ° 32" east longitudes (District profile, 2058). The area of Dolakha is 2,191 sq. kilometer; Gaurisankar Himal (7,134 meter) and Tamakoshi River are situated in Dolakha district. There is depth land which called 'Sital' is 172 meter. From Gaurisanker Himal to determine the Nepalese time. Average annual growth rate is 1.65 percent (CEB, 2003). The political boundary of Dolakha district is Solukhumbu and Ramechhap in east, Sindhupalchowk and Kavrepalanchowk in west. Tibet of China in South and Ramechhap district in north. There are fifty-one VDCs and one municipality in Dholakha. Charikot is the hadquarter of this district. Population density of this distrcit is 93 in 2001.

The chosen study area is Marbu VDC. It is surrounded by different VDCs like Khare, Chanku and the border of China. It has two primary schools and one secondary school. It contains one health post. It is far from district headquarters and modern facilities such as road, electricity, telephone and so on. The major occupation of this area is agriculture but most of the people of Marbu can't live from their own production. Besides, they are involving army, police, teacher, business, going other countries. The study area strictly is concerned age at marriage and fertility of selected ward of Marbu VDC.

### **3.2 Sampling design**

This study is based on primary data collection from selected VDC of Dolakha district. Marbu VDC was selected because trend of age at marriage and fertility in this VDC has never been studied before. Study wards of Marbu VDC were selected one third samples from lottery method such as 7, 8, 9 wards. Total households in three wards were 120. All these were included in the sample. Where the prevalence of ever-married women aged 15-49 years were studied but eligible women who got married but they hadn't given birth any children weren't studied.

### **3.3 Sources of Data**

This study is based on primary data from field survey by using quantities technique. As complementary data the secondary data is used from journal, educational statistics, previous studies, census data, survey report, NDHS, 2006, etc.

### **3.4 Method of data collection**

Data is collected from the field survey by interview method. For the high relevance of the information, this is done through direct interview method with the household head and Ever-married women aged 15-49 years using a structured questionnaire. In case of absence and ignorance of household head, other literate or knowledgeable members of family were interviewed. In absence of head and eligible women at that time of survey, they were interviewed in repeated visit.

Information is collected on household characteristics such as number of family member age, marital status, education and occupational status. All the married women of reproductive age 15-49 years present in the household is interviewed to know about the current educational status and economic status, age at marriage and fertility, occupational status.

### **3.5 Questionnaire Design**

The main questionnaire was the main tool to collect the information from the field. Two types of questionnaires were designed based on the objectives of this study.

- I. Household questionnaire
- II. Individual questionnaire

The H.H. questionnaire was asked to head of H.H. to collect the information on age, sex, marital status, education, occupation, ethnicity, religion etc. This information was used to identify eligible women for individual interview and also was obtained information on some basis socio-economic indicators such as source of drinking water,



the types of toilet facilities and livestock/poultry.

The individual questionnaire was designed to the eligible women aged 15-49 years of ever married women to collect the information on current age at marriage, number of CEB, number of children dead, education, husband's education, occupation, knowledge and use of family planning methods from the selected H Hs under the study area.

### **3.6 Data processing and Analysis**

The completed questionnaire for all selected HHs and eligible respondents had been received from the failed and prepared different master data sheets to make the analysis more reliable and easier for different things. Data processing activities were initiated soon reliable after the beginning of fieldwork and were completed by 2 months. Data analyzed on the basis of percentage, proportion, differences through frequency table, and economic characteristics of the studied population is carried out and main emphasis is given to assess the impact of these factors on age at marriage and number of children. Cross table and main tables were included in the analysis.

### **3.7 Selection of the variables**

The proposed framework is limited on female age at marriage, number of children ever born and socio-economic and culture variables are as follows:

1. Education of women
2. Education of husband
3. Occupation of women
4. Occupation of husband
5. Ethnicity
6. Religion
7. Social custom and tradition

The socio-economic and cultural variables may directly affect the age at marriage and

fertility. With the help of different established theoretical and empirical studies. The present framework considers number of children ever born and age at marriage as dependent variables of the above six socio- economic variables age at marriage which is considered as independent variables

## **CHAPTER- IV**

### **DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY AREA**

A total number of 120 households with 613 populations were enumerated at Marbu VDC of Dolakha district. Out of Sample population 110 were found to be ever married women of reproductive age. People are being diversified from agriculture to various

other sectors. The socio-economic characteristic of the area is heterogeneous.

#### 4.1 Age Sex distribution of the Study Area

Whether a population is young or old, or getting older or younger depends on the proportion of people at different age group.

**Table 4.1 Percentage Distribution of household Population by Age and Sex**

Age Group	Male	Female	Total	Sex Ratio	National Level (Census*2001)
0-4	12.2	6.9	9.5	163.6	102.7
5-9	18.3	7.3	6.7	78.3	103.5
10-14	8.8	8.5	8.7	96.3	105.9
15-19	6.01	11.7	9.0	48.7	19.6
20-24	11.8	18.6	15.3	59.3	88.5
25-29	11.5	13.3	12.4	81.0	90.8
30-34	9.1	5.4	14.9	158.8	95.1
35-39	5.1	3.8	4.4	125	98.8
40-44	6.1	6.0	6.0	94.7	98.5
45-49	6.4	5.7	6.0	105.6	103.5
50-54	5.4	4.4	4.9	114.3	105.2
55-59	3.0	2.2	2.6	128.6	112.4
60-64	2.0	2.2	2.1	85.7	101.4
65-69	2.4	2.2	2.3	100.0	102.6
70-74	1.7	1.6	1.6	100.0	107.2
75+	2.4	0.3	1.3	700.0	96.2
	<b>%</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>93.4</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>613</b>	

Source: Field Survey 2009, CBS \*2003

In general, a population with about 25 percent under aged 15 is considered young and population with more than 5 percent aged 65 and above is considered old. Proportion of population at each age group is mainly affected by fertility.

Table 4.1 shows age and sex distribution of total sample population with 5 years age interval. The highest population about 15 percent was found in age group 20-24 and lowest population in age group above 75 years group.

## 4.2 Age Sex Ratio

There is fluctuation in age sex ratios. The sex ratio is the principal measure of sex composition of population. The age ratio of the studied population is calculated, the over all sex ratio 93.4 indicates there are less males than females in the studied population as shown in table 4.1. The sex ratio of sample population seems to be fluctuated which might have the reason of small sample size of population. In the study area there is more male than females in age group 75+ years and followed by 30-34 years age group.

In 2001, sex ratio becomes low from age group 15-19 and remains so until 40-44. It may be that males out migration started earlier than usual in recent years and their return home takes longer time than in the past. The higher sex ratios after ages 45 reflect males migrant generally returning home to join their families during retired life. This also indicates lower mortality in male and higher mortality in female population in the age group.

## 4.3 Marital Status

Where child bearing takes place mostly within marriage, timing of marriage marks the beginning of women's exposure to child bearing in societies. In other words, age at marriage in most of the societies begins women's exposure to the risk of child bearing. Age at marriage is a major determinant of the duration and tempo of fertility in a population.

**Table 4.2 Percentage Distribution of the Population Aged 10 years and above by Marital Status**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Married	68.6	64.0	66.2
Unmarried	31.0	31.1	32.6
Widowed	-	0.8	0.4

Divorced		0.4	1.2	0.8
	<b>%</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>500</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Table 4.2 presents the data on marital status distribution of the population aged 10 years and above included in the study. An examination shows that males are a little bit more married than female. Over all, there was more married with approximately 66 percent population than unmarried population with 32.6 percent. The table also shows that proportion of widowhood and divorced are very low comparing in married population.

#### 4.4 Occupational Status

The economically active populations are those who worked for any tenth of time during the 12 months preceding the census data. All economically active populations were further asked about the nature of their work (occupation) and place of work.

**Table 4.3 Percentage Distribution of the Population Aged 10 years and above by Occupational Groups**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Agriculture	48.12	46.0	47.0
Service	20.08	3.1	11.2
Business	13.0	11.9	12.4
Housewife	-	16.1	8.4
Student	18.4	22.2	20.4
Teacher	0.4	0.8	0.6
	<b>%</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

	<b>N</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>500</b>
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Source: Field Survey 2009

The household questionnaire includes question as to whether each person aged 10 years and above was involved in any types of occupation or not. The resulting information is shown in table 4.3 for males and females.

Majorities of both male and female are about 48 percent and 46 percent engaged in agriculture. It shows that studied community is based on agriculture activities. In the occupational categories in the service 20.1 percent of males and 3.1 percent of females followed by student, business. Only few populations are engaged in teaching profession.

#### 4.5 Educational Status

Education is one of the prominent social factors which present the reproductive behavior of women. To know about the educational characteristics of the respondents, it is most necessary to collect information about the educational attainment of sample population. For this purpose questionnaire were administered to the respondent to know about educational attainment, literate or illiterate and level completed. Those people were regarded as literate who can read and write simple sentence and can solve simple arithmetic calculation which is used in their daily life.

**Table 4.4 Percentage Distribution of the Population Aged 6 Years and above by Literacy and Educational attainment**

<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Illiterate		29.3	35.7	32.7
Literate		70.7	64.3	67.3
	<b>%</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>559</b>
<b>Educational attainment</b>				
Primary		60.7	62.2	61.4
L. Secondary		18.0	13.5	15.7
Secondary		3.3	3.1	3.9

S. L. C.		12.0	14.0	13.0
Intermediate		4.9	3.6	4.3
Bachelor		1.1	2.6	1.9
Other ( nurse)		-	1.0	0.5
	%	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	<b>N</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>376</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Most of the population had got primary educations. There may be primary education facilities available. For getting further education is far from the village. At least people of this community are interested to get primary education or to be literate for the use of their knowledge in their daily life.

Table 4.4 represents about 61 percent of the population for both sexes had completed primary level. The percentages of study population were gradually decreased case of level of education for both sexes.

#### **4.6 Household Characteristics**

House is one of the basic needs of human life. The term housing means the household or family accommodation in dwelling units, its structure type and facilities such as electricity, drinking water, fuel and toilet etc.

##### **4.6.1 Toilet Facilities**

If household possess their own toilet that could be within the house or boundary of the house then such HHs are considered as HHs having toilet facilities.

**Table 4.5 Percentage Distribution of Households by access to Toilet facilities**

<b>Description</b>	<b>No. of household</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Field	59	49.2
Pit toilet	11	9.2

Ordinary	35	29.2
Modern	15	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Table 4.5 presents data on access to toilet facilities on different households. On the basis of the study, the researcher comes to know that most of the populations about 49 percent have been using field for toilet because of many reasons. One of them is to feel comfortable on using field toilet since they have plenty of land and jungle also.

#### 4.6.2 Livestock and Poultry

Livestock and poultry are also main sources of livelihood in the societies. Table 4.6 presents that among 120 households, 115 households have livestock and 117 Households have poultry for another source of subsistence in this community.

**Table 4.6 Percentage Distribution of Households having Livestock**

Number of livestock	No. of household	Percent
1-4	24	20.9
5-9	19	16.5
10-14	17	14.8
15-19	28	24.4
20+	27	23.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

In this study area has a lot of livestock which is main occupation of them. Mostly households have more than 15 numbers livestock with about 50 percent.

**Table 4.7 Percentage Distribution of Household having Poultry**

Number of poultry	No of household	Percent
1-5	18	15.4
6-10	27	23.1
11-15	39	33.3



15+	33	28.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Most of the households have more than 11 numbers poultry. Few households have 1-5 poultry. It means poultry also help to conduct domestic transaction.

#### 4.6.3 Source of Drinking Water

It refers to the place from where households draw water for drinking and cooking foods for households' members. Water source may differ from place to place and by various reasons. However, information was collected. The various sources of drinking water as reported in population census 2001 are piped, well, tube well, spout, stream etc.

**Table 4.8 Percentage Distribution of Households having Sources of Drinking Water**

Source of Drinking Water	No. of household	Percent
Piped water	101	84.2
Spout	19	15.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

On the basis of the study of the researcher generalize that almost all the people (84.2 %) have been using piped water as well as safe drinking water for their household of work. Only few populations (15.8%) are using general spout as the source of drinking water in the study area. No more other sources have been used there.

**CHAPTER – V**  
**DETERMINANTS OF AGE AT MARRIAGE AND**  
**CHILDREN EVER BORN**

This chapter has purpose to provide a descriptive summary of the determinants of age at marriage and CEB of the individual respondents in the study population. Information on basic characteristics of women provides valuable input for socio-economic development and planning. The distribution of respondents by selected background

characteristics include age at marriage, education, occupation, religion, ethnicity, knowledge and use of contraception etc. Respondents are ever married women aged 15-49 years in selected HHs

### 5.1 Mean Age at Marriage by Age Group

Distribution of respondents under study is shown in table 5.1 classified by five years age group. Total numbers of 110 ever married women of reproductive age 15-49 were successfully interviewed. The highest proportion of respondents about 26 percent were in age group 20-24 and lowest in age groups in 15-19.

**Table 5.1 Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Mean Age at Marriage by Age Group**

Age group	Percent of respondent	Mean Age at Marriage (year)
15-19	0.9	17.0
20-24	25.5	17.0
25-29	21.8	19.5
30-34	11.8	17.8
35-39	8.2	17.6
40-44	19.1	18.3
45-49	12.7	18.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Female age at marriage with their current age ranged from 17 years to 19.5 years. The highest age at marriage was reported to those women who were in 20-24 years of age group. This trend shows that there is no remarkable change in age at marriage over time. The over all means age at marriage of ever married women of sample population is 18.3 years which is lower than the national average. This shows that early marriage is prevailing in such study area. Law is not affecting their marriage trend and they are highly influenced by social norms and values which are causing early marriage among them. In Age group 25-29 has highest Mean Age at Marriage (19.4) and lowest Mean

Age at Marriage is in age group 15-19.

## 5.2 Mean Age at Marriage by Education

Education is important for personality development as well as development of the nation. Generally, people who are educated they choose such type of profession in which they can enjoy their life happily.

**Table 5.2 Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Mean Age at Marriage by Educational Status**

<b>Literacy</b>	<b>Percent of Respondents</b>	<b>Mean Age at Marriage (year)</b>
Illiterate	38.2	17.9
Literate	61.8	18.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Primary	61.7	18.4
L. Secondary	8.8	18.5
Secondary	4.4	17.3
S.L.C.	14.7	18.3
Intermediate	1.5	20.0
Bachelor's Degree	4.4	22.3
Other ( nurse )	1.5	23.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18.5</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Educated people have tendency of getting marriage at higher age and want to get marriage often complication of education. So, generally education is important to increase age at marriage. Although, it may differ if sample size is small and in such community where getting education is appreciated.

Table 5.2 shows the distribution of mean age at marriage of respondents by their educational attainments. The mean age at marriage for total literate was found to be higher by 18.6 year than that total illiterate 17.9 year. The mean age at marriage for those with secondary education 17.3 years was lower than those with illiterate 17.9 years. Who had Intermediate; Bachelor and Health education (nurse) education were

highest mean age at marriage.

### 5.3 Mean Age at Marriage by Occupation

Occupation decides the living standard of the people. It depends on the qualification of the people. Productivity and child production depends on the occupation of the people involved. Person who has such type of occupation in which needs higher qualification and gets mature marriage at age. Who has such type of occupation in which they don't need higher qualification or involved in domestic work and gets marriage at early age. So, Occupational status implies higher age at marriage.

**Table 5.3 Percentage distribution of Respondents' Mean Age at Marriage by Occupational Status**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Percent of Respondent</b>	<b>Mean Age at Marriage (year)</b>
Housewife	30.0	18.6
Agriculture	50.0	17.9
Business	16.4	18.8
Service	3.6	20.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

According to the occupational status, age at marriage is the highest 20 year for women who were in service followed by business 18.8 years and agriculture 17.9 years. Among all the occupations mentioned above women who are involved in agriculture has lower age at marriage than service and others. From table 5.3 it is clear that selected area is backward in every aspect. So, they are not involved in other occupations which need more education.

### 5.4 Husband's Mean Age at Marriage by Education

Table 5.4 represent the distribution of mean age at marriage of respondents' by their educational attainment. The literate was found to be higher by 64 percent and Illiterate was found to be little bit lower 46 percent

**Table 5.4 Percentage Distribution of Husbands' Mean Age at Marriage by Educational Status**

<b>Literacy</b>	<b>Percent of Husband</b>	<b>Mean Age at Marriage (year)</b>
Illiterate	41.8	22.5
Literate	58.2	23.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>

**Educational Attainment**

Primary	73.4	23.8
L. Secondary	15.6	20.0
Secondary	1.6	17.0
S.L.C.	4.7	26.3
Intermediate	1.6	25
Bachelor's Degree	3.1	21.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23.2</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Above Table 5.4 shows that more than 50 percent husbands got primary education because of only facility of primary education. Age at marriage is lower for those women who have illiterate (22.5 years) than literate (23.2 years).

**5.5 Husbands' Mean Age at Marriage by Occupation**

Occupation is the affected factor to age at marriage also. Table 5.4 depicts that the mean age at marriage of ever-married women by different occupation of their husband.

**Table 5.5 Percentage distribution of Husbands' Mean Age at Marriage by Occupational Status**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Percent of husband</b>	<b>Mean Age at Marriage (year)</b>
Agriculture	59.1	22.6
Service	23.6	23.9
Business	17.3	22.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>22.9</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Above Table 5.5 shows that most of the respondents' husband had agricultural

occupation. The highest mean age at marriage was about 23.9 years who involved in service followed by business and agriculture.

### 5.6 Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Education

Education is generally considered as a major factor affecting the level of age at marriage and fertility. The age at marriage and CEB by the educational attainment of respondent's is analyzed in this study.

**Table 5.6 Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Educational Status**

<b>Literacy</b>	<b>Percent of Respondent</b>	<b>Mean Age at Marriage (Year)</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
Illiterate	38.18	17.9	4.0
Literate	61.82	18.5	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>

#### **Educational Attainment**

Primary	64.7	18.4	2.0
L. Secondary	8.8	18.5	2.0
Secondary	4.4	17.3	3.3
S.L.C.	14.7	18.3	2.0
Intermediate	1.5	20.0	1.0
Bachelor's Degree	4.4	22.3	1.0
Nurse	1.5	23.0	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

In the study area the mean age at marriage of literate was 19 years about one higher than that of illiterate (17 years). Similarly, the mean CEB of literate women 2.0 was less than that of illiterate (4.0). These evidences show the importance of education in determining age at marriage and fertility.

Level of education and CEB were also found negatively associated with each other. Illiterate respondents had almost lower age at marriage and higher CEB followed by the respondents with the knowledge of reading and writing. Obviously, respondents with

higher education had increased high age at marriage and reduced CEB but only exceptional cases that had secondary education were age at marriage as 17.3 years of age and highest CEB 3.0.

### 5.7 Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Occupation

Type of work is another important factor affecting a female Mean Age at Marriage and CEB.

**Table 5.7 Distribution of Respondents' Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Occupational Status**

Occupation	Percent of Respondent	Mean Age at Marriage (Year)	Mean CEB
Housewife	30.0	18.6	2.1
Agriculture	50.0	17.9	3.1
Business	16.4	18.8	3.2
Service	3.6	20.0	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

In the study, Mean age at marriage and CEB is examined of the basis of respondent's occupation. Out of the 110 respondents, majority of them were agriculture (50%) and those involved in housewife (30%). Generally the respondents having their occupation marriage, than other occupations the cases was small. Over all Mean CEB were 2.8.

### 5.8 Husband' Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Education

Husbands' Education can play vital role to affect age at marriage and CEB. This situation is shown in below table.

**Table 5.8 Percentage Distribution of Husbands' Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Educational Status**

Literacy	Percent of	Mean Age at	Mean CEB
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	<b>Husband</b>	<b>Marriage (Year)</b>	
Illiterate	41.8	22.5	3.7
Literate	58.2	23.2	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>

### **Educational Attainment**

Primary	73.4	23.8	2.1
L. Secondary	15.6	20.0	3.0
Secondary	1.6	17.0	3.0
S.L.C.	4.7	26.3	1.0
Intermediate	1.6	25	1.0
Bachelor's Degree	3.1	21.5	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>2.1</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Literate were found to have low CEB (3.7) and high mean age at marriage (22.5). Except who got secondary, gradually decreased in CEB and increased in mean age at marriage. Who got primary education had Mean CEB 2.1 but Bachelor Degree (1.0). Over all, mean CEB was 2.8.

### **5.9 Husband's Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Occupation**

Husband's education affects the age at marriage and mean CEB. In the study area, there were only agriculture, service and business occupations were followed by respondent's husband.

**Table 5.9 Percentage Distribution of Husbands' Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Occupational Status**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Percent of husband</b>	<b>Mean Age at Marriage (Year)</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
Agriculture	59.1	22.6	3.1
Service	23.6	23.9	2.9
Business	17.3	22.6	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>2.8</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Respondents' husband who had agricultural occupation had highest mean CEB (3.1) and lowest mean age at marriage (22.7)

### 5.10. Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Ethnic group

Generally, types of ethnicity of people determine the mean age marriage and CEB in the society. There were mainly Shrestha, Sherpa, Magar and B.K. but Chhetri, Brahmin; Rai etc respondents were married with different casts. Table 5.10 clear that such cases.

**Table 5.10 Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Ethnicity**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Percent of Respondents</b>	<b>Mean Age at Marriage (Year)</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
Shrestha	35.5	18.6	2.7
Sherpa	29.1	17.9	3.3
Magar	20.9	18.6	2.5
B.K.	14.6	18.1	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

In this study, there were found that Sherpa had lowest mean age at marriage highest mean CEB (3.3). Over all, highest mean age at marriage (18.6) was in Shrestha and lowest mean CEB was in B.K.

### 5.11 Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Religion

Religion is a one factor to affect mean age at marriage and mean CEB. In the study, there were only Hindus, Buddhists.

**Table 5.11 Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Religion**

<b>Religion</b>	<b>Percent of Respondent</b>	<b>Mean Age at Marriage (Year)</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
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Hindu	70.9	18.5	2.6
Buddhist	29.1	17.9	3.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Given Table 5.11 shows that 70.9 percent ever married respondents followed Hindu religion and 29.1 percent Buddhist. Hindu respondents had higher mean age at marriage and lower mean CEB than Buddhist respondents.

### 5.12 Mean CEB by Knowledge and Experience of using Family Planning Method

Knowledge of family planning method is most essential factor to determine fertility in Nepal. Family planning program was started as early as 1958 by the Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN). However, family planning service become available from the government side only in 1968 with the implement of third –five year plan studies related to family planning has shown that the level of education is directly related to utilization FP service in Nepal. This was some how positively related.

The Mean CEB is affected by knowledge of FP and experience of using FP directly and indirectly.

**Table 5.12 Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Mean CEB by Knowledge and Experience of using Family Planning Method**

<b>Knowledge of FP</b>	<b>Percent of respondent</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
Yes	96.4	2.7
No	3.6	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Ever use of FP Method</b>	<b>Percent (in total)</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
Condom	84.0	2.0
Norplant	5.7	1.8
Injection	15.1	1.8
Pill	13.2	1.1
Other	32.1	2.5

<b>Total</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>
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Source: Field Survey 2009

Above About 96 percent of respondents had knowledge of FP with low mean CEB 2.7 but who didn't have knowledge of FP method had 4.3. Respondents who had experience of using condom had the highest mean CEB 2.0. The lowest mean CEB (1.1), who used pill.

### 5.13 Mean CEB by Current use of FP Method

Table 5.13 shows that the mean CEB is also determined by respondents' current use of FP method.

**Table 5.13 Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Mean CEB by Current use of FP Method**

<b>Current use of FP</b>	<b>Percent of Respondent</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
Yes	13.8	2.0
No	86.2	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Current use of FP Method</b>	<b>Percent of Respondent</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
Condom	11.1	2.0
Injection	33.3	2.7
Pill	55.6	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

About 13 percent respondents were using FP with mean CEB (2.0) but who weren't using FP had mean CEB was 2.3. Who were using Pill had the lowest mean CEB (1.6).

### 5.14 Mean CEB by Reason for using FP Method

Couple can use FP for difference purpose. The reason of using FP also determines the mean CEB indirectly.

**Table 5.14 Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Mean CEB by Reason for using FP Method**

<b>Reason for using FP</b>	<b>Percent of Respondent</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
To space birth	33.3	1.7
To limit birth	67.7	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Table 5.14 shows that about 33% who gave reason for using FP to space birth had mean CEB (1.7) but mean CEB, who gave reason for using FP to limit birth had higher CEB (2.2).

#### **5.15 Mean CEB by Reason for no using FP Method**

Couple can't use FP due to different matters which affect mean CEB directly and indirectly. Table 5.15 shows that such case.

**Table 5.15 Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Mean CEB by Reason for no using FP Method**

<b>Reason for no using FP</b>	<b>Percent of Respondent</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
Not available	35.7	2.5
Fear of side effect	26.8	2.4
Disagree of husband	12.5	2.6
No needed	16.1	2.2
Other	8.9	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

About 35 % respondents couldn't use FP because of not available FP had mean CEB (2.5). Respondents who gave reason for no using FP because of disagree of husband had mean highest mean CEB (2.6)

### **5.16 Mean CEB by Age group at First birth**

Distribution of respondents' age at first birth by mean CEB is shown in Table 5.16 classified by five years age group. Low age at first birth indicate the high mean CEB.

**Table 5.16 Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Mean CEB by Age group at First birth**

<b>Age group at First birth</b>	<b>Percent of Respondent</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
15-19	67.3	3.2
20-24	21.8	1.9
25-29	8.2	1.8
30-34	2.7	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Table 5.16 shows that about 67% respondents had given first birth 15-19 age group and had highest mean CEB (3.2) but who had given first birth at age group 30-34 had mean CEB was 1.7.

### **5.17 Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Type of Marriage**

Generally, two types of marriage are followed by the people. It affect the mean age at marriage and CEB.

**Table 5.17 Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Mean Age at Marriage and CEB by Type of Marriage**

<b>Type of Marriage</b>	<b>Percent of Respondents</b>	<b>Mean Age at Marriage</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
Arrange	81.8	18.1	2.9
Love	13.6	19.0	2.2
Other	4.6	20.0	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Above table 5.13 shows that respondent who had got arrange marriage had the lowest Mean age at marriage (18.1) and the highest Mean CEB (2.9) than other.

### **5.18 Mean CEB by Experience of miscarriage**

Women face different cases such miscarriage without desire. It determines the mean CEB.

**Table 5.18 Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Mean CEB by Experience of Miscarriage**

<b>Miscarriage</b>	<b>Percent of Respondent</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
Yes	33.6	2.5
No	66.4	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

Table 5.18 shows that about 33% respondents were affected by miscarriage had lower mean CEB (2.5) than who weren't affected by miscarriage.

### **5.19 Mean CEB by Experience of Induced Abortion and Reason for Doing Induced**

## Abortion

Induced abortion determines the CEB of women. Table shows that women who had experience of induced abortion had low mean CEB was 2.1 and others' mean CEB 2.9.

**Table 5.19 Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Mean CEB by Experience of Induced Abortion**

<b>Induced Abortion</b>	<b>Percent of Respondent</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
Yes	14.6	2.1
No	85.5	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Reason for Induced Abortion</b>	<b>Percent of Respondent</b>	<b>Mean CEB</b>
To keep space in birth	25.0	2.5
To limit birth	62.5	2.1
Other	12.5	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>

Source: Field Survey 2009

In fact, Respondents followed induced abortion due to different purpose. About 62% had given reason of induced abortion to limit birth with mean CEB 2.1 among who had followed induced abortion.



## **CHAPTER-VI**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

#### **6.1 Summary of Findings**

This study assessed the mean age at marriage with respect to socio-economic factors and investigated the effect of mean age at marriage on number of children.

This study utilized the field survey data collected in Oct 2009 from Marbu VDC of Dolakha district. The following lists are the major findings of this study.

- 1 The proportion of female was greater than the male among the sample households population. The sex ratio in different age groups fluctuated and the sex ratio of total population had 93.4.

- 2 Among the sample households 66.2 percent of the population aged 10 years and above remain married in the survey. The proportion quite high for females than that of males.
- 3 The total literate rate of the sample population was 67.4 percent. The less proportion of female was found literate than male.
- 4 The highest proportion (47%) of people had agriculture occupation and very little proportion (0.6%) of population was found in teacher among above 10 total populations.
- 5 In the study area, about 50 percent households were used upon toilet (field) because of many reason one of them is low economic condition, lack of awareness, plenty of jungle and land etc.
- 6 In total sample households, 84.2 percent used piped water, used also spout. No one household used well, stream.
- 7 Among sample households, 117 households had poultry and 115 household livestock.
- 8 The female age at marriage (18.3 year) is lower than male age at marriage (22.9). The mean age marriage was 20.8 years in the study area. Illiterate female were found to marry 0.67 years earlier than that of literate women. There was no significant variance between any schooling and women with completed primary education in term of age at marriage. However, as the level of education increased with females mean age at marriage increases.
- 9 Respondents who engaged in agriculture had lowest mean age at marriage and highest CEB in Business respondents
- 10 The respondents' husband who were literate had mean age at marriage was 23.9 and CEB 2.1 but illiterate had MAM was 22.5 and CEB 3.7.
- 11 The respondents' husband who engaged in agriculture had lowest MAM and highest CEB in business respondents.
- 12 Mean CEB was found inversely associated with the age at marriage and educational attainment.
- 13 Sherpa respondents had the lowest MAM than other casts
- 14 There were only two religion were followed by respondents. Buddhist

respondents had lower MAM and higher CEB than Hindu.

15 Respondents, who followed arrange marriage had lower mean age at marriage and higher CEB than love married respondents.

16 Who had knowledge of FP, mean CEB was higher and MAM was lower than who hadn't knowledge of FP.

17 Respondents, who had experience of miscarriage and induced abortion, had lower CEB than who hadn't such experience.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

The lower age at marriage is associated with higher number of CEB. Age at marriage is one of the major variables to explain the fertility in study area. Education was found having an important role in increasing age at marriage and reducing number of CEB. The study showed that the respondents with illiterate and lower level of education had lower age at marriage and higher CEB than others. In study area had lack of facilities of educational institutions. Agriculture, business and conventional type of occupations were associated with lower level age at marriage and higher number of CEB than other counterparts. Effectiveness of non-agricultural occupation to increase age at marriage and reduce CEB in the society. Religion and ethnicity affect the MAM and CEB in the society. It has no doubt that knowledge and use of family planning is the best way to prevent birth in Nepal. Miscarriage and induced abortion also the affect the CEB. By going throw the socio-cultural and economical condition of this country, and particularly, in the study area, the researcher has found positive attitude towards the utilization of services provided by governmental and non-governmental sector. On the basis of the statistics analysis, condom is also one familiar FP method but it can't prevent birth in marital situation than other. Formulation of grassroots level operational programs and strategies the differentials of SMAM by the various ecological and development zones are important.

## **6.3 Recommendation**

- 1 Proper age at marriage should not be legalized only; a policy should first be formulated to create awareness about in low age at marriage to the people.
- 2 The legal age at marriage should be raised and the gap between male and female age at marriage should be abolished.
- 3 Emphasis on female education should be lacked into account strictly and facilitate the educational institution or higher school.
- 4 Health service centers should be built.
- 5 There should be several government and non-government activities to make female aware of advantage of delayed age at marriage.
- 6 Women should be encouraged to come out from lower status occupations such as agriculture, dependent, housewife, and productive jobs.

#### **6.4 Recommendation for further Research**

This study has examined the differential age at marriage and CEB by different socio-economic variables. Demographic variables and socio-economic variables have both direct and indirect effect on age at marriage and children ever born. Demographic variables and socio-economic variables interact directly and indirectly to each other. Therefore, in the context of the complex relationship, there is a need of an in-depth study considering the economic status of household and cultural and religious background of the people to explain about the future fertility behaviors of the populations.

Similar types of studies can be carried out in other areas and VDCs of Nepal with a larger data set. Some sophisticated statistical tools as path analysis. Analysis of variance and multiple classification analysis could be also be used which may produce different results and probably they can explain the fertility phenomena of Nepal in different way.

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**Tribhuvan University Campus**  
 Central Department of Population Studies (CDPS)  
**"Age at Marriage and Fertility"**  
 (A case study of Marbu VDC, Dolakha District)

**A. Household Questionnaire Schedule:**

Name of Household Head .....  
 Date: ..... VDC: .....  
 Ward No. : ..... Household No. : .....  
 Village ..... Religion: .....

S. N.	Name of the Family member 01	Relation to household head 02	Sex 03	Age 04	Marital Status 05	Literacy 06	Grade completed 07	Occupation 08	Migration	
									Where 09	why 10

**Code:**

Relation to household head	Sex	Marital Status	Literacy	Grade completed	Occupation	Migration	
						Where	Why
1. Head of H.H.	1. Male	1. Unmarried	1. Literate	1. Primary	1. Agricultural	1. Rural to Urban	1. Marriage
2. son	2. Female	2. Married	2. Illiterate	2. Lower Secondary	2. Service	2. Rural to Rural	2. Economic
3. Daughter		3. Separated		3. Secondary	3. Business		3. No own land
4. Wife or husband		4. Divorced		4. S. L. C.	4. Student		4. No own Home
5. Daughter-in-law		5. Single		5. Intermediate	5. HH Worker		5. Natural Hazards
6. Parent		6. Widow		6. Bachelor's Degree	6. Teacher		6. Other
7. Brother				7. Master's Degree	7. Carpenter		
8. Sister				8. Other	8. Other		
9. Nephew or Nice							
10. Other relatives							



**B. Individual Questionnaire**  
**(Only for 15 – 49 years ever married women)**

Name of Respondent: .....

**Section: 1, Personal Information**

S.N.	Questions	Coding	Skip
101	How old are you?	Year .....	
102	Would you tell me your husband's age?	Yes ..... No.....	104
103	If yes, how old is he?	Year .....	
104	Have you ever attended school?	Yes ..... No.....	106
105	If yes, what is your completed grade?	Level .....	
106	Did your husband attend in school?	Yes ..... No.....	108
107	If yes, what is your husband's education?	Level .....	
108	What is your cast / ethnicity?	.....	
109	What was your cast before married?	.....	
110	What is your religion?	Hindu 01 ..... Buddhist 02 ..... Christian 03..... Kirat 04 ..... Muslim05..... Other 06 .....	
111	What is your main source for living?	Agriculture 01 ..... Wage 02..... Job 03..... Other 04.....	
112	What is your main occupation?	Agriculture 01 ..... Housewife 02..... Teacher 03..... Business 04..... Other 05 .....	
113	What is your husband's occupation?	Agriculture 01 ..... Carpenter02..... Teacher 03..... Business 04..... Service 05 ..... Other 06 .....	

## Section: 2, Marriage and Fertility Information

S.N.	Question	Coding	Skip
201	What type of marriage did you do?	Arrange 01..... Love 02..... Other 03.....	
202	Did you want to get married that time?	Yes..... No.....	205
203	If no, who did compel you to get married?	Father 01..... Mother 02..... Relatives 03..... Other 04.....	
204	Why didn't you want to get married that time?	To complete education 01..... To be mature 02..... Don't know 03..... Other 04 .....	
205	How old were you when you gave first birth?	Year .....	
206	How many children are currently surviving?	Son 01..... Daughter 02..... Total 03 .....	
207	How many children you gave birth to?	Son 01..... Daughter 02..... Total 03 .....	
208	How many of them are currently living with you?	No. of children .....	
209	Do you want to have additional children?	Yes..... No.....	211
210	What is the reason to want additional children?	For son 01..... For daughter 02..... To take serve o3..... Other 04.....	
211	In your opinion, how many children a woman should have?	No. of children.....	
212	Have you ever experienced miscarriage?	Yes..... No.....	
213	Have you ever undergone induced abortion?	Yes..... No.....	215
214	If yes, Why did you get induced abortion?	To keep space in birth 01..... To limit birth 02..... Other 03 .....	
215	Are you pregnant now?	Yes..... No.....	217
216	If yes, for how many months?	Months .....	
217	In your opinion, at what age a girl should get married?	Year .....	

### Section: 3, Knowledge and use of family planning

S.N.	Question	Coding	Skip
301	Have you ever heard about family planning?	Yes..... No.....	401
302	Have you ever used a method of FP?	Yes..... No.....	307
303	If yes, which method did you use?	Condom 01 ..... Norplant 02..... Injection 03 ..... Pill 04..... Other 05.....	
304	Are you currently using family planning?	Yes..... No.....	307
305	If yes, which methods are you currently using?	Condom 01 ..... Norplant 02..... Injection 03 ..... Pill 04..... Other 05.....	
306	Why are you using family planning?	To space birth 01..... To limit birth 02..... Don't know 03..... Other 04.....	
307	Why are you not using family planning?	Not available 01..... Fear of side effect 02.... Disagree of husband 03..... No needed 04..... Don't know 05..... Other 06.....	

### C. Household Assets

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Coding</b>	<b>Skip</b>												
401	What type of toilet are you using now?	Modern 01..... Ordinary 02..... Pit toilet 03..... Field 04 ..... Other 05 .....													
402	What is the source of drinking water for the household?	Pipe water 01 ..... Spout 02 ..... Well 03 ..... Stream 04 ..... Other 05 .....													
403	Do you have any of the following ;	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Livestock</td> <td style="text-align: center;">01 .....</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0 2.....</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poultry</td> <td style="text-align: center;">01 .....</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0 2.....</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vegetable garden ( for Commercial purpose)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">01 .....</td> <td style="text-align: center;">02.....</td> </tr> </table>		Yes	No	Livestock	01 .....	0 2.....	Poultry	01 .....	0 2.....	Vegetable garden ( for Commercial purpose)	01 .....	02.....	
	Yes	No													
Livestock	01 .....	0 2.....													
Poultry	01 .....	0 2.....													
Vegetable garden ( for Commercial purpose)	01 .....	02.....													
404	If yes, how many?	Total livestock..... Total poultry..... Total vegetable garden .....													