

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Marriage is the process of union between male and female governed by various social economic and social cultural factor. These factors determine the age at marriage in the field of demography. Age at marriage is one of the factors affecting fertility which is inversely proportional to fertility (CBS, 1995).

Marriage is a socio cultural practice and child birth is a biological phenomenon in human society. There is close relationship between age at marriage and fertility behaviour.

Marriage is the primary event in the process of family formation. The distribution of different categories of marital status in population is one of the determining factors of fertility. However, the marital status distribution of any society is determined by the combined effect of biological, economic, religious, psychological or emotion and legal factors.

Marriage phenomenon is strongly dictated by socio-cultural norms. So age at marriage are found different in different socio-cultural settings. The age at marriage differs from one ethnic group to another. Marriage takes place when both sexes are grown up and able to understand each other (Dahal, 1992).

According to the Marriage Act of Nepal, the legal age at marriage without the consent of guardians is 18 years for women and 21 years for men and the consent of guardians further reduces the legal age at marriage for girl to 16 years and 18 years for boys.

Nepal is one of the low female ages at marriage country in the world. The population census of 1981 and latter had not reported married girls in the age group 6-9, however, the Nepali society still observes very young and child marriage in its various parts. A number of girls married before the age at 10 but not living in cohabitation

until they experience puberty is common practice in Terai of Nepal (Acharya, 2004: 49-60).

Early age at marriage in Nepal is one of the main factors for high fertility. Age at marriage has been increasing over the year. A shift in age at marriage between 1971 to 1991, women from 16.8 years to 18.1 year and for men from 20.8 years to 21.4 years. In 2001, the average age at marriage for boys was 21.9 years and 19.5 years for girls.

In developing countries the average age at marriage tend to be lower than in developed countries; women in developing countries are marrying only in their earlier and reproductive life by increasing their expose to risk of child bearing. The average age at marriage for women increases by increasing level of education, employment, urbanization and other factors for the most of the countries (Tuladhar, 1985).

In 1990s, some developed countries had the total fertility rate (TFR) as 1.5 in Japan, 1.9 in Australia, 2.0 in Sweden, 1.5 in United States (World Bank, 1991). The fertility rates by countries in Asia were Sri Lanka as 2.6, China as 2.4, Korea as 1.6 and India as 4.3 (ESCAP, 1990). Marriage has been prevailing as near to universal in SAARC countries. Age at marriage among females in the years after 2000 is found still low which is around 18-19 years of age. In this decade, it is 24.4 years in Sri Lanka, 21.6 year in Pakistan, 18.8 year in Nepal, 19.1 year in Maldives, 19.3 year in India and 18.1 year in Bangladesh (UN, 2002).

There were various factors affecting age at marriage. Age at marriage is considered as an indicator of development of women in a society. Higher the status of women in a society higher will be the age at marriage of women (Pradhan, 1981: 64). Among various factors, religion is one of the most important factors that affect the age at marriage in Nepal. Because all religions encourage marriage, especially in Hindu and Muslim religion, a girl is to be married earlier before or while attains puberty.

The next important factor is literacy; it has direct relation to the age at marriage. Especially the female literacy increases the self-confidence and offer them more income generating opportunities. Women were the prerequisites of successful delay of marriage. The type of family also affects the age at marriage. Those societies where

young men and women were free to few rights to young people to choose their life partners were marked by the low age at marriage.

Broadly speaking, marriage is a social obligation in Nepal; reinforced by the belief that person must marry within a certain time in order to have a position in a society. The Nepalese population is ethnicity complex therefore marriage is largely dependent upon ethnic and caste beliefs (Thapa, 1989). Marriage alone is one of the most important social institutions in Nepalese society and has profound effect not only on demographic process but also on the socio-cultural and economic aspect of peoples lives (Aryal, 1995).

Rising the legal minimum age at marriage is an important aspect to decrease the level of fertility to enhance the status of women. Various studies have indicated that women's role in different forms depend on their status. There are some evidences which support the slow decline in fertility in developing countries because women have not fully used productive life; they have better health and education to enhance their social status. However, the better educated women are able to make vital contribution to resource management and conservation. So it is necessary to radical orientation of development policies in order to upgrade the status of women which ultimately reduce the fertility (UN, 1991).

The effect of early marriage on number of children ever born was negative. Lower the age at marriage, higher the number of children ever born. So, it can be minimized through widespread use of contraception. However, there is unmet demand of family planning service and lack of knowledge and practices in some areas, generally the use and non-use of contraception depends on two factors, the knowledge on family planning and easy access to convenient method (Freedman, 1962: 212).

There is a inverse relationship between occupational status of parents and number of children ever born. It is found that the working status of women is inversely related with mean number of CEB. Increasing occupational opportunities for individuals outside home reduces level of fertility (Dahal, 1993).

Fertility is found differed by working status and type and hours of work. In the USA, rural farm population are usually more fertile than rural non farm for both the white and non-white American women in, labour free (Clark, 1977).

Using family planning methods is to control the births. So, it is common that the women who use family planning methods have less number of children than those who have not used family planning methods.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Age at marriage is one of the proximate determinants affecting women's reproductive behaviour (Bongaarts, 1978). Greater the duration of marital union greater effect on number of children. The woman who married at young age has longer the period of exposure to the risk of conception. Age at marriage of Nepalese woman are decided by their parents. Age at marriage is an indicator status of women in society. Higher the status of women in society, higher will be her age at marriage.

Tharu is one of the tribal groups of Nepal, who belongs to Janajati, a backward community. Thuru are scattered from East Mechi to West Mahakali. The occupation of Tharu are agricultural and daily wage and very few persons migrate. So they are backward in all sectors like education, occupation, health facilities, etc. Due to lack of knowledge and low use of contraception, the community has high level of fertility.

In Tharu community, early age at marriage is prevalent. Mostly the girls are married at the age of 14-15 years. Marital status itself is affected by change in socio-economic condition such as income changing, education and occupational status. There is positive relationship between women's age at marriage and fertility.

Agriculture and animal husbandry are the main occupation of Tharus. There is more need of labour force. In addition of this, they take the loan by work they need more labour force. So, they want more children.

In Nepal, population growth rate is very high due declining mortality and persistence of high fertility. Most of male and female of Nepal enters the marriage life in earlier age. These factors are playing a vital role for past population growth in Nepal and having lack of fact information of age at marriage and its impact in child bearing. Very few studies are conducted in the subject for other purpose but they are not carried out focusing on Tharu community of Dang.

The gap between the eastern part and the western part of Nepal is in economic, socio-cultural and political. So in the case of this research some study has been done in the eastern part of Nepal about Tharu community.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The general objectives of the study is to identify determinants of fertility in Tharu community of Dang district of Bijaur VDC, Ward No. 6 and 8. The specific objectives of the study are;

- i) To examine the effect of age at marriage on fertility.
- ii) To examine the relationship between occupational status and fertility.
- iii) To examine the effect of education on fertility.
- iv) To examine the effect of family planning methods on fertility.

1.4 Importance of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to find out the socio economic and demographic aspects of fertility of "AADIBASI JANJATI THARU" community of rural sector. Many research has shown that there is strong interrelationship between age at marriage and fertility as well as the status of women. The child marriage and low status of women are assumed responsible for high fertility rate in developing countries which in turn is considered as a greater obstacles of socio-economic development in the country.

In this circumstances, there is a need to find out the level of female age at marriage in different socio-economic settings. In Nepal, each ethnic group have their own role in the process of nation building. The 'Tharu' is one of the tribal groups of Nepal. How could they improve their demographic, socio-economic and cultural behaviour and come in main stream of nation building is fundamental question.

The identification of the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of fertility differential among Tharu community would assist to have a distinct population policies. The study comprise the reasons for high fertility in this community with recent and concurrent references which is most interesting and necessary for government, non-government organization (INGOs) as well as planner and policy makers, persons who engaged in social activities for regulation of fertility behaviour

in Nepalese backward their attempts to examine something new about the relationship between age at marriage and fertility.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

This study has the following limitations:

- ❖ This study is based on Tharu community of Bijauree VDC Ward No. 6 and 8 of Dang district. So, the findings may not be applicable as an indicator of other community, regional as well as for national level.
- ❖ The reporting of age at marriage and children ever born may be inaccurate due to recall laps.
- ❖ Simple statistical tools are used for analyze the obtained data, e.g. percent, mean etc. Advanced statistical tools have not been applied.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This thesis is divided into six chapters. The first chapter deals with the introduction of the study including background, statement of the problems, importance, limitation and organization of the study.

The second chapter is the review of relevant literature. It contains the theoretical literature, empirical literature and conceptual framework.

Third chapter is concerned with methodology of the study which includes the introduction of the study area, research design, sampling procedures, data collection techniques and method of data analysis.

Chapter four provides the household information of the study population which includes the age-sex, occupation, religion, literacy status, educational attainment and marital status of the household population.

Chapter five has an analysis of age at marriage and number of children ever born on the basis of occupation, literacy status and educational attainment, use of contraception, household facilities of the study population.

In the last chapter, summary, conclusions and recommendations are included.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This unit has divided into three subchapters which are theoretical review, empirical review and conceptual framework. In theoretical review the principle or theory about the subject matter like marriage, age at marriage, fertility, determinants of fertility has included. Empirical review has covered the subject matter with statistics. The conceptual framework has covered the relationship between the determinants of fertility and other related variables like socio economic, age at marriage, family planning, etc.

2.1 Theoretical Review

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

Age at marriage was an indicators of status of women in a society. Higher the status of women in a society, higher will be her age at marriage (Pradhan, 1981: 64). Age at marriage was one of the factors affecting fertility, which was inversely proportional to fertility if marriage occurs with in 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 important factors in population growth. He checked the growth of population mainly two elements first was 'positive checks', which affect fertility such as delayed marriage and permanent celibacy.

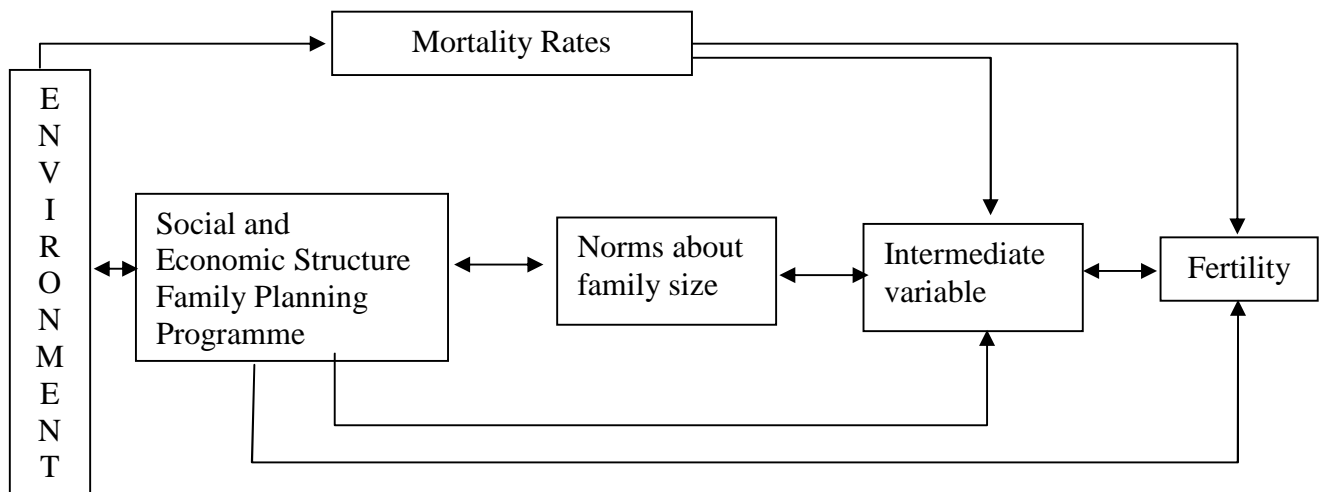
Marriage was universal and child bearing was confined to martial union. Marriage was one of the four proximate determinants of fertility; the other three were contraception, abortion and breast-feeding (Bongaarts and Potter, 1983).

Acharya (1979) found that the incidence of child marriage was reported higher in Kathmandu than in Hills and Mountains (Acharya, 1979).

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

Ronald Freedom in 1975 introduced types of norms in his model namely (a) Norms about family size and (b) Norms about intermediate variables.

Figure 1: Freedman's Model for the Sociological Analysis of Fertility Levels



Source: Berelson (1973).

Norms about family size are influenced by varying hierarchy of life style. These norms are education. Occupation, income, wealth power, prestige caste and general class indicators for desire number of children. Difference in life style may influence norms about intermediate variables directly through norms about family size and social organization such as family planning programme to reduce fertility may influence by the two norms and may control intermediate variables e.g. use or non use of contraception (Barelson, 1973).

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 in the population exposed to it, which is basically in result of serious of three biological phenomenon like sexual intercourse, conception and gestation. Though, each of these process is physiological in nature and it is effected by various nonphysical in nature and it is effected by various non physical factors like social economic and cultural (Bhende, 1991: 209).

Davis and Black (1956) have included marriage as one of the intermediate variables, which affected fertility as one of the intermediate variables in the age of entry in to sexual 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 on fertility (Bhende and Kanitkar, 1992: 211-219).

In macro economic theory proposed by Becker in 1973, a greater emphasis is put upon the utility function of the marriage. On the basis of utility function free and rational choice on one's partner are made in the marriage market. However, a sociological aggregate approach differs from an individual approach of economic theory. The sociological theory focuses on availability and feasibility of marriage in the terms of financial and social conditions and desirability of marriage. The sociological approach is more culture oriented and focuses on marriage behaviour rather than age at marriage (Poudel, 1994).

Cho examined the affect of nuptiality on fertility in the Republic of Korea by using the analysis of variance (ANOVA) and multiple classification analysis (MCA). His analysis showed that the age at first marriage is more important in determining the fertility level than any other background variables such as education, work status of women, religion and duration of work in years (UN, 1983).

The data from Nepal fertility Survey (1976), Tuladhar by using ANOVA and MCA model conducted that age at marriage is important factor to determine fertility level in Nepal. Result indicates that fertility level differs according to background variables

such as work status of husband and wife. But, the background variables explain fertility differences very little compare to age and age at marriage (Tuladhar, 1985).

Freedman and Casterline (1978), examined the relation between nuptiality and fertility in Taiwan in the period of the Japan War (1895-1945) and for the post war period (1946-77). They found that a wife's age at marriage had a strong negative correlation with cumulative fertility for each cohort. They further concluded that husband's age at marriage had a negative effect on fertility by resulting in late marriage (Poudel, 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 (PRB, 2005). Demographers have 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 numbers of live birth women have. It differs from fecundity, which refers to the psychological capability of women to reproduce. Fertility is directly determined by a number of factors which in turn, are affected by a many social, cultural, economic, health and other environmental factors. Fertility is affected by cultural, social, economic and health factors (PRB, 2005).

In population theory of Malthus (1766-1834) , he stressed that the level of fertility can be controlled by the preventive check such as delayed marriage (Population Information Programme, 1979: 112,) i.e. shifting the age at entry into sexual union to shorter the average length of time a women is exposed to risk of child bearing, which is directly related to fertility (Acharya, 1994: 5).

2.2 Empirical Literature

Age at marriage has been rising in several countries in recent decade although there exist difference in place of change among the countries (Smith, 1980).

In Europe, around the 1990s women's SMAM is the ranges from 24 to 27 years. There are, however, exceptions notably in several countries of eastern sub region were of the intermediate pattern and some were of the late timing pattern. With SMAMs under 23 years, the United States and Australia also appear to fall in the intermediate pattern category as concern marriage timing of women at the end period (UN, 1990).

Asia is characterized by an early marriage pattern. It is slightly increased from 1950s but little effects on the prevalence level. The traditional marriage system still exists and strongly favours for early marriage and universal marriage for both sexes. In most of the developing countries, there specific modernization factors emerge as determinants of delayed age at marriage primarily as concerned to women. They are urbanization, duration of schooling and pre marital work patterns to a modern occupation. However traditional factors, such as family system, ethnic group and religion also affect marriage timing prevalence. The custom of arrange marriage is an important determinant of early marriage is Asia as well as Africa (UN, 1990).

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

In Bangladesh, 47 percent of women aged 20-24 were married by age 15 and 69 percent and 77 percent of these women were married by age 18 and 20 respectively. A similar high rate of adolescence marriage is observed in Nepal, 75 percent were married by ages 20 (Gubhaju, 2002).

High rate of adolescent childbearing found in South and South west Asia are obviously related with early age at marriage. Bangladesh has one of the highest levels of adolescent childe bearing followed by Nepal and India; all these countries are characterized by early age at marriage for females. It is interesting to note that in Bangladesh about 15 percent of women aged 20-24 had a child before they reached 15. By the time they were 18 years of age about 45 percent had a child and over three fifth (63.3%) had a child before age 20. Similarly, over half the women aged 20-24 in

Nepal and almost half the women in this group in India have a child before reaching age 20. The information showed that the early marriage gets the higher number of child due to long reproductive age (Adhikari, 2007).

In the history of Nepal, the data on marital status was provided by 1952/54, first scientific census. Information was collected for person of five years and above in census 1952/54, six and above in the census 1961 and ten years and above in the censuses of 1981, 1991 and 2001 (CBS, 2003).

In Nepal, singulate mean at marriage (SMAM) was reported in 1961 census and found that illiterate women tends to marry earlier than literate women (Banister and Thapa, 1981). Studied mean age at marriage for women with some education was 15.6 years compared to 15.0 years for those with no education (MOH, 1976).

In the census 1971, the information of age at marriage was reported in more detail than previous census. In this census the mean age at marriage for male and female were 20.8 years and 16.8 years respectively. According to the ecological region, mean age at marriage for female was very low in Terai region, i.e. 15.2 years followed by Hill 17.5 years and 19.9 years for mountain region (CBS, 1987).

The analysis of World Fertility Survey 1976 revealed that Nepalese women engaged in modern occupation had 2.39 and no work had 2.31 children ever born and mixed work had 3.79 children ever born them (UN, 1985).

The 1981 census classified the age at marriage by occupation, level of education, urban rural residence, development and ecological region. The census estimated that mean age at marriage for male and female were 20.7 and 17.2 years respectively. According to race, the SMAM was higher for Buddhist and lower in Muslim (CBS, 1987).

The New Era (1986) conducted a survey of 4979 women for all over the country in 1986 and reported lower age at marriage of 13.9 years in Central Development Region and the highest age at marriage of 15.3 years in mid western development region (The New Era, 1986).

In Terai, bride and groom are not allowed to meet each other before marriage. Even female are not allowed to talk with their counterparts. Marriage totally decided by parents except a few cases of Judith back hypothesized that age at marriage is higher where selection of partner for marriage is made by free choice rather than by arranged matched (Tuladhar, 1986).

The 1991 census showed that the age at marriage in Nepal for male and female were 21.4 and 18.1 respectively. The age at marriage of urban women was 19.6 years while that of rural women was 19.9 years. Similarly, the age at marriage was low in Terai due to the effect of social and economic conditions.

Nepal fertility, Family Planning and Health Survey (NFHS), 1991 showed that 28 percent of women aged 15 to 49 were married by the age of 16 years and 68 percent or two third were married by exact age of 18 years. It suggested that age at marriage was lower among women of rural areas of Terai region.

Mathema and Shrestha (1991) examined the differential in age at marriage. Working status of women before marriage tends to marry almost three years later than those do not work. Farm worker age at marriage is early 11.8 years compared to non formers 14.3 years because bride arrival is considered as source of extra income and labor.

According to Aryal (1995), the age at marriage of Nepal is increasing because of the declining trend in arranged marriage and changing attitudes. It is suggested that one of the ways of reducing fertility in Nepal is to increase age at marriage especially among female.

A study conducted by Acharya (1996) that age at marriage and Children ever born (CEB) differ according to level of education of women. Age at marriage of women having illiterate, primary education, secondary education and SLC education illiterate, primary education, secondary education and SLC education level have estimated at 17.83 years, 17.27 years, 19.35 years, 19.80 years and CEB was 3.98, 2.98, 2.4 and 1.30 respectively for the selected cases.

In the census 2001, the SMAM for males and female were 22.9 and 19.5 years respectively. SMAM for both sexes is higher in urban areas with compare to rural areas. Literacy level was the main components to rise the age at marriage in urban areas for both sexes. The SMAM for female was higher in Hill region (20.2) and it followed by mountain (19.6) and Terai (18.9) years. Similarly, in case of male it was found 23.4 in Hill, 22.1 in Mountain and 22.5 years in Terai region (CBS, 2003).

The SMAM was also found by the district in the 2001 census. The highest and lowest SMAM for female were found in Manang (25.4 years) and Rauthat (17.2 years) respectively. The increase in age at marriage is likely to contribute to a drop in the proportion of married particularly at early age, this contribution help to reduce the level of fertility (Chaudhary and Niraula, 2003).

Early child bearing is a widely observed phenomenon in Nepal. First pregnancy at an age below 19 years, were compared with the finding from an equal number of mothers who had their pregnancy at the age of 20 years and above. The adolescent mothers were married at a comparatively younger age with a mean age of 15.9 years. Parents or elders, with/without the girls consent, decided the majority of adolescent marriages. The age at marriage exposed women to early pregnancy regardless of who unwanted pregnancy and obstetric complication. Women empowerment through compulsory girls education would be the most effective strategy to prepare them for late marriage, planned and delayed pregnancy and better motherhood (Shrestha, 2002).

Education is one of the factors which affects on age at marriage. Therefore, the literate men and women 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 the illiterate and 23.6 for the literate. The corresponding figures for women are 17.6 and 20.8 respectively (CBS, 2003).

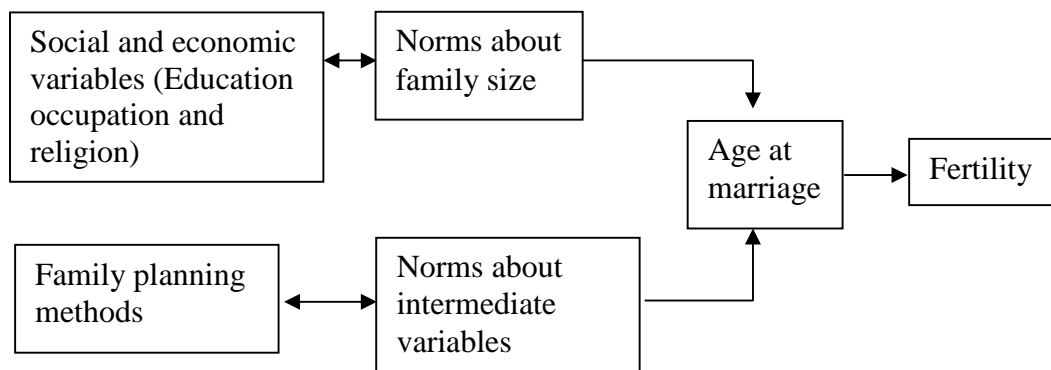
Thus, age at marriage has one of the important factors which determine the level of fertility of a nation. However, very little information exists on the relationship between age at marriage and fertility in Nepal. Therefore, it is important to investigate

the pattern of age at marriage and its impact on fertility. With including various socio-economic factors that directly effect the age at marriage of a people.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

From the theoretical review of the literature related to effect of age at marriage on fertility in terms of numbers of CEB. One of the proximate determinants of fertility is age at marriage is effected by the level of education, status of women, ethnicity caste, occupation, custom, etc. It is well known that early and universal marriage promotes high fertility and higher the age at marriage lower the fertility. Hence, age at marriage and fertility are interrelated to each other. Fertility is directly related to age at marriage but marriage is indirectly associated with status of women, level of education, caste/ethnicity custom, religious, occupation and background of the family. The review of literature has revealed that there is relationship between age at marriage and number of children.

Fig. 2: Conceptual Framework of the Study



CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This unit covers a brief discussion about research methodology regarding the selection of the study areas, research design, nature and sources of data, sampling procedures, data collection techniques and method of data analysis.

3.1 Introduction to the Study Area

Dang is located mid-western Terai of Nepal. The area of Dang district is 2,955 square kilometers. It is located between 27⁰37' and 28⁰21' north latitude and 82⁰2' to 85⁰54' east longitude. The area covers Hill and Tarai. The climate of this district is tropical and subtropical. Its political boundary is: Argakhanchi and Kapilvastu in the east, Banke and Surkhet districts in the west, Salyan, Pyuthan and Rolpa districts in the north and Banke and Utter Pradesh (India) in the south. Dang is one of the five districts where Tharu lives since many years ago.

According to 2001 census report the total population of Dang district is 462,380 in which 228958 are males and 233422 are females. The population of Tharu in this district is 147,328 which is 31.9 percent of total population.

Bijauree VDC is one of the 39 V.D.C. of Dang districts. Bijauree VDC 6 and 8 Basgadi and Hadimi of Bijauree VDC are the name of study area. It is about 20 km far from the Tribhuvan Nagarpalika in Western-north direction. According to the population census of 2001, the total population of Bijuree VDC was 12,064 (6006 males and 6058 females) and Tharu total population 2105 which is 17.4 percent.

3.2 Research Design

To find the main objectives of the study, age at marriage and fertility, descriptive, exploratory as well as analytical research design were applied. Descriptive research designs have been used to described present pattern of age at marriage among Tharu community. Comparative analysis has been used to examine the consequences of

early age at marriage and late age at marriage. Exploratory research design has been used to find the major causes of early age at marriage among Tharu community.

3.3 Nature and Sources of Data

This is fully related to primary sources of Data which is collected by the field work. The information listed according to structured questionnaire have been identified and analyzed. However, secondary sources of data have been used through the review of relevant literature from published and unpublished books, journals, newspaper and web based information from internet.

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

The all total 125 household of Tharu community of Bijauree VDC Ward No. 6 and 8 are taken as sample size and whole household are enumerated like census process.

3.5 Method of Data Collection

This study is based on primary data which is collected at the field of study area Bijauree 6 and 8 by research herself. All the household of Tharu and population of the study area were enumerated. Household information were collected by direct interview with household head or most knowledgeable member of the family on household characteristics such as: age, sex, marital status, educational status and occupational status. Individual information about the currently married women were collected with direct interview with the respective women on age at marriage, child ever born, own education, and occupation, knowledge and use of FP methods.

In this study, fertility is measured in terms of mean children ever born (CEB).

3.6 Questionnaire Design

The data were collected by two types of questionnaire design.

- (i) Household questionnaire
- (ii) Individual questionnaire

Household questionnaire was designed to collect information on age, sex, literacy, occupation, marital status and relationship with head of household, etc.

Individual questionnaire was designed for currently married women of reproductive age (15-49) to collect information like: date of birth, age at marriage, women's and husband occupation, education knowledge and use of contraceptives, reasons for not use of contraceptives (The questionnaire is placed in Appendix I).

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

After the collection of data from the field, the data was processed with the help of computer by using SPSS software package. This package was used for data entry, verification, editing and tabulation of the study results.

The data were analyzed through frequency tables, percentage, proportion, cross table and mean tables.

CHAPTER IV

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC OF HOUSEHOLD POPULATION

This chapter provides some demographic and socio-economic characteristics of household population. Demographic characteristics deals with age and socio-economic characteristics provide analysis on the education level, occupation, educational attainment of the household population and so on.

4.1 Population by Sex

The sex ratio is the principle measurement of sex composition of a population. It is defined as the total number of male per hundred female. It is calculated by dividing the total number of male population by total number of female and multiplies by 100. The Table 4.1 shows that a total of 843 total population has been enumerated in 125 sample households, of them 429 are male and 414 are female. Male (50.9%) are slightly higher than females (49.1%). The sex ratio of the population was 103.6. The national sex ratio is 99.8 which is lower than the study population.

Table 4.1 Distribution of Household Population by Sex

| Sex | Number | Percentage (%) | Sex ratio |
|--------|--------|----------------|-----------|
| Male | 429 | 50.9 | 103.6 |
| Female | 414 | 49.1 | |
| Total | 843 | 100.0 | |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

4.2 Age and Sex Composition

Age and sex are basic characteristic or biological attributes of any demographic groups and affect not only its demographic but also its social, economic and political background which ultimately affect the age at marriage and level of fertility. Distribution of household population by age and sex is presented in Table 4.2.

The Table shows that the proportion of household population of age group 5-9 is 15.4 percent which is higher than other age groups. The proportions of population above age 60 is the lowest. There is a large proportion of their populations in the younger age groups than older age groups. The large proportion of population is in younger ages indicates that there will be high fertility and growth rate of a population in future. Due to the small sample size, there is a fluctuation in age group population with compare to national census.

Table 4.2 Distribution of Population by Age and Sex

| Age Group | Male | | Female | | Total | | Census 2001* |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | |
| 00-04 | 46 | 5.5 | 41 | 4.9 | 87 | 10.3 | 12.1 |
| 05-09 | 54 | 6.3 | 76 | 9.0 | 130 | 15.4 | 14.2 |
| 10-14 | 70 | 8.3 | 57 | 6.8 | 127 | 15.1 | 13.1 |
| 15-19 | 47 | 5.6 | 49 | 5.8 | 96 | 11.4 | 10.5 |
| 20-24 | 48 | 5.7 | 40 | 4.7 | 88 | 10.4 | 8.8 |
| 25-29 | 36 | 4.3 | 39 | 4.6 | 75 | 8.9 | 7.6 |
| 30-34 | 30 | 3.6 | 37 | 4.4 | 67 | 7.9 | 6.5 |
| 35-39 | 27 | 3.2 | 16 | 1.9 | 43 | 5.1 | 5.8 |
| 40-44 | 25 | 3.0 | 31 | 3.7 | 56 | 6.6 | 4.8 |
| 45-49 | 15 | 1.8 | 12 | 1.4 | 27 | 3.2 | 4.0 |
| 50-54 | 17 | 2.0 | 10 | 1.2 | 27 | 3.2 | 3.4 |
| 55-59 | 3 | 0.4 | 4 | 0.5 | 7 | 0.8 | 2.7 |
| 60-64 | 3 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.1 | 4 | 0.5 | 2.3 |
| 65+ | 8 | 0.9 | 1 | 0.1 | 9 | 1.1 | 4.2 |
| Total | 4.29 | 50.9 | 414 | 49.1 | 843 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| For broad age groups | | | | | | | |
| 0-14 | 171 | 20.1 | 174 | 20.7 | 344 | 40.8 | 39.4 |
| 15-49 | 228 | 27.1 | 224 | 26.5 | 452 | 53.6 | 48.0 |
| 50-59 | 20 | 2.4 | 14 | 1.7 | 34 | 4.1 | 6.1 |
| 60+ | 11 | 1.3 | 2 | 0.2 | 13 | 1.5 | 6.5 |
| Total | 429 | 50.9 | 414 | 49.2 | 843 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Source: Field Survey 2008.

4.3 Occupation

Occupation is one of the most influencing variables that determine the age at marriage and level of fertility. It also determines the socio economic condition of a household. The household questionnaire includes a question as to whether each person aged 10 years and above was involved in any types of occupation or not.

Table 4.3 shows the distribution of study population by major occupation group separately for males and females. The data presented in the Table illustrates that Adiya (agriculture) occupation (30.9%) dominants as a major occupation for both sexes in a household population. Adhiya (half system) is a system where all agriculture products are divided between farmer and landlords. Similarly, the proportion of population engaged in own agriculture, daily wage labour in agriculture, daily wage labour in non-agriculture sector, service, household work, study foreign employment were 7 percent, 8.5 percent, 12.5 percent, 7.4 percent. 15.4 percent, 8.6 percent, 12.5 percent, 7.4 percent, 15.4 percent, 8.6 percent and 4.3 percent respectively. In this table others include in house maid, gothalo (cowboy) and child care. The majority of women are involved in domestic works.

Table 4.3: Percentage Distribution of Household Population by Above Aged 10 Years by Occupation

| Occupation | Male | | Female | | Total | |
|---|------|---------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| | No. | Percent | No. | Percent | No. | Percent |
| Own agriculture | 23 | 7.0 | 21 | 7.1 | 44 | 7.0 |
| Daily wage labour in agriculture sector | 6 | 1.8 | 47 | 15.9 | 53 | 8.5 |
| Adiya (Agriculture) | 137 | 41.4 | 56 | 19.0 | 193 | 30.9 |
| Daily wage labour in non-agriculture sector | 49 | 14.9 | 29 | 9.8 | 78 | 12.5 |
| Service | 41 | 12.5 | 5 | 1.7 | 46 | 7.4 |
| Foreign employment | 24 | 7.3 | 3 | 1.0 | 27 | 4.3 |
| Household work | 2 | 0.6 | 95 | 32.2 | 97 | 15.4 |
| Students | 30 | 9.1 | 24 | 8.1 | 54 | 8.6 |
| Others | 17 | 5.2 | 17 | 5.1 | 34 | 5.4 |
| Total | 329 | 100.0 | 297 | 100.0 | 626 | 100.0 |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

4.4 Marital Status

Marriage is one of the essential aspect of human beings. In Nepal, child bearing takes place mostly within marriage and timing of marriage makes the beginning of women's exposure to child bearing. In other words, age at marriage in most of the societies begins a women's exposure to the risk of child bearing. So, it plays a critical role to determine the level of fertility of a family.

Table 4.4 shows that the proportion of married population is higher than other marital status of the household population. It shows that 60 percent of household population is covered by married population. Similarly, unmarried, widowed and divorced population is followed by with around 38 percent, 1 percent and 0.0 percent respectively. The proportion of married population higher in the case of female and the proportion of unmarried population is higher in the case of male. There is no culture or system of divorce in Tharu community of the study area.

Table 4.4: Percentage Distribution of the Population Aged 10 Years of Age and over by Martial Status

| Marital status | Male | Percent | Female | Percent | Total | Percent |
|-------------------|------|---------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| Currently married | 191 | 58.1 | 186 | 62.6 | 377 | 60.1 |
| Unmarried | 129 | 39.1 | 108 | 36.4 | 237 | 37.9 |
| Widow | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1.0 | 3 | .5 |
| Widower | 9 | 2.8 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 1.5 |
| Divorce | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 329 | 100.0 | 294 | 100.0 | 626 | 100.0 |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

4.5 Literacy Status

There is an inverse relationship between education and age at marriage as well as education and level of fertility. Educational status is the most important factor that affects the level of fertility of a nation. It is essential to know the literacy and educational attainment of the household population in order to find its effect upon age at marriage.

The Table 4.5 indicates that the proportion of literate population is higher with comparison to the illiterate population to the household population. For both sexes. The table shows that around 70 percent of household populations are literate and around 30 percent are illiterate. The proportion of female illiterate population which is around 36 percent than male illiterate which is around 23 percent.

Similarly, the Table 4.5 shows that the proportion of household population is higher in primary level of education than other educational attainment. The male proportion was higher in S.L.C. of and above level of education whereas the proportion of female was higher in primary level of education.

Table 4.5: Distribution of the Population Aged 6 Years and above by Literacy and Educational Attainment

| Literacy | Male | | Female | | Total | |
|--|------|---------|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| | No. | Percent | No. | Percent | No. | Percent |
| Literate | 293 | 76.5 | 239 | 64.1 | 532 | 70.4 |
| Illiterate | 90 | 23.5 | 134 | 35.9 | 224 | 29.6 |
| Total | 383 | 100.0 | 373 | 100.0 | 756 | 100.0 |
| Educational attainment among literate | | | | | | |
| Primary (1-5 grade completed) | 178 | 60.8 | 192 | 80.3 | 370 | 69.6 |
| Lower Secondary (6-8 grade completed) | 69 | 23.5 | 33 | 13.9 | 102 | 19.2 |
| Secondary (9-10 grade completed) | 20 | 7.0 | 7 | 3.0 | 27 | 5.1 |
| S.L.C. and above | 26 | 9.1 | 7 | 3.0 | 33 | 6.2 |
| Total | 293 | 100.0 | 239 | 100.0 | 523 | 100.0 |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

4.6 Household Facilities

Household facilities are taken as the economic indicator for measuring the people's status. Table 4.6 shows that almost all household, i.e. 98.4 percent uses the radio. Fourty percent households have TV facility. Similarly, 52.8 percent and 80.8 percent

followed by cycle and electricity facility respectively. It shows that radio is the most common in the study area.

Table 4.6: Distribution of the Households by Household Facilities

| Household facilities | Yes | | No | | Total | |
|----------------------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-------|---------|
| | No. | Percent | No. | Percent | No. | Percent |
| Radio | 123 | 98.4 | 2 | 1.6 | 125 | 100.0 |
| T.V. | 50 | 40.0 | 75 | 60.0 | 125 | 100.0 |
| Cycle | 66 | 52.8 | 59 | 47.2 | 125 | 100.0 |
| Electricity | 101 | 80.8 | 24 | 19.2 | 125 | 100.0 |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

4.7 Size of Land

Landholding is the crucial part for any of the economic analysis. Table 4.7 shows what is the actual possession of size of land by the households. It is revealed that more than two third household, i.e. 76.8 percent have less than 4 hectare of land and 16.8 percent households have 4 to 6 hectare of landholding. Only 6.4 percent households have more than 6 hectare land.

Table 4.7: Distribution of the Households by Size of Landholding

| Area of land (in hectare) | No. | Percent |
|---------------------------|-----|---------|
| 0-0.4 | 96 | 76.8 |
| 0.4-0.8 | 21 | 16.8 |
| 0.8 and above | 8 | 6.4 |
| Total | 125 | 100.0 |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

CHAPTER V
DETERMINANTS OF AGE AT MARRIAGE
AND CHILDREN EVER BORN

This chapter describes the determinants of age at marriage and CEB in the study population. Here, study population refer to the Tharu community. In total, 125 currently married women of reproductive ages 15-49 are included for the interview. The determinants of age at marriage and CEB have been analyzed in terms of determinants age at marriage, education, occupation and use of contraception.

5.1 Age Distribution of the Respondents

Age is the basic characteristics of any demographic groups and affects to fertility not only its demographic but also its social, economic and political background.

Table 5.1 shows that the proportion of population in age group 25-29 was higher with compare to other age group of the study population. Out of the total respondents, around 26 percent population is covered by 25-29 age group population. Similarly, the proportion of population in age group 15-19, 20-24, 30-34, 35-39, 40-45 and 45-49 with around 4 percent, 14 percent, 11 percent, 16 percent and 6 percent respectively.

Table 5.1: Distribution of Respondents by Age

| Age Group | Number | Percent |
|-----------|--------|---------|
| 15-19 | 5 | 4.0 |
| 20-24 | 18 | 14.4 |
| 25-29 | 33 | 26.4 |
| 30-34 | 27 | 21.6 |
| 35-39 | 14 | 11.2 |
| 40-44 | 20 | 16.0 |
| 45-49 | 8 | 6.4 |
| Total | 125 | 100.0 |

Source : Field Survey, 2008.

5.2 Literacy Status of the Respondents

Educational status is one of the most important factor that affects the age at marriage and children ever born. Table 5.2 indicates that the proportion of illiterate female aged (15-49) population is higher than the literate. It shows that nearly 58 percent females were illiterate in comparison to nearly 42 percent literate.

Similarly, the Table 5.2 shows that the proportion of completing primary level education is the highest. It shows that more than 75 percent of Tharu women have completed primary level of education and it is followed by secondary and S.L.C. level of education (5% and 9% respectively).

Table 5.2: Distribution of Respondents by Literacy Status

| Literacy status | Currently married women aged 15-49 | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent |
| Literate | 53 | 42.4 |
| Illiterate | 72 | 57.6 |
| Total | 125 | 100.0 |
| Educational attainment among literate | | |
| Primary (1-5 grade completed) | 40 | 75.5 |
| Secondary (6-8 grade completed) | 8 | 15.1 |
| S.L.C. and above | 5 | 9.4 |
| Total | 53 | 100.0 |

Source : Field Survey, 2008.

5.3 Occupation of the Respondents

Occupation determines the age at marriage and level of fertility. It also determines the socio-economic condition of the population. The individual questionnaire includes a question on main occupation.

Table 5.3 shows that the distribution of study area population by occupation. The data shows that the household work occupation is dominant as a main occupation among

Tharu women. It is followed by own agriculture, wage labour and service with around 22 percent, 37 percent and 2 percent respectively.

Table 5.3: Distribution of Respondents by Occupational Status

| Occupation | Currently married women aged 15 to 49 | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent |
| Own agriculture | 27 | 21.6 |
| Wage labour | 47 | 37.6 |
| Service | 3 | 2.4 |
| Household work | 48 | 38.4 |
| Total | 125 | 100.0 |

Source : Field Survey, 2008.

5.4 Age and Mean Age at Marriage

Mean age at marriage here refers to the age or date of first marriage of the respondents. Table 5.4 shows that the proportion of Tharu women in age group 25-34 is relatively higher with compare to other age groups. Similarly, the overall mean age at marriage among Tharu women is 16.5 which is lower than the national average (19.5). It indicates that early marriage (marriage below age 20 years) is common phenomena in this community. The mean age at marriage by age does not vary much by age though it is reported highest for the women aged 25-34 years (16.6 years). Likewise, the lowest mean age at marriage is reported in age group 35 years and above, i.e. only 16.3 years..

Table 5.4: Distribution of Respondents by Age and Mean Age at Marriage

| Age group | Mean age at marriage | Number |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------|
| 15-24 | 16.4 | 23 |
| 25-34 | 16.6 | 60 |
| 35 years and above | 16.3 | 42 |
| Total | 16.5 | 125 |

Source : Field Survey, 2008.

5.5 Education and Mean Age at Marriage

There is an inverse relationship between education and age at marriage. The literacy and educational attainment of the study population is important to find its effect upon age at marriage.

Table 5.5 shows that the mean age at marriage of the respondents on the basis of literacy status by age group. Mean age at marriage is higher for literate population compared to illiterate ones. It is reported that, the average mean age at marriage for illiterate women is 16.1 years compared to 17.0 years for literate population, about one year difference in age at marriage by literacy status. It also indicates that the 25 years and above age is higher age at marriage compare to 15 to 24 years age among literate. It is reported that, for the 25 years and above age group, the mean age at marriage is 17.2 years and it is 16.4 for the age group 15 to 24 years. which is lower than 25 years and above age group.

Similarly, Table 5.5 shows that the mean age at marriage is higher for SLC and above level of educational attainment. The mean age at marriage for the women completing SLC and above level of education is 17.1 years and it is followed by completing primary and secondary level of education 17.0.

It is indicated that the mean age at marriage is higher among SLC and above level of educational attainment among the age 25 years and above which is 18.3 with compare to 15.0 among 15-24 years age group of population.

Table 5.5: Distribution of Respondents by Literacy Status and Mean Age at Marriage Controlling the Effect of Age

| Literacy | Age group of the respondent (15-49) | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|--------|
| | 15-24 | | 25 and above | | Total | |
| | Mean age at marriage (years) | Number | Mean age at marriage (years) | Number | Mean age at marriage (years) | Number |
| Literate | 16.4 | 18 | 17.4 | 35 | 17.0 | 73 |
| Illiterate | 16.2 | 5 | 16.1 | 67 | 16.1 | 72 |
| Total | 16.3 | 23 | 16.5 | 102 | 16.5 | 125 |
| Educational attainment among literate | | | | | | |
| Primary (1- 5 grade completed) | 16.3 | 14 | 17.4 | 26 | 17.0 | 40 |
| Secondary (6- 8 grade completed) | 18.5 | 2 | 16.7 | 6 | 17.0 | 8 |
| SLC and above | 15.0 | 2 | 18.3 | 3 | 17.1 | 5 |
| Total | 16.4 | 18 | 17.4 | 35 | 17.0 | 53 |

Source : Field Survey, 2008.

5.6. Occupation and Mean Age at Marriage

Occupation is one of the most important variables that determines the socio-economic condition of population. So occupation of the people has direct impact upon age at marriage. Table 5.6 shows the distribution of study area population by occupation controlling the effect of age. The data illustrates that the very few Tharu women, i.e. only 3 women are involved in service, and the estimate on mean age at marriage may not be truly representative due to small sample size. It is reported that the mean age at marriage for women who involved in household work is 17.0 which is higher than the women who are involved in other occupation

Table shows the highest number of women aged 25 years and above involved in wage labour whose mean age at marriage is 15.5 years.. The lowest mean age among women aged 15 years and above who are involved in service is 13.5. But due to very small sample size this finding may not be generalize to all. Therefore, disregarding this, the lowest mean age at marriage among women aged 25 years and above is found to be for those who are involved in wage labour (15.9) as compared to among whose occupation is agriculture and household work. The similar pattern holds true for the

age group 15-24. However, due to small number of samples for the age group 15-24 poses problem in generalizing the findings.

Table 5.6: Distribution of Respondents by Occupation and Mean Age at Marriage Controlling the Effect of Age

| Occupation | Age group of the respondent (15-49) | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| | 15-24 | | 25 and above | | Total | |
| | Mean age at marriage | Number | Mean age at marriage | Number | Mean age at marriage | Number |
| Own agriculture | 17.0 | 2 | 16.5 | 25 | 16.6 | 27 |
| Wage labor | 16.5 | 8 | 15.9 | 39 | 16.0 | 47 |
| Service | 15.0 | 1 | 13.5 | 2 | 14.0 | 3 |
| Household work | 16.3 | 12 | 17.3 | 36 | 17.0 | 48 |
| Total | 16.4 | 23 | 16.5 | 102 | 16.5 | 125 |

Source : Field Survey, 2008.

5.7 Mean Age at Marriage and Fertility

Mean age at marriage refers to the average age or date of first marriage. There is inverse relationship between age at marriage and fertility. Table 5.7 shows that fertility in terms of mean CEB is the highest for those women who get marriage at early ages, i. e. 10-14 than those who get married at later ages, 15-19 and 20 years and above. Mean CEB is observed to be the lowest for those women who get marriage above age 20.

It indicates that there is an inverse relationship between age at marriage and number of children ever born. The increasing trend of age at marriage reduces fertility.

Table 5.7: Distribution of Respondents by CEB on the Basis of 5 Year Age Interval of Age at Marriage

| Age at marriage | Number of the respondents | Mean CEB |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 10-14 | 20 | 4.6 |
| 15-19 | 93 | 3.7 |
| 20 years and above | 12 | 2.3 |
| Total | 125 | 100.0 |

Source : Field Survey, 2008.

5.8 Education

There is close relationship between education and CEB. Table 5.8 presents the mean CEB by literacy status, controlling the effect of age of the women. The Table shows that the number of children ever born is lower among literate women (2.8) than those who are illiterate (4.4). Fertility among literate women is less by 1.6 births which may be attributed to the effect of literacy of women.

Considering the educational attainment, the number of CEB does not vary much by educational attainment. The highest number of mean CEB is observed to be for those who have completed SLC and above level of education which is contrary to expectation. The findings by educational attainment cannot be generalized due to small sample size.

Table 5.8: Mean CEB by Literacy Status Controlling the Effect of Age

| Literacy Status | Age group of the respondent (15-49) | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|----------|--------|
| | 15-24 | | 25 and above | | Total | |
| | Mean CEB | Number | Mean CEB | Number | Mean CEB | Number |
| Literate | 1.9 | 18 | 3.2 | 35 | 2.8 | 53 |
| Illiterate | 1.8 | 5 | 4.5 | 67 | 4.4 | 72 |
| Total | 1.9 | 23 | 4.1 | 102 | 3.7 | 125 |
| Educational attainment among literate | | | | | | |
| Educational attainment | Mean CEB | Number | Mean CEB | Number | Mean CEB | Number |
| Primary (1-5 grade completed) | 1.9 | 14 | 3.3 | 26 | 2.8 | 46 |
| Primary (6-8 grade completed) | 1.5 | 2 | 2.8 | 6 | 2.5 | 8 |
| S.L.C. and above | 2.5 | 2 | 3.3 | 3 | 3.0 | 5 |
| Total | 1.9 | 18 | 3.2 | 35 | 2.7 | 53 |

Source : Field Survey, 2008.

5.9 Occupation and Fertility

The level of occupation of the people determine the age at marriage which ultimately affects the number of CEB. The husband and wife's occupation determines their fertility.

Table 5.9 shows that the number of children ever born is lowest for those women who are involved in service (2.7). However, due to small sample size for this category, findings may not be generalized. The highest number of CEB is observed to be for those women whose main occupation is agriculture (4.3). This is followed by those who are involved in wage labor (4.0).

Similarly the mean CEB by age also found different. In the age of 15-24 whose occupation is agriculture has 2.5 which is less than those women whose age is 25 and above years, i.e. 4.5. In the age between 15-24 who are doing wage labor has 1.8 CEB but with the same occupation in age group 25 and above has 4.5 CEB. Similarly in the age of 15-24 years whose main occupation is service and household work, the CEB has 1.0 and 1.9 respectively whereas in the age of 25 and above years of same occupations have 3.5 and 3.4 CEB respectively.

Table 5.9: Mean CEB by Occupation Controlling the Effect of Age

| Main occupation | Age group of the respondent (15-49) | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|--------|--------------|--------|----------|--------|
| | 15-24 | | 25 and above | | Total | |
| | Mean CEB | Number | Mean CEB | Number | Mean CEB | Number |
| Own agriculture | 2.5 | 2 | 4.5 | 25 | 4.3 | 27 |
| Wage labor | 1.8 | 8 | 4.5 | 39 | 4.0 | 47 |
| Service | 1.0 | 1 | 3.5 | 2 | 2.7 | 3 |
| Household work | 1.9 | 12 | 3.4 | 36 | 3.0 | 48 |
| Total | 1.9 | 23 | 4.1 | 102 | 3.7 | 125 |

Source : Field Survey, 2008.

5.10 Fertility by Husband's Occupation

Fertility is also affected by husbands occupation. Table 5.10 presents that the husband's occupation plays great role to determine CEB. The agriculture occupation has highest CEB i.e. 4.37 than other occupation. The husband's wage labor occupation has 2.6 CEB and non agriculture occupation has 2.52 CEB. Here those husband who are engaged in agriculture occupation wants more child because they think that the children will help in their farm work. So it has high CEB. On the contrary nonagricultural husband's occupation has lowest CEB due to their busy in service and have no time for looking the child.

Table 5.10: Children Ever Born by Husband's Occupation

| Occupation | Mean CEB | Number |
|--|----------|--------|
| Agriculture (own agriculture and Adhiya) | 4.37 | 78 |
| Wage labor (agriculture + non agriculture) | 2.6 | 20 |
| Non agriculture (Service+ Business + Foreign employment) | 2.52 | 27 |
| Total | 3.7 | 125 |

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

5.11 Household Facilities

Table 5.11 shows that the household facilities play a great role to determine the CEB. The 98.4 percent households have radio facility whose CEB is 3.2 which is much lower fertility of 6.5 among those who do not have radio in the family. Similarly, 40 percent household have TV facility whose CEB has 3.3 which is lesser than those who do not have TV facility in the household, i.e. 4.0.

Table 5.11: Children Ever Born by Household Facilities

| Household facilities | Mean CEB | Number | Percent |
|----------------------|----------|--------|---------|
| Radio | | | |
| Yes | 3.2 | 123 | 98.4 |
| No | 6.5 | 2 | 1.6 |
| Total | 3.7 | 125 | 100.0 |
| TV | | | |
| Yes | 3.2 | 50 | 40.0 |
| No | 4.0 | 75 | 60.0 |
| Total | 3.7 | 125 | 100.0 |

Source : Field Survey, 2008.

5.12 Family Planning and Fertility

Use of contraception plays an important role to determine fertility and thus size of population. It is asserted that fertility declines with increasing trend in the use of family planning methods.

5.12.1 Knowledge of Contraception

Table 5.12.1 shows that the knowledge about contraception is higher than for women of study population. It shows that around 77 percent of the respondents have knowledge about contraception and around 23 percent of the respondents do not have knowledge about contraception.

Likewise, from the table 5.12.1, the main source of knowledge about contraception is radio. It is reported that around 56 percent of the respondents get knowledge about contraception from radio. Likewise they get knowledge about contraception from relatives, T.V., village health worker and husband is followed by 19 percent, 8 percent, 9 percent and 7 percent respectively.

Table 5.12.1: Distribution of Respondents by Knowledge of Contraception and Sources of Knowledge

| Knowledge of contraception | Number | Percent |
|----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Yes | 96 | 76.8 |
| No | 29 | 23.2 |
| Total | 125 | 100.0 |
| Sources of Knowledge | | |
| Radio | 54 | 56.2 |
| T.V. | 8 | 8.3 |
| Husband | 7 | 7.3 |
| Relatives | 18 | 18.8 |
| Village Health Worker | 9 | 9.4 |
| Total | 96 | 100.0 |

5.12.2 Use of Family Planning

The table 5.12.2 shows that almost 77percent respondents have got knowledge about the family planning. But the 49.6 percent respondents have only ever used the family planning methods. The 27.2 percent respondents have not used the family planning methods, though they have knowledge. The 23.2 percent respondents don't have knowledge about the family planning methods..

Table 5.12.2: Distribution of Respondents by Use of Family Planning

| Family Planning | Number | Percent |
|------------------------|--------|---------|
| Ever used | 62 | 49.6 |
| Knowledge but not used | 34 | 27.2 |
| Don't have knowledge | 29 | 23.2 |
| Total | 125 | 100.00 |

Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.12.3. Users of Contraception

In the total respondents 125, the users of family planning methods are only 62. Among this 62 users 37.1 percent people are used the Pills and Condoms equally. Similarly the users of Depo-Provera, Norplant, Female Sterilization and Male Sterilization are 11.3, 8.1, 4.8 and 1.6 percent respectively. The methods which can be used easily are used most of the users. But the sterilization practices are very low in the area. A male sterilization practices have very low because of the conservative notion. It has rumor that if the male sterilized, he will weak and can't work in agriculture.

Table 5.12.3: Distribution of Users by Contraception Method

| Contraception Method | Number | Percent |
|----------------------|--------|---------|
| Pills | 23 | 37.1 |
| Condom | 23 | 37.1 |
| Depo-Provera | 7 | 11.3 |
| Norplant | 5 | 8.1 |
| Female Sterilization | 3 | 4.8 |
| Male Sterilization | 1 | 1.6 |
| Total | 62 | 100.00 |

Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.12.4: Knowledge of Family Planning and CEB

The table 5.12.4 shows that almost 77percent respondents have got knowledge about the family planning and 23.2 percent have not knowledge about the family planning. Similarly the CEB is also different. Those who have knowledge about the family planning has only 3.4 CEB but on the contrary it has 4.8 CEB which is greater than former. The average CEB is 3.7.

Table 5.12.4: Distribution of Knowledge about Family Planning and CEB

| Knowledge about Family Planning Method | Number | Percent | Mean CEB |
|---|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| have knowledge | 96 | 76.8 | 3.4 |
| Don't have knowledge | 29 | 23.2 | 4.8 |
| Total | 125 | 100.0 | 3.7 |

Source: Field Survey, 2008

5.12.5: Relationship between use of Family Planning Methods and Fertility

There is an inverse relationship between knowledge of family planning and number of children ever born. The following table indicates that only 96 women have knowledge about family planning in stead of total 125 women. 62 women have ever used the family planning methods. The 34 women have not used the family planning methods, though they have knowledge. The 29 women don't have knowledge about the family planning methods.

Similarly CEB is also different in those women. The ever used family planning methods users have 3 CEB where as those women who have knowledge about family planning but not used the family planning methods have 3.9 CEB. The highest CEB has found in those who don't have knowledge and use of family planning methods.

Table 5.12.5: Distribution of Respondents by Use of Family Planning

| Family Planning Method | Number | Mean CEB |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Ever used | 62 | 3.0 |
| Knowledge but not used | 34 | 3.9 |
| Don't have knowledge | 29 | 4.8 |
| Total | 125 | 3.7 |

Source: Field Survey, 2008

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Summary of Findings

The general objective of the study is to identify the determinants of fertility in Tharu community of Bijauree VDC in Dang. This study has focused on fertility with the effect of age at marriage and children ever born (CEB) with respect to socio-economic variables. Age at marriage is one of the important variables to determine the level of fertility of a people. This study focuses on age at marriage and number of children ever born on the basis of education, occupation, use of contraception and household facilities.

This study has conducted in June 18 to July 11, 2008 in Ward No. 6 and 8 of Bijauree VDC. All 125 household of Tharu community in respective wards are selected for study. From the 125 total household population, one married women aged 15-49 age group per each household are interviewed.

The sex composition of total household population, the proportion of male and female are 50.9 and 49.1 percent respectively. Similarly, around 39 percent are under age 14, 48 percent are age between 15-49 and around 13 percent are age 50- and above. The sex ratio of this population is found as 103.6.

In total household of population 10 years and above age around 31 percent have Adhiya (half system) agriculture occupation. The occupation by daily wage labor in non-agricultural sector (12.5%), daily wage labor in agriculture (8.5%), own agriculture (7.0%), service (7.4%), foreign employment (4.3%), household work (15.4%) and study (18.6%) are found in the study area population. On the same household, around 60 percent population is currently married and it is followed by unmarried (37.9%), widow (0.5%), widower (1.5%) and divorce is none.

In five years and above aged household population, around 70 percent of the household population are literate. Among literate the proportion of primary level of educational attainment (69.6%) is higher for the total literate population. Similarly

lower secondary (18.9%), secondary (5.2%) and SLC and above is (6.3%) respectively.

From the total number of respondents around 42 percent are literate and 58 percent are illiterate. Literate proportion is lower than illiterate. Similarly, the higher proportion of study area population is found in primary level education. The age composition of study area population is higher in age group 25-29 than 30-34 age group. Most of the respondents are involved in domestic work and wage labor. The average mean age at marriage of the study area is 16.5. The mean age at marriage is higher for literate women with compare to illiterate women. Around three fourth respondents have knowledge about contraception and major source of knowledge of contraception is radio.

It is found that the early age at marriage has higher number of children than late age at marriage. In the age 10-14 years of married women, the average CEB has 4.6. The 20 years and above age group of married women has only 2.3 CEB.

It is found that there is vast gap between literate and illiterate women in children ever born. Illiterate women have 4.4 mean CEB where as literate women have only 2.8 mean CEB.

Likewise the occupation of husband as well as herself occupation also has affected to the fertility. The mean CEB of agricultural occupation women has 4.3 where as the service occupation women have only 2.7 mean CEB. The occupation of husband in agricultural sector has found 4.37 CEB, on the contrary the service occupation has only 2.52 CEB which is shows the occupational status of the husband plays the dominant role to shape the fertility level of the wives.

Around 77 percent respondents have knowledge about family planning but the percent of family planning ever used is only 49.6 percent. The use of pills and condoms contraception method are highly used i.e. 37.1 percent equally. The percent of sterilized contraception practice is very low. The mean CEB of ever used family planning is very low i.e. 3 where as those who have not knowledge about the family planning is 4.8.

6.2 Conclusions

Traditionally Nepalese society favors for high fertility. Children are a symbol of well being both socially and economically. This is on proverb about increasing population that "may your pregnancy fill the hills and mountain". Marriage is early and universal in Nepal. It is a disgrace for a couple, particularly the married women not to have children.

The fertility level has declining in the last decade. However, it is still high with the world standards. The high fertility level in Nepal can be attributed to a number of contributing factors that continue to favor of high fertility. The causes of high fertility are early and universal marriage, desires for sons, religions beliefs and other socio-economic variables.

There is a close association between age at marriage and number of children ever born. The increasing trend of age at marriage help to minimize the number of children ever born of women. So age at marriage is one of the important variables to explain the fertility behaviour of the study area. However, the age at marriage is affected by education and occupation of the study population. There is positive association between educational attainment and literacy on the one hand and age at marriage on the other hand.

The occupation of the people determines the mean age at marriage and number of children ever born. The age at marriage is lower for those women who involves in agricultural occupation with compare to non agricultural occupation.

The knowledge and use of contraception play significant role to decline number of children ever born. The uses of contraception delay the pregnancy and it helps to reduce number of children ever born.

The sum of the study shows that the literacy status and occupation are the major determinants of fertility of the study area. It is also found that the knowledge and uses of contraception determine the number of children ever born of the study area.

6.3 Recommendations

-) Age at marriage affects the number of CEB so, legalized age at marriage for both sexes should be strictly implemented in our behaviour not only at the paper.
-) Education is one of the most important determining factors for socio-economic, demographic and others. It empowers women and reduces gender inequality of our society so, women should emphasis on education.
-) There should be several governmental and non-governmental activities to make females aware about advantages of delayed marriage, uses of FP methods and disadvantages of low age at marriage.
-) Temporary methods of contraception need to be promoted so as to attract younger couples and should try to avoid the misconception about sterilization method.
-) Expansion of information, education and communication (IEC), networks (audio-visual including drama and use of posters/pamphlets) in the study area in local language is essential to educate community about the benefits of a small family and birth spacing
-) I/NGOs should make different types of programs to increase awareness of grass root people which help to increase age at marriage.
-) In the context of developing country like Nepal, women should be given higher priority in job opportunity and other social sector for their effective participation.

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APPENDIX I

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION STUDIES KIRTIPUR, KATHMANDU

DETERMINANTS OF FERTILITY IN THARU COMMUNITY (A Case Study of Tharu Community of Bijauree Village Dang District)

QUESTIONNAIRE

A. Background Information

1. Name of the Household Head:

2. Name of the Respondent:

3. Selected household No.:

4. Name of the Locality:

5. Ward No.

6. Date:

B. Household Schedule

| S.N. | NHH | RHH | Sex | | Age | MS | ED | | OCC | EW |
|------|-----|-----|------|---|------|------|------------|----------|-----------------|------|
| Q.7 | Q.8 | Q.9 | Q.10 | | Q.11 | Q.12 | Q.13 | | Q.14 | Q.15 |
| | | | M | F | | | Literacy | | Completed grade | |
| | | | | | | | Illiterate | Literate | | |
| 1 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 1 |
| 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 2 |
| 3 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 3 |
| 4 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 4 |
| 5 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 5 |
| 6 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 6 |
| 7 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 7 |
| 8 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 8 |
| 9 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 9 |
| 10 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 10 |
| 11 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 11 |
| 12 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 12 |
| 13 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 13 |
| 14 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 14 |
| 15 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | | 15 |

SN = Serial Number; RHH = Relation to household head; NHH = Name of the household member; MS = Marital status; EW = Eligible Women (15-49) years;
ED = Education; OCC = Main occupation

Code for education, marital status, relation and main occupation are as :

| MS | Education | Relation | Occupation |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. C. Married | 1. Grade (1-5) | 1. Head of the household | 1. Agriculture |
| 2. Unmarried | 2. Grade (6-8) | 2. Husband/wife | 2. Daily wage labour in agriculture sector |
| 3. Divorced | 3. Grade (9-10) | 3. Son/Daughter | 3. Adiya (agriculture) |
| 4. Widow | 4. S.L.C.+ | 4. Brother/sister | 4. Daily wage labour in non-agriculture sector |
| 5. Separated | | 5. Daughter in law | 5. Service |
| 6. Widower | | 6. Grandfather | 6. Foreign employment |
| | | 7. Grandmother | 7. Household work |
| | | 8. Father | 8. Others (specify) |
| | | 9. Mother | |
| | | 10. Cousin | |
| | | 11. Grandson | |
| | | 12. Grand daughter | |
| | | 13. Servant | |
| | | 14. Others | |

| S.N. | Questions | Coding categories | Coding categories | Skip |
|------|--|---|--|------|
| 16 | What is your religion ? | Hindu..... Christian..... Buddhist Muslim Kirat..... Others (Specify)..... | 1 2 3 4 5 | |
| 17 | What is your main occupation ? | Own agriculture Daily wage labour in Agricultural sector..... Adiya (agriculture)..... Daily wage labour in Non-agricultural sector.... Service..... Foreign employee..... Business..... Others (specify)..... | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | |
| 18 | How much land does your household have ? | Bigha..... Katha Dhoor..... | ..... ..... ..... |  |

| | | | | |
|----|--|---|--------|--|
| 19 | What is the main source of income ? | Own agriculture | 1 | |
| | | Daily wage labour in Agricultural sector..... | 2 | |
| | | Adiya (agriculture)..... | 3 | |
| | | Daily wage labour in Non-agricultural sector.... | 4 | |
| | | Service..... | 5 | |
| | | Foreign employee..... | 6 | |
| | | Business..... | 7 | |
| | | Others (specify)..... | ..... |  |
| 20 | Is your family income sufficient to support your family ? (Annual income from all sources). | Yes | 1 | |
| | | No | 2 | |
| 21 | If no, for how many months does income is not sufficient ? | Months..... | ..... |  |
| 22 | Does your household have following facilities ? | Yes | No | |
| | Radio | 1 | 2 | |
| | T.V. | 1 | 2 | |
| | Cycle..... | 1 | 2 | |
| | Electricity..... | 1 | 2 | |
| | Others (specify)..... | ..... | ..... |  |
| 23 | What is the main source of drinking water in your home ? | Tube well..... | 1 | |
| | | Well..... | 2 | |
| | | Others (specify)..... | .... |  |
| 24 | Do you have toilet facility ? | Yes | 1 | |
| | | No..... | 2 → 26 | |
| 25 | If yes, what type of toilet facility does your household has ? | Traditional pit | 1 | |
| | | Pit | 2 | |
| | | Bush/field..... | 3 | |
| | | Others (Specify)..... | ..... |  |

C. Individual Questionnaire for 15-49 years currently married women.

| S.N. | Questions | Coding categories | Coding categories | Skip |
|------|---|-------------------------|-------------------|------|
| 26 | How old are you ? | Completed years..... | ..... |  |
| 27 | Can you read and write ? | Yes | 1 | |
| | | No..... | 2 → 30 | |
| 28 | Have you ever gone to school ? | Yes | 1 | |
| | | No..... | 2 → 30 | |
| 29 | If yes, what was the highest class you passed ? | Completed grade..... | ..... |  |
| 30 | What is your main occupation ? | Own agriculture..... | 1 2 | |

| | | | | |
|----|--|---|--------|--|
| | | Wage labour..... | 3 | |
| | | Service..... | 4 | |
| | | Household work..... | ..... |  |
| | | Other (specify) | ... | |
| 31 | What is your husband's main occupation ? | Own agriculture..... | 1 | |
| | | Daily wage labour in Agriculture sector..... | 2 | |
| | | Adiya (agriculture)..... | 3 | |
| | | Daily wage labour in non-Agricultural sector ... | 4 | |
| | | Household works..... | 5 | |
| | | Service | 6 | |
| | | Business..... | 7 | |
| | | Others (specify)..... | ..... |  |
| 32 | How old were you at the time of first marriage ? | Completed years..... | ..... |  |
| 33 | How old were you at the time of your first menstruation? | Completed years..... | ..... |  |
| 34 | Have you ever given any live birth ? | Yes | 1 | |
| | | No..... | 2 | |
| 35 | If yes, how old were you when you give first birth ? | Completed years | ..... |  |
| 36 | Do you have any children who are living with you now? | Yes | 1 | |
| | | No..... | 2 | |
| 37 | Now, how many sons and daughters are living with you? | Sons..... | ..... |  |
| | | Daughters..... | ..... |  |
| | | Total..... | ..... |  |
| 38 | Do you have any children who are not living with you now ? | Yes | 1 | |
| | | No..... | 2 | |
| 39 | How many children do you have who are not living with you ? | Son ..... | ..... |  |
| | | Daughter..... | ..... |  |
| | | Total..... | ..... |  |
| 40 | Have you ever given birth to any children who were born alive but died after a while ? | Yes | 1 | |
| | | No..... | 2 → 42 | |
| 41 | How many sons and daughters have died ? | Son ..... | ..... |  |
| | | Daughter..... | ..... |  |
| | | Total..... | ..... |  |
| 42 | Total no. of children ever born ? (CEB) | Son ..... | ..... |  |
| | | Daughter..... | ..... |  |
| | | Total..... | ..... |  |
| 43 | Did you give any birth during the last one year period | Yes | 1 | |
| | | No..... | 2 | |
| 44 | Have you any interest to give birth to additional children ? | Yes | 1 | |

| | | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------------|----------|--|
| | | No..... | 2 → 46 | |
| 45 | If yes, how many ? | Son ..... | ..... |  |
| | | Daughter..... | ..... |  |
| | | Total..... | ..... |  |
| 46 | Have you ever had a pregnancy that did not end in a live birth ? | Yes | 1 | |
| | | No..... | 2 → 48 | |
| 47 | If yes, how many ? | No. of pregnancy losses | ..... |  |
| 48 | Have you heard of family planning method ? | Yes | 1 | |
| | | No | 2 → Quit | |
| 49 | If yes, from which sources ? | Radio..... | 1 | |
| | | T.V. | 2 | |
| | | Husband..... | 3 | |
| | | Relatives..... | 4 | |
| | | Village health workers..... | 5 | |
| | | Others (specify)..... | ... | |
| 50 | Which method have you heard of ? | Female sterilization | 1 | |
| | | Male sterilization..... | 2 | |
| | | Pills..... | 3 | |
| | | Condom..... | 4 | |
| | | IUD..... | 5 | |
| | | Depo-Provera | 6 | |
| | | Norplant | 7 | |
| | | Safe period | 8 | |
| | | Others (specify)..... | ..... |  |
| 51 | Have you ever used any method ? | Yes | 1 | |
| | | No..... | 2 | |
| 52 | If yes, which method have you used ? | Name of method..... | ..... |  |
| 53 | If no, why ? | Lack of knowledge..... | 1 | |
| | | Fear of side effect | 2 | |
| | | Cause of husband | 3 | |
| | | Lack of money..... | 4 | |
| | | Others (specify)..... | ..... |  |
| 54 | Are you currently using any method of contraception ? | Yes | 1 | |
| | | No..... | 2 | |
| 55 | If yes, which method have you been using . | Name..... | .... |  |