# FERTILITY BEHAVIOUR OF THE MUSAHAR COMMUNITY

**(A Case Study of Agyauli, Kawasoti and Pithuli VDC of Nawalparasi District)**

**By**

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## RECOMMENDATION LATTER

This is to certify that Mr. Purna Bahadur Bishwakarma has worked under my supervision and guidance for the preparation of this dissertation entitled **Fertility Behaviour of Musahar Community: A Case Study of Agyauli, Kawasoti and Pithauli VDC of Nawalparasi District** for the partial fulfillment of Master of Arts in Population Studies to the best of my knowledge and study is original and carries useful information on fertility. I, therefore, recommend it for the evaluation to the dissertation committee.

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## ABSTRACT

The study on the "Fertility Behaviour of Musahar Community" in Nawalparasi District was carried out by collecting primary data by census method from sampled VDC Agyauli, Kawasoti and Pithauli. The total populations of these VDC are 447 and total households are 99.The study sample included 109 eligible women of reproductive age group from total 99 household and individual information related to explain fertility performance from the survey conducted during June, 2008.

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

Among the total Musahar population male constitute 48.8 percent and sex ratio is 95.1 percent. High concentration seems in the age group 5-9 years and 10-14 years i.e. 14.9 percent and 14.4 percent respectively of females out of the eligible women, 73.1 percent were married within the age of 15-16 years. The literacy rate of musahar was 28.4 percent but the more eligible women were illiterate i.e. 67.1 percent. Who were literate out of them 41.3 percent had only primary education. The people were dominantly involved as fishing. Out of total eligible women, 77.9 percent had knowledge about family planning method.

High fertility culture was shown by these people. Women of age group 30-34 years had 3.8 mean CEB. Lower fertility behaviour was assisted with literate and having higher age at marriage. Better occupation status helps to reduce fertility but the higher use of contraception showed higher CEB.

It is argued that fertility remains high due to high child mortality. High fertility has ensured high dependency and burden. Similarly current skewed distribution of population towards the young ages would result high fertility level in some year to come.

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## ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| BDCS | Birth, Death and Contraceptive Survey |
| CBS | Central Bureau of Statistics |
| CDPS | Central Department of Population Studies |
| CEB | Children Ever Born |
| CPR | Contraceptive Prevalence Rate |
| DNF | Dalit NGOs Federation |
| FP | Family Planning |
| HHH | Head of the Households |
| HMG | His Majesty's Government |
| ICPD | International Conference on Population and Development |
| IEC | Information, Education and Communication |
| INGO | International Non-Governmental Organization |
| KAP | Knowledge Attitude and Practice |
| MOH | Ministry of Health |
| MOPE | Ministry of Population and Environment |
| NFHS | Nepal Family Planning and Health Status |
| NFS | Nepal Fertility Survey |
| NGOs | Non-Governmental Organization |
| SMAM | Singulate Mean Age at Marriage |
| SPSS | Statistical Programmed for Social Sciences |
| TFR | Total Fertility Rate |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Found |
| VDC | Village Development Committee |
| WHO | World Health Organization |