

**FERTILITY BEHAVIOUR OF LIMBU COMMUNITY**

**(A Case Study of Maharanijhoda VDC, Jhapa)**

**A Dissertation**

**Submitted to Central Department of Population Studies (CDPS),**

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for the Partial**

**Fulfillment of Master's Degree**

**in Population Studies**

**By**

**Benu Prasad Poudel**

**Tribhuvan University**

**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**January, 2010**

**Central Department of Population Studies**

**Tribhuvan University**

**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

## **RECOMMENDATION LETTER**

The thesis entitled, **Fertility Behaviour of Limbu Community; Maharani Jhoda VDC Ward No. 1 and 9 in Jhapa District** has been prepared by Mr. Benu Poudel in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master's of Arts in Population Studies under my supervision. Therefore, I recommend this dissertation for evaluation.

---

Prof. Dr. Prem Sing Bisht

(Supervisor)

Date: January, 2010

**Central Department of Population Studies**  
**Tribhuvan University**  
**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**  
**APPROVAL SHEET**

The dissertation entitled, **Fertility Behaviour of Limbu Community; Maharani Jhoda VDC Ward No. 1 and 9 in Jhapa District** by Mr. Benu Prasad Poudel has been accepted as partial fulfillment of requirement of the degree of Master's of Art in Population Studies.

Approved By

.....

Dr. Prem Singh Bisht  
(Professor and Head)

.....

Mohan Sapkota  
(External Examiner)

.....

Prof. Dr. Prem Sing Bisht  
(Supervisor)

Date: .....

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This dissertation is submitted to the Central Department of Population Studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Tribhuvan University for the partial fulfillment of Master of Arts in Population Studies. This study would have been incomplete and worthless without the continuous inspiration and guidance provided by respected supervisor Prof. Dr. Prem Sing Bisht, Head of Department . Whatever the expression would be less against the support and guidance which I got despite his busy schedule.

I would also like to express any thanks to all faculty members of Central Department of Population Studies (CDPS) who supported me to complete this research work from various means.

I would like to thank all of the respondents who responded out the questionnaires curiously in my research work.

I am indebted to my parents from who I got the regular inspiration and financial assistance with much patience to complete this research.

**Benu Prasad Poudel**

## **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to examine the fertility behaviour of indigenous community. It presents the findings from analysis of interviewed data from Maharani Jhoda VDC, Jhapa district. The samples population of this study is 105 eligible women of reproductive ages (15-49) of Limbu community. Data were obtained on household and individual information related to examine fertility performance from the survey conducted during November 2009.

Analysis of fertility behaviour was carried out by using cross tables and mean tables with selected dependent and independent variables. Children ever born (CEB) were used as an indicator of fertility behaviour.

In sample population of indigenous community 52.54 percent were males and 47.43 percent were females. Out of the 552 total population, the male and female children age under five were only 66 in Limbu community in study area. Out of the total population 56.58 percent were literate and 43.42 percent were illiterate. Among 419 population aged 10 years and above 60.14 percent were married. Most of the population are engaged in agricultural and daily wage labour.

Among 105, eligible women, highest number were found in age group 30-34 (i.e. 24.76). 24.81 percent of women were married in 17.18 years. Around 64 percent of respondent were illiterate and 53.33 percent were engaged in agriculture. There is inverse relation between mean numbers of CEB and literacy rate of respondents. There is inverse relationship between use of family planning methods and fertility behaviour. Low age at marriage ultimately leads high fertility. So, effective programmes should be launched to rise the status of women and avoid early marriage system in the study area.

# CONTENTS

<b>Recommendation Letter</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Approval Sheet</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Abstract</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Contents</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>List of Tables</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>Abbreviations</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Map</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1-6</b>
1.1 General Background	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	2
1.3 Objectives of the Study	4
1.4 Significance of the Study	4
1.5 Limitations of the Study	5
1.6 Organization of the Study	5
<b>CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>7-18</b>
2.1 Literature Review	7
2.2 Empirical Literature	11
2.2.1 Education and fertility	12
2.2.2 Occupation and Fertility	13
2.2.3 Age at Marriage and Fertility	14
2.2.4 Cultural, Religions value and fertility	15
2.2.5 Contraceptive Use and Fertility	15
2.3 Conceptual Framework	17
<b>CHAPTER THREE : METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>19-21</b>

3.1	Introduction to the Study Area	19
3.2	Research Design	19
3.3	Source of Data	19
3.4	Sample Size and Sampling Procedure	20
3.5	Data Collection Method	20
3.6	Method of Data Analysis	21

## **CHAPTER FOUR: DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC**

### **CHARACTERISTICS 22-33**

4.1	Socio-economic Characteristics of Study Population	22
4.1.1	Setting of the Limbu Community	22
4.1.2	Age-sex Structure of Study Population	22
4.1.3	Dependency Ratio	23
4.1.4	Education Status of Study Population	24
4.1.5	Marital Status of Study Population	25
4.1.6	Occupation of the Study Population	25
4.2	Age Distribution of Respondents	26
4.2.1	Age Distribution	26
4.2.2	Age at Marriage of Respondents	27
4.2.3	Literacy Status of Respondents	28
4.2.4	Religion and Respondents	29
4.2.5	Occupation and Respondents	29
4.2.6	Childloss Experience and Respondents	30
4.2.7	Annual Income and Respondents	30
4.2.8	Source of Drinking Water and Respondents	31
4.2.9	Means of Communication and Respondents	31
2.4.10	Knowledge and Use of Family Planning	32

## **CHAPTER FIVE: FERTILITY BEHAVIOUR OF THE**

### **RESPONDENTS 34-39**

5.1	CEB by Age of Women	34
5.2	Mean CEB by Age at Marriage	35
5.3	Mean CEB by Educational Status	36
5.4	Men CEB by Occupation	36
5.5	Mean CEB by Religions	37
5.6	Mean CEB by Childloss Experience	38
5.7	Mean CEB by Knowledge of Family Planning	39

## **CHAPTER SIX: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**40-44**

6.1	Summary and Finding	40
6.2	Conclusions	42
6.3	Recommendations	43

## **REFERENCES**

## **QUESTIONNAIRE**



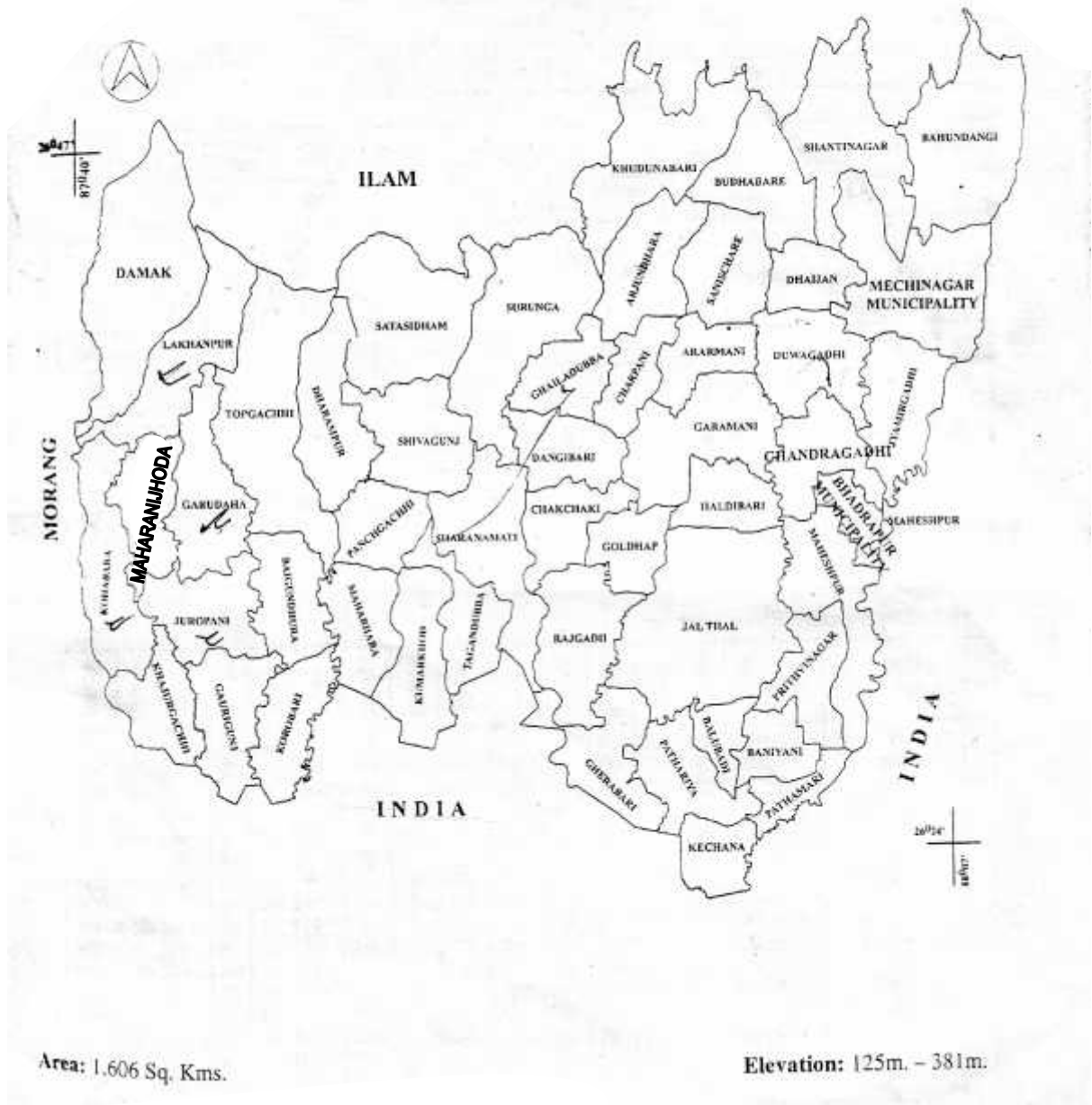
## **LIST OF TABLES**

Table 4.1 : Distribution of Study Population by Age-sex Composition	22
Table 4.2 : Dependency Ratio of Study Population	23
Table 4.3 : Distribution of Population by Educational Status	24
Table 4.4 : Distribution of Study by Marital Status	25
Table 4.5 : Distribution of study population by occupation according sex.	26
Table 4.6 : Distribution of Respondent by 5 Year Age Group	27
Table 4.7 : Distribution of Respondent by Age at Marriage	28
Table 4.8 : Distribution of Respondent by Literacy Status	28
Table 4.9 : Distribution of Respondent by Religion	29
Table 4.10 : Distribution of Respondent by Occupation	29
Table 4.11 : Distribution of Respondent by Childloss Experience	30
Table 4.12 : Distribution of Respondent by Annual Income	31
Table 4.13 : Distribution of Respondent by Source of Drinking Water	31
Table 4.14 : Distribution of Respondent by Means of Communication	32
Table 4.15 : Distribution of Respondent by Knowledge and Use of Family Planning	32
Table 5.1 : Mean CEB by Age of Women	34
Table 5.2 : Age at Marriage Mean CEB Number	35
Table 5.3 : Mean CEB by Educational Status	36
Table 5.4 : Mean CEB by Occupation	37
Table 5.5 : Mean CEB by Religious	37
Table 5.6 : Mean CEB by Childloss Experience	38
Table 5.7 : Mean CEB by Use and Non-use of Family Planning Method	39

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

CBR	:	Crude Birth Rate
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDPS	:	Central Department of Population Studies
CEB	:	Children Ever Born
EW	:	Eligible Women
FPAN	:	Family Planning Association of Nepal
H.H.	:	Household Head
I.E.C.	:	Information, Education and Communication
MOHP	:	Ministry of Population and Health
MOPE	:	Ministry of Population and Environment
PRB	:	Population Reference Bureau
S.N.	:	Serial Number
T.U.	:	Tribhuvan University
TFR	:	Total Fertility Rate
U.K.	:	United Kingdom
U.N.	:	United Nations
V.D.C.	:	Village Development Committee

# JHAPA



Area: 1,606 Sq. Kms.

Elevation: 125m. - 381m.

