

**MALE INVOLVEMENT IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH  
IN THARU COMMUNITY**

**(A Case Study of Madhesha V.D.C Ward No. 2 Sunsari District)**

**A Dissertation Submitted to  
The Central Department of Population Studies (CDPS),  
the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the Degree of Master of Arts  
in Population Studies**

**By**

**Archana Pokhrel**

**Tribhuvan University**

**Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

**September, 2008**

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## RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Ms. Archana Pokhrel has worked under my supervision and guidance for the preparation of this dissertation entitled "**Male Involvement in Reproduction Health in Tharu Community: A Case Study of Madhesha VDC, Ward No. 2 Sunsari District**" for the partial fulfillment of Masters of Arts in Population Studies. To the best of my knowledge the study is original and carries useful information in the field of reproductive health. I therefore, recommend it for the final evaluation to the dissertation committee.

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Dr. Ram Sharan Pathak

Associate Professor

## **APPROVAL SHEET**

This dissertation entitled "**Male Involvement in Reproductive Health in Tharu Community: A Case Study of Madhesha VDC, Ward no. 2 of Sunsari District**" by Ms Archana Pokhrel has been accepted as partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in Population Studies.

**Approved by**

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Associate Professor  
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Archana Pokhrel  
CDPS, Kirtipur,  
Kathmandu

September 2008

## **ABSTRACT**

This study is based on the primary data obtained from field survey of 92 respondents from Tharu Community Madhesha VDC Ward no. 2 of Sunsari District for interview. Only married males aged 15-49 years were selected from interview.

This is descriptive type of study designed to explore the information on male involvement in reproductive health in Tharu community. Major four components of Reproductive Health i) Family planning ii) Maternal health iii) Infertility and iv) STDs and HIV/AIDS were included in the study.

Highest percentage of the respondents were found in age group 25-29. All of the respondents were currently married. Majority of the respondents were illiterate (42.2%). Agriculture was the major occupation of the respondents.

Although the majority of respondents (72.8%) have heard about family planning, this is much lower compared to the national figure of universal knowledge. Female methods were the popular methods of family planning methods. In many cases of family planning such as use of contraceptive, males were found co-operative.

Male involvement in maternal health was comparatively poor in Tharu community. The practice of ANC and PNC service was relatively poor. Interestingly, the popularity of nuclear family has made some improvements over the past conditions of Tharu women.

Knowledge of infertility was not adequate and accurate in Tharu but many of them were in favour of treatment in case of infertility in either of spouse whereas some reported to marry another. Most of them agreed infertility as the biological factor and also agreed it could be for either of sex.

Majority of the respondents reported to have heard about STDs and HIV/AIDS. The popular media of information was Radio/TV. Most of the respondents agreed that STDs and HIV/AIDS are transmitted from unsafe sexual intercourse. Majority of respondents would seek medical treatment in case of STDs. They would also inform to partner and support partner for treatment.

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## ACRONYMS

AIDS	– Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	– Antenatal Care
CDPS	– Central Department of Population Studies
CBS	– Central Bureau of Statistics
DHS	– Demographic and Health Survey
FCHV	– Female Community Health Volunteer
FP	– Family Planning
HIV	– Human Immune-Deficiency Virus
ICE	– Information, Communication and Education
ICPD	– International Conference on Population and Development
IUD	– Intra Uterine Device
MCH	– Maternal and Child Health
MoHP	– Ministry of Health and Population
MoPE	– Ministry of Population and Environment
PHC	– Primary Health Care
PNC	– Postnatal Care
PoA	– Programmed of Action
RH	– Reproductive Health
RTI	– Reproductive Tract Infection
STDs	– Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TDA	– Traditional Birth Attendance
TU	– Tribhuvan University
UN	– United Nations
UNFPA	–United Nations Population Fund
VDC	– Village Development Committee
WHO	– World Health Organization

